wishyou.today learning

day 17 guests and visits

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 3 · friends and social life

Invite, receive and see off guests, from a neighbour dropping in to a VIP at a gala, and extend formal greetings and tribute with 向……致敬.

Hosting and visiting run on careful courtesy in China, and every gala, wedding and business dinner opens with the same formal phrases.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
拜会	bàihuì	to pay an official call on	代表团明天上午拜会市长。 The delegation will call on the mayor tomorrow morning.
拜见	bàijiàn	to pay a respectful visit to	他第一次去女朋友家拜见她的父母。 He went to his girlfriend's home to meet her parents for the first time.
串门	chuànmén	to drop in on the neighbours	小时候，我们常去邻居家串门。 When we were little, we often dropped in on the neighbours.
来访	láifǎng	to come to visit	欢迎各位朋友来访。 Welcome to all our friends who have come to visit.
来宾	láibīn	guest, visitor (at an event)	各位来宾，晚上好！ Good evening, ladies and gentlemen!
贵宾	guìbīn	guest of honour, VIP	今天的贵宾是一位著名的作家。 Today's guest of honour is a famous writer.
莅临	lìlín	to honour with one's presence (formal)	欢迎各位领导莅临我公司。 We welcome the leaders who have honoured our company with their presence.
特邀	tèyāo	to specially invite	我们特邀王老师来讲一讲中国书法。 We have specially invited Teacher Wang to talk about Chinese calligraphy.
邀	yāo	to invite	他邀我周末一起去爬山。 He invited me to go hiking with him at the weekend.
应邀	yìngyāo	at the invitation of	陈教授应邀参加了这次会议。 Professor Chen attended the conference at the organisers' invitation.
请柬	qǐngjiǎn	invitation card	我收到了一张婚礼请柬。 I received a wedding invitation.
请帖	qǐngtiě	invitation (card)	他自己给每位客人写了请帖。 He wrote an invitation for every guest by hand.
款待	kuǎndài	to entertain, to treat (a guest) well	主人做了一大桌子菜款待我们。 Our host made a whole table of dishes for us.
盛情	shèngqíng	great kindness, warm hospitality	谢谢你们的盛情邀请。 Thank you for your kind invitation.
作客	zuòkè	to be a guest	欢迎你有空来我家作客。 Do come and be our guest when you have time.

就座	jiùzuò	to take one’s seat	请各位来宾就座。 Would all guests please take their seats.
探望	tànwàng	to visit (someone ill or far away)	周末我去医院探望了生病的同事。 At the weekend I visited a sick colleague in hospital.
慰问	wèiwèn	to express sympathy and concern to	春节前，公司领导去慰问了退休的老员工。 Before the Spring Festival, the company’s leaders visited retired staff to wish them well.
慰劳	wèiláo	to reward (with thanks, food or gifts)	项目结束后，经理请大家吃饭，慰劳一下。 When the project ended, the manager took everyone out to dinner as a thank-you.
问候	wènhòu	to send one’s regards to; greetings	请代我问候你的父母。 Please give my regards to your parents.
久违	jiǔwéi	long time no see	久违了！你一点儿都没变。 It’s been ages! You haven’t changed a bit.
送别	sòngbié	to see someone off, to bid farewell	我们在火车站送别了老朋友。 We said goodbye to our old friend at the station.
送行	sòngxíng	to see someone off (on a trip)	他明天去英国，我们晚上给他送行。 He leaves for the UK tomorrow, so we’re giving him a send-off tonight.
鞠躬	jūgōng	to bow	学生们向老师鞠躬。 The students bowed to their teacher.
敬礼	jìnglǐ	to salute	小朋友们向老军人敬礼。 The children saluted the old soldier.
致敬	zhìjìng	to pay tribute to, to salute	让我们向所有的医生和护士致敬！ Let us pay tribute to all the doctors and nurses!
礼节	lǐjié	etiquette, courtesy	去别人|家作客，要注意礼节。 When you are a guest in someone’s home, mind your manners.
礼仪	lǐyí	etiquette, protocol	公司请专家给员工上了一次商务礼仪课。 The company brought in an expert to teach staff a lesson in business etiquette.
礼品	lǐpǐn	gift, present	这是我们为来宾准备的小礼品。 These are the little gifts we’ve prepared for our guests.
失礼	shīlǐ	to be impolite; how rude of me	刚才没认出您，太失礼了。 I didn’t recognise you just now: how rude of me.
失态	shītài	to lose one’s composure	她听到这个消息，一时失态，在会上哭了起来。 When she heard the news, she lost her composure and burst into tears in the meeting.
欢聚	huānjù	to gather happily	春节时，全家人欢聚在一起。 At the Spring Festival, the whole family gets together.
联欢	liánhuān	to have a get-together, a party	年底公司举办了一场联欢会。 At the end of the year the company held a party.

应酬	yìngchou	social engagements; to socialise (for work)	他最近应酬太多，每天很晚才回家。 He's had so many work dinners lately that he gets home late every night.
社交	shèjiāo	social life, socialising	她很会社交，到哪儿都能交到朋友。 She's great at socialising: she makes friends wherever she goes.

pattern 向……致以……: extending greetings and respect

向 | whom | 致以 / 表示 | greetings, respect, thanks

Formal speeches and letters put the person first with 向 and the feeling last: 向各位来宾致以诚挚的问候 "we extend our warmest greetings to all our guests". 致以 (to extend) is the most formal verb; 表示 is the everyday one. The short form 向……致敬 means "pay tribute to".

我们向全体员工表示诚挚的感谢。 **wǒmen xiàng quántǐ yuángōng biǎoshì chéngzhì de gǎnxiè** We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our staff.

春节前，市长向老人们表示了问候。 **Chūnjié qián shì zhǎng xiàng lǎorénmen biǎoshì le wènhòu** Before the Spring Festival, the mayor sent his greetings to the elderly.

大家起立，向老一代科学家致敬。 **dàjiā qǐ lì xiàng lǎo yídài kēxué jiā zhìjìng** Everyone stood up to pay tribute to the older generation of scientists.

dialogue planning the year-end party

manager liu 安娜，年底的联欢会准备得怎么样了？请柬都发出去了吗？
Ānnà niándǐ de liánhuān huì zhǔnbèi de zěnmeyàng le qǐngjiǎn dōu fā chuqu le ma · Anna, how are the preparations for the year-end party going? Have all the invitations gone out?

anna 发了一百多张。上海那家公司的总经理也应邀参加，他是我们这次的特邀贵宾。
fā le yìbǎi duō zhāng Shànghǎi nà jiā gōngsī de zǒng jīnglǐ yě yìngyāo cānjiā tā shì wǒmen zhè cì de tèyāo guìbīn · Over a hundred. The general manager of the Shanghai company has accepted too: he's our special guest of honour this time.

manager liu 太好了。他上次来访，我们款待得不够周到，我一直很过意不去。这次一定要做好。
tài hǎo le tā shàng cì láifǎng wǒmen kuǎndài de búgòu zhōudào wǒ yìzhí hěn guò yì bú qù zhè cì yídìng yào zuò hǎo · Excellent. When he visited last time, we didn't look after him as well as we should have, and I've felt bad about it ever since. This time it has to be perfect.

anna 您放心。来宾先在大厅喝茶，七点整就座。保安会在门口向客人敬礼，服务员也都经过培训，个个彬彬有礼。
nín fàngxīn láibīn xiān zài dàtīng hē chá qī diǎn zhěng jiùzuò bǎoān huì zài ménkǒu xiàng kèrén jìnglǐ fúwù yuán yě dōu jīngguò péixùn gè gè bīnbīn yǒulǐ · Don't worry. Guests will have tea in the lobby first and take their seats at seven sharp. The security staff will salute the guests at the door, and the waiting staff have all been trained: every one of them is courteous.

manager liu 真是的，我差点儿忘了：开始时我要上台讲话。
zhēn shì de wǒ chàdiǎnr wàng le kāishǐ shí wǒ yào shàngtái jiǎnghuà · Oh, for goodness' sake, I nearly forgot: I have to give a speech at the start.

anna 已经替您写好了：先向各位来宾表示欢迎，再向辛苦了一年的全体员工致敬。
yǐjīng tì nín xiě hǎo le xiān xiàng gèwèi láibīn biǎoshì huānyíng zài xiàng xīnkǔ le yì nián de quántǐ yuángōng zhìjìng · I've already written it for you: first you welcome our guests, then you pay tribute to all the staff for a year of hard work.

manager liu 很好。今年大家加了不少班，很多人默默无闻地付出，这次联欢会就是为了慰劳大家。
hěn hǎo jīnnián dàjiā jiā le bù shǎo bān hěn duō rén mòmò wúwén de fùchū zhè cì liánhuān huì jiùshì wèile wèiláo dàjiā · Very good. Everyone has worked a lot of overtime this year, and many people have given their all without any recognition. This party is our way of thanking them.

anna 对了，老张下个月退休。他一直以身作则，大家都很佩服他。我们能不能在会上给他送行？他的请帖是我亲自送去的。
duì le lǎo zhāng xià gè yuè tuìxiū tā yìzhí yǐshēn zuòzé dàjiā dōu hěn pèifú tā wǒmen néng bu néng zài huì shàng gěi tā sòngxíng tā de qǐngtiě shì wǒ qīnzì sòng qù de · By the way, Lao Zhang retires next month. He has always led by example, and everyone admires him. Could we give him a send-off at the party? I delivered his invitation myself.

manager liu 好主意。他在公司干了三十年，是当之无愧的老员工代表。到时候我们一起向他鞠躬，好好送别他。
hǎo zhǔyi tā zài gōngsī gàn le sānshí nián shì dāngzhīwúkuì de lǎo yuángōng dàibiǎo dào shíhou wǒmen yìqǐ xiàng tā jūgōng hǎohǎo sòngbié tā · Good idea. He's been with the company for thirty years: he more than deserves to stand for all our long-serving staff. On the night we'll all bow to him and give him a proper farewell.

anna 还有，春节前您要去慰问退休的老员工，名单我也整理好了。
hái yǒu Chūnjié qián nín yào qù wèiwèn tuìxiū de lǎo yuángōng míngdān wǒ yě zhěnglǐ hǎo le · Also, before the Spring Festival you're visiting the retired staff to wish them well. I've put the list together too.

manager liu 你考虑得真周到。主持人那边也提醒一下：注意礼仪，千万别慌张，也别在台上失态。
nǐ kǎolǜ de zhēn zhōudào zhǔchí rén nàbiān yě tíxǐng yíxià zhùyì lǐyí qiānwàn bié huāngzhāng yě bié zài tái shàng shītài · You've thought of everything. And remind the host: mind the etiquette, don't get flustered whatever happens, and keep your cool on stage.

anna 好的。说实话，这种大型应酬我还是有点紧张，也有点拘束。我更喜欢去邻居家串门，或者跟朋友欢聚。

hǎo de shuō shíhuà zhè zhǒng dàxíng yìngchou wǒ háishi yǒu diǎn jǐnzhāng yě yǒu diǎn jūshù wǒ gèng xǐhuan qù línjū jiā chuànmén huòzhě gēn péngyou huānjù · Will do. To be honest, big formal events like this still make me a bit nervous and stiff. I prefer dropping in on the neighbours, or getting together with friends.

manager liu 哈哈，社交也是工作嘛。下周我要去上海拜会他们的老板，顺便去拜见我大学的老师。总经理还邀我们去他家作客，盛情难却啊。

hā hā shèjiāo yě shì gōngzuò ma xià zhōu wǒ yào qù Shànghǎi bàihuì tāmen de lǎobǎn shùnbiàn qù bàijiàn wǒ dàxué de lǎoshī zǒng jīnglǐ hái yāo wǒmen qù tā jiā zuòkè shèngqíng nán què a · Ha! Socialising is part of the job. Next week I'm calling on their boss in Shanghai, and I'll pay a visit to my old university teacher while I'm there. The general manager has invited us to his home too; such kindness is hard to refuse.

anna 那我帮您准备几份礼品，再写一张卡片，表达我们的诚意。也请代我问候您的老师。

nà wǒ bāng nín zhǔnbèi jǐ fèn lǐpǐn zài xiě yì zhāng kǎpiàn biǎodá wǒmen de chéngyì yě qǐng dài wǒ wènhòu nín de lǎoshī · Then I'll get a few gifts ready for you, and write a card to show our good faith. And please give your teacher my regards.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

仇
chóu
grudge, hatred

蔑
miè
to slight, scorn

呛
qiāng
to choke (on food or water)

慌
huāng
flustered, panicked

good to know · 莅临 is for other people's visits, said with respect: never say 我莅临. For your own visit, 拜访, 拜会 and 拜见 show respect to the person you go to see. When you visit a Chinese home, bring fruit, tea or a small gift, and expect the host to refuse it once or twice before accepting.

Next time you're a guest or a host in China, you have the words for every step, from the invitation to the farewell.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 18 friends and circles

Talk about friendship, circles and connections: how you met, who you owe a favour, who truly understands you, and say it with 想X之所想，急X之所急.

In China, friendship runs on 缘分, 人情 and 圈子: knowing these words is knowing how people help each other.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
交情	jiāoqing	friendship, the bond between friends	我们俩是二十年的交情了。 We two go back twenty years.
情谊	qíngyì	friendship, friendly feelings	这份情谊我会一直记在心里。 I will always keep this friendship in my heart.
知己	zhījǐ	close friend, soulmate	人生得{de2}一知己就足够了。 If you find one true friend in life, that's enough.
友人	yǒurén	friend (formal)	我们欢迎世界各地的友人来中国旅游。 We welcome friends from all over the world to visit China.
要好	yàohǎo	on good terms, close	她和大学同学特别要好，常常一起出去玩。 She and her university classmates are really close and often go out together.
亲近	qīnjìn	close, intimate; to get close to	孩子们都愿意亲近这位和蔼的老师。 The children all love being around this kind teacher.
亲热	qīnrè	affectionate, warm	两个老朋友一见面就亲热地拥抱。 The moment the two old friends met, they hugged warmly.
融洽	róngqià	harmonious, on friendly terms	我们团队的气氛很融洽。 The atmosphere in our team is very harmonious.
默契	mòqì	tacit understanding; in sync	他们俩合作多年，配合得很有默契。 They've worked together for years and are completely in sync.
缘分	yuánfèn	fate that brings people together	我们能在这里相遇，也是一种缘分。 Meeting here like this must be fate.
相识	xiāngshí	to know each other; an acquaintance	我们相识十年了，从来没吵过架。 We've known each other ten years and never had a fight.
结识	jiéshí	to get to know, to make friends with	我在旅途中结识了很多新朋友。 I got to know lots of new friends on my travels.
相遇	xiāngyù	to meet (each other)	他们在一次会议上第一次相遇。 They first met at a conference.
相约	xiāngyuē	to agree to meet; by appointment	我们相约十年后再来这里看看。 We agreed to come back here together in ten years.

逢	féng	to come across; every time (it is)	每逢春节，我都回老家。 Every Spring Festival, I go back to my home town.
相伴	xiāngbàn	to keep each other company	一路有你相伴，我不觉得孤单。 With you beside me all the way, I don't feel lonely.
并肩	bìngjiān	shoulder to shoulder	我们并肩走在湖边。 We walked side by side along the lake.
携手	xiéshǒu	hand in hand; to join hands	两家公司携手开发新产品。 The two companies are joining hands to develop a new product.
联手	liánshǒu	to join forces	几家医院联手研究这种病。 Several hospitals have joined forces to study this disease.
搭档	dādàng	partner; to team up	他是我工作上的老搭档。 He's been my partner at work for years.
伴	bàn	companion; to accompany	一个人去旅行太无聊，我想找个伴。 Travelling alone is boring: I want to find someone to go with.
帮手	bāngshou	helper, assistant	搬家那天，他是我最好的帮手。 On moving day he was my best helper.
老乡	lǎoxiāng	person from the same home town	在北京遇到老乡，感觉特别亲切。 Meeting someone from home in Beijing feels really special.
乡亲	xiāngqīn	fellow villagers, local people	乡亲们都来帮他盖房子。 The villagers all came to help him build his house.
前辈	qiánbèi	senior (colleague), elder	他是我们这个行业的前辈，经验特别丰富。 He's a senior figure in our line of work, with a wealth of experience.
旁人	pángrén	other people, outsiders	这是我们自己的事，不需要旁人管。 This is our own business: no need for anyone else to get involved.
圈子	quānzi	circle (of people)	他的朋友圈子很小。 His circle of friends is very small.
人缘儿	rényuánr	popularity, how well liked one is	她人缘儿特别好，大家都愿意跟她交朋友。 She's really popular: everyone wants to be her friend.
人情	rénqíng	favour; human feelings, the done thing	他帮过我，我欠他一个人情。 He helped me, so I owe him a favour.
纽带	niǔdài	link, bond	语言是不同文化之间的纽带。 Language is a bridge between cultures.
门路	ménlu	connections; the way in	他找门路给儿子安排了一份工作。 He used his connections to get his son a job.
联络	liánluò	to contact, to keep in touch	毕业以后我们一直保持联络。 We've stayed in touch ever since we graduated.
会面	huìmiàn	to meet (by arrangement)	双方约定下个月在北京会面。 The two sides agreed to meet in Beijing next month.
过往	guòwǎng	to come and go; dealings	我跟他没什么过往，只见过一次。 I don't have any dealings with him: we've only met once.

私事	sīshì	private matter	上班时间不要办私事。 Don't deal with personal business during working hours.

pattern 想x之所想，急x之所急: caring about what others care about

想 | X | 之所想，急 | X | 之所急

A set phrase in classical style: 之所想 is "what (X) thinks" and 之所急 "what (X) is anxious about". 想客户之所想，急客户之所急 means thinking like the customer and worrying about what worries them. You hear it about good friends, doctors, officials and companies.

作为医生，要想病人之所想，急病人之所急。 **zuòwéi yīshēng yào xiǎng bìngrén zhī suǒ xiǎng jí bìngrén zhī suǒ jí** A doctor should think like the patient and care about what the patient is worried about.

他总是想朋友之所想，急朋友之所急，所以大家都信任他。 **tā zǒngshì xiǎng péngyou zhī suǒ xiǎng jí péngyou zhī suǒ jí suǒyǐ dàjiā dōu xìnrèn tā** He always puts himself in his friends' shoes and cares about their worries, so everyone trusts him.

我们的口号是：想客户之所想，急客户之所急。 **wǒmen de kǒuhào shì xiǎng kèhù zhī suǒ xiǎng jí kèhù zhī suǒ jí** Our motto is: think like the customer, care about what they care about.

dialogue ten years on

xiaoming 安娜，你还记得我们是怎么相识的吗？

Ānnà nǐ hái jìde wǒmen shì zěnme xiāngshí de ma · Anna, do you remember how we met?

anna 当然记得！我刚到北京的第一个星期，在学校门口迷路了，晕头转向，是你帮我找到了教室。

dāngrán jìde wǒ gāng dào Běijīng de dì yī gè xīngqī zài xuéxiào ménkǒu mílù le yūntóu zhuànxiàng shì nǐ bāng wǒ zhǎo dào le jiàoshì · Of course! In my first week in Beijing I got lost at the school gate and didn't know which way to turn, and you helped me find my classroom.

xiaoming 那天我本来不走那条路，结果正好遇到你。这就叫缘分吧。

nà tiān wǒ běnlái bù zǒu nà tiáo lù jiéguǒ zhènghǎo yùdào nǐ zhè jiù jiào yuánfèn ba · I didn't normally go that way, and I happened to run into you. That's what you call fate.

anna 是啊。后来你成了我最要好的朋友，也是我在北京的第一个帮手。我一直很庆幸认识了你。

shì a hòulái nǐ chéng le wǒ zuì yàohǎo de péngyou yě shì wǒ zài Běijīng de dì yī gè bāngshou wǒ yìzhí hěn qìngxìng rènshi le nǐ · Yes. Then you became my closest friend, and my first helper in Beijing. I've always counted myself lucky to know you.

xiaoming 说到老朋友，我们大学毕业十年了，班长让我联络大家，下个月聚一聚。

shuō dào lǎo péngyou wǒmen dàxué bìyè shí nián le bān zhǎng ràng wǒ liánluò dàjiā xià gè yuè jù yi ju · Speaking of old friends: it's ten years since we graduated, and our class monitor has asked me to get in touch with everyone for a get-together next month.

anna 好啊！你们班同学关系融洽吗？

hǎo a nǐmen bān tóngxué guānxì róngqià ma · Great! Does your class get on well?

xiaoming 大部分都很亲热。最难联络的是小刘。我们以前是篮球队的搭档，配合特别有默契。

dà bùfen dōu hěn qīnrè zuì nán liánluò de shì xiǎo Liú wǒmen yǐqián shì lánqiú duì de dādàng pèihé tèbié yǒu mòqì · Most of us are very close. The hardest one to reach is Xiao Liu. We were partners on the basketball team, completely in sync.

anna 后来呢？你们闹别扭了？

hòulái ne nǐmen nào bièniu le · And then? Did you fall out?

xiaoming 毕业后他去了上海，进了另一个圈子，我们慢慢就没什么过往了。听说他家里出了点事，那是他的私事，我也不好多问。

bìyè hòu tā qù le Shànghǎi jìn le lìng yí gè quānzi wǒmen màn màn jiù méi shénme guòwǎng le tīngshuō tā jiā lǐ chū le diǎn shì nà shì tā de sīshì wǒ yě bù hǎo duō wèn · After graduating he went to Shanghai and moved in a different circle, and we gradually lost touch. I heard something happened in his family, but that's his private business, and I didn't feel I could ask.

anna 别想太多，也别多心。真正的知己会想你之所想，急你之所急，就算多年不见，交情也不会变。

bié xiǎng tài duō yě bié duōxīn zhēnzhèng de zhījǐ huì xiǎng nǐ zhī suǒ xiǎng jí nǐ zhī suǒ jí jiùsuàn duō nián bújiàn jiāoqing yě bú huì biàn · Don't overthink it, and don't read too much into it. A true friend thinks what you think and cares about what worries you. Even after years apart, the friendship doesn't change.

xiaoming 你说得对。其实当年我找工作，是他到处帮我找门路，还带我一起去那家公司面试。我一直欠他一个人情，想起来就很惭愧。

nǐ shuō de duì qíshí dāngnián wǒ zhǎo gōngzuò shì tā dàochù bāng wǒ zhǎo ménlu hái dài wǒ yìqǐ qù nà jiā gōngsī miànshì wǒ yìzhí qiàn tā yí gè rénqíng xiǎng qǐlai jiù hěn cánkuì · You're right. Actually, when I was looking for work back then, he went all over the place using his connections for me, and even took me along to interview at that company with him. I've always owed him a favour, and I feel ashamed whenever I think of it.

anna 那你就亲自给他打个电话吧，别迟疑了。旁人去说，不如你自己去说。

nà nǐ jiù qīnzì gěi tā dǎ gè diànhuà ba bié chíyí le pángrén qù shuō bùrú nǐ zìjǐ qù shuō · Then call him yourself, and don't put it off. It's better coming from you than from someone else.

xiaoming 好。这次我还特邀了几位外国友人，都是大学时结识的。我们相约在学校老食堂会面，就是我第一次跟你相遇的地方旁边。

hǎo zhè cì wǒ hái tèyāo le jǐ wèi wàiguó yǒurén dōu shì dàxué shí jiéshí de wǒmen xiāngyuē zài xuéxiào lǎo shítáng huìmiàn jiùshì wǒ dì yī cì gēn nǐ xiāngyù de dìfang pángbiān · OK. I've also specially invited a few friends from abroad that we got to know at university. We've arranged to meet in the old canteen, right next to the place where I first ran into you.

xiaoming 你呢？在公司有没有英国老乡？

nǐ ne zài gōngsī yǒu méiyǒu Yīngguó lǎoxiāng · What about you? Is there anyone from back home in the UK at your company?

anna 有一位，她还是我的前辈，人很坦诚，我们很亲近。上个月我们部门跟上海团队联手做项目，大家并肩加了一个月的班。

yǒu yí wèi tā hái shì wǒ de qiánbèi rén hěn tǎnchéng wǒmen hěn qīnjìn shàng gè yuè wǒmen bùmén gēn Shànghǎi tuánduì liánshǒu zuò xiàngmù dàjiā bìngjiān jiā le yí gè yuè de bān · There's one, and she's senior to me; she's very open and we're very close. Last month our department joined forces with the Shanghai team on a project, and we all worked overtime side by side for a month.

anna 对了，你们的同学聚会，你要是不介意，我也去给你当个伴吧！同学聚会就像一条纽带，把大家又连在一起了。

duì le nǐmen de tóngxué jùhuì nǐ yàoshi bú jièyì wǒ yě qù gěi nǐ dāng gè bàn ba tóngxué jùhuì jiù xiàng yì tiáo niǔdài bǎ dàjiā yòu lián zài yìqǐ le · By the way, if you don't mind, I'll come to your reunion too and keep you company! A reunion is like a thread that ties everyone back together.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

怖
bù
fear, terror

畏
wèi
to fear

丸
wán
pill, ball; (measure word for pills)

甘
gān
sweet, willing

good to know · 人情 is a favour that is remembered: 欠人情 (owe one), 还人情 (repay one). Returning favours at the right time keeps friendships and business ties alive. 知己 comes from 知 "know" and 己 "oneself": the friend who knows you as well as you know yourself. 红颜知己 is a close female friend.

You can now talk about the people in your life the way Chinese people do: fate, favours, circles and the friends who truly get you.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 19 moods: surely, no wonder

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 3 · friends and social life

Colour what you say with surprise, guesses and certainty (no wonder, could it be, surely, why bother), and build up an argument with 别说……都…… and ……更不用说……了.

These little words carry the speaker's attitude: without them advanced Chinese sounds flat; with them you sound like a native in an argument.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
必定	bìdìng	surely, certainly	他这么努力，必定能成功。 He works so hard that he's bound to succeed.
必将	bìjiāng	will surely	新技术必将改变我们的生活。 New technology will surely change our lives.
不妨	bùfáng	might as well, there's no harm in	你不妨先试一试，不行再说。 You might as well give it a try first; if it doesn't work, we'll think again.
不免	bùmiǎn	can't help but, inevitably	第一次上台讲话，不免有点紧张。 Speaking on stage for the first time, you can't help feeling a little nervous.
反倒	fǎndào	on the contrary, instead	我帮了他，他反倒怪我。 I helped him, and instead he blamed me.
非得	fēiděi	must, have to (spoken)	这件事非得你亲自去才行。 This needs you to go in person; nothing else will do.
分明	fēnmíng	clearly, obviously	他分明看见我了，却说没看见。 He obviously saw me, but he says he didn't.
怪不得	guàibude	no wonder	原来他生病了，怪不得没来上班。 So he's ill: no wonder he didn't come to work.
果真	guǒzhēn	really, as expected	天气预报说今天下雨，果真下了。 The forecast said it would rain today, and sure enough it did.
好在	hǎozài	luckily, fortunately	路上堵车了，好在我们出发得早。 There was traffic on the way, but luckily we'd set off early.
何必	hébì	why bother, there's no need	都是老朋友，何必这么客气? We're old friends: why be so formal?
竟	jìng	unexpectedly, actually (written)	他竟什么也没说就走了。 To our surprise, he left without saying a word.
愣	lèng	stunned; to be dumbfounded	听到这个消息，他愣了半天。 When he heard the news, he stood there stunned for ages.
莫非	mòfēi	could it be that … ?	他今天这么高兴，莫非有什么好消息? He's so happy today: could he have some good news?
难怪	nánguài	no wonder	难怪他汉语说得这么好，原来他在北京住了十年。

			No wonder his Chinese is so good: he's lived in Beijing for ten years.
何苦	hékǔ	why go to such trouble	为这点小事生气，你何苦呢? Why get so upset over such a little thing?
巴不得	bābudé	to be dying to, can't wait to	孩子们巴不得天天放假。 The children wish every day were a holiday.
恨不得	hènbude	to wish one could, to itch to	我恨不得马上飞回家。 I wish I could fly home this minute.
并非	bìngfēi	is not, is by no means	成功并非一件容易的事。 Success is by no means easy.
除外	chúwài	to be excepted, except	博物馆每天开放，星期一除外。 The museum is open every day except Monday.
可谓	kěwèi	it may be called, truly	他在这个领域的成绩可谓世界一流。 His achievements in this field are truly world-class.
免不了	miǎnbuliǎo	to be unavoidable	刚开始工作，犯点错误是免不了的。 When you've just started a job, making a few mistakes is unavoidable.
少不了	shǎobuliǎo	can't do without; bound to be	过年的时候，饺子是少不了的。 At New Year there are always dumplings.
所谓	suǒwèi	so-called; what is called	所谓“知己”，就是最懂你的人。 A “soulmate” is the person who understands you best.
予以	yǔyǐ	to give, to grant (formal)	学校对这名学生予以表扬。 The school gave the student an official commendation.
不予	bùyǔ	not to grant (formal)	对于这种申请，公司不予批准。 The company does not approve applications of this kind.
犯不着	fànbuzháo	not worth it, no need to	这点小事，你犯不着生气。 It's such a small thing: it's not worth getting angry over.
犯得着	fàndezháo	is it worth it? (in questions)	这点小事，犯得着你亲自跑一趟吗? Is a small thing like this really worth a trip in person?
可否	kěfǒu	may I ask whether, could (formal)	您可否给我们一点时间考虑? Could you give us a little time to think it over?
有所	yǒusuǒ	to some extent, somewhat	今年的情况比去年有所好转。 Things have improved somewhat on last year.
别说	biéshuō	let alone, not to mention	别说一万块，一千块我也拿不出来。 Forget ten thousand: I can't even come up with a thousand.
何况	hékuàng	let alone, besides	这个问题大人都不懂，何况孩子呢? Even adults don't understand this, let alone children.
尚且	shàngqiě	even	专家尚且解决不了，何况我们呢? Even the experts can't solve it, let alone us.

pattern 别说……都……, ……更不用说……了, and set verbs like 巴不得

别说 | the big thing | ，(连) the small thing 都 / 也 | ……，更不用说……了

别说 A，(连) B 都…… puts the bigger case first: “forget A, not even B”. ……，更不用说 A 了 puts it last: “…, let alone A”. Today’s set verbs add attitude: 巴不得 / 恨不得 (dying to), 犯不着 (not worth it), 免不了 (bound to), 并非 (is not), 除外 (except), 所谓 (so-called), 可谓 (truly), 有所 (somewhat), 予以 (to give, formal), 可否 (could, formal).

别说跑步了，他现在连走路都很困难。 **biéshuō pǎobù le tā xiànzài lián zǒulù dōu hěn kùnnan** Forget running: right now even walking is hard for him.

这道题连老师都不会，更不用说我们了。 **zhè dào tí lián lǎoshī dōu bú huì gèng búyòng shuō wǒmen le** Even the teacher can’t do this question, let alone us.

考完试，我巴不得马上回家睡觉。 **kǎo wán shì wǒ bābudé mǎshàng huí jiā shuìjiào** After the exam, all I want is to go straight home to bed.

这次活动所有人都要参加，病人除外。 **zhè cì huódòng suǒyǒu rén dōu yào cānjiā bìngrén chúwài** Everyone has to take part in this event, except those who are ill.

dialogue the debate team

anna 听说陈教授选你代表学校参加比赛了？能从那么多人里脱颖而出，真不简单！怪不得你最近这么忙。

tīngshuō Chénjiàoshòu xuǎn nǐ dàibiǎo xuéxiào cānjiā bǐsài le néng cóng nàme duō rén lǐ tuōyǐngérchū zhēn bù jiǎndān guàibude nǐ zuìjìn zhème máng · I hear Professor Chen picked you to debate for the university? Standing out from so many people is no small thing! No wonder you've been so busy lately.

little sister 是啊！下个月就要比赛了，我恨不得一天有四十八个小时。

shì a xià gè yuè jiù yào bǐsài le wǒ hènbude yì tiān yǒu sìshíbā gè xiǎoshí · Yes! The competition is next month, and I wish there were forty-eight hours in a day.

anna 你何必这么拼？身体最重要，别把自己累得疲惫不堪。

nǐ hébì zhème pīn shēntǐ zuì zhòngyào bié bǎ zìjǐ lèi de píbèi bùkān · Why push yourself so hard? Your health comes first: don't wear yourself out completely.

little sister 没办法。别说我们了，连陈教授都每天陪我们练到十点。

méi bànfǎ biéshuō wǒmen le lián Chénjiàoshòu dōu měi tiān péi wǒmen liàn dào shí diǎn · I've no choice. Forget us: even Professor Chen stays with us practising until ten every night.

anna 难怪你哥哥说你瘦了。题目是什么？

nánguài nǐ gēge shuō nǐ shòu le tímù shì shénme · No wonder your brother says you've lost weight. What's the motion?

little sister “所谓成功，并非只是赚钱。”我们是支持这个观点的一方。

suǒwèi chénggōng bìngfēi zhǐshì zhuàn qián wǒmen shì zhīchí zhège guāndiǎn de yì fāng · “Success is not just about making money.” We're the side arguing for it.

anna 这个题目可谓不容易。对方必定会说，没有钱，什么都做不了，更不用说追求梦想了。

zhège tímù kěwèi bù róngyì duìfāng bìdìng huì shuō méiyǒu qián shénme dōu zuò bu liǎo gèng búyòng shuō zhuīqiú mèngxiǎng le · That's a really tough motion. The other side is sure to say that without money you can't do anything, let alone chase your dreams.

little sister 对，所以比赛中免不了会被对方问住。好在我们准备得很充分。

duì suǒyǐ bǐsài zhōng miǎnbuliǎo huì bèi duìfāng wèn zhù hǎozài wǒmen zhǔnbèi de hěn chōngfèn · Right, so we're bound to get caught out by their questions at some point. Luckily we're very well prepared.

anna 你不妨把对方可能问的问题都写下来，一个一个准备。

nǐ bùfáng bǎ duìfāng kěnéng wèn de wèntí dōu xiě xialai yí gè yí gè zhǔnbèi · You might as well write down every question they might ask and prepare them one by one.

little sister 好主意！上次练习，我被一个问题问愣了，急得面红耳赤，半天什么也说不出来。陈教授反倒笑了，说这是好事。

hǎo zhǔyi shàng cì liànxí wǒ bèi yí gè wèntí wèn lèng le jí de miànhóng ěrchì bàntiān shénme yě shuō bu chulai Chénjiàoshòu fǎndào xiào le shuō zhè shì hǎo shì · Good idea! In the last practice, one question left me stunned; I went red in the face and couldn't say anything for ages. Professor Chen actually laughed and said it was a good thing.

anna 他分明是想让你看到自己的弱点。莫非他想让你第一个发言？

tā fēnmíng shì xiǎng ràng nǐ kàn dào zìjǐ de ruòdiǎn mòfēi tā xiǎng ràng nǐ dì yī gè fāyán · He obviously wanted you to see your weak spot. Could it be that he wants you to speak first?

little sister 果真被你说对了！他说我非得多练不可，还说我的表达能力已经有所提高，反应也比以前敏捷了。

guǒzhēn bèi nǐ shuō duì le tā shuō wǒ fēiděi duō liàn bù kě hái shuō wǒ de biǎodá nénglì yǐjīng yǒusuǒ tígāo fǎnyìng yě bǐ yǐqián mǐnjié le · You've guessed it! He says I simply have to practise more, and that my speaking has already improved a bit, and I think on my feet faster than before.

anna 那就好。第一次上台不免紧张，不过别胆怯，对方也不见得比你们强。

nà jiù hǎo dì yī cì shàngtái bùmiǎn jǐnzhāng búguò bié dǎnqiè duìfāng yě bújiàndé bǐ nǐmen qiáng · That's great. You're bound to be nervous the first time on stage, but don't be timid: the other side isn't necessarily better than you.

little sister 我绝不放弃！对了，比赛规定所有学生都能参加，研究生除外。对方想加一个研究生，组织者不予同意。

wǒ juébú fàngqì duì le bǐsài guīdìng suǒyǒu xuéshēng dōu néng cānjiā yánjiūshēng chúwài duìfāng xiǎng jiā yí gè yánjiūshēng zǔzhī zhě bù yǔ tóngyì · I'll never give up! Oh, and the rules say any student can take part, except postgraduates. The other team wanted to add a postgraduate, and the organisers said no.

anna 那你犯不着为他们担心。比赛那天，少不了我这个观众，我都有点迫不及待了。

nà nǐ fànbuzháo wèi tāmen dānxīn bǐsài nà tiān shǎobuliǎo wǒ zhège guānzhòng wǒ dōu yǒu diǎn pòbùjídài le · Then there's no need for you to worry about them. On the day, you can count on me in the audience: I can hardly wait.

little sister 太好了！我巴不得你能来。我还想请陈教授写封信，对你的支持予以感谢呢！

tài hǎo le wǒ bābudé nǐ néng lái wǒ hái xiǎng qǐng Chénjiàoshòu xiě fēng xìn duì nǐ de zhīchí yǔyǐ gǎnxiè ne · Brilliant! I was hoping you'd come. I even want Professor Chen to write a letter formally thanking you for your support!

anna 哈哈，那就不用了。不过，可否先请我喝杯奶茶？

hā hā nà jiù búyòng le búguò kěfǒu xiān qǐng wǒ hē bēi nǎichá · Ha, no need for that. But might I first be treated to a bubble tea?

write it trace the grey, then write your own

悟
wù
to realise, awaken

勿
wù
do not (written)

撼
hàn
to shake

茫
máng
vast, boundless

good to know · 难怪 and 怪不得 both mean "no wonder" and are used the same way; 难怪 is a touch more written. 何必, 何苦 and 犯不着 all say "there's no need": 何必 is neutral, 何苦 adds "why put yourself through it", and 犯不着 says "it's not worth it".

You can now argue like a native: guess, insist, concede and pile on the points.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

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day 20 kindness and forgiveness

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 3 · friends and social life

Thank the people who helped you, ask for understanding, forgive and make up, and let something go “for someone’s sake” with 看在X的面子上.

Gratitude and face are at the heart of Chinese relationships: knowing how to repay kindness and smooth over a quarrel keeps friendships alive.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
爱戴	àidài	to love and respect (a leader, teacher)	这位老校长深受学生爱戴。 The old head teacher is deeply loved and respected by the students.
敬	jìng	to respect; to offer (politely)	我敬您一杯茶，谢谢您这些年的照顾。 Let me offer you a cup of tea, to thank you for looking after me all these years.
敬爱	jìngài	respected and beloved	敬爱的王老师，祝您生日快乐！ Dear Teacher Wang, happy birthday!
敬意	jìngyì	respect, tribute	请接受我们最诚挚的敬意。 Please accept our most sincere respects.
敬重	jìngzhòng	to esteem, to hold in high regard	他做人正直，大家都很敬重他。 He’s an upright man, and everyone holds him in high regard.
恩情	ēnqíng	kindness, a debt of gratitude	父母的恩情，我们一辈子也报答不完。 We can never fully repay our parents’ kindness.
恩人	ēnrén	benefactor	那位医生救了我的命，是我的恩人。 That doctor saved my life: I owe him everything.
报答	bàodá	to repay (a kindness)	我一定要好好学习，报答父母。 I’m going to study hard to repay my parents.
回馈	huíkuì	to give back (to society, customers)	他成功以后回到家乡，回馈乡亲。 After he made it, he went back to his home town to give back to the people there.
关照	guānzhào	to look after, to keep an eye on	我刚来，请大家多多关照。 I’m new here: I’d be grateful for everyone’s help.
体谅	tǐliàng	to make allowances for, to understand	他最近家里有事，我们要体谅他。 He’s got family trouble at the moment, so we should make allowances for him.
体贴	tǐtiē	considerate, caring	他对妻子非常体贴。 He’s very considerate towards his wife.
着想	zhuóxiǎng	to consider (someone’s interests)	你也要为{wei4-3}自己的身体着想。 You also have to think about your own health.
成全	chéngquán	to help someone achieve their wish	她想去国外读书，父母最后成全了她。 She wanted to study abroad, and in the end her parents let her go.

托付	tuōfù	to entrust	出国前，她把孩子托付给了父母。 Before going abroad, she left her child in her parents' care.
接济	jiējì	to give financial help to	那几年家里困难，多亏亲戚们接济。 Those years were hard for our family; we got by thanks to help from relatives.
安抚	ānfǔ	to soothe, to calm	妈妈轻轻地安抚着哭闹的孩子。 The mother gently soothed her crying child.
勉励	miǎnlì	to encourage (formal)	老师勉励我们继续努力。 The teacher encouraged us to keep working hard.
鞭策	biāncè	to spur on	失败是对我的鞭策。 Failure spurs me on.
助力	zhùlì	help, boost; to help	新政策为小企业的发展助力。 The new policy gives small businesses a boost.
后盾	hòudùn	backing, support	家人永远是你的后盾。 Your family will always be behind you.
对得起	duìdeqǐ	to do right by, not to let down	我一定要做出成绩，对得起大家的信任。 I'm going to deliver results and live up to everyone's trust.
谅解	liàngjiě	to understand and forgive	给您带来不便，请您谅解。 We apologise for any inconvenience and ask for your understanding.
宽恕	kuānshù	to forgive (a wrong)	他真诚地道歉，请求大家宽恕。 He apologised sincerely and asked everyone to forgive him.
饶	ráo	to let off, to spare	这次就饶了你，下次可不行。 I'll let you off this time, but not next time.
饶恕	ráoshù	to forgive, to pardon	他做的事，很难让人饶恕。 What he did is hard to forgive.
放过	fàngguò	to let go, to let off	别再想那件事了，放过自己吧。 Stop thinking about it: give yourself a break.
和	hé	harmonious, gentle	做生意要以和{he2-7}为{wei2}贵。 In business, harmony comes first.
和好	héhǎo	to make up, to be reconciled	两个孩子吵完架，很快又和好了。 The two children had a fight and soon made up again.
和解	héjiě	to reconcile, to settle	经过谈判，双方终于和解了。 After talks, the two sides finally settled their differences.
调和	tiáohé	to mediate; harmonious	两个同事有矛盾，经理只好在中间调和。 Two colleagues were at odds, so the manager had to smooth things over.
让步	ràngbù	to give way, to concede	为了达成协议，我方做出了让步。 To reach an agreement, our side made concessions.
退让	tuìràng	to back down, to yield	在原则问题上，我们绝不退让。 On matters of principle, we will never back down.
迁就	qiānjiù	to give in to, to humour	你不能什么事都迁就孩子。 You can't give in to your child on everything.

妥协	tuǒxié	to compromise	在婚姻里，双方都要学会妥协。 In a marriage, both people have to learn to compromise.

pattern 看在x的面子上: for x's sake

看在 | X | 的面子上 / 的份上 | , I'll let it go / please help

看在X的面子上 means "out of regard for X": you forgive or help because of someone else, or because of something worth respecting. 面子 is face; 份上 works the same way and is common with qualities: 看在你这么诚恳的份上.

看在王老师的面子上，我就不说什么了。 kàn zài Wánglǎoshī de miànzi shàng wǒ jiù bù shuō shénme le For Teacher Wang's sake, I won't say anything more.

看在你这么诚恳的份上，我原谅你了。 kàn zài nǐ zhème chéngkěn de fèn shàng wǒ yuánliàng nǐ le Seeing how sincere you are, I forgive you.

看在多年交情的面子上，你就帮他一次吧。 kàn zài duō nián jiāoqing de miànzi shàng nǐ jiù bāng tā yí cì ba For the sake of all your years of friendship, help him just this once.

dialogue tea with teacher wang

anna 王老师，这是我从英国带回来的茶，表示我的一点敬意。我先敬您一杯茶！
Wánglǎoshī zhè shì wǒ cóng Yīngguó dài huilai de chá biǎoshì wǒ de yìdiǎn jìngyì wǒ xiān jìng nín yì bēi chá · Teacher Wang, this is tea I brought back from the UK, a small token of my respect. Let me pour you the first cup!

teacher wang 你也真是的，每次来都带礼物。快坐。最近工作怎么样？
nǐ yě zhēn shì de měi cì lái dōu dài lǐwù kuài zuò zuìjìn gōngzuò zěnmeyàng · Honestly, you bring a present every time. Sit down. How's work?

anna 挺好的。上周跟一家公司谈合同，对方条件很高，我方做了一些让步，最后双方达成了妥协。
tǐng hǎo de shàng zhōu gēn yì jiā gōngsī tán hétóng duìfāng tiáojiàn hěn gāo wǒ fāng zuò le yìxiē ràngbù zuìhòu shuāngfāng dáchéng le tuǒxié · Pretty good. Last week we were negotiating a contract with a company that drove a hard bargain. Our side made a few concessions, and in the end both sides reached a compromise.

teacher wang 做生意就是这样，该退让的时候退让，原则问题可不能迁就。
zuò shēngyi jiùshì zhèyàng gāi tuìràng de shíhou tuìràng yuánzé wèntí kě bù néng qiānjiù · That's business: give way when you should, but never bend on matters of principle.

anna 刘经理也这么说。她勉励我，说这次的经验是对我的鞭策。
Liújīnglǐ yě zhème shuō tā miǎnlì wǒ shuō zhè cì de jīngyàn shì duì wǒ de biāncè · That's what Manager Liu says too. She encouraged me and said this experience should spur me on.

teacher wang 你刚来北京的时候，连“你好”都说不好，现在都能谈合同了。我真为你感到欣慰。
nǐ gāng lái Běijīng de shíhou lián nǐhǎo dōu shuō bu hǎo xiànzài dōu néng tán hétóng le wǒ zhēn wèi nǐ gǎndào xīnwèi · When you first came to Beijing you couldn't even say "nǐ hǎo" properly, and now you're negotiating contracts. I'm truly gratified for you.

anna 这都是您的恩情。那时候我没什么钱，一个人在北京很孤单，您接济过我，还把我托付给小明一家照顾。我真不知怎么报答您才好。
zhè dōu shì nín de ēnqíng nà shíhou wǒ méi shénme qián yí gè rén zài Běijīng hěn gūdān nín jiējì guo wǒ hái bǎ wǒ tuōfù gěi Xiǎomíng yì jiā zhàogù wǒ zhēn bù zhī zěnme bàodá nín cái hǎo · I owe it all to you. Back then I had hardly any money and was lonely on my own in Beijing; you helped me out and asked Xiaoming's family to look after me. I really don't know how to repay you.

teacher wang 别这么说。看到学生成功，就是对我最好的报答。
bié zhème shuō kàn dào xuéshēng chénggōng jiùshì duì wǒ zuìhǎo de bàodá · Don't say that. Seeing my students do well is the best repayment there is.

anna 难怪学生们都这么爱戴您，老师们也都很敬重您。对了，我想请教您一件事。小明跟他大学的好朋友小刘几年前闹了矛盾，后来就不联络了。
nánguài xuéshēngmen dōu zhème àidài nín lǎoshīmen yě dōu hěn jìngzhòng nín duì le wǒ xiǎng qǐngjiào nín yí jiàn shì Xiǎomíng gēn tā dàxué de hǎo péngyou xiǎo Liú jǐ nián qián nào le máodùn hòulái jiù bù liánluò le · No wonder your students love you so much and the teachers hold you in such high regard. Actually, I wanted to ask your advice. A few years ago Xiaoming fell out with his good friend from university, Xiao Liu, and they haven't been in touch since.

teacher wang 为什么事闹到这个份上？
wèi shénme shì nào dào zhège fèn shàng · What did they fall out over so badly?

anna 我也不清楚。小明给他打电话请他来同学聚会，他态度很冷漠，说他不会来。小明觉得自己对得起小刘，可小刘就是忘不了那件事，心里一直有怨气。
wǒ yě bù qīngchu Xiǎomíng gěi tā dǎ diànhuà qǐng tā lái tóngxué jùhuì tā tàidù hěn lěngmò shuō tā bú huì lái Xiǎomíng juéde zìjǐ duìdeqǐ xiǎo Liú kě xiǎo Liú jiùshì wàng bu liǎo nà jiàn shì xīnlǐ yìzhí yǒu yuànqì · I don't really know. Xiaoming phoned to invite him to the class reunion, and he was very cold and said he wouldn't come. Xiaoming feels he never let Xiao Liu down, but Xiao Liu just can't get past whatever it was, and he still bears a grudge.

teacher wang 朋友之间，很多事都是可以和解的。看在多年交情的面子上，小明不妨先去找他，安抚一下他的情绪。
péngyou zhījiān hěn duō shì dōu shì kěyǐ héjiě de kàn zài duō nián jiāoqing de miànzi shàng Xiǎomíng

bùfáng xiān qù zhǎo tā ānfǔ yíxià tā de qíngxù · Between friends, most things can be settled. For the sake of all those years of friendship, Xiaoming might as well go and see him first and help him calm down.

anna 可如果错不在小明呢？小刘又那么固执。

kě rúguǒ cuò bú zài Xiǎomíng ne xiǎo Liú yòu nàme gùzhi · But what if it isn't Xiaoming's fault? And Xiao Liu is so stubborn.

teacher wang 那也要体谅对方。宽恕别人，其实也是放过自己。当然，有的事确实很难饶恕，可我看他们的事还没到那个份上。

nà yě yào tǐliàng duìfāng kuānshù biérén qíshí yě shì fàngguò zìjǐ dāngrán yǒude shì quèshí hěn nán ráoshù kě wǒ kàn tāmen de shì hái méi dào nàge fèn shàng · Then he should still try to understand. Forgiving others is really a way of letting yourself off the hook too. Of course, some things truly are hard to forgive, but I don't think theirs has gone that far.

anna 您说得对。我可以在中间调和一下，小明也就不用为这件事犯愁了。

nín shuō de duì wǒ kěyǐ zài zhōngjiān tiáohé yíxià Xiǎomíng yě jiù búyòng wèi zhè jiàn shì fànchóu le · You're right. I can try to smooth things over between them, and then Xiaoming won't have to fret about it.

teacher wang 好。以和为贵，朋友之间也一样，大家互相关照、互相助力才好。

hǎo yǐ hé wéi guì péngyou zhījiān yě yíyàng dàjiā hùxiāng guānzhào hùxiāng zhùlì cái hǎo · Good. Harmony is what matters most, between friends too: everyone looking out for each other and giving each other a hand.

anna 敬爱的王老师，谢谢您！我以后一定要回馈学校，来给学生们讲讲我的经历。

jìngài de Wánglǎoshī xièxie nín wǒ yǐhòu yídìng yào huíkuì xuéxiào lái gěi xuéshēngmen jiǎng jiang wǒ de jīnglì · Dear Teacher Wang, thank you! One day I'm going to give something back to the school and come and tell the students about my experiences.

teacher wang 好啊，那我就成全你这个心愿！

hǎo a nà wǒ jiù chéngquán nǐ zhège xīnyuàn · Wonderful. Then I'll make that wish of yours come true!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

愣
lèng
stunned; to be dumbfounded

堪
kān
to bear

妒
dù
to envy

忌
jì
to avoid, steer clear of

good to know · 请多关照 is the humble line for a first day, a new neighbour or a new partner. The answer is 互相关照 "let's look after each other". 让步, 退让, 迁就 and 妥协 are all about giving way: 让步 is a concession, 退让 is backing down, 迁就 is giving in to someone (often too much), and 妥协 is meeting halfway.

You can now thank people properly in Chinese, and help friends find their way back to each other.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 21 quarrels and grudges

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 3 · friends and social life

Talk about quarrels, rifts and grudges, betrayal and bullying, and tell a friend a home truth gently with 不是我说你.

Every drama, every family row and every office feud uses these words, and 不是我说你 is how Chinese friends say what needs saying.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
仇	chóu	grudge, hatred	他们俩之间并没有什么仇。 There's no real bad blood between the two of them.
仇人	chóurén	enemy	两个人吵了一架，就成了仇人。 They had one fight and became enemies.
报仇	bàochóu	to take revenge	电影里的那个年轻人一直想报仇。 The young man in the film wants nothing but revenge.
报复	bàofù	to retaliate, to get back at	他被批评以后，想找机会报复。 After he was criticised, he looked for a chance to get back at them.
恩怨	ēnyuàn	old scores, grievances	上一代的恩怨，不应该影响下一代。 The grievances of one generation shouldn't touch the next.
敌视	díshì	to be hostile towards	他敌视所有的竞争对手。 He's hostile to all his competitors.
隔阂	géhé	barrier, estrangement	多沟通可以消除两代人之间的隔阂。 Talking more can break down the barriers between generations.
裂痕	lièhén	rift, crack	那件事以后，他们的友谊出现了裂痕。 After that, a rift opened up in their friendship.
破裂	pòliè	to break down, to burst	谈判破裂了，双方都很失望。 The talks broke down, and both sides were disappointed.
疏远	shūyuǎn	distant; to drift apart	工作忙了以后，我们的关系慢慢疏远了。 Once work got busy, we slowly drifted apart.
断绝	duànjué	to sever, to break off	他跟家里断绝了来往。 He broke off all contact with his family.
冷落	lěngluò	to cold-shoulder; deserted	新同事被大家冷落，心里很难过。 The new colleague was left out by everyone and felt miserable.
排斥	páichì	to exclude, to reject	有些人排斥新的想法。 Some people reject new ideas.
孤立	gūlì	isolated; to isolate	他在班里被孤立了，没人跟他说话。 He was isolated in his class: no one would talk to him.

抛弃	pāoqì	to abandon	这只小狗被主人抛弃了。 This puppy was abandoned by its owner.
嫌弃	xiánqì	to look down on, to dislike (and avoid)	你别嫌弃，这是我自己做的。 I hope you don't mind: I made it myself.
小看	xiǎokàn	to underestimate, to look down on	你可别小看这个孩子，他会说三种语言。 Don't underestimate this child: he speaks three languages.
侮辱	wǔrǔ	to insult	你这么说，是对我的侮辱。 Saying that is an insult to me.
冒犯	màofàn	to offend	如果我刚才说错了什么，冒犯了您，请原谅。 If I said something wrong just now and offended you, please forgive me.
得罪	dézuì	to offend, to get on the wrong side of	他说话太直，得罪了不少人。 He's so blunt that he's offended quite a few people.
怠慢	dàimàn	to neglect (a guest), to be rude to	招待不周，怠慢了！ I'm sorry we couldn't look after you better!
亏待	kuīdài	to treat unfairly, to short-change	公司从来没有亏待过努力工作的人。 The company has never treated hard workers unfairly.
辜负	gūfù	to let down, to fail to live up to	我不会辜负大家的期望。 I won't let you all down.
背叛	bèipàn	to betray	被朋友背叛的感觉很难受。 Being betrayed by a friend feels terrible.
出卖	chūmài	to sell out, to betray	他为了钱出卖了朋友。 He sold out his friend for money.
欺负	qīfu	to bully	大孩子不能欺负小孩子。 Big children mustn't pick on little ones.
刁难	diāonàn	to make things difficult for	那个客户总是故意刁难我们。 That client always makes things difficult for us on purpose.
过不去	guòbuqù	to give someone a hard time; to get stuck	他为什么总跟我过不去？ Why does he always have it in for me?
作对	zuòduì	to oppose, to set oneself against	他处处跟领导作对。 He opposes the boss at every turn.
斗	dòu	to fight, to contend	两家公司斗了很多年。 The two companies have been fighting each other for years.
挑拨	tiǎobō	to stir up trouble, to sow discord	有人在背后挑拨我们的关系。 Someone has been stirring up trouble between us behind our backs.
挑衅	tiǎoxìn	to provoke	他故意挑衅，我们不要理他。 He's provoking us on purpose: let's ignore him.
惹	rě	to provoke, to cause (trouble)	这个人不好惹。 This is not someone you want to mess with.
叫板	jiàobǎn	to challenge (openly)	小公司公开向大公司叫板。 The small company is openly challenging the big one.

起哄	qǐhòng	to heckle, to jeer; to egg on	他一上台，下面的同学就起哄。 The moment he got on stage, his classmates started cheering and teasing.

pattern 不是我说你: i hate to say it, but ...

不是我说你 , the criticism

不是我说你 softens a criticism before you make it: “not that I want to nag, but ...”. It’s for people close to you: friends, family, a younger colleague. You can also say 不是我说他 / 你们 about others.

不是我说你，你也该早点睡觉了。 **bú shì wǒ shuō nǐ nǐ yě gāi zǎo diǎn shuìjiào le** I hate to say it, but you really should get to bed earlier.

不是我说你，朋友之间有误会，要早点说清楚，不然就疏远了。 **bú shì wǒ shuō nǐ péngyou zhījiān yǒu wùhuì yào zǎo diǎn shuō qīngchu bùrán jiù shūyuǎn le** I don’t mean to lecture you, but when friends misunderstand each other, you have to clear it up early, or you drift apart.

不是我说你，你不能因为一次失败就抛弃自己的梦想。 **bú shì wǒ shuō nǐ nǐ bù néng yīnwèi yí cì shībài jiù pāoqì zìjǐ de mèngxiǎng** Not to nag, but you can’t give up your dream because of one failure.

dialogue what happened ten years ago

anna 你在上海见到小刘了吗?

nǐ zài Shànghǎi jiàn dào xiǎo Liú le ma · Did you see Xiao Liu in Shanghai?

xiaoming 见到了。他一开门就说：“你来干什么？我不想见你。”

jiàn dào le tā yì kāi mén jiù shuō nǐ lái gàn shénme wǒ bù xiǎng jiàn nǐ · I did. The moment he opened the door he said: “What are you doing here? I don’t want to see you.”

anna 你们俩到底有什么仇?

nǐmen liǎ dàodǐ yǒu shénme chóu · So what is the feud between you two, really?

xiaoming 毕业那年，我们一起去一家公司面试，可是只要一个人，最后公司要了我。有人跟小刘说，是我在公司面前说他不好，出卖了他。

bìyè nà nián wǒmen yìqǐ qù yì jiā gōngsī miànshì kěshì zhǐ yào yí gè rén zuìhòu gōngsī yào le wǒ yǒu rén gēn xiǎo Liú shuō shì wǒ zài gōngsī miànqián shuō tā bù hǎo chūmài le tā · The year we graduated, we both interviewed at the same company, but they only wanted one person, and in the end they took me. Someone told Xiao Liu that I’d run him down to the company and sold him out.

anna 你说了吗?

nǐ shuō le ma · And did you?

xiaoming 当然没有！我怎么会背叛朋友？可他从那以后就跟我断绝了来往。我当时又震惊又气愤。

dāngrán méiyǒu wǒ zěnme huì bèipàn péngyou kě tā cóng nà yǐhòu jiù gēn wǒ duànjué le láiwǎng wǒ dāngshí yòu zhènjīng yòu qìfèn · Of course not! How could I betray a friend? But from then on he cut off all contact with me. I was shocked and angry at the time.

anna 不是我说你，你当时为什么不跟他解释清楚?

bú shì wǒ shuō nǐ nǐ dāngshí wèi shénme bù gēn tā jiěshì qīngchu · I hate to say it, but why didn’t you explain it to him properly at the time?

xiaoming 我解释了，他不信。我一生气，也说了句“你爱信不信”，就走了。现在想想，那时候太鲁莽了。

wǒ jiěshì le tā bú xìn wǒ yì shēngqì yě shuō le jù nǐ ài xìn bu xìn jiù zǒu le xiànzài xiǎng xiang nà shíhou tài lǔmǎng le · I did, and he didn’t believe me. I lost my temper, said “Believe what you like”, and walked off. Looking back, that was far too rash.

anna 你看，你也有不对的地方。那是谁在中间挑拨的?

nǐ kàn nǐ yě yǒu bú duì de dìfang nà shì shéi zài zhōngjiān tiǎobō de · See, you weren’t entirely in the right either. So who was stirring things up between you?

xiaoming 是班上一个姓王的同学。他这个人很狭隘，总跟我作对，开会时喜欢起哄，还常常欺负新来的同学。

shì bān shàng yí gè xìng Wáng de tóngxué tā zhè gè rén hěn xiáài zǒng gēn wǒ zuòduì kāihuì shí xǐhuan qīhòng hái chángcháng qīfu xīn lái de tóngxué · A classmate called Wang. He was very narrow-minded, always against me, liked to heckle in meetings and often picked on the new students.

anna 他为什么要这样？想报复你?

tā wèi shénme yào zhèyàng xiǎng bàofù nǐ · Why would he do that? To get back at you?

xiaoming 可能吧。我在班上批评过他，得罪了他，他就一直跟我过不去。

kěnéng ba wǒ zài bān shàng pīpíng guo tā dézuì le tā tā jiù yìzhí gēn wǒ guòbuqù · Probably. I’d criticised him in front of the class and got on his wrong side, and he’d had it in for me ever since.

anna 那小刘这些年一定很煎熬，觉得被你出卖，又被大家冷落、孤立。

nà xiǎo Liú zhèxiē nián yídìng hěn jiānáo juéde bèi nǐ chūmài yòu bèi dàjiā lěngluò gūlì · Then these years must have been agony for Xiao Liu, feeling you’d sold him out and that everyone was leaving him out in the cold.

xiaoming 是啊。他说那几年找工作很不顺利，人也很消沉，觉得全世界都在排斥他、嫌弃他，甚至敌视他。

shì a tā shuō nà jǐ nián zhǎo gōngzuò hěn bú shùnlì rén yě hěn xiāochén juéde quán shìjiè dōu zài páichì tā

xiánqì tā shènzhì díshì tā · Yes. He said job-hunting went badly for years and he was very low; he felt the whole world was shutting him out, looking down on him, even turning against him.

anna 不是我说你们俩，就为了一个误会，十年的交情有了这么深的裂痕，太可惜了。
bú shì wǒ shuō nǐmen liǎ jiù wèile yí gè wùhuì shí nián de jiāoqing yǒu le zhème shēn de lièhén tài kěxī le · I don't mean to lecture you both, but for a single misunderstanding to put such a deep crack in ten years of friendship is such a shame.

xiaoming 我向他道歉，说我当时没坚持解释，后来也没去找他，辜负了他的信任，也亏待了这份友谊。他沉默了半天，说他也有错，不该小看我们的交情。
wǒ xiàng tā dàoqiàn shuō wǒ dāngshí méi jiānchí jiěshì hòulái yě méi qù zhǎo tā gūfù le tā de xìnrèn yě kuīdài le zhè fèn yǒuyì tā chénmò le bàntiān shuō tā yě yǒu cuò bù gāi xiǎokàn wǒmen de jiāoqing · I apologised. I told him I hadn't kept trying to explain, and hadn't gone to find him afterwards: I'd let down his trust and short-changed our friendship. He was quiet for a long time, then said he'd been wrong too, that he'd underestimated our friendship.

anna 太好了！那他会来聚会吗?
tài hǎo le nà tā huì lái jùhuì ma · That's wonderful! So will he come to the reunion?

xiaoming 他说考虑考虑。他怕姓王的也去，自己忍不住跟他斗起来。
tā shuō kǎolǜ kǎolǜ tā pà xìng Wáng de yě qù zìjǐ rěn bu zhù gēn tā dòu qǐlai · He says he'll think about it. He's afraid Wang will be there too and he won't be able to stop himself from having it out with him.

anna 别担心，到时候我帮你们看着。谁敢挑衅，我就跟他叫板！
bié dānxīn dào shíhou wǒ bāng nǐmen kàn zhe shéi gǎn tiǎoxìn wǒ jiù gēn tā jiàobǎn · Don't worry, I'll keep an eye on things for you. If anyone dares to start something, I'll take them on!

xiaoming 哈哈，你可别惹事！
hā hā nǐ kě bié rě shì · Ha! Don't you go causing trouble!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

煎 jiān to pan-fry (in a little oil)												
哄 hǒng to coax; to fool												
盈 yíng to fill												
赤 chì red												

good to know · 背叛 and 出卖 both mean betrayal: 背叛 is turning against someone who trusted you; 出卖 is selling them out, often for your own gain. 起哄 is not always nasty: friends 起哄 at weddings and birthdays, cheering and egging someone on to sing or make a speech.

Now you can follow every twist of a Chinese drama, and help real friends untangle theirs.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 22 flattery and tricks

Spot flattery, pressure and tricks (sucking up, sweet-talking, traps and cover-ups), and scold someone gently with 你看你.

Scams, office politics and TV dramas all run on these words. Knowing them helps you see what is going on, and say so.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
巴结	bājie	to suck up to, to curry favour with	他整天巴结领导，同事们都看不起他。 He sucks up to the boss all day, and his colleagues look down on him.
讨好	tǎohǎo	to try to please	他买了很多礼物讨好女朋友的父母。 He bought lots of presents to win over his girlfriend's parents.
迎合	yínghé	to cater to, to pander to	有些节目只会迎合观众的口味。 Some shows only pander to the audience's tastes.
拉拢	lālǒng	to win over, to rope in	他请大家吃饭，想拉拢几个同事支持他。 He treated everyone to dinner, hoping to win a few colleagues over to his side.
讨	tǎo	to ask for; to provoke (a reaction)	这孩子嘴甜，很讨人喜欢。 This child has such a sweet way of talking: everyone loves him.
依附	yīfù	to depend on, to attach oneself to	小公司往往依附于大企业。 Small companies often depend on big ones.
追随	zhuīsuí	to follow (a leader, an idea)	很多年轻人追随他的想法。 Many young people follow his ideas.
顺从	shùncóng	obedient; to submit to	她从小就很顺从，从不跟父母顶嘴。 She was obedient from a young age and never talked back to her parents.
听从	tīngcóng	to follow (advice, orders)	他听从了医生的建议，每天去散步。 He followed the doctor's advice and went for a walk every day.
使唤	shǐhuan	to order about	他总是使唤别人帮他干活。 He's always ordering other people to do his work for him.
逼迫	bīpò	to force, to compel	没有人逼迫你，这是你自己的选择。 Nobody forced you: it was your own choice.
迫使	pòshǐ	to force, to compel (something to happen)	大雨迫使比赛推迟。 The heavy rain forced the match to be postponed.
强加	qiángjiā	to impose (on)	不要把自己的想法强加给别人。 Don't force your ideas on other people.
制服	zhìfú	to subdue, to overpower; uniform	保安很快就制服了那个小偷。 The security guard quickly overpowered the thief.

纵容	zòngróng	to indulge, to let get away with	父母不能纵容孩子的坏习惯。 Parents mustn't indulge their children's bad habits.
怂恿	sǒngyǒng	to egg on, to incite	是他怂恿我去的，我本来不想去。 He egged me on to go; I didn't want to.
引诱	yǐnyòu	to lure, to entice	骗子用高工资引诱年轻人。 The scammers lure young people with high salaries.
诱惑	yòuhuò	temptation; to tempt	面对金钱的诱惑，他没有动心。 Faced with the temptation of money, he wasn't moved.
哄	hǒng	to coax; to fool	奶奶哄孩子睡觉。 Grandma is coaxing the baby to sleep.
蒙	mēng	to fool, to cheat (spoken)	你别想蒙{meng1}我，我都知道了。 Don't try to fool me: I know everything.
忽悠	hūyou	to con, to sweet-talk (spoken)	别被他忽悠了，那个产品根本没用。 Don't let him con you: that product is useless.
算计	suànjì	to scheme against; to calculate	他表面上很客气，其实一直在算计你。 He's polite on the surface, but he's been scheming against you all along.
诡计	guǐjì	trick, ruse	他的诡计被大家看穿了。 Everyone saw through his trick.
圈套	quāntào	trap, snare	这是一个圈套，你千万别上当。 It's a trap: whatever you do, don't fall for it.
搞鬼	gǎoguǐ	to play tricks, to be up to something	电脑突然坏了，是不是有人搞鬼? The computer suddenly broke: has someone been messing with it?
耍赖	shuǎlài	to go back on one's word, to be a sore loser	说好了输的人请客，你可不能耍赖。 We agreed the loser pays, so no wriggling out of it.
钻空子	zuānkòngzi	to exploit a loophole	有些人专门钻空子赚钱。 Some people make a living by exploiting loopholes.
把柄	bǎbǐng	handle; something to use against someone	他手里有我的把柄。 He's got something on me.
假装	jiǎzhuāng	to pretend	他假装没听见，继续看手机。 He pretended not to hear and went on looking at his phone.
伪装	wěizhuāng	to disguise; disguise	骗子伪装成银行职员打电话。 The scammer phoned pretending to be a bank employee.
掩饰	yǎnshì	to cover up, to hide	她笑着掩饰自己的紧张。 She smiled to hide her nerves.
瞒	mán	to hide the truth from	这件事你别瞒着我。 Don't keep this from me.
隐瞒	yǐnmán	to conceal	他向公司隐瞒了自己的病情。 He kept his illness hidden from the company.
隐情	yǐnqíng	a hidden reason, the inside story	他突然辞职，一定有什么隐情。 He resigned so suddenly that there must be more to it.

试探	shìtan	to sound out	我先试探一下他的态度。 Let me sound him out first.

pattern 你看你: look at you! (gentle scolding)

你看你	,	what they've done (again)

你看你 starts a fond telling-off, the way a parent or a friend says "look at you!" or "honestly, look what you've done". The scolding follows: 你看你，又迟到了. It's warm, not harsh, and is often said with a sigh or a smile.

你看你，说了多少次了，还是不听。 **nǐ kàn nǐ shuō le duōshao cì le háishi bù tīng** Look at you: how many times have I told you, and you still don't listen.

你看你，又被人忽悠了吧？ **nǐ kàn nǐ yòu bèi rén hūyou le ba** Look at you, conned again, weren't you?

你看你，脸都冻红了。 **nǐ kàn nǐ liǎn dōu dòng hóng le** Look at you, your face is red with cold.

dialogue too good to be true

little sister 安娜，林编辑，我差点儿被骗了！有个网站说暑假打工，一天能赚两千块。
Ānnà Línbiānjí wǒ chàdiǎnr bèi piàn le yǒu gè wǎngzhàn shuō shǔjià dǎgōng yì tiān néng zhuàn liǎngqiān kuài · Anna! Editor Lin! I nearly got scammed! A website said I could earn two thousand yuan a day in a summer job.

anna 你看你，我早就跟你说过，这么好的事哪儿有？你也太幼稚了。
nǐ kàn nǐ wǒ zǎo jiù gēn nǐ shuō guo zhème hǎo de shì nǎr yǒu nǐ yě tài yòuzhì le · Look at you! I told you ages ago: where would you find a deal that good? You're far too naive.

editor lin 我正在写这方面的报道。他们先用高工资引诱你，再让你交培训费，这就是圈套。
wǒ zhèngzài xiě zhè fāngmiàn de bàodào tāmen xiān yòng gāo gōngzī yǐnyòu nǐ zài ràng nǐ jiāo péixùn fèi zhè jiùshì quāntào · I'm writing a feature on exactly this. First they lure you with high pay, then they get you to pay a training fee. That's the trap.

little sister 对！他们还说名额有限，迫使我马上决定。我当时心慌得很。
duì tāmen hái shuō míngé yǒuxiàn pòshǐ wǒ mǎshàng juédìng wǒ dāngshí xīnhuāng de hěn · Yes! They said places were limited, to force me to decide on the spot. My heart was racing.

editor lin 典型的诡计。这些人非常狡猾，常常伪装成大公司的人事部门，说话很会哄人，很讨人喜欢。
diǎnxíng de guǐjì zhèxiē rén fēicháng jiǎohuá chángcháng wěizhuāng chéng dà gōngsī de rénshì bùmén shuōhuà hěn huì hǒng rén hěn tǎo rén xǐhuan · A classic trick. These people are very cunning: they often pose as the HR department of a big company, and they're very good at sweet-talking and charming people.

little sister 我假装很感兴趣，试探着问能不能先签合同，他们马上开始掩饰，说得越发不清楚了。
wǒ jiǎzhuāng hěn gǎn xìngqù shìtan zhe wèn néng bu néng xiān qiān hétóng tāmen mǎshàng kāishǐ yǎnshì shuō de yuèfā bù qīngchu le · I pretended to be interested and sounded them out by asking if I could sign a contract first. Straight away they started covering up, and what they said got vaguer and vaguer.

anna 还好你没有听从他们的安排。你这次很机灵！
hái hǎo nǐ méiyǒu tīngcóng tāmen de ānpái nǐ zhè cì hěn jīling · Thank goodness you didn't do what they said. That was quick thinking!

editor lin 你做得对。有的人被骗了觉得丢人，不好意思说，还瞒着家人，结果损失更大。
nǐ zuò de duì yǒude rén bèi piàn le juéde diūrén bù hǎoyìsi shuō hái mán zhe jiārén jiéguǒ sǔnshī gèng dà · You did the right thing. Some people feel so humiliated at being tricked that they won't say anything and even hide it from their families, and end up losing even more.

little sister 我同学就是这样。她被一个所谓的“老师”忽悠，交了五千块，还向父母隐瞒。那个“老师”说有几万个学生追随他。
wǒ tóngxué jiùshì zhèyàng tā bèi yí gè suǒwèi de lǎoshī hūyou jiāo le wǔqiān kuài hái xiàng fùmǔ yǐnmán nàge lǎoshī shuō yǒu jǐ wàn gè xuéshēng zhuīsuí tā · That's what happened to my classmate. She was conned by a so-called “teacher”, paid five thousand yuan and kept it from her parents. The “teacher” claimed tens of thousands of students followed him.

editor lin 这些人专门钻空子，算计想赚钱的年轻人。他们把自己的想法强加给你，让你顺从，随便使唤你；要是拿到你的把柄，还会逼迫你继续交钱。
zhèxiē rén zhuānmén zuān kòngzi suànjì xiǎng zhuàn qián de niánqīng rén tāmen bǎ zìjǐ de xiǎngfǎ qiángjiā gěi nǐ ràng nǐ shùncóng suíbiàn shǐhuan nǐ yàoshi ná dào nǐ de bǎbǐng hái huì bīpò nǐ jìxù jiāo qián · These people specialise in loopholes and prey on young people who want to make money. They force their ideas on you until you go along and they can order you about; if they get something on you, they'll pressure you into paying more.

anna 太可怕了。警察能制服他们吗？
tài kěpà le jǐngchá néng zhìfú tāmen ma · That's terrifying. Can the police stop them?

editor lin 能。上个月警察就抓了一批，我要在文章里向这些警察致敬。
néng shàng gè yuè jǐngchá jiù zhuā le yì pī wǒ yào zài wénzhāng lǐ xiàng zhèxiē jǐngchá zhìjìng · Yes. Last month the police caught a whole group of them, and I'm going to pay tribute to those officers in my article.

little sister 林编辑，做记者的是不是也有很多人想讨好你、巴结你?
Línbiānjí zuò jìzhě de shì bu shì yě yǒu hěn duō rén xiǎng tǎohǎo nǐ bājie nǐ · Editor Lin, do lots of people try to butter up and suck up to journalists too?

editor lin 当然有。有的公司请我吃饭，想拉拢我；有的节目只会迎合观众。可我们做新闻的，不能依附任何人，也不能被诱惑。
dāngrán yǒu yǒude gōngsī qǐng wǒ chī fàn xiǎng lālǒng wǒ yǒude jiémù zhǐ huì yínghé guānzhòng kě wǒmen zuò xīnwén de bù néng yīfù rènhé rén yě bù néng bèi yòuhuò · Of course. Some companies invite me to dinner to win me over, and some shows only pander to their audience. But in the news business we can't depend on anyone, and we can't be tempted.

little sister 我同学现在想要回钱，那个人却耍赖，说那是她自愿交的，还说是别人在搞鬼。这个人太无耻了!
wǒ tóngxué xiànzài xiǎng yào huí qián nà gè rén què shuǎlài shuō nà shì tā zìyuàn jiāo de hái shuō shì biérén zài gǎoguǐ zhè gè rén tài wúchǐ le · My classmate wants her money back now, but the man is wriggling out of it: he says she paid of her own free will, and claims someone else is behind it. He's utterly shameless!

editor lin 让她别再纵容这种人，马上报警。也别听别人怂恿，自己去找他，千万别抱侥幸心理。
ràng tā bié zài zòngróng zhè zhǒng rén mǎshàng bàojǐng yě bié tīng biérén sǒngyǒng zìjǐ qù zhǎo tā qiānwàn bié bào jiǎoxìng xīnlǐ · Tell her not to let people like that get away with it: call the police right away. And she shouldn't let anyone egg her on to go after him herself; she mustn't count on luck.

anna 你看你，今天学到的比上一个学期都多!
nǐ kàn nǐ jīntiān xué dào de bǐ shàng yí gè xuéqī dōu duō · Look at you: you've learned more today than in a whole term!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

魄 pò soul											
瞪 dèng to glare, stare (wide-eyed)											
莫 mò nothing, no one (written)											
若 ruò if (written)											

good to know · 忽悠 started as northeastern slang and went national through a famous comedy sketch (卖拐, 2001). It is playful: 别忽悠我 can be a joke between friends. 巴结, 讨好 and 迎合 all mean pleasing people: 巴结 is sucking up to someone powerful, 讨好 is trying to win someone over (not always bad), 迎合 is giving people what they want to hear.

You can now see through a sales pitch, a scam or an office schemer in Chinese, and tell a friend off kindly when they nearly fall for one.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 23 getting along

Talk about how people get along: meddling and stepping in, pranks and nicknames, losing out and coming to the rescue, and tease with 你说你一个X，……

Family dinners, offices and friendships are full of these everyday moves, and 你说你一个X is how Chinese parents and friends tease and scold.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
摆平	bǎipíng	to settle, to sort out	这件事交给我，我来摆平。 Leave it to me: I'll sort it out.
插手	chāshǒu	to get involved, to meddle	这是他们夫妻的事，你最好别插手。 This is between husband and wife: you'd better not get involved.
出面	chūmiàn	to step in, to act (on someone's behalf)	最后是校长出面，问题才解决。 In the end the head teacher stepped in, and only then was it solved.
过问	guòwèn	to concern oneself with, to look into	孩子大了，很多事父母不用过问。 Once children grow up, parents needn't concern themselves with lots of things.
理睬	lǐcǎi	to pay attention to (usually negative)	我跟他打招呼，他理都不理睬我。 I said hello to him, and he completely ignored me.
理会	lǐhuì	to take notice of	别理会他，他就是想引起注意。 Ignore him: he just wants attention.
回避	huíbì	to avoid, to dodge	他总是回避这个问题。 He always dodges this question.
逃避	táobì	to escape, to run away from	遇到困难不能逃避，要勇敢面对。 When you hit difficulties, you can't run away: face them bravely.
打发	dǎfa	to send away; to while away (time)	他随便说了几句，就把我打发走了。 He said a few words and sent me on my way.
打搅	dǎjiǎo	to disturb	对不起，打搅一下，请问洗手间在哪儿? Sorry to bother you, but where's the toilet?
捣乱	dǎoluàn	to make trouble, to mess about	小猫在桌子上捣乱，把东西都弄到了地上。 The kitten made havoc on the table and knocked everything onto the floor.
胡闹	húnào	to make a scene, to act up	别胡闹了，大家都在看着你。 Stop playing up: everyone's looking at you.
恶作剧	èzuòjù	prank, practical joke	别生气，这只是一个恶作剧。 Don't be cross: it was only a prank.
出丑	chūchǒu	to make a fool of oneself	我第一次上台唱歌，紧张得出丑了。 The first time I sang on stage, I was so nervous I made a fool of myself.
碰钉子	pèngdīngzi	to be rebuffed	他找领导要求加工资，又碰钉子了。 He asked the boss for a pay rise and got turned down again.

泼冷水	pōlěngshuǐ	to pour cold water on	他刚有个新想法，你别泼冷水。 He's just had a new idea: don't pour cold water on it.
吃亏	chīkuī	to lose out	他太老实，常常吃亏。 He's so honest that he often loses out.
沾光	zhānguāng	to benefit from someone else	你得{de2}了奖，我们也跟着沾光。 You've won a prize, and we all bask in your glory too.
纠缠	jiūchán	to pester; to entangle	那个人一直纠缠她，她只好报警。 That man kept pestering her, so she had to call the police.
拖累	tuōlěi	to be a burden on	我不想因为自己的病拖累家人。 I don't want my illness to be a burden on my family.
投奔	tóubèn	to go to (someone) for help	他刚到北京时，去投奔了一个老乡。 When he first came to Beijing, he went to stay with someone from his home town.
宠	chǒng	to spoil, to dote on	爷爷奶奶特别宠这个孙子。 The grandparents really spoil their grandson.
宠爱	chǒngài	to dote on; favour	她是家里最小的孩子，从小受到全家人的宠爱。 She's the youngest in the family and has been doted on by everyone since she was little.
见外	jiànwài	to treat someone as an outsider	都是一家人，别见外。 We're all family here: make yourself at home.
绰号	chuòhào	nickname	他的绰号叫“小博士”。 His nickname is “Little Doctor”.
外号	wàihào	nickname	同学们给他起了个外号。 His classmates gave him a nickname.
赐	cì	to bestow, to grant	父母赐给了我生命。 My parents gave me life.
献	xiàn	to offer, to present	孩子们给老师献上了一束花。 The children presented their teacher with a bunch of flowers.
抗拒	kàngjù	to resist	很多人很难抗拒甜点的诱惑。 Lots of people find it hard to resist desserts.
提防	dīfang	to be on guard against	这个人说话不老实，你要提防他。 This man isn't honest: watch out for him.
解围	jiěwéi	to rescue (someone from embarrassment)	我答不上来的时候，是他帮我解围。 When I couldn't answer, he came to my rescue.
磨合	móhé	to break in; to get used to each other	新婚夫妻需要一段时间磨合。 Newly-weds need time to get used to each other.
围观	wéiguān	to gather round and watch	街上有人吵架，很多人在围观。 There was a quarrel in the street, and a crowd gathered to watch.
玩弄	wánnòng	to toy with, to play with	他一边说话，一边玩弄手里的笔。 As he talked, he fiddled with the pen in his hand.

周旋	zhōuxuán	to deal with, to work round	她在几个客户之间周旋，忙了一整天。 She spent the whole day juggling several clients.

pattern 你说你一个x，……: here you are, a grown x, and ...

你说你 | 一个 + who you are | ，+ what you shouldn't be doing

你说你一个X reminds someone who they are (a grown man, a manager, a student) before pointing out what doesn't fit: 你说你一个当爸爸的，整天玩手机. It is a scolding or a tease between people who are close, often with a smile.

你说你一个当爸爸的，整天玩手机，也不陪孩子。 **nǐ shuō nǐ yí gè dāng bàba de zhěng tiān wán shǒujī yě bù péi háizi** Honestly, you're a father, and you're on your phone all day instead of spending time with your child.

你说你一个年轻人，遇到一点困难就逃避，怎么行？ **nǐ shuō nǐ yí gè niánqīng rén yùdào yìdiǎn kùnnan jiù táobì zěnme xíng** You're a young man: running away the moment things get hard, how can that be right?

你说你一个经理，怎么连这点小事都摆不平？ **nǐ shuō nǐ yí gè jīnglǐ zěnme lián zhè diǎn xiǎo shì dōu bǎi bu píng** You're a manager, and you can't even sort out a little thing like this?

dialogue sunday dinner

ms zhang 安娜来了！快进来，都是一家人，别见外。
Ānnà lái le kuài jinlai dōu shì yì jiā rén bié jiànwài · Anna's here! Come in, come in: you're family, make yourself at home.

anna 阿姨好，叔叔好！打搅了。这束花献给最好的阿姨！
āyí hǎo shūshu hǎo dǎjiǎo le zhè shù huā xiàn gěi zuìhǎo de āyí · Hello, Auntie! Hello, Uncle! Sorry to impose. These flowers are for the best auntie in the world!

dr li 安娜每次来，我们都跟着沾光，能吃到好菜。
Ānnà měi cì lái wǒmen dōu gēn zhe zhānguāng néng chī dào hǎo cài · Every time Anna comes, we get the benefit: there's always a feast.

little sister 哥哥，坐这儿！……哈哈，你一坐下，椅子就叫起来了。果然出丑了吧！
gēge zuò zhèr hā hā nǐ yí zuò xià yǐzi jiù jiào qǐlai le guǒrán chūchǒu le ba · Brother, sit here! … Ha ha, the moment you sat down the chair made a noise. You've made a fool of yourself, just as I planned!

xiaoming 又是你的恶作剧！你说你一个大学生，还玩这种小孩子的游戏！真让人哭笑不得。
yòu shì nǐ de èzuòjù nǐ shuō nǐ yí gè dàxuéshēng hái wán zhè zhǒng xiǎo háizi de yóuxì zhēn ràng rén kūxiào bùdé · Another one of your pranks! Honestly, a university student, still playing kids' games like this! I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

little sister 我还知道你小时候的外号，叫“小馒头”！
wǒ hái zhīdào nǐ xiǎoshíhou de wàihào jiào xiǎo mántou · And I know your childhood nickname: "Little Bun"!

anna “小馒头”？哈哈，太滑稽了！
xiǎo mántou hā hā tài huájī le · "Little Bun"? Ha ha, that's hilarious!

xiaoming 谁告诉你的？太难为情了！妈妈，你怎么也跟着捣乱？
shéi gàosu nǐ de tài nánwéiqíng le māma nǐ zěnme yě gēn zhe dǎoluàn · Who told you? How embarrassing! Mum, don't you start too!

ms zhang 是我说的。他小时候胖胖的，邻居都叫他“小馒头”。他从小被奶奶宠坏了，特别娇气，谁也管不了。
shì wǒ shuō de tā xiǎoshíhou pàng pàng de línjū dōu jiào tā xiǎo mántou tā cóngxiǎo bèi nǎinai chǒng huài le tèbié jiāoqì shéi yě guǎn bu liǎo · It was me. He was a chubby little boy, and the neighbours all called him "Little Bun". His grandma spoiled him rotten: he was so pampered that nobody could do a thing with him.

little sister 现在这个绰号就是我的了。谢谢妈妈赐给我这么好玩的哥哥！
xiànzài zhège chuòhào jiùshì wǒ de le xièxie māma cì gěi wǒ zhème hǎowán de gēge · Now the nickname is all mine. Thank you, Mum, for blessing me with such a funny brother!

dr li 好了好了。小明，结婚以后，你们俩磨合得怎么样？
hǎo le hǎo le Xiǎomíng jiéhūn yǐhòu nǐmen liǎ móhé de zěnmeyàng · All right, that's enough. Xiaoming, how are you two getting used to married life?

xiaoming 还行。开始她总回避问题，现在我们有事就说，不逃避。
hái xíng kāishǐ tā zǒng huíbì wèntí xiànzài wǒmen yǒu shì jiù shuō bù táobì · Not bad. At first she always avoided problems; now if something's wrong we talk about it and don't run away from it.

ms zhang 好。你们小夫妻的事，我们做父母的不插手、不过问。
hǎo nǐmen xiǎo fūqī de shì wǒmen zuò fùmǔ de bù chāshǒu bú guòwèn · Good. What goes on between you young couple is none of our business: we won't interfere or ask questions.

dr li 你妈妈嘴上说不过问，其实每天都打电话，心里惦记着呢。
nǐ māma zuǐ shàng shuō bú guòwèn qíshí měi tiān dōu dǎ diànhuà xīnlǐ diànjì zhe ne · Your mum says she won't ask, but she phones every day: you're always on her mind.

xiaoming 对了，有个好消息：小刘答应来聚会了！可那个姓王的听说以后，到处说小刘不好，还想纠缠他。
duì le yǒu gè hǎo xiāoxi xiǎo Liú dāying lái jùhuì le kě nàge xìng Wáng de tīngshuō yǐhòu dàochù shuō xiǎo Liú bù hǎo hái xiǎng jiūchán tā · Oh, some good news: Xiao Liu has agreed to come to the reunion! But when Wang heard, he started badmouthing Xiao Liu everywhere and trying to pick a fight with him.

anna 别理会他。他要是再来，我出面帮你们摆平。
bié lǐhuì tā tā yàoshi zài lái wǒ chūmiàn bāng nǐmen bǎipíng · Ignore him. If he tries again, I'll step in and sort it out for you.

dr li 这种人要提防，他就喜欢玩弄这些小手段。不过也不用把他视为敌人，随便说几句把他打发走就行。
zhè zhǒng rén yào dīfang tā jiù xǐhuan wánnòng zhèxiē xiǎo shǒuduàn búguò yě búyòng bǎ tā shìwéi dírén suíbiàn shuō jǐ jù bǎ tā dǎfa zǒu jiù xíng · You do need to watch out for people like that: he loves playing these little games. But there's no need to treat him as an enemy. Just say a few words and send him on his way.

anna 李叔叔说得对。我每天在客户之间周旋，有时也碰钉子，最重要的是别跟这种人生气。
Lǐ shūshu shuō de duì wǒ měi tiān zài kèhù zhījiān zhōuxuán yǒushí yě pèng dīngzi zuì zhòngyào de shì bié gēn zhè zhǒng rén shēngqì · Uncle Li's right. I spend every day juggling clients and get turned down sometimes; the main thing is not to let people like that get to you.

dr li 当年我刚来北京，去投奔一个老乡，什么都不懂，也吃过很多亏。可我从来不想拖累别人。
dāngnián wǒ gāng lái Běijīng qù tóubèn yí gè lǎoxiāng shénme dōu bù dǒng yě chī guo hěn duō kuī kě wǒ cónglái bù xiǎng tuōlěi biérén · When I first came to Beijing I went to stay with someone from my home town. I knew nothing and lost out plenty of times. But I never wanted to be a burden on anyone.

ms zhang 好啦，菜都凉了！先吃饭。这道红烧肉谁也抗拒不了。
hǎo la cài dōu liáng le xiān chī fàn zhè dào hóng shāo ròu shéi yě kàngjù bu liǎo · Right, the food's getting cold! Let's eat. Nobody can resist this braised pork.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

痴 chī infatuated

酬 chou to repay a toast

契 qì agreement

缘 yuán fate, link

good to know · 回避 and 逃避 both mean avoiding: 回避 is keeping away from a topic or a person; 逃避 is running from a duty or reality, and sounds worse. Many Chinese children have a 小名 (a family name like 小馒头, 豆豆, 毛毛) used only at home: friends who learn it can tease you for years.

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day 24 mission: the reunion dinner

Follow a five-part story about a class reunion: the invitation, old friends, a troublemaker, a letter of apology and a farewell, using the whole unit's words for guests, friendship, quarrels and making up.

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chapter 1 the invitation

xiaoming 安娜，请帖我写好了，你帮我听听，看有没有失礼的地方。
Ānnà qǐngtiě wǒ xiě hǎo le nǐ bāng wǒ tīng ting kàn yǒu méiyǒu shīlǐ de dìfang · Anna, I've written the invitation. Have a listen and tell me if anything sounds rude.

xiaoming "亲爱的各位老同学：久违了！毕业十年，大家去了不同的城市，进了不同的圈子，工作忙，应酬多，很多人已经失去了联络。
qīnài de gèwèi lǎo tóngxué jiǔwéi le bìyè shí nián dàjiā qù le bù tóng de chéngshì jìn le bù tóng de quānzi gōngzuò máng yìngchou duō hěn duō rén yǐjīng shīqù le liánluò · "Dear old classmates: it's been far too long! In the ten years since graduation we've moved to different cities and different circles; work is busy, there are endless social engagements, and many of us have lost touch.

xiaoming 为了找回当年的情谊，我们定于下个月十五日晚上六点，在学校老食堂举行同学联欢会，欢迎大家带家人和外国友人一起来欢聚，宠物除外。
wèile zhǎo huí dāngnián de qíngyì wǒmen dìng yú xià gè yuè shíwǔ rì wǎnshang liù diǎn zài xuéxiào lǎo shítáng jǔxíng tóngxué liánhuān huì huānyíng dàjiā dài jiārén hé wàiguó yǒurén yìqǐ lái huānjù chǒngwù chúwài · To bring back the friendship of those years, we will hold a class reunion party at six in the evening on the fifteenth of next month, in the old university canteen. You are welcome to bring your families and friends from abroad (but not your pets).

xiaoming 我们还特邀了陈教授作为贵宾莅临。晚会少不了节目表演，每位来宾都有一份小礼品。学校对这次活动也予以了大力支持。
wǒmen hái tèyāo le Chénjiàoshòu zuòwéi guìbīn lìlín wǎnhuì shǎobuliǎo jiémù biǎoyǎn měi wèi láibīn dōu yǒu yí fèn xiǎo lǐpǐn xuéxiào duì zhè cì huódòng yě yǔyǐ le dàlì zhīchí · We have also specially invited Professor Chen to honour us as our guest of honour. There will of course be performances, and every guest will receive a small gift. The university has given this event its full support.

xiaoming 请收到请柬的同学尽快联络班长。在此，我们向各位老同学表示最诚挚的问候！"
qǐng shōudào qǐngjiǎn de tóngxué jǐnkuài liánluò bān zhǎng zài cǐ wǒmen xiàng gèwèi lǎo tóngxué biǎoshì zuì chéngzhì de wènhòu · If you receive this invitation, please contact the class monitor as soon as possible. We send our warmest greetings to all of you, old friends!"

anna 写得真好，既有礼节，又很亲热。社交礼仪你真是越来越懂了。陈教授答应来了吗？
xiě de zhēn hǎo jì yǒu lǐjié yòu hěn qīnrè shèjiāo lǐyí nǐ zhēn shì yuè lái yuè dǒng le Chénjiàoshòu dāying lái le ma · That's lovely: polite and warm at the same time. You're really getting the hang of social etiquette. Has Professor Chen accepted?

xiaoming 答应了。他说他巴不得见到我们这些老学生。别说上课了，当年他连我们打篮球都来看。
dāying le tā shuō tā bābudé jiàn dào wǒmen zhèxiē lǎo xuéshēng biéshuō shàngkè le dāngnián tā lián wǒmen dǎ lánqiú dōu lái kàn · Yes. He says he can't wait to see his old students. Forget lectures: back then he even came to watch us play basketball.

anna 那小刘呢？他必定会来吧？
nà xiǎo Liú ne tā bìdìng huì lái ba · And Xiao Liu? He's bound to come, isn't he?

xiaoming 他说一定来，还说要带一封信。不过那个姓王的也收到了请柬，班长说同学聚会不能冷落、排斥任何人。
tā shuō yídìng lái hái shuō yào dài yì fēng xìn búguò nàge xìng Wáng de yě shōudào le qǐngjiǎn bān zhǎng shuō tóngxué jùhuì bù néng lěngluò páichì rènhé rén · He says he'll be there, and he's bringing a letter. But Wang got an invitation too: the class monitor says a reunion mustn't leave anyone out.

anna 看在老同学的面子上，这也是应该的。你邀我一起去，正好我可以当你的帮手。
kàn zài lǎo tóngxué de miànzi shàng zhè yě shì yīnggāi de nǐ yāo wǒ yìqǐ qù zhènghǎo wǒ kěyǐ dāng nǐ de bāngshou · For old times' sake, that's fair enough. You've invited me along, so I can be your helper.

chapter 2 old faces

xiaoming 敬爱的陈教授，欢迎您！请这边就座。
jìngài de Chénjiàoshòu huānyíng nín qǐng zhèbiān jiùzuò · Dear Professor Chen, welcome! Please take a seat over here.

professor chen 谢谢你们的盛情邀请。哎呀，久违了！你们都工作了，有的还结婚了。
xièxie nǐmen de shèngqíng yāoqǐng āiyā jiǔwéi le nǐmen dōu gōngzuò le yǒude hái jiéhūn le · Thank you for such a kind invitation. My goodness, it's been so long! You all have jobs now, and some of you are even married.

xiaoming 同学们，大家一起向陈教授鞠躬致敬！当年要不是您关照，我们哪能顺利毕业？我敬您一杯茶，表示我们的敬意。
tóngxuémen dàjiā yìqǐ xiàng Chénjiàoshòu jūgōng zhìjìng dāngnián yàobúshì nín guānzhào wǒmen nǎ néng shùnlì bìyè wǒ jìng nín yì bēi chá biǎoshì wǒmen de jìngyì · Everyone, let's bow to Professor Chen together! If he hadn't looked after us back then, how would we ever have graduated? Let me offer you a cup of tea, as a token of our respect.

professor chen 何必这么客气？当年你们总在课上捣乱、玩恶作剧，现在倒这么懂礼貌了。
hébì zhème kèqi dāngnián nǐmen zǒng zài kè shàng dǎoluàn wán èzuòjù xiànzài dào zhème dǒng lǐmào le · There's no need for all that! You used to mess about in my lectures and play pranks, and now look how polite you are.

xiaoming 那是因为大家都敬重您、爱戴您。您看，同学们还给您献了花。
nà shì yīnwèi dàjiā dōu jìngzhòng nín àidài nín nín kàn tóngxuémen huán gěi nín xiàn le huā · That's because we all respect you and love you. Look, the class has even brought you flowers.

professor chen 好，好。小明啊，你人缘儿还是这么好。这位是？
hǎo hǎo Xiǎomíng a nǐ rényuánr háishi zhème hǎo zhè wèi shì · Lovely. Xiaoming, you're as popular as ever. And who's this?

anna 陈教授好，我是小明的朋友安娜。今天来作客，打搅大家了。
Chénjiàoshòu hǎo wǒ shì Xiǎomíng de péngyou Ānnà jīntiān lái zuòkè dǎjiǎo dàjiā le · Hello, Professor Chen. I'm Anna, Xiaoming's friend. I'm a guest tonight: sorry to intrude.

professor chen 别见外。你们俩怎么结识的？
bié jiànwài nǐmen liǎ zěnme jiéshí de · Not at all, make yourself at home. How did you two meet?

anna 我们是在学校门口相遇的。我迷路了，是小明帮了我。我们相识快十年了，也是缘分。他家里人现在还叫他的外号“小馒头”呢！
wǒmen shì zài xuéxiào ménkǒu xiāngyù de wǒ mílù le shì Xiǎomíng bāng le wǒ wǒmen xiāngshí kuài shí nián le yě shì yuánfèn tā jiā lǐ rén xiànzài hái jiào tā de wàihào xiǎo mántou ne · We met at the school gate: I was lost, and Xiaoming helped me. We've known each other nearly ten years; it must be fate. And his family still call him by his nickname, “Little Bun”!

xiaoming 别提我的绰号了。安娜，你看门口，莫非那是小刘？他竟真的来了！
bié tí wǒ de chuòhào le Ānnà nǐ kàn ménkǒu mòfēi nà shì xiǎo Liú tā jìng zhēn de lái le · Never mind my nickname. Anna, look at the door: could that be Xiao Liu? He really came!

anna 他好像愣在那儿了，不知道该往哪儿坐。
tā hǎoxiàng lèng zài nàr le bù zhīdào gāi wǎng nǎr zuò · He seems frozen to the spot, as if he doesn't know where to sit.

xiaoming 我去请他过来。我们俩以前是篮球队的搭档，今天我就跟他并肩坐。
wǒ qù qǐng tā guòlái wǒmen liǎ yǐqián shì lánqiú duì de dādàng jīntiān wǒ jiù gēn tā bìngjiān zuò · I'll go and bring him over. We used to be partners on the basketball team; tonight I'm sitting right beside him.

professor chen 对，老朋友之间难免有隔阂，可交情是我们之间的纽带，一直都在。快去吧。
duì lǎo péngyou zhījiān nánmiǎn yǒu géhé kě jiāoqing shì wǒmen zhījiān de niǔdài yìzhí dōu zài kuài qù ba · Yes. Old friends can't help drifting apart sometimes, but friendship is the tie between us, and it's always there. Go on.

chapter 3 trouble at the table

anna 那个大声说话的就是姓王的同学吧？他刚才一直在巴结陈教授，又是倒茶，又是讨好，还想拉拢几个同学站在他那边。

nàge dà shēng shuōhuà de jiùshì xìng Wáng de tóngxué ba tā gāngcái yìzhí zài bājie Chénjiàoshòu yòu shì dào chá yòu shì tǎohǎo hái xiǎng lālǒng jǐ gè tóngxué zhàn zài tā nàbiān · The loud one: that's Wang, isn't it? He's been sucking up to Professor Chen all evening, pouring tea and fawning over him, and trying to win a few classmates over to his side.

xiaoming 他就是这样，喜欢迎合有用的人，依附有地位的人。当年班上有几个人追随他，听从他的，他就整天使唤他们。

tā jiùshì zhèyàng xǐhuan yínghé yǒuyòng de rén yīfù yǒu dìwèi de rén dāngnián bān shàng yǒu jǐ gè rén zhuīsuí tā tīngcóng tā de tā jiù zhěng tiān shǐhuan tāmen · That's him: he plays up to useful people and attaches himself to powerful ones. Back then a few people in our class followed him and did what he said, and he ordered them about all day.

anna 看，他现在又在起哄，非得让小刘上台唱歌不可。他分明是想让小刘出丑。

kàn tā xiànzài yòu zài qǐhòng fēiděi ràng xiǎo Liú shàngtái chàng gē bù kě tā fēnmíng shì xiǎng ràng xiǎo Liú chūchǒu · Look, now he's egging Xiao Liu on, insisting he gets up and sings. He obviously wants Xiao Liu to make a fool of himself.

xiaoming 他还说小刘在上海碰钉子，混得不好，现在来投奔老乡，想跟着老同学沾光。

tā hái shuō xiǎo Liú zài Shànghǎi pèng dīngzi hùn de bù hǎo xiànzài lái tóubèn lǎoxiāng xiǎng gēn zhe lǎo tóngxué zhānguāng · He's even saying Xiao Liu got nowhere in Shanghai and has come running back to people from home, hoping to cash in on his old classmates.

anna 这简直是侮辱！他这是故意挑衅。难怪小刘脸都红了。大家都在围观，我真想跟他叫板。

zhè jiǎnzhí shì wǔrǔ tā zhè shì gùyì tiǎoxìn nánguài xiǎo Liú liǎn dōu hóng le dàjiā dōu zài wéiguān wǒ zhēn xiǎng gēn tā jiàobǎn · That's an outright insult! He's provoking him on purpose. No wonder Xiao Liu's gone red. Everyone's watching: I'd love to take him on.

xiaoming 你别惹他，也别跟他斗。他当年就爱欺负人、刁难新同学；我得罪过他，他就一直跟我作对，跟我过不去。

nǐ bié rě tā yě bié gēn tā dòu tā dāngnián jiù ài qīfu rén diāonàn xīn tóngxué wǒ dézuì guo tā tā jiù yìzhí gēn wǒ zuòduì gēn wǒ guòbuqù · Don't provoke him, and don't fight with him. He always liked picking on people and making life hard for new students; I got on his wrong side once, and he's opposed me and had it in for me ever since.

anna 犯不着跟他吵，我去给小刘解围。……各位，我是外国人，今天我先给大家唱一首中文歌，唱得不好，大家别嫌弃！

fànbuzháo gēn tā chǎo wǒ qù gěi xiǎo Liú jiěwéi gèwèi wǒ shì wàiguó rén jīntiān wǒ xiān gěi dàjiā chàng yì shǒu Zhōngwén gē chàng de bù hǎo dàjiā bié xiánqì · There's no point fighting with him. I'll go and rescue Xiao Liu. … Everyone, I'm the foreigner here, so let me sing you a Chinese song first. If I sing badly, please don't hold it against me!

xiaoming 掌声这么热烈，气氛一下子融洽了，也迫使姓王的安静了下来。你一个人就把事情摆平了！

zhǎngshēng zhème rèliè qìfēn yíxià zi róngqià le yě pòshǐ xìng Wáng de ānjìng le xialai nǐ yí gè rén jiù bǎ shìqing bǎipíng le · Such warm applause: suddenly the mood is friendly again, and it's forced Wang to quieten down. You sorted it out all by yourself!

professor chen 小王，你过来。不是我说你，你说你一个三十多岁的人，怎么还跟上学时一样胡闹？

xiǎo Wáng nǐ guòlái bú shì wǒ shuō nǐ nǐ shuō nǐ yí gè sānshí duō suì de rén zěnme hái gēn shàngxué shí yíyàng húnào · Wang, come here. I hate to say it, but you're over thirty: how can you still act up like you did at school?

professor chen 当年是谁在中间挑拨，假装好心，其实在搞鬼，害得他们十年不联络？你隐瞒了真相这么多年，犯得着吗？何苦呢？

dāngnián shì shéi zài zhōngjiān tiǎobō jiǎzhuāng hǎoxīn qíshí zài gǎoguǐ hài de tāmen shí nián bù liánluò nǐ yǐnmán le zhēnxiàng zhème duō nián fàndezháo ma hékǔ ne · Who was it back then that stirred things up,

pretending to be kind while really making trouble, and kept them apart for ten years? You've hidden the truth all this time. Was it worth it? Why put yourself through that?

xiaoming 姓王的低着头，说他当时太嫉妒了，先试探小刘有多想要那份工作，然后才编了那个圈套。他说没想到会闹到这个份上。

xìng Wáng de dī zhe tóu shuō tā dāngshí tài jídù le xiān shìtan xiǎo Liú yǒu duō xiǎng yào nà fèn gōngzuò ránhòu cái biān le nàge quāntào tā shuō méi xiǎng dào huì nào dào zhège fèn shàng · Wang has his head down. He says he was terribly jealous at the time: he sounded out how badly Xiao Liu wanted the job, and then he set up the whole trap. He says he never thought it would go this far.

anna 这种诡计他都想得出来，真会算计人。好在他没有耍赖，向小刘道歉了，还说“如果我冒犯了你，请你原谅”。

zhè zhǒng guǐjì tā dōu xiǎng de chūlái zhēn huì suànjì rén hǎozài tā méiyǒu shuǎlài xiàng xiǎo Liú dàoqiàn le hái shuō rúguǒ wǒ màofàn le nǐ qǐng nǐ yuánliàng · Fancy him thinking up a trick like that: what a schemer. Luckily he didn't try to wriggle out of it: he apologised to Xiao Liu, and even said, "If I offended you, please forgive me."

professor chen 看在你今天诚恳的份上，这次就饶了你。以后别再想着哄人、蒙人了，也别把自己的想法强加给别人。

kàn zài nǐ jīntiān chéngkěn de fèn shàng zhè cì jiù ráo le nǐ yǐhòu bié zài xiǎng zhe hǒng rén mēng rén le yě bié bǎ zìjǐ de xiǎngfǎ qiángjiā gěi biérén · Seeing how sincere you are today, I'll let you off this time. From now on, stop trying to sweet-talk and fool people, and stop forcing your ideas on others.

anna 你看你，刚才还担心打起来，现在倒好，他们和解了。

nǐ kàn nǐ gāngcái hái dānxīn dǎ qǐlai xiànzài dào hǎo tāmen héjiě le · Look at you: a minute ago you were worried about a fight, and now they've made peace.

chapter 4 a letter from xiao liu

xiaoming 小刘说他太激动了，请我替他读一封信。

xiǎo Liú shuō tā tài jīdòng le qǐng wǒ tì tā dú yì fēng xìn · Xiao Liu says he's too emotional, so he's asked me to read a letter for him.

xiaoming “各位老同学：今天站在这里，我的心情不免有些激动。十年前，我以为最好的朋友背叛了我、出卖了我，觉得那是不可饶恕的事。我恨不得跟他断绝一切来往，后来我们的友谊果真破裂了。

gèwèi lǎo tóngxué jīntiān zhàn zài zhèlǐ wǒ de xīnqíng bùmiǎn yǒuxiē jīdòng shí nián qián wǒ yǐwéi zuìhǎo de péngyou bèipàn le wǒ chūmài le wǒ juéde nà shì bù kě ráoshù de shì wǒ hènbude gēn tā duànjué yíqiè láiwǎng hòulái wǒmen de yǒuyì guǒzhēn pòliè le · “Dear classmates: standing here today, I can't help being a little emotional. Ten years ago, I believed my best friend had betrayed me and sold me out, and I thought it was unforgivable. I wanted to cut off all contact with him, and our friendship really did break apart.

xiaoming 那几年我觉得自己被孤立、被抛弃了，敌视身边所有的人，把他当成仇人，甚至想过报复他。

nà jǐ nián wǒ juéde zìjǐ bèi gūlì bèi pāoqì le díshì shēnbiān suǒyǒu de rén bǎ tā dàngchéng chóurén shènzhì xiǎng guo bàofù tā · In those years I felt isolated and abandoned. I was hostile to everyone around me, treated him as an enemy, and even thought about getting back at him.

xiaoming 那时找工作，一个本地人尚且不容易，何况我一个外地来的穷学生？是陈教授接济我、勉励我，又把我托付给上海的一位前辈。他是我的恩人，他的鞭策和助力，就是我最大的后盾。这份恩情我一直没机会报答。

nà shí zhǎo gōngzuò yí gè běndì rén shàngqiě bù róngyì hékuàng wǒ yí gè wàidì lái de qióng xuéshēng shì Chénjiàoshòu jiējì wǒ miǎnlì wǒ yòu bǎ wǒ tuōfù gěi Shànghǎi de yí wèi qiánbèi tā shì wǒ de ēnrén tā de biāncè hé zhùlì jiùshì wǒ zuì dà de hòudùn zhè fèn ēnqíng wǒ yìzhí méi jīhuì bàodá · Back then, finding work was hard even for someone local, let alone a poor student from out of town like me. Professor Chen helped me with money, encouraged me, and put me in the care of a senior figure in Shanghai. He is my benefactor; his push and his help were my greatest support. I have never had the chance to repay that kindness.

xiaoming 现在我才知道，那只是一个误会。所谓“仇人”，并非真的仇人。我们之间的裂痕，其实是我自己不肯放过自己。我小看了我们的交情。

xiànzài wǒ cái zhīdào nà zhǐshì yí gè wùhuì suǒwèi chóurén bìngfēi zhēn de chóurén wǒmen zhījiān de lièhén qíshí shì wǒ zìjǐ bù kěn fàngguò zìjǐ wǒ xiǎokàn le wǒmen de jiāoqing · Only now do I know that it was all a misunderstanding. My so-called “enemy” was no enemy at all. The crack between us was really me refusing to let myself off the hook. I underestimated our friendship.

xiaoming 这次，小明特意来上海找我。他没有回避，向我道歉，还说我当年帮他找工作，他一直欠我一个人情。

zhè cì Xiǎomíng tèyì lái Shànghǎi zhǎo wǒ tā méiyǒu huíbì xiàng wǒ dàoqiàn hái shuō wǒ dāngnián bāng tā zhǎo gōngzuò tā yìzhí qiàn wǒ yí gè rénqíng · This time, Xiaoming came all the way to Shanghai specially to find me. He didn't avoid me: he apologised, and he said he'd owed me a favour ever since I helped him find a job.

xiaoming 其实，是我辜负了他，也亏待了这份友谊。他是我最要好的朋友，也是我的知己，总是想我之所想，急我之所急，我却怀疑他。请大家谅解我这些年的冷淡和失礼。

qíshí shì wǒ gūfù le tā yě kuīdài le zhè fèn yǒuyì tā shì wǒ zuì yàohǎo de péngyou yě shì wǒ de zhījǐ zǒngshì xiǎng wǒ zhī suǒ xiǎng jí wǒ zhī suǒ jí wǒ què huáiyí tā qǐng dàjiā liàngjiě wǒ zhèxiē nián de lěngdàn hé shīlǐ · In truth, I was the one who let him down and short-changed our friendship. He is my closest friend and the one who understands me best; he always thought of me and worried for me, and I doubted him. Please forgive my coldness and rudeness all these years.

xiaoming 这些年我的想法有所改变：人生的路上，有朋友相伴，才不孤单。我必将珍惜每一位老同学。

zhèxiē nián wǒ de xiǎngfǎ yǒusuǒ gǎibiàn rénshēng de lùshang yǒu péngyou xiāngbàn cái bù gūdān wǒ bìjiāng zhēnxī měi yí wèi lǎo tóngxué · My thinking has changed somewhat over the years: on life's road, it's friends beside you who keep you from being lonely. I will treasure every one of you.

xiaoming 最后，我要向陈教授致敬，也向每一位同学表示感谢。我们之间过往的恩怨，今天就让它过去吧。希望我们以后携手向前，像当年一样亲近。你们的老同学：小刘。”

zuìhòu wǒ yào xiàng Chénjiàoshòu zhìjìng yě xiàng měi yí wèi tóngxué biǎoshì gǎnxiè wǒmen zhījiān guòwǎng de ēnyuàn jīntiān jiù ràng tā guòqù ba xīwàng wǒmen yǐhòu xiéshǒu xiàng qián xiàng dāngnián yíyàng qīnjìn nǐmen de lǎo tóngxué xiǎo Liú · Finally, I want to pay tribute to Professor Chen, and to thank every one of you. Let whatever was between us in the past go tonight. I hope we'll go forward hand in hand, as close as we were back then. Your old classmate, Xiao Liu."

anna 大家都站起来鼓掌了，好几个人都在擦眼泪，更不用说小刘自己了。陈教授走过去安抚了小刘几句。

dàjiā dōu zhàn qǐlái gǔzhǎng le hǎo jǐ gè rén dōu zài cā yǎnlèi gèng búyòng shuō xiǎo Liú zìjǐ le Chénjiàoshòu zǒu guoqu ānfǔ le xiǎo Liú jǐ jù · Everyone is on their feet clapping, and several people are wiping away tears, not to mention Xiao Liu himself. Professor Chen has gone over to say a few comforting words to him.

professor chen 宽恕别人难，宽恕自己更难。小刘这封信，可谓今天最好的礼物。

kuānshù biérén nán kuānshù zìjǐ gèng nán xiǎo Liú zhè fēng xìn kěwèi jīntiān zuìhǎo de lǐwù · Forgiving others is hard, and forgiving yourself is harder still. Xiao Liu's letter is truly the best gift of the evening.

chapter 5 the send-off

xiaoming 陈教授，今天没怠慢您吧？我们送您回家。
Chénjiàoshòu jīntiān méi dàimàn nín ba wǒmen sòng nín huí jiā · Professor Chen, I hope we looked after you properly tonight? Let us see you home.

professor chen 不用送了，我就住在学校里。今天你们款待得这么周到，反倒让我不好意思了。这顿饭也算慰劳了我这个老头子。
búyòng sòng le wǒ jiù zhù zài xuéxiào lǐ jīntiān nǐmen kuǎndài de zhème zhōudào fǎndào ràng wǒ bù hǎoyìsi le zhè dùn fàn yě suàn wèiláo le wǒ zhège lǎo tóu zi · No need to see me off: I live on campus. You've looked after me so well tonight that I feel quite embarrassed. Consider this dinner a treat for an old man.

anna 您别这么说。要不是您出面，那位王同学不知还会胡闹到什么时候。
nín bié zhème shuō yàobúshì nín chūmiàn nà wèi Wáng tóngxué bù zhī hái huì húnào dào shénme shíhou · Please don't say that. If you hadn't stepped in, who knows how long Wang would have kept up his antics.

professor chen 这种事，旁人插手容易越帮越乱。好在他自己也愿意让步。以后别理会他那些小手段，但也要提防一点。
zhè zhǒng shì pángrén chāshǒu róngyì yuè bāng yuè luàn hǎozài tā zìjǐ yě yuànyì ràngbù yǐhòu bié lǐhuì tā nàxiē xiǎo shǒuduàn dàn yě yào dīfang yìdiǎn · In things like this, outsiders who meddle often make things worse. Luckily, he was willing to back down himself. In future, ignore his little games, but keep an eye on him all the same.

xiaoming 小刘明天早上回上海，我要去火车站给他送行。我们相约明年一起去旅行，还想联手做一个项目。
xiǎo Liú míngtiān zǎoshang huí Shànghǎi wǒ yào qù huǒchēzhàn gěi tā sòngxíng wǒmen xiāngyuē míngnián yìqǐ qù lǚxíng hái xiǎng liánshǒu zuò yí gè xiàngmù · Xiao Liu is going back to Shanghai tomorrow morning, and I'm seeing him off at the station. We've agreed to go travelling together next year, and we're even thinking of teaming up on a project.

professor chen 好啊！朋友之间不是谁迁就谁，也不是一方退让、一方妥协，而是互相体谅。以和为贵，以后免不了还会有矛盾，你们要保持联络。
hǎo a péngyou zhījiān bú shì shéi qiānjiù shéi yě bú shì yì fāng tuìràng yì fāng tuǒxié ér shì hùxiāng tǐliàng yǐ hé wéi guì yǐhòu miǎnbuliǎo hái huì yǒu máodùn nǐmen yào bǎochí liánluò · Wonderful! Between friends it isn't about one giving in to the other, or one backing down while the other compromises: it's about understanding each other. Harmony matters most. You're bound to disagree again sometimes, so stay in touch.

anna 我本来还想在中间调和，没想到你们自己就和好了。陈教授，下次我想去学校拜见您，向您请教历史问题，可否？
wǒ běnlái hái xiǎng zài zhōngjiān tiáohé méi xiǎng dào nǐmen zìjǐ jiù héhǎo le Chénjiàoshòu xià cì wǒ xiǎng qù xuéxiào bàijiàn nín xiàng nín qǐngjiào lìshǐ wèntí kěfǒu · I was going to try to smooth things over between them, but they made up on their own. Professor Chen, next time I'd like to come and pay you a visit at the university and ask you about history. Would that be all right?

professor chen 当然！我那儿随时欢迎你们来串门。你们不妨每逢过年就来看看我。好了，大家早点回去吧，代我问候你们的家人。
dāngrán wǒ nàr suíshí huānyíng nǐmen lái chuànmén nǐmen bùfáng měi féng guònián jiù lái kàn kan wǒ hǎo le dàjiā zǎo diǎn huíqù ba dài wǒ wènhòu nǐmen de jiārén · Of course! You're welcome to drop in any time. Why not come and see me every New Year? Now, off you all go home, and give my regards to your families.

xiaoming 安娜，今天谢谢你。要不是你，我和小刘的交情就断了。
Ānnà jīntiān xièxie nǐ yàobúshì nǐ wǒ hé xiǎo Liú de jiāoqing jiù duàn le · Anna, thank you for today. If it weren't for you, my friendship with Xiao Liu would be over.

anna 别说是你了，连我都差点哭了。不过不是我说你，下次再有误会，可别再等十年了！
biéshuō shì nǐ le lián wǒ dōu chà diǎn kū le búguò bú shì wǒ shuō nǐ xià cì zài yǒu wùhuì kě bié zài děng shí nián le · Forget you: even I nearly cried. But I have to say it: next time there's a misunderstanding, don't wait another ten years!

You've just read a whole story of friendship lost and found, in advanced Chinese. Unit 3, done!
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