day 25 the family tree

Name every branch of a Chinese family tree (uncles, in-laws, step-parents, twins, ancestors) and add a surprised “you know what, actually …” with (你)还别说.

Chinese family words are precise: which side, older or younger, by blood or by marriage. Getting them right shows real respect.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
伯伯	bóbo	uncle (father’s older brother)	伯伯每年春节都给我们寄好吃的。 Every Spring Festival, my uncle sends us something delicious.
伯父	bófù	uncle (father’s older brother; formal)	我的伯父是一位老医生。 My uncle is a doctor of many years.
伯母	bómǔ	aunt (wife of father’s older brother)	伯母做的饺子特别好吃。 My aunt’s dumplings are delicious.
爹	diē	dad (northern, rural)	我爹年轻时是村里有名的中医。 When my dad was young he was a well-known doctor of Chinese medicine in the village.
娘	niáng	mum (northern, rural)	娘，我回来了！ Mum, I’m home!
嫂子	sǎozi	sister-in-law (older brother’s wife)	嫂子对我特别好，像亲姐姐一样。 My sister-in-law is so good to me, just like a real older sister.
女婿	nǚxu	son-in-law	王老师对这个女婿非常满意。 Teacher Wang is very happy with her son-in-law.
岳父	yuèfù	father-in-law (wife’s father)	小明每个周末都陪岳父去钓鱼。 Every weekend Xiaoming goes fishing with his father-in-law.
岳母	yuèmǔ	mother-in-law (wife’s mother)	岳母做了一桌子菜欢迎新女婿。 His mother-in-law cooked a whole table of dishes to welcome her new son-in-law.
继父	jìfù	stepfather	她的继父对她像亲生女儿一样好。 Her stepfather treats her as well as his own daughter.
继母	jìmǔ	stepmother	童话里的继母常常很坏，可现实中不一定。 Stepmothers in fairy tales are often wicked, but not necessarily in real life.
祖父	zǔfù	grandfather (father’s father; formal)	我的祖父是一名老师。 My grandfather was a teacher.
祖母	zǔmǔ	grandmother (father’s mother; formal)	祖母活到了九十八岁。 My grandmother lived to ninety-eight.
祖宗	zǔzong	ancestors	这是祖宗留下来的规矩。 This is a rule handed down from our ancestors.

祖籍	zǔjí	ancestral home	我在北京出生，祖籍是西安。 I was born in Beijing, but my family comes from Xi'an.
祖传	zǔchuán	handed down from one's ancestors	这家饭店的红烧肉是祖传的做法。 This restaurant's braised pork is made the way the family has made it for generations.
籍贯	jíguàn	native place (on forms)	表格上要填写姓名、年龄和籍贯。 On the form you fill in your name, age and native place.
姓氏	xìngshì	surname, family name	王、李、张是中国最常见的姓氏。 Wang, Li and Zhang are the most common surnames in China.
家族	jiāzú	clan, extended family	他们家族在这里生活了三百多年。 Their family has lived here for over three hundred years.
家世	jiāshì	family background	他家世普通，全靠自己的努力。 He comes from an ordinary family and owes everything to his own hard work.
家境	jiājìng	family circumstances (money)	她家境困难，但学习非常努力。 Her family is badly off, but she studies extremely hard.
家教	jiājiào	upbringing; private tutor	这孩子很有礼貌，一看就是有家教的。 This child is so polite: you can tell he's been well brought up.
后裔	hòuyì	descendant	据说他是一位古代诗人的后裔。 He is said to be a descendant of an ancient poet.
子孙	zǐsūn	children and grandchildren, descendants	老人家看着满屋子的子孙，笑得合不上嘴。 The old man looked at the room full of children and grandchildren and couldn't stop smiling.
子弟	zǐdì	sons, young people (of a family or group)	他是农民子弟，从小就很能干。 He's a farmer's son and has been hard-working since he was small.
血缘	xuèyuán	blood relationship	他们虽然没有血缘关系，却像亲兄弟一样。 Though they aren't related by blood, they're like real brothers.
血脉	xuèmài	bloodline	不管走到哪里，我们身上都流着同样的血脉。 Wherever we go, the same blood runs in our veins.
同胞	tóngbāo	siblings; compatriots	他们是同胞兄弟。 They are full brothers.
亲生	qīnshēng	one's own (child, parent) by birth	他不是我亲生的，但我把他当亲儿子。 He isn't my own by birth, but I treat him as my own son.
双胞胎	shuāngbāotāi	twins	这对双胞胎长{zhang3}得一模一样。 These twins look exactly alike.
孪生	luánshēng	twin (born)	她们是孪生姐妹。 They're twin sisters.
闺女	guīnü	daughter; girl (northern)	我闺女今年考上大学了。 My daughter got into university this year.
丫头	yātou	girl, lass	这个小丫头真聪明。 This little girl is really clever.

少女	shàonǚ	young girl, teenage girl	照片上的少女就是年轻时的奶奶。 The girl in the photo is Grandma when she was young.
老人家	lǎorenjia	elderly person (respectful)	您老人家身体还好吗? Are you keeping well, sir?

pattern (你)还别说: you know what, actually ...

(你)还别说 , **something that turns out to be true**

(你)还别说 admits, a little surprised, that something is true after all: “you know what, actually ...”. It often follows doubt: 我本来不信，你还别说，真管用 “I didn’t believe it, but it actually works”. It has nothing to do with 别说 “let alone”.

你还别说，这个办法真有用。 **nǐ hái biéshuō zhège bànfǎ zhēn yǒuyòng** You know what, this method actually works.

我本来不想去，还别说，去了以后玩得特别开心。 **wǒ běnlái bù xiǎng qù hái biéshuō qù le yǐhòu wán de tèbié kāixīn** I didn’t want to go, but actually, once I got there I had a brilliant time.

你还别说，这孩子越长越像他爷爷了。 **nǐ hái biéshuō zhè háizi yuè zhǎng yuè xiàng tā yéye le** You know, the more this boy grows, the more he looks like his grandfather.

dialogue the family tree

little sister 爸爸，陈教授让我们写家族的历史。我们李家的祖籍到底在哪儿？
bàba Chénjiàoshòu ràng wǒmen xiě jiāzú de lìshǐ wǒmen Lǐ jiā de zǔjí dàodǐ zài nǎr · Dad, Professor Chen wants us to write our family history. Where does the Li family actually come from?

dr li 在西安。我上小学的时候，你祖父来北京工作，把我也带来了，后来就留下了。你填表时，籍贯那一栏一直写的就是西安。
zài Xīān wǒ shàng xiǎoxué de shíhou nǐ zǔfù lái Běijīng gōngzuò bǎ wǒ yě dài lái le hòulái jiù liúxia le nǐ tián biǎo shí jíguàn nà yì lán yìzhí xiě de jiùshì Xīān · Xi'an. When I was at primary school, your grandfather came to Beijing for work and brought me with him, and we stayed. When you fill in forms, you've always written Xi'an as your native place.

little sister 原来如此！那我们家世怎么样？莫非是哪位名人的后裔？
yuánlái rúcǐ nà wǒmen jiāshì zěnmeyàng mòfēi shì nǎ wèi míngrén de hòuyì · So that's why! And what's our family background? Could we be descended from someone famous?

dr li 哈哈，你想多了。我们家是普通的农民家庭，朴实得很，我就是农民子弟。你祖母是村里的老师，家境不好，可家教特别严。
hā hā nǐ xiǎng duō le wǒmen jiā shì pǔtōng de nóngmín jiātíng pǔshí de hěn wǒ jiùshì nóngmín zǐdì nǐ zǔmǔ shì cūn lǐ de lǎoshī jiājìng bù hǎo kě jiājiào tèbié yán · Ha, dream on. We're an ordinary farming family, as plain and simple as they come; I'm a farmer's son. Your grandmother was the village teacher; the family was poor, but very strict about upbringing.

ms zhang 你看这张照片，这个穿着白裙子的少女就是你奶奶。那时候她多腼腆啊。
nǐ kàn zhè zhāng zhàopiàn zhège chuān zhe bái qúnzi de shàonǚ jiùshì nǐ nǎinai nà shíhou tā duō miǎntiǎn a · Look at this photo: the girl in the white skirt is your grandma. How shy she was back then.

little sister 你还别说，我跟她长得真像！
nǐ hái biéshuō wǒ gēn tā zhǎng de zhēn xiàng · You know what, I really do look like her!

dr li 那时候村里人都叫爸爸“爹”，叫妈妈“娘”，听起来很亲热。我小时候也这么叫。
nà shíhou cūn lǐ rén dōu jiào bàba diē jiào māma niáng tīng qǐlai hěn qīnrè wǒ xiǎoshíhou yě zhème jiào · Back then, people in the village called their father "diē" and their mother "niáng": it sounds so affectionate. I did too, as a boy.

little sister 这两个一模一样的小丫头是谁？
zhè liǎng gè yìmú yíyàng de xiǎo yātou shì shéi · Who are these two identical little girls?

ms zhang 是你伯伯的闺女，一对孪生姐妹。长得一模一样，性格却一个外向，一个害羞。你伯父和伯母现在还住在西安。
shì nǐ bóbo de guīnü yí duì luánshēng jiěmèi zhǎng de yìmú yíyàng xìnggé què yí gè wàixiàng yí gè hàixiū nǐ bófù hé bómǔ xiànzài hái zhù zài Xīān · Your uncle's daughters: twin sisters. They look exactly alike, but one is outgoing and the other is shy. Your uncle and aunt still live in Xi'an.

little sister 双胞胎！我怎么不知道？你们也太见外了吧！对了，我们家有没有祖传的东西？
shuāngbāotāi wǒ zěnme bù zhīdào nǐmen yě tài jiànwài le ba duì le wǒmen jiā yǒu méiyǒu zǔchuán de dōngxi · Twins! How did I not know? Talk about treating me like an outsider! Oh, does our family have anything handed down through the generations?

dr li 有一本祖宗留下来的书，上面写着我们这个姓氏从哪儿来和家族里每一代子孙的名字。
yǒu yì běn zǔzong liú xialai de shū shàngmiàn xiě zhe wǒmen zhège xìngshì cóng nǎr lái hé jiāzú lǐ měi yídài zǐsūn de míngzi · There's a book left by our ancestors: it tells where our surname comes from and lists the names of every generation of the family.

little sister 太棒了！那嫂子家呢？你们不是说她爸爸也是医生吗？
tài bàng le nà sǎozi jiā ne nǐmen bú shì shuō tā bàba yě shì yīshēng ma · Brilliant! And my sister-in-law's family? Didn't you say her dad was a doctor too?

ms zhang 对，你哥哥的岳父是中医，岳母是护士。他们特别喜欢这个女婿，说他很体贴。
duì nǐ gēge de yuèfù shì zhōngyī yuèmǔ shì hùshi tāmen tèbié xǐhuan zhège nǚxu shuō tā hěn tǐtiē · Yes, your

brother's father-in-law is a doctor of Chinese medicine, and his mother-in-law is a nurse. They adore their son-in-law and say he's very considerate.

little sister 我同学家更复杂：她爸爸再婚了，她有一个继母；她妈妈也再婚了，她还有一个继父。她跟继母一开始有隔阂，后来也慢慢磨合好了。

wǒ tóngxué jiā gèng fùzá tā bàba zài hūn le tā yǒu yí gè jìmǔ tā māma yě zài hūn le tā hái yǒu yí gè jìfù tā gēn jìmǔ yì kāishǐ yǒu géhé hòulái yě màn màn móhé hǎo le · My classmate's family is even more complicated: her dad remarried, so she has a stepmother; her mum remarried too, so she has a stepfather as well. At first there was a distance between her and her stepmother, but bit by bit they've learned to get along.

dr li 有没有血缘关系不重要，重要的是一家人互相照顾。就算不是同胞兄弟姐妹，感情也能像血脉一样相连。

yǒu méiyǒu xuèyuán guānxì bú zhòngyào zhòngyào de shì yì jiā rén hùxiāng zhàogù jiùsuàn bú shì tóngbāo xiōngdì jiěmèi gǎnqíng yě néng xiàng xuèmài yíyàng xiānglián · Whether you're related by blood doesn't matter; what matters is that a family looks after each other. Even if you aren't brothers and sisters by birth, the bond can be as close as blood.

little sister 我巴不得马上去西安看看伯伯，还有那本书。

wǒ bābudé mǎshàng qù Xīān kàn kan bóbo hái yǒu nà běn shū · I can't wait to go to Xi'an and see my uncle, and that book.

ms zhang 好啊，过年我们一起去。别说你了，连你爸爸都十年没回老家了。他老人家也想家了。

hǎo a guònián wǒmen yìqǐ qù biéshuō nǐ le lián nǐ bàba dōu shí nián méi huí lǎojiā le tā lǎorenjia yě xiǎng jiā le · All right, let's all go at New Year. Forget you: even your dad hasn't been back home for ten years. The old man is homesick too.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

逢
féng
to come across; every time (it is)

纽
niǔ
button, knot

恩
ēn
kindness, grace

抚
fǔ
to stroke

good to know · Chinese family words tell you which side: your father's older brother is 伯伯 (his wife 伯母), his younger brother is 叔叔 (wife 婶婶); your mother's brother is 舅舅. Address a friend's parents as 伯父 and 伯母 (or 叔叔 and 阿姨): calling them by name would be rude.

You can now draw a Chinese family tree and name everyone on it, in the right order and with the right respect.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 26 love and marriage

Talk about couples, weddings and staying single, play things down with 罢了 and 而已, and shrug "whether X or Y" with X也好，Y也罢.

Weddings are the biggest family events in China, and everyone, from aunties to colleagues, will ask you about love and marriage.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
伴侣	bànlǚ	partner, companion (in life)	找一个能相伴一生的伴侣不容易。 It isn't easy to find a partner to share your whole life with.
配偶	pèiǒu	spouse (formal)	表格上要写配偶的姓名。 On the form you have to write your spouse's name.
两口子	liǎngkǒuzi	husband and wife, the couple	他们两口子感情特别好。 The two of them are really close.
老伴儿	lǎobànr	one's husband or wife (of an old couple)	爷爷和他的老伴儿结婚五十年了。 Grandpa and his wife have been married for fifty years.
恩爱	ēnài	loving, devoted (couple)	他们结婚几十年，一直很恩爱。 They've been married for decades and are still devoted to each other.
和睦	hémù	harmonious (family)	他们一家人生活得很和睦。 The whole family lives together in harmony.
美满	měimǎn	happy and complete	祝你们婚姻美满，生活幸福！ Wishing you a happy marriage and a wonderful life!
情侣	qínglǚ	couple (in love)	公园里有很多情侣在散步。 Lots of couples are strolling in the park.
情人	qíngrén	lover, sweetheart	情人节那天，花店特别忙。 Florists are especially busy on Valentine's Day.
吻	wěn	to kiss; kiss	妈妈吻了吻孩子的脸。 The mother kissed her child on the cheek.
异性	yìxìng	the opposite sex	他们只是普通的异性朋友。 They're just ordinary friends of the opposite sex.
单身	dānshēn	single; to be single	她三十岁了，还是单身。 She's thirty and still single.
独身	dúshēn	to stay single	他一直独身，把所有时间都给了研究。 He never married and gave all his time to his research.
成家	chéngjiā	to marry, to settle down	孩子们都成家了，我们也放心了。 The children are all married now, so we can stop worrying.
婚纱	hūnshā	wedding dress	她穿上婚纱，美极了。 In her wedding dress, she looked stunning.

喜酒	xǐjiǔ	wedding banquet	什么时候请我们吃喜酒啊? So when are you inviting us to the wedding?
喜糖	xǐtáng	wedding sweets	同事结婚，给每个人都发了喜糖。 When our colleague got married, she gave everyone wedding sweets.
嫁妆	jiàzhuang	dowry	以前女儿出嫁，父母要准备很多嫁妆。 In the past, when a daughter married, her parents had to prepare a big dowry.
蜜月	mìyuè	honeymoon	他们打算去云南度蜜月。 They're planning a honeymoon in Yunnan.
男方	nánfāng	the groom's side	按照传统，婚礼主要由男方准备。 By tradition, the groom's side mostly organises the wedding.
女方	nǚfāng	the bride's side	女方的亲戚也从外地赶来了。 The bride's relatives have also come from out of town.
复合	fùhé	to get back together	他们分手半年，又复合了。 They split up for six months and then got back together.
出走	chūzǒu	to run away (from home), to leave	电影里的女孩子为了梦想离家出走。 The girl in the film runs away from home to follow her dream.
做主	zuòzhǔ	to decide, to have the final say	我的婚事我自己做主。 I'll decide for myself who I marry.
归宿	guīsù	home, final destination	父母希望女儿找到一个好归宿。 Her parents hope their daughter will find a good husband and settle down.
团聚	tuánjù	to be reunited	春节是全家团聚的日子。 The Spring Festival is when the whole family comes together.
探亲	tànqīn	to visit one's family	他在外地工作，每年回家探亲一次。 He works far away and goes home to see his family once a year.
怀抱	huáibào	embrace, arms; to hold in one's arms	孩子在妈妈的怀抱里睡着了。 The child fell asleep in his mother's arms.
罢了	bàle	that's all, merely	我只是随便说说罢了，你别生气。 I was only saying it: don't be upset.
矣	yǐ	(written) already, indeed	人生得{de2}一知己，足矣。 To find one true friend in life is enough.
而已	éryǐ	that's all, nothing more	这不过是一个小问题而已。 It's just a small problem, that's all.
也罢	yěbà	all right then; whether ... or	不去也罢，在家好好休息。 Not going is fine too: have a good rest at home.

pattern 罢了，而已，矣 and x也好，y也罢

不过 / 只是 … | 罢了 / 而已 | X也好，Y也罢

罢了 and 而已 end a sentence with “that’s all, nothing more”, often after 不过 or 只是: 我只是说说罢了. 也罢 is “all right then”, and X也好，Y也罢 means “whether X or Y, it doesn’t matter”. 矣 is classical 了, kept in sayings: 足矣 “that is enough”.

他不过是说说罢了，不会真的走。 **tā búguò shì shuō shuo bàle bú huì zhēn de zǒu** He’s only saying it; he won’t really leave.

我们只是普通朋友而已。 **wǒmen zhǐshì pǔtōng péngyou éryǐ** We’re just ordinary friends, that’s all.

去也好，不去也罢，你自己决定。 **qù yěhǎo bú qù yěbà nǐ zìjǐ juédìng** Go or don’t go: it’s up to you.

有你们这些朋友，足矣。 **yǒu nǐmen zhèxiē péngyou zú yǐ** Having friends like you is enough.

dialogue a month to the wedding

ms zhang 小明，你们两口子春天就登记了，喜酒到底什么时候办？亲戚们都在问。
Xiǎomíng nǐmen liǎngkǒuzi chūntiān jiù dēngjì le xǐjiǔ dàodǐ shénme shíhou bàn qīnqimen dōu zài wèn · Xiaoming, you two registered in the spring. When are you finally holding the wedding banquet? All the relatives keep asking.

xiaoming 定了，下个月十八号。女方的亲戚要从外地来，所以日子要早点定。男方这边主要是您和爸爸帮忙。
dìng le xià gè yuè shíbā hào nǚfāng de qīnqi yào cóng wàidì lái suǒyǐ rìzi yào zǎo diǎn dìng nánfāng zhèbiān zhǔyào shì nín hé bàba bāngmáng · It's fixed: the eighteenth of next month. Her relatives are coming from out of town, so the date had to be set early. On the groom's side, it's mostly you and Dad helping.

anna 太好了！终于能吃到你们的喜酒、喜糖了。婚纱选好了吗？
tài hǎo le zhōngyú néng chī dào nǐmen de xǐjiǔ xǐtáng le hūnshā xuǎn hǎo le ma · Wonderful! At last I get my wedding banquet and wedding sweets. Has she chosen the dress?

xiaoming 选好了。她说中式的也好，西式的也罢，只要舒服就行，最后两套都要了。我也只好迁就她。
xuǎn hǎo le tā shuō zhōng shì de yěhǎo xī shì de yěbà zhǐyào shūfu jiù xíng zuìhòu liǎng tào dōu yào le wǒ yě zhǐhǎo qiānjiù tā · Yes. She said Chinese style or Western, as long as it was comfortable. In the end she went for both, and I just had to go along with it.

ms zhang 我们那时候哪有婚纱啊，结婚无非是两家人一起吃顿饭罢了。
wǒmen nà shíhou nǎ yǒu hūnshā a jiéhūn wúfēi shì liǎng jiā rén yìqǐ chī dùn fàn bàle · In our day there were no wedding dresses. Getting married was just the two families having a meal together.

anna 阿姨，那时候还有嫁妆吗？
āyí nà shíhou hái yǒu jiàzhuang ma · Auntie, were there still dowries back then?

ms zhang 有啊。我的嫁妆不过是两床被子、一个箱子而已。那时候很多婚事都是父母做主，我们算是自己选的。
yǒu a wǒ de jiàzhuang búguò shì liǎng chuáng bèizi yí gè xiāngzi éryǐ nà shíhou hěn duō hūn shì dōu shì fùmǔ zuòzhǔ wǒmen suànshì zìjǐ xuǎn de · Oh yes. My dowry was just two quilts and a trunk, nothing more. Back then many marriages were decided by the parents; we were lucky enough to choose for ourselves.

xiaoming 现在都是自己做主了。我们登记那天，看到表格上“配偶”那一栏写着她的名字，我终于如愿以偿了，高兴了半天。
xiànzài dōu shì zìjǐ zuòzhǔ le wǒmen dēngjì nà tiān kàn dào biǎogé shàng pèiǒu nà yì lán xiě zhe tā de míngzi wǒ zhōngyú rúyuànyǐcháng le gāoxìng le bàntiān · Now everyone decides for themselves. The day we registered, I saw her name written in the “spouse” box on the form: I'd finally got my wish, and I was happy for hours.

anna 真甜蜜！那蜜月去哪儿？
zhēn tiánmì nà mìyuè qù nǎr · How sweet! So where's the honeymoon?

xiaoming 去云南，就是我们第一次一起旅行的地方，她一直念念不忘。
qù Yúnnán jiùshì wǒmen dì yī cì yìqǐ lǚxíng de dìfang tā yìzhí niànniàn búwàng · Yunnan: the place where we went on our first trip together. She's never stopped thinking about it.

ms zhang 上次你爷爷奶奶庆祝结婚五十年，你们都看到了吧？老两口还那么恩爱，爷爷还轻轻吻了吻奶奶的脸。
shàng cì nǐ yéye nǎinai qìngzhù jiéhūn wǔshí nián nǐmen dōu kàn dào le ba lǎo liǎng kǒu hái nàme ēnài yéye hái qīng qīng wěn le wen nǎinai de liǎn · You all saw Grandpa and Grandma celebrating fifty years of marriage last time, didn't you? Still so devoted to each other: Grandpa even gave Grandma a little kiss on the cheek.

anna 我看了特别感动，差点热泪盈眶。中国人说“老伴儿”，确实是老了以后最好的伴。
wǒ kàn le tèbié gǎndòng chà diǎn rèlèi yíngkuàng Zhōngguó rén shuō lǎobànr quèshí shì lǎo le yǐhòu zuìhǎo de bàn · I was so moved that I nearly had tears in my eyes. Chinese people say “lǎobànr”, and an old companion really is the best company when you're old.

xiaoming 安娜，你呢？还是单身吗？
Ānnà nǐ ne háishi dānshēn ma · And you, Anna? Still single?

anna 是啊。单身也好，成家也罢，我都无所谓。可我妈妈总催我早点找个伴侣，有个好归宿。她远在英国，一直牵挂着我。

shì a dānshēn yěhǎo chéngjiā yěbà wǒ dōu wúsuǒwèi kě wǒ māma zǒng cuī wǒ zǎo diǎn zhǎo gè bànlǚ yǒu gè hǎo guīsù tā yuǎn zài Yīngguó yìzhí qiānguà zhe wǒ · Yes. Single or married, I don't mind either way. But my mum keeps nagging me to find a partner and settle down. She's far away in the UK and always worries about me.

ms zhang 你还年轻，慢慢来。我们公司也有人选择独身，生活得很自在。多交几个异性朋友，也没什么不好。

nǐ hái niánqīng màn màn lái wǒmen gōngsī yě yǒu rén xuǎnzé dúshēn shēnghuó de hěn zìzai duō jiāo jǐ gè yìxìng péngyou yě méi shénme bù hǎo · You're still young: take your time. There are people at my company who've chosen to stay single, and they live very happily. Having a few male friends wouldn't hurt either.

xiaoming 我有个同事，跟女朋友分手半年，后来两个人学会了互相体谅，情人节那天又复合了。

wǒ yǒu gè tóngshì gēn nǚpéngyou fēnshǒu bàn nián hòulái liǎng gè rén xuéhuì le hùxiāng tǐliàng qíngrén jié nà tiān yòu fùhé le · A colleague of mine split up with his girlfriend for six months; then they learned to make allowances for each other, and they got back together on Valentine's Day.

anna 跟电视剧一样！电视剧里的情侣总是分了又合，有的还离家出走，最后又回到对方的怀抱。

gēn diànshìjù yíyàng diànshìjù lǐ de qínglǚ zǒngshì fēn le yòu hé yǒude hái lí jiā chūzǒu zuìhòu yòu huí dào duìfāng de huáibào · Just like a TV drama! Couples in dramas are always splitting up and getting back together; some even run away from home, and in the end they fall back into each other's arms.

ms zhang 生活又不是电视剧。一家人和睦、美满，比什么都好。你妈妈要是想你，就让她来北京探亲，跟你团聚。

shēnghuó yòu bú shì diànshìjù yì jiā rén hémù měimǎn bǐ shénme dōu hǎo nǐ māma yàoshi xiǎng nǐ jiù ràng tā lái Běijīng tànqīn gēn nǐ tuánjù · Life isn't a TV drama. A family that lives in harmony and happiness: nothing beats that. If your mum misses you, have her come to Beijing for a visit and be with you.

anna 谢谢阿姨！小明，祝你们两口子称心如意、心想事成！

xièxie āyí Xiǎomíng zhù nǐmen liǎngkǒuzi chènxīn rúyì xīnxiǎng shìchéng · Thank you, Auntie! Xiaoming, I wish you both everything you could want, and may all your wishes come true!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

饶
ráo
to let off, to spare

迁
qiān
to move, migrate

妥
tuǒ
appropriate, settled

裂
liè
to split, crack

good to know · Many Chinese couples register their marriage (登记, 领证) months before the wedding banquet. The banquet is the big public celebration with family and friends. 情人 can mean an affair partner, so for your own partner use 男朋友, 女朋友, 对象 or 爱人. 情人节 (Valentine's Day) is fine.

From the first date to the golden wedding, you can now talk love and marriage in Chinese, and dodge the nosy questions gracefully.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 27 raising children, caring for parents

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 4 · family

Talk about having and raising children, adoption, and caring for elderly parents, and describe days that go round in circles with X了Y，Y了X.

Looking after children and parents is the centre of family life in China, and 孝顺 (being a devoted son or daughter) is one of its deepest values.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
孕妇	yùnfù	pregnant woman	地铁上有人给孕妇让座。 Someone gave up their seat to a pregnant woman on the underground.
孕育	yùnyù	to be pregnant with; to give rise to	这片土地孕育了古老的文明。 This land gave birth to an ancient civilisation.
胎儿	tāiér	foetus, unborn baby	医生说胎儿很健康。 The doctor says the baby is healthy.
生育	shēngyù	to give birth, to have children	很多年轻人推迟了生育的时间。 Many young people are putting off having children.
哺育	bǔyù	to nurse, to nurture	黄河哺育了一代又一代中国人。 The Yellow River has nurtured generation after generation of Chinese people.
养育	yǎngyù	to bring up	感谢父母这么多年的养育。 Thank you, Mum and Dad, for all the years you spent bringing me up.
抚养	fǔyǎng	to raise, to bring up (a child)	她一个人把三个孩子抚养长{zhang3}大。 She brought up three children on her own.
喂养	wèiyǎng	to feed, to rear	这只小猫是我们一口一口喂养大的。 We fed this kitten mouthful by mouthful until it grew up.
养活	yǎnghuo	to support, to feed (a family)	他一个人的工资要养活全家。 His salary alone has to support the whole family.
摇篮	yáolán	cradle	孩子在摇篮里睡得很香。 The baby is sleeping soundly in the cradle.
周岁	zhōusuì	one full year of age	孩子满周岁那天，家里请了很多客人。 On the baby's first birthday, the family invited lots of guests.
疼爱	téngài	to love dearly (a child)	奶奶最疼爱这个小孙女。 Grandma dotes on her little granddaughter more than anyone.
娇惯	jiāoguàn	to spoil, to pamper	孩子不能太娇惯，要让他自己做事。 You mustn't spoil a child too much: let him do things for himself.
呵护	hēhù	to cherish and protect	孩子的好奇心需要我们细心呵护。 Children's curiosity needs to be carefully nurtured.

管教	guǎnjiào	to discipline; discipline	这孩子太不听话，得{dei3}好好管教管教。 This child is so naughty: he needs proper discipline.
监护	jiānhù	to act as guardian	孩子的父母不在，由爷爷奶奶监护。 The child's parents are away, so his grandparents are his guardians.
领养	lǐngyǎng	to adopt	他们领养了一只小狗。 They adopted a puppy.
收养	shōuyǎng	to take in and bring up	这位老人收养了五个孤儿。 This old man took in and raised five orphans.
孤儿	gūér	orphan	他从小是孤儿，是叔叔把他养大的。 He was an orphan from a young age; his uncle brought him up.
保姆	bǎomǔ	nanny, home help	他们请了一位保姆照顾老人。 They hired a home help to look after the old lady.
管家	guǎnjiā	housekeeper, steward	这家酒店的管家服务做得特别好。 This hotel's butler service is excellent.
照料	zhàoliào	to take care of	爸爸住院的时候，是哥哥一直在照料他。 While Dad was in hospital, it was my brother who took care of him.
伺候	cìhou	to wait on, to look after	你都这么大了，还要妈妈伺候你? You're all grown up, and you still need your mum to wait on you?
侍候	shìhòu	to wait upon (written)	他在病床前侍候了母亲三年。 He nursed his mother at her bedside for three years.
操劳	cāoláo	to work hard, to toil	妈妈为这个家操劳了一辈子。 Mum has worked her whole life for this family.
赡养	shànyǎng	to support (one's parents)	子女有赡养父母的义务。 Children have a duty to support their parents.
供养	gōngyǎng	to provide for	他工作以后，开始供养年迈的父母。 Once he started working, he began supporting his elderly parents.
孝敬	xiàojìng	to show filial respect; to give (to parents)	他每个月都拿出一部分工资孝敬父母。 Every month he gives part of his salary to his parents.
孝顺	xiàoshùn	filial, devoted to one's parents	她是个孝顺的女儿，常常回家看父母。 She's a devoted daughter and often goes home to see her parents.
晚年	wǎnnián	one's later years	希望爷爷奶奶有一个幸福的晚年。 We hope Grandpa and Grandma have a happy old age.
年迈	niánmài	aged, elderly	他最担心家里年迈的母亲。 What worries him most is his elderly mother at home.
高龄	gāolíng	advanced age	老人家已经九十高龄了，身体还很好。 At ninety, the old lady is still in good health.
寡妇	guǎfu	widow	她三十岁成了寡妇，一个人把孩子养大。 She was widowed at thirty and raised her children alone.

遗弃	yíqì	to abandon (a child, an old person)	遗弃老人是违法的。 Abandoning an elderly person is against the law.

pattern x了y，y了x: round and round

X了Y ， Y了X = over and over, nothing else

Two verbs swap places to show a cycle that keeps repeating: 吃了睡，睡了吃 “eat, sleep, eat, sleep”. It can be fond (a baby, a retired grandma), or a complaint about someone doing nothing else. Often a result follows: 写了改，改了写，写了一个晚上.

奶奶每天吃了睡，睡了吃，胖了不少。 **nǎinai měi tiān chī le shuì shuì le chī pàng le bù shǎo** Grandma just eats and sleeps all day, and she’s put on quite a bit of weight.

他在门口走了停，停了走，就是不敢进去。 **tā zài ménkǒu zǒu le tíng tíng le zǒu jiùshì bù gǎn jìnqù** He walked up and down at the door, stopping and starting, and just couldn’t bring himself to go in.

放假在家，他玩了睡，睡了玩，作业一个字都没写。 **fàngjià zài jiā tā wán le shuì shuì le wán zuòyè yí gè zì dōu méi xiě** On holiday at home, he played, slept, played and slept, and didn’t write a word of his homework.

dialogue who will look after grandma?

anna 阿姨，我听说外婆摔倒了，一直很挂念她，带了点水果来看看她。她老人家怎么样？
āyí wǒ tīngshuō wàipó shuāi dǎo le yìzhí hěn guànniàn tā dài le diǎn shuǐguǒ lái kàn kan tā tā lǎorenjia zěnmeyàng · Auntie, I heard Grandma had a fall and I've been thinking about her, so I've brought some fruit. How is she?

ms zhang 谢谢你。没什么大问题，就是腿还不方便。她已经八十八岁高龄了，一个人住，孤零零的，我实在不放心。
xièxie nǐ méi shénme dà wèntí jiùshì tuǐ hái bù fāngbiàn tā yǐjīng bāshíbā suì gāolíng le yí gè rén zhù gūlínglíng de wǒ shízài bú fàngxīn · Thank you. Nothing serious; her leg still isn't right, that's all. But she's eighty-eight now and lives all alone, and I really can't stop worrying.

dr li 不瞒你说，我们正在商量，是请保姆，还是把她接过来一起住。可她老人家又怕拖累我们。
bù mán nǐ shuō wǒmen zhèngzài shāngliang shì qǐng bǎomǔ háishi bǎ tā jiē guolai yìqǐ zhù kě tā lǎorenjia yòu pà tuōlěi wǒmen · To be honest with you, we're just discussing it: whether to hire a home help or bring her here to live with us. But she's afraid of being a burden on us.

ms zhang 我妈妈三十岁就成了寡妇，一个人抚养我们三个孩子，操劳了一辈子。现在到了晚年，我们一定要好好照料她、侍候她。
wǒ māma sānshí suì jiù chéng le guǎfu yí gè rén fǔyǎng wǒmen sān gè háizi cāoláo le yíbèizi xiànzài dào le wǎnnián wǒmen yídìng yào hǎohǎo zhàoliào tā shìhòu tā · My mother was widowed at thirty and brought up the three of us on her own; she's worked hard all her life. Now that she's old, we must look after her and wait on her properly.

anna 您真孝顺。在英国，很多年迈的老人住在养老院。
nín zhēn xiàoshùn zài Yīngguó hěn duō niánmài de lǎorén zhù zài yǎnglǎoyuàn · You're such a devoted daughter. In the UK, lots of elderly people live in care homes.

dr li 中国也有，现在越来越多。不过很多老人还是希望儿女在身边伺候。
Zhōngguó yě yǒu xiànzài yuè lái yuè duō búguò hěn duō lǎorén háishi xīwàng érnǚ zài shēnbiān cìhou · China has them too, more and more. But many old people still want their children by their side looking after them.

ms zhang 我妈妈最疼爱小明了。小时候我们俩忙，都是外婆一口一口喂养他、照顾他。
wǒ māma zuì téngài Xiǎomíng le xiǎoshíhou wǒmen liǎ máng dōu shì wàipó yì kǒu yì kǒu wèiyǎng tā zhàogù tā · My mother loves Xiaoming most of all. When he was little and we were busy, it was his grandma who fed him spoonful by spoonful and looked after him.

dr li 也把他娇惯坏了！他三岁以前，每天吃了睡，睡了吃，谁也管教不了。
yě bǎ tā jiāoguàn huài le tā sān suì yǐqián měi tiān chī le shuì shuì le chī shéi yě guǎnjiào bu liǎo · And spoilt him rotten! Until he was three, all he did was eat and sleep, sleep and eat, and nobody could control him.

anna 哈哈，难怪他小时候叫“小馒头”。对了，我同事怀孕了，现在是孕妇，什么都要注意。
hā hā nánguài tā xiǎoshíhou jiào xiǎo mántou duì le wǒ tóngshì huáiyùn le xiànzài shì yùnfù shénme dōu yào zhùyì · Ha, no wonder he was called “Little Bun”. Oh, a colleague of mine is pregnant, and now she has to be careful about everything.

ms zhang 是啊，孕育一个生命不容易。胎儿几个月了？
shì a yùnyù yí gè shēngmìng bù róngyì tāiér jǐ gè yuè le · Yes, carrying a new life is no small thing. How many months is the baby?

anna 五个月了。她说生育以后想自己哺育孩子，可又有顾虑，怕不能上班，养活不了一家人。
wǔ gè yuè le tā shuō shēngyù yǐhòu xiǎng zìjǐ bǔyù háizi kě yòu yǒu gùlǜ pà bù néng shàngbān yǎnghuo bu liǎo yì jiā rén · Five months. She says after the birth she wants to bring up the baby herself, but she has her worries: she's afraid that if she can't work, she won't be able to support the family.

dr li 我们那时候也一样。不是我说你们年轻人，养育孩子不能全靠保姆，父母的呵护和家教最重要。
wǒmen nà shíhou yě yíyàng bú shì wǒ shuō nǐmen niánqīng rén yǎngyù háizi bù néng quán kào bǎomǔ fùmǔ

de hēhù hé jiājiào zuì zhòngyào · It was the same for us. I hate to say it to you young people, but you can't leave bringing up a child to a nanny: a parent's care and upbringing matter most.

ms zhang 我有个朋友不能生，就领养了一个孤儿，从摇篮里就开始养。虽然没有血缘关系，可比亲生的还亲，现在孩子都上大学了。

wǒ yǒu gè péngyou bù néng shēng jiù lǐngyǎng le yí gè gūér cóng yáolán lǐ jiù kāishǐ yǎng suīrán méiyǒu xuèyuán guānxì kě bǐ qīnshēng de hái qīn xiànzài háizi dōu shàng dàxué le · A friend of mine couldn't have children, so she adopted an orphan and raised her from the cradle. They aren't related by blood, but they're closer than if she were her own, and now the girl is at university.

anna 真好。我们公司还有一位同事，收养了他哥哥的孩子，做了孩子的监护人。

zhēn hǎo wǒmen gōngsī hái yǒu yí wèi tóngshì shōuyǎng le tā gēge de háizi zuò le háizi de jiānhù rén · That's lovely. There's a colleague at my company who took in his brother's child and became her guardian.

dr li 那可不容易。现在还有人遗弃孩子、遗弃老人，这种事最让人难过。赡养父母、供养子女，是每个人的责任。

nà kě bù róngyì xiànzài hái yǒu rén yíqì háizi yíqì lǎorén zhè zhǒng shì zuì ràng rén nánguò shànyǎng fùmǔ gōngyǎng zǐnǚ shì měi gè rén de zérèn · That's not easy. There are still people who abandon children or old people; nothing is sadder. Supporting your parents and providing for your children is everyone's responsibility.

ms zhang 好了，我决定了：把妈妈接过来，一家人团聚在一起，再请一个保姆帮忙。我妈妈以前常说，家里的管家就是我。

hǎo le wǒ juédìng le bǎ māma jiē guolai yì jiā rén tuánjù zài yìqǐ zài qǐng yí gè bǎomǔ bāngmáng wǒ māma yǐqián cháng shuō jiā lǐ de guǎnjiā jiùshì wǒ · Right, I've decided: we'll bring Mum here so the family is all together, and hire a home help as well. Mum always used to say I was the one who ran the household.

anna 等外婆来了，我也常来看她，孝敬孝敬她老人家。等同事的孩子满周岁，我带他们一起来！

děng wàipó lái le wǒ yě cháng lái kàn tā xiàojìng xiàojìng tā lǎorenjia děng tóngshì de háizi mǎn zhōusuì wǒ dài tāmen yìqǐ lái · When Grandma comes, I'll visit her often and spoil her a little. And when my colleague's baby turns one, I'll bring them along too!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

惹
rě
to provoke, to cause (trouble)

纵
zòng
to let loose

诱
yòu
to tempt

鬼
guǐ
ghost; (suffix) a person who is …; sly

good to know · 孝顺 combines 孝 (caring for your parents) and 顺 (going along with their wishes). 孝敬 is more about showing respect, often with gifts or money. 伺候 is everyday and can sound a bit like serving (你还要我伺候你?); 侍候 and 照料 are more respectful.

You can now talk about the whole circle of family care in Chinese, from the cradle to old age.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 28 farewells and remembrance

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 4 · family

Talk respectfully about death, funerals and remembering the dead, and use the formal prepositions of notices and speeches: 本着, 基于, 鉴于, 经, 依, 当着, 就, spoken 打 and written 乃.

Obituaries, memorial speeches and official notices are written in this formal style, and knowing the gentle words for death is a matter of respect.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
逝世	shìshì	to pass away (formal)	这位著名的作家昨天逝世了，享年九十岁。 The famous writer passed away yesterday at the age of ninety.
噩耗	èhào	sad news (of a death)	听到这个噩耗，大家都哭了。 When they heard the terrible news, everyone wept.
生前	shēngqián	during one's lifetime	这是老人生前最喜欢的一本书。 This was the old man's favourite book while he was alive.
生死	shēngsǐ	life and death	医生每天都要面对生死。 Doctors face life and death every day.
悼念	dàoniàn	to mourn	很多人来到这里，悼念这位老科学家。 Many people came here to mourn the old scientist.
追悼	zhuīdào	to mourn (the dead)	学校为老校长举行了追悼会。 The school held a memorial service for the old head teacher.
葬	zàng	to bury	老人去世后，葬在了家乡。 After the old man died, he was buried in his home town.
葬礼	zànglǐ	funeral	葬礼很简单，只有家人参加。 The funeral was simple, with only the family there.
埋葬	máizàng	to bury	他被埋葬在一座小山上。 He was buried on a little hill.
遗体	yítǐ	remains (of the dead)	他生前决定把遗体捐给医学研究。 While he was alive, he decided to donate his body to medical research.
棺材	guāncai	coffin	以前，有的老人会提前给自己准备棺材。 In the past, some old people prepared their own coffins in advance.
坟	fén	grave	山上有一座老坟。 There's an old grave on the hill.
坟墓	fénmù	grave, tomb	考古学家发现了一座古代的坟墓。 Archaeologists have found an ancient tomb.
墓	mù	tomb	这是一位古代诗人的墓。 This is the tomb of an ancient poet.

墓碑	mùbēi	gravestone	墓碑上刻着他的名字。 His name is carved on the gravestone.
墓地	mùdì	cemetery, graveyard	这片墓地安静而干净。 The cemetery is quiet and clean.
公墓	gōngmù	public cemetery	爷爷葬在城外的公墓。 Grandpa is buried in the public cemetery outside the city.
遗物	yíwù	things left by the dead	这块手表是爷爷的遗物。 This watch belonged to Grandpa.
遗嘱	yízhǔ	will (last wishes)	依照他的遗嘱，他的书都捐给了图书馆。 As his will instructed, all his books were given to the library.
扫墓	sǎomù	to visit and tend a grave	每年春天，我们全家都去给爷爷扫墓。 Every spring, our whole family goes to tend Grandpa's grave.
祭奠	jìdiàn	to hold a memorial for	人们献上鲜花，祭奠在灾难中去世的人。 People laid flowers to honour those who died in the disaster.
祭祀	jìsì	to offer sacrifices (to ancestors)	祭祀祖宗是一种古老的传统。 Honouring the ancestors with offerings is an ancient tradition.
祭	jì	to honour (the dead) with offerings	他们每年都在这一天祭祖宗。 Every year on this day they honour their ancestors.
乃	nǎi	to be, indeed (written)	他乃我国著名的历史学家。 He is one of our country's most famous historians.
打	dǎ	from (spoken)	打{da3-7}明天起，我每天早上跑步。 From tomorrow on, I'm going running every morning.
本着	běnzhe	in line with, in the spirit of	我们本着自愿的原则组织这次活动。 We are organising this event on a voluntary basis.
基于	jīyú	based on	基于以上原因，我们决定推迟会议。 For the above reasons, we have decided to postpone the meeting.
鉴于	jiànyú	in view of	鉴于天气原因，比赛改在下周举行。 In view of the weather, the match has been moved to next week.
经	jīng	after, through (a process)	经医生同意，他今天可以出院了。 With the doctor's approval, he can leave hospital today.
依	yī	according to	依我看，这件事不能着急。 As I see it, there's no rushing this.
依照	yīzhào	according to	依照法律规定，你有权利知道真相。 According to the law, you have the right to know the truth.
当着	dāngzhe	in front of, in the presence of	他当着大家的面|向我道歉。 He apologised to me in front of everyone.

pattern formal prepositions: 本着, 基于, 鉴于, 经, 依, 当着, 就, 打 and 乃

本着 / 基于 / 鉴于 / 经 / 依 **the basis** ，**the decision or action**

Notices and speeches give the basis first: 本着 (in the spirit of), 基于 (based on), 鉴于 (in view of), 经 (after, through: 经医生同意), 依 / 依照 (according to). 当着 is “in front of (someone)”, 就 is “on, concerning (a topic)”. Spoken 打 means “from”: 打明天起. Written 乃 means “is”.

基于他对历史研究的贡献，学校决定为他建一座图书馆。 **jīyú tā duì lìshǐ yánjiū de gòngxiàn xuéxiào juédìng wèi tā jiàn yí zuò túshūguǎn** In recognition of his contribution to historical research, the university has decided to build a library in his name.

经家人同意，他的遗物捐给了博物馆。 **jīng jiārén tóngyì tā de yíwù juān gěi le bówùguǎn** With the family’s agreement, his belongings were given to the museum.

陈教授就老先生的研究写了一篇文章。 **Chénjiàoshòu jiù lǎo xiānsheng de yánjiū xiě le yì piān wénzhāng** Professor Chen wrote an article on the old scholar’s research.

很多打外地来的学生也参加了追悼会。 **hěn duō dǎ wàidì lái de xuéshēng yě cānjiā le zhuīdào huì** Many students who came from out of town also attended the memorial service.

dialogue after the memorial service

little sister 陈教授，您别太难过了。听到这个噩耗，我们都很悲痛。
Chénjiàoshòu nín bié tài nánguò le tīng dào zhège èhào wǒmen dōu hěn bēitòng · Professor Chen, please don't be too sad. When we heard the terrible news, we were all grief-stricken.

professor chen 谢谢你们来参加追悼会。老先生九十六岁逝世，也算走得安详。
xièxie nǐmen lái cānjiā zhuīdào huì lǎo xiānsheng jiǔshíliù suì shìshì yě suàn zǒu de ānxiáng · Thank you for coming to the memorial service. He passed away at ninety-six; at least it was peaceful.

anna 今天来悼念他的人真多，很多是打外地专门赶来的。
jīntiān lái dàoniàn tā de rén zhēn duō hěn duō shì dǎ wàidì zhuānmén gǎn lái de · So many people came to mourn him today, many of them all the way from out of town.

professor chen 他乃我国最有名的历史学家之一，学生在全国各地都有。我就是他带出来的，他是我的恩人。
tā nǎi wǒ guó zuì yǒumíng de lìshǐ xué jiā zhī yī xuéshēng zài quán guó gèdì dōu yǒu wǒ jiùshì tā dài chulai de tā shì wǒ de ēnrén · He was one of our country's greatest historians, with students all over China. I was one of the people he trained: I owe him everything.

little sister 您刚才当着大家的面念他的遗嘱，声音都哽咽了，我听哭了。
nín gāngcái dāngzhe dàjiā de miàn niàn tā de yízhǔ shēngyīn dōu gěngyè le wǒ tīng kū le · When you read out his will in front of everyone just now, your voice was choking, and it made me cry.

anna 你看你，眼睛都哭红了。陈教授，遗嘱里写了什么？
nǐ kàn nǐ yǎnjing dōu kū hóng le Chénjiàoshòu yízhǔ lǐ xiě le shénme · Look at you, your eyes are all red. Professor Chen, what did the will say?

professor chen 他生前就决定，把遗体捐给医学研究，不要棺材，也不要墓碑。
tā shēngqián jiù juédìng bǎ yítǐ juān gěi yīxué yánjiū búyào guāncai yě búyào mùbēi · He decided while he was alive to donate his body to medical research: no coffin and no gravestone.

little sister 那他的家人同意吗？中国人不是讲究死后要有个坟墓吗？
nà tā de jiārén tóngyì ma Zhōngguó rén bú shì jiǎngjiu sǐ hòu yào yǒu gè fénmù ma · And did the family agree? Don't Chinese people traditionally want a grave of their own?

professor chen 以前是这样，很多人要葬在家乡的墓地里，埋葬在祖宗的坟旁边，有的人的墓修得特别大。可他说，生死是自然的事。本着不浪费的原则，葬礼一切都要简单。
yǐqián shì zhèyàng hěn duō rén yào zàng zài jiāxiāng de mùdì lǐ máizàng zài zǔzong de fén pángbiān yǒude rén de mù xiū de tèbié dà kě tā shuō shēngsǐ shì zìrán de shì běnzhe bú làngfèi de yuánzé zànglǐ yíqiè dōu yào jiǎndān · That used to be the way: many people wanted to be buried in the graveyard back home, next to their ancestors' graves, and some had huge tombs built. But he said life and death are part of nature, and in the spirit of not wasting anything, the funeral had to be simple in every way.

anna 他的书和遗物怎么办？
tā de shū hé yíwù zěnme bàn · What will happen to his books and belongings?

professor chen 依照他的遗嘱，经家人同意，书捐给学校图书馆，遗物捐给博物馆。基于他的贡献，学校决定打下个学期起，用他的名字建立一个奖学金。
yīzhào tā de yízhǔ jīng jiārén tóngyì shū juān gěi xuéxiào túshūguǎn yíwù juān gěi bówùguǎn jīyú tā de gòngxiàn xuéxiào juédìng dǎ xià gè xuéqī qǐ yòng tā de míngzi jiànlì yí gè jiǎngxuéjīn · As his will instructed, and with the family's agreement, his books go to the university library and his belongings to the museum. In recognition of his contribution, the university has decided to set up a scholarship in his name from next term.

little sister 真了不起。我们家每年春天都去公墓给太爷爷扫墓，祭奠他老人家。
zhēn liǎobuqǐ wǒmen jiā měi nián chūntiān dōu qù gōngmù gěi tài yéye sǎomù jìdiàn tā lǎorenjia · That's remarkable. Every spring our family goes to the public cemetery to tend my great-grandfather's grave and pay our respects.

professor chen 扫墓是很好的传统。古代的祭祀很复杂，现在大家献一束花，说说心里想说的，就是最好的祭奠。
sǎomù shì hěn hǎo de chuántǒng gǔdài de jìsì hěn fùzá xiànzài dàjiā xiàn yí shù huā shuō shuo xīnlǐ xiǎng

shuō de jiùshì zuìhǎo de jìdiàn · Tending graves is a fine tradition. Ancient rites for the dead were very elaborate; nowadays, laying some flowers and saying what's in your heart is the best way to honour someone.

anna 陈教授，鉴于您跟老先生的感情这么深，您不妨就他的一生写一篇文章。

Chénjiàoshòu jiànyú nín gēn lǎo xiānsheng de gǎnqíng zhème shēn nín bùfáng jiù tā de yìshēng xiě yì piān wénzhāng · Professor Chen, given how close you were to him, why not write an article about his life?

professor chen 我正有这个打算。我想写他的生前小事，让学生们知道他是一个什么样的人。他到了晚年还天天去图书馆，学生们都很爱戴他。

wǒ zhèng yǒu zhège dǎsuàn wǒ xiǎng xiě tā de shēngqián xiǎo shì ràng xuéshēngmen zhīdào tā shì yí gè shénme yàng de rén tā dào le wǎnnián hái tiān tiān qù túshūguǎn xuéshēngmen dōu hěn àidài tā · That's just what I'm planning. I want to write about the little things from his life, so students know what kind of man he was. Even in old age he went to the library every day, and his students loved him dearly.

little sister 到时候我帮您整理资料。我们一起祭他老人家。

dào shíhou wǒ bāng nín zhěnglǐ zīliào wǒmen yìqǐ jì tā lǎorenjia · I'll help you gather the material. We'll honour him together.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

耍
shuǎ
to play with; throw (a tantrum), play (tricks)

掩
yǎn
to cover

瞒
mán
to hide the truth from

搅
jiǎo
to stir, mix; disturb

good to know · Death is spoken of gently in Chinese: 去世 is the everyday polite word, 逝世 is formal for well-known people, and 走了 ("has gone") is soft and common. To the family, say 请节哀 "please contain your grief". Graves are swept at the Qingming festival (清明节) in early April: families clean the grave, lay flowers and food, and remember the dead together.

You can now offer condolences, follow a memorial speech and read a formal notice in Chinese, with the respect such moments need.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 29 how it is done (2)

Say how things are done (without permission, as usual, one by one, all at once) and how you feel about it (luckily, of all times, I'd rather, be sure to) with advanced manner and mood adverbs.

These adverbs are where Chinese shows attitude: a complaint, a relief or an insistence often lives in one word like 偏偏, 幸亏 or 务必.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
如期	rúqī	on schedule, as planned	虽然下雨，比赛还是如期举行了。 Despite the rain, the match went ahead as planned.
擅自	shànzì	without permission	酒店擅自取消了我们的预订。 The hotel cancelled our booking without asking us.
私自	sīzì	privately, without permission	员工不能私自把公司的资料带回家。 Staff mustn't take company documents home without permission.
特此	tècǐ	hereby (in notices)	明天停水，特此通知。 Notice is hereby given that the water will be off tomorrow.
瞎	xiā	blindly, foolishly; blind	不懂就别瞎说。 If you don't know, don't talk nonsense.
一并	yībìng	along with, all together	请把这两份文件一并交给经理。 Please give both documents to the manager together.
一举	yījǔ	in one go; one move	他们一举拿下了冠军。 They took the championship in one stroke.
一手	yīshǒu	single-handedly; skill	这家公司是他一手创办的。 He built this company single-handedly.
毅然	yìrán	resolutely	他毅然离开了大城市，回到家乡当老师。 He resolutely left the big city and went home to teach.
有意	yǒuyì	on purpose; to be interested in	我不是有意的，你别生气。 I didn't mean to: don't be angry.
照常	zhàocháng	as usual	节日期间，商店照常营业。 The shops stay open as usual over the holiday.
照例	zhàolì	as a rule, as usual	每年春节，我们照例去爷爷家拜年。 Every Spring Festival we go to Grandpa's to wish him a happy New Year, as always.
照样	zhàoyàng	all the same, just the same	下雨他也照样去跑步。 He goes running even when it rains.
执意	zhíyì	insistently	我们都劝他别去，他执意要去。 We all tried to talk him out of it, but he insisted on going.
骤然	zhòurán	suddenly, abruptly	天气骤然变冷。 The weather suddenly turned cold.

逐一	zhúyī	one by one	老师逐一检查了学生的作业。 The teacher checked the students' homework one by one.
专程	zhuānchéng	specially (making a trip)	他专程从上海赶来参加婚礼。 He came all the way from Shanghai just for the wedding.
截然	jiérán	completely (different)	两个人的性格截然不同。 The two of them have completely different personalities.
宁可	nìngkě	would rather	我宁可走路，也不坐他的车。 I'd rather walk than get in his car.
宁愿	nìngyuàn	would rather	她宁愿自己辛苦一点，也不想麻烦别人。 She'd rather work a bit harder herself than trouble anyone else.
碰巧	pèngqiǎo	by chance, as it happens	我去找他，碰巧他不在家。 I went to see him, and as it happened he wasn't home.
偏偏	piānpiān	just, of all times (against wishes)	我没带伞，偏偏下雨了。 I didn't bring an umbrella, and of course it rained.
恰巧	qiàqiǎo	by coincidence	我正想给你打电话，恰巧你来了。 I was just about to ring you, and you turned up.
情愿	qíngyuàn	to be willing; would rather	为了孩子，她情愿放弃工作。 For her children's sake, she's willing to give up her job.
势必	shìbì	is bound to	这样下去，势必会影响你的健康。 If this goes on, it's bound to affect your health.
索性	suǒxìng	might as well, simply	雨太大了，我们索性不去了。 The rain was so heavy that we just didn't go.
万万	wànwàn	absolutely (not)	这件事万万不能告诉他。 On no account must he be told about this.
未免	wèimiǎn	rather (too), a bit (too)	你这么说，未免太不公平了。 Saying that is a bit unfair.
务必	wùbì	must, be sure to	请务必在周五以前回复。 Please be sure to reply by Friday.
幸好	xìnghǎo	fortunately	幸好你提醒我，不然我就忘了。 Luckily you reminded me, or I'd have forgotten.
幸亏	xìngkuī	luckily, thanks to	幸亏有你帮忙，事情才这么顺利。 It's thanks to your help that it all went so smoothly.
终究	zhōngjiū	in the end, after all	真相终究会被大家知道的。 The truth will come out in the end.
何不	hébù	why not	天气这么好，何不出去走走？ The weather's so lovely: why not go out for a walk?
何尝	hécháng	it's not that … not (rhetorical)	我何尝不想回家？可工作太忙了。 Don't think I don't want to go home! It's just that work is too busy.

pattern how it's done and how you feel: 擅自, 照样, 逐一 … 偏偏, 幸亏, 宁可

who | **擅自 / 照样 / 执意 / 逐一 / 偏偏 / 幸亏 / 宁可** | **verb …**

Manner adverbs say how: 擅自 / 私自 (without permission), 执意 (insisting), 照常 / 照例 / 照样 (as usual, all the same), 逐一 (one by one), 一并 (together), 专程 (specially). Mood adverbs give your attitude: 偏偏 (of all things, against your wishes), 幸亏 / 幸好 (luckily), 宁可 / 宁愿 (would rather), 务必 (be sure to), 未免 (a bit too), 索性 (might as well), 何不 (why not).

节日期间，银行照常营业。 **jiérì qījiān yínháng zhàocháng yíngyè** The banks are open as usual over the holiday.

大家都劝他别去，他执意要自己开车去。 **dàjiā dōu quàn tā bié qù tā zhíyì yào zìjǐ kāichē qù** Everyone told him not to go, but he insisted on driving there himself.

幸好你来了，不然我真不知道怎么办。 **xìnghǎo nǐ lái le bùrán wǒ zhēn bù zhīdào zěnme bàn** Luckily you came, or I really wouldn't have known what to do.

时间不多了，我们索性打车去吧。 **shíjiān bù duō le wǒmen suǒxìng dǎchē qù ba** There isn't much time: let's just take a taxi.

dialogue the hotel problem

xiaoming 孙律师，谢谢您专程过来。酒店昨天骤然通知我们，大厅不能用了。
Sūnlǜshī xièxie nín zhuānchéng guòlái jiǔdiàn zuótiān zhòurán tōngzhī wǒmen dàtīng bù néng yòng le · Lawyer Sun, thank you for coming out specially. Yesterday the hotel suddenly told us we can't have the hall.

lawyer sun 合同带来了吗？我看看。……合同上写得很清楚，酒店不能私自改日期。
hétóng dài lái le ma wǒ kàn kan hétóng shàng xiě de hěn qīngchu jiǔdiàn bù néng sīzì gǎi rìqī · Did you bring the contract? Let me see. ... The contract is very clear: the hotel can't change the date on its own.

anna 他们说碰巧有一个大公司要开年会，出的钱多，就擅自把大厅租给了人家。这分明是不讲信用！
tāmen shuō pèngqiǎo yǒu yí gè dà gōngsī yào kāi nián huì chū de qián duō jiù shànzì bǎ dàtīng zū gěi le rénjia zhè fēnmíng shì bù jiǎng xìnyòng · They said a big company happened to want it for their annual party and offered more money, so they rented the hall to them without asking. That's plainly breaking their word!

xiaoming 离婚礼只有十天了，偏偏出了这种事！我心急如焚。
lí hūnlǐ zhǐyǒu shí tiān le piānpiān chū le zhè zhǒng shì wǒ xīnjí rúfén · There are only ten days to the wedding, and this had to happen! I'm beside myself with worry.

lawyer sun 别瞎着急。他们这样做，势必要承担责任。依照合同，酒店要赔钱，或者照样给你们大厅。
bié xiā zháojí tāmen zhèyàng zuò shìbì yào chéngdān zérèn yīzhào hétóng jiǔdiàn yào péi qián huòzhě zhàoyàng gěi nǐmen dàtīng · Don't panic. If they do this, they're bound to bear the consequences. Under the contract, the hotel either pays compensation or lets you have the hall as agreed.

xiaoming 我宁愿他们把大厅还给我们。请柬都发了，日子万万不能改。
wǒ nìngyuàn tāmen bǎ dàtīng huán gěi wǒmen qǐngjiǎn dōu fā le rìzi wànwàn bù néng gǎi · I'd much rather they gave us the hall back. The invitations have all gone out: we absolutely can't change the date.

anna 你父母呢？他们怎么说？
nǐ fùmǔ ne tāmen zěnme shuō · What about your parents? What do they say?

xiaoming 我妈妈想换一家酒店，我爸爸执意要找酒店经理。两个人的想法截然不同。
wǒ māma xiǎng huàn yì jiā jiǔdiàn wǒ bàba zhíyì yào zhǎo jiǔdiàn jīnglǐ liǎng gè rén de xiǎngfǎ jiérán bù tóng · Mum wants to switch to another hotel, and Dad insists on going to see the hotel manager. Their ideas couldn't be more different.

lawyer sun 何不两个办法一并考虑？我先给酒店经理写一封信，把问题逐一列出来，请他们务必在三天内回复。
hébù liǎng gè bànfǎ yíbìng kǎolǜ wǒ xiān gěi jiǔdiàn jīnglǐ xiě yì fēng xìn bǎ wèntí zhúyī liè chulai qǐng tāmen wùbì zài sān tiān nèi huífù · Why not consider both? First I'll write to the hotel manager listing the problems one by one, and ask them to reply within three days without fail.

anna 孙律师，您这么做，会不会得罪酒店？他们会不会觉得我们有意为难他们？
Sūnlǜshī nín zhème zuò huì bu huì dézuì jiǔdiàn tāmen huì bu huì juéde wǒmen yǒuyì wéinán tāmen · Lawyer Sun, if you do that, won't we offend the hotel? Will they think we're deliberately making trouble for them?

lawyer sun 不会。他们照例会先道歉，再谈条件，最后必定会做一些让步。我做了二十年律师，这种事见多了，终究会解决的。
bú huì tāmen zhàolì huì xiān dàoqiàn zài tán tiáojiàn zuìhòu bìdìng huì zuò yìxiē ràngbù wǒ zuò le èrshí nián lǜshī zhè zhǒng shì jiàn duō le zhōngjiū huì jiějué de · No. As usual they'll apologise first, then negotiate, and in the end they're sure to make some concessions. I've been a lawyer for twenty years and seen plenty of cases like this; it'll be sorted out in the end.

xiaoming 您说得对。我何尝不想冷静一点？可这场婚礼是我和她一手准备的，花了半年时间。
nín shuō de duì wǒ hécháng bù xiǎng lěngjìng yìdiǎn kě zhè chǎng hūnlǐ shì wǒ hé tā yìshǒu zhǔnbèi de huā le bàn nián shíjiān · You're right. It's not that I don't want to stay calm. But the two of us have organised this whole wedding ourselves; it's taken six months.

lawyer sun 我理解。不过你这样未免太紧张了。你们照常准备，酒店这边交给我，我出面跟他们周旋。
wǒ lǐjiě búguò nǐ zhèyàng wèimiǎn tài jǐnzhāng le nǐmen zhàocháng zhǔnbèi jiǔdiàn zhèbiān jiāo gěi wǒ wǒ

chūmiàn gēn tāmen zhōuxuán · I understand. But you're getting a bit too worked up. Carry on preparing as usual and leave the hotel to me: I'll step in and deal with them.

anna 恰巧刘经理认识那家酒店的老板，我也请她帮忙问问。

qiàqiǎo Liújīnglǐ rènshi nà jiā jiǔdiàn de lǎobǎn wǒ yě qǐng tā bāngmáng wèn wen · As it happens, Manager Liu knows the owner of that hotel; I'll ask her to look into it too.

xiaoming 太感谢了！幸好有你们。我本来想，实在不行，索性在家里办算了。

tài gǎnxiè le xìnghǎo yǒu nǐmen wǒ běnlái xiǎng shízài bùxíng suǒxìng zài jiā lǐ bàn suànle · Thank you so much! It's lucky I have you. I was thinking that if all else failed, we'd just hold it at home.

lawyer sun 你说你一个工程师，遇到问题怎么就想放弃？上次你毅然去上海找小刘，那时候的勇气去哪儿了？

nǐ shuō nǐ yí gè gōngchéngshī yùdào wèntí zěnme jiù xiǎng fàngqì shàng cì nǐ yìrán qù Shànghǎi zhǎo xiǎo Liú nà shíhou de yǒngqì qù nǎr le · You're an engineer: why is your first thought to give up when there's a problem? When you made up your mind and went to Shanghai to find Xiao Liu, where did that courage go?

xiaoming 好，我听您的！为了这场婚礼，我情愿再辛苦十天。

hǎo wǒ tīng nín de wèile zhè chǎng hūnlǐ wǒ qíngyuàn zài xīnkǔ shí tiān · All right, I'll do as you say! For this wedding, I'm happy to work flat out for another ten days.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

钉
dìng
to nail, sew on

沾
zhān
to be stained with, touch

缠
chán
to wind, twine; to pester

赐
cì
to bestow, to grant

good to know · 偏偏 complains that things went against you: 我没带伞，偏偏下雨了. It can also mean stubbornly doing the opposite: 叫他别去，他偏偏要去. 幸亏 credits someone or something for a lucky escape (幸亏有你); 幸好 is a plain "luckily". Both usually come with 不然 or 才.

One adverb can carry a whole mood. Now you can complain, insist, reassure and give orders with native precision.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 30 manners and style

Describe manners, bearing and personality (graceful, modest, cocky, eccentric, rebellious), say what is fitting, and reassure someone with 没什么好+verb+的.

How people carry themselves matters a lot in China, at weddings, interviews and dinners alike, and these are the words people judge it by.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
举止	jǔzhǐ	bearing, manners	他举止大方，很有礼貌。 He carries himself with ease and is very polite.
仪表	yíbiǎo	appearance, bearing	面试的时候要注意仪表。 At an interview, pay attention to how you look.
风度	fēngdù	grace, poise	输了比赛，他还是很有风度地向对手祝贺。 Even after losing, he graciously congratulated his opponent.
风范	fēngfàn	style, demeanour (of a great person)	老教授很有学者风范。 The old professor has the bearing of a true scholar.
风采	fēngcǎi	elegance, charisma	她在台上展现了自己的风采。 On stage she showed off all her charisma.
风流	fēngliú	talented and admired; romantic	历史上有很多风流人物。 History has many outstanding figures.
文雅	wényǎ	refined, cultured	他举止文雅，从来不大声说话。 He has refined manners and never raises his voice.
优雅	yōuyǎ	elegant, graceful	她穿了一条优雅的长裙子。 She's wearing an elegant long dress.
绅士	shēnshì	gentleman; gentlemanly	他很绅士，总是让女士先走。 He's a real gentleman and always lets women go first.
庄重	zhuāngzhòng	solemn, dignified	婚礼开始时，音乐变得很庄重。 As the ceremony began, the music turned solemn.
郑重	zhèngzhòng	serious, solemn	他郑重地向大家道歉。 He solemnly apologised to everyone.
正经	zhèngjing	serious, proper	别开玩笑了，说点正经的。 Stop joking and say something serious.
得体	détǐ	appropriate, suitable	去参加婚礼，要穿得得体一点。 When you go to a wedding, dress appropriately.
分寸	fēncun	sense of proportion	开玩笑要有分寸。 When you joke, know where to draw the line.
含蓄	hánxù	reserved, understated	中国人表达感情比较含蓄。 Chinese people tend to express their feelings in a reserved way.

恭敬	gōngjìng	respectful	他恭敬地给老人倒了一杯茶。 He respectfully poured the old man a cup of tea.
谦逊	qiānxùn	modest, humble	他成绩很好，却一直很谦逊。 He does brilliantly but has always stayed modest.
威风	wēifēng	impressive, imposing; prestige	他穿上新西装站在台上，真威风！ In his new suit, standing on the stage, he looks so impressive!
神气	shénqì	proud, cocky; spirited	他得{de2}了第一名，神气得不得了。 He came first and is terribly pleased with himself.
张扬	zhāngyáng	to show off, to make public	这件事别张扬，我们自己知道就行。 Don't broadcast it: it's enough that we know.
世故	shìgù	worldly-wise (often too much)	他年纪不大，说话却很世故。 He's young, but he talks like someone who knows all the angles.
深沉	shēnchén	deep, reserved; deep (voice)	他性格深沉，很少流露感情。 He's a deep, quiet person who rarely shows his feelings.
爽快	shuǎngkuai	straightforward, frank	她很爽快，马上就答应了。 She's very straightforward and agreed at once.
叛逆	pànnì	rebellious; rebellion	孩子到了十几岁，常常有点叛逆。 Children in their teens are often a bit rebellious.
顽皮	wánpí	naughty, mischievous	这个顽皮的孩子又爬到树上去了。 That naughty child has climbed up the tree again.
古怪	gǔguài	strange, eccentric	他脾气有点古怪，可心很好。 He's a bit eccentric, but he has a good heart.
疯子	fēngzi	madman, lunatic	大家都说他是个疯子，可他终于成功了。 Everyone called him crazy, but he succeeded in the end.
狂	kuáng	wild, arrogant	他太狂了，谁都看不起。 He's so arrogant: he looks down on everyone.
家伙	jiāhuo	guy, fellow	你这个家伙，又迟到了！ You rascal, late again!
常人	chángrén	ordinary person	他付出了常人难以想象的努力。 He worked harder than most people can imagine.
特质	tèzhì	special quality, trait	坚持是成功者共同的特质。 Perseverance is a trait all successful people share.
性情	xìngqíng	temperament	她性情温和，从来不发脾气。 She has a gentle temperament and never loses her temper.
教养	jiàoyǎng	upbringing, breeding; to bring up	一看他的举止，就知道他很有教养。 One look at his manners and you can tell he's well brought up.

pattern 没什么好+verb+的: nothing to ... about

没什么好 **verb** **的** **= there's no need to …**

没什么好 + verb + 的 says there is no reason to do something: 没什么好怕的 "nothing to be afraid of", 没什么好说的 "nothing more to say". It can reassure someone kindly or shut a topic down firmly, depending on the tone.

这点小事，没什么好生气的。 **zhè diǎn xiǎo shì méi shénme hǎo shēngqì de** It's such a little thing: nothing to get angry about.

都是老朋友了，没什么好客气的。 **dōu shì lǎo péngyou le méi shénme hǎo kèqi de** We're old friends: no need to stand on ceremony.

他做错了事，没什么好说的。 **tā zuò cuò le shì méi shénme hǎo shuō de** He was in the wrong; there's nothing more to say.

dialogue rehearsing the speech

anna 阿姨，后天我要在婚礼上讲话，现在紧张得要死。
āyí hòutiān wǒ yào zài hūnlǐ shàng jiǎnghuà xiànzài jǐnzhāng de yào sǐ · Auntie, I'm giving a speech at the wedding the day after tomorrow, and I'm terrified.

ms zhang 讲两三分钟而已，没什么好紧张的。你先讲一遍，我们听听。
jiǎng liǎngsān fēnzhōng éryǐ méi shénme hǎo jǐnzhāng de nǐ xiān jiǎng yí biàn wǒmen tīng ting · It's only two or three minutes, nothing to be nervous about. Run through it once and let's hear it.

anna "各位来宾：我认识小明快十年了。他是一个特别的家伙，有时候有点古怪，像个疯子……"
gèwèi láibīn wǒ rènshi Xiǎomíng kuài shí nián le tā shì yí gè tèbié de jiāhuo yǒu shíhou yǒu diǎn gǔguài xiàng gè fēngzi · "Dear guests: I've known Xiaoming for nearly ten years. He's a special sort of guy, a bit eccentric at times, a bit of a madman …"

little sister 停！"疯子"可不能说。婚礼是很庄重的场合，开玩笑要有分寸。
tíng fēngzi kě bù néng shuō hūnlǐ shì hěn zhuāngzhòng de chǎnghé kāi wánxiào yào yǒu fēncun · Stop! You can't say "madman". A wedding is a solemn occasion; there's a limit to the jokes.

ms zhang 对，中国人比较含蓄。你可以说他性情温和敦厚、人很爽快，朋友有事，他总是第一个到。
duì Zhōngguó rén bǐjiào hánxù nǐ kěyǐ shuō tā xìngqíng wēnhé dūnhòu rén hěn shuǎngkuai péngyou yǒu shì tā zǒngshì dì yī gè dào · Yes, Chinese people are rather reserved. You could say he has a gentle, kindly temperament and is straightforward, and that whenever a friend is in trouble, he's the first one there.

anna 好。那他小时候很顽皮、上中学时很叛逆，这些能说吗？
hǎo nà tā xiǎoshíhou hěn wánpí shàng zhōngxué shí hěn pànnì zhèxiē néng shuō ma · OK. And can I say he was a naughty little boy and a rebellious teenager?

little sister 可以轻轻带过。要是讲得太多，长辈们会觉得不太正经。
kěyǐ qīng qīng dài guo yàoshi jiǎng de tài duō zhǎngbèimen huì juéde bú tài zhèngjing · You can mention it lightly. If you go on about it, the older relatives will think it isn't serious enough.

anna 那我穿什么得体？我想穿那条红裙子。
nà wǒ chuān shénme détǐ wǒ xiǎng chuān nà tiáo hóng qúnzi · Then what should I wear to look right? I was thinking of my red dress.

ms zhang 新娘穿红的，你最好别跟她抢。你穿那条蓝的长裙子，又文雅又优雅，也比较低调。
xīnniáng chuān hóng de nǐ zuìhǎo bié gēn tā qiǎng nǐ chuān nà tiáo lán de cháng qúnzi yòu wényǎ yòu yōuyǎ yě bǐjiào dīdiào · The bride wears red; better not to compete with her. Wear your long blue dress: refined, elegant and understated.

little sister 你还别说，安娜穿蓝的真有风采。
nǐ hái biéshuō Ānnà chuān lán de zhēn yǒu fēngcǎi · You know what, Anna really shines in blue.

anna 谢谢！对了，你们家亲戚多，我怕认错人，太失礼了。
xièxie duì le nǐmen jiā qīnqi duō wǒ pà rèncuò rén tài shīlǐ le · Thank you! Oh, there are so many of your relatives, and I'm worried I'll get people mixed up. That would be so rude.

ms zhang 没什么好怕的。伯伯个子高，说话声音深沉，看起来很威风，其实特别和气。他儿子刚当上经理，有点神气，也有点世故。
méi shénme hǎo pà de bóbo gèzi gāo shuōhuà shēngyīn shēnchén kàn qǐlai hěn wēifēng qíshí tèbié héqi tā érzi gāng dāng shàng jīnglǐ yǒu diǎn shénqì yě yǒu diǎn shìgù · Nothing to worry about. Xiaoming's uncle is tall with a deep voice: he looks imposing but he's really very kind. His son has just become a manager, so he's a bit pleased with himself and a bit too worldly-wise.

little sister 还有新娘的爸爸，是位老医生，举止特别有绅士风范，说话很文雅。你跟他说话要恭敬一点，注意礼节。
hái yǒu xīnniáng de bàba shì wèi lǎo yīshēng jǔzhǐ tèbié yǒu shēnshì fēngfàn shuōhuà hěn wényǎ nǐ gēn tā shuōhuà yào gōngjìng yìdiǎn zhùyì lǐjié · And the bride's father, an old doctor, has real gentlemanly style and speaks very elegantly. Be respectful when you talk to him, and mind your manners.

anna 明白了。还有什么要注意的?
míngbai le hái yǒu shénme yào zhùyì de · Got it. Anything else I should watch out for?

ms zhang 讲完了，郑重地向新人敬一杯茶。别太谦逊，也别太狂。做你自己就好：你的特质就是真诚，大家都看得出你很有教养。
jiǎng wán le zhèngzhòng de xiàng xīnrén jìng yì bēi chá bié tài qiānxùn yě bié tài kuáng zuò nǐ zìjǐ jiù hǎo nǐ de tèzhì jiùshì zhēnchéng dàjiā dōu kàn de chū nǐ hěn yǒu jiàoyǎng · When you've finished, solemnly raise a cup of tea to the newly-weds. Don't be too modest, and don't be too full of yourself. Just be yourself: sincerity is your special quality, and everyone can see how well brought up you are.

little sister 对，常人第一次在几百个人面前讲话都会紧张。别担心仪表了，你今天的样子已经很好了。
duì chángrén dì yī cì zài jǐ bǎi gè rén miànqián jiǎnghuà dōu huì jǐnzhāng bié dānxīn yíbiǎo le nǐ jīntiān de yàngzi yǐjīng hěn hǎo le · Exactly. Anyone would be nervous speaking in front of hundreds of people for the first time. Stop worrying about how you look: you look great already.

anna 真是的，被你们这么一说，我都不紧张了。你们俩可谓是教练里的风流人物!
zhēn shì de bèi nǐmen zhème yì shuō wǒ dōu bù jǐnzhāng le nǐmen liǎ kěwèi shì jiàoliàn lǐ de fēngliú rénwù · Honestly, after all that, I'm not nervous any more. You two are the real stars among coaches!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

伯
bó
father's elder brother

爹
diē
dad (northern, rural)

宗
zōng
(measure word for deals, cases)

脉
mài
vein

good to know · 神气 and 威风 can both be praise (looking impressive) or teasing (showing off): 你看他多神气! Tone and context decide. At a Chinese wedding, guests avoid white and black (funeral colours) and leave bright red to the bride.

You can now describe anyone's style and manners in Chinese, and tell a nervous friend there's nothing to worry about.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 31 places, seasons and people

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 4 · family

Describe places, weather, travel and the people you meet with four-character idioms, and boast or complain with 要X有X，要Y有Y.

Travel writing, tourist brochures and wedding speeches are full of these idioms: four characters paint a whole scene.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
冰天雪地	bīngtiānxuědì	a world of ice and snow	外面冰天雪地，孩子们却玩得很开心。 It's a world of ice and snow outside, but the children are having a wonderful time.
风和日丽	fēnghérìlì	gentle breeze and bright sun	婚礼那天风和日丽，大家都很高兴。 The wedding day was bright and breezy, and everyone was happy.
暴风骤雨	bàofēngzhòuyǔ	violent storm	下午突然来了一场暴风骤雨。 In the afternoon a violent storm suddenly blew up.
风吹雨打	fēngchuīyǔdǎ	battered by wind and rain	这座老房子经历了几百年的风吹雨打。 This old house has weathered centuries of wind and rain.
风雨无阻	fēngyǔwúzǔ	come rain or shine	他每天早上风雨无阻地去跑步。 He goes running every morning, come rain or shine.
风餐露宿	fēngcānlùsù	to rough it on a journey	为了拍这些照片，他在山里风餐露宿了一个月。 To take these photos he roughed it in the mountains for a month.
飞禽走兽	fēiqínzǒushòu	birds and beasts	这片森林里有各种各样的飞禽走兽。 All kinds of birds and animals live in this forest.
四面八方	sìmiànbāfāng	from all directions	来自四面八方的游客挤满了广场。 Tourists from all over packed the square.
五湖四海	wǔhúsìhǎi	all corners of the land	我们的同学来自五湖四海。 Our classmates come from every corner of the country.
四通八达	sìtōngbādá	well connected in every direction	这座城市交通四通八达。 This city's transport links go everywhere.
古今中外	gǔjīnzhōngwài	at all times and in all places	古今中外，爱情都是最受欢迎的故事。 Everywhere and in every age, love has been the favourite story.
大街小巷	dàjiēxiǎoxiàng	every street and alley	春节前，大街小巷都很热闹。 Before the Spring Festival, every street and lane is full of life.
挨家挨户	āijiāāihù	from door to door	志愿者挨家挨户地发通知。 Volunteers handed out the notice door to door.

家喻户晓	jiāyùhùxiǎo	known to every household	这个故事在中国家喻户晓。 Everyone in China knows this story.
远近闻名	yuǎnjìnwénmíng	famous far and wide	这家饭店的饺子远近闻名。 This restaurant's dumplings are famous for miles around.
举世瞩目	jǔshìzhǔmù	to attract world attention	中国的发展取得了举世瞩目的成就。 China's development has achieved results the whole world has noticed.
土生土长	tǔshēngtǔzhǎng	born and bred (locally)	我是土生土长的北京人。 I'm Beijing born and bred.
风土人情	fēngtǔrénqíng	local customs and ways	旅行不只是看风景，也要了解当地的风土人情。 Travelling isn't just sightseeing: you should get to know the local ways too.
约定俗成	yuēdìngsúchéng	established by common usage	很多礼节是约定俗成的，没有人规定。 Many customs are simply accepted by everyone; nobody laid them down.
原汁原味	yuánzhīyuánwèi	the original flavour, authentic	这家店的云南菜原汁原味。 This restaurant's Yunnan food is completely authentic.
张灯结彩	zhāngdēngjiécǎi	decorated with lanterns and streamers	过年的时候，家家户户张灯结彩。 At New Year, every home is hung with lanterns and decorations.
琴棋书画	qínqíshūhuà	music, chess, calligraphy and painting	她从小学习琴棋书画。 She has studied music, chess, calligraphy and painting since she was little.
吃喝玩乐	chīhēwánlè	eating, drinking and having fun	他每天只知道吃喝玩乐，不想工作。 All he does every day is have fun; he doesn't want to work.
天长地久	tiānchángdìjiǔ	everlasting (love)	祝你们的爱情天长地久。 May your love last for ever.
天伦之乐	tiānlúnzhīlè	the joys of family life	退休以后，爷爷在家享受天伦之乐。 Since retiring, Grandpa has been enjoying family life at home.
成家立业	chéngjiālìyè	to marry and start a career	孩子们都成家立业了，父母终于可以休息了。 The children are all married with careers, so their parents can finally rest.
深情厚谊	shēnqínghòuyì	deep friendship	我们之间的深情厚谊，我永远不会忘记。 I will never forget the deep friendship between us.
朝夕相处	zhāoxīxiāngchǔ	to be together day and night	我们在大学朝夕相处了四年。 We spent four years together, day in day out, at university.
形影不离	xíngyǐngbùlí	inseparable	那两个小朋友形影不离。 Those two children are inseparable.
萍水相逢	píngshuǐxiāngféng	to meet by chance (as strangers)	我们萍水相逢，他却帮了我这么大的忙。 We were strangers who met by chance, yet he did me such a big favour.
素不相识	sùbùxiāngshí	complete strangers	一个素不相识的人把我的钱包送了回来。 A complete stranger brought my wallet back.
似曾相识	sìcéngxiāngshí	seemingly familiar	第一次来这里，我却有一种似曾相识的感觉。 It's my first time here, but I feel as if I've been here before.

足不出户	zúbùchūhù	to stay indoors	现在网上什么都能买，足不出户也能生活。 You can buy everything online now; you can live without setting foot outside.
惊天动地	jīngtiāndòngdì	earth-shaking	他们的爱情没有惊天动地，却很温暖。 Their love wasn't earth-shattering, but it was warm.

pattern 要x有x，要y有y: have everything you could want

要 X 有 / 没 X ，要 Y 有 / 没 Y

要X有X，要Y有Y lists what someone or somewhere has: "want X? there's X; want Y? there's Y". With 没 it lists what is missing, often as a complaint: 要钱没钱，要人没人. The nouns are short, usually one or two characters.

那个地方要风景有风景，要美食有美食。 **nàge dìfang yào fēngjǐng yǒu fēngjǐng yào měishí yǒu měishí** That place has it all: great scenery and great food.

他要学历有学历，要经验有经验。 **tā yào xuélì yǒu xuélì yào jīngyàn yǒu jīngyàn** He has the qualifications and the experience.

这个小村子要车没车，要路没路，出门很不方便。 **zhège xiǎo cūn zi yào chē méi chē yào lù méi lù chūmén hěn bù fāngbiàn** This little village has no cars and no roads; getting anywhere is a struggle.

dialogue a honeymoon in yunnan

xiaoming 周博士，听说您刚从云南回来？我们下周就去那儿度蜜月。
Zhōubóshì tīngshuō nín gāng cóng Yúnnán huílái wǒmen xià zhōu jiù qù nàr dù mìyuè · Dr Zhou, I hear you've just got back from Yunnan? We're going there on honeymoon next week.

dr zhou 你们选对地方了！云南要山有山，要水有水，要花有花，四季都很舒服。
nǐmen xuǎn duì dìfang le Yúnnán yào shān yǒu shān yào shuǐ yǒu shuǐ yào huā yǒu huā sìjì dōu hěn shūfu · You've picked the right place! Yunnan has mountains, rivers and flowers, and it's pleasant all year round.

anna 您这次去是工作吧？
nín zhè cì qù shì gōngzuò ba · You were there for work this time, weren't you?

dr zhou 对，我们去山里研究气候，风餐露宿了一个月。有一天碰到暴风骤雨，我们的东西差点被吹走了，样子狼狈极了。
duì wǒmen qù shān lǐ yánjiū qìhòu fēngcān lùsù le yí gè yuè yǒu yì tiān pèng dào bàofēng zhòuyǔ wǒmen de dōngxi chà diǎn bèi chuī zǒu le yàngzi lángbèi jí le · Yes, we were studying the climate in the mountains and roughed it for a month. One day we were caught in a violent storm and our things nearly blew away: we looked a total mess.

xiaoming 太辛苦了！那里的飞禽走兽多吗？
tài xīnkǔ le nàlǐ de fēiqín zǒushòu duō ma · That sounds exhausting! Is there a lot of wildlife?

dr zhou 特别多。山上有些地方一年四季冰天雪地，山下却风和日丽，差别特别大，景色让人惊叹。
tèbié duō shān shàng yǒuxiē dìfang yì nián sìjì bīngtiān xuědì shān xià què fēnghé rìlì chābié tèbié dà jǐngsè ràng rén jīngtàn · Loads. Some places on the mountains are snow and ice all year, while down below it's sunny and mild: a huge difference, and the views are amazing.

anna 那里的人呢？
nàlǐ de rén ne · And the people?

dr zhou 土生土长的当地人特别热情、淳朴。我们跟他们素不相识，他们却挨家挨户地请我们吃饭，盛情难却。那里的风土人情，你们一定要好好了解一下。
tǔshēng tǔzhǎng de dāngdì rén tèbié rèqíng chúnpǔ wǒmen gēn tāmen sùbùxiāngshí tāmen què āijiā āihù de qǐng wǒmen chī fàn shèngqíng nán què nàlǐ de fēngtǔ rénqíng nǐmen yídìng yào hǎohǎo liǎojiě yíxià · The local people, born and bred there, are so warm and unspoilt. We were complete strangers, yet one family after another invited us to eat: such kindness is hard to refuse. Do get to know the local ways while you're there.

xiaoming 一定！我们还想尝尝原汁原味的云南菜，肯定很过瘾。
yídìng wǒmen hái xiǎng cháng chang yuánzhī yuánwèi de Yúnnán cài kěndìng hěn guòyǐn · We will! And we want to try real, authentic Yunnan food: it'll be a treat.

dr zhou 那里的米线远近闻名，在当地家喻户晓。不过别只顾吃喝玩乐，也去看看古城。古城经历了几百年的风吹雨打，还保存得这么好，保护工作取得了举世瞩目的成绩。
nàlǐ de mǐ xiàn yuǎnjìn wénmíng zài dāngdì jiāyù hùxiǎo búguò bié zhǐgù chī hē wán lè yě qù kàn kan gǔ chéng gǔ chéng jīnglì le jǐ bǎi nián de fēngchuī yǔdǎ hái bǎocún de zhème hǎo bǎohù gōngzuò qǔdé le jǔshì zhǔmù de chéngjì · The rice noodles there are famous for miles around; every family knows them. But don't spend all your time eating and having fun: go and see the old towns too. They've weathered centuries of wind and rain and are still so well preserved: the conservation work there has won worldwide attention.

anna 对了，我听说新娘琴棋书画样样都会？
duì le wǒ tīngshuō xīnniáng qín qí shū huà yàng yàng dōu huì · By the way, I hear the bride can do it all: music, chess, calligraphy and painting?

xiaoming 哪有！她只是会画画罢了。不过婚礼上的规矩她都懂，比如发喜糖、敬茶，这些都是约定俗成的。
nǎ yǒu tā zhǐshì huì huà huà bàle búguò hūnlǐ shàng de guīju tā dōu dǒng bǐrú fā xǐtáng jìng chá zhèxiē dōu shì yuēdìng súchéng de · Hardly! She can paint, that's all. But she knows all the wedding customs, like handing out sweets and serving tea: things everyone just does.

anna 说到婚礼，小明，客人都到了吗？
shuō dào hūnlǐ Xiǎomíng kèrén dōu dào le ma · Speaking of the wedding, Xiaoming, have the guests all arrived?

xiaoming 差不多了。亲戚朋友来自五湖四海，四面八方的人都往北京赶。好在北京交通四通八达。

chàbuduō le qīnqi péngyou láizì wǔhú sìhǎi sìmiàn bāfāng de rén dōu wǎng Běijīng gǎn hǎozài Běijīng jiāotōng sìtōng bādá · Nearly. Our relatives and friends come from all over the country, heading for Beijing from every direction. Luckily Beijing's transport links go everywhere.

dr zhou 小明，你跟安娜认识多久了？听说你们俩以前形影不离的。

Xiǎomíng nǐ gēn Ānnà rènshi duō jiǔ le tīngshuō nǐmen liǎ yǐqián xíngyǐng bùlí de · Xiaoming, how long have you and Anna known each other? I hear you two used to be inseparable.

anna 快十年了。我们当年萍水相逢，后来朝夕相处，成了最好的朋友。古今中外，这样的深情厚谊都不多。

kuài shí nián le wǒmen dāngnián píngshuǐ xiāngféng hòulái zhāoxī xiāngchǔ chéng le zuìhǎo de péngyou gǔjīn zhōngwài zhèyàng de shēnqíng hòuyì dōu bù duō · Nearly ten years. We met by chance back then, then spent so much time together that we became best friends. A friendship like that is rare anywhere, in any age.

xiaoming 现在我成家立业了，她还是我的好朋友。说实话，第一次见到她，我就有一种似曾相识的感觉。

xiànzài wǒ chéngjiā lìyè le tā háishi wǒ de hǎo péngyou shuō shíhuà dì yī cì jiàn dào tā wǒ jiù yǒu yì zhǒng sìcéng xiāngshí de gǎnjué · Now I'm married with a career, and she's still my good friend. To be honest, the first time I met her I felt as if I'd known her before.

dr zhou 办完婚礼以后，可别足不出户，整天在家享受天伦之乐，把老朋友都忘了。

bàn wán hūnlǐ yǐhòu kě bié zúbùchūhù zhěng tiān zài jiā xiǎngshòu tiānlúnzhīlè bǎ lǎo péngyou dōu wàng le · After the wedding, don't stay shut away at home all day enjoying family life and forget your old friends.

anna 放心吧，他风雨无阻，每个星期都要找我喝咖啡。去云南也好，在北京也罢，我们的友谊天长地久。

fàngxīn ba tā fēngyǔ wúzǔ měi gè xīngqī dōu yào zhǎo wǒ hē kāfēi qù Yúnnán yěhǎo zài Běijīng yěbà wǒmen de yǒuyì tiāncháng dìjiǔ · Don't worry: rain or shine, he wants coffee with me every week. In Yunnan or in Beijing, our friendship will last for ever.

dr zhou 说得好！婚礼不用惊天动地，简单、温暖就好。到时候我一定去喝你们的喜酒。

shuō de hǎo hūnlǐ búyòng jīngtiān dòngdì jiǎndān wēnnuǎn jiù hǎo dào shíhou wǒ yídìng qù hē nǐmen de xǐjiǔ · Well said! A wedding doesn't have to be earth-shaking: simple and warm is best. I'll definitely be there to celebrate with you.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

胎
tāi
foetus; birth (child number); tyre

吻
wěn
to kiss; kiss

纱
shā
gauze, fine yarn

罢
bà
to stop

good to know · Some idioms pair opposites to mean “everything”: 古今中外 (past, present, China, abroad), 大街小巷 (big streets and little lanes), 四面八方 (four sides, eight directions). 天长地久 is a classic wedding wish, along with 白头到老 (grow old together) and 百年好合 (a hundred years of harmony).

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day 32 mission: xiaoming's wedding

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chapter 1 fetching the bride

little sister 哥哥，今天风和日丽，真是个好日子！你看，嫂子家门口张灯结彩，邻居们家家户户都知道有人结婚了。

gēge jīntiān fēnghé rìlì zhēn shì gè hǎo rìzi nǐ kàn sǎozi jiā ménkǒu zhāngdēng jiécǎi línjūmen jiājiāhùhù dōu zhīdào yǒu rén jiéhūn le · Brother, sunshine and a gentle breeze: what a perfect day! Look, your bride's building is covered in lanterns and streamers; every household in the block knows there's a wedding.

xiaoming 别瞎闹了，我紧张得要死。门怎么偏偏这时候不开？

bié xiā nào le wǒ jǐnzhāng de yào sǐ mén zěnme piānpiān zhè shíhou bù kāi · Stop fooling around, I'm nervous enough already. Why won't the door open now of all times?

little sister 按照约定俗成的规矩，女方的朋友照例要考考新郎。你还别说，她们准备的问题可难了。

ànzhào yuēdìng súchéng de guīju nǚfāng de péngyou zhàolì yào kǎo kao xīnláng nǐ hái biéshuō tāmen zhǔnbèi de wèntí kě nán le · By custom, the bride's friends always test the groom. You know what, the questions they've prepared are really hard.

xiaoming 问吧！要问题有问题，要红包有红包，我都准备好了。

wèn ba yào wèntí yǒu wèntí yào hóngbāo yǒu hóngbāo wǒ dōu zhǔnbèi hǎo le · Ask away! Questions, red envelopes, whatever you want: I'm ready for it all.

little sister 第一个问题：你们俩是怎么认识的？

dì yī gè wèntí nǐmen liǎ shì zěnme rènshi de · First question: how did you two meet?

xiaoming 我们萍水相逢，在去云南的火车上。碰巧她坐我对面，我却有一种似曾相识的感觉。

wǒmen píngshuǐ xiāngféng zài qù Yúnnán de huǒchē shàng pèngqiǎo tā zuò wǒ duìmiàn wǒ què yǒu yì zhǒng sìcéng xiāngshí de gǎnjué · We met by chance, on a train to Yunnan. She happened to be sitting opposite me, and I felt as if I'd known her before.

little sister 第二个问题：新娘的籍贯是哪里？她的姓氏怎么写？

dì èr gè wèntí xīnniáng de jíguàn shì nǎlǐ tā de xìngshì zěnme xiě · Second question: where is the bride's family from? And how do you write her surname?

xiaoming 杭州！她姓林，跟林编辑一样。这些我万万不会答错。

Hángzhōu tā xìng Lín gēn Línbiānjí yíyàng zhèxiē wǒ wànwàn bú huì dá cuò · Hangzhou! Her surname is Lin, like Editor Lin. There's no way I'd get those wrong.

little sister 第三个问题：结婚以后，家里谁做主？

dì sān gè wèntí jiéhūn yǐhòu jiā lǐ shéi zuòzhǔ · Third question: once you're married, who has the final say at home?

xiaoming 她做主！大事也好，小事也罢，我宁可听她的，也不跟她吵。

tā zuòzhǔ dàshì yěhǎo xiǎo shì yěbà wǒ nìngkě tīng tā de yě bù gēn tā chǎo · She does! Big things or small things, I'd rather do as she says than argue.

little sister 门开了！岳父岳母都在门口等着。你快恭敬地叫一声“爸爸、妈妈”。以前的人还要叫“爹、娘”呢。

mén kāi le yuèfù yuèmǔ dōu zài ménkǒu děng zhe nǐ kuài gōngjìng de jiào yì shēng bàba māma yǐqián de rén hái yào jiào diē niáng ne · The door's open! Your father-in-law and mother-in-law are waiting at the door. Quick, call them “Dad” and “Mum”, nice and respectfully. In the old days people even said “diē” and “niáng”.

xiaoming 爸爸，妈妈！你们放心把闺女交给我，我一定好好照顾她，做一个好女婿。

bàba māma nǐmen fàngxīn bǎ guīnü jiāo gěi wǒ wǒ yídìng hǎohǎo zhàogù tā zuò yí gè hǎo nǚxu · Dad, Mum! You can trust me with your daughter; I'll take good care of her and be a good son-in-law.

little sister 她妈妈笑着说：“我们家世普通，家境一般，可家教很严。这丫头从小被我们疼爱、娇惯，以后你要多迁就她。”她爸爸只是郑重地点了点头，他性格比较深沉。

tā māma xiào zhe shuō wǒmen jiāshì pǔtōng jiājìng yìbān kě jiājiào hěn yán zhè yātou cóngxiǎo bèi wǒmen téngài jiāoguàn yǐhòu nǐ yào duō qiānjiù tā tā bàba zhǐshì zhèngzhòng de diǎn le diǎntóu tā xìnggé bǐjiào shēnchén · Her mum says with a smile: “We're an ordinary family and not well off, but we brought her up strictly. We doted on this girl and spoiled her, so you'll have to humour her.” Her dad just gives a solemn nod: he's the quiet type.

xiaoming 我看见她了……她穿着婚纱，太美了。

wǒ kànjiàn tā le tā chuān zhe hūnshā tài měi le · I can see her … in her wedding dress. She's so beautiful.

little sister 你看你，眼睛都红了！以前人家出嫁要带很多嫁妆，现在嫂子带的唯有一个箱子、一本相册而已。相册里那个少女就是她小时候吧?

nǐ kàn nǐ yǎnjing dōu hóng le yǐqián rénjia chū jià yào dài hěn duō jiàzhuang xiànzài sǎozi dài de wéiyǒu yí gè xiāngzi yì běn xiàngcè éryǐ xiàngcè lǐ nàge shàonǚ jiùshì tā xiǎoshíhou ba · Look at you, your eyes are all red! In the old days a bride brought a big dowry; now she's bringing nothing but a suitcase and a photo album. Is that girl in the album her when she was young?

chapter 2 the guests arrive

anna 李叔叔，客人们从四面八方来了。幸亏孙律师帮忙，婚礼才能如期举行。
Lǐ shūshu kèrénmen cóng sìmiàn bāfāng lái le xìngkuī Sūnlǜshī bāngmáng hūnlǐ cái néng rúqī jǔxíng · Uncle Li, the guests are arriving from every direction. Thank goodness for Lawyer Sun: only thanks to him can the wedding go ahead as planned.

lawyer sun 小事罢了。酒店经理当着我的面向你们道歉，还一并免了你们的茶水费。他说以后再也不敢擅自改别人的日子了。
xiǎo shì bàle jiǔdiàn jīnglǐ dāngzhe wǒ de miàn xiàng nǐmen dàoqiàn hái yíbìng miǎn le nǐmen de chá shuǐ fèi tā shuō yǐhòu zài yě bù gǎn shànzì gǎi biérén de rìzi le · It was nothing. The hotel manager apologised to you in front of me and waived your tea and drinks charge into the bargain. He says he'll never dare change anyone's date without asking again.

dr li 太感谢了！孙律师，您务必坐前面。安娜，那是我哥哥嫂子，打西安专程赶来的。北京交通四通八达，他们坐高铁才五个小时。
tài gǎnxiè le Sūnlǜshī nín wùbì zuò qiánmiàn Ānnà nà shì wǒ gēge sǎozi dǎ Xī'ān zhuānchéng gǎn lái de Běijīng jiāotōng sìtōng bādá tāmen zuò gāotiě cái wǔ gè xiǎoshí · Thank you so much! Lawyer Sun, you must sit at the front. Anna, that's my older brother and his wife; they've come all the way from Xi'an specially. Beijing's connected to everywhere: it's only five hours on the high-speed train.

anna 伯伯好！伯母好！旁边这两位一模一样的，一定是那对双胞胎姐妹吧？
bóbo hǎo bómǔ hǎo pángbiān zhè liǎng wèi yìmú yíyàng de yídìng shì nà duì shuāngbāotāi jiěmèi ba · Hello, Uncle! Hello, Auntie! And these two who look exactly alike must be the twin sisters?

dr li 对，李生姐妹，今年刚上大学。我们李家祖籍西安，这次整个家族的人差不多都来了，都是同胞兄弟的子孙，血脉相连。
duì luánshēng jiěmèi jīnnián gāng shàng dàxué wǒmen Lǐ jiā zǔjí Xī'ān zhè cì zhěnggè jiāzú de rén chàbuduō dōu lái le dōu shì tóngbāo xiōngdì de zǐsūn xuèmài xiānglián · Yes, twins, just started university this year. The Li family comes from Xi'an, and nearly the whole clan has come this time: all descendants of the same brothers, one bloodline.

anna 那位坐在轮椅上的老人家是？
nà wèi zuò zài lúnyǐ shàng de lǎorenjia shì · And the old lady in the wheelchair?

dr li 是小明的外婆，已经八十八岁高龄了。她年轻时就成了寡妇，一个人把孩子们抚养长大，操劳了一辈子。鉴于她年迈，我们本来不想让她来，可她执意要来。
shì Xiǎomíng de wàipó yǐjīng bāshíbā suì gāolíng le tā niánqīng shí jiù chéng le guǎfu yí gè rén bǎ háizimen fǔyǎng zhǎng dà cāoláo le yíbèizi jiànyú tā niánmài wǒmen běnlái bù xiǎng ràng tā lái kě tā zhíyì yào lái · That's Xiaoming's grandma, eighty-eight now. She was widowed young, brought up her children on her own and worked hard all her life. Given her age we didn't want her to come, but she insisted.

anna 她看起来很高兴。今天子孙都在身边，晚年最大的幸福就是这样的天伦之乐吧。
tā kàn qǐlai hěn gāoxìng jīntiān zǐsūn dōu zài shēnbiān wǎnnián zuì dà de xìngfú jiùshì zhèyàng de tiānlúnzhīlè ba · She looks so happy. All her children and grandchildren around her: in old age, the joy of family must be the greatest happiness.

dr zhou 安娜！我来了。这里人真多，要热闹有热闹，要人有人。我刚从山里回来，风餐露宿了一个星期，今天可要好好吃一顿。
Ānnà wǒ lái le zhèlǐ rén zhēn duō yào rènao yǒu rènao yào rén yǒu rén wǒ gāng cóng shān lǐ huílái fēngcān lùsù le yí gè xīngqī jīntiān kě yào hǎohǎo chī yí dùn · Anna! Here I am. So many people: it's as lively and crowded as a wedding should be. I've just come back from roughing it in the mountains for a week, so today I'm going to eat well.

anna 周博士，欢迎！您能来，婚礼更有风采了。喜糖在这儿，您拿一点。
Zhōubóshì huānyíng nín néng lái hūnlǐ gèng yǒu fēngcǎi le xǐtáng zài zhèr nín ná yìdiǎn · Dr Zhou, welcome! With you here, the wedding is even more splendid. Here are the wedding sweets: do take some.

dr li 那边是小明的爷爷奶奶，结婚五十多年的老两口。你看，爷爷还吻了吻奶奶的手，一直那么恩爱。
nàbiān shì Xiǎomíng de yéye nǎinai jiéhūn wǔshí duō nián de lǎo liǎng kǒu nǐ kàn yéye hái wěn le wen nǎinai

de shǒu yìzhí nàme ēnài · Over there are Xiaoming's grandpa and grandma, married more than fifty years. Look, Grandpa's just kissed Grandma's hand: still so devoted.

dr zhou 老伴儿老伴儿，比年轻情侣还甜蜜。祝他们天长地久！

lǎobànr lǎobànr bǐ niánqīng qínglǚ hái tiánmì zhù tāmen tiāncháng dìjiǔ · An old couple growing old together, sweeter than any young lovers. May they last for ever!

chapter 3 the ceremony

dr li 婚礼开始了。音乐很庄重，新人慢慢走上台。
hūnlǐ kāishǐ le yīnyuè hěn zhuāngzhòng xīnrén màn màn zǒu shàngtái · The ceremony is starting. The music is solemn, and the couple are walking slowly up onto the stage.

anna 新娘举止优雅，仪表大方；小明穿上西装，也挺绅士、挺威风的。
xīnniáng jǔzhǐ yōuyǎ yíbiǎo dàfang Xiǎomíng chuān shàng xīzhuāng yě tǐng shēnshì tǐng wēifēng de · The bride carries herself so elegantly and looks so poised; and Xiaoming in his suit looks quite the gentleman, and rather impressive.

dr li 现在，新人要向双方父母敬茶。这是表示孝敬，感谢父母多年的养育。
xiànzài xīnrén yào xiàng shuāngfāng fùmǔ jìng chá zhè shì biǎoshì xiàojìng gǎnxiè fùmǔ duō nián de yǎngyù · Now the couple will serve tea to both sets of parents: a way of showing respect and thanking them for bringing them up all these years.

anna 小明的妈妈哭了。您不激动吗?
Xiǎomíng de māma kū le nín bù jīdòng ma · Xiaoming's mum is crying. Aren't you moved?

dr li 我何尝不激动？三十年前，他妈妈是孕妇的时候，我每天晚上都跟胎儿说话。生育一个孩子，孕育一个生命，多不容易啊。
wǒ hécháng bù jīdòng sānshí nián qián tā māma shì yùnfù de shíhou wǒ měi tiān wǎnshang dōu gēn tāiér shuōhuà shēngyù yí gè háizi yùnyù yí gè shēngmìng duō bù róngyì a · Don't think I'm not! Thirty years ago his mother was pregnant, and every night I talked to the baby. Having a child, carrying a new life: it's no small thing.

dr li 他满周岁以前，每天在摇篮里吃了睡，睡了吃。后来我们工作忙，是外婆一口一口喂养他。我管教他很严，他小时候顽皮，上中学又叛逆，现在终于成家了。
tā mǎn zhōusuì yǐqián měi tiān zài yáolán lǐ chī le shuì shuì le chī hòulái wǒmen gōngzuò máng shì wàipó yì kǒu yì kǒu wèiyǎng tā wǒ guǎnjiào tā hěn yán tā xiǎoshíhou wánpí shàng zhōngxué yòu pànnì xiànzài zhōngyú chéngjiā le · Until his first birthday, he just ate and slept in his cradle. Later we were busy with work, and it was his grandma who fed him spoonful by spoonful. I was strict with him; he was a naughty boy and a rebellious teenager, and now at last he's married.

anna 他是个孝顺的儿子。他说以后要好好赡养你们，伺候你们。
tā shì gè xiàoshùn de érzi tā shuō yǐhòu yào hǎohǎo shànyǎng nǐmen cìhou nǐmen · He's a devoted son. He says he's going to take good care of you both and look after you.

dr li 我们不需要他供养，也用不着他侍候，只要他们两口子和睦、美满就好。婚姻乃人生大事，过日子终究要靠他们自己。
wǒmen bù xūyào tā gōngyǎng yě yòngbuzháo tā shìhòu zhǐyào tāmen liǎngkǒuzi hémù měimǎn jiù hǎo hūnyīn nǎi rénshēng dàshì guò rìzi zhōngjiū yào kào tāmen zìjǐ · We don't need him to support us or wait on us. As long as the two of them live in harmony and happiness, that's enough. Marriage is one of life's great events, and in the end it's up to them to make it work.

anna 李叔叔，小明说上周你们去给他太爷爷扫墓了?
Lǐ shūshu Xiǎomíng shuō shàng zhōu nǐmen qù gěi tā tài yéye sǎomù le · Uncle Li, Xiaoming said you went to tend his great-grandfather's grave last week?

dr li 对。我祖父十年前逝世，葬在城外的公墓。那年听到噩耗，我正在医院值班，没能在他身边。
duì wǒ zǔfù shí nián qián shìshì zàng zài chéng wài de gōngmù nà nián tīng dào èhào wǒ zhèngzài yīyuàn zhíbān méi néng zài tā shēnbiān · Yes. My grandfather passed away ten years ago and is buried in the public cemetery outside the city. When the sad news came, I was on duty at the hospital and couldn't be at his side.

dr li 他生前留下遗嘱，依照遗嘱，他的遗物里有一块祖传的手表，要在小明结婚这天送给他。经家人商量，今天由我来送。
tā shēngqián liúxia yízhǔ yīzhào yízhǔ tā de yíwù lǐ yǒu yí kuài zǔchuán de shǒubiǎo yào zài Xiǎomíng jiéhūn zhè tiān sòng gěi tā jīng jiārén shāngliang jīntiān yóu wǒ lái sòng · He left a will. According to it, among his belongings there's a watch handed down in the family, to be given to Xiaoming on his wedding day. After talking it over, the family decided I would give it to him today.

anna 太感人了。你们在墓碑前告诉他这个好消息了吗?

tài gǎnrén le nǐmen zài mùbēi qián gàosu tā zhège hǎo xiāoxi le ma · That's so moving. Did you tell him the good news in front of his gravestone?

dr li 告诉了，我们献了花，祭了他老人家。现在不讲究复杂的祭祀，心到了就好。好了，下面是你讲话。没什么好紧张的，讲得得体就行。

gàosu le wǒmen xiàn le huā jì le tā lǎorenjia xiànzài bù jiǎngjiu fùzá de jìsì xīn dào le jiù hǎo hǎo le xiàmiàn shì nǐ jiǎnghuà méi shénme hǎo jǐnzhāng de jiǎng de détǐ jiù xíng · We did. We laid flowers and paid our respects. Nobody bothers with elaborate rites now; it's the thought that counts. Right, you're up next. Nothing to be nervous about: just keep it fitting.

chapter 4 anna's speech

anna “各位来宾，各位亲戚朋友：大家好！我是安娜，新郎的老朋友。我们相识快十年了，一直是最好的朋友。

gèwèi láibīn gèwèi qīnqi péngyou dàjiā hǎo wǒ shì Ānnà xīnláng de lǎo péngyou wǒmen xiāngshí kuài shí nián le yìzhí shì zuìhǎo de péngyou · “Dear guests, dear family and friends: hello! I’m Anna, an old friend of the groom. We’ve known each other nearly ten years, and we’ve always been the best of friends.

anna 我刚到北京的时候，跟他素不相识。一个下雪天，冰天雪地，我在学校门口迷了路，恰巧他经过，帮了我。打那天起，他就像我的哥哥一样。

wǒ gāng dào Běijīng de shíhou gēn tā sùbùxiāngshí yí gè xià xuě tiān bīngtiān xuědì wǒ zài xuéxiào ménkǒu mí le lù qiàqiǎo tā jīngguò bāng le wǒ dǎ nà tiān qǐ tā jiù xiàng wǒ de gēge yíyàng · When I first came to Beijing, he was a complete stranger. One snowy day, everything frozen, I got lost at the school gate; he happened to be passing, and he helped me. From that day on, he’s been like a brother to me.

anna 小明性情温和，为朋友风雨无阻。他有时候有点古怪，也有点神气，可他是我见过的最爽快、最真诚的家伙。他从来不张扬，也不世故，有一颗常人少有的真心。

Xiǎomíng xìngqíng wēnhé wèi péngyou fēngyǔ wúzǔ tā yǒu shíhou yǒu diǎn gǔguài yě yǒu diǎn shénqì kě tā shì wǒ jiàn guo de zuì shuǎngkuai zuì zhēnchéng de jiāhuo tā cónglái bù zhāngyáng yě bú shìgù yǒu yì kē chángrén shǎo yǒude zhēnxīn · Xiaoming has a gentle nature and will turn out for a friend in any weather. He can be a bit eccentric, and a bit cocky, but he’s the most straightforward, genuine guy I’ve ever met. He never shows off, he isn’t slick, and he has a sincere heart you rarely find.

anna 新娘是一位有教养的杭州姑娘，含蓄、文雅，琴棋书画虽然不样样精通，画画却远近闻名，在她们家那条街上家喻户晓。

xīnniáng shì yí wèi yǒu jiàoyǎng de Hángzhōu gūniang hánxù wényǎ qín qí shū huà suīrán bú yàng yàng jīngtōng huà huà què yuǎnjìn wénmíng zài tāmen jiā nà tiáo jiē shàng jiāyù hùxiǎo · The bride is a well brought-up girl from Hangzhou, reserved and refined; she may not be a master of all the classical arts, but her paintings are famous far and wide, and everyone in her street knows them.

anna 他们第一次相遇是在去云南的火车上。古今中外，好的爱情不一定惊天动地，却一定要互相体谅、互相呵护。人生总有暴风骤雨，有你们俩在一起，什么都不怕。

tāmen dì yī cì xiāngyù shì zài qù Yúnnán de huǒchē shàng gǔjīn zhōngwài hǎo de àiqíng bù yídìng jīngtiān dòngdì què yídìng yào hùxiāng tǐliàng hùxiāng hēhù rénshēng zǒng yǒu bàofēng zhòuyǔ yǒu nǐmen liǎ zài yìqǐ shénme dōu bú pà · They first met on a train to Yunnan. Everywhere and in every age, a good love story doesn’t have to be earth-shaking, but it does need understanding and care on both sides. Life always brings storms, but together you two need fear nothing.

anna 依我看，小明找到了最好的伴侣，新娘也找到了一个好归宿。

yī wǒ kàn Xiǎomíng zhǎo dào le zuìhǎo de bànlǚ xīnniáng yě zhǎo dào le yí gè hǎo guīsù · As I see it, Xiaoming has found the best partner in the world, and the bride has found a husband to settle down with.

anna 最后，我想以朋友的身份说一句：小明，结婚以后，可别足不出户，把老朋友忘了！

zuìhòu wǒ xiǎng yǐ péngyou de shēnfèn shuō yí jù Xiǎomíng jiéhūn yǐhòu kě bié zúbùchūhù bǎ lǎo péngyou wàng le · Finally, speaking as a friend, I’d like to say one thing: Xiaoming, now that you’re married, don’t stay shut away at home and forget your old friends!

anna 让我们一起祝福这对新人：恩爱一生，天长地久，早点享受天伦之乐！谢谢大家！”

ràng wǒmen yìqǐ zhùfú zhè duì xīnrén ēnài yìshēng tiāncháng dìjiǔ zǎo diǎn xiǎngshòu tiānlúnzhīlè xièxie dàjiā · Let’s all wish this couple a lifetime of love that lasts for ever, and the joys of a family of their own soon! Thank you, everyone!”

dr li 讲得太好了！大家都在鼓掌，连那位最深沉的岳父都笑了。

jiǎng de tài hǎo le dàjiā dōu zài gǔzhǎng lián nà wèi zuì shēnchén de yuèfù dōu xiào le · That was wonderful! Everyone’s clapping; even the quiet father-in-law is smiling.

dr zhou 说得多得体！又有分寸，又有感情，很有风度，真有大家风范。

shuō de duō détǐ yòu yǒu fēncun yòu yǒu gǎnqíng hěn yǒu fēngdù zhēn yǒu dàjiā fēngfàn · How fitting that was! Just the right tone, full of feeling, and so poised: real class.

chapter 5 the end of the day

xiaoming 安娜，谢谢你的讲话！我岳母说，你比她亲生女儿还会说话。
Ānnà xièxie nǐ de jiǎnghuà wǒ yuèmǔ shuō nǐ bǐ tā qīnshēng nǚér hái huì shuōhuà · Anna, thank you for your speech! My mother-in-law says you speak better than her own daughter.

anna 哈哈，她太客气了。外婆呢？
hā hā tā tài kèqi le wàipó ne · Ha, she's too kind. Where's Grandma?

xiaoming 她累了，保姆先送她回家休息了。走以前她拉着我的手说，她一辈子最大的愿望，就是看到我成家立业。说完她把我抱在怀里，就像我小时候一样。
tā lèi le bǎomǔ xiān sòng tā huí jiā xiūxi le zǒu yǐqián tā lā zhe wǒ de shǒu shuō tā yíbèizi zuì dà de yuànwàng jiùshì kàn dào wǒ chéngjiā lìyè shuō wán tā bǎ wǒ bào zài huái lǐ jiù xiàng wǒ xiǎoshíhou yíyàng · She was tired, so the home help has taken her home to rest. Before she left, she held my hand and said her greatest wish in life was to see me married and settled. Then she held me in her arms, just like when I was little.

anna 她一定很欣慰。对了，婚礼上那个节目单是谁改的？
tā yídìng hěn xīnwèi duì le hūnlǐ shàng nàge jiémù dān shì shéi gǎi de · She must be so pleased. By the way, who changed the running order?

xiaoming 我妹妹！她私自加了一个节目，让我当着大家的面唱歌。幸好我早有准备，索性唱了两首。
wǒ mèimei tā sīzì jiā le yí gè jiémù ràng wǒ dāngzhe dàjiā de miàn chàng gē xìnghǎo wǒ zǎo yǒu zhǔnbèi suǒxìng chàng le liǎng shǒu · My sister! She added an act without telling anyone and had me sing in front of everyone. Luckily I was prepared, so I just went ahead and sang two.

anna 你唱得像个疯子，不过大家都很开心。她这个人有意捣乱，其实是想让气氛更热闹。
nǐ chàng de xiàng gè fēngzi búguò dàjiā dōu hěn kāixīn tā zhè gè rén yǒuyì dǎoluàn qíshí shì xiǎng ràng qìfēn gèng rènao · You sang like a madman, but everyone loved it. She makes trouble on purpose, but really she just wanted to liven things up.

xiaoming 我知道。我跟妹妹性格截然不同，可她是我最亲的人。
wǒ zhīdào wǒ gēn mèimei xìnggé jiérán bù tóng kě tā shì wǒ zuì qīn de rén · I know. My sister and I are complete opposites, but she's the person closest to me.

anna 你们明天去度蜜月吗？
nǐmen míngtiān qù dù mìyuè ma · Are you off on honeymoon tomorrow?

xiaoming 对，明天去云南，照样坐火车，就是我们第一次相遇的那趟车。那里的风土人情、原汁原味的菜，还有飞禽走兽，我都想看看。不过我们不是只为了吃喝玩乐。
duì míngtiān qù Yúnnán zhàoyàng zuò huǒchē jiùshì wǒmen dì yī cì xiāngyù de nà tàng chē nàlǐ de fēngtǔ rénqíng yuánzhī yuánwèi de cài hái yǒu fēiqín zǒushòu wǒ dōu xiǎng kàn kan búguò wǒmen bú shì zhǐ wèile chī hē wán lè · Yes, Yunnan tomorrow, by train as before: the very same train we met on. The local life, the authentic food, the wildlife: I want to see it all. Not just to eat and play, though.

dr zhou 别忘了我说的：去山里要多带衣服，那里的天气常常骤然变化，风吹雨打的，可别冒险。云南这几年的发展举世瞩目，你们会喜欢的。
bié wàng le wǒ shuō de qù shān lǐ yào duō dài yīfu nàlǐ de tiānqì chángcháng zhòurán biànhuà fēngchuī yǔdǎ de kě bié màoxiǎn Yúnnán zhè jǐ nián de fāzhǎn jǔshì zhǔmù nǐmen huì xǐhuan de · Don't forget what I told you: take plenty of clothes to the mountains. The weather there often changes suddenly, all wind and rain, so don't take risks. Yunnan's development these past few years has caught the world's eye; you'll love it.

anna 回来以后，你们每逢过年，打算回谁家探亲？
huílái yǐhòu nǐmen měi féng guònián dǎsuàn huí shéi jiā tànqīn · When you get back, whose family are you going to visit at New Year?

xiaoming 我们早就商量好了：今年去男方家，明年去女方家，轮流来。
wǒmen zǎo jiù shāngliang hǎo le jīnnián qù nánfāng jiā míngnián qù nǚfāng jiā lúnliú lái · We sorted that out ages ago: this year the groom's family, next year the bride's, taking turns.

dr li 好，这个办法公平。客人都要走了，我们去门口送别大家吧。
hǎo zhège bànfǎ gōngpíng kèrén dōu yào zǒu le wǒmen qù ménkǒu sòngbié dàjiā ba · Good, that's fair. The guests are leaving; let's go to the door and see everyone off.

anna 今天来的人来自五湖四海，大家的深情厚谊，小明一定会记一辈子。

jīntiān lái de rén láizì wǔhú sìhǎi dàjiā de shēnqíng hòuyì Xiǎomíng yídìng huì jì yíbèizi · People came from every corner of the country today. Xiaoming will remember everyone's kindness for the rest of his life.

xiaoming 一定！安娜，你也要早点找到你的另一半。单身也好，成家也罢，我都希望你幸福。

yídìng Ānnà nǐ yě yào zǎo diǎn zhǎo dào nǐ de lìng yíbàn dānshēn yěhǎo chéngjiā yěbà wǒ dōu xīwàng nǐ xìngfú · I will! Anna, I hope you find your other half soon too. Single or married, I just want you to be happy.

You've just followed a whole Chinese wedding day, every relative, custom and toast. Unit 4, done!
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