day 33 around the house

Name every part of an old Chinese house, from the threshold to the chimney, and say “not even” with X都不/没X.

House hunting, renovating or just visiting friends: these are the words for what you see, and 看都没看 is how people complain about it.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
别墅	biéshù	villa, detached house	他们在海边买了一座别墅。 They bought a villa by the sea.
平房	píngfáng	single-storey house	胡同里还有很多老平房。 There are still many old one-storey houses in the hutongs.
民居	mínjū	traditional local house	云南的民居很有特色。 The traditional houses of Yunnan are very distinctive.
阁楼	gélóu	attic, loft	阁楼上堆满了旧东西。 The attic is piled high with old things.
屋檐	wūyán	eaves	下雨了，我们在屋檐下躲一躲吧。 It’s raining: let’s shelter under the eaves for a bit.
瓦	wǎ	roof tile	这座老房子的瓦都是灰色的。 The tiles on this old house are all grey.
天花板	tiānhuābǎn	ceiling	这个房间的天花板特别高。 This room has a really high ceiling.
地板	dìbǎn	floor, floorboards	地板刚擦过，小心别滑倒{dao3}。 The floor has just been mopped: careful you don’t slip.
地毯	dìtǎn	carpet, rug	客厅里铺着一块厚厚的地毯。 There’s a thick rug in the living room.
门槛	ménkǎn	threshold; the bar to entry	进门的时候小心门槛。 Mind the threshold as you come in.
栏杆	lángān	railing, banister	下楼的时候请扶好栏杆。 Please hold the banister on the way down.
阶梯	jiētī	flight of steps; ladder (to success)	这条阶梯一直通到山顶。 These steps go all the way to the top of the hill.
过道	guòdào	corridor, passage, aisle	请不要把箱子放在过道里。 Please don’t leave boxes in the corridor.
围墙	wéiqiáng	enclosing wall	院子四周有一道高高的围墙。 A high wall runs all the way round the courtyard.
柱子	zhùzi	pillar, post	大厅里有四根红色的柱子。 There are four red pillars in the hall.
窗帘	chuānglián	curtain (window)	天黑了，把窗帘拉上吧。 It’s dark now: let’s draw the curtains.
帘子	liánzi	curtain, screen (in a doorway)	门口挂着一块红色的帘子。 A red curtain hangs in the doorway.

抽屉	**chōuti**	drawer	钥匙在第二个抽屉里。 The keys are in the second drawer.
架子	**jiàzi**	shelf, rack, frame; airs	架子上摆满了书。 The shelves are full of books.
凳子	**dèngzi**	stool	门口放着两个小凳子。 There are two little stools by the door.
垫	**diàn**	to put under, pad; pad	桌子不平，在下面垫本书吧。 The table wobbles: put a book under it.
垫子	**diànzi**	mat, cushion, pad	椅子太硬了，放个垫子吧。 The chair's too hard: put a cushion on it.
枕	**zhěn**	to rest your head on	他枕着胳膊睡着了。 He fell asleep with his head on his arm.
毯子	**tǎnzi**	blanket	晚上冷，多盖一条毯子吧。 It gets cold at night: put another blanket on.
蚊帐	**wénzhàng**	mosquito net	夏天睡觉的时候要挂上蚊帐。 In summer you have to sleep under a mosquito net.
摆设	**bǎishe**	ornaments, decorations	她家里的小摆设都很有意思。 The little ornaments in her home are all so interesting.
灯泡	**dēngpào**	light bulb	卫生间的灯泡坏了。 The bathroom light bulb has gone.
蜡	**là**	wax	蜡滴到桌子上了。 Wax has dripped onto the table.
蜡烛	**làzhú**	candle	停电了，我们点上了蜡烛。 The power went off, so we lit candles.
炉子	**lúzi**	stove, furnace	冬天大家围着炉子聊天。 In winter everyone chats round the stove.
灶	**zào**	kitchen range, cooking stove	老房子的厨房里有一个土灶。 The old house's kitchen has a brick-and-clay stove.
烟囱	**yāncōng**	chimney	房子上的烟囱冒着烟。 Smoke is coming out of the chimney on the roof.
炊烟	**chuīyān**	smoke from cooking fires	傍晚，村子里升起了炊烟。 At dusk, the smoke of cooking fires rose over the village.
烟火	**yānhuǒ**	fireworks; signs of everyday life	春节晚上，天上全是烟火。 On the night of the Spring Festival, the sky is full of fireworks.
微波炉	**wēibōlú**	microwave oven	把饭放进微波炉热一下。 Put the rice in the microwave to warm it up.
真是	**zhēnshi**	honestly!; really (is)	你又迟到了，真是的！ You're late again: honestly!

pattern **x都不/没x: not even x**

verb **都** **不 / 没** **verb** **(就……)**

Say a verb, add 都, then 不 or 没 and the same verb: “didn’t even look”, “won’t even ask”. Use 没 for what did not happen and 不 for what someone won’t do, or (with a result) can’t do: 站都站不直. It often comes before 就: 看都没看就扔了 “threw it out without even looking”.

他想都没想就答应了。 **tā xiǎng dōu méi xiǎng jiù dāying le** He said yes without even thinking.

这把凳子太旧了，坐都不敢坐。 **zhè bǎ dèngzi tài jiù le zuò dōu bù gǎn zuò** This stool is so old I don’t even dare sit on it.

他听都不听我解释，就挂了电话。 **tā tīng dōu bù tīng wǒ jiěshì jiù guà le diànhuà** He hung up without even listening to me explain.

dialogue the old house in the hutong

anna 小明，这就是你爷爷奶奶留下的平房？真漂亮！
Xiǎomíng zhè jiùshì nǐ yéye nǎinai liúxia de píngfáng zhēn piàoliang · Xiaoming, so this is the house your grandparents left you? It's beautiful!

xiaoming 这是一座一百多年的老民居，经历了不少风吹雨打。结婚以后，我们决定搬到这儿来住。
zhè shì yí zuò yìbǎi duō nián de lǎo mínjū jīnglì le bù shǎo fēngchuī yǔdǎ jiéhūn yǐhòu wǒmen juédìng bān dào zhèr lái zhù · It's a traditional house, over a hundred years old, and it's weathered plenty of storms. After the wedding we decided to move in here.

anna 别人都想买别墅，你们俩却要住胡同里的平房，真有点古怪。
biérén dōu xiǎng mǎi biéshù nǐmen liǎ què yào zhù hútòng lǐ de píngfáng zhēn yǒu diǎn gǔguài · Everyone else wants to buy a villa, and you two want to live in a little house in a hutong: that's a bit eccentric.

xiaoming 别墅不见得比这儿好。你看屋檐上的瓦，都是老的，现在买都买不到。
biéshù bújiàndé bǐ zhèr hǎo nǐ kàn wūyán shàng de wǎ dōu shì lǎo de xiànzài mǎi dōu mǎi bu dào · A villa isn't necessarily better than this. Look at the tiles on the eaves: they're all old, you can't even buy them now.

anna 哎呀，门槛这么高！我差点儿摔倒。
āiyā ménkǎn zhème gāo wǒ chàdiǎnr shuāi dǎo · Whoa, what a high threshold! I nearly fell over.

xiaoming 老房子都这样。进门走过道，左边是厨房，右边是卧室。
lǎo fángzi dōu zhèyàng jìn mén zǒu guòdào zuǒbian shì chúfáng yòubian shì wòshì · Old houses are all like that. You come in and go down the passage: kitchen on the left, bedroom on the right.

anna 厨房里还有个老灶！还能用吗？
chúfáng lǐ hái yǒu gè lǎo zào hái néng yòng ma · There's an old stove in the kitchen! Does it still work?

xiaoming 早就不能用了。小时候一到傍晚，奶奶就在这儿做饭，烟囱里冒出炊烟，整条胡同都是饭菜的香味，我到现在还记忆犹新。现在我们用电炉子和微波炉。
zǎo jiù bù néng yòng le xiǎoshíhou yí dào bàngwǎn nǎinai jiù zài zhèr zuòfàn yāncōng lǐ mào chū chuīyān zhěng tiáo hútòng dōu shì fàn cài de xiāng wèi wǒ dào xiànzài hái jìyì yóuxīn xiànzài wǒmen yòng diàn lúzi hé wēibōlú · Not for years. When I was little, every evening Grandma cooked here: smoke came out of the chimney and the whole hutong smelled of supper. I still remember it as if it were yesterday. Now we use an electric stove and a microwave.

anna 这儿真有烟火气，我都有一种似曾相识的感觉。
zhèr zhēn yǒu yānhuǒ qì wǒ dōu yǒu yì zhǒng sìcéng xiāngshí de gǎnjué · This place really feels lived-in. I have a strange feeling I've been here before.

xiaoming 是啊，以前春节的时候，邻居们在院子里放烟火，可热闹了。
shì a yǐqián Chūnjié de shíhou línjūmen zài yuànzi lǐ fàng yānhuǒ kě rènao le · It does. At the Spring Festival the neighbours used to let off fireworks in the courtyard: it was so lively.

anna 上面那个小窗户是什么？
shàngmiàn nàge xiǎo chuānghu shì shénme · What's that little window up there?

xiaoming 那是阁楼。阶梯很窄，栏杆也松了，你先别上去。
nà shì gélóu jiētī hěn zhǎi lángān yě sōng le nǐ xiān bié shàngqù · That's the attic. The steps are narrow and the railing is loose: don't go up yet.

anna 天花板上怎么只有一个灯泡？
tiānhuābǎn shàng zěnme zhǐyǒu yí gè dēngpào · Why is there only one bulb on the ceiling?

xiaoming 线路太老了，修都没修过。上个星期停电，我们点了一晚上蜡烛，桌子上全是蜡。
xiànlù tài lǎo le xiū dōu méi xiū guo shàng gè xīngqī tíng diàn wǒmen diǎn le yì wǎnshang làzhú zhuōzi shàng quán shì là · The wiring is ancient: it's never even been repaired. Last week the power went off, we burned candles all evening, and the table is covered in wax.

anna 这些柱子呢？围墙呢？
zhèxiē zhùzi ne wéiqiáng ne · And these pillars? And the outer wall?

xiaoming 柱子结实得很，围墙倒是得修一修。
zhùzi jiēshi de hěn wéiqiáng dàoshì děi xiū yi xiu · The pillars are rock solid, but the wall does need fixing.

anna 卧室里还挂着蚊帐，像电影里一样，原汁原味的！
wòshì lǐ hái guà zhe wénzhàng xiàng diànyǐng lǐ yíyàng yuánzhī yuánwèi de · There's even a mosquito net in the bedroom, just like in a film: the real thing!

xiaoming 夏天虫子多，没有蚊帐，睡都睡不着。奶奶以前常坐在门口的凳子上晒太阳，腿上盖着毯子，日子过得很安逸。累了就进房间，枕着她的小枕头睡一会儿。
xiàtiān chóngzi duō méiyǒu wénzhàng shuì dōu shuì bu zháo nǎinai yǐqián cháng zuò zài ménkǒu de dèngzi shàng shài tàiyáng tuǐ shàng gài zhe tǎnzi rìzi guò de hěn ānyì lèi le jiù jìn fángjiān zhěn zhe tā de xiǎo zhěntou shuì yíhuìr · There are lots of bugs in summer: without a net you can't even sleep. Grandma used to sit in the sun on the stool by the door, a blanket over her knees, living a quiet, easy life. When she got tired she went in and had a little sleep with her head on her small pillow.

anna 那这个抽屉里是什么?
nà zhège chōuti lǐ shì shénme · And what's in this drawer?

xiaoming 都是她的小摆设。我们打算把它们放到架子上。窗帘是新的，门上的帘子是奶奶自己做的。地板太凉，我们又垫了一块地毯。
dōu shì tā de xiǎo bǎishe wǒmen dǎsuàn bǎ tāmen fàng dào jiàzi shàng chuānglián shì xīn de mén shàng de liánzi shì nǎinai zìjǐ zuò de dìbǎn tài liáng wǒmen yòu diàn le yí kuài dìtǎn · They're all her little ornaments. We're going to put them on the shelves. The curtains are new; the curtain in the doorway Grandma made herself. The floor is cold, so we put down a rug too.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

矣 yǐ (written) already, indeed	
呵 hē to breathe out (on); ha!	
逝 shì to pass	
葬 zàng to bury	

good to know · Many old Chinese houses have a high wooden threshold, and guests are taught to step over it, not on it. 没 for what didn't happen (看都没看), 不 for what someone won't do or can't manage (问都不问, 站都站不直), 别 for "don't even" (想都别想).

Now you can walk through an old house and name what you see, and complain like a local when nobody even asked you first.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 34 tools and repairs

Name tools and household fittings, describe repairs (unblock, rinse, sand, patch, seal), and say "do a quick X" with verb + 个X.

Something always breaks in an old house. Explaining the problem to a plumber or a handy friend is everyday Chinese at its most useful.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
锤	chuí	hammer; to hammer	他拿起锤，把钉子敲了进去。 He picked up the hammer and knocked the nail in.
斧子	fǔzi	axe	爷爷以前用这把斧子砍木头。 Grandpa used to chop firewood with this axe.
钉子	dīngzi	nail	墙上有一颗钉子，可以挂画。 There's a nail in the wall for hanging a picture.
螺丝	luósī	screw	椅子上的螺丝松了。 The screws on the chair have worked loose.
杆	gǎn	shaft; (measure word for scales, guns)	厨房里挂着一杆旧秤。 An old steelyard hangs in the kitchen.
竹竿	zhúgān	bamboo pole	院子里的竹竿是用来晒衣服的。 The bamboo pole in the courtyard is for drying clothes.
绳子	shéngzi	rope, string	晒衣服的绳子断了。 The washing line has snapped.
梯子	tīzi	ladder	你扶着梯子，我上去看看。 Hold the ladder and I'll go up and have a look.
筐	kuāng	basket	奶奶提着一筐鸡蛋回来了。 Grandma came back carrying a basket of eggs.
缸	gāng	vat, large jar, tank	院子里有一口大水缸。 There's a big water vat in the courtyard.
筒	tǒng	tube, canister, pot	桌子上有一个笔筒。 There's a pen pot on the desk.
笼子	lóngzi	cage	爷爷以前在笼子里养了两只鸟。 Grandpa used to keep two birds in a cage.
容器	róngqì	container	剩菜要放在密封的容器里。 Leftovers should go in a sealed container.
器具	qìjù	utensils, implements	这些老器具都还能用。 These old implements still work.
夹子	jiāzi	clip, clothes peg	用夹子把衣服夹在绳子上。 Peg the clothes onto the line.
钩	gōu	hook; to hook	门后有个钩，可以挂衣服。 There's a hook behind the door for your coat.
框	kuàng	frame	窗框上的油漆都掉了。 The paint has all come off the window frames.

把手	**bǎshou**	handle, knob	门上的把手坏了。 The door handle is broken.
罩	**zhào**	cover, shade; to cover	灯罩太脏了，得{dei3}洗一洗。 The lampshade is filthy: it needs a wash.
秤	**chèng**	scales, steelyard	卖菜的阿姨用秤称了称西红柿。 The woman at the vegetable stall weighed the tomatoes on her scales.
喇叭	**lǎba**	horn, loudspeaker	外面谁在按喇叭? Who's honking their horn outside?
龙头	**lóngtóu**	leader, front-runner; tap	这家公司是行业里的龙头企业。 This company is the industry leader.
水龙头	**shuǐlóngtóu**	tap, faucet	厨房的水龙头一直在滴水。 The kitchen tap keeps dripping.
马桶	**mǎtǒng**	toilet (bowl)	马桶又堵了。 The toilet is blocked again.
漆	**qī**	lacquer, paint; to paint	我们把大门漆成了红色。 We painted the front door red.
油漆	**yóuqī**	paint (oil-based)	油漆还没干{gan1}，别碰。 The paint isn't dry yet: don't touch.
打磨	**dǎmó**	to sand, polish; to hone	先把木头打磨一下，再上漆。 Sand the wood down first, then paint it.
修补	**xiūbǔ**	to patch up, mend	墙上的洞已经修补好了。 The holes in the wall have been patched up.
糊	**hú**	to paste, glue on	以前，冬天人们用纸糊窗户。 In the old days people pasted paper over the windows in winter.
疏通	**shūtōng**	to unblock, clear; to smooth things over	水管堵了，得{dei3}找人来疏通。 The pipe is blocked: we need someone to clear it.
堵塞	**dǔsè**	to block, be blocked	下班时间，这条路经常堵塞。 This road is often jammed at rush hour.
放水	**fàngshuǐ**	to let water run, drain	新房子的水管要先放水，再用。 In a new house, run the water for a while before you use it.
冲洗	**chōngxǐ**	to rinse, flush, wash down	用清水把菜冲洗干净。 Rinse the vegetables clean under water.
密封	**mìfēng**	to seal (airtight)	这个盒子是密封的，放饼干最好。 This box seals airtight: perfect for biscuits.
透气	**tòuqì**	to ventilate, let air in	房间太闷了，开窗透透气吧。 The room is stuffy: open the window and let some air in.
要命	**yàomìng**	awfully; deadly, a pain	今天热得要命。 It's awfully hot today.

pattern **verb + 个x: do a quick x**

verb **个** **thing**

Put 个 between a verb and its object and the action sounds quick and casual: 洗个澡 “have a shower”, 修个水龙头 “fix the tap”, 睡个好觉 “get a good night’s sleep”. It works even where the noun normally takes another measure word, and often with verbs that are one action, done once.

先吃个饭，再干活吧。 **xiān chī gè fàn zài gànhuó ba** Let’s grab something to eat first, then get to work.

爸爸，您帮我们看个马桶吧，又堵了。 **bàba nín bāng wǒmen kàn gè mǎtǒng ba yòu dǔ le** Dad, could you take a look at the toilet for us? It’s blocked again.

干完活，咱们去吃个火锅。 **gàn wán huó zánmen qù chī gè huǒguō** When the work’s done, let’s go for hot pot.

dialogue dr li’s toolbox

dr li 小明，工具我都带来了：锤、斧子、钉子、螺丝、梯子，要什么有什么。
Xiǎomíng gōngjù wǒ dōu dài lái le chuí fǔzi dīngzi luósī tīzi yào shénme yǒu shénme · Xiaoming, I've brought all the tools: hammer, axe, nails, screws, ladder, anything you need.

xiaoming 爸爸，您是医生，什么时候成了修东西的师傅了？
bàba nín shì yīshēng shénme shíhou chéng le xiū dōngxi de shīfu le · Dad, you're a doctor. Since when are you a repairman?

dr li 打我年轻的时候起，家里的东西坏了都是我修，这也算是我的一技之长。说吧，哪儿有问题？
dǎ wǒ niánqīng de shíhou qǐ jiā lǐ de dōngxi huài le dōu shì wǒ xiū zhè yě suànshì wǒ de yíjìzhīcháng shuō ba nǎr yǒu wèntí · Ever since I was young, I've fixed everything that breaks at home: you could call it my special skill. Go on, what's the problem?

xiaoming 问题多得要命。第一，卫生间的马桶堵塞了。
wèntí duō de yàomìng dì yī wèishēngjiān de mǎtǒng dǔsè le · There are loads of problems. First, the toilet is blocked.

dr li 我来看看……先疏通一下，再放水冲洗一遍。好了！
wǒ lái kàn kan xiān shūtōng yíxià zài fàngshuǐ chōngxǐ yí biàn hǎo le · Let me see… unblock it first, then run the water and flush it through. Done!

anna 李医生，您真厉害，干活又快又利索！厨房的水龙头也一直在滴水。
Lǐyīshēng nín zhēn lìhai gànhuó yòu kuài yòu lìsuo chúfáng de shuǐlóngtóu yě yìzhí zài dī shuǐ · Dr Li, you're amazing: quick and neat! The kitchen tap keeps dripping too.

dr li 应该是里面的螺丝松了。我来修个水龙头，几分钟就好。
yīnggāi shì lǐmiàn de luósī sōng le wǒ lái xiū gè shuǐlóngtóu jǐ fēnzhōng jiù hǎo · A screw inside must have worked loose. I'll fix the tap: it'll take a few minutes.

anna 这个水龙头质量真好，是哪个牌子的？
zhège shuǐlóngtóu zhìliàng zhēn hǎo shì nǎge páizi de · This tap is really good quality. What make is it?

xiaoming 是一家龙头企业生产的。不过窗框上的油漆都掉了。
shì yì jiā lóngtóu qǐyè shēngchǎn de búguò chuāng kuàng shàng de yóuqī dōu diào le · It's made by one of the leading firms. But the paint has all come off the window frames.

dr li 先打磨一下，再重新漆一遍。墙上那几个洞，修补一下就行。过道的地板也松了，天花板上的灯泡也该换了。
xiān dǎmó yíxià zài chóngxīn qī yí biàn qiáng shàng nà jǐ gè dòng xiūbǔ yíxià jiù xíng guòdào de dìbǎn yě sōng le tiānhuābǎn shàng de dēngpào yě gāi huàn le · Sand them down first, then paint them again. Those holes in the wall just need patching. The floorboards in the passage are loose too, and the bulb on the ceiling needs changing.

xiaoming 我爷爷那时候，冬天用纸糊窗户，房间里烧着炉子，暖和是暖和，可是一点儿也不透气。
wǒ yéye nà shíhou dōngtiān yòng zhǐ hú chuānghu fángjiān lǐ shāo zhe lúzi nuǎnhuo shì nuǎnhuo kěshì yìdiǎnr yě bú tòuqì · In my grandpa's day they pasted paper over the windows in winter and kept a stove burning in the room: warm enough, but no air got in at all.

dr li 现在的窗户密封得很好，你们要记得常开窗透气。
xiànzài de chuānghu mìfēng de hěn hǎo nǐmen yào jìde cháng kāi chuāng tòuqì · Today's windows seal really well: remember to open them often to let air in.

anna 院子里那些东西呢？竹竿、绳子、夹子，还有筐和大水缸。
yuànzi lǐ nàxiē dōngxi ne zhúgān shéngzi jiāzi hái yǒu kuāng hé dà shuǐ gāng · And all the things in the courtyard? The bamboo pole, rope, pegs, the basket and the big water vat.

dr li 竹竿和绳子用来晒衣服，夹子也留着。水缸里可以养几条鱼。
zhúgān hé shéngzi yònglái shài yīfu jiāzi yě liú zhe shuǐ gāng lǐ kěyǐ yǎng jǐ tiáo yú · The pole and rope are for drying clothes, so keep the pegs too. You could keep a few fish in the vat.

xiaoming 还有一个旧鸟笼子，是爷爷的。
hái yǒu yí gè jiù niǎo lóngzi shì yéye de · There's an old birdcage as well: it was Grandpa's.

dr li 留着吧，当个摆设也好。这些容器、器具，还有桌子上的笔筒，也都还能用。门上的把手坏了，换个新的；灯罩脏了，洗一洗。
liú zhe ba dāng gè bǎishe yěhǎo zhèxiē róngqì qìjù hái yǒu zhuōzi shàng de bǐ tǒng yě dōu hái néng yòng mén

shàng de bǎshou huài le huàn gè xīn de dēng zhào zāng le xǐ yi xi · Keep it: it'll make a nice ornament. These containers and utensils, and the pen pot on the table, still work too. The door handle is broken, so get a new one; the lampshade is dirty, give it a wash.

anna 墙上这个钩挂什么好呢?
qiáng shàng zhège gōu guà shénme hǎo ne · What should we hang on this hook on the wall?

dr li 就挂这杆旧秤吧，那是你奶奶买菜用的，留个纪念。
jiù guà zhè gǎn jiù chèng ba nà shì nǐ nǎinai mǎi cài yòng de liú gè jìniàn · Hang this old steelyard: your grandma used it to weigh her shopping. Keep it to remember her by.

xiaoming 爸爸，就这个房子，您还有什么建议吗?
bàba jiù zhège fángzi nín hái yǒu shénme jiànyì ma · Dad, about the house: any other advice?

dr li 这房子是你爷爷当年亲自修好的，房子上的瓦也是他一片一片换的。你们要好好爱护它。
zhè fángzi shì nǐ yéye dāngnián qīnzì xiū hǎo de fángzi shàng de wǎ yě shì tā yí piàn yí piàn huàn de nǐmen yào hǎohǎo àihù tā · Your grandpa restored this house himself back in his day; he replaced the roof tiles one by one. Take good care of it.

anna 外面谁在按喇叭?
wàimiàn shéi zài àn lǎba · Who's honking a horn outside?

xiaoming 是送油漆的车到了!
shì sòng yóuqī de chē dào le · It's the van with the paint!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

坟 fén grave											
墓 mù tomb											
碑 bēi stone tablet, stele											
嘱 zhǔ instruction											

good to know · Plumbers in China often advertise on stickers by the door: 疏通下水道 "drains unblocked", with a phone number. 个 makes things sound easy and friendly: 帮我个忙 "do me a favour", 打个电话 "give someone a call", 吃个饭 "grab a bite".

Taps, toilets, paint and nails: next time something breaks, you can explain it and ask for help in Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 35 hide, seek and sleep

Hide, search, wait and sleep in Chinese, guess how likely something is (八成, 多半, 没准儿, 顶多, 起码), and say how things ended up with verb + 得个.

Lost keys, lost pets, lost sleep: guessing “probably” and “at most” is half of everyday talk, and 落得个 is how Chinese tells the ending of a story.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
藏身	cángshēn	to hide (yourself), take shelter	下大雨了，我们找了个地方藏身。 It poured down, so we found somewhere to shelter.
隐蔽	yǐnbì	hidden, concealed; to take cover	这个地方很隐蔽，一般人找不到。 This place is well hidden: most people would never find it.
遮	zhē	to cover, block, hide from view	大树遮住了阳光。 The big tree blocked out the sun.
遮挡	zhēdǎng	to shelter from, block	这面墙可以遮挡大风。 This wall shelters you from the wind.
遮盖	zhēgài	to cover up (also a mistake)	她用一块布遮盖了桌子上的东西。 She covered the things on the table with a cloth.
潜入	qiánrù	to slip into, sneak in	小猫偷偷潜入了厨房。 The kitten crept into the kitchen.
搜寻	sōuxún	to search for (carefully)	大家在山上搜寻了一整天。 Everyone searched the mountain all day.
寻	xún	to look for, seek	他在网上发了一条寻狗的消息。 He posted a message online looking for his dog.
寻觅	xúnmì	to look for, seek (literary)	他一直在寻觅一个安静的地方。 He’s always been looking for a quiet place.
探	tàn	to stick out (the head); to explore, visit	小狗从门后探出脑袋来。 The puppy poked its head out from behind the door.
守候	shǒuhòu	to wait for, keep watch	记者在门口守候了一个晚上。 The reporters waited at the door all night.
瞄准	miáozhǔn	to aim at, take aim; to target	他瞄准球门，一脚把球踢了进去。 He took aim at the goal and kicked the ball in.
敞开	chǎngkāi	to open wide; wide open	大门敞开着，谁都可以进来。 The gate is wide open: anyone can come in.
点火	diǎnhuǒ	to light a fire, ignite; start the engine	他坐上车，点火，出发了。 He got in the car, started the engine and set off.
熄火	xīhuǒ	to switch off the engine; stall	到了停车场，他把车熄火了。 At the car park he switched the engine off.
熄灭	xīmiè	to go out, extinguish	风一吹，蜡烛就熄灭了。 A gust of wind and the candle went out.

沉睡	**chénshuì**	to be fast asleep; to lie dormant	孩子们还在沉睡。 The children are still fast asleep.
酣睡	**hānshuì**	to sleep soundly	大白在床下酣睡，一点儿声音也没有。 Dabai was sleeping soundly under the bed, without a sound.
打盹儿	**dǎdǔnr**	to doze, take a nap	爷爷吃完午饭，喜欢坐在椅子上打盹儿。 After lunch, Grandpa likes to doze in his chair.
唤醒	**huànxǐng**	to wake up; to awaken (memories)	这首老歌唤醒了我小时候的记忆。 This old song brought back my childhood memories.
出手	**chūshǒu**	to make a move, act; to spend	他一出手，问题就解决了。 As soon as he stepped in, the problem was solved.
采	**cǎi**	to pick, gather	她在院子里采了几朵花。 She picked a few flowers in the courtyard.
撒	**sā**	to let go, cast; to act (wildly)	小狗一看见我们，撒{sa1}腿就跑。 The moment the dog saw us, it took to its heels.
折	**shé**	to snap, break (long things)	梯子的一条腿折{she2-7}了。 One of the ladder's legs has snapped.
捂	**wǔ**	to cover (with your hand)	她捂着嘴笑了起来。 She covered her mouth and started laughing.
迟迟	**chíchí**	slow to, for a long time (not)	大白迟迟不回来，大家都急了。 Dabai just didn't come back, and everyone got worried.
迟早	**chízǎo**	sooner or later	别急，你迟早会找到它的。 Don't worry: you'll find it sooner or later.
八成	**bāchéng**	most likely, eighty per cent	他八成又忘了。 He's most likely forgotten again.
多半	**duōbàn**	most likely; the greater part	它多半是饿了。 It's probably hungry.
顶多	**dǐngduō**	at most	这件事顶多需要一个小时。 This will take an hour at most.
起码	**qǐmǎ**	at least	去机场起码要四十分钟。 It takes at least forty minutes to get to the airport.
大不了	**dàbuliǎo**	at worst; a big deal	大不了明天再找。 At worst, we'll look again tomorrow.
没准儿	**méizhǔnr**	maybe, who knows	没准儿它就在家里。 Maybe it's at home all along.
不定	**bùdìng**	not sure; who knows	他明天不定来不来。 Who knows whether he'll come tomorrow.
一度	**yīdù**	once, for a time	我们一度以为它丢了。 For a while we thought it was lost.
话	**huà**	words, what someone says	一句话，今天谁也别想休息。 In a word, nobody is resting today.

pattern **verb + 得个……: end up with**

who | 落 / 弄 / 闹 | 得个 | outcome

Verb + 得个 + a result tells you how something ended, usually not how anyone wanted: 落得个一场空 “ended up with nothing”. 落得个 is the most common, often after 结果 or 最后. The outcome is a short phrase, often a fixed one.

他平时不努力，考试落得个不及格。 **tā píngshí bù nǔlì kǎoshì luò de gè bù jígé** He never worked, and he ended up failing the exam.

他想两边都讨好，结果落得个两边都不满意。 **tā xiǎng liǎng biān dōu tǎohǎo jiéguǒ luò de gè liǎng biān dōu bù mǎnyì** He tried to please both sides and ended up with both sides unhappy.

大白在院子里跑了一圈，弄得个满身是土。 **Dàbái zài yuànzi lǐ pǎo le yì quān nòng de gè mǎn shēn shì tǔ** Dabai ran round the courtyard and ended up covered in dirt.

dialogue where is dabai?

little sister 哥哥，大白不见了！我找了一上午，哪儿都没有，焦急得要命。
gēge Dàbái bújiàn le wǒ zhǎo le yí shàngwǔ nǎr dōu méiyǒu jiāojí de yàomìng · Dabai's gone! I've looked all morning and he's nowhere. I'm frantic.

xiaoming 别急，它八成又找了个地方藏身，躲起来睡觉去了。
bié jí tā bāchéng yòu zhǎo le gè dìfang cángshēn duǒ qǐlai shuìjiào qù le · Relax: he's most likely found somewhere to hide and gone to sleep.

anna 院子里隐蔽的地方很多：柱子后面、凳子下面、水缸后面、窗帘后面，都能藏。
yuànzi lǐ yǐnbì de dìfang hěn duō zhùzi hòumiàn dèngzi xiàmiàn shuǐ gāng hòumiàn chuānglián hòumiàn dōu néng cáng · There are lots of hidden spots in the courtyard: behind the pillars, under the stools, behind the water vat, behind the curtains.

little sister 我都找了！连阁楼我都爬上去探头看了，梯子的一条腿差点儿折了。
wǒ dōu zhǎo le lián gélóu wǒ dōu pá shangqu tàn tóu kàn le tīzi de yì tiáo tuǐ chàdiǎnr shé le · I've looked! I even climbed up and stuck my head into the attic, and one leg of the ladder nearly snapped.

xiaoming 那我们分头搜寻吧。我去点火，开车到附近看看，你们在院子里再找找。
nà wǒmen fēn tóu sōuxún ba wǒ qù diǎnhuǒ kāichē dào fùjìn kàn kan nǐmen zài yuànzi lǐ zài zhǎo zhao · Then let's split up and search. I'll drive round the neighbourhood; you look in the courtyard again.

anna 那块布下面遮着什么？
nà kuài bù xiàmiàn zhē zhe shénme · What's under that cloth?

little sister 那是我用来遮盖花盆的……下面也没有。我刚才去院子里采花，也没看见它。大白个子那么大，一块布哪能遮挡得住它。
nà shì wǒ yònglái zhēgài huā pén de xiàmiàn yě méiyǒu wǒ gāngcái qù yuànzi lǐ cǎi huā yě méi kànjiàn tā Dàbái gèzi nàme dà yí kuài bù nǎ néng zhēdǎng de zhù tā · That's what I cover the flowerpots with… nothing there either. I was out picking flowers in the courtyard just now and didn't see him. Dabai is so big, a cloth could never hide him.

anna 大门一直敞开着，它多半是趁机跑出去了。
dà mén yìzhí chǎngkāi zhe tā duōbàn shì chènjī pǎo chuqu le · The gate has been wide open all along: he probably took the chance and ran out.

xiaoming 我回来了！刚把车熄火，隔壁的奶奶就跟我说，刚才有一只大白狗潜入了她家的厨房。
wǒ huílái le gāng bǎ chē xīhuǒ gébì de nǎinai jiù gēn wǒ shuō gāngcái yǒu yì zhī dà bái gǒu qiánrù le tā jiā de chúfáng · I'm back! I'd only just switched off the engine when the old lady next door told me a big white dog had just sneaked into her kitchen.

little sister 难怪找不到！它偏偏喜欢去别人家的厨房。这只狗太顽皮了！
nánguài zhǎo bu dào tā piānpiān xǐhuan qù biérén jiā de chúfáng zhè zhī gǒu tài wánpí le · No wonder we couldn't find him! He would go for other people's kitchens. What a naughty dog!

xiaoming 它想偷吃包子，被奶奶发现了，奶奶一出手，它撒腿就跑，结果落得个白跑一趟。
tā xiǎng tōu chī bāozi bèi nǎinai fāxiàn le nǎinai yì chūshǒu tā sā tuǐ jiù pǎo jiéguǒ luò de gè bái pǎo yí tàng · He tried to steal a bun, the old lady caught him, and the moment she moved he took to his heels. So he got nothing for his trouble.

anna 那它现在去哪儿了？
nà tā xiànzài qù nǎr le · So where's he gone now?

little sister 不定跑到哪儿去了。我们一度以为它丢了，要不要在网上发个寻狗的消息？
búdìng pǎo dào nǎr qù le wǒmen yídù yǐwéi tā diū le yào búyào zài wǎngshang fā gè xún gǒu de xiāoxi · Who knows where he's run off to. We thought he was lost for a while: shall we post a lost-dog message online?

xiaoming 先别发。我们在门口守候一会儿，它饿了迟早会回来的，顶多一个小时。
xiān bié fā wǒmen zài ménkǒu shǒuhòu yíhuìr tā è le chízǎo huì huílái de dǐngduō yí gè xiǎoshí · Not yet. Let's wait at the gate for a bit: he'll come back sooner or later when he's hungry, an hour at most.

anna 起码我们知道它没出什么事。大不了晚上再找。
qǐmǎ wǒmen zhīdào tā méi chū shénme shì dàbuliǎo wǎnshang zài zhǎo · At least we know nothing's happened to him. At worst we'll look again tonight.

little sister 你们看，蜡烛都熄灭了，天也快黑了。大白怎么还迟迟不回来？我心里提心吊胆的。
nǐmen kàn làzhú dōu xīmiè le tiān yě kuài hēi le Dàbái zěnme hái chíchí bù huílái wǒ xīnlǐ tíxīn diàodǎn de · Look, the candle's gone out and it's nearly dark. Why still no Dabai? I'm on tenterhooks.

xiaoming 我去卧室拿个手电……哎？你们快来！
wǒ qù wòshì ná gè shǒu diàn āi nǐmen kuài lái · I'll get a torch from the bedroom… hey? Come quick!

anna 它就在床底下！睡在旧毯子上，睡得这么香，一点儿声音也没有。
tā jiù zài chuáng dǐxia shuì zài jiù tǎnzi shàng shuì de zhème xiāng yìdiǎnr shēngyīn yě méiyǒu · He's under the bed! Lying on the old blanket, sleeping so soundly, not a sound.

xiaoming 我们都看得目瞪口呆。
wǒmen dōu kàn de mùdèng kǒudāi · We all just stood there staring, open-mouthed.

little sister 原来它早就回来了，一直在这儿酣睡！我们找了一天，它却在沉睡。
yuánlái tā zǎo jiù huílái le yìzhí zài zhèr hānshuì wǒmen zhǎo le yì tiān tā què zài chénshuì · So he was back ages ago, fast asleep here the whole time! We searched all day while he slept.

xiaoming 没准儿它比我们还累呢。你看，一句"吃饭了"就把它唤醒了。
méizhǔnr tā bǐ wǒmen hái lèi ne nǐ kàn yí jù chī fàn le jiù bǎ tā huànxǐng le · Maybe he's even more tired than we are. Look: one "dinner time!" and he's awake.

anna 它瞄准了自己的碗，一下子就跑过去了。
tā miáozhǔn le zìjǐ de wǎn yíxià zi jiù pǎo guoqu le · He's spotted his bowl and he's off.

little sister 我捂着肚子笑了半天。好吧，我也去打盹儿了。
wǒ wǔ zhe dùzi xiào le bàntiān hǎo ba wǒ yě qù dǎdǔnr le · I laughed till my sides ached. Right, I'm off for a nap too.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

祭
jì
to honour (the dead) with offerings

奠
diàn
to offer (to the dead)

乃
nǎi
to be, indeed (written)

瞎
xiā
blindly, foolishly; blind

good to know · From surest to least sure: 迟早 (sooner or later, sure to) > 八成 (80%) > 多半 (probably) > 没准儿 / 不定 (who knows). 顶多 "at most" and 起码 "at least" go before a number or a verb: 顶多一个小时, 起码要等半天.

You can now organise a search party, guess where the culprit is hiding, and tell the whole story afterwards.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 36 clothes and looks

Talk about clothes, jewellery, hair and washing, list things casually with 什么A的B的, and extend formal thanks with 向……致以…….

Dressing for a work dinner, mending a button, reading a care label: clothes talk is everywhere, and 什么A的B的 is how people really list things.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
穿着	chuānzhuó	dress, attire, way of dressing	她的穿着总是那么得体。 She always dresses so appropriately.
衣裳	yīshang	clothes	奶奶的衣裳都是自己做的。 Grandma made all her own clothes.
服饰	fúshì	clothing and accessories, costume	这个博物馆展出了各个民族的服饰。 This museum displays the dress of every ethnic group.
时装	shízhuāng	fashion, latest clothes	她在上海做时装设计。 She designs fashion in Shanghai.
时髦	shímáo	fashionable, trendy	我妈妈年轻的时候穿得很时髦。 My mum dressed very stylishly when she was young.
新潮	xīncháo	trendy, new-wave	他的发型太新潮了，我有点儿接受|不了。 His haircut is a bit too trendy for my taste.
礼服	lǐfú	formal dress, evening gown, suit	晚会要求穿礼服。 The party is formal dress.
制服	zhìfú	uniform	他上中学的时候天天穿制服{zhi4fu2-7}。 He wore a uniform every day at secondary school.
靴子	xuēzi	boots	下雪了，穿上靴子吧。 It's snowing: put your boots on.
拉链	lāliàn	zip, zipper	这件外套的拉链坏了。 The zip on this jacket is broken.
纽扣	niǔkòu	button	衬衫上掉了一个纽扣。 A button has come off the shirt.
兜	dōu	pocket; to wrap up; to go round	他把手机放进了兜里。 He put his phone in his pocket.
手帕	shǒupà	handkerchief	奶奶出门总是带着一块手帕。 Grandma always carries a handkerchief.
首饰	shǒushì	jewellery	她不太喜欢戴首饰。 She doesn't much like wearing jewellery.
钻石	zuànshí	diamond	这条项链上有一颗小钻石。 There's a little diamond on this necklace.
佩戴	pèidài	to wear (badges, jewellery)	参加会议请佩戴工作证。 Please wear your pass at the meeting.
装扮	zhuāngbàn	to dress up; get-up	她把自己装扮成了一个老奶奶。 She dressed up as an old granny.

发型	**fàxíng**	hairstyle, haircut	你换了个发型？很适合你！ Have you changed your hairstyle? It really suits you!
梳	**shū**	to comb; to sort out	她每天早上把头发梳得整整齐齐。 Every morning she combs her hair neat and tidy.
梳子	**shūzi**	comb	你借我一把梳子吧。 Could you lend me a comb?
剃	**tì**	to shave	他把胡子剃了，看起来年轻了很多。 He shaved off his beard and looks much younger.
裁	**cái**	to cut (cloth, paper); to cut back	裁缝先量好尺寸，再裁布。 The tailor measures first, then cuts the cloth.
裁缝	**cáifeng**	tailor	这件礼服是一位老裁缝做的。 This gown was made by an old tailor.
缝	**féng**	to sew, stitch	妈妈帮我把纽扣缝上了。 Mum sewed the button back on for me.
缝	**fèng**	seam, crack, gap	门缝{feng4}里透进来一点儿光。 A little light came in through the crack in the door.
编织	**biānzhī**	to knit, weave	这个包是用竹子编织的。 This bag is woven from bamboo.
织	**zhī**	to knit, weave	奶奶给我织了一件毛衣。 Grandma knitted me a jumper.
纱	**shā**	gauze, fine yarn	窗户上挂着一层白纱。 A white gauze curtain hangs over the window.
丝	**sī**	silk; thread, a tiny bit	这条围巾是丝的，摸起来很舒服。 This scarf is silk: it feels lovely.
皮革	**pígé**	leather	这双靴子是皮革做的。 These boots are made of leather.
熨	**yùn**	to iron, press	这件衬衫要熨一下才能穿。 This shirt needs ironing before you wear it.
洗涤	**xǐdí**	to wash (formal)	丝的衣服要用冷水洗涤。 Silk should be washed in cold water.
肥皂	**féizào**	soap	先用肥皂洗手，再吃饭。 Wash your hands with soap before you eat.
扫除	**sǎochú**	to clean up; to sweep away	春节前，家家户户都要大扫除。 Before the Spring Festival, every family does a big spring clean.
扫帚	**sàozhou**	broom	你拿扫帚扫一扫院子吧。 Could you sweep the courtyard with the broom?
致	**zhì**	to extend, send (greetings); to cause	我代表公司，向大家致以诚挚的感谢。 On behalf of the company, I extend our sincere thanks to you all.

pattern 什么a的b的: things like a and b

什么 A 的 、B 的

什么A的B的 lists a few examples casually: “stuff like A and B, and so on”. Each item takes 的 after it, and 什么 goes before the first. It sounds relaxed and spoken, often with a hint of “too much of it”.

她的箱子里什么裙子的、靴子的，装得满满的。 **tā de xiāngzi lǐ shénme qúnzi de xuēzi de zhuāng de mǎn mǎn de** Her suitcase is stuffed with skirts, boots and whatnot.

年轻人就喜欢什么时装的、新潮发型的。 **niánqīng rén jiù xǐhuan shénme shízhuāng de xīncháo fàxíng de** Young people love fashion, trendy haircuts, all that.

网上什么时装的、礼服的，要什么有什么。 **wǎngshang shénme shízhuāng de lǐfú de yào shénme yǒu shénme** Online there’s fashion, evening wear, anything you want.

dialogue a gown for the annual dinner

anna 阿姨，下个月公司开年会，刘经理让我上台讲话，向客户致以感谢。我该穿什么呢？
āyí xià gè yuè gōngsī kāi nián huì Liújīnglǐ ràng wǒ shàngtái jiǎnghuà xiàng kèhù zhì yǐ gǎnxiè wǒ gāi chuān shénme ne · Next month is our company's annual dinner, and Manager Liu wants me to give a speech thanking our clients. What should I wear?

ms zhang 这么正式的场合，穿着一定要庄重得体。我带你去找一位老裁缝，他做的衣裳特别合身。
zhème zhèngshì de chǎnghé chuānzhuó yídìng yào zhuāngzhòng détǐ wǒ dài nǐ qù zhǎo yí wèi lǎo cáifeng tā zuò de yīshang tèbié hé shēn · For something this formal, you must dress with dignity, just right. I'll take you to an old tailor I know: his clothes fit perfectly.

little sister 妈妈，现在谁还找裁缝啊？网上什么时装的、礼服的，要什么有什么。
māma xiànzài shéi hái zhǎo cáifeng a wǎngshang shénme shízhuāng de lǐfú de yào shénme yǒu shénme · Mum, who goes to a tailor these days? Online there's fashion, evening wear, anything you want.

ms zhang 网上买的不见得合身。裁缝先给你量好尺寸，再裁布，一针一针地缝。
wǎngshang mǎi de bújiàndé hé shēn cáifeng xiān gěi nǐ liáng hǎo chǐcùn zài cái bù yì zhēn yì zhēn de féng · What you buy online won't necessarily fit. A tailor measures you first, then cuts the cloth and sews it stitch by stitch.

anna 用什么料子好呢？纱的还是丝的？
yòng shénme liào zi hǎo ne shā de háishi sī de · What fabric should I go for? Gauze or silk?

ms zhang 丝的吧，又轻又软，看起来也很优雅。拉链藏在缝里，一点儿也看不出来。
sī de ba yòu qīng yòu ruǎn kàn qǐlai yě hěn yōuyǎ lāliàn cáng zài fèng lǐ yìdiǎnr yě kàn bu chulai · Silk: light and soft, and it looks elegant too. The zip is hidden in the seam, so you can't see it at all.

little sister 那穿什么鞋？靴子太随便了。
nà chuān shénme xié xuēzi tài suíbiàn le · And what shoes? Boots are too casual.

anna 我有一双黑皮鞋，是皮革的，挺好看。
wǒ yǒu yì shuāng hēi píxié shì pígé de tǐng hǎokàn · I've got a pair of black leather shoes: they look nice.

ms zhang 首饰也得想一想。你可以佩戴我那条钻石项链。
shǒushì yě děi xiǎng yi xiang nǐ kěyǐ pèidài wǒ nà tiáo zuànshí xiàngliàn · You need to think about jewellery too. You can wear my diamond necklace.

anna 那太贵重了，我怕弄丢。而且戴钻石有点太张扬了。
nà tài guìzhòng le wǒ pà nòng diū érqiě dài zuànshí yǒu diǎn tài zhāngyáng le · That's far too precious: I'd be afraid of losing it. And diamonds are a bit too showy.

ms zhang 没什么好担心的，你戴着去，回来还给我就是了。
méi shénme hǎo dānxīn de nǐ dài zhe qù huílái huán gěi wǒ jiùshì le · Nothing to worry about: wear it, and give it back afterwards.

little sister 还有发型！姐姐，你应该去剪个新潮一点儿的。
hái yǒu fàxíng jiějie nǐ yīnggāi qù jiǎn gè xīncháo yìdiǎnr de · And your hair! You should get something a bit trendier.

anna 太新潮的不适合我，简单梳一梳就好。你借我一把梳子吧。
tài xīncháo de bú shìhé wǒ jiǎndān shū yi shu jiù hǎo nǐ jiè wǒ yì bǎ shūzi ba · Too trendy doesn't suit me: I'll just give it a comb. Lend me a comb?

little sister 你看我哥哥，结婚那天把头发剃得那么短，一点儿也不时髦。
nǐ kàn wǒ gēge jiéhūn nà tiān bǎ tóufa tì de nàme duǎn yìdiǎnr yě bù shímáo · Look at my brother: he had his hair shaved so short for the wedding. Not stylish at all.

ms zhang 他从小就不爱装扮，上中学的时候天天穿制服，反倒最开心。
tā cóngxiǎo jiù bú ài zhuāngbàn shàng zhōngxué de shíhou tiān tiān chuān zhìfú fǎndào zuì kāixīn · He's never liked dressing up. At school he wore a uniform every day, and that suited him best.

little sister 我就不一样，我喜欢有特色的服饰。这件毛衣是我自己编织的！
wǒ jiù bù yíyàng wǒ xǐhuan yǒu tèsè de fúshì zhè jiàn máoyī shì wǒ zìjǐ biānzhī de · I'm different: I like clothes with character. I knitted this jumper myself!

anna 真厉害！你可真心灵手巧。什么时候学会织毛衣的？
zhēn lìhai nǐ kě zhēn xīnlíng shǒuqiǎo shénme shíhou xuéhuì zhī máoyī de · Impressive! You really are clever with your hands. When did you learn to knit?

little sister 跟奶奶学的。我还会缝纽扣、做手帕呢。
gēn nǎinai xué de wǒ hái huì féng niǔkòu zuò shǒupà ne · Grandma taught me. I can sew on buttons and make

handkerchiefs too.

ms zhang 好了，衣服说完了，该大扫除了。你拿扫帚扫地，我去洗窗帘。
hǎo le yīfu shuō wán le gāi dà sǎochú le nǐ ná sàozhou sǎo dì wǒ qù xǐ chuānglián · Right, enough about clothes: time for a big clean. You sweep with the broom; I'll wash the curtains.

anna 这件衬衫怎么洗?
zhè jiàn chènshān zěnme xǐ · How should I wash this shirt?

ms zhang 用肥皂手洗，洗涤以后用夹子挂起来晒干，再熨一熨。
yòng féizào shǒu xǐ xǐdí yǐhòu yòng jiāzi guà qǐlai shài gàn zài yùn yi yun · Wash it by hand with soap, peg it up to dry afterwards, then give it an iron.

little sister 哎，我的兜里怎么有这么多纸?
āi wǒ de dōu lǐ zěnme yǒu zhème duō zhǐ · Hey, why is my pocket full of paper?

ms zhang 你看你，洗衣服之前也不看一看兜里！八成是你的复习笔记。
nǐ kàn nǐ xǐ yīfu zhīqián yě bú kàn yi kan dōu lǐ bāchéng shì nǐ de fùxí bǐjì · Look at you: you didn't even check your pockets before washing! Those are most likely your revision notes.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

宁
nìng
rather

偏
piān
deliberately, contrary to what's expected

雅
yǎ
elegant

逆
nì
go against; contrary

good to know · 穿着 chuānzhuó is "attire" (她的穿着很得体); 穿着 chuānzhe is "wearing" (她穿着一件红衣服). The context tells you which. A Chinese care label says 手洗 (hand wash), 不可熨烫 (do not iron), 不可干洗 (do not dry-clean).

Gown, tailor, necklace, iron: you can now get ready for a formal evening and thank a room full of guests in style.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 37 building and moving house

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 5 · home and community

Talk about neighbourhoods, building work and flat features (heating, air conditioning, security doors), and say "each thing in its time" with 该X就X，该Y就Y.

Flat hunting in China means reading ads full of 地段, 宜居 and 供暖, and putting up with building sites next door.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
搬迁	bānqiān	to relocate, move (home, firm)	工厂明年要搬迁到郊区。 The factory is relocating to the suburbs next year.
拆迁	chāiqiān	to demolish and relocate	这片老房子明年就要拆迁了。 This block of old houses is to be demolished next year.
迁	qiān	to move, migrate	我们家祖籍上海，爷爷那一代才迁到北京。 Our family comes from Shanghai: only in Grandpa's generation did we move to Beijing.
定居	dìngjū	to settle (down somewhere)	大学毕业以后，他在杭州定居了。 After university he settled in Hangzhou.
落户	luòhù	to settle; to register as a resident	他们一家在北京落户已经二十年了。 His family has been settled in Beijing for twenty years.
住处	zhùchù	where you live, lodgings	我得{dei3}重新找个住处。 I need to find somewhere new to live.
住户	zhùhù	household, resident	这栋楼一共有六十多个住户。 There are over sixty households in this building.
街坊	jiēfang	neighbours (in the same street)	我们和街坊们相处得很好。 We get on really well with our neighbours.
临街	línjiē	facing the street	这家店临街，生意很好。 This shop faces the street and does good business.
地段	dìduàn	location, area (of a city)	这套房子地段好，交通方便。 This flat is in a good area, with easy transport.
宜居	yíjū	good to live in, liveable	这座城市气候好，非常宜居。 This city has a good climate and is very liveable.
搭建	dājiàn	to put up (a temporary structure)	他们在院子里搭建了一个小棚子。 They put up a little shed in the courtyard.
兴建	xīngjiàn	to build, construct (large projects)	这个城市正在兴建一座新机场。 The city is building a new airport.
动工	dònggōng	to start construction	新学校下个月动工。 Work on the new school starts next month.
施工	shīgōng	to carry out construction	前方施工，请注意安全。 Building work ahead: please take care.
封顶	fēngdǐng	to top out (a building)	新楼已经封顶了。 The new building has been topped out.

竣工	**jùngōng**	to be completed (building work)	这座大桥预计明年竣工。 The bridge is expected to be finished next year.
落成	**luòchéng**	to be completed and opened	新图书馆昨天正式落成。 The new library officially opened yesterday.
扩建	**kuòjiàn**	to extend, enlarge (a building)	医院正在扩建，明年能多住两百个病人。 The hospital is being extended: next year it will take two hundred more patients.
翻新	**fānxīn**	to renovate, refurbish	他们把老房子翻新了一遍。 They gave the old house a complete makeover.
铺路	**pūlù**	to pave a road; to pave the way	村里铺路以后，交通方便多了。 Since the village road was paved, getting around is much easier.
斑马线	**bānmǎxiàn**	zebra crossing	过马路要走斑马线。 Use the zebra crossing to cross the road.
避让	**bìràng**	to give way, make way	车辆要避让行人。 Vehicles must give way to pedestrians.
草坪	**cǎopíng**	lawn	请不要在草坪上踢球。 Please don't play football on the lawn.
喷泉	**pēnquán**	fountain	广场中间有一个大喷泉。 There's a big fountain in the middle of the square.
棚	**péng**	shed, shelter, awning	院子里有一个放自行车的棚。 There's a bike shed in the courtyard.
露天	**lùtiān**	open-air, outdoor	夏天晚上，大家喜欢在露天的地方吃饭。 On summer evenings people like to eat outdoors.
公用	**gōngyòng**	public, shared, for common use	以前胡同里只有一个公用电话。 In the old days the hutong had just one public phone.
供暖	**gōngnuǎn**	central heating; to heat	北京一般十一月十五号开始供暖。 In Beijing the heating usually comes on on 15 November.
冷气	**lěngqì**	air conditioning	房间里开着冷气，挺凉快的。 The air conditioning is on in the room: it's nice and cool.
取暖	**qǔnuǎn**	to keep warm, warm yourself	以前冬天大家都靠炉子取暖。 In the old days everyone kept warm in winter with a stove.
烘干	**hōnggān**	to dry (with heat), tumble-dry	衣服洗完可以直接烘干。 You can dry the clothes straight after washing.
防盗	**fángdào**	anti-theft, burglar-proof	新房子装的是防盗门。 The new flat has a security door.
家用	**jiāyòng**	household, for home use	这家商场的家用电器很便宜。 Household appliances are cheap in this shopping centre.
家政	**jiāzhèng**	housekeeping; domestic services	她请了家政阿姨每周来打扫两次。 She has a housekeeper come and clean twice a week.
一面	**yīmiàn**	while, at the same time; one side	她一面听，一面记。 She listened and took notes at the same time.

pattern 该x(就)x，该y(就)y: do each thing when it's time

该 X （就） X ，该 Y （就） Y

该X就X，该Y就Y means “when you should X, X; when you should Y, Y”: do the right thing at the right time, without fuss. 就 is often dropped: 该吃吃，该喝喝. With nouns it becomes 该花的钱就花 “money that should be spent, spend it”.

该吃就吃，该睡就睡，别太累了。 **gāi chī jiù chī gāi shuì jiù shuì bié tài lèi le** Eat when you need to eat, sleep when you need to sleep: don’t wear yourself out.

该说的说，不该说的别说。 **gāi shuō de shuō bù gāi shuō de biéshuō** Say what needs saying, and keep quiet about the rest.

工人们该施工就施工，该休息就休息，晚上从来不吵。 **gōngrénmen gāi shīgōng jiù shīgōng gāi xiūxi jiù xiūxi wǎnshang cónglái bù chǎo** The workers build when it’s time to build and rest when it’s time to rest: they never make noise at night.

dialogue looking for a new home

anna 小明，我的房东要卖房子，我下个月就得搬家，得重新找个住处。真倒霉！
Xiǎomíng wǒ de fángdōng yào mài fángzi wǒ xià gè yuè jiù děi bānjiā děi chóngxīn zhǎo gè zhùchù zhēn dǎoméi · Xiaoming, my landlord is selling, so I have to move next month and find somewhere new to live. Just my luck!

xiaoming 那你搬到我们这儿来吧！这里的街坊都特别好，大家相处得很融洽，常常互相串门。
nà nǐ bān dào wǒmen zhèr lái ba zhèlǐ de jiēfang dōu tèbié hǎo dàjiā xiāngchǔ de hěn róngqià chángcháng hùxiāng chuànmén · Then move here! The neighbours are lovely: everyone gets on really well and we're always dropping in on each other.

anna 这片胡同不是要拆迁吗？
zhè piàn hútòng bú shì yào chāiqiān ma · Aren't these hutongs going to be demolished?

xiaoming 不拆了。现在的计划是保护老房子，只翻新，不搬迁住户。
bù chāi le xiànzài de jìhuà shì bǎohù lǎo fángzi zhǐ fānxīn bù bānqiān zhùhù · Not any more. The plan now is to protect the old houses: renovate them, not move the residents out.

anna 太好了。你们家一直住在北京吗？还是从别的地方迁过来的？
tài hǎo le nǐmen jiā yìzhí zhù zài Běijīng ma háishi cóng biéde dìfang qiān guolai de · That's great. Has your family always lived in Beijing, or did you move here from somewhere else?

xiaoming 我们家祖籍西安，爷爷那一代才迁到北京，在这儿落户。
wǒmen jiā zǔjí Xīān yéye nà yídài cái qiān dào Běijīng zài zhèr luòhù · We're from Xi'an originally: only in Grandpa's generation did we move to Beijing and settle here.

anna 那边那座新楼呢？
nàbiān nà zuò xīn lóu ne · What about that new building over there?

xiaoming 去年动工兴建的，今年春天封顶，上个月刚竣工。
qùnián dònggōng xīngjiàn de jīnnián chūntiān fēngdǐng shàng gè yuè gāng jùngōng · They started building it last year, it was topped out in the spring, and it was finished just last month.

anna 施工的时候很吵吧？
shīgōng de shíhou hěn chǎo ba · Isn't it noisy while they're building?

xiaoming 还好。工人们该干活就干活，该休息就休息，晚上从来不施工。
hái hǎo gōngrénmen gāi gànhuó jiù gànhuó gāi xiūxi jiù xiūxi wǎnshang cónglái bù shīgōng · Not too bad. The workers work when it's time to work and rest when it's time to rest: they never build at night.

anna 那里地段怎么样？
nàlǐ dìduàn zěnmeyàng · How's the location?

xiaoming 要地铁有地铁，要超市有超市，特别宜居。就是一楼临街，有点儿吵。
yào dìtiě yǒu dìtiě yào chāoshì yǒu chāoshì tèbié yíjū jiùshì yì lóu línjiē yǒudiǎnr chǎo · There's a metro, a supermarket, everything: really liveable. Only the ground floor faces the street, so it's a bit noisy.

anna 楼前面那块草坪真漂亮，还有喷泉！
lóu qiánmiàn nà kuài cǎopíng zhēn piàoliang hái yǒu pēnquán · The lawn in front is lovely, and there's a fountain!

xiaoming 那是新落成的小公园，去年扩建的。以前那儿只有一个临时搭建的旧车棚。
nà shì xīn luòchéng de xiǎo gōngyuán qùnián kuòjiàn de yǐqián nàr zhǐyǒu yí gè línshí dājiàn de jiù chē péng · That's the little park they've just opened: it was extended last year. Before, there was only an old makeshift bike shed there.

anna 门口这条路也是新铺的吧？
ménkǒu zhè tiáo lù yě shì xīn pū de ba · And this road by the entrance is new too?

xiaoming 对，铺路以后还画了斑马线，司机看见行人都会避让。
duì pūlù yǐhòu hái huà le bānmǎxiàn sījī kànjiàn xíngrén dōu huì bìràng · Yes: after they paved it they painted a zebra crossing, and drivers give way to pedestrians.

anna 冬天供暖吗？我特别怕冷。
dōngtiān gōngnuǎn ma wǒ tèbié pà lěng · Is there heating in winter? I really feel the cold.

xiaoming 当然供暖，夏天还有冷气。我们住平房，冬天就得自己想办法取暖了，水龙头有时候还会冻住。
dāngrán gōngnuǎn xiàtiān hái yǒu lěngqì wǒmen zhù píngfáng dōngtiān jiù děi zìjǐ xiǎng bànfǎ qǔnuǎn le shuǐlóngtóu yǒu shíhou hái huì dòng zhù · Of course there's heating, and air conditioning in summer. In our one-storey house we have to find our own ways to keep warm in winter, and sometimes the taps even freeze.

anna 住新楼还有什么好处?
zhù xīn lóu hái yǒu shénme hǎochù · What else is good about living in a new building?

xiaoming 每层都有公用的洗衣机，洗完还能烘干。厨房里还有微波炉。门都是防盗的，很安全。
měi céng dōu yǒu gōngyòng de xǐyījī xǐ wán hái néng hōnggān chúfáng lǐ hái yǒu wēibōlú mén dōu shì fángdào de hěn ānquán · Every floor has shared washing machines, and you can dry things straight after. The kitchens even have microwaves. All the doors are security doors: very safe.

anna 我工作太忙，没时间打扫，那儿有家政服务吗?
wǒ gōngzuò tài máng méi shíjiān dǎsǎo nàr yǒu jiāzhèng fúwù ma · I'm too busy at work to clean: is there a housekeeping service?

xiaoming 有。那里的管理处想住户之所想，急住户之所急，什么家政服务的、家用电器维修的，都能帮你安排。
yǒu nàlǐ de guǎnlǐ chù xiǎng zhùhù zhī suǒ xiǎng jí zhùhù zhī suǒ jí shénme jiāzhèng fúwù de jiāyòng diànqì wéixiū de dōu néng bāng nǐ ānpái · Yes. The management office thinks of everything residents need: housekeeping, home appliance repairs, the lot, they'll arrange it.

anna 听起来真不错！住在那儿一定很顺心。我都想在北京定居了。
tīng qǐlai zhēn búcuò zhù zài nàr yídìng hěn shùnxīn wǒ dōu xiǎng zài Běijīng dìngjū le · Sounds great! Life there must be so easy. I'm starting to want to settle in Beijing.

xiaoming 你搬过来以后，我们想见一面也方便。夏天晚上，大家在露天的地方一面吃西瓜，一面聊天，可舒服了。
nǐ bān guolai yǐhòu wǒmen xiǎng jiàn yímiàn yě fāngbiàn xiàtiān wǎnshang dàjiā zài lùtiān de dìfang yímiàn chī xīguā yímiàn liáotiān kě shūfu le · Once you move here, it'll be easy to meet up. On summer evenings everyone sits outdoors eating watermelon and chatting: it's lovely.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

巷
xiàng
lane, alley

挨
āi
to be next to; one by one

墅
shù
country house

瓦
wǎ
roof tile

good to know · Building news follows the stages: 动工 (ground broken) → 施工 (under construction) → 封顶 (topped out) → 竣工 (finished) → 落成 (opened). In north China, central heating comes on by city rule: in Beijing usually from 15 November to 15 March.

Area, heating, security doors and building works: you can now go flat hunting in Chinese and ask all the right questions.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 38 hands at work

Describe exactly what your hands are doing (carry, pull, twist, tear, poke, prise), and say "if we do it, let's do it properly" with X就X个Y.

Chinese has a precise verb for every way of carrying, pulling or pressing. Packing day is where you need them all at once.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
掰	bāi	to break off (with your hands)	她掰着手指|数了数，一共二十个箱子。 She counted on her fingers: twenty boxes in all.
扳	bān	to pull (a lever), turn; to turn round	走之前，把总开关扳下来。 Before you leave, pull the main switch down.
拨	bō	to move with a finger; to dial; to allot	我拨一下房东的电话。 I'll give the landlord a ring.
扒	bā	to cling to; to push aside, dig	他扒开土，看了看花的根。 He pushed the soil aside and looked at the plant's roots.
拔	bá	to pull out, pull up	离开房间前，记得拔掉插头。 Remember to unplug things before you leave the room.
揪	jiū	to grab, seize (and hold tight)	妹妹一把揪住了大白的绳子。 His sister grabbed Dabai's lead.
拽	zhuài	to pull, drag, yank	抽屉卡住了，我拽了半天也拽不开。 The drawer's stuck: I've been yanking it for ages and it won't open.
扯	chě	to pull, tear; to chat	别扯了，再扯就坏了。 Stop pulling: any more and it'll break.
挽	wǎn	to roll up (sleeves); to take (an arm)	她挽起袖子，开始干活。 She rolled up her sleeves and got to work.
拎	līn	to carry (by the handle)	你拎得动这个包吗? Can you manage to carry this bag?
挎	kuà	to carry on your arm or shoulder	她挎着一个小包出门了。 She went out with a little bag on her shoulder.
扛	káng	to carry on your shoulder	他一个人扛起了一个大箱子。 He hoisted a big box onto his shoulder all by himself.
驮	tuó	to carry on your back (animals, bikes)	我骑自行车驮几个小箱子过去。 I'll take a few small boxes over on my bike.
托	tuō	to hold up (on your palm); to entrust	麻烦你托着箱子底，别让它掉了。 Could you hold the bottom of the box so it doesn't fall?
拄	zhǔ	to lean on (a stick)	老奶奶拄着雨伞慢慢地走。 The old lady walked slowly, leaning on her umbrella.
捏	niē	to pinch, squeeze; to make up	我给你捏捏肩膀吧。 Let me give your shoulders a squeeze.

掐	qiā	to pinch (with nails); to time, cut off	我掐着时间呢，休息十分钟就继续。 I'm timing it: ten minutes' rest, then we carry on.
拧	níng	to twist, wring	把毛巾拧干{gan1}，挂在绳子上。 Wring out the towel and hang it on the line.
搓	cuō	to rub (between your hands)	天太冷了，他不停地搓手。 It was so cold he kept rubbing his hands.
揉	róu	to rub, knead	她累得直揉眼睛。 She was so tired she kept rubbing her eyes.
捶	chuí	to pound, thump (with your fist)	我腰好酸，你帮我捶一捶。 My back aches: could you thump it for me?
砸	zá	to smash, pound; to drop on; to flop	箱子掉下来，差点儿砸到他的脚。 The box fell and nearly landed on his foot.
劈	pī	to split, chop	他一斧子把木头劈成了两半。 With one blow of the axe he split the wood in two.
凿	záo	to chisel, bore a hole	墙太硬，得{dei3}先凿个洞才能挂画。 The wall is too hard: you have to bore a hole before you can hang a picture.
刨	páo	to dig, dig up	大白又在草坪上刨土了。 Dabai is digging up the lawn again.
铲	chǎn	to shovel, scrape	下雪了，大家都出来铲雪。 It snowed, and everyone came out to shovel it.
抠	kōu	to dig out (with a finger); to be stingy	别用手抠，用筷子捅一捅。 Don't dig at it with your fingers: poke it with a chopstick.
挠	náo	to scratch	他不好意思地挠了挠头。 He scratched his head, embarrassed.
捅	tǒng	to poke, jab; to let out (a secret)	他用筷子捅了捅盆底的洞。 He poked the hole in the bottom of the pot with a chopstick.
戳	chuō	to jab, poke (with a point)	小心，别把纸戳破了。 Careful: don't poke a hole in the paper.
磕	kē	to knock, bump	他站起来的时候磕到了头。 He bumped his head as he stood up.
撬	qiào	to prise open, lever	抽屉卡住了，只好用螺丝刀撬开。 The drawer was stuck, so we had to prise it open with a screwdriver.
掀	xiān	to lift (a lid, a cover), raise	她掀开锅盖，香味一下子出来了。 She lifted the lid and the smell came pouring out.
揭	jiē	to peel off, uncover; to expose	把墙上的旧画慢慢揭下来。 Peel the old pictures off the wall slowly.
撕	sī	to tear, rip	他把信撕成了两半。 He tore the letter in two.
好说	hǎoshuō	no problem; easy to arrange	帮你搬家？好说好说！ Help you move? No problem at all!

pattern **x就x个y: if you x, x properly**

(要) verb 就 verb 个 how

X就X个Y says “if you’re going to X, do it all the way”: 玩就玩个痛快 “if we play, let’s play to our heart’s content”. Repeat the verb around 就, then add 个 and the result you want: 痛快, 够, 彻底, 明白. 要 often comes in front.

要玩就玩个痛快！ **yào wán jiù wán gè tòngkuài** If we’re going to have fun, let’s really have fun!

要干就干个彻底，别干一半。 **yào gàn jiù gàn gè chèdǐ bié gàn yíbàn** If you do it, do it thoroughly: don’t stop halfway.

今天要吃就吃个够。 **jīntiān yào chī jiù chī gè gòu** If we’re eating today, let’s eat our fill.

dialogue packing day

xiaoming 安娜，我们来帮你打包了！要搬就搬个痛快，今天全部收拾好。
Ānnà wǒmen lái bāng nǐ dǎbāo le yào bān jiù bān gè tòngkuài jīntiān quánbù shōushi hǎo · Anna, we've come to help you pack! If we're doing it, let's do it properly: everything ready today.

anna 太好了！谢谢你们，我巴不得明天早上就住进新家。墙上这些画别撕，那是我第一年来北京的时候买的，慢慢揭下来。
tài hǎo le xièxie nǐmen wǒ bābudé míngtiān zǎoshang jiù zhù jìn xīn jiā qiáng shàng zhèxiē huà bié sī nà shì wǒ dì yī nián lái Běijīng de shíhou mǎi de màn màn jiē xialai · Brilliant! Thank you both: I can't wait to be in my new home first thing tomorrow. Don't tear the pictures off the wall: I bought them in my first year in Beijing. Peel them off slowly.

xiaoming 这个抽屉卡住了，拽都拽不开，硬扯也扯不开。我用螺丝刀撬一下……好了！
zhège chōuti kǎ zhù le zhuài dōu zhuài bu kāi yìng chě yě chě bu kāi wǒ yòng luósī dāo qiào yíxià hǎo le · This drawer's stuck: it won't budge, and yanking it doesn't help. I'll prise it with a screwdriver… there!

anna 小心，别磕着头。这个箱子太重了，我抬都抬不起来，里面全是衣裳和靴子。
xiǎoxīn bié kē zhe tóu zhège xiāngzi tài zhòng le wǒ tái dōu tái bu qǐlai lǐmiàn quán shì yīshang hé xuēzi · Careful you don't bump your head. This box is so heavy I can't even lift it: it's full of clothes and boots.

xiaoming 我来扛。你挎着这个包就行，里面是你的电脑。小箱子我骑自行车驮过去，一次能驮三个，顶多跑五趟。
wǒ lái káng nǐ kuà zhe zhège bāo jiù xíng lǐmiàn shì nǐ de diànnǎo xiǎo xiāngzi wǒ qí zìxíngchē tuó guoqu yí cì néng tuó sān gè dǐngduō pǎo wǔ tàng · I'll carry it on my shoulder. You just take this bag: your computer's in it. I'll take the small boxes over on my bike: three at a time, five trips at most.

anna 阳台上的花呢？
yángtái shàng de huā ne · And the plants on the balcony?

xiaoming 先把土扒开一点儿，再把花拔出来，放进小盆里。
xiān bǎ tǔ bā kāi yìdiǎnr zài bǎ huā bá chulai fàng jìn xiǎo pén lǐ · Push the soil aside a bit first, then pull the plants out and put them in small pots.

little sister 这个盆底的洞被土堵住了，我用手抠一抠。
zhège pén dǐ de dòng bèi tǔ dǔ zhù le wǒ yòng shǒu kōu yi kou · The hole in the bottom of this pot is blocked with soil: I'll dig it out with my finger.

anna 别用手，用筷子捅一捅就行，别把盆戳破了。
bié yòng shǒu yòng kuàizi tǒng yi tong jiù xíng bié bǎ pén chuō pò le · Not with your hand: just poke it with a chopstick, and don't jab a hole in the pot.

little sister 大白，不许刨土！……我一把揪住了它的绳子，它才停下来。
Dàbái bùxǔ páo tǔ wǒ yì bǎ jiū zhù le tā de shéngzi tā cái tíng xialai · Dabai, no digging! …I grabbed his lead, and only then did he stop.

xiaoming 好了，休息一下吧。大家拧把毛巾擦擦脸，搓搓手，喝口热水。我掐着时间，十分钟以后继续。
hǎo le xiūxi yíxià ba dàjiā níng bǎ máojīn cā ca liǎn cuō cuo shǒu hē kǒu rè shuǐ wǒ qiā zhe shíjiān shí fēnzhōng yǐhòu jìxù · Right, take a break. Wring out a towel and wipe your face, rub your hands, have some hot water. I'm timing it: we carry on in ten minutes.

anna 我的腰好酸，谁帮我捶一捶？
wǒ de yāo hǎo suān shéi bāng wǒ chuí yi chui · My back aches: who'll give it a thump for me?

little sister 我给你捏捏肩膀吧。你看你，累得直揉眼睛。
wǒ gěi nǐ niē nie jiānbǎng ba nǐ kàn nǐ lèi de zhí róu yǎnjing · I'll squeeze your shoulders. Look at you: you're so tired you keep rubbing your eyes.

xiaoming 门口有个旧箱子，盖子掀不开，把手也坏了。要不要砸开？
ménkǒu yǒu gè jiù xiāngzi gài zi xiān bu kāi bǎshou yě huài le yào búyào zá kāi · There's an old chest by the door: the lid won't lift and the handle's broken. Shall we smash it open?

anna 千万别砸！那是房东的。钥匙在这儿，转一下就开了。
qiānwàn bié zá nà shì fángdōng de yàoshi zài zhèr zhuǎn yíxià jiù kāi le · Don't you dare! It's the landlord's. Here's the key: one turn and it opens.

little sister 里面有一把旧雨伞。房东奶奶以前就拄着它去买菜吧？
lǐmiàn yǒu yì bǎ jiù yǔ sǎn fángdōng nǎinai yǐqián jiù zhǔ zhe tā qù mǎi cài ba · There's an old umbrella inside. I bet the landlady used to lean on it going shopping?

anna 对。我拨个电话问问她要不要。走之前还要把总开关扳下来。
duì wǒ bō gè diànhuà wèn wen tā yào búyào zǒu zhīqián hái yào bǎ zǒng kāiguān bān xialai · Yes. I'll give her a ring and ask if she wants it. And before we leave we must pull down the main switch.

xiaoming 院子里那块木头太长，带不走，我拿斧子把它劈成两半。
yuànzi lǐ nà kuài mùtou tài cháng dài bu zǒu wǒ ná fǔzi bǎ tā pī chéng liǎng bàn · That piece of wood in the yard is too long to take: I'll split it in two with the axe.

anna 新家的墙很硬，挂画得先凿个洞，再装个钩，你明天能帮我吗?
xīn jiā de qiáng hěn yìng guà huà děi xiān záo gè dòng zài zhuāng gè gōu nǐ míngtiān néng bāng wǒ ma · The walls in the new flat are really hard: to hang pictures we'll need to bore holes first and put in hooks. Can you help me tomorrow?

xiaoming 好说！冬天下雪，你门口的雪我也帮你铲。（不好意思地挠了挠头）其实我只是怕你以后不请我吃饭。
hǎoshuō dōngtiān xià xuě nǐ ménkǒu de xuě wǒ yě bāng nǐ chǎn bù hǎoyìsi de náo le nao tóu qíshí wǒ zhǐshì pà nǐ yǐhòu bù qǐng wǒ chī fàn · No problem! And when it snows in winter, I'll shovel the snow outside your door too. (scratching his head, embarrassed) Actually, I'm just afraid you won't invite me to dinner.

anna 哈哈，放心吧！搬完家，我请大家吃饭。我掰着手指数了数，一共二十个箱子，今天一定能收拾个干干净净。
hā hā fàngxīn ba bān wán jiā wǒ qǐng dàjiā chī fàn wǒ bāi zhe shǒuzhǐ shù le shù yígòng èrshí gè xiāngzi jīntiān yídìng néng shōushi gè gāngānjìngjìng · Ha ha, don't worry! After the move, dinner's on me. I've counted on my fingers: twenty boxes in all. We'll definitely get it all packed today.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

槛 kǎn threshold

杆 gǎn shaft; (measure word for scales, guns)

垫 diàn to put under, pad; pad

蜡 là wax

good to know · Carrying, the Chinese way: 拎 by a handle, 挎 on your arm or shoulder, 扛 on your shoulder, 背 on your back, 抱 in your arms, 托 on your palm, 驮 on an animal or a bike. Pulling: 拉 (general), 拽 (yank hard), 扯 (pull and tear), 拔 (pull out), 揪 (grab and hold).

Carry, twist, prise, peel, poke: your hands now have a Chinese verb for everything they do.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 39 idioms with 不

Use the great family of four-character idioms built on 不: 半A半B, 不A不B and 不A而B, to describe crowds, applause, talk, doubts and goodbyes.

Speeches, news reports and essays at HSK 7–9 are full of these 不 idioms; recognising the patterns lets you guess dozens more.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
半信半疑	bànxìnbànyí	half-believing, sceptical	听了他的解释，大家都半信半疑。 Everyone was only half convinced by his explanation.
不知不觉	bùzhībùjué	without realising, before you know it	不知不觉，我在北京已经住了十年。 Before I knew it, I'd been living in Beijing for ten years.
不折不扣	bùzhébùkòu	through and through, out-and-out	这是一个不折不扣的好消息。 This is good news through and through.
不辞而别	bùcíérbié	to leave without saying goodbye	他昨天不辞而别，谁也不知道他去了哪儿。 He left yesterday without a word, and nobody knows where he went.
不言而喻	bùyánéryù	it goes without saying	保护老房子的重要性不言而喻。 The importance of protecting old houses goes without saying.
不约而同	bùyuēértóng	with one accord, all at once	听到这个消息，大家不约而同地笑了。 When they heard the news, everyone laughed at once.
不翼而飞	bùyìérfēi	to vanish into thin air	我放在桌子上的钥匙不翼而飞了。 The keys I left on the table have vanished into thin air.
不得而知	bùdéérzhī	unknown, impossible to know	他为什么离开，现在还不得而知。 Why he left is still not known.
不可思议	bùkěsīyì	unbelievable, inconceivable	一个人一天搬完了家，真是不可思议。 One person moved house in a single day: incredible.
不可或缺	bùkěhuòquē	indispensable	胡同是老北京不可或缺的一部分。 The hutongs are an indispensable part of old Beijing.
不假思索	bùjiǎsīsuǒ	without a moment's thought	老师一问，他不假思索就说出了答案。 The moment the teacher asked, he gave the answer without a second's thought.
不了了之	bùliǎoliǎozhī	to end with nothing done, fizzle out	这件事不能就这么不了了之。 We can't just let this matter drop.
不相上下	bùxiāngshàngxià	equally matched, about the same	两个队的水平不相上下。 The two teams are evenly matched.
不以为然	bùyǐwéirán	to disapprove, not think much of	我说住平房好，他却不以为然。 I said living in a one-storey house was good, but he wasn't impressed.
不由自主	bùyóuzìzhǔ	can't help it, involuntarily	听到音乐，她不由自主地跳了起来。 When she heard the music she couldn't help dancing.

不知所措	**bùzhīsuǒcuò**	at a loss, not know what to do	突然让我上台讲话，我一下子不知所措。 Suddenly asked to go up and speak, I was completely at a loss.
不厌其烦	**bùyànqífán**	patiently, without tiring	王老师不厌其烦地回答我们的问题。 Teacher Wang answered our questions with endless patience.
不耻下问	**bùchǐxiàwèn**	not ashamed to ask those below you	做学问要不耻下问。 In scholarship, you shouldn't be ashamed to learn from anyone.
不正之风	**bùzhèngzhīfēng**	bad practices, corruption	我们要坚决反对不正之风。 We must firmly oppose improper practices.
不亦乐乎	**bùyìlèhū**	extremely (busy), like mad	搬家那天，大家忙得不亦乐乎。 On moving day everyone was rushed off their feet.
必不可少	**bìbùkěshǎo**	absolutely necessary	水和空气是生命必不可少的。 Water and air are essential to life.
层出不穷	**céngchūbùqióng**	to keep appearing, one after another	新的手机软件层出不穷。 New phone apps keep appearing one after another.
川流不息	**chuānliúbùxī**	flowing without end (traffic, crowds)	大街上的车辆川流不息。 Traffic flows endlessly along the street.
络绎不绝	**luòyìbùjué**	in an endless stream (visitors)	来参观胡同的游客络绎不绝。 Visitors come to see the hutongs in an endless stream.
经久不息	**jīngjiǔbùxī**	prolonged (applause)	讲座结束时，掌声经久不息。 At the end of the talk, the applause went on and on.
滔滔不绝	**tāotāobùjué**	to talk on and on	一说起胡同，他就滔滔不绝。 Once he starts on the hutongs, he talks on and on.
赞不绝口	**zànbùjuékǒu**	to be full of praise	客人们对她做的菜赞不绝口。 The guests couldn't stop praising her cooking.
源源不断	**yuányuánbùduàn**	in a steady stream, without end	每年都有源源不断的游客来这里。 Every year a steady stream of tourists comes here.
锲而不舍	**qiè'érbùshě**	to persevere, keep at it	只要锲而不舍，就一定能成功。 As long as you keep at it, you will succeed.
恋恋不舍	**liànliànbùshě**	reluctant to leave	孩子们恋恋不舍地离开了公园。 The children left the park very reluctantly.
依依不舍	**yīyībùshě**	reluctant to part	分别的时候，大家都依依不舍。 When it came to saying goodbye, nobody wanted to part.
美中不足	**měizhōngbùzú**	a fly in the ointment	房子很好，美中不足的是离地铁有点儿远。 The flat is great: the one drawback is it's a bit far from the metro.
来之不易	**láizhībùyì**	hard-won	今天的好生活来之不易。 Today's good life was hard-won.
微不足道	**wēibùzúdào**	too small to mention, trivial	我做的这些事微不足道。 What I've done is too small to mention.
本事	**běnshi**	ability, skill	他真有本事，什么东西都能修好。 He's really capable: he can fix anything.

pattern idioms with 不: 半a半b, 不a不b, 不a而b

半A半B · **不A不B** · **不A而B**

半A半B is “half A, half B”: 半信半疑 half believing, half doubting (also 半真半假 half true). 不A不B is “neither A nor B” or “without A or B”: 不知不觉 without knowing or feeling. 不A而B is “B without A”: 不言而喻 understood without being said, 不约而同 the same without arranging it.

我对这个消息半信半疑。 **wǒ duì zhège xiāoxi bànxìn bànyí** I’m only half convinced by this news.

时间过得真快，不知不觉就到了年底。 **shíjiān guò de zhēn kuài bùzhī bùjué jiù dào le niándǐ** Time flies: before you know it, it’s the end of the year.

我放在桌子上的钥匙不翼而飞了。 **wǒ fàng zài zhuōzi shàng de yàoshi búyìérfēi le** The keys I left on the table have vanished into thin air.

他昨天不辞而别，谁也不知道他去了哪儿。 **tā zuótiān bùcíérbié shéi yě bù zhīdào tā qù le nǎr** He left yesterday without a word, and nobody knows where he went.

dialogue professor chen’s talk

xiaoming 安娜，你看，来听陈教授讲座的人络绎不绝。
Ānnà nǐ kàn lái tīng Chénjiàoshòu jiǎngzuò de rén luòyì bùjué · Anna, look: people keep pouring in to hear Professor Chen.

anna 陈教授真有本事，讲历史讲得那么有意思，大家都爱听。他在这一带远近闻名。
Chénjiàoshòu zhēn yǒu běnshi jiǎng lìshǐ jiǎng de nàme yǒu yìsi dàjiā dōu ài tīng tā zài zhè yídài yuǎnjìn wénmíng · Professor Chen is so good: he makes history so interesting that everyone loves listening. He's famous all round here.

professor chen 各位街坊，大家好！胡同是老北京不可或缺的一部分，保护它的意义不言而喻。
gèwèi jiēfang dàjiā hǎo hútòng shì lǎo Běijīng bùkě huòquē de yí bùfen bǎohù tā de yìyì bùyánéryù · Good evening, neighbours! The hutongs are an indispensable part of old Beijing, and the importance of protecting them goes without saying.

professor chen 七百多年里，胡同里的故事层出不穷。以前胡同外的大街上，车辆和行人川流不息；现在，来参观的游客也源源不断。
qībǎi duō nián lǐ hútòng lǐ de gùshi céngchū bùqióng yǐqián hútòng wài de dà jiē shàng chēliàng hé xíngrén chuānliú bùxī xiànzài lái cānguān de yóukè yě yuányuán búduàn · For over seven hundred years, the hutongs have produced story after story. In the old days, carts and people streamed endlessly along the streets outside; today a steady stream of visitors keeps coming.

anna 教授，以前的人为什么喜欢住平房？
jiàoshòu yǐqián de rén wèi shénme xǐhuan zhù píngfáng · Professor, why did people use to like living in one-storey houses?

professor chen 好问题。这个问题我也想请教在座的老街坊，他们很多是土生土长的北京人。
hǎo wèntí zhège wèntí wǒ yě xiǎng qǐngjiào zài zuò de lǎo jiēfang tāmen hěn duō shì tǔshēng tǔzhǎng de Běijīng rén · Good question. I'd like to put it to the old residents here too: many of them are Beijing born and bred.

xiaoming 陈教授真是不耻下问！我奶奶常说，住平房能看见天，天天能跟邻居见面。只是美中不足，冬天太冷了。
Chénjiàoshòu zhēn shì bùchǐ xiàwèn wǒ nǎinai cháng shuō zhù píngfáng néng kànjiàn tiān tiān tiān néng gēn línjū jiànmiàn zhǐshì měizhōng bùzú dōngtiān tài lěng le · Professor Chen, never too proud to ask! My grandma always said that in a one-storey house you can see the sky and see your neighbours every day. The one drawback: it's freezing in winter.

professor chen 说得好！对了，听说胡同口那对狮子不辞而别了？
shuō de hǎo duì le tīngshuō hútòng kǒu nà duì shīzi bùcíérbié le · Well said! By the way, I hear the pair of stone lions at the end of the lane left without saying goodbye?

xiaoming 是啊，大家都觉得不可思议。它们为什么不见了，到现在还不得而知。
shì a dàjiā dōu juéde bùkě sīyì tāmen wèi shénme bújiàn le dào xiànzài hái bùdéérzhī · Yes, everyone thinks it's incredible. Why they've gone is still a mystery.

anna 我听了半信半疑：那么重的东西，怎么会不翼而飞呢？
wǒ tīng le bànxìn bànyí nàme zhòng de dōngxi zěnme huì búyìérfēi ne · I only half believed it: how can something that heavy vanish into thin air?

professor chen 别担心，我问过了，是送去修补了，下个月就回来。这件事不会不了了之的。
bié dānxīn wǒ wèn guo le shì sòng qù xiūbǔ le xià gè yuè jiù huílái zhè jiàn shì bú huì bùliǎo liǎozhī de · Don't worry: I asked, and they've been taken away for repair. They'll be back next month. It won't just be forgotten.

anna 那就好！教授，翻新老民居，应该完全保留原来的样子吗？
nà jiù hǎo jiàoshòu fānxīn lǎo mínjū yīnggāi wánquán bǎoliú yuánlái de yàngzi ma · Thank goodness! Professor, when old houses are renovated, should they be kept exactly as they were?

professor chen 有的人不以为然，觉得老样子住着不方便，冬天还得自己取暖。两种意见不相上下，都有道理。住户的意见是必不可少的。
yǒude rén bùyǐwéirán juéde lǎo yàngzi zhù zhe bù fāngbiàn dōngtiān hái děi zìjǐ qǔnuǎn liǎng zhǒng yìjiàn bùxiāng shàngxià dōu yǒu dàolǐ zhùhù de yìjiàn shì bìbùkěshǎo de · Some people disagree: they think the old style isn't practical to live in, and in winter you have to heat the place yourself. The two views are evenly matched and both make sense. What the residents think is essential.

xiaoming 以前有的地方拆迁，有人送东西、拉关系，有不正之风。现在好多了。
yǐqián yǒude dìfang chāiqiān yǒu rén sòng dōngxi lā guānxì yǒu búzhèngzhīfēng xiànzài hǎo duō le · In the past, when some places were demolished, people gave gifts and pulled strings: there were some bad practices. It's much better now.

professor chen 是啊，今天的好政策来之不易。我每个星期都来胡同里走走，忙得不亦乐乎。
shì a jīntiān de hǎo zhèngcè láizhī búyì wǒ měi gè xīngqī dōu lái hútòng lǐ zǒu zou máng de búyìlèhū · Yes, today's good policies were hard-won. I come and walk round the hutongs every week, and it keeps me busy as anything.

professor chen 我们这儿还有一位外国朋友。安娜，你也说两句？
wǒmen zhèr hái yǒu yí wèi wàiguó péngyou Ānnà nǐ yě shuō liǎng jù · We have a foreign friend here too. Anna, would you like to say a few words?

anna 啊？我……我有点儿不知所措。我只想说，我明天就搬到这儿来了，以后就是大家的街坊！说不定我会在这儿定居呢。
a wǒ wǒ yǒudiǎnr bùzhī suǒcuò wǒ zhǐ xiǎng shuō wǒ míngtiān jiù bān dào zhèr lái le yǐhòu jiùshì dàjiā de jiēfang shuōbudìng wǒ huì zài zhèr dìngjū ne · What? I… I don't know what to say. I just want to say that I'm moving here tomorrow, so from now on I'm your neighbour! Maybe I'll even settle here for good.

xiaoming 你看，大家不约而同地鼓掌，掌声经久不息。
nǐ kàn dàjiā bùyuēértóng de gǔzhǎng zhǎngshēng jīngjiǔ bùxī · Look: everyone started clapping at once, and the applause is going on and on.

professor chen 欢迎欢迎！只要大家锲而不舍，老胡同一定能保护好。今天就讲到这儿。
huānyíng huānyíng zhǐyào dàjiā qiè'érbùshě lǎo hútòng yídìng néng bǎohù hǎo jīntiān jiù jiǎng dào zhèr · Welcome, welcome! As long as we all keep at it, the old hutongs will be protected. That's all for today.

anna 陈教授，看在我们是老朋友的面子上，能给我的书签个名吗？
Chénjiàoshòu kàn zài wǒmen shì lǎo péngyou de miànzi shàng néng gěi wǒ de shū qiān gè míng ma · Professor Chen, for old times' sake, could you sign my book?

professor chen 好说好说！你明天搬家，舍得离开以前的邻居吗？
hǎoshuō hǎoshuō nǐ míngtiān bānjiā shěde líkāi yǐqián de línjū ma · With pleasure! You're moving tomorrow: is it hard to leave your old neighbours?

anna 真有点儿依依不舍。昨天房东奶奶拉着我的手，恋恋不舍地说了半天。
zhēn yǒudiǎnr yīyī bùshě zuótiān fángdōng nǎinai lā zhe wǒ de shǒu liànliàn bùshě de shuō le bàntiān · I really hate to go. Yesterday my landlady held my hand and wouldn't stop talking: she didn't want to let me go.

professor chen 搬家是好事。我做的这些事微不足道，以后你们年轻人要多关心胡同。
bānjiā shì hǎo shì wǒ zuò de zhèxiē shì wēibùzúdào yǐhòu nǐmen niánqīng rén yào duō guānxīn hútòng · Moving is a good thing. What I do is too small to mention: from now on it's up to you young people to look after the hutongs.

xiaoming 陈教授太谦逊了。大家问他问题，他都不厌其烦地回答，邻居们对他赞不绝口。
Chénjiàoshòu tài qiānxùn le dàjiā wèn tā wèntí tā dōu búyàn qífán de huídá línjūmen duì tā zànbùjuékǒu · Professor Chen is too modest. Whatever people ask, he answers with endless patience, and the neighbours can't praise him enough.

anna 是啊，有人问他问题，他不假思索就能回答。一说起胡同，他就滔滔不绝。不知不觉，两个小时就过去了，我听得不由自主地点头。
shì a yǒu rén wèn tā wèntí tā bùjiǎ sīsuǒ jiù néng huídá yì shuō qǐ hútòng tā jiù tāotāo bùjué bùzhī bùjué liǎng gè xiǎoshí jiù guòqù le wǒ tīng de bùyóuzìzhǔ de diǎntóu · Yes: whatever you ask, he can answer without a second's thought. Once he starts on the hutongs he talks on and on. Two hours went by without my noticing, and I couldn't stop nodding.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

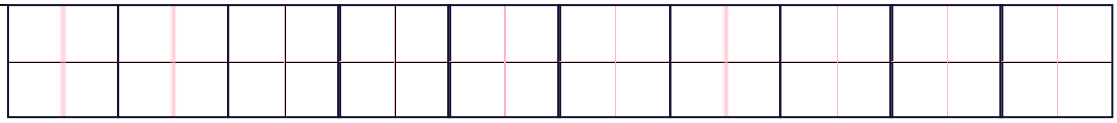
烛
zhú
candle

灶
zào
kitchen range, cooking stove

波
bō
wave



锤
chuí
hammer; to hammer



good to know · Many idioms of the form ……不绝 or ……不息 mean “without end”: 络绎不绝 (visitors), 川流不息 (traffic), 经久不息 (applause), 滔滔不绝 (talk), 赞不绝口 (praise). 依依不舍 and 恋恋不舍 both mean reluctant to part; 依依不舍 is the usual one for people saying goodbye.

With three little frames, 半A半B, 不A不B and 不A而B, a whole shelf of idioms opens up: you can now follow a speech and applaud in style.
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day 40 mission: moving house

Follow a whole moving day in Chinese: the contract, the van, the repairs, the building's notice, the unpacking and the housewarming.

Everything from this unit comes together: houses, tools, hands at work, clothes, the neighbourhood and the idioms of 不.

chapter 1 chapter 1: the van arrives

anna 孙律师，您这么早就来了！
Sūnlǜshī nín zhème zǎo jiù lái le · Lawyer Sun, you're here so early!

lawyer sun 今天你搬家，我顺便把新房子的合同带来了。打今天起，你就是新楼的住户了。
jīntiān nǐ bānjiā wǒ shùnbiàn bǎ xīn fángzi de hétóng dài lái le dǎ jīntiān qǐ nǐ jiùshì xīn lóu de zhùhù le · It's moving day, so I've brought the contract for the new flat. From today you're a resident of the new building.

anna 合同上的事，您总是不厌其烦地给我解释，真是太感谢了。
hétóng shàng de shì nín zǒngshì búyàn qífán de gěi wǒ jiěshì zhēn shì tài gǎnxiè le · You've always explained everything in the contract so patiently: thank you so much.

lawyer sun 微不足道。什么房租的、家具的，都写得清清楚楚。现在租房子比以前规范，乱收钱的不正之风少多了。只有一条你要注意：家用电器坏了，要先告诉房东。
wēibùzúdào shénme fángzū de jiājù de dōu xiě de qīngqīngchuchu xiànzài zū fángzi bǐ yǐqián guīfàn luàn shōu qián de búzhèngzhīfēng shǎo duō le zhǐyǒu yì tiáo nǐ yào zhùyì jiāyòng diànqì huài le yào xiān gàosu fángdōng · It's nothing. The rent, the furniture, it's all set out clearly. Renting is better regulated now: those bad old habits of charging whatever they liked are much rarer. Just one point: if an appliance breaks, tell the landlord first.

xiaoming 搬家公司的车到了！师傅把车熄火了，正在按喇叭叫我们呢。
bānjiā gōngsī de chē dào le shīfu bǎ chē xīhuǒ le zhèngzài àn lǎba jiào wǒmen ne · The removal van's here! The driver has switched off the engine and is honking for us.

anna 要搬就搬个痛快，咱们一上午搬完！
yào bān jiù bān gè tòngkuài zánmen yí shàngwǔ bān wán · If we're moving, let's do it properly: all done by lunchtime!

xiaoming （挽起袖子）你拎小包，我和师傅扛大箱子。妹妹，你挎着电脑包，再托好那个装灯泡的盒子。
wǎn qǐ xiùzi nǐ līn xiǎo bāo wǒ hé shīfu káng dà xiāngzi mèimei nǐ kuà zhe diànnǎo bāo zài tuō hǎo nàge zhuāng dēngpào de hézi · (rolling up his sleeves) You carry the small bags; the driver and I will shoulder the big boxes. Sis, take the computer bag on your shoulder and hold the box of light bulbs steady.

little sister 好说！别说一个盒子，十个我也拿得动。
hǎoshuō biéshuō yí gè hézi shí gè wǒ yě ná de dòng · No problem! Never mind one box: I could manage ten.

lawyer sun 沙发用布遮盖好，别弄脏了。我顶多能帮你们搬半个小时，十点还有个会。
shāfā yòng bù zhēgài hǎo bié nòng zāng le wǒ dǐngduō néng bāng nǐmen bān bàn gè xiǎoshí shí diǎn hái yǒu gè huì · Cover the sofa with a cloth so it doesn't get dirty. I can help for half an hour at most: I have a meeting at ten.

anna 起码让我请您喝个咖啡吧！
qǐmǎ ràng wǒ qǐng nín hē gè kāfēi ba · At least let me buy you a coffee!

lawyer sun 下次吧。对了，门口那个旧箱子，我看都没看就放上车了。那是房东的吧？
xià cì ba duì le ménkǒu nàge jiù xiāngzi wǒ kàn dōu méi kàn jiù fàng shàng chē le nà shì fángdōng de ba · Next time. Oh, that old chest by the door: I put it in the van without even looking. Isn't it the landlord's?

anna 哎呀，是房东的！快拿下来，不然我就落得个偷东西的罪名了！
āiyā shì fángdōng de kuài ná xialai bùrán wǒ jiù luò de gè tōu dōngxi de zuì míng le · Oh no, it's the landlord's! Get it out quick, or I'll end up accused of stealing it!

little sister 墙上的画我都揭下来了，插头也都拔了。
qiáng shàng de huà wǒ dōu jiē xialai le chā tóu yě dōu bá le · I've peeled all the pictures off the walls and pulled out all the plugs.

anna 谢谢！走之前把总开关扳下来。我拨个电话给房东，告诉她钥匙在我兜里，下午还给她。
xièxie zǒu zhīqián bǎ zǒng kāiguān bān xialai wǒ bō gè diànhuà gěi fángdōng gàosu tā yàoshi zài wǒ dōu lǐ xiàwǔ huán gěi tā · Thanks! Pull the main switch down before we go. I'll ring the landlady and tell her the keys are in my pocket and I'll bring them back this afternoon.

xiaoming 小箱子我骑自行车驮过去，一次驮三个。
xiǎo xiāngzi wǒ qí zìxíngchē tuó guoqu yí cì tuó sān gè · I'll take the small boxes over on my bike, three at a time.

anna 房东奶奶刚才拉着我的手，恋恋不舍地说了半天。我住了五年，要离开，真有点儿依依不舍。
fángdōng nǎinai gāngcái lā zhe wǒ de shǒu liànliàn bùshě de shuō le bàntiān wǒ zhù le wǔ nián yào líkāi zhēn yǒudiǎnr yīyī bùshě · The old landlady held my hand just now and talked for ages: she didn't want to let me go. I've lived here five years, and I really hate to leave.

lawyer sun 新家离这儿不远，想回来随时都能回来。
xīn jiā lí zhèr bù yuǎn xiǎng huílái suíshí dōu néng huílái · Your new place isn't far: you can come back any time.

chapter 2 chapter 2: the new flat

anna 你们看，这就是我的新家！我寻觅了一个月，才找到这么好的住处。
nǐmen kàn zhè jiùshì wǒ de xīn jiā wǒ xúnmì le yí gè yuè cái zhǎo dào zhème hǎo de zhùchù · Look, this is my new home! I searched for a month to find somewhere this good.

little sister 天花板很高，还铺着木头地板。从阳台上能看见下面的草坪和喷泉！
tiānhuābǎn hěn gāo hái pū zhe mùtou dìbǎn cóng yángtái shàng néng kànjiàn xiàmiàn de cǎopíng hé pēnquán · High ceilings, wooden floors, and from the balcony you can see the lawn and the fountain below!

xiaoming 这个地段真好，要地铁有地铁，要超市有超市。房子也不临街，晚上很安静。
zhège dìduàn zhēn hǎo yào dìtiě yǒu dìtiě yào chāoshì yǒu chāoshì fángzi yě bù línjiē wǎnshang hěn ānjìng · Great location: a metro, a supermarket, everything. And it doesn't face the street, so it's quiet at night.

little sister 虽然不是别墅，可比我们的老民居方便多了：没有门槛，也不用爬阁楼。
suīrán bú shì biéshù kě bǐ wǒmen de lǎo mínjū fāngbiàn duō le méiyǒu ménkǎn yě búyòng pá gélóu · It's not a villa, but it's much more convenient than our old house: no threshold to trip over, no attic to climb into.

anna 厨房里有微波炉，没有灶，也没有烟囱。
chúfáng lǐ yǒu wēibōlú méiyǒu zào yě méiyǒu yāncōng · There's a microwave in the kitchen: no old stove, no chimney.

xiaoming 住高楼就看不见胡同里的炊烟了。
zhù gāo lóu jiù kàn bu jiàn hútòng lǐ de chuīyān le · In a block of flats you don't see the cooking smoke over the hutong.

anna 唉，美中不足的是，卫生间的马桶好像堵塞了。
ài měizhōng bùzú de shì wèishēngjiān de mǎtǒng hǎoxiàng dǔsè le · Sigh. The one drawback: the toilet seems to be blocked.

dr li 我就知道会有问题。工具都带来了：锤、钉子、斧子、绳子，要什么有什么。先疏通一下，再放水冲洗。好了！
wǒ jiù zhīdào huì yǒu wèntí gōngjù dōu dài lái le chuí dīngzi fǔzi shéngzi yào shénme yǒu shénme xiān shūtōng yíxià zài fàngshuǐ chōngxǐ hǎo le · I knew there'd be something. I've brought all my tools: hammer, nails, axe, rope, the lot. Unblock it first, then run the water and flush it through. Done!

anna 李医生，您一出手，什么问题都解决了！厨房的水龙头也一直在滴水。
Lǐyīshēng nín yì chūshǒu shénme wèntí dōu jiějué le chúfáng de shuǐlóngtóu yě yìzhí zài dī shuǐ · Dr Li, the moment you step in, every problem is solved! And the kitchen tap keeps dripping.

dr li 里面的螺丝松了，我用螺丝刀上紧……好了。门上的把手也松了，我顺便修个把手。
lǐmiàn de luósī sōng le wǒ yòng luósī dāo shàng jǐn hǎo le mén shàng de bǎshou yě sōng le wǒ shùnbiàn xiū gè bǎshou · A screw inside is loose: I'll tighten it with the screwdriver… there. The door handle is loose too, so I'll fix that while I'm at it.

little sister 卧室的灯不亮。
wòshì de dēng bú liàng · The bedroom light doesn't work.

dr li 你扶着梯子，我上去换个灯泡……哎呀，梯子的一条腿差点儿折了！
nǐ fú zhe tīzi wǒ shàngqù huàn gè dēngpào āiyā tīzi de yì tiáo tuǐ chàdiǎnr shé le · Hold the ladder and I'll go up and change the bulb… whoa, one of the ladder's legs nearly snapped!

anna 小心！灯罩也脏了，我等一会儿擦一擦。
xiǎoxīn dēng zhào yě zāng le wǒ děng yíhuìr cā yi ca · Careful! The lampshade's dirty too: I'll wipe it in a minute.

dr li 窗框上的油漆掉了一块，我先打磨一下，周末再来漆一遍。墙上那个洞，不知道谁用纸糊上了，我来修补一下。
chuāng kuàng shàng de yóuqī diào le yí kuài wǒ xiān dǎmó yíxià zhōumò zài lái qī yí biàn qiáng shàng nàge dòng bù zhīdào shéi yòng zhǐ hú shàng le wǒ lái xiūbǔ yíxià · A bit of paint has come off the window frame: I'll sand it now and come back at the weekend to repaint it. That hole in the wall: somebody just pasted paper over it. I'll patch it up.

anna 厨房里，房东留下了一杆旧秤、几个容器，还有一个笔筒。
chúfáng lǐ fángdōng liúxia le yì gǎn jiù chèng jǐ gè róngqì hái yǒu yí gè bǐ tǒng · In the kitchen the landlord has left an old steelyard, a few containers and a pen pot.

xiaoming 这些老器具挺有意思，当个摆设也好。门后再装个钩，挂衣服方便。
zhèxiē lǎo qìjù tǐng yǒu yìsi dāng gè bǎishe yěhǎo mén hòu zài zhuāng gè gōu guà yīfu fāngbiàn · These old utensils are quite fun: they'd make nice ornaments. And put a hook behind the door for coats.

little sister 阳台上那根竹竿可以晒衣服，我再给你买几个夹子。
yángtái shàng nà gēn zhúgān kěyǐ shài yīfu wǒ zài gěi nǐ mǎi jǐ gè jiāzi · The bamboo pole on the balcony is good for drying clothes: I'll buy you some pegs.

anna 房东说冬天供暖，夏天有冷气，洗衣机还能烘干。
fángdōng shuō dōngtiān gōngnuǎn xiàtiān yǒu lěngqì xǐyījī hái néng hōnggān · The landlord says there's heating in winter and air conditioning in summer, and the washing machine can dry clothes too.

dr li 门是防盗的，窗户也密封得很好，记得常开窗透气。
mén shì fángdào de chuānghu yě mìfēng de hěn hǎo jìde cháng kāi chuāng tòuqì · The door is a security door, and the windows seal really well: remember to open them often to let air in.

anna 该修的就修，该换的就换，一上午全弄好了！
gāi xiū de jiù xiū gāi huàn de jiù huàn yí shàngwǔ quán nòng hǎo le · What needed fixing got fixed, what needed changing got changed: all done in one morning!

chapter 3 chapter 3: a notice by the lift

anna （读）“致各位住户：欢迎大家搬进新落成的阳光楼！本楼去年动工兴建，今年三月封顶，上个月正式竣工。为了大家住得安全、方便，请注意以下几点：
dú zhì gèwèi zhùhù huānyíng dàjiā bān jìn xīn luòchéng de yángguāng lóu běn lóu qùnián dònggōng xīngjiàn jīnnián sān yuè fēngdǐng shàng gè yuè zhèngshì jùngōng wèile dàjiā zhù de ānquán fāngbiàn qǐng zhùyì yīxià jǐ diǎn · (reading) “To all residents: Welcome to the newly completed Sunshine Building! Construction began last year, the building was topped out in March and finished last month. For your safety and convenience, please note the following:

anna 一、过道和阶梯是公用的地方，请勿堆放箱子、凳子、架子等东西。二、出门前请关好防盗门和窗户。三、东门正在扩建，门外正在铺路，施工期间请走斑马线，车辆请避让行人。
yī guòdào hé jiētī shì gōngyòng de dìfang qǐng wù duī fàng xiāngzi dèngzi jiàzi děng dōngxi èr chūmén qián qǐng guān hǎo fángdào mén hé chuānghu sān dōng mén zhèngzài kuòjiàn mén wài zhèngzài pūlù shīgōng qījiān qǐng zǒu bānmǎxiàn chēliàng qǐng bìràng xíngrén · 1. Corridors and stairways are shared areas: please do not leave boxes, stools, shelves or other items there. 2. Please lock the security door and close the windows when you go out. 3. The east gate is being extended and the road outside is being paved: during the works please use the zebra crossing, and drivers must give way to pedestrians.

anna 四、本楼十一月十五日开始供暖。五、楼下新搭建了自行车棚，请把车放在棚里。请爱护楼前的草坪和喷泉，请勿在露天的地方点火、放烟火。
sì běn lóu shíyī yuè shíwǔ rì kāishǐ gōngnuǎn wǔ lóu xià xīn dājiàn le zìxíngchē péng qǐng bǎ chē fàng zài péng lǐ qǐng àihù lóu qián de cǎopíng hé pēnquán qǐng wù zài lùtiān de dìfang diǎnhuǒ fàng yānhuǒ · 4. Heating will come on on 15 November. 5. A new bike shed has been put up downstairs: please keep bikes in the shed. Please look after the lawn and the fountain in front of the building; no fires or fireworks in open areas.

anna 六、需要家政、维修等服务，请拨打管理处电话。管理处想住户之所想，急住户之所急，向全体住户致以诚挚的问候！”
liù xūyào jiāzhèng wéixiū děng fúwù qǐng bōdǎ guǎnlǐ chù diànhuà guǎnlǐ chù xiǎng zhùhù zhī suǒ xiǎng jí zhùhù zhī suǒ jí xiàng quántǐ zhùhù zhì yǐ chéngzhì de wènhòu · 6. For housekeeping, repairs and other services, please call the management office. The management office is here for whatever you need, and sends warm greetings to all residents!”

little sister 写得真清楚！“勿”是什么意思？
xiě de zhēn qīngchu wù shì shénme yìsi · That’s really clear! What does 勿 mean?

xiaoming “勿”就是“不要”，书面上用的，通知里常见。
wù jiùshì búyào shūmiàn shàng yòng de tōngzhī lǐ cháng jiàn · 勿 means “don’t”: it’s for writing, and you see it a lot in notices.

anna 不能放烟火？那春节怎么办？
bù néng fàng yānhuǒ nà Chūnjié zěnme bàn · No fireworks? What about the Spring Festival, then?

xiaoming 到时候来我们胡同吧。城里早就不让放烟火了，不过街坊们一起包饺子，热闹得要命。
dào shíhou lái wǒmen hútòng ba chéng lǐ zǎo jiù bú ràng fàng yānhuǒ le búguò jiēfangmen yìqǐ bāo jiǎozi rènao de yàomìng · Come to our hutong then. Fireworks have been banned in the city for years anyway, but the neighbours make dumplings together, and it’s incredibly lively.

little sister 我还以为新楼什么都好，原来规矩这么多。
wǒ hái yǐwéi xīn lóu shénme dōu hǎo yuánlái guīju zhème duō · I thought the new building was perfect, but there are so many rules.

anna 没什么好抱怨的。规矩多，大家才住得安心，这个道理不言而喻。
méi shénme hǎo bàoyuàn de guīju duō dàjiā cái zhù de ānxīn zhège dàolǐ bùyánéryù · Nothing to complain about. With rules, everyone can live in peace: that goes without saying.

chapter 4 chapter 4: unpacking

little sister 箱子都在这儿了！我掰着手指数了数，一共二十个。我来把盖子掀开。
xiāngzi dōu zài zhèr le wǒ bāi zhe shǒuzhǐ shù le shù yígòng èrshí gè wǒ lái bǎ gài zi xiān kāi · All the boxes are here! I counted on my fingers: twenty in all. I'll open the lids.

anna 慢慢来，别把东西扯坏了。这个箱子里什么时装的、首饰的，别弄乱了。
màn màn lái bié bǎ dōngxi chě huài le zhège xiāngzi lǐ shénme shízhuāng de shǒushì de bié nòng luàn le · Take it slowly: don't tear anything. This box has clothes, jewellery and so on: don't mess it up.

little sister 你的衣裳真多！这双皮革靴子真时髦。还有一条钻石项链！
nǐ de yīshang zhēn duō zhè shuāng pígé xuēzi zhēn shímáo hái yǒu yì tiáo zuànshí xiàngliàn · You've got so many clothes! These leather boots are so stylish. And a diamond necklace!

anna 项链是你妈妈借我的，我得还给她。那件外套的拉链坏了，纽扣也掉了一个，得找裁缝缝一下。
xiàngliàn shì nǐ māma jiè wǒ de wǒ děi huán gěi tā nà jiàn wàitào de lāliàn huài le niǔkòu yě diào le yí gè děi zhǎo cáifeng féng yíxià · The necklace is your mum's: she lent it to me and I must give it back. The zip on that jacket is broken and a button's come off: I need a tailor to sew it.

little sister 不用找裁缝，我会缝！这些毛衣是你自己织的吗？
búyòng zhǎo cáifeng wǒ huì féng zhèxiē máoyī shì nǐ zìjǐ zhī de ma · No need for a tailor: I can sew! Did you knit these jumpers yourself?

anna 是你奶奶编织的，送给我的。这条纱裙子要用冷水洗涤，那件丝衬衫要熨一熨。
shì nǐ nǎinai biānzhī de sòng gěi wǒ de zhè tiáo shā qúnzi yào yòng lěng shuǐ xǐdí nà jiàn sī chènshān yào yùn yi yun · Your grandma knitted them for me. This gauze skirt has to be washed in cold water, and that silk shirt needs ironing.

little sister 这个小箱子里是梳子、肥皂、手帕什么的。
zhège xiǎo xiāngzi lǐ shì shūzi féizào shǒupà shénme de · This little box has combs, soap, handkerchiefs and things.

anna 放进卫生间吧。窗帘太长了，得裁短一些。桌子也不平，在下面垫本书。
fàng jìn wèishēngjiān ba chuānglián tài cháng le děi cái duǎn yìxiē zhuōzi yě bùpíng zài xiàmiàn diàn běn shū · Put them in the bathroom. The curtains are too long: they need cutting shorter. And the table wobbles: put a book under it.

xiaoming 这个抽屉卡住了，拽都拽不开。
zhège chōuti kǎ zhù le zhuài dōu zhuài bu kāi · This drawer is stuck: it won't even budge.

little sister 我用螺丝刀撬一下……开了！哎呀，我磕到头了。
wǒ yòng luósī dāo qiào yíxià kāi le āiyā wǒ kē dào tóu le · I'll prise it with a screwdriver… it's open! Ouch, I've bumped my head.

anna 你看你，真是的！墙太硬，挂画得先凿个洞，晚上再说吧。我腰好酸，谁帮我捶一捶？
nǐ kàn nǐ zhēnshi de qiáng tài yìng guà huà děi xiān záo gè dòng wǎnshang zàishuō ba wǒ yāo hǎo suān shéi bāng wǒ chuí yi chui · Look at you, honestly! The walls are too hard: we'll need to bore holes before hanging pictures. Let's leave it till later. My back aches: who'll thump it for me?

little sister 我给你捏捏肩膀。你看你，累得直揉眼睛。
wǒ gěi nǐ niē nie jiānbǎng nǐ kàn nǐ lèi de zhí róu yǎnjing · I'll squeeze your shoulders. Look at you: you're so tired you keep rubbing your eyes.

xiaoming 休息十分钟，我掐着时间。哎，大白呢？刚才还在这儿。
xiūxi shí fēnzhōng wǒ qiā zhe shíjiān āi Dàbái ne gāngcái hái zài zhèr · Ten minutes' break: I'm timing it. Hey, where's Dabai? He was here a minute ago.

little sister 刚才它想潜入厨房，被我一把揪住了。它一看见我，就撒腿跑了。
gāngcái tā xiǎng qiánrù chúfáng bèi wǒ yì bǎ jiū zhù le tā yí kànjiàn wǒ jiù sā tuǐ pǎo le · He tried to sneak into the kitchen just now and I grabbed him. The moment he saw me, he took to his heels.

anna 门一直敞开着，它多半趁机跑出去了。没准儿又在楼下的草坪上刨土呢！
mén yìzhí chǎngkāi zhe tā duōbàn chènjī pǎo chuqu le méizhǔnr yòu zài lóu xià de cǎopíng shàng páo tǔ ne · The door's been wide open: he probably slipped out. Maybe he's digging up the lawn downstairs again!

xiaoming 我们分头搜寻吧。它最喜欢寻个安静的地方睡觉，八成还在家里。
wǒmen fēn tóu sōuxún ba tā zuì xǐhuan xún gè ānjìng de dìfang shuìjiào bāchéng hái zài jiā lǐ · Let's split up and search. He loves finding a quiet spot to sleep: he's most likely still in the flat.

little sister 我在门口探头看了看，没有。大不了我在门口守候，它饿了迟早会回来。
wǒ zài ménkǒu tàn tóu kàn le kan méiyǒu dàbuliǎo wǒ zài ménkǒu shǒuhòu tā è le chízǎo huì huílái · I stuck my head out of the door and looked: nothing. At worst I'll wait at the door: he'll come back when he's hungry.

xiaoming 你们看，窗帘后面！它用窗帘遮着自己，以为我们看不见。
nǐmen kàn chuānglián hòumiàn tā yòng chuānglián zhē zhe zìjǐ yǐwéi wǒmen kàn bu jiàn · Look, behind the curtain! He's covering himself with it and thinks we can't see him.

anna 窗帘可遮挡不住它的大尾巴。它在里面酣睡呢，叫都叫不醒。
chuānglián kě zhēdǎng bu zhù tā de dà wěiba tā zài lǐmiàn hānshuì ne jiào dōu jiào bu xǐng · The curtain can't hide that big tail. He's fast asleep in there: you can't even wake him.

little sister 我来唤醒它：大白，吃饭了！……你看，它马上瞄准了自己的碗。它迟迟不出来，就是在等这句话！
wǒ lái huànxǐng tā Dàbái chī fàn le nǐ kàn tā mǎshàng miáozhǔn le zìjǐ de wǎn tā chíchí bù chūlái jiùshì zài děng zhè jù huà · I'll wake him: Dabai, dinner! …Look, he's spotted his bowl at once. He was only hanging back waiting to hear that!

anna （捂着嘴笑）哈哈，它跟我一样，也想找个舒服的住处。
wǔ zhe zuǐ xiào hā hā tā gēn wǒ yíyàng yě xiǎng zhǎo gè shūfu de zhùchù · (laughing behind her hand) Ha ha, he's just like me: he wants a comfy place to live too.

xiaoming 客人快来了，我们得装扮一下。我的发型乱了。
kèrén kuài lái le wǒmen děi zhuāngbàn yíxià wǒ de fàxíng luàn le · The guests will be here soon: we need to smarten up. My hair's a mess.

little sister 借你梳子梳一梳。你应该穿旧衣服来干活，现在全身都是土。
jiè nǐ shūzi shū yi shu nǐ yīnggāi chuān jiù yīfu lái gànhuó xiànzài quánshēn dōu shì tǔ · Borrow my comb. You should have worn old clothes to work in: you're covered in dirt.

anna 我佩戴什么首饰呢？
wǒ pèidài shénme shǒushì ne · What jewellery shall I wear?

little sister 简单一点儿就好。你的穿着一向很得体，不用太新潮。先拿扫帚来个大扫除吧！
jiǎndān yìdiǎnr jiù hǎo nǐ de chuānzhuó yíxiàng hěn détǐ búyòng tài xīncháo xiān ná sàozhou lái gè dà sǎochú ba · Keep it simple. You always dress just right: no need to be too trendy. First, grab the broom and let's have a big clean!

chapter 5 chapter 5: the housewarming

xiaoming 客人络绎不绝，你的新家都快没地方坐了。
kèrén luòyì bùjué nǐ de xīn jiā dōu kuài méi dìfang zuò le · The guests keep coming: your new home is nearly full.

professor chen 安娜，祝贺你搬进新家！我给你带了一张老照片，配了个框，当个摆设。
Ānnà zhùhè nǐ bān jìn xīn jiā wǒ gěi nǐ dài le yì zhāng lǎo zhàopiàn pèi le gè kuàng dāng gè bǎishe · Anna, congratulations on your new home! I've brought you an old photo in a frame, as an ornament.

anna 谢谢！这是胡同吧？屋檐上的瓦、门口的柱子、院子的围墙，都是一百年前的样子，真是不可思议。
xièxie zhè shì hútòng ba wūyán shàng de wǎ ménkǒu de zhùzi yuànzi de wéiqiáng dōu shì yìbǎi nián qián de yàngzi zhēn shì bùkě sīyì · Thank you! Is this the hutong? The tiles on the eaves, the pillars by the gate, the courtyard wall: just as they were a hundred years ago. Incredible.

teacher wang 我带了几根蜡烛、一条毯子，还有一包朋友在杭州采的茶。蜡烛别放在窗帘旁边，蜡滴在地毯上不好洗。
wǒ dài le jǐ gēn làzhú yì tiáo tǎnzi hái yǒu yì bāo péngyou zài Hángzhōu cǎi de chá làzhú bié fàng zài chuānglián pángbiān là dī zài dìtǎn shàng bù hǎo xǐ · I've brought some candles, a blanket, and a packet of tea a friend picked in Hangzhou. Don't put the candles by the curtains: wax on a carpet is hard to clean.

anna 谢谢王老师！快请坐。凳子不够，大家坐垫子吧。
xièxie Wánglǎoshī kuài qǐng zuò dèngzi búgòu dàjiā zuò diànzi ba · Thank you, Teacher Wang! Please sit down. There aren't enough stools, so do sit on the cushions.

teacher wang 不知不觉，你来中国已经十年了。你打算在北京定居吗？
bùzhī bùjué nǐ lái Zhōngguó yǐjīng shí nián le nǐ dǎsuàn zài Běijīng dìngjū ma · Before we knew it, you've been in China ten years. Are you planning to settle in Beijing?

anna 我早就在这儿落户了！刚来的时候，我什么都不懂，常常不知所措，您总是不厌其烦地教我。
wǒ zǎo jiù zài zhèr luòhù le gāng lái de shíhou wǒ shénme dōu bù dǒng chángcháng bùzhī suǒcuò nín zǒngshì búyàn qífán de jiāo wǒ · I put down roots here long ago! When I first came I knew nothing and was often at a loss, and you always taught me so patiently.

teacher wang 你连邻居家的孩子都肯请教，真是不耻下问。学语言，锲而不舍是必不可少的。你的进步来之不易。
nǐ lián línjū jiā de háizi dōu kěn qǐngjiào zhēn shì bùchǐ xiàwèn xué yǔyán qiè'érbùshě shì bìbùkěshǎo de nǐ de jìnbù láizhī búyì · You'd even ask the neighbours' children: never ashamed to ask anyone. Learning a language, perseverance is a must. Your progress was hard-won.

professor chen 对了，你们胡同还拆迁吗？
duì le nǐmen hútòng hái chāiqiān ma · By the way, is your hutong still going to be demolished?

xiaoming 不拆了，也不搬迁住户，只翻新。我们家从西安迁过来以后，就一直住在那儿。还有个好消息：胡同口那对不翼而飞的狮子，今天回来了！
bù chāi le yě bù bānqiān zhùhù zhǐ fānxīn wǒmen jiā cóng Xīān qiān guolai yǐhòu jiù yìzhí zhù zài nàr hái yǒu gè hǎo xiāoxi hútòng kǒu nà duì búyìérfēi de shīzi jīntiān huílái le · No, and they won't move the residents out either: just renovate. Our family has lived there ever since we moved from Xi'an. And more good news: the stone lions that vanished from the end of the lane came back today!

anna 真的？听说它们是被送去修补了，我一度还半信半疑。
zhēn de tīngshuō tāmen shì bèi sòng qù xiūbǔ le wǒ yídù hái bànxìn bànyí · Really? I heard they'd been taken away for repair, but for a while I only half believed it.

professor chen 我说过，这件事不会不了了之的。当时它们为什么"不辞而别"，很多人都不得而知。
wǒ shuō guo zhè jiàn shì bú huì bùliǎo liǎozhī de dāngshí tāmen wèi shénme bùcíérbié hěn duō rén dōu bùdéérzhī · I told you it wouldn't just be forgotten. At the time, lots of people had no idea why they'd "left without saying goodbye".

teacher wang 你的新邻居怎么样？
nǐ de xīn línjū zěnmeyàng · And how are your new neighbours?

anna 刚才楼下的住户都来了，送了我好多吃的。大家不约而同地说："有事就找我们！"
gāngcái lóu xià de zhùhù dōu lái le sòng le wǒ hǎoduō chī de dàjiā bùyuēértóng de shuō yǒu shì jiù zhǎo wǒmen · The people downstairs have all been up and brought me loads of food. They all said the same thing: "If you need anything, come to us!"

professor chen 这样的邻居，现在很难得。你看窗外，车辆川流不息，新的饭馆层出不穷，可是好邻居最重要。
zhèyàng de línjū xiànzài hěn nándé nǐ kàn chuāng wài chēliàng chuānliú bùxī xīn de fànguǎn céngchū bùqióng kěshì hǎo línjū zuì zhòngyào · Neighbours like that are rare now. Look out of the window: endless traffic, new restaurants opening one after another, but good neighbours matter most.

little sister 菜来了！哥哥和我做的，你们尝尝，看谁做得好。
cài lái le gēge hé wǒ zuò de nǐmen cháng chang kàn shéi zuò de hǎo · Food's here! My brother and I made it: try it and see whose is better.

teacher wang 两个人的水平不相上下，都好吃！
liǎng gè rén de shuǐpíng bùxiāng shàngxià dōu hǎochī · You're evenly matched: both delicious!

anna 大家对你们的菜赞不绝口。李医生却不以为然，他说还是张女士做的最好。
dàjiā duì nǐmen de cài zànbùjuékǒu Lǐyīshēng què bùyǐwéirán tā shuō háishi Zhāngnǚshì zuò de zuìhǎo · Everyone's full of praise for your cooking. Dr Li doesn't agree, though: he says Ms Zhang's is still the best.

xiaoming 我爸爸累了一天，坐在凳子上就打盹儿了。
wǒ bàba lèi le yì tiān zuò zài dèngzi shàng jiù dǎdǔnr le · My dad's been working all day: he's dozed off on his stool.

little sister 陈教授一讲起胡同的历史，就滔滔不绝，大家听着听着，不由自主地鼓掌，掌声经久不息。
Chénjiàoshòu yì jiǎng qǐ hútòng de lìshǐ jiù tāotāo bùjué dàjiā tīng zhe tīng zhe bùyóuzìzhǔ de gǔzhǎng zhǎngshēng jīngjiǔ bùxī · Once Professor Chen starts on the history of the hutong, he talks on and on: everyone listening just starts clapping, and the applause goes on and on.

professor chen 你们问什么，我都不假思索地回答，因为这是我最爱的话题。
nǐmen wèn shénme wǒ dōu bùjiǎ sīsuǒ de huídá yīnwèi zhè shì wǒ zuì ài de huàtí · Whatever you ask, I answer without a second's thought, because it's my favourite subject.

xiaoming 今天大家忙得不亦乐乎。现在该吃就吃，该聊就聊，大家一面吃，一面聊吧！
jīntiān dàjiā máng de búyìlèhū xiànzài gāi chī jiù chī gāi liáo jiù liáo dàjiā yímiàn chī yímiàn liáo ba · We've all been rushed off our feet today. Now, time to eat and time to chat: eat and chat together!

little sister 要玩就玩个痛快，我今天晚上不走了！
yào wán jiù wán gè tòngkuài wǒ jīntiān wǎnshang bù zǒu le · If we're having fun, let's really have fun: I'm staying the night!

anna 欢迎欢迎！一句话，以后这儿就是大家的家，客人源源不断，我最开心了。
huānyíng huānyíng yí jù huà yǐhòu zhèr jiùshì dàjiā de jiā kèrén yuányuán búduàn wǒ zuì kāixīn le · You're very welcome! In a word, from now on this is everyone's home: the more guests, the happier I am.

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