wishyou.today learning

day 57 wild and tame animals

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 8 · nature

Name wild and farm animals, birds and pests, talk about hunters and prey, and say “do each thing when it’s time” with 该X就X.

Animals fill Chinese idioms, stories and nature writing. A day at the zoo is the easiest way to meet them all at once.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
豹	bào	leopard	豹爬树爬得特别快。 Leopards climb trees incredibly fast.
狐狸	húli	fox	狐狸在洞里做了一个窝。 The fox has made a den in the hole.
鹿	lù	deer	几只鹿在树林边吃草。 A few deer are grazing at the edge of the wood.
骏马	jùnmǎ	fine horse, steed	草原上有一匹白色的骏马。 There is a white steed on the grassland.
猩猩	xīngxing	orangutan, great ape	那只猩猩在吃香蕉。 That orangutan is eating a banana.
恐龙	kǒnglóng	dinosaur	孩子们都喜欢看恐龙。 Kids all love looking at dinosaurs.
鳄鱼	èyú	crocodile	鳄鱼看起来很懒，其实非常凶猛。 Crocodiles look lazy, but they’re extremely fierce.
鲸	jīng	whale	鲸是世界上最大的动物。 Whales are the largest animals in the world.
海豚	hǎitún	dolphin	海豚是一种很聪明的动物。 Dolphins are very clever animals.
龟	guī	tortoise, turtle	池子里有一只一百多岁的老龟。 There is a tortoise over a hundred years old in the pond.
鲤鱼	lǐyú	carp	公园的湖里有很多红色的鲤鱼。 There are lots of red carp in the park lake.
大雁	dàyàn	wild goose	秋天，一群大雁往南飞。 In autumn, a flock of wild geese flies south.
天鹅	tiāné	swan	湖上有两只白天鹅。 There are two white swans on the lake.
仙鹤	xiānhè	red-crowned crane	仙鹤的头上有一块红色。 The red-crowned crane has a red patch on its head.
鹰	yīng	eagle, hawk	一只鹰在山谷上空飞来飞去。 An eagle is circling above the valley.
燕子	yànzi	swallow (bird)	燕子在屋檐下面做了一个窝。 Swallows have built a nest under the eaves.

鸽子	gēzi	pigeon, dove	广场上的鸽子一点儿也不怕人。 The pigeons in the square aren't afraid of people at all.
鹅	é	goose	院子里养着几只白色的大鹅。 A few big white geese are kept in the yard.
家禽	jiāqín	poultry	鸡和鹅都是家禽。 Chickens and geese are both poultry.
牲畜	shēngchù	livestock	牛和羊是牲畜。 Cattle and sheep are livestock.
苍蝇	cāngying	fly (insect)	厨房里有一只苍蝇，快把它赶出去。 There's a fly in the kitchen: shoo it out.
蚊子	wénzi	mosquito	夏天晚上蚊子特别多。 There are loads of mosquitoes on summer evenings.
害虫	hàichóng	pest, harmful insect	燕子吃害虫，是农民的好朋友。 Swallows eat pests: they're farmers' friends.
野兽	yěshòu	wild beast	以前这片森林里有很多野兽。 There used to be lots of wild animals in this forest.
凶猛	xiōngměng	fierce, ferocious	老虎是一种凶猛的动物。 The tiger is a ferocious animal.
天敌	tiāndí	natural enemy, predator	鹰是很多小动物的天敌。 Eagles are the natural enemy of many small animals.
捕食	bǔshí	to prey on, hunt for food	狐狸常常在晚上出来捕食。 Foxes often come out at night to hunt.
猎物	lièwù	prey	豹悄悄地靠近它的猎物。 The leopard creeps up on its prey.
猎人	lièrén	hunter	故事里的猎人最后放走了小鹿。 In the story the hunter lets the little deer go in the end.
打猎	dǎliè	to hunt	现在这一带不许打猎了。 Hunting is no longer allowed round here.
诱饵	yòuěr	bait	钓鱼的时候，他用虫子做诱饵。 When he goes fishing he uses worms as bait.
爪子	zhuǎzi	claw, paw	鹰用爪子抓住了一条鱼。 The eagle caught a fish in its claws.
巢穴	cháoxué	lair, den, nest	狐狸的巢穴一般在山洞里。 A fox's den is usually in a cave.
窝	wō	nest, den; litter	大白的窝就在门口。 Dabai's bed is right by the door.
鸟巢	niǎocháo	bird's nest	树上有一个鸟巢。 There's a bird's nest in the tree.

pattern 该x就x: do each thing when it's time

该 + X **（就）X，** **该 + Y（就）Y**

该X就X says: when it’s time for X, do X, no fuss. Two of them in a row describe an easy, sensible rhythm: 该吃就吃，该睡就睡. Use the same verb twice. 动不动就, from day 51, is its opposite: things that happen far too easily.

我们家大白该吃就吃，该睡就睡，什么也不操心。 **wǒmen jiā Dàbái gāi chī jiù chī gāi shuì jiù shuì shénme yě bù cāoxīn** Our Dabai eats when it’s time to eat and sleeps when it’s time to sleep: not a care in the world.

广场上的鸽子该吃就吃，该飞就飞，一点儿也不怕人。 **guǎngchǎng shàng de gēzi gāi chī jiù chī gāi fēi jiù fēi yìdiǎnr yě bú pà rén** The pigeons in the square eat when they want and fly when they want: they aren’t afraid of people at all.

在动物园里，该看的看，该拍的拍，可是别吵着动物。 **zài dòngwùyuán lǐ gāi kàn de kàn gāi pāi de pāi kěshì bié chǎo zhe dòngwù** At the zoo, look at what you want and take your photos, but don’t disturb the animals.

dialogue sunday at the zoo

little sister 先去看猩猩！听说那只猩猩动不动就向游客扔香蕉皮。
xiān qù kàn xīngxing tīngshuō nà zhī xīngxing dòngbudòng jiù xiàng yóukè rēng xiāngjiāo pí · Let's see the apes first! Apparently that orangutan throws banana skins at visitors at the drop of a hat.

xiaoming 你小时候也一样，动不动就扔东西。
nǐ xiǎoshíhou yě yíyàng dòngbudòng jiù rēng dōngxi · You were just the same as a kid: always throwing things.

anna 你们看那边，几只鹿在吃草，一旁还有几匹骏马。
nǐmen kàn nàbiān jǐ zhī lù zài chī cǎo yìpáng hái yǒu jǐ pǐ jùnmǎ · Look over there: a few deer are grazing, and there are some fine horses beside them.

xiaoming 野兽区在后面，有豹、狐狸，还有鳄鱼。它们都是凶猛的动物，在野外靠捕食生活，小动物都是它们的猎物。
yěshòu qū zài hòumiàn yǒu bào húli hái yǒu èyú tāmen dōu shì xiōngměng de dòngwù zài yěwài kào bǔshí shēnghuó xiǎo dòngwù dōu shì tāmen de lièwù · The wild animals are at the back: leopards, foxes and crocodiles. They're all fierce animals that live by hunting in the wild, and small animals are their prey.

little sister 以前山里有很多猎人，现在不许随便打猎了。
yǐqián shān lǐ yǒu hěn duō lièrén xiànzài bùxǔ suíbiàn dǎliè le · There used to be lots of hunters in the mountains; now you're not allowed to hunt as you please.

xiaoming 前几天新闻里说，一只鹿在山里迷失了方向，跑到了公路中间。
qián jǐ tiān xīnwén lǐ shuō yì zhī lù zài shān lǐ míshī le fāngxiàng pǎo dào le gōnglù zhōngjiān · The news the other day said a deer lost its way in the mountains and ended up in the middle of the road.

anna 那个工作人员在干什么？把肉挂在树上当诱饵？
nàge gōngzuò rényuán zài gàn shénme bǎ ròu guà zài shù shàng dàng yòuěr · What is that keeper doing? Hanging meat in the tree as bait?

xiaoming 对，让豹自己爬上去拿，这样它们就不会忘了怎么用爪子。豹的巢穴就在那块凸出来的大石头后面。
duì ràng bào zìjǐ pá shangqu ná zhèyàng tāmen jiù bú huì wàng le zěnme yòng zhuǎzi bào de cháoxué jiù zài nà kuài tū chulai de dà shítou hòumiàn · Yes: the leopards have to climb up and get it themselves, so they don't forget how to use their claws. Their den is behind that big rock sticking out.

little sister 大水池里还有海豚和白鲸！湖上有天鹅和仙鹤，天上还飞过一群大雁。
dà shuǐ chí lǐ hái yǒu hǎitún hé bái jīng hú shàng yǒu tiāné hé xiānhè tiānshàng hái fēi guò yì qún dàyàn · There are dolphins and belugas in the big pool! There are swans and cranes on the lake, and a flock of wild geese just flew over.

xiaoming 去年我们坐游船的时候，也看见过一群海豚跟在船后面。
qùnián wǒmen zuò yóuchuán de shíhou yě kànjiàn guò yì qún hǎitún gēn zài chuán hòumiàn · Last year, when we took a pleasure boat, we saw a pod of dolphins following the boat too.

anna 池子里的鲤鱼好多啊。那只龟在池子边缘一动也不动，是不是睡着了？
chí zi lǐ de lǐyú hǎoduō a nà zhī guī zài chí zi biānyuán yí dòng yě bú dòng shì bu shì shuì zháo le · There are so many carp in the pond. That tortoise at the edge of the pond isn't moving at all: is it asleep?

xiaoming 它都一百多岁了，该吃就吃，该睡就睡，比我们会生活。走，出去以后我们顺路去自然博物馆看恐龙！
tā dōu yìbǎi duō suì le gāi chī jiù chī gāi shuì jiù shuì bǐ wǒmen huì shēnghuó zǒu chūqù yǐhòu wǒmen shùnlù qù zìrán bówùguǎn kàn kǒnglóng · It's over a hundred years old: it eats when it's time to eat and sleeps when it's time to sleep. It knows how to live better than we do. Come on, after this let's drop in at the natural history museum on the way and see the dinosaurs!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

剥
bāo
to peel, shell

削
xiāo
to peel (with a knife), pare

宰
zǎi
to slaughter, kill (for food); to rip off

榨
zhà
to press, squeeze (juice, oil)

good to know · Animal homes: 窝 (any nest or den, even a dog's bed), 巢 / 鸟巢 (a bird's nest), 巢穴 (a lair; also a gang's hideout), 洞 (a hole or burrow). 鸟巢 is also the nickname of Beijing's National Stadium, built for the 2008 Olympics, and 水立方 (the Water Cube) stands next to it.

Leopards, cranes, crocodiles and a hundred-year-old tortoise: the whole animal kingdom now speaks Chinese to you.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 58 how animals live

Explain how animals live (hatch, migrate, hibernate, breed, survive) and how people raise them, and give your reasons one by one with 一来……，二来……，三来……

Nature documentaries, museum labels and science articles are full of these words. 一来……二来…… is the natural way to list reasons when you explain anything.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
哺乳	bǔrǔ	to suckle, breastfeed	鲸是哺乳动物，不是鱼。 Whales are mammals, not fish.
孵化	fūhuà	to hatch, incubate	小鸡从鸡蛋里孵化出来了。 The chicks have hatched from their eggs.
卵	luǎn	egg (biology), ovum	很多鱼一次能产几千个卵。 Many fish can lay thousands of eggs at a time.
繁衍	fányǎn	to multiply, reproduce	这些鸟在这片湖边繁衍了几千年。 These birds have bred by this lake for thousands of years.
雌性	cíxìng	female (animals)	这只鸟是雌性的，颜色没那么鲜艳。 This bird is a female: its colours aren't as bright.
雄性	xióngxìng	male (animals)	雄性的鸟，颜色往往更漂亮。 Male birds are often more colourful.
两栖	liǎngqī	amphibious	有些动物是两栖的，在水里和陆地上都能生活。 Some animals are amphibious: they can live both in water and on land.
迁徙	qiānxǐ	to migrate	每年秋天，很多鸟要迁徙到南方。 Every autumn, many birds migrate south.
休眠	xiūmián	to hibernate, lie dormant	熊冬天要休眠好几个月。 Bears hibernate for months in winter.
物种	wùzhǒng	species	这个物种现在已经很少了。 This species is now very rare.
存活	cúnhuó	to survive	离开了水，鱼很难存活。 Out of water, fish can hardly survive.
捕获	bǔhuò	to catch, capture	渔船一次捕获了很多鱼。 The fishing boat caught a lot of fish in one go.
鸣	míng	to cry, sing (birds); to sound	清早，树林里鸟鸣声不断。 Early in the morning, the woods are full of birdsong.
飞翔	fēixiáng	to fly, soar	一群鸟在湖面上自由地飞翔。 A flock of birds soars freely over the lake.
驯	xùn	to tame, train	人们驯狗已经有一万多年了。 People have been taming dogs for more than ten thousand years.
饲养	sìyǎng	to raise, breed (animals)	他在家里饲养了几只兔子。 He keeps a few rabbits at home.

饲料	sìliào	animal feed, fodder	冬天草少，要给牛羊准备饲料。 There's little grass in winter, so you have to prepare feed for the cattle and sheep.
畜牧	xùmù	animal husbandry	这里的人主要靠畜牧生活。 People here live mainly by raising livestock.
养殖	yǎngzhí	to farm, breed (fish, animals)	这个村子靠养殖鱼虾富了起来。 This village got rich by farming fish and prawns.
牧场	mùchǎng	pasture, ranch	夏天，牧民把牛羊赶到山上的牧场。 In summer the herders drive their cattle and sheep to the mountain pastures.
牧民	mùmín	herder, herdsman	牧民们一年要搬好几次家。 The herders move several times a year.
圈	juān	to pen in, shut in	天黑了，把羊圈{juan1-7}起来。 It's getting dark: pen the sheep in.
圈	juàn	pen, fold (for animals)	羊圈{juan4-7}里有五十多只{zhi1}羊。 There are over fifty sheep in the fold.
渔民	yúmín	fisherman	渔民们天不亮就出海了。 The fishermen put out to sea before dawn.
贝壳	bèiké	shell, seashell	孩子们在沙滩上捡贝壳。 The children are collecting shells on the beach.
壳	ké	shell, husk	鸡蛋壳很薄，一碰就破。 Eggshells are thin and break at a touch.
海绵	hǎimián	sponge	海绵能吸很多水。 A sponge can soak up a lot of water.
海藻	hǎizǎo	seaweed	很多小鱼藏在海藻里。 Lots of little fish hide in the seaweed.
礁石	jiāoshí	reef, rocks	船撞上了礁石。 The boat hit the rocks.
自然界	zìránjiè	the natural world	自然界里有很多我们不了解的事。 There's a lot we don't understand about the natural world.
生机	shēngjī	vitality, signs of life	春天来了，到处都充满了生机。 Spring has come, and everything is full of life.

pattern 一来……，二来……: for one thing …, for another …

result / choice， **一来 + reason 1，** **二来 + reason 2** **（，三来……）**

一来……，二来…… lists the reasons for something, one by one: "for one thing …, for another …". Add 三来 for a third. It is everyday and neat at the same time, perfect for explaining choices. The reasons usually come after what they explain.

大雁往南飞，一来南方暖和，二来那儿吃的东西多。 **dàyàn wǎng nán fēi yìlái nánfāng nuǎnhuo èrlái nàr chī de dōngxi duō** Wild geese fly south because, for one thing, it's warmer there, and for another, there's more to eat.

牧民常常搬家，一来是为了找新的牧场，二来也让草有时间长回来。 **mùmín chángcháng bānjiā yìlái shì wèile zhǎo xīn de mùchǎng èrlái yě ràng cǎo yǒu shíjiān cháng huilai** Herders move often, partly to find new pastures and partly to give the grass time to grow back.

我喜欢这家博物馆，一来不要钱，二来离家近，三来孩子们也喜欢。 **wǒ xǐhuan zhè jiā bówùguǎn yìlái búyào qián èrlái lí jiā jìn sānlái háizimen yě xǐhuan** I like this museum: it's free, it's close to home, and the kids love it too.

dialogue a walk through the museum

dr zhou 欢迎来到自然博物馆！自然界里的物种多得数不清，大到鲸，小到苍蝇，今天我们就看看动物是怎么生活的。
huānyíng lái dào zìrán bówùguǎn zìránjiè lǐ de wùzhǒng duō de shù bù qīng dà dào jīng xiǎo dào cāngying jīntiān wǒmen jiù kàn kan dòngwù shì zěnme shēnghuó de · Welcome to the natural history museum! There are more species in the natural world than anyone can count, from huge ones like whales to tiny ones like flies. Today let's see how animals live.

little sister 周博士，鲸为什么是哺乳动物，不是鱼？
Zhōubóshì jīng wèi shénme shì bǔrǔ dòngwù bú shì yú · Dr Zhou, why are whales mammals and not fish?

dr zhou 一来它用肺呼吸，二来小鲸是妈妈喂大的。鱼呢，大多是产卵的。
yìlái tā yòng fèi hūxī èrlái xiǎo jīng shì māma wèi dà de yú ne dàduō shì chǎn luǎn de · For one thing, they breathe with lungs; for another, baby whales are fed by their mothers. Fish mostly lay eggs.

anna 这两只鸟一只颜色鲜艳，一只灰灰的。哪个是雌性，哪个是雄性？
zhè liǎng zhī niǎo yì zhī yánsè xiānyàn yì zhī huī huī de nǎge shì cíxìng nǎge shì xióngxìng · One of these two birds is brightly coloured and the other is grey. Which is the female and which is the male?

dr zhou 漂亮的是雄性。它天天鸣叫、飞翔，就是为了让雌性注意它。小鸟孵化以后，它们一起养孩子，就这样一代代繁衍下去。
piàoliang de shì xióngxìng tā tiān tiān míng jiào fēixiáng jiùshì wèile ràng cíxìng zhùyì tā xiǎo niǎo fūhuà yǐhòu tāmen yìqǐ yǎng háizi jiù zhèyàng yídài dài fányǎn xiaqu · The pretty one is the male. He sings and flies about all day just to get the female's attention. When the chicks hatch, they raise the chicks together, and so they breed generation after generation.

xiaoming 这块牌子上说，这种鸟每年要迁徙几千公里，沿途要躲开很多天敌，最后能存活下来的不到一半。
zhè kuài páizi shàng shuō zhè zhǒng niǎo měi nián yào qiānxǐ jǐ qiān gōnglǐ yántú yào duǒ kāi hěn duō tiāndí zuìhòu néng cúnhuó xialai de bú dào yíbàn · This label says that this bird migrates thousands of kilometres every year, dodging plenty of predators along the way, and fewer than half survive.

dr zhou 对。以前猎人大量捕获它们，加之环境变化，现在已经很少了。若不好好保护，这个物种就可能消失。
duì yǐqián lièrén dàliàng bǔhuò tāmen jiāzhī huánjìng biànhuà xiànzài yǐjīng hěn shǎo le ruò bù hǎohǎo bǎohù zhège wùzhǒng jiù kěnéng xiāoshī · Yes. Hunters used to catch them in huge numbers, and on top of that the environment has changed, so now they're rare. If we don't protect them properly, the species could disappear.

little sister 那边是海里的东西：贝壳、海绵、海藻，还有一大块礁石！那个大壳是海龟的吗？
nàbiān shì hǎi lǐ de dōngxi bèiké hǎimián hǎizǎo hái yǒu yí dà kuài jiāoshí nàge dà ké shì hǎi guī de ma · Over there it's all from the sea: shells, sponges, seaweed and a huge piece of reef! Is that big shell a sea turtle's?

dr zhou 是。渔民说，礁石附近鱼最多，可是船也容易撞上去，所以在这一带航行一定要小心，以防出事。
shì yúmín shuō jiāoshí fùjìn yú zuì duō kěshì chuán yě róngyì zhuàng shangqu suǒyǐ zài zhè yídài hángxíng yídìng yào xiǎoxīn yǐfáng chū shì · Yes. Fishermen say there are most fish around the reefs, but boats can easily hit them, so you have to be careful sailing in these waters, in case of accidents.

xiaoming 最后一部分讲畜牧：牧民在牧场上放牛放羊，晚上把羊圈起来，关进羊圈里。现在很多地方是饲养、养殖，用饲料喂家禽和牲畜。
zuìhòu yí bùfen jiǎng xùmù mùmín zài mùchǎng shàng fàng niú fàng yáng wǎnshang bǎ yáng juān qǐlai guān jìn yáng juàn lǐ xiànzài hěn duō dìfang shì sìyǎng yǎngzhí yòng sìliào wèi jiāqín hé shēngchù · The last section is about herding: herders graze their cattle and sheep on the pastures, and at night they pen the sheep into the fold. Nowadays a lot of places raise animals on farms and give the poultry and livestock feed.

anna 人类最早是怎么学会驯动物的？狼可是凶猛的野兽啊。
rénlèi zuì zǎo shì zěnme xuéhuì xùn dòngwù de láng kěshì xiōngměng de yěshòu a · How did humans first learn to tame animals? Wolves are fierce wild beasts, after all.

dr zhou 一来动物能帮人干活，二来能给人肉和牛奶，三来嘛，狗还能陪人！人驯狗已经有一万多年了。

yìlái dòngwù néng bāng rén gànhuó èrlái néng gěi rén ròu hé niúnǎi sānlái ma gǒu hái néng péi rén rén xùn gǒu yǐjīng yǒu yí wàn duō nián le · For one thing, animals could work for people; for another, they gave meat and milk; and third, well, dogs keep people company! Humans have been taming dogs for over ten thousand years.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

沏
qī
to make (tea), infuse

烹
pēng
boil

饪
rèn
cook

剂
jì
dose; (measure) a dose of medicine

good to know · Raising animals: 饲养 (feed and keep, any animal), 养殖 (farm on a large scale, often fish and poultry), 畜牧 (herding livestock on pasture), 驯 (tame). 圈 has three readings: quān (circle: 圆圈), juān (to pen in), juàn (a pen: 羊圈, 猪圈).

Hatching, migrating, hibernating, herding: you can now walk through any natural history museum and explain it in Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 59 trees and flowers

Name trees and flowers, describe how plants grow, bloom and fade, and list reasons in writing with 一则……，二则……

Chinese poetry, essays and everyday small talk are full of flowers and trees, each with its own meaning. And 一则……二则…… is how notices and essays give their reasons.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
百合	bǎihé	lily	婚礼上摆满了白色的百合。 The wedding was full of white lilies.
荷花	héhuā	lotus flower	夏天，湖里的荷花都开了。 In summer, all the lotuses on the lake are in flower.
茉莉	mòlì	jasmine	很多老北京人爱喝茉莉花茶。 Lots of old Beijingers love jasmine tea.
牡丹	mǔdan	peony	春天，公园里的牡丹都开了，又大又美。 In spring the peonies in the park are all out, big and beautiful.
桂花	guìhuā	osmanthus, sweet olive	秋天，桂花开了，满街都是香味。 In autumn the osmanthus blooms and the whole street smells sweet.
花卉	huāhuì	flowers and plants	这个市场卖各种花卉。 This market sells all kinds of flowers and plants.
花瓣	huābàn	petal	风一吹，花瓣落了一地。 When the wind blew, petals fell all over the ground.
花蕾	huālěi	flower bud	满树都是花蕾，过几天就要开了。 The tree is covered in buds: they'll open in a few days.
芽	yá	sprout, bud	树枝上长出了新芽。 New shoots have sprung from the branches.
苗	miáo	seedling, young plant	地里的苗长得很好。 The seedlings in the field are growing well.
籽	zǐ	seed	花开过以后，会留下很多籽。 After flowering, they leave lots of seeds.
茎	jīng	stem, stalk	这种{zhong3}花的茎又细又长。 This flower has a long, thin stem.
藤蔓	téngwàn	vine, creeper	老房子的墙上爬满了藤蔓。 The walls of the old house are covered in creepers.
荆棘	jīngjí	thorny bushes, brambles	路边长满了荆棘，走的时候小心一点儿。 The path is lined with brambles: be careful as you go.
草丛	cǎocóng	thick grass	一只小兔子藏在草丛里。 A little rabbit is hiding in the long grass.

丛林	cónglín	jungle, dense forest	南方的丛林里有很多我们没见过的动物。 The southern jungles are home to many animals we've never seen.
柏树	bǎishù	cypress	这个公园里有很多几百年的老柏树。 This park has many cypresses hundreds of years old.
槐树	huáishù	pagoda tree (Chinese scholar tree)	院子里那棵老槐树长得很茂盛。 The old pagoda tree in the courtyard is thriving.
柳树	liǔshù	willow	柳树发芽了，春天就要来了。 The willows are budding: spring is nearly here.
杨树	yángshù	poplar	路两边种着一排排杨树。 Both sides of the road are planted with rows of poplars.
松树	sōngshù	pine tree	冬天，山上的松树还是绿色的。 In winter the pines on the mountain are still green.
树干	shùgàn	tree trunk	这棵树的树干很粗，三个人|才抱得过来。 This tree's trunk is so thick it takes three people to get their arms round it.
树梢	shùshāo	treetop	月亮挂在树梢上。 The moon hangs above the treetops.
树荫	shùyīn	shade of a tree	我们去树荫下坐一会儿吧。 Let's go and sit in the shade for a bit.
年轮	niánlún	growth rings	从树干的年轮可以看出树的年龄。 You can tell a tree's age from the rings in its trunk.
茂密	màomì	dense, thick (plants)	山上的树林很茂密，阳光都照不进来。 The forest on the mountain is so dense that the sun can't get through.
茂盛	màoshèng	lush, flourishing	雨水多，草长得特别茂盛。 With so much rain, the grass is especially lush.
盛开	shèngkāi	to be in full bloom	公园里的花都盛开了。 The flowers in the park are all in full bloom.
绽放	zhànfàng	to burst into bloom	她的脸上绽放出了笑容。 A smile burst across her face.
萌发	méngfā	to sprout, germinate	看了那部电影，他萌发了学中文的想法。 After seeing that film, the idea of learning Chinese took root in him.
萌芽	méngyá	to sprout; a bud, beginning	这个计划还在萌芽阶段。 This plan is still in its infancy.
发芽	fāyá	to sprout, germinate	种子在土里发芽了。 The seeds have sprouted in the soil.
凋谢	diāoxiè	to wither and fall (flowers)	花凋谢了，可是明年还会再开。 The flowers have faded, but they'll bloom again next year.
枯萎	kūwěi	withered	很久没浇水，花都枯萎了。 They haven't been watered for ages, and the flowers have all withered.
干枯	gānkū	dried up, withered	天太热，河都干枯了。 It's so hot that the river has dried up.

pattern 一则……，二则……: firstly …, secondly …

decision / fact,	一则 + reason 1,	二则 + reason 2	(，三则……)

一则……，二则…… does the same job as 一来……，二来…… (day 58), listing reasons one by one, but it sounds written and formal: notices, letters, reports. 三则 adds a third reason.

本园冬天提前关门，一则天黑得早，二则游客较少。 **běn yuán dōngtiān tíqián guān mén yìzé tiān hēi de zǎo èrzé yóukè jiào shǎo** The garden closes early in winter: firstly because it gets dark early, and secondly because there are fewer visitors.

我推荐种茉莉，一则好养，二则花香，三则不贵。 **wǒ tuījiàn zhǒng mòlì yìzé hǎo yǎng èrzé huā xiāng sānzé bú guì** I recommend growing jasmine: it's easy to look after, its flowers smell lovely, and it's cheap.

他这次没来，一则工作太忙，二则身体不太好。 **tā zhè cì méi lái yìzé gōngzuò tài máng èrzé shēntǐ bú tài hǎo** He didn't come this time, partly because he was too busy with work and partly because he wasn't well.

dialogue the scent of osmanthus

ms zhang 安娜，你闻，好香！这是桂花，秋天盛开，香味能飘好远。树上还有不少花蕾呢。
Ānnà nǐ wén hǎo xiāng zhè shì guìhuā qiūtiān shèngkāi xiāng wèi néng piāo hǎo yuǎn shù shàng hái yǒu bù shǎo huālěi ne · Anna, smell that! It's osmanthus: it blooms in autumn and you can smell it from far away. And there are still plenty of buds on the tree.

anna 花这么小，香味却这么浓。旁边那些是什么花卉？
huā zhème xiǎo xiāng wèi què zhème nóng pángbiān nàxiē shì shénme huāhuì · Such tiny flowers, and such a strong scent. What are those plants next to it?

ms zhang 那是百合和茉莉。春天这儿的牡丹最有名，可惜现在不是时候。
nà shì bǎihé hé mòlì chūntiān zhèr de mǔdan zuì yǒumíng kěxī xiànzài bú shì shíhou · Those are lilies and jasmine. In spring the peonies here are famous, but it's the wrong season now.

anna 我在云南徒步的时候，山上遍布野花，可惜我一种也叫不出名字。
wǒ zài Yúnnán túbù de shíhou shān shàng biànbù yě huā kěxī wǒ yì zhǒng yě jiào bu chū míngzi · When I was hiking in Yunnan, the mountains were covered in wild flowers, but I couldn't name a single one.

little sister 湖里的荷花都枯萎了，花瓣也掉光了，只剩下干枯的茎，几只鹅在旁边游来游去。
hú lǐ de héhuā dōu kūwěi le huābàn yě diào guāng le zhǐ shèng xià gānkū de jīng jǐ zhī é zài pángbiān yóu lái yóu qù · The lotuses on the lake have all withered: the petals have fallen, and only the dry stems are left, with a few geese swimming about beside them.

ms zhang 它现在虽然不好看，可是花凋谢了，莲子会留下来，在泥里存活一个冬天。春天又萌发新芽，到了夏天，荷花又会绽放。
tā xiànzài suīrán bù hǎokàn kěshì huā diāoxiè le liánzǐ huì liú xialai zài ní lǐ cúnhuó yí gè dōngtiān chūntiān yòu méngfā xīn yá dào le xiàtiān héhuā yòu huì zhànfàng · It may not look like much now, but when the flowers fade, the lotus seeds stay behind and survive the winter in the mud. In spring they put out new shoots, and by summer the lotuses bloom again.

anna 这边的松树和柏树又高又挺拔，树梢都快碰到天了。
zhèbiān de sōngshù hé bǎishù yòu gāo yòu tǐngbá shùshāo dōu kuài pèng dào tiān le · The pines and cypresses here are so tall and straight: their tops almost touch the sky.

ms zhang 柏树能活上千年，连害虫都很少碰它。你看这段老树干，一圈年轮就是一年。
bǎishù néng huó shàng qiān nián lián hàichóng dōu hěn shǎo pèng tā nǐ kàn zhè duàn lǎo shùgàn yì quān niánlún jiùshì yì nián · Cypresses can live for a thousand years; even pests rarely touch them. Look at this old trunk: each ring is one year.

little sister 那边的那片杨树很茂密，我们去树荫下坐一会儿吧。小心，路边有荆棘和藤蔓，草丛里说不定还有虫子。
nàbiān de nà piàn yángshù hěn màomì wǒmen qù shùyīn xià zuò yíhuìr ba xiǎoxīn lùbiān yǒu jīngjí hé téngwàn cǎocóng lǐ shuōbudìng hái yǒu chóngzi · The poplar wood over there is really dense: let's sit in the shade for a while. Careful, there are brambles and creepers by the path, and there might be insects in the long grass.

anna 这条路这么狭窄，走在这儿就像在丛林里探险。门口的通知我来读：（读）“本园冬天提前关门，一则天黑得早，二则游客较少。请各位注意时间。”
zhè tiáo lù zhème xiázhǎi zǒu zài zhèr jiù xiàng zài cónglín lǐ tànxiǎn ménkǒu de tōngzhī wǒ lái dú dú běn yuán dōngtiān tíqián guān mén yìzé tiān hēi de zǎo èrzé yóukè jiào shǎo qǐng gèwèi zhùyì shíjiān · The path is so narrow: walking here feels like exploring a jungle. I'll read the notice by the gate: (reading) "The garden closes early in winter, firstly because it gets dark early, and secondly because there are fewer visitors. Please keep an eye on the time."

ms zhang 我家阳台上的花苗也发芽了，种的是我妈妈留下的花籽。冬天我得把它们搬进房间，一则外面太冷，二则房间里暖和。
wǒ jiā yángtái shàng de huā miáo yě fāyá le zhòng de shì wǒ māma liúxia de huā zǐ dōngtiān wǒ děi bǎ tāmen bān jìn fángjiān yìzé wàimiàn tài lěng èrzé fángjiān lǐ nuǎnhuo · The seedlings on my balcony have sprouted too, from seeds my mother left me. In winter I'll have to bring them inside: firstly it's too cold outside, and secondly it's warm indoors.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

腻
nì
greasy

腥
xīng
fishy (smell, taste)

嫩
nèn
tender; delicate, young

酥
sū
crispy, flaky; limp (limbs)

good to know · Blooming, in four steps: 萌芽 / 发芽 (sprout) → 花蕾 (bud) → 盛开 / 绽放 (bloom) → 凋谢 / 枯萎 (fade, wither). Flowers have meanings: 牡丹 wealth and honour, 荷花 purity, 百合 a happy marriage (百年好合), 松树 and 柏树 long life and steadfastness.

Bud, bloom, fade, sprout again: you can now follow a plant through its whole year in Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 60 fields and farms

Talk about farming (ploughing, irrigating, fertilising, planting, picking and harvesting) and offer alternatives with 或……，或……

China still farms a huge part of its land, and harvest, soil and water come up in the news, in essays and in every trip to the countryside.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
耕	gēng	to plough, till	以前农民用牛耕田。 Farmers used to plough the fields with oxen.
耕地	gēngdì	to plough; farmland	这个村子有两千亩耕地。 This village has two thousand mu of farmland.
耕耘	gēngyún	to cultivate, work hard	一分耕耘，一分收获。 You reap what you sow: every bit of effort brings its reward.
开垦	kāikěn	to clear land, reclaim	这些地{di4-3}是他年轻时自己开垦的。 He cleared this land himself when he was young.
锄	chú	hoe; to hoe, weed	奶奶在菜地里锄草。 Grandma is hoeing the weeds in the vegetable patch.
灌溉	guàngài	to irrigate	农民用河水灌溉农田。 The farmers irrigate the fields with river water.
肥料	féiliào	fertiliser	春天要给苹果树加一些肥料。 In spring the apple trees need some fertiliser.
化肥	huàféi	chemical fertiliser	化肥用得太多，土会变坏。 If you use too much chemical fertiliser, the soil gets worse.
粪	fèn	dung, manure	他用牛粪做肥料。 He uses cow dung as fertiliser.
粪便	fènbiàn	excrement, droppings	请把狗的粪便带走。 Please take your dog's droppings away with you.
禾苗	hémiáo	young crops, seedlings	下过雨，田里的禾苗长得更好了。 After the rain, the young crops in the fields are doing even better.
稻草	dàocǎo	rice straw	孩子们在稻草堆上跳来跳去。 The children are jumping about on the pile of straw.
作物	zuòwù	crop	这里的主要作物是小麦和玉米。 The main crops here are wheat and maize.
棉花	miánhuā	cotton	这件衬衫是棉花做的，很舒服。 This shirt is made of cotton: very comfortable.
麻	má	hemp, flax	这种布是用麻做的。 This cloth is made from hemp.
栽	zāi	to plant, grow	我们在院子里栽了几棵树。 We planted a few trees in the yard.

栽培	zāipéi	to cultivate, grow; to train	这种{zhong3}花是他自己栽培的。 He grew these flowers himself.
茁壮	zhuózhuàng	sturdy, thriving	孩子们在这里茁壮成长。 The children grow up healthy and strong here.
采摘	cǎizhāi	to pick, harvest (by hand)	周末很多城里人去农场采摘苹果。 At weekends lots of city people go to farms to pick apples.
收割	shōugē	to harvest, reap	小麦熟了，该收割了。 The wheat is ripe: it's time to harvest.
盛产	shèngchǎn	to produce in abundance	这一带盛产苹果。 This area is famous for its apples.
农场	nóngchǎng	farm	我们周末去农场摘苹果。 We're going to a farm to pick apples at the weekend.
田间	tiánjiān	in the fields	农民们在田间忙了一整天。 The farmers were busy in the fields all day.
田野	tiányě	open fields, countryside	火车开过{guo4}一片片田野。 The train runs past field after field.
田园	tiányuán	countryside, rural life	很多城里人向往田园生活。 Many city people long for a life in the country.
泥土	nítǔ	soil, earth	下过雨，空气里有泥土的味道。 After the rain, the air smells of earth.
淤泥	yūní	silt, sludge	河底有很厚的淤泥。 There's a thick layer of silt on the riverbed.
泥泞	nínìng	muddy	下过雨，路很泥泞。 After the rain the road is very muddy.
泥潭	nítán	mire, quagmire	车开进了泥潭，出不来了。 The car drove into the mire and got stuck.
坑	kēng	pit, hole; to cheat	路上有一个大坑，开车小心。 There's a big pothole in the road: drive carefully.
池塘	chítáng	pond	池塘里有很多小鱼。 There are lots of little fish in the pond.
流水	liúshuǐ	running water	山间的流水声很好听。 The sound of running water in the hills is lovely.
流淌	liútǎng	to flow, run	山间流淌着一条小河。 A little river runs through the hills.
淡水	dànshuǐ	fresh water	地球上的淡水其实很少。 There is actually very little fresh water on Earth.
地下水	dìxiàshuǐ	groundwater	这里的人打井用地下水。 People here dig wells to use the groundwater.

pattern 或……，或……: either …, or …

或 + choice 1， 或 + choice 2 （，或……）

或……，或…… lists alternatives or different people's different choices: "some …, others …", "either …, or …". It is a neat, slightly written version of 有的……有的…… or 要么……要么…… Use it before verbs or verb phrases.

村里的年轻人或去城里工作，或留在家里种地。 **cūn lǐ de niánqīng rén huò qù chéng lǐ gōngzuò huò liú zài jiā lǐ zhòngdì** The young people in the village either go to work in the city or stay at home and farm.

农场的肥料，或用化肥，或用牛粪，各有各的好处。 **nóngchǎng de féiliào huò yòng huàféi huò yòng niú fèn gè yǒu gè de hǎochù** Fertiliser on a farm can be either chemical or cow dung: each has its advantages.

退休以后，他或在田间干活，或在家看书，过得很自在。 **tuìxiū yǐhòu tā huò zài tiánjiān gànhuó huò zài jiā kàn shū guò de hěn zìzai** Since retiring he either works in the fields or reads at home: he lives a carefree life.

dialogue an invitation to the farm

xiaoming 我岳父岳母在乡下开了一个农场，下个月收割，请你们去玩。
wǒ yuèfù yuèmǔ zài xiāngxia kāi le yí gè nóngchǎng xià gè yuè shōugē qǐng nǐmen qù wán · My parents-in-law run a farm in the countryside. They harvest next month, and they've invited you both.

little sister 太好了！农场里种什么作物?
tài hǎo le nóngchǎng lǐ zhòng shénme zuòwù · Brilliant! What crops do they grow?

xiaoming 主要是小麦和玉米，还有一点儿棉花和麻。那一带盛产苹果，秋天可以去采摘。
zhǔyào shì xiǎomài hé yùmǐ hái yǒuyìdiǎnr miánhuā hé má nà yídài shèngchǎn píngguǒ qiūtiān kěyǐ qù cǎizhāi · Mostly wheat and maize, and a bit of cotton and hemp. The area is famous for apples, so in autumn you can go picking.

anna 你岳父真厉害，那么多地都是他种的?
nǐ yuèfù zhēn lìhai nàme duō dì dōu shì tā zhòng de · Your father-in-law is amazing: he farms all that land?

xiaoming 那些耕地是他二十年前自己开垦的，那儿原来全是荆棘。以前用牛耕田，用锄头锄草，现在都用机器了。
nàxiē gēngdì shì tā èrshí nián qián zìjǐ kāikěn de nàr yuánlái quán shì jīngjí yǐqián yòng niú gēng tián yòng chú tou chú cǎo xiànzài dōu yòng jīqì le · He cleared that farmland himself twenty years ago: it used to be all brambles. They used to plough with oxen and weed with hoes; now it's all done by machine.

little sister 农场里也饲养动物吗?
nóngchǎng lǐ yě sìyǎng dòngwù ma · Do they keep animals on the farm too?

xiaoming 养了几头牛和一大群鸡，春天还有小鸡孵化出来。
yǎng le jǐ tóu niú hé yí dà qún jī chūntiān hái yǒu xiǎo jī fūhuà chulai · A few cows and a big flock of chickens, and in spring chicks hatch.

little sister 水从哪儿来?
shuǐ cóng nǎr lái · Where does the water come from?

xiaoming 山上的流水流进一个长满荷花的池塘，再用来灌溉。他们也打井用地下水，不过不能用太多，淡水越来越少了。
shān shàng de liúshuǐ liú jìn yí gè zhǎng mǎn héhuā de chítáng zài yònglái guàngài tāmen yě dǎ jǐng yòng dìxiàshuǐ búguò bù néng yòng tài duō dànshuǐ yuè lái yuè shǎo le · Running water from the hills flows into a pond full of lotuses and is used for irrigation. They also have a well for groundwater, but they can't use too much: fresh water is getting scarcer.

anna 用化肥吗?
yòng huàféi ma · Do they use chemical fertiliser?

xiaoming 很少。他们或用鸡粪、牛粪做肥料，或种豆子养地。动物的粪便放在一个大坑里，几个月以后就成了好肥料。
hěn shǎo tāmen huò yòng jī fèn niú fèn zuò féiliào huò zhòng dòuzi yǎng dì dòngwù de fènbiàn fàng zài yí gè dà kēng lǐ jǐ gè yuè yǐhòu jiù chéng le hǎo féiliào · Hardly any. They either use chicken and cow dung as fertiliser or grow beans to feed the soil. The animal droppings go into a big pit, and after a few months they become good fertiliser.

little sister 听起来有点儿臭，可是很环保。
tīng qǐlai yǒudiǎnr chòu kěshì hěn huánbǎo · Sounds a bit smelly, but very green.

xiaoming 我岳父常说：“一分耕耘，一分收获。”他在田间栽了很多苹果树，看着禾苗一天天茁壮成长，就是他最开心的事了。
wǒ yuèfù cháng shuō yì fēn gēngyún yì fēn shōuhuò tā zài tiánjiān zāi le hěn duō píngguǒ shù kàn zhe hémiáo yì tiān tiān zhuózhuàng chéngzhǎng jiùshì tā zuì kāixīn de shì le · My father-in-law always says, "You reap what you sow." He's planted lots of apple trees in the fields, and nothing makes him happier than watching the crops grow strong day by day.

anna 那我们去的时候，帮他收割吧！我还想在田野里走走，看看真正的田园生活。
nà wǒmen qù de shíhou bāng tā shōugē ba wǒ hái xiǎng zài tiányě lǐ zǒu zou kàn kan zhēnzhèng de tiányuán shēnghuó · Then when we go, let's help him with the harvest! And I'd love to walk through the fields and see real country life.

xiaoming 好。不过要带雨鞋：下过雨，地上全是泥土和淤泥，有的地方像泥潭，一脚踩下去就拔不出来。累了倒是可以在稻草堆上躺一躺，或者去树荫下坐坐。

hǎo búguò yào dài yǔ xié xià guo yǔ dì shàng quán shì nítǔ hé yūní yǒude dìfang xiàng nítán yì jiǎo cǎi xiaqu jiù bá bu chulai lèi le dàoshì kěyǐ zài dàocǎo duī shàng tǎng yi tang huòzhě qù shùyīn xià zuò zuo · OK. But bring boots: after rain the ground is all mud and silt, and some places are like a bog, your foot goes in and won't come out. When you're tired, though, you can lie down on the straw stacks or sit in the shade.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

腾
téng
to rise, soar; to make room

荤
hūn
meat or fish (dishes)

馋
chán
greedy (for food); to crave

嚼
jiáo
to chew

good to know · Mud, four ways: 泥土 (soil, earth), 淤泥 (silt at the bottom of water), 泥泞 (muddy: a road), 泥潭 (a mire, also a hopeless situation: 陷入泥潭). Harvest verbs: 采摘 (pick by hand: fruit, tea), 收割 (cut and gather: grain), 收获 (harvest; also what you gain from any effort).

Plough, water, plant, pick and harvest: you're ready for a real weekend on a Chinese farm.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 61 weather and sky

Talk about weather and sky like a forecaster and a poet (air pressure, frost, dew, sunset glow, fog that shrouds a village) and speak frankly with 说真的.

Weather is everyone's favourite small talk, and Chinese has both a scientific and a poetic vocabulary for it. 说真的 is how you drop the small talk and say what you really think.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
气象	qìxiàng	weather, meteorology	气象台说明天有大雨。 The weather service says there will be heavy rain tomorrow.
气压	qìyā	air pressure	气压低的时候，我常常头疼。 When the air pressure is low, I often get headaches.
气流	qìliú	air current, turbulence	飞机遇到气流，有点儿颠簸。 The plane hit some turbulence and was a bit bumpy.
大气	dàqì	the atmosphere; grand	最近大气污染好多了。 Air pollution has improved a lot recently.
风暴	fēngbào	storm	一场风暴就要来了。 A storm is on its way.
风浪	fēnglàng	wind and waves, rough seas	海上风浪很大，渔船都回港了。 The sea is rough, and the fishing boats have all come back to port.
风沙	fēngshā	wind-blown sand, sandstorm	春天北京有时候会有风沙。 In spring, Beijing sometimes gets sandstorms.
冰雹	bīngbáo	hail, hailstone	下了一场冰雹，很多车都被砸坏了。 A hailstorm damaged a lot of cars.
霜	shuāng	frost	早上，草地上结了一层霜。 In the morning there was a layer of frost on the grass.
瑞雪	ruìxuě	timely snow	下了一场瑞雪，农民们都很高兴。 There was a welcome fall of snow, and the farmers were delighted.
露	lù	dew	早上，草上都是露{lu4-7b}水。 In the morning the grass is wet with dew.
乌云	wūyún	dark clouds	天上乌云密布，快要下雨了。 The sky is full of dark clouds: it's about to rain.
烈日	lièrì	scorching sun	农民们在烈日下干活。 The farmers work under the scorching sun.
旭日	xùrì	the rising sun	旭日东升，新的一天开始了。 The sun rises in the east, and a new day begins.
夕阳	xīyáng	the setting sun	夕阳下，湖面红红的。 In the setting sun, the lake glows red.

晚霞	wǎnxiá	sunset glow	天边的晚霞特别美。 The sunset glow on the horizon is beautiful.
明媚	míngmèi	bright and beautiful (sunshine)	今天阳光明媚，我们去公园吧。 It's gloriously sunny today: let's go to the park.
凉爽	liángshuǎng	pleasantly cool	秋天的北京天气凉爽。 Beijing is pleasantly cool in autumn.
闷热	mēnrè	hot and stuffy, muggy	今天又闷热又没有风，可能要下雨了。 It's muggy and there's no wind today: it might rain.
湿润	shīrùn	moist, humid	南方的空气很湿润。 The air in the south is very humid.
温差	wēnchā	temperature difference	这里早晚温差很大。 Here the temperature changes a lot between morning and evening.
寒带	hándài	frigid zone	寒带的冬天又长又冷。 Winters in the frigid zone are long and cold.
温带	wēndài	temperate zone	北京在温带，四季分明。 Beijing is in the temperate zone, with four distinct seasons.
热带	rèdài	the tropics, tropical	热带的水果又甜又多。 Tropical fruit is sweet and plentiful.
盛夏	shèngxià	midsummer	盛夏的中午，街上没什么人。 At midday in high summer, the streets are nearly empty.
时节	shíjié	season, time of year	现在正是吃螃蟹的时节。 Now is just the season for crabs.
水汽	shuǐqì	water vapour, moisture	洗完澡，镜子上都是水汽。 After a shower the mirror is all steamed up.
弥漫	mímàn	to fill the air, spread everywhere	厨房里弥漫着饭菜的香味。 The kitchen is filled with the smell of cooking.
笼罩	lǒngzhào	to envelop, shroud	整个城市笼罩在大雾里。 The whole city is shrouded in fog.
密布	mìbù	to cover densely	天上乌云密布。 The sky is thick with dark clouds.
呼啸	hūxiào	to howl, whistle (wind)	外面北风呼啸，房间里很暖和。 Outside the north wind is howling, but it's warm inside.
天地	tiāndì	heaven and earth, world	大雪过后，天地一片白。 After the heavy snow, heaven and earth are all white.

pattern 说真的: seriously, honestly

说真的， **what you really think**

说真的 (“speaking truly”) opens a sentence when you switch to what you really think, or to something serious after joking. It is spoken and friendly, like “honestly”, “seriously” or “to be honest”.

说真的，我从来没见过这么大的冰雹。 **shuōzhēnde wǒ cónglái méi jiàn guo zhème dà de bīngbáo**
Seriously, I’ve never seen hailstones that big.

说真的，最近大气污染好多了，天比以前蓝多了。 **shuōzhēnde zuìjìn dàqì wūrǎn hǎo duō le tiān bǐ yǐqián lán duō le** To be honest, the air pollution has got much better lately: the sky is much bluer than before.

说真的，你去农场最好带一件厚衣服。 **shuōzhēnde nǐ qù nóngchǎng zuìhǎo dài yí jiàn hòu yīfu**
Seriously, you’d better take a warm coat to the farm.

dialogue the weekend forecast

anna 周博士，我们周末去小明岳父的农场。气象台说周末天气怎么样？
Zhōubóshì wǒmen zhōumò qù Xiǎomíng yuèfù de nóngchǎng qìxiàng tái shuō zhōumò tiānqì zěnmeyàng · Dr Zhou, we're going to Xiaoming's father-in-law's farm this weekend. What does the weather service say?

dr zhou 我刚看了气象数据。周五北边来一股冷空气，气压升高，会刮大风，可能还有风沙。
wǒ gāng kàn le qìxiàng shùjù zhōu wǔ běi biān lái yì gǔ lěng kōngqì qìyā shēng gāo huì guā dà fēng kěnéng hái yǒu fēngshā · I've just looked at the data. A cold front comes down from the north on Friday: the pressure goes up, there'll be strong winds, maybe some blowing sand too.

xiaoming 风沙？那田野里不是什么也看不见了吗？
fēngshā nà tiányě lǐ bú shì shénme yě kàn bu jiàn le ma · Sand? Then won't we see nothing at all in the fields?

dr zhou 别担心，大风过后，阳光明媚，空气凉爽。不过早晚温差大，夜里可能会结霜，早上草上都是露水。
bié dānxīn dà fēng guòhòu yángguāng míngmèi kōngqì liángshuǎng búguò zǎowǎn wēnchā dà yè lǐ kěnéng huì jié shuāng zǎoshang cǎo shàng dōu shì lù shuǐ · Don't worry: after the wind, it'll be sunny and cool. But the temperature swings a lot between day and night, there may be frost overnight, and in the morning the grass will be wet with dew.

anna 现在正是采摘苹果的时节吧？
xiànzài zhèng shì cǎizhāi píngguǒ de shíjié ba · It's apple-picking season now, isn't it?

xiaoming 对。说真的，我最怕夏天去农场锄草：盛夏又闷热又没有风，有时候还下冰雹。
duì shuōzhēnde wǒ zuì pà xiàtiān qù nóngchǎng chú cǎo shèngxià yòu mēnrè yòu méiyǒu fēng yǒu shíhou hái xià bīngbáo · Yes. To be honest, what I dread is weeding on the farm in summer: midsummer is hot and muggy with no wind, and sometimes it hails.

dr zhou 北京在温带，空气比南方干，南方湿润多了。你要是去过热带丛林，或者去过寒带，才知道什么叫热，什么叫冷。
Běijīng zài wēndài kōngqì bǐ nánfāng gān nánfāng shīrùn duō le nǐ yàoshi qù guo rèdài cónglín huòzhě qù guo hándài cái zhīdào shénme jiào rè shénme jiào lěng · Beijing is in the temperate zone, and the air is drier than in the south, which is much more humid. If you'd been to a tropical jungle or the polar regions, you'd know what real heat and real cold are.

anna 我最喜欢看日出和日落。早上旭日东升，傍晚夕阳西下，满天都是晚霞。
wǒ zuì xǐhuan kàn rì chū hé rì luò zǎoshang xùrì dōng shēng bàngwǎn xīyáng xī xià mǎn tiān dōu shì wǎnxiá · What I love most is sunrise and sunset: the sun coming up in the morning, the sun going down in the evening, and the whole sky glowing.

dr zhou 那你一定要早起。山里的早上常常有雾，水汽弥漫，整个村子都笼罩在雾里，连村口那棵老槐树都看不清，天地一片白。
nà nǐ yídìng yào zǎo qǐ shān lǐ de zǎoshang chángcháng yǒu wù shuǐqì mímàn zhěnggè cūn zi dōu lǒngzhào zài wù lǐ lián cūn kǒu nà kē lǎo huáishù dōu kàn bu qīng tiāndì yí piàn bái · Then you must get up early. Mornings in the hills are often foggy: the mist spreads everywhere, the whole village is shrouded in it, you can't even make out the old pagoda tree at the village entrance, and heaven and earth are all white.

xiaoming 说真的，你们俩一个科学家，一个诗人。我只关心会不会有风暴，北风呼啸的时候，在外面干活可难受了。
shuōzhēnde nǐmen liǎ yí gè kēxué jiā yí gè shīrén wǒ zhǐ guānxīn huì bu huì yǒu fēngbào běi fēng hūxiào de shíhou zài wàimiàn gànhuó kě nánshòu le · Seriously, one of you is a scientist and the other's a poet. All I care about is whether there'll be a storm: working outside with the north wind howling is miserable.

dr zhou 放心，这周没有风暴。反过来说，天气这么好，你岳父可能会让你们干一整天的活！
fàngxīn zhè zhōu méiyǒu fēngbào fǎnguolaishuō tiānqì zhème hǎo nǐ yuèfù kěnéng huì ràng nǐmen gàn yì zhěng tiān de huó · Don't worry, no storms this week. Then again, with weather this good, your father-in-law may well have you working all day!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

啃
kěn
to gnaw, nibble

蘸
zhàn
to dip (in sauce)

葱
cōng
spring onion, scallion

姜
jiāng
ginger

good to know · Weather words come in pairs, science and poetry: 气象 / 天气, 水汽 / 雾, 夕阳 / 落日, 旭日 / 朝阳. Forecasts use the first kind; essays and poems love the second. 说真的 and 说实话 both mean “honestly”. 说真的 can also switch from a joke to a serious point.

Frost, dew, howling winds and glowing sunsets: you can now talk weather like a forecaster, and like a poet.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 62 waves, rocks and fire

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 8 · nature

Describe the restless Earth (waves, tides, whirlpools, volcanoes, caves and gems) and say how often things happen: again and again, in a row, one after another, now and then.

News and documentaries report how often things happen with a whole family of written adverbs. Once you know them, every report on earthquakes, storms or elections reads faster.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
看头儿	kàntour	something worth seeing	这个展览很有看头儿。 This exhibition is well worth seeing.
波浪	bōlàng	wave	风越来越大，海上的波浪也越来越高。 The wind is getting stronger and the waves higher and higher.
波涛	bōtāo	great waves, billows	海上波涛汹涌，船不能出海。 The sea is raging, and boats can't go out.
波澜	bōlán	great waves; ups and downs	听了他的话，她心里起了波澜。 What he said stirred her up inside.
潮	cháo	tide	涨潮的时候，海水会淹没这片沙滩。 At high tide the sea covers this beach.
潮水	cháoshuǐ	tidewater, tide	潮水慢慢退了下去。 The tide slowly went out.
汹涌	xiōngyǒng	turbulent, surging	河水汹涌，大家不要靠近。 The river is surging: everyone keep away.
涌	yǒng	to surge, gush, pour	下班的时候，人群涌进了地铁站。 At rush hour, crowds pour into the underground station.
荡漾	dàngyàng	to ripple, undulate	微风吹过，湖水轻轻荡漾。 A breeze blows and the lake ripples gently.
旋涡	xuánwō	whirlpool	河中间有一个旋涡，千万别游过去。 There's a whirlpool in the middle of the river: whatever you do, don't swim out there.
泻	xiè	to pour down, rush down	大雨过后，山上的水往下泻。 After the heavy rain, water rushes down the mountain.
汪洋	wāngyáng	a vast expanse of water	大水过后，田野变成了一片汪洋。 After the flood, the fields became one vast sheet of water.
火山	huǒshān	volcano	这座火山一百年后再度爆发了。 This volcano erupted again after a hundred years.
岩石	yánshí	rock	这块岩石已经有几亿年了。 This rock is hundreds of millions of years old.
板块	bǎnkuài	tectonic plate; sector	两个板块碰在一起，形成了高山。 Two plates collided and formed high mountains.

洞穴	dòngxué	cave, cavern	这个洞穴里很黑，要带手电筒。 It's dark in this cave: bring a torch.
宝石	bǎoshí	gem, precious stone	她戴着一枚红宝石戒指。 She is wearing a ruby ring.
宝藏	bǎozàng	treasure, hidden riches	书是一座取之不尽的宝藏。 Books are a treasure that never runs out.
水晶	shuǐjīng	crystal (quartz)	洞穴里发现了很多漂亮的水晶。 Lots of beautiful crystals were found in the cave.
芬芳	fēnfāng	fragrant; fragrance	春天的花园里一片芬芳。 In spring the garden is full of fragrance.
连连	liánlián	again and again, repeatedly (in a row)	观众连连鼓掌。 The audience applauded again and again.
屡次	lǚcì	repeatedly, time and again	他屡次迟到，被经理批评了。 He was late time and again, and the manager criticised him.
屡屡	lǚlǚ	repeatedly, again and again	探险队屡屡遇到危险。 The expedition ran into danger again and again.
屡	lǚ	repeatedly (written)	这种事故近年来屡有发生。 Accidents like this have happened repeatedly in recent years.
时而	shíér	sometimes; now … now …	天气时而晴，时而下雨。 The weather is now sunny, now rainy.
时时	shíshí	constantly, at all times	妈妈时时提醒我注意安全。 Mum constantly reminds me to be careful.
相继	xiāngjì	one after another	客人们相继到达。 The guests arrived one after another.
一连	yīlián	in a row, in succession	一连下了三天雨。 It rained for three days in a row.
再度	zàidù	once more, a second time	两国领导人再度见面。 The two leaders met once more.
频频	pínpín	repeatedly, frequently	他频频点头，表示同意。 He kept nodding to show he agreed.
频	pín	frequently (written)	最近这一带地震频发。 Earthquakes have been frequent in this area recently.
一个劲儿	yīgèjìnr	persistently, nonstop	孩子一个劲儿地哭，怎么哄都不行。 The child cried and cried, and nothing would calm him down.

pattern how often: again, in a row, one after another

连连 / 频频 + verb | **屡次 / 屡屡 / 屡** | **一连 + number + time** | **时而 · 时时 · 相继 · 再度 · 一个劲儿**

连连 and 频频: again and again, right then (连连点头, 频频回头). 屡次, 屡屡 and written 屡: time after time, over a long period. 一连 + number: in a row (一连三天). 时而……时而……: now this, now that; 时时: constantly; 相继: one after another; 再度: once more; 一个劲儿: nonstop (spoken).

天气时而晴，时而下雨。 **tiānqì shíér qíng shíér xià yǔ** The weather is now sunny, now rainy.

附近的几座火山相继爆发。 **fùjìn de jǐ zuò huǒshān xiāngjì bàofā** Several volcanoes nearby erupted one after another.

他一个劲儿地向我道歉。 **tā yígèjìnr de xiàng wǒ dàoqiàn** He kept apologising to me.

这种事故近年来屡有发生。 **zhè zhǒng shìgù jìnnián lái lǚ yǒu fāshēng** Accidents like this have happened repeatedly in recent years.

dialogue the restless earth

little sister 周博士，今天的纪录片有看头儿吗？
Zhōubóshì jīntiān de jìlùpiàn yǒu kàntour ma · Dr Zhou, is tonight's documentary worth watching?

dr zhou 当然！讲的是火山和大海。地球表面由好几个板块组成，板块一动，火山就时而爆发，地震也频频发生。
dāngrán jiǎng de shì huǒshān hé dà hǎi dìqiú biǎomiàn yóu hǎo jǐ gè bǎnkuài zǔchéng bǎnkuài yí dòng huǒshān jiù shíér bàofā dìzhèn yě pínpín fāshēng · Of course! It's about volcanoes and the sea. The Earth's surface is split into several plates; when the plates move, volcanoes erupt from time to time and earthquakes happen again and again.

anna 你们看这座火山，天上乌云密布，滚烫的岩石像水一样往下泻！
nǐmen kàn zhè zuò huǒshān tiānshàng wūyún mìbù gǔn tàng de yánshí xiàng shuǐ yíyàng wǎng xià xiè · Look at this volcano: the sky is thick with dark clouds, and the red-hot rock is pouring down like water!

dr zhou 这座火山二十年前爆发过一次，去年再度爆发，附近的村子相继搬走了。最近那一带小地震频发，大家时时都要小心。
zhè zuò huǒshān èrshí nián qián bàofā guo yí cì qùnián zàidù bàofā fùjìn de cūn zi xiāngjì bān zǒu le zuìjìn nà yídài xiǎo dìzhèn pín fā dàjiā shíshí dōu yào xiǎoxīn · That volcano erupted twenty years ago and again last year, and the villages nearby moved away one after another. Small earthquakes have been frequent there recently, so everyone has to be careful all the time.

little sister 现在是大海，波浪一个比一个高，太可怕了！
xiànzài shì dà hǎi bōlàng yí gè bǐ yí gè gāo tài kěpà le · Now it's the sea: each wave is higher than the last. Terrifying!

dr zhou 那是风暴来的时候。海上波涛汹涌，潮水一个劲儿往岸上涌，有的地方变成了一片汪洋。海里还有旋涡，船一进去就出不来。
nà shì fēngbào lái de shíhou hǎi shàng bōtāo xiōngyǒng cháoshuǐ yígèjìnr wǎng àn shàng yǒng yǒude dìfang biànchéng le yí piàn wāngyáng hǎi lǐ hái yǒu xuánwō chuán yí jìnqù jiù chū bu lái · That's when a storm hits. The sea rages, the tide keeps surging up the shore, and some places become one vast sheet of water. There are whirlpools too: once a boat is caught, it can't get out.

anna 我更喜欢平静的海：夕阳下，微风吹过，海水轻轻荡漾。
wǒ gèng xǐhuan píngjìng de hǎi xīyáng xià wēi fēng chuī guo hǎi shuǐ qīng qīng dàngyàng · I prefer a calm sea: the sun going down, a breeze blowing and the water rippling gently.

little sister 下一段讲什么？洞穴？宝藏？
xià yí duàn jiǎng shénme dòngxué bǎozàng · What's the next part about? Caves? Treasure?

dr zhou 对。有个洞穴里发现了很多水晶和宝石。探险队一连找了三个星期，晚上就睡在睡袋里，中间屡屡遇到危险，最后终于找到了。
duì yǒu gè dòngxué lǐ fāxiàn le hěn duō shuǐjīng hé bǎoshí tànxiǎn duì yìlián zhǎo le sān gè xīngqī wǎnshang jiù shuì zài shuìdài lǐ zhōngjiān lǚlǚ yùdào wēixiǎn zuìhòu zhōngyú zhǎo dào le · Yes. A cave full of crystals and gems was discovered. The expedition searched for three weeks in a row, sleeping in sleeping bags at night, and ran into danger again and again before they finally found it.

anna 太刺激了，看得我心里也起了波澜！我们连连说“好”，旁边的人都笑了。
tài cìjī le kàn de wǒ xīnlǐ yě qǐ le bōlán wǒmen liánlián shuō hǎo pángbiān de rén dōu xiào le · So exciting: it really stirred me up! We kept saying “wow”, and the people next to us laughed.

dr zhou 下次带你们去看真的火山，不过那儿的山路很陡。去不去，要看那边的情况而定。
xià cì dài nǐmen qù kàn zhēn de huǒshān búguò nàr de shān lù hěn dǒu qù bu qù yào kàn nàbiān de qíngkuàng ér dìng · Next time I'll take you to see a real volcano, though the mountain road there is steep. Whether we go depends on the situation there.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

蒜
suàn
garlic

萝
luó
radish

卜
bo
radish

淀
diàn
sediment

good to know · In a row vs again and again: 一连 needs a number (一连三天); 连连 goes straight before a verb (连连点头). 屡次 is about separate occasions over time (屡次迟到). Water words for essays: 波涛 (great waves), 波澜 (waves, and stirred feelings), 汹涌 (surging), 荡漾 (gently rippling), 汪洋 (a vast expanse).

Tides, waves, volcanoes, gems, and the adverbs that say how often: the restless Earth now has a voice in Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 63 light and colour

Describe light and colour precisely (dazzling, hazy, gloomy, emerald, azure, vermilion, rosy) and say something is not worth seeing with 没什么看头儿.

Colour and light words are the paint box of Chinese description, in essays, reviews and travel writing alike. 没什么看头儿 is the everyday way to say “don’t bother”.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
灿烂	cànlàn	brilliant, glorious	孩子们笑得那么灿烂。 The children’s smiles are so radiant.
璀璨	cuǐcàn	dazzling, resplendent	晚上，城市的灯光十分璀璨。 At night, the city lights are dazzling.
辉煌	huīhuáng	splendid, glorious	这座城市有过辉煌的历史。 This city has had a glorious history.
光彩	guāngcǎi	lustre; honoured, proud	孩子拿了第一名，父母也觉得很光彩。 Their child came first, and the parents were proud too.
光辉	guānghuī	brilliance, radiance	太阳的光辉照耀着大地。 The sun’s radiance shines over the land.
光芒	guāngmáng	rays of light	太阳升起来，放出万道光芒。 The sun rose, sending out countless rays of light.
光环	guānghuán	halo, aura (of fame)	离开了名人的光环，他只是一个普通人。 Without the halo of fame, he’s just an ordinary person.
光泽	guāngzé	sheen, gloss	她的头发很有光泽。 Her hair has a lovely sheen.
闪烁	shǎnshuò	to twinkle, flicker	满天的星星在闪烁。 The sky is full of twinkling stars.
耀眼	yàoyǎn	dazzling	她穿着一条耀眼的红裙子。 She’s wearing a dazzling red dress.
刺眼	cìyǎn	glaring, harsh to the eye	雪地上的阳光太刺眼了。 The sunlight on the snow is too glaring.
照耀	zhàoyào	to shine on, illuminate	阳光照耀着大地。 The sunshine lights up the land.
焕发	huànfā	to glow with, radiate	运动让他重新焕发了活力。 Exercise has given him a new lease of life.
晶莹	jīngyíng	glistening, crystal-clear	草上挂着晶莹的露{lu4-7b}水。 Glistening dewdrops hang on the grass.
亮丽	liànglì	bright and beautiful	她今天穿得很亮丽。 She’s dressed very brightly today.
明朗	mínglǎng	bright and clear; clear-cut	雨停了，天空变得明朗起来。 The rain stopped and the sky cleared.

朦胧	ménglóng	hazy, misty, dim	月光朦胧，湖边很安静。 The moonlight is hazy, and the lakeside is quiet.
阴暗	yīnàn	dark, gloomy	地下室又阴暗又潮湿。 The basement is dark and damp.
阴影	yīnyǐng	shadow; a shadow over one	那次事故在他心里留下了阴影。 That accident left a shadow over his mind.
漆黑	qīhēi	pitch-dark	停电了，房间里一片漆黑。 The power went off, and the room was pitch-dark.
洁白	jiébái	spotlessly white	她穿着一件洁白的衬衫。 She's wearing a spotless white shirt.
惨白	cǎnbái	deathly pale	他吓得脸色惨白。 He went white with fear.
苍白	cāngbái	pale, wan	她病了好几天，脸色很苍白。 She's been ill for days and looks very pale.
碧绿	bìlǜ	emerald green	湖水碧绿碧绿的，清得能看见鱼。 The lake is emerald green and so clear you can see the fish.
翠绿	cuìlǜ	fresh green, emerald	雨后的竹子翠绿翠绿的。 After the rain the bamboo is a fresh, bright green.
蔚蓝	wèilán	azure, sky blue	天空蔚蓝，一片云也没有。 The sky is azure without a single cloud.
朱红	zhūhóng	vermilion	老房子的大门是朱红的。 The old house's front gate is vermilion.
通红	tōnghóng	very red, red all over	她的脸冻得通红。 Her face was bright red with cold.
红润	hóngrùn	rosy, healthy-looking	病好了以后，她的脸色红润多了。 Now she's better, her face is much rosier.
红扑扑	hóngpūpū	rosy, flushed (cheeks)	孩子们的脸冻得红扑扑的。 The children's cheeks were rosy with cold.
艳丽	yànlì	gorgeous, brightly coloured	花园里开满了艳丽的花。 The garden is full of gorgeous flowers.
缤纷	bīnfēn	colourful, profuse	秋天的山上五颜六色，色彩缤纷。 In autumn the hills are a riot of colour.
华丽	huálì	magnificent, ornate	舞台上的衣服很华丽。 The costumes on stage are magnificent.
火花	huǒhuā	spark	两个人的想法碰出了新的火花。 The two people's ideas struck new sparks.
火焰	huǒyàn	flame	蜡烛的火焰在风里一闪一闪的。 The candle flame flickers in the wind.

pattern 没什么看头儿: not worth seeing

这个…… 没什么 verb + 头儿

Verb + 头儿 turns an action into “what is worth doing”: 看头儿 (worth seeing). 有看头儿 means worth seeing; 没什么看头儿 means not worth it. The same frame makes 听头儿 (worth hearing) and 吃头儿 (worth eating). It is casual and spoken.

这个展览没什么看头儿，我们走吧。 **zhège zhǎnlǎn méi shénme kàntour wǒmen zǒu ba** This exhibition isn’t worth seeing: let’s go.

那部电影太简单，没什么看头儿。 **nà bù diànyǐng tài jiǎndān méi shénme kàntour** That film is too simple: there’s nothing to it.

这本书一来太长，二来没什么看头儿。 **zhè běn shū yìlái tài cháng èrlái méi shénme kàntour** This book is too long, and anyway it isn’t worth reading.

dialogue light and colour

editor lin 欢迎来看我们摄影比赛的照片！今年的主题是“光和颜色”。
huānyíng lái kàn wǒmen shèyǐng bǐsài de zhàopiàn jīnnián de zhǔtí shì guāng hé yánsè · Welcome to our photo competition! This year’s theme is “Light and Colour”.

xiaoming 第一张就很耀眼：旭日的光辉照耀着雪山，山顶放出万道光芒。
dì yī zhāng jiù hěn yàoyǎn xùrì de guānghuī zhàoyào zhe xuěshān shāndǐng fàng chū wàn dào guāngmáng · The first one is dazzling: the glow of the rising sun lights up the snow mountains, with rays streaming from the summit.

anna 这张晚上的城市也很美，是在立交桥上拍的，灯光璀璨，像天上的星星一样闪烁。
zhè zhāng wǎnshang de chéngshì yě hěn měi shì zài lìjiāoqiáo shàng pāi de dēngguāng cuǐcàn xiàng tiānshàng de xīngxing yíyàng shǎnshuò · This one of the city at night is lovely too, taken from a flyover: the lights are dazzling and twinkle like stars.

editor lin 这张是老城门，已经屹立了六百年，朱红的大门在阳光下显得特别辉煌。
zhè zhāng shì lǎo chéng mén yǐjīng yìlì le liùbǎi nián zhūhóng de dà mén zài yángguāng xià xiǎnde tèbié huīhuáng · This one is the old city gate, which has stood for six hundred years: the vermilion doors look magnificent in the sunlight.

xiaoming 这张太阴暗了，人脸上全是阴影，没什么看头儿。
zhè zhāng tài yīnàn le rén liǎn shàng quán shì yīnyǐng méi shénme kàntour · This one is too gloomy: the faces are all in shadow. Not worth looking at.

editor lin 别急着下结论。你仔细看：漆黑的小巷里只有一盏灯，照着一位老人苍白的脸。这是一个光和阴影的故事。
bié jí zhe xià jiélùn nǐ zǐxì kàn qīhēi de xiǎo xiàng lǐ zhǐyǒu yì zhǎn dēng zhào zhe yí wèi lǎorén cāngbái de liǎn zhè shì yí gè guāng hé yīnyǐng de gùshi · Don’t jump to conclusions. Look closely: in a pitch-dark lane there’s a single lamp, lighting an old man’s pale face. It’s a story of light and shadow.

anna 我喜欢这张：碧绿的草原，翠绿的山，洁白的羊群，骑着骏马的牧民，蔚蓝的天空，又明朗又亮丽。
wǒ xǐhuan zhè zhāng bìlǜ de cǎoyuán cuìlǜ de shān jiébái de yáng qún qí zhe jùnmǎ de mùmín wèilán de tiānkōng yòu mínglǎng yòu liànglì · I like this one: emerald grassland, fresh green hills, snow-white sheep, herders on fine horses and an azure sky. So bright and cheerful.

editor lin 安娜，这张是你在云南拍的吧？山里水汽弥漫，村子朦胧得像一幅画，孩子们的脸红扑扑的，眼睛那么晶莹。
Ānnà zhè zhāng shì nǐ zài Yúnnán pāi de ba shān lǐ shuǐqì mímàn cūn zi ménglóng de xiàng yì fú huà háizimen de liǎn hóngpūpū de yǎnjing nàme jīngyíng · Anna, this is the one you took in Yunnan, isn’t it? The mist hangs over the hills and the village is as hazy as a painting, the children have rosy cheeks, and their eyes are shining.

xiaoming 还有这张晚会的照片：火焰、火花，五颜六色，缤纷又华丽，有看头儿！
hái yǒu zhè zhāng wǎnhuì de zhàopiàn huǒyàn huǒhuā wǔyán liùsè bīnfēn yòu huálì yǒu kàntour · And this one of an evening party: flames, sparks, every colour you can think of, so bright and splendid. Now that’s worth seeing!

editor lin 今年的照片一来颜色艳丽，二来都有故事，水平明显高于去年。
jīnnián de zhàopiàn yìlái yánsè yànlì èrlái dōu yǒu gùshi shuǐpíng míngxiǎn gāoyú qùnián · This year’s photos have gorgeous colours, and they all tell a story too: the standard is clearly higher than last year.

anna 谢谢！我又不是有名的摄影家，没有什么光环，能进前十名已经很开心了。
xièxie wǒ yòu bú shì yǒumíng de shèyǐng jiā méiyǒu shénme guānghuán néng jìn qián shí míng yǐjīng hěn kāixīn le · Thank you! I’m not a famous photographer with any kind of halo; getting into the top ten makes me very happy.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

谷
gǔ
grain

枣
zǎo
jujube, Chinese date

虾
xiā
shrimp, prawn

碟
dié
small plate, dish; (measure word)

good to know · Colours by comparison: 碧绿 (green as jade), 翠绿 (green as kingfisher feathers), 蔚蓝 (deep sky blue), 朱红 (vermilion), 洁白 (spotless white), 漆黑 (black as lacquer). Pale, three ways: 苍白 (pale, also feeble), 惨白 (deathly white, from fear), 洁白 (clean white, a compliment).

Azure, emerald, vermilion, hazy, dazzling: your Chinese now paints in full colour.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 64 mission: a weekend on the farm

Follow a whole weekend on a Chinese farm: the farm rules, the animals, the harvest, a sudden storm in the orchard and an evening round the fire.

Everything from this unit comes together: wild and farm animals, how they live, trees and flowers, fields and farming, weather and sky, water and rock, light and colour.

chapter 1 chapter 1: arriving at dawn

xiaoming 到了！你们看，整个农场都笼罩在雾里，水汽弥漫，天地一片白。
dào le nǐmen kàn zhěnggè nóngchǎng dōu lǒngzhào zài wù lǐ shuǐqì mímàn tiāndì yí piàn bái · We're here! Look: the whole farm is shrouded in fog, mist everywhere, heaven and earth all white.

anna 周博士说得真准！夜里结了霜，早上草上全是晶莹的露水。
Zhōubóshì shuō de zhēn zhǔn yè lǐ jié le shuāng zǎoshang cǎo shàng quán shì jīngyíng de lù shuǐ · Dr Zhou was spot on! There was frost overnight, and this morning the grass is covered in glistening dew.

ms zhang 旭日东升，雾马上就散了。这里早晚温差大，白天倒是很凉爽。
xùrì dōng shēng wù mǎshàng jiù sǎn le zhèlǐ zǎowǎn wēnchā dà báitiān dàoshì hěn liángshuǎng · Once the sun is up, the fog will clear. The temperature swings a lot between morning and night here, but the days are nice and cool.

xiaoming 周博士看了气象数据，说北边来的冷空气让气压升高，大风把风沙都吹走了，大气也干净了。
Zhōubóshì kàn le qìxiàng shùjù shuō běi biān lái de lěng kōngqì ràng qìyā shēng gāo dà fēng bǎ fēngshā dōu chuī zǒu le dàqì yě gānjìng le · Dr Zhou looked at the weather data: she says the cold air from the north has pushed the pressure up, the wind has blown the sand away, and the air is clean too.

ms zhang 现在正是收割的时节。盛夏的时候这里又闷热又没有风，在烈日下干活可辛苦了。
xiànzài zhèng shì shōugē de shíjié shèngxià de shíhou zhèlǐ yòu mēnrè yòu méiyǒu fēng zài lièrì xià gànhuó kě xīnkǔ le · It's harvest season now. In midsummer it's hot and muggy here with no wind, and working under the scorching sun is really hard.

anna 北京在温带，秋天最舒服，不像南方那么湿润，也不像热带和寒带那么热、那么冷。
Běijīng zài wēndài qiūtiān zuì shūfu bú xiàng nánfāng nàme shīrùn yě bú xiàng rèdài hé hándài nàme rè nàme lěng · Beijing is in the temperate zone, and autumn is the nicest season: not as humid as the south, and not as hot or cold as the tropics or the polar regions.

little sister 门口有一块牌子，我来念：（读）“农场规定：一、家禽和牲畜请勿随意喂，一则它们有专门的饲料，二则乱喂容易生病。
ménkǒu yǒu yí kuài páizi wǒ lái niàn dú nóngchǎng guīdìng yī jiāqín hé shēngchù qǐng wù suíyì wèi yìzé tāmen yǒu zhuānmén de sìliào èrzé luàn wèi róngyì shēngbìng · There's a sign by the gate: I'll read it. (reading) "Farm rules: 1. Please do not feed the poultry or livestock as you like: firstly, they have their own special feed; secondly, the wrong food makes them ill.

little sister 二、池塘水深，有淤泥，禁止游泳。三、田间的路下雨后很泥泞，请穿雨鞋，小心路边的坑。四、来访的客人或去苹果树下采摘，或去田里帮忙收割，请听工作人员安排。”
èr chítáng shuǐ shēn yǒu yūní jìnzhǐ yóuyǒng sān tiánjiān de lù xià yǔ hòu hěn níníng qǐng chuān yǔ xié xiǎoxīn lùbiān de kēng sì láifǎng de kèrén huò qù píngguǒ shù xià cǎizhāi huò qù tián lǐ bāngmáng shōugē qǐng tīng gōngzuò rényuán ānpái · 2. The pond is deep and muddy at the bottom: no swimming. 3. The paths through the fields get very muddy after rain: wear boots and watch out for holes. 4. Visitors may either pick apples under the trees or help with the harvest in the fields: please follow the staff's instructions."

xiaoming 工作人员就是我岳父！他一大早就去田里了，说真的，他一年到头都闲不下来。
gōngzuò rényuán jiùshì wǒ yuèfù tā yí dà zǎo jiù qù tián lǐ le shuōzhēnde tā yì nián dào tóu dōu xián bu xialai · The staff is my father-in-law! He went out to the fields first thing. Seriously, he never stops, all year round.

ms zhang 你看这片田野，一边是禾苗，一边是棉花，远处还有麻，真是一幅田园画。
nǐ kàn zhè piàn tiányě yìbiān shì hémiáo yìbiān shì miánhuā yuǎn chù hái yǒu má zhēnshi yì fú tiányuán huà · Look at these fields: young crops on one side, cotton on the other, and hemp in the distance. A real country picture.

anna 空气里有泥土和稻草的味道，比城里好闻多了。
kōngqì lǐ yǒu nítǔ hé dàocǎo de wèidào bǐ chéng lǐ hǎo wén duō le · The air smells of earth and straw: so much nicer than the city.

chapter 2 chapter 2: the animals

little sister 哇，好多大白鹅！它们一个劲儿地追我！
wā hǎoduō dà bái é tāmen yígèjìnr de zhuī wǒ · Wow, so many big white geese! They keep chasing me!

anna 早上我是被鸟鸣声叫醒的，太舒服了。
zǎoshang wǒ shì bèi niǎo míng shēng jiào xǐng de tài shūfu le · I was woken by birdsong this morning: lovely.

xiaoming 鹅比狗还凶，你别跑，越跑它们追得越快。
é bǐ gǒu hái xiōng nǐ bié pǎo yuè pǎo tāmen zhuī de yuè kuài · Geese are fiercer than dogs. Don't run: the more you run, the faster they chase you.

ms zhang 屋檐下面有燕子的窝，院子里还有一群鸽子在飞翔。这些燕子吃害虫，对农场很有好处。
wūyán xiàmiàn yǒu yànzi de wō yuànzi lǐ hái yǒu yì qún gēzi zài fēixiáng zhèxiē yànzi chī hàichóng duì nóngchǎng hěn yǒu hǎochù · There are swallows' nests under the eaves, and a flock of pigeons soaring over the yard. The swallows eat pests, which is very good for the farm.

anna 这边的小鸡刚孵化出来，胖乎乎的，真可爱！哪只是雌性，哪只是雄性？
zhèbiān de xiǎo jī gāng fūhuà chulai pànghūhū de zhēn kěài nǎ zhī shì cíxìng nǎ zhī shì xióngxìng · These chicks have only just hatched: so fluffy and cute! Which ones are the females and which the males?

xiaoming 现在还看不出来。我岳父说，前几天夜里来了一只狐狸，一连偷了三只鸡。
xiànzài hái kàn bu chulai wǒ yuèfù shuō qián jǐ tiān yè lǐ lái le yì zhī húli yìlián tōu le sān zhī jī · You can't tell yet. My father-in-law says a fox came at night a few days ago and took three chickens in a row.

little sister 狐狸真狡猾！那现在怎么办？
húli zhēn jiǎohuá nà xiànzài zěnme bàn · Foxes are so cunning! What are they doing about it?

xiaoming 晚上把鸡和羊都圈起来，关进鸡窝和羊圈。天上还有鹰，小鸡是它的猎物，鹰是小鸡的天敌。
wǎnshang bǎ jī hé yáng dōu juān qǐlai guān jìn jī wō hé yáng juàn tiānshàng hái yǒu yīng xiǎo jī shì tā de lièwù yīng shì xiǎo jī de tiāndí · At night they pen the chickens and sheep into the henhouse and the sheepfold. There are eagles in the sky too: chicks are their prey, and the eagle is the chick's natural enemy.

little sister 上次在动物园看的豹、鳄鱼都是凶猛的野兽，这儿的动物温和多了。
shàng cì zài dòngwùyuán kàn de bào èyú dōu shì xiōngměng de yěshòu zhèr de dòngwù wēnhé duō le · The leopards and crocodiles we saw at the zoo last time were fierce beasts: the animals here are much gentler.

xiaoming 以前这一带山里也有野兽，猎人用诱饵打猎，现在不许了。听说狐狸的巢穴就在后山。你们看，那只鹰用爪子抓住了一只老鼠！
yǐqián zhè yídài shān lǐ yě yǒu yěshòu lièrén yòng yòuěr dǎliè xiànzài bùxǔ le tīngshuō húli de cháoxué jiù zài hòu shān nǐmen kàn nà zhī yīng yòng zhuǎzi zhuā zhù le yì zhī lǎoshǔ · There used to be wild animals in the hills round here too, and hunters would hunt with bait, but that's not allowed any more. They say the fox's den is on the hill at the back. Look, that eagle has caught a mouse in its claws!

ms zhang 秋天了，大雁开始往南迁徙了。湖边还住着几只天鹅和仙鹤，它们在这儿繁衍了很多年。
qiūtiān le dàyàn kāishǐ wǎng nán qiānxǐ le hú biān hái zhù zhe jǐ zhī tiāné hé xiānhè tāmen zài zhèr fányǎn le hěn duō nián · It's autumn, and the wild geese are starting to migrate south. A few swans and cranes live by the lake too: they've bred here for years.

anna 那边的牧场上还有牛和几匹骏马。这些牲畜吃什么？
nàbiān de mùchǎng shàng hái yǒu niú hé jǐ pǐ jùnmǎ zhèxiē shēngchù chī shénme · There are cows and a few fine horses on the pasture over there. What do these animals eat?

ms zhang 夏天在牧场上吃草，冬天吃饲料。现在养殖的方法跟以前不一样了，不过他岳父还是喜欢自己饲养。
xiàtiān zài mùchǎng shàng chī cǎo dōngtiān chī sìliào xiànzài yǎngzhí de fāngfǎ gēn yǐqián bù yíyàng le búguò tā yuèfù háishi xǐhuan zìjǐ sìyǎng · Grass on the pasture in summer, feed in winter. Farming methods have changed, but his father-in-law still likes to raise them himself.

little sister 就是苍蝇和蚊子太多了，我腿上已经被咬了好几个包。
jiùshì cāngying hé wénzi tài duō le wǒ tuǐ shàng yǐjīng bèi yǎo le hǎo jǐ gè bāo · The only thing is, there are too many flies and mosquitoes: I've already been bitten several times on my legs.

xiaoming 那匹白马是我岳父自己驯的。以前这里的牧民靠畜牧生活，现在大家都种地了。
nà pǐ bái mǎ shì wǒ yuèfù zìjǐ xùn de yǐqián zhèlǐ de mùmín kào xùmù shēnghuó xiànzài dàjiā dōu zhòngdì le · That white horse was tamed by my father-in-law himself. People round here used to live by herding; now everyone farms.

chapter 3 chapter 3: the harvest

xiaoming 今天的任务是收割玉米。这些耕地都是我岳父年轻时自己开垦的，一年四季，他耕耘、灌溉、加肥料，一天也不休息。以前用牛耕田，用锄头锄草，现在都用机器了。
jīntiān de rènwu shì shōugē yùmǐ zhèxiē gēngdì dōu shì wǒ yuèfù niánqīng shí zìjǐ kāikěn de yì nián sìjì tā gēngyún guàngài jiā féiliào yì tiān yě bù xiūxi yǐqián yòng niú gēng tián yòng chú tou chú cǎo xiànzài dōu yòng jīqì le · Today's job is bringing in the maize. My father-in-law cleared all this farmland himself when he was young. All year round he ploughs, waters and fertilises, without a day off. He used to plough with oxen and weed with a hoe; now it's all done by machine.

anna 他用化肥吗?
tā yòng huàféi ma · Does he use chemical fertiliser?

xiaoming 很少，主要用牛粪做肥料。动物的粪便放在坑里，过几个月就是最好的肥料。
hěn shǎo zhǔyào yòng niú fèn zuò féiliào dòngwù de fènbiàn fàng zài kēng lǐ guò jǐ gè yuè jiùshì zuìhǎo de féiliào · Hardly any: mostly cow dung. The animal droppings go into a pit, and a few months later they're the best fertiliser there is.

ms zhang 你看这些作物，长得多茁壮！水是从山上的流水和地下水来的，不用担心干旱。
nǐ kàn zhèxiē zuòwù zhǎng de duō zhuózhuàng shuǐ shì cóng shān shàng de liúshuǐ hé dìxiàshuǐ lái de búyòng dānxīn gānhàn · Look how strong these crops are! The water comes from the streams in the hills and from groundwater, so there's no need to worry about drought.

little sister 这一片池塘里还有很多鱼，是淡水鱼吧?
zhè yí piàn chítáng lǐ hái yǒu hěn duō yú shì dànshuǐ yú ba · And this pond has lots of fish in it: freshwater fish, I suppose?

xiaoming 对，是鲤鱼，我岳父自己养的。好了，开始干活！我们一连掰了两个小时玉米，大家连连说累。
duì shì lǐyú wǒ yuèfù zìjǐ yǎng de hǎo le kāishǐ gànhuó wǒmen yìlián bāi le liǎng gè xiǎoshí yùmǐ dàjiā liánlián shuō lèi · Yes, carp: my father-in-law raises them himself. Right, let's get to work! … We picked maize for two hours straight, and everyone kept saying how tired they were.

anna 累是累，可是看着大家把玉米一车一车运回去，心里特别有成就感。
lèi shì lèi kěshì kàn zhe dàjiā bǎ yùmǐ yì chē yì chē yùn huiqu xīnlǐ tèbié yǒu chéngjiù gǎn · Tired, yes, but watching everyone take the maize home cartload after cartload gives you a real sense of achievement.

little sister 哎呀，我的鞋！这边下过雨，地上全是泥，我一脚踩进了一个泥潭！
āiyā wǒ de xié zhèbiān xià guo yǔ dì shàng quán shì ní wǒ yì jiǎo cǎi jìn le yí gè nítán · Oh no, my shoe! It rained over here, it's all mud, and I've stepped right into a bog!

xiaoming 我早说过要穿雨鞋。来，抓住我的手……拔出来了！
wǒ zǎo shuō guo yào chuān yǔ xié lái zhuā zhù wǒ de shǒu bá chulai le · I told you to wear boots. Here, grab my hand… there, it's out!

ms zhang 下午我们或去摘苹果，或在田间帮着收稻草，大家自己选。
xiàwǔ wǒmen huò qù zhāi píngguǒ huò zài tiánjiān bāng zhe shōu dàocǎo dàjiā zìjǐ xuǎn · This afternoon we can either pick apples or help gather the straw in the fields: everyone choose for yourselves.

chapter 4 chapter 4: a storm in the orchard

ms zhang 这些苹果树是小明的岳父自己栽的，栽培了十几年了。这一带盛产苹果，又大又甜。
zhèxiē píngguǒ shù shì Xiǎomíng de yuèfù zìjǐ zāi de zāipéi le shí jǐ nián le zhè yídài shèngchǎn píngguǒ yòu dà yòu tián · Xiaoming's father-in-law planted these apple trees himself and has been growing them for over ten years. This area is famous for its apples: big and sweet.

anna 院子里还有槐树、柳树和杨树，路边一排松树和柏树，树荫下面好凉快。
yuànzi lǐ hái yǒu huáishù liǔshù hé yángshù lùbiān yì pái sōngshù hé bǎishù shùyīn xiàmiàn hǎo liángkuai · And there are pagoda trees, willows and poplars in the yard, and a row of pines and cypresses along the road. It's lovely and cool in the shade.

little sister 这棵老槐树的树干好粗，年轮一定很多。树梢上还有一个鸟巢！
zhè kē lǎo huáishù de shùgàn hǎo cū niánlún yídìng hěn duō shùshāo shàng hái yǒu yí gè niǎocháo · This old pagoda tree has such a thick trunk: it must have loads of rings. And there's a bird's nest at the very top!

ms zhang 墙边的桂花正在盛开，满院子都是芬芳。池塘里的荷花已经凋谢了，可是明年夏天又会绽放。
qiáng biān de guìhuā zhèngzài shèngkāi mǎn yuànzi dōu shì fēnfāng chítáng lǐ de héhuā yǐjīng diāoxiè le kěshì míngnián xiàtiān yòu huì zhànfàng · The osmanthus by the wall is in full bloom, and the whole yard smells sweet. The lotuses in the pond have faded, but they'll bloom again next summer.

little sister 花园里种着百合、茉莉，还有一棵牡丹，各种花卉都有。春天的时候满树都是花蕾，花瓣落了一地。
huāyuán lǐ zhòng zhe bǎihé mòlì hái yǒu yì kē mǔdan gèzhǒng huāhuì dōu yǒu chūntiān de shíhou mǎn shù dōu shì huālěi huābàn luò le yí dì · The garden has lilies, jasmine and even a peony: all kinds of flowers. In spring the trees are covered in buds, and the petals fall all over the ground.

ms zhang 那边的花苗刚发芽，是用去年留下的籽种的。新芽从茎旁边萌发出来，这就是萌芽。有的花已经枯萎了，留下干枯的茎。
nàbiān de huā miáo gāng fāyá shì yòng qùnián liúxia de zǐ zhòng de xīn yá cóng jīng pángbiān méngfā chulai zhè jiùshì méngyá yǒude huā yǐjīng kūwěi le liúxia gānkū de jīng · The seedlings over there have just sprouted, grown from seeds saved last year. The new shoots come out beside the stem: that's sprouting. Some flowers have withered already, leaving dry stalks.

anna 后面的树林那么茂密，草长得那么茂盛，简直像丛林一样。
hòumiàn de shùlín nàme màomì cǎo zhǎng de nàme màoshèng jiǎnzhí xiàng cónglín yíyàng · The wood at the back is so dense and the grass so lush: it's like a jungle.

xiaoming 小心那边的草丛，里面有荆棘和藤蔓。
xiǎoxīn nàbiān de cǎocóng lǐmiàn yǒu jīngjí hé téngwàn · Watch out for the long grass over there: there are brambles and creepers in it.

anna 哎，天怎么突然暗了？刚才还阳光明媚，现在乌云密布。
āi tiān zěnme tūrán àn le gāngcái hái yángguāng míngmèi xiànzài wūyún mìbù · Hey, why has it suddenly got dark? A minute ago it was bright sunshine, and now the sky is thick with black clouds.

xiaoming 要下大雨了，说不定还有冰雹！快，把苹果筐搬到棚里去！
yào xià dà yǔ le shuōbudìng hái yǒu bīngbáo kuài bǎ píngguǒ kuāng bān dào péng lǐ qù · It's going to pour, and there may even be hail! Quick, get the apple baskets into the shed!

little sister 风好大，北风呼啸，树枝时而往左，时而往右，苹果相继掉了下来。
fēng hǎo dà běi fēng hūxiào shù zhī shíér wǎng zuǒ shíér wǎng yòu píngguǒ xiāngjì diào le xialai · The wind is so strong! The north wind is howling, the branches swing now left, now right, and the apples are falling one after another.

ms zhang 别怕，这只是一阵风，不是风暴。说真的，在城里住久了，我还真有点儿想念这样的天气。
bié pà zhè zhǐshì yízhèn fēng bú shì fēngbào shuōzhēnde zài chéng lǐ zhù jiǔ le wǒ hái zhēn yǒudiǎnr xiǎngniàn zhèyàng de tiānqì · Don't be scared: it's just a squall, not a storm. To be honest, after living in the city so long, I've actually missed weather like this.

anna 雨停了！天空马上变得明朗起来，远处的山碧绿碧绿的。

yǔ tíng le tiānkōng mǎshàng biàn de mínglǎng qǐlai yuǎn chù de shān bìlǜ bìlǜ de · The rain has stopped! The sky has suddenly cleared, and the hills in the distance are emerald green.

chapter 5 chapter 5: round the fire

anna 你们看，夕阳下的晚霞多美！整个天空都是红的，田野也变成了红色。
nǐmen kàn xīyáng xià de wǎnxiá duō měi zhěnggè tiānkōng dōu shì hóng de tiányě yě biànchéng le hóngsè · Look how beautiful the sunset is! The whole sky is red, and the fields have turned red too.

xiaoming 晚上我们在院子里点了一堆火。火焰一跳一跳的，火花飞到天上，孩子们的脸都照得红扑扑的。
wǎnshang wǒmen zài yuànzi lǐ diǎn le yì duī huǒ huǒyàn yí tiào yí tiào de huǒhuā fēi dào tiānshàng háizimen de liǎn dōu zhào de hóngpūpū de · In the evening we lit a fire in the yard. The flames leapt and the sparks flew up into the sky, and the children's faces glowed rosy in the firelight.

little sister 天一黑，四周一片漆黑，只有满天的星星在闪烁，比城里的灯光还灿烂。
tiān yì hēi sìzhōu yí piàn qīhēi zhǐyǒu mǎn tiān de xīngxing zài shǎnshuò bǐ chéng lǐ de dēngguāng hái cànlàn · As soon as night falls, everything around is pitch-dark except for the stars twinkling all over the sky, brighter than the city lights.

little sister 这堆火让我想起周博士纪录片里的火山：滚烫的岩石往下泻，太可怕了。
zhè duī huǒ ràng wǒ xiǎng qǐ Zhōubóshì jìlùpiàn lǐ de huǒshān gǔn tàng de yánshí wǎng xià xiè tài kěpà le · This fire reminds me of the volcano in Dr Zhou's documentary: red-hot rock pouring down. Terrifying.

ms zhang 我年轻的时候在海边住过。台风来的时候，海上波涛汹涌，波浪一个比一个高，潮水往岸上涌，港口变成一片汪洋；平静的时候，海水轻轻荡漾，我们在礁石边上捡贝壳、海藻。
wǒ niánqīng de shíhou zài hǎi biān zhù guo táifēng lái de shíhou hǎi shàng bōtāo xiōngyǒng bōlàng yí gè bǐ yí gè gāo cháoshuǐ wǎng àn shàng yǒng gǎngkǒu biànchéng yí piàn wāngyáng píngjìng de shíhou hǎi shuǐ qīng qīng dàngyàng wǒmen zài jiāoshí biān shàng jiǎn bèiké hǎizǎo · When I was young I lived by the sea. When a typhoon came, the sea raged, each wave higher than the last, the tide surged up the shore and the harbour became one vast sheet of water. On calm days the water rippled gently, and we collected shells and seaweed by the rocks.

ms zhang 我们来看看今天拍的照片吧。安娜，这张晚霞拍得真好，颜色艳丽，又不刺眼。
wǒmen lái kàn kan jīntiān pāi de zhàopiàn ba Ānnà zhè zhāng wǎnxiá pāi de zhēn hǎo yánsè yànlì yòu bú cìyǎn · Let's look at the photos we took today. Anna, this sunset is beautifully taken: rich colours, but not glaring.

xiaoming 这张鹅追妹妹的照片也有看头儿！她吓得脸色苍白。
zhè zhāng é zhuī mèimei de zhàopiàn yě yǒu kàntour tā xià de liǎnsè cāngbái · And this one of the geese chasing my sister is worth a look too! She's white as a sheet.

anna 还有这张：太阳的光芒照耀着田野，蔚蓝的天，洁白的云，翠绿的树，又亮丽又辉煌。
hái yǒu zhè zhāng tàiyáng de guāngmáng zhàoyào zhe tiányě wèilán de tiān jiébái de yún cuìlǜ de shù yòu liànglì yòu huīhuáng · And this one: the sun's rays shining over the fields, azure sky, white clouds, green trees: bright and glorious.

xiaoming 这张拍得有点儿阴暗，人都在阴影里。不过你们看那扇朱红的大门，颜色真耀眼。
zhè zhāng pāi de yǒudiǎnr yīnàn rén dōu zài yīnyǐng lǐ búguò nǐmen kàn nà shān zhūhóng de dà mén yánsè zhēn yàoyǎn · This one is a bit dark: everyone is in shadow. But look at that vermilion gate: the colour is dazzling.

little sister 哪有！我脸色红润着呢。倒是这张雾里的农场，朦胧得什么也看不清，没什么看头儿。
nǎ yǒu wǒ liǎnsè hóngrùn zhe ne dàoshì zhè zhāng wù lǐ de nóngchǎng ménglóng de shénme yě kàn bu qīng méi shénme kàntour · I am not! I'm perfectly rosy-cheeked. That one of the farm in the fog, though, is so hazy you can't see anything: not worth looking at.

anna 我觉得来农场真好，一来能呼吸新鲜空气，二来能自己干活，三来，吃的都是自己种的。
wǒ juéde lái nóngchǎng zhēn hǎo yìlái néng hūxī xīnxiān kōngqì èrlái néng zìjǐ gànhuó sānlái chī de dōu shì zìjǐ zhòng de · I think coming to the farm is wonderful: you breathe fresh air, you do the work yourself, and everything you eat is home-grown.

ms zhang 是啊。在城里待久了，人会变得苍白、没有精神；来这儿住两天，整个人都焕发了生机。

shì a zài chéng lǐ dāi jiǔ le rén huì biàn de cāngbái méiyǒu jīngshen lái zhèr zhù liǎng tiān zhěnggè rén dōu huànfā le shēngjī · Yes. Stay in the city too long and you turn pale and listless; a couple of days here and you're full of life again.

xiaoming 明天早上我岳父还要带我们去河边，看渔民捕鱼。听说河里的大鱼屡次把网弄破，渔民们一直没能捕获它。

míngtiān zǎoshang wǒ yuèfù hái yào dài wǒmen qù hé biān kàn yúmín bǔ yú tīngshuō hé lǐ de dà yú lǚcì bǎ wǎng nòng pò yúmínmen yìzhí méi néng bǔhuò tā · Tomorrow morning my father-in-law is taking us down to the river to watch the fishermen. Apparently a big fish in the river has broken their nets time and again, and the fishermen have never managed to catch it.

little sister 太好了！那今天晚上该睡就睡，明天一早起来看旭日东升！

tài hǎo le nà jīntiān wǎnshang gāi shuì jiù shuì míngtiān yìzǎo qǐlái kàn xùrì dōng shēng · Brilliant! Then tonight we sleep when it's time to sleep, and get up early to watch the sunrise!

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