day 1 growing up

Say what being mature really means to you in a minute and a half, retell a short funny story you hear, and read a calm passage aloud with the right pauses.

The advanced test asks three things: retell a passage you hear, read a passage aloud, and give a reasoned view for two and a half minutes. Today you do all three, at a gentle length.

words to say

word	pinyin	meaning	example
成熟	chéngshú	mature; ripe	这两年他成熟了很多。 He's grown up a lot in the last two years.
成长	chéngzhǎng	to grow up	父母都希望孩子健康成长。 All parents want their children to grow up healthy.
独立	dúlì	independent	她十八岁就开始独立生活了。 She's lived on her own since she was eighteen.
个性	gèxìng	personality, character	她很有个性，从来不跟别人一样。 She has real character. She's never like everyone else.
承担	chéngdān	to take on, bear	这个责任我来承担。 I'll take responsibility for this.
谨慎	jǐnshèn	careful, cautious	做这么重要的决定，要谨慎一点儿。 With such an important decision, be careful.
冲动	chōngdòng	impulsive; impulse	生气的时候不要冲动。 Don't act on impulse when you're angry.
自觉	zìjué	self-motivated; aware	孩子们很自觉，每天自己做作业。 The children are very self-motivated and do their homework on their own every day.
心态	xīntài	attitude, mindset	心态好的人，压力也小一些。 People with a good attitude feel less stressed.
犹豫	yóuyù	to hesitate; hesitant	别犹豫了，快决定吧！ Stop dithering and make up your mind!
主动	zhǔdòng	proactive, of one's own accord	他总是主动帮大家做事。 He always offers to help everyone.

pattern 在我看来 · 一方面……，另一方面…… · 总之: a view in three steps

在我看来，｜your view｜一方面……，另一方面……｜two reasons｜总之，｜conclusion

This is the frame for “what is real X?” questions. Open with 在我看来 (“in my view”) and say your view in one sentence. Give two sides or reasons with 一方面……，另一方面……, each with an example, and close with 总之 (“in short”). 对……来说 (“for someone”) narrows a point to one kind of person.

在我看来，成熟的人不一定年纪大。 **zài wǒ kànlái chéngshú de rén bù yídìng niánjì dà** In my view, mature people aren’t necessarily old.

一方面他很独立，另一方面他也愿意听别人的意见。 **yì fāngmiàn tā hěn dúlì lìng yì fāngmiàn tā yě yuànyì tīng biérén de yìjiàn** On the one hand he’s independent; on the other, he’s willing to listen to other people.

对我来说，独立就是自己做决定，自己承担后果。 **duì wǒ lái shuō dúlì jiùshì zìjǐ zuò juédìng zìjǐ chéngdān hòuguǒ** For me, being independent means making your own decisions and living with the consequences.

总之，成长需要时间，也需要耐心。 **zǒngzhī chéngzhǎng xūyào shíjiān yě xūyào nàixīn** In short, growing up takes time, and patience too.

dialogue what makes you grown-up?

xiaoming 我觉得一个人有了工作，能自己挣钱，才算真正成熟。
wǒ juéde yí gè rén yǒu le gōngzuò néng zìjǐ zhèng qián cái suàn zhēnzhèng chéngshú · I think you’re only really grown-up once you have a job and earn your own money.

anna 我不太认同这个观点。有的人挣钱很多，可是遇到一点儿问题就怪别人。
wǒ bú tài rèntóng zhège guāndiǎn yǒude rén zhèng qián hěn duō kěshì yùdào yìdiǎnr wèntí jiù guài biérén · I don’t really agree with that. Some people earn a lot, but blame everyone else the moment there’s a small problem.

xiaoming 可是经济上不独立，难道也能说自己成熟吗?
kěshì jīngjì shàng bù dúlì nándào yě néng shuō zìjǐ chéngshú ma · But if you aren’t financially independent, can you really call yourself mature?

anna 独立当然重要。但在我看来，更关键的是心态：敢承担责任，做事不冲动。
dúlì dāngrán zhòngyào dàn zài wǒ kànlái gèng guānjiàn de shì xīntài gǎn chéngdān zérèn zuò shì bù chōngdòng · Independence matters, of course. But in my view the key is attitude: daring to take responsibility, and not acting on impulse.

xiaoming 那你觉得自己成熟吗?
nà nǐ juéde zìjǐ chéngshú ma · So do you think you’re mature?

anna 一方面，我一个人在北京生活快三年了，什么事都要自己处理；另一方面，做决定的时候我还是常常犹豫。
yì fāngmiàn wǒ yí gè rén zài Běijīng shēnghuó kuài sān nián le shénme shì dōu yào zìjǐ chǔlǐ lìng yì fāngmiàn zuò juédìng de shíhou wǒ háishi chángcháng yóuyù · On the one hand, I’ve lived alone in Beijing for nearly three years and I have to handle everything myself; on the other, I still often hesitate when I make decisions.

xiaoming 犹豫说明你谨慎嘛。总之，我们俩说的都有道理。
yóuyù shuōmíng nǐ jǐnshèn ma zǒngzhī wǒmen liǎ shuō de dōu yǒu dàolǐ · Hesitating just means you’re careful. Anyway, we’re both partly right.

repeat listen, then say it back

成熟的人遇到问题的时候，不会只怪别人。 chéngshú de rén yùdào wèntí de shíhou bú huì zhǐ guài biérén Mature people don't just blame others when something goes wrong.

一方面要独立，另一方面也要学会请人帮忙。 yì fāngmiàn yào dúlì lìng yì fāngmiàn yě yào xuéhuì qǐng rén bāngmáng On the one hand be independent; on the other, learn to ask for help.

我小时候很冲动，现在做决定以前会认真考虑。 wǒ xiǎoshíhou hěn chōngdòng xiànzài zuò juédìng yǐqián huì rènzhēn kǎolǜ I was impulsive as a child; now I think carefully before I decide.

对很多年轻人来说，第一次独立生活并不容易。 duì hěn duō niánqīng rén lái shuō dì yī cì dúlì shēnghuó bìng bù róngyì For many young people, living on their own for the first time isn't easy.

reply answer out loud

为什么有的人很早就很独立？ wèi shénme yǒude rén hěn zǎo jiù hěn dúlì Why are some people independent very early?

→ 我觉得家庭环境是一个很重要的因素。 wǒ juéde jiātíng huánjìng shì yí gè hěn zhòngyào de yīnsù

→ 举例来说，有的孩子父母工作很忙，很多事只能自己做。 jǔlì lái shuō yǒude háizi fùmǔ gōngzuò hěn máng hěn duō shì zhǐ néng zìjǐ zuò

→ 时间久了，他们自然就独立了。 shíjiān jiǔ le tāmen zìrán jiù dúlì le

你怎么看年轻人做事冲动？ nǐ zěnme kàn niánqīng rén zuò shì chōngdòng What do you think of young people acting on impulse?

→ 我觉得冲动不一定是坏事。 wǒ juéde chōngdòng bù yídìng shì huài shì

→ 年轻人敢想敢做，才有更多机会。 niánqīng rén gǎn xiǎng gǎn zuò cái yǒu gèng duō jīhuì

→ 不过做大的决定以前，最好先冷静一下，避免以后后悔。 búguò zuò dà de juédìng yǐqián zuìhǎo xiān lěngjìng yíxià bìmiǎn yǐhòu hòuhuǐ

孩子该不该自己选穿什么衣服？ háizi gāi bu gāi zìjǐ xuǎn chuān shénme yīfu Should children choose their own clothes?

→ 我认为应该。 wǒ rènwéi yīnggāi

→ 这是学会做决定的第一步。 zhè shì xuéhuì zuò juédìng de dì yī bù

→ 就算选得不好看，他们也能从中学到经验。 jiùsuàn xuǎn de bù hǎokàn tāmen yě néng cóngzhōng xué dào jīngyàn

read aloud 75 seconds

成长是一件慢慢来的事。小时候，我们总是希望自己快一点儿长大；长大以后，又常常觉得自己还不够成熟。其实，没有人能在一天之内变得成熟。我们会犯错，会犹豫，也会冲动，这些都是成长的一部分。对自己耐心一点儿吧。只要一步一个脚印，每天进步一点点，总有一天，我们会发现自己已经走了很远。 chéngzhǎng shì yí jiàn màn màn lái de shì xiǎoshíhou wǒmen zǒngshì xīwàng zìjǐ kuài yìdiǎnr zhǎng dà zhǎng dà yǐhòu yòu chángcháng juéde zìjǐ hái búgòu chéngshú qíshí méiyǒu rén néng zài yì tiān zhī nèi biàn de chéngshú wǒmen huì fàn cuò huì yóuyù yě huì chōngdòng zhèxiē dōu shì chéngzhǎng de yí bùfen duì zìjǐ nàixīn yìdiǎnr ba zhǐyào yí bù yí gè jiǎoyìn měi tiān jìnbù yìdiǎn diǎn zǒng yǒu yì tiān wǒmen huì fāxiàn zìjǐ yǐjīng zǒu le hěn yuǎn

words to watch

成长 chéngzhǎng · 长大 zhǎng dà · 觉得 juéde · 一步 yí bù

talk 90 seconds

In your view, what does it really mean to be mature? Give your view, two reasons with examples, and a conclusion. Talk for a minute and a half.

在你看来，什么是真正的成熟？ zài nǐ kànlái shénme shì zhēnzhèng de chéngshú

在我看来，真正的成熟是…… zài wǒ kànlái zhēnzhèng de chéngshú shì

一方面……，另一方面…… yì fāngmiàn lìng yì fāngmiàn

比如我……的时候，…… bǐrú wǒ de shíhou

对我来说，…… duì wǒ lái shuō

总之，…… zǒngzhī

model answer

在我看来，真正的成熟不是年纪大，而是能为自己的选择承担责任。 zài wǒ kànlái zhēnzhèng de chéngshú bú shì niánjì dà ér shì néng wèi zìjǐ de xuǎnzé chéngdān zérèn

一方面，成熟的人比较独立，遇到问题会先想办法自己解决，而不是马上找别人。 yì fāngmiàn chéngshú de rén bǐjiào dúlì yùdào wèntí huì xiān xiǎng bànfǎ zìjǐ jiějué ér bú shì mǎshàng zhǎo biérén

比如我刚来北京的时候，连租房子都要朋友帮忙；现在房租、签证这些事，我都能自己处理。 bǐrú wǒ gāng lái Běijīng de shíhou lián zū fángzi dōu yào péngyou bāngmáng xiànzài fángzū qiānzhèng zhèxiē shì wǒ dōu néng zìjǐ chǔlǐ

另一方面，成熟的人心态比较稳定，做决定以前会冷静、客观地考虑后果，不会太冲动。 lìng yì fāngmiàn chéngshú de rén xīntài bǐjiào wěndìng zuò juédìng yǐqián huì lěngjìng kèguān de kǎolǜ hòuguǒ bú huì tài chōngdòng

我以前一生气就说很难听的话，后来发现这样只会让事情更糟糕。 wǒ yǐqián yì shēngqì jiù shuō hěn nántīng dehuà hòulái fāxiàn zhèyàng zhǐ huì ràng shìqing gèng zāogāo

于是我开始调整自己，现在遇到让我不高兴的事，我会先冷静一下，第二天再谈。 yúshì wǒ kāishǐ tiáozhěng zìjǐ xiànzài yùdào ràng wǒ bù gāoxìng de shì wǒ huì xiān lěngjìng yíxià dì èr tiān zài tán

对我来说，这个改变的过程就是一种成长。 duì wǒ lái shuō zhège gǎibiàn de guòchéng jiùshì yì zhǒng chéngzhǎng

总之，对于每个人来说，成熟都不是一天就能做到的，它需要我们在生活中慢慢学。 zǒngzhī duìyú měi gè rén lái shuō chéngshú dōu bú shì yì tiān jiù néng zuò dào de tā xūyào wǒmen zài shēnghuó zhōng màn màn xué

In my view, real maturity isn't about being old; it's being able to take responsibility for your own choices. On the one hand, mature people are fairly independent: when they hit a problem they first try to solve it themselves instead of running to someone else. When I first came to Beijing, for example, I needed a friend's help even to rent a flat; now I can handle the rent, my visa and so on by myself. On the other hand, mature people have a steady attitude: they think about the consequences calmly and objectively before deciding and don't act on impulse. I used to say hurtful things the moment I got angry, and later I realised it only made things worse. So I started to change, and now when something upsets me, I calm down first and talk about it the next day. For me, that process of change is growing up. In short, for everyone, maturity doesn't happen in a day; we learn it slowly, in everyday life.

good to know · Retelling is not reciting. Catch the people, the turn and the ending, then say them in your own words: "a week to learn, the first call, the next room" is enough to rebuild the whole joke. In the read-aloud, pause at every comma and full stop, and nowhere inside a word: 没有人能在一天之内 | 变得成熟 is one breath, then the next. A view question has no right answer. A clear view, two reasons with real examples and a short conclusion are what make a strong answer.

Day 1 done: a story retold, a passage read and a minute and a half of your own view. That is the whole test in miniature.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 2 a turning point

Tell the story of an experience that changed you, in order, and say what you learned; retell a short explainer and read a letter aloud.

“Tell us about an experience… what did you learn?” is one of the question types of the test. It needs a different shape from an opinion: a story told through time, ending with a lesson.

words to say

word	pinyin	meaning	example
挫折	cuòzhé	setback	人生中谁都会遇到挫折。 Everyone hits setbacks in life.
克服	kèfú	to overcome	他克服了很多困难，终于成功了。 He overcame lots of difficulties and finally made it.
勇气	yǒngqì	courage	说出自己的想法需要勇气。 It takes courage to say what you really think.
坚强	jiānqiáng	strong (in spirit), tough	她是一个很坚强的女孩子。 She’s a very strong girl.
鼓舞	gǔwǔ	to inspire, encourage	她的故事鼓舞了很多人。 Her story inspired many people.
遗憾	yíhàn	a pity; regret	没能去你的生日聚会，我很遗憾。 I’m so sorry I couldn’t make your birthday party.
当初	dāngchū	at the time, originally	早知道这样，当初就不该来。 If I’d known, I wouldn’t have come in the first place.
如今	rújīn	nowadays, now	如今，人们出门都不用带钱包了。 Nowadays people don’t need to take a wallet when they go out.
曾经	céngjīng	once, at one time (in the past)	我曾经在|上海{==Shanghai}住过{guo}两年。 I once lived in Shanghai for two years.
坚定	jiāndìng	firm, steadfast	他的态度很坚定，谁也说服不了{liao3-4}他。 His mind is made up: nobody can talk him round.

pattern 那是……的时候 → 后来 → 结果 • 自从……以后 • 这件事让我明白了……: tell an experience

那是……的时候，　what happened　后来……，结果……　自从……以后，　how you changed　这件事让我明白了……

An experience answer runs through time. Set the scene with 那是……的时候, move the story on with 后来 (later) and 结果 (in the end), and say how you changed with 自从……以后 (ever since). Finish with the lesson: 这件事让我明白了…… (this made me understand…). 让 + person + verb says what something made someone do or feel.

那是我第一次一个人出国的时候，什么都不懂。 **nà shì wǒ dì yī cì yí gè rén chūguó de shíhou shénme dōu bù dǒng** It was the first time I'd gone abroad on my own, and I didn't understand anything.

后来我坚持练习，结果成绩越来越好。 **hòulái wǒ jiānchí liànxí jiéguǒ chéngjì yuè lái yuè hǎo** Later I kept practising, and in the end my results got better and better.

自从那次比赛以后，他再也不怕失败了。 **zìcóng nà cì bǐsài yǐhòu tā zài yě bú pà shībài le** Ever since that match, he hasn't been afraid of failing.

这件事让我明白了，遗憾也是成长的一部分。 **zhè jiàn shì ràng wǒ míngbai le yíhàn yě shì chéngzhǎng de yí bùfen** This made me understand that regret is part of growing up too.

dialogue one bad exam

little sister 安娜姐姐，我这次考试又没考好。大家都说挫折能让人成长，我只觉得难受。
Ānnà jiějie wǒ zhè cì kǎoshì yòu méi kǎo hǎo dàjiā dōu shuō cuòzhé néng ràng rén chéngzhǎng wǒ zhǐ juéde nánshòu · Anna, I messed up another exam. Everyone says setbacks help you grow, but I just feel awful.

anna 难受很正常。不过我真的相信，一次挫折能让人改变很多。
nánshòu hěn zhèngcháng búguò wǒ zhēn de xiāngxìn yí cì cuòzhé néng ràng rén gǎibiàn hěn duō · Feeling awful is normal. But I really believe one setback can change you a lot.

little sister 我不同意。失败多了，人只会越来越没有信心。
wǒ bù tóngyì shībài duō le rén zhǐ huì yuè lái yuè méiyǒu xìnxīn · I don't agree. Fail enough times and you just lose more and more confidence.

anna 我三年前刚来北京的时候，听不懂，也不敢说，好几次都想收拾行李回国。
wǒ sān nián qián gāng lái Běijīng de shíhou tīng bu dǒng yě bù gǎn shuō hǎo jǐ cì dōu xiǎng shōushi xíngli huí guó · When I first came to Beijing three years ago, I couldn't understand anything and didn't dare to speak. Several times I wanted to pack my bags and go home.

little sister 那后来呢?
nà hòulái ne · So what happened?

anna 后来我逼自己每天跟人聊天，渐渐地就习惯了。自从那以后，我就不怕说错了。
hòulái wǒ bī zìjǐ měi tiān gēn rén liáotiān jiànjiàn de jiù xíguàn le zìcóng nà yǐhòu wǒ jiù bú pà shuō cuò le · Then I made myself chat with people every day, and gradually I got used to it. Ever since then, I haven't been afraid of making mistakes.

little sister 你说得有道理。可是挫折要是太多，也会让人想放弃。
nǐ shuō de yǒu dàolǐ kěshì cuòzhé yàoshi tài duō yě huì ràng rén xiǎng fàngqì · That makes sense. But if there are too many setbacks, you just want to give up.

anna 这一点我同意。所以遇到挫折的时候，身边需要有人鼓舞你。
zhè yì diǎn wǒ tóngyì suǒyǐ yùdào cuòzhé de shíhou shēnbiān xūyào yǒu rén gǔwǔ nǐ · I agree with that. That's why, when things go wrong, you need someone beside you to cheer you on.

repeat listen, then say it back

自从那次失败以后，他做事变得更谨慎了。 zìcóng nà cì shībài yǐhòu tā zuò shì biàn de gèng jǐnshèn le
Ever since that failure, he's been more careful in what he does.

这件事让我明白了，遇到挫折不能放弃。 zhè jiàn shì ràng wǒ míngbai le yùdào cuòzhé bù néng fàngqì
This taught me that you can't give up when you hit a setback.

当初她很犹豫，如今却觉得这是最好的选择。 dāngchū tā hěn yóuyù rújīn què juéde zhè shì zuìhǎo de xuǎnzé She hesitated at the time, but now she feels it was the best choice.

克服困难需要勇气，也需要朋友的鼓励。 kèfú kùnnan xūyào yǒngqì yě xūyào péngyou de gǔlì
Overcoming difficulties takes courage, and friends' encouragement too.

reply answer out loud

成功和失败，哪个让人学得更多？ chénggōng hé shībài nǎge ràng rén xué de gèng duō Success or failure: which teaches you more?

→ 我觉得失败让人学得更多。 wǒ juéde shībài ràng rén xué de gèng duō

→ 成功的时候，我们通常很少回头想原因。 chénggōng de shíhou wǒmen tōngcháng hěn shǎo huítóu xiǎng yuányīn

→ 失败了，我们才会认真想哪儿做错了。 shībài le wǒmen cái huì rènzhēn xiǎng nǎr zuò cuò le

如果能回到从前，你想改变什么？ rúguǒ néng huí dào cóngqián nǐ xiǎng gǎibiàn shénme If you could go back in time, what would you change?

→ 我不想改变什么。 wǒ bù xiǎng gǎibiàn shénme

→ 就算当初有遗憾，那些经历也让我变成了今天的我。 jiùsuàn dāngchū yǒu yíhàn nàxiē jīnglì yě ràng wǒ biànchéng le jīntiān de wǒ

→ 比如刚来北京时那段困难的日子，让我变得更独立了。 bǐrú gāng lái Běijīng shí nà duàn kùnnan de rìzi ràng wǒ biàn de gèng dúlì le

为什么有的人遇到挫折反而更坚强？ wèi shénme yǒude rén yùdào cuòzhé fǎnér gèng jiānqiáng Why do some people become stronger after a setback?

→ 我觉得是因为他们的心态比较积极。 wǒ juéde shì yīnwèi tāmen de xīntài bǐjiào jījí

→ 他们把挫折当成机会，而不是看成失败。 tāmen bǎ cuòzhé dàngchéng jīhuì ér bú shì kàn chéng shībài

→ 比如有的运动员受伤以后，回来反而取得了比以前更好的成绩。 bǐrú yǒude yùndòngyuán shòushāng yǐhòu huílái fǎnér qǔdé le bǐ yǐqián gèng hǎo de chéngjì

read aloud 75 seconds

亲爱的自己：你好！我知道你现在很累，也曾经想放弃。当初你选择了一条不容易的路，常常觉得孤独。但是请相信，那些挫折并没有白白浪费，正是它们让你变得更坚强、更勇敢。不要害怕犯错，也不要总跟别人比较。失败是成功之母，只要你坚定地走下去，如今的困难，以后都会变成你最好的老师。 qīnài de zìjǐ nǐhǎo wǒ zhīdào nǐ xiànzài hěn lèi yě céngjīng xiǎng fàngqì dāngchū nǐ xuǎnzé le yì tiáo bù róngyì de lù chángcháng juéde gūdú dànshì qīng xiāngxìn nàxiē cuòzhé bìng méiyǒu báibái làngfèi zhèng shì tāmen ràng nǐ biàn de gèng jiānqiáng gèng yǒnggǎn búyào hàipà fàn cuò yě búyào zǒng gēn biérén bǐjiào shībài shì chénggōng zhī mǔ zhǐyào nǐ jiāndìng de zǒu xiaqu rújīn de kùnnan yǐhòu dōu huì biànchéng nǐ zuìhǎo de lǎoshī

words to watch

曾经 céngjīng · 当初 dāngchū · 挫折 cuòzhé · 不要 búyào

talk 90 seconds

Tell us about an experience that changed you a lot. What did you learn from it? Tell it in order and end with the lesson. Talk for a minute and a half.

说说一次让你改变很多的经历。你从中学到了什么？ shuō shuo yí cì ràng nǐ gǎibiàn hěn duō de jīnglì nǐ cóngzhōng xué dào le shénme

那是……的时候，…… nà shì de shíhou

起初……，后来…… qǐchū hòulái

结果…… jiéguǒ

自从那以后，…… zìcóng nà yǐhòu

这件事让我明白了…… zhè jiàn shì ràng wǒ míngbai le

model answer

那是我三年前刚来北京的时候，第一次一个人出国，一走出机场，看什么都觉得新鲜。 nà shì wǒ sān nián qián gāng lái Běijīng de shíhou dì yī cì yí gè rén chūguó yì zǒu chū jīchǎng kàn shénme dōu juéde xīnxiān

可是到了冬天，天很早就黑了，我又冷又想家，还生了一场病。 kěshì dào le dōngtiān tiān hěn zǎo jiù hēi le wǒ yòu lěng yòu xiǎng jiā hái shēng le yì chǎng bìng

起初我不好意思麻烦别人，每天一个人躺在房间里，连课都上不了，心情特别差。 qǐchū wǒ bù hǎoyìsi máfan biérén měi tiān yí gè rén tǎng zài fángjiān lǐ lián kè dōu shàng bu liǎo xīnqíng tèbié chà

后来小明知道了，连忙带着药和一碗热汤来看我。 hòulái Xiǎomíng zhīdào le liánmáng dài zhe yào hé yì wǎn rè tāng lái kàn wǒ

结果我不但很快好了，还发现请别人帮忙其实并不丢人。 jiéguǒ wǒ búdàn hěn kuài hǎo le hái fāxiàn qǐng biérén bāngmáng qíshí bìng bù diū rén

自从那以后，我遇到困难就会主动开口，也更愿意帮助别人。 zìcóng nà yǐhòu wǒ yùdào kùnnan jiù huì zhǔdòng kāi kǒu yě gèng yuànyì bāngzhù biérén

现在回头看，那个冬天虽然很难，却是我成长最快的时候。 xiànzài huítóu kàn nàge dōngtiān suīrán hěn nán què shì wǒ chéngzhǎng zuì kuài de shíhou

这件事让我明白了，坚强不是什么都自己承受，而是有勇气面对自己的困难。 zhè jiàn shì ràng wǒ míngbai le jiānqiáng bú shì shénme dōu zìjǐ chéngshòu ér shì yǒu yǒngqì miànduì zìjǐ de kùnnan

It was three years ago, when I had just come to Beijing: my first time abroad on my own, and when I walked out of the airport, everything felt new. But when winter came, it got dark early, I was cold and homesick, and then I fell ill. At first I was too embarrassed to bother anyone, so I lay in my room alone every day, unable even to go to class, feeling awful. Then Xiaoming found out and came straight round with medicine and a bowl of hot soup. In the end I not only got better quickly, I also discovered that asking for help is nothing to be ashamed of. Ever since then, when I hit a problem I speak up, and I'm more willing to help others too. Looking back, that winter was hard, but it was when I grew up fastest. It taught me that being strong doesn't mean carrying everything alone; it means having the courage to face your own difficulties.

good to know · An experience answer is a story, not an opinion: put it in time first (那是……的时候), and the rest follows. In the retell, the advice is a key point. Explainers end with what to do: don't stop at the fact. In the letter, 不要 is said bú yào: 不 changes to the second tone before a fourth tone.

You told a story through time and finished with a lesson. That shape works for every "experience" question in the course.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 3 three generations

Lay out a plan in clear steps and say why you planned it that way; retell a short story with a point and read a warm passage about grandparents aloud.

“If you had the chance to…, how would you…?” is a plan question, one of the test’s favourites. A plan sounds organised when it runs 首先 → 接着 → 最后 and ends with your reason.

words to say

word	pinyin	meaning	example
长辈	zhǎngbèi	elders, the older generation	和长辈说话要有礼貌。 Be polite when you speak to your elders.
陪伴	péibàn	to keep (someone) company	老人最需要的是儿女的陪伴。 What older people need most is their children’s company.
看望	kànwàng	to visit, call on	周末我们去医院看望了姥姥。 At the weekend we went to visit Grandma in hospital.
珍惜	zhēnxī	to treasure, cherish	我们要珍惜在一起的时间。 We should treasure our time together.
怀念	huáiniàn	to look back fondly on	我很怀念上大学的那几年。 I really miss my university years.
尊敬	zūnjìng	to respect; respected	我们都很尊敬这位老教授。 We all respect this old professor very much.
岁月	suìyuè	the years (passing)	岁月过得真快，孩子都上大学了。 The years fly by: the kids are already at university.
时光	shíguāng	time, days (of one’s life)	在北京的那段时光，我永远不会忘记。 I’ll never forget that time in Beijing.
亲人	qīnrén	family members, loved ones	过年的时候，大家都想跟亲人在一起。 At Spring Festival, everyone wants to be with their family.
年纪	niánjì	age (of a person)	我姥爷年纪大了，耳朵不太好。 My grandpa is getting on, and his hearing isn’t good.
退休	tuìxiū	to retire	我爷爷退休以后，每天去公园散步。 Since he retired, my grandpa walks in the park every day.

pattern 首先……接着……最后…… • 之所以……是因为…… • 为的是: lay out a plan

首先， | step 1 | 接着， | step 2 | 最后， | step 3 | 之所以……，是因为…… | ……，为的是……

A plan sounds organised when it has steps: 首先 (first), 接着 (next), 最后 (finally). Then give the reason for the whole plan with 我之所以这样安排，是因为…… (the reason I'd do it this way is…). To give the purpose of one step, add ……，为的是…… (all so that…).

首先，我会每天陪奶奶散步；接着，跟她学做菜；最后，一起整理老照片。 **shǒuxiān wǒ huì měi tiān péi nǎinai sànbù jiēzhe gēn tā xué zuò cài zuìhòu yìqǐ zhěnglǐ lǎo zhàopiàn** First I'd walk with Grandma every day; next, learn to cook with her; finally, sort the old photos together.

我之所以这样安排，是因为老人最需要的是陪伴。 **wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ zhèyàng ānpái shì yīnwèi lǎorén zuì xūyào de shì péibàn** I'd plan it this way because what older people need most is company.

我每周给爷爷打两次电话，为的是不让他觉得孤独。 **wǒ měi zhōu gěi yéye dǎ liǎng cì diànhuà wèi de shì bú ràng tā juéde gūdú** I phone Grandpa twice a week so that he doesn't feel lonely.

dialogue a year with grandma?

anna 我真羡慕你，每天都能跟奶奶住在一起。要是我能和爷爷奶奶住一年就好了。
wǒ zhēn xiànmù nǐ měi tiān dōu néng gēn nǎinai zhù zài yìqǐ yàoshi wǒ néng hé yéye nǎinai zhù yì nián jiù hǎo le · I really envy you, living with Grandma every day. I'd love to live with my grandparents for a year.

xiaoming 住一年？三代人住在一起，麻烦可不少。
zhù yì nián sān dài rén zhù zài yìqǐ máfan kě bù shǎo · A year? Three generations under one roof is a lot of hassle.

anna 有什么麻烦？
yǒu shénme máfan · What hassle?

xiaoming 生活习惯不一样啊。奶奶早上五点就起床，晚上九点就让我们小声一点儿。
shēnghuó xíguàn bù yíyàng a nǎinai zǎoshang wǔ diǎn jiù qǐchuáng wǎnshang jiǔ diǎn jiù ràng wǒmen xiǎo shēng yìdiǎnr · Different habits. Grandma's up at five in the morning, and at nine at night she tells us to keep it down.

anna 在我看来，这些都是小事。老人最需要的是陪伴和尊敬，不是礼物。
zài wǒ kànlái zhèxiē dōu shì xiǎo shì lǎorén zuì xūyào de shì péibàn hé zūnjìng bú shì lǐwù · To me, those are little things. What older people need most is company and respect, not presents.

xiaoming 陪伴当然重要。不过常去看望也是一种陪伴，不一定要住在一起。
péibàn dāngrán zhòngyào búguò cháng qù kànwàng yě shì yì zhǒng péibàn bù yídìng yào zhù zài yìqǐ · Company matters, of course. But visiting often is company too; you don't have to live together.

anna 你说得也对。可是我爷爷奶奶住在英国的一个小镇上，以我目前的情况，想常去也做不到。
nǐ shuō de yě duì kěshì wǒ yéye nǎinai zhù zài Yīngguó de yí gè xiǎo zhèn shàng yǐ wǒ mùqián de qíngkuàng xiǎng cháng qù yě zuò bu dào · You have a point. But my grandparents live in a small town in England; the way things are for me at the moment, I can't visit often even if I want to.

xiaoming 所以你更应该珍惜每次跟他们视频的时间。
suǒyǐ nǐ gèng yīnggāi zhēnxī měi cì gēn tāmen shìpín de shíjiān · Then you should treasure every video call with them all the more.

repeat listen, then say it back

我每个月都去看望爷爷奶奶，陪他们聊聊天。 wǒ měi gè yuè dōu qù kànwàng yéye nǎinai péi tāmen liáo liáotiān I visit my grandparents every month and keep them company for a chat.

年纪大了以后，人往往更怀念以前的时光。 niánjì dà le yǐhòu rén wǎngwǎng gèng huáiniàn yǐqián de shíguāng As people get older, they often miss the old days more.

我之所以常回家，是因为父母年纪越来越大了。 wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ cháng huí jiā shì yīnwèi fùmǔ niánjì yuè lái yuè dà le I go home often because my parents are getting older.

他退休以后每天早起，为的是送孙子去上学。 tā tuìxiū yǐhòu měi tiān zǎo qǐ wèi de shì sòng sūnzi qù shàngxué Since retiring he gets up early every day so that he can take his grandson to school.

reply answer out loud

你怎么看退休老人帮忙带孩子？ nǐ zěnme kàn tuìxiū lǎorén bāngmáng dài háizi What do you think of retired grandparents looking after the grandchildren?

→ 我觉得要看老人自己愿不愿意。 wǒ juéde yào kàn lǎorén zìjǐ yuàn bu yuànyì

→ 有的老人觉得带孩子很快乐，有的却觉得特别累。 yǒude lǎorén juéde dài háizi hěn kuàilè yǒude què juéde tèbié lèi

→ 所以子女最好先问问他们的想法，不能把这当成他们的责任。 suǒyǐ zǐnǚ zuìhǎo xiān wèn wen tāmen de xiǎngfǎ bù néng bǎ zhè dàngchéng tāmen de zérèn

年轻人该不该和父母住在一起？ niánqīng rén gāi bu gāi hé fùmǔ zhù zài yìqǐ Should young people live with their parents?

→ 我认为没必要住在一起，但最好住得近一点儿。 wǒ rènwéi méi bìyào zhù zài yìqǐ dàn zuìhǎo zhù de jìn yìdiǎnr

→ 这样既有自己的生活，又能常常看望父母。 zhèyàng jì yǒu zìjǐ de shēnghuó yòu néng chángcháng kànwàng fùmǔ

→ 比如我的一个同学就住在父母家附近，每周回去吃两次饭。 bǐrú wǒ de yí gè tóngxué jiù zhù zài fùmǔ jiā fùjìn měi zhōu huíqù chī liǎng cì fàn

给老人送礼物，还是多陪伴他们？ gěi lǎorén sòng lǐwù háishi duō péibàn tāmen Give older people presents, or spend more time with them?

→ 当然是多陪陪他们。 dāngrán shì duō péi pei tāmen

→ 对老人来说，跟礼物相比，有人陪着聊天更珍贵。 duì lǎorén lái shuō gēn lǐwù xiāngbǐ yǒu rén péi zhe liáotiān gèng zhēnguì

→ 我奶奶每次视频的时候，最开心的就是听我讲这一周做了什么。 wǒ nǎinai měi cì shìpín de shíhou zuì kāixīn de jiùshì tīng wǒ jiǎng zhè yì zhōu zuò le shénme

read aloud 75 seconds

小时候，我们总觉得长辈的故事又长又没意思。长大以后，才发现那些故事有多珍贵。爷爷讲的那条小河，奶奶说的那场大雪，都是书上找不到的历史。长辈的年纪越来越大，能和他们一起度过的时光也越来越少。人们常说：“家有一老，如有一宝。”岁月会带走很多东西，却带不走这些故事。趁现在，多陪伴他们吧。 xiǎoshíhou wǒmen zǒng juéde zhǎngbèi de gùshi yòu cháng yòu méi yìsi zhǎng dà yǐhòu cái fāxiàn nàxiē gùshi yǒu duō zhēnguì yéye jiǎng de nà tiáo xiǎo hé nǎinai shuō de nà chǎng dà xuě dōu shì shū shàng zhǎo bu dào de lìshǐ zhǎngbèi de niánjì yuè lái yuè dà néng hé tāmen yìqǐ dù guò de shíguāng yě yuè lái yuè shǎo rénmen cháng shuō jiā yǒu yì lǎo rú yǒu yì bǎo suìyuè huì dài zǒu hěn duō dōngxi què dài bu zǒu zhèxiē gùshi chèn xiànzài duō péibàn tāmen ba

words to watch

长辈 zhǎngbèi · 长大 zhǎng dà · 那场 nà chǎng · 一起 yìqǐ

talk 90 seconds

If you had the chance to live with an older relative for a year, how would you plan that year? Lay out the plan in steps and say why. Talk for a minute and a half.

如果你有机会和家里的老人一起生活一年，你打算怎么安排这一年？ rúguǒ nǐ yǒu jīhuì hé jiā lǐ de lǎorén yìqǐ shēnghuó yì nián nǐ dǎsuàn zěnme ānpái zhè yì nián

如果有这样的机会，我会…… rúguǒ yǒu zhèyàng de jīhuì wǒ huì

首先，……，为的是…… shǒuxiān wèi de shì

接着，…… jiēzhe

最后，…… zuìhòu

我之所以这样安排，是因为…… wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ zhèyàng ānpái shì yīnwèi

model answer

如果有这样的机会，我会买一张机票回英国，和住在小镇上的爷爷奶奶一起生活一年。 rúguǒ yǒu zhèyàng de jīhuì wǒ huì mǎi yì zhāng jīpiào huí Yīngguó hé zhù zài xiǎo zhèn shàng de yéye nǎinai yìqǐ shēnghuó yì nián

首先，我打算每天陪他们散步、买菜，为的是让他们的生活热闹一点儿。 shǒuxiān wǒ dǎsuàn měi tiān péi tāmen sànbù mǎi cài wèi de shì ràng tāmen de shēnghuó rènao yìdiǎnr

接着，我想请奶奶教我做她最会做的蛋糕，我也教他们包饺子，这是我在北京学会的。 jiēzhe wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǎinai jiāo wǒ zuò tā zuì huì zuò de dàngāo wǒ yě jiāo tāmen bāo jiǎozi zhè shì wǒ zài Běijīng xuéhuì de

另外，爷爷年轻的时候去过很多地方，从他们结婚到我爸爸出生，有很多故事我都没听过，我想一个一个录下来。 lìngwài yéye niánqīng de shíhou qù guo hěn duō dìfang cóng tāmen jiéhūn dào wǒ bàba chūshēng yǒu hěn duō gùshi wǒ dōu méi tīng guo wǒ xiǎng yí gè yí gè lù xialai

最后，我会用这一年拍的照片给他们做一本相册，送给他们做纪念。 zuìhòu wǒ huì yòng zhè yì nián pāi de zhàopiàn gěi tāmen zuò yì běn xiàngcè sòng gěi tāmen zuò jìniàn

我之所以这样安排，是因为我离家很远，平时只有假期才能回去，陪他们的时间太少了。 wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ zhèyàng ānpái shì yīnwèi wǒ lí jiā hěn yuǎn píngshí zhǐyǒu jiàqī cáinéng huíqù péi tāmen de shíjiān tài shǎo le

他们年纪越来越大，我不想以后留下遗憾。 tāmen niánjì yuè lái yuè dà wǒ bù xiǎng yǐhòu liúxia yíhàn

总之，这一年我不想做什么大事，只想好好陪伴他们。 zǒngzhī zhè yì nián wǒ bù xiǎng zuò shénme dàshì zhǐ xiǎng hǎohǎo péibàn tāmen

If I had the chance, I'd buy a plane ticket back to England and live with my grandparents in their small town for a year. First, I'd walk with them and do the shopping every day, so that their life would be a bit livelier. Next, I'd ask Grandma to teach me the cake she makes best, and I'd teach them to make dumplings, which I learned in Beijing. Also, Grandpa went to lots of places when he was young, and from their wedding to my dad's birth there are lots of stories I've never heard; I'd like to record them one by one. Finally, I'd use the photos I took that year to make them an album as a keepsake. I'd plan it this way because I live far from home, only get back in the holidays and have far too little time with them. They're getting older, and I don't want regrets later. In short, I wouldn't want to do anything grand that year; I'd just want to be with them properly.

good to know · 长辈 is zhǎngbèi: 长 is zhǎng ("grow, senior") here, but cháng ("long") in 又长又没意思. Both are in today's passage. A story retell keeps the point. The coach story only works if you end with what it shows: 可见..... or 这说明..... In a plan answer, one concrete detail per step (walks, cake, an album) is worth more than three general promises.

A plan in three steps, with a reason at the end: that is one of the two shapes the real test asks for most.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 4 friends

Weigh two opposing views, say which one you agree with and why, and grant the other side; retell a short anecdote with a twist and read a short argument aloud.

“Some people think…, others think…. What do you think?” is the two-views question of the test. A strong answer shows you heard both sides before you chose one.

words to say

word	pinyin	meaning	example
真诚	zhēnchéng	sincere	谢谢你真诚的帮助。 Thank you for your heartfelt help.
信任	xìnrèn	to trust	朋友之间最重要的是信任。 Between friends, trust matters most.
交往	jiāowǎng	to associate with, have contact	他很少跟邻居交往。 He rarely has anything to do with the neighbours.
相处	xiāngchǔ	to get along (with)	她性格很好，跟谁都相处得很好。 She has a lovely nature and gets on with everyone.
来往	láiwǎng	to keep in touch, have dealings	毕业以后，我们还一直有来往。 We’ve stayed in touch since we graduated.
亲密	qīnmì	close, intimate	她们是从小一起长{zhang3}大的亲密朋友。 They’re close friends who grew up together.
深厚	shēnhòu	deep (friendship, feelings)	他们俩有深厚的友谊。 The two of them share a deep friendship.
彼此	bǐcǐ	each other	我们认识很多年了，彼此都很了解。 We’ve known each other for years and understand each other well.
伙伴	huǒbàn	partner, buddy	他是我小时候的好伙伴。 He was my best buddy when I was little.
打交道	dǎjiāodao	to deal with (people)	做销售每天都要跟不同的人打交道。 In sales you deal with different people every day.

pattern 我比较同意……·虽……，但……·不过，我们也不能忽视……: weigh two views

我比较同意…… | your side + a reason | ……虽……，但…… | 不过，我们也不能忽视……

所以我认为……

Say which view you lean towards with 我比较同意…… (I tend to agree with…). 虽 is the written short form of 虽然 and comes after the subject: 这种看法虽有道理，但…… Before you conclude, give the other side its due with 不过，我们也不能忽视…… (but we can't ignore…).

我比较同意第一种看法：朋友不在多，而在于真心。 **wǒ bǐjiào tóngyì dì yī zhǒng kànfǎ péngyou bú zài duō ér zàiyú zhēn xīn** I tend to agree with the first view: it isn't how many friends you have, it's how sincere they are.

朋友多虽有好处，但真正能信任的往往只有几个。 **péngyou duō suī yǒu hǎochù dàn zhēnzhèng néng xìnrèn de wǎngwǎng zhǐyǒu jǐ gè** Having lots of friends has its advantages, but the ones you can really trust are usually only a few.

不过，我们也不能忽视普通朋友的作用。 **búguò wǒmen yě bù néng hūshì pǔtōng péngyou de zuòyòng** But we can't ignore what ordinary friends do for us either.

dialogue three parties in one weekend

xiaoming 这个周末我要参加三个聚会，朋友多就是忙！
zhège zhōumò wǒ yào cānjiā sān gè jùhuì péngyou duō jiùshì máng · I've got three parties this weekend. That's what happens when you have lots of friends!

anna 你朋友真多。不过我觉得朋友不在多，有两三个最好的朋友就够了。
nǐ péngyou zhēn duō búguò wǒ juéde péngyou bú zài duō yǒu liǎngsān gè zuìhǎo de péngyou jiù gòu le · You really do have a lot of friends. But I think it's not about numbers: two or three best friends are enough.

xiaoming 我不同意。朋友多，办法也多。上次我搬家，来了十几个朋友帮忙。
wǒ bù tóngyì péngyou duō bànfǎ yě duō shàng cì wǒ bānjiā lái le shí jǐ gè péngyou bāngmáng · I don't agree. More friends, more help. When I moved last time, a dozen friends came to help.

anna 这一点没错。可是你遇到真正的难事，会跟他们每个人说吗？
zhè yì diǎn méi cuò kěshì nǐ yùdào zhēnzhèng de nán shì huì gēn tāmen měi gè rén shuō ma · True. But when something really difficult happens, would you tell every one of them?

xiaoming 那当然不会。我只会跟最亲密的一两个人说。
nà dāngrán bú huì wǒ zhǐ huì gēn zuì qīnmì de yìliǎng gè rén shuō · Of course not. I'd only tell my one or two closest friends.

anna 你看，所以真正的朋友还是那么几个。
nǐ kàn suǒyǐ zhēnzhèng de péngyuò háishi nàme jǐ gè · See? So your real friends are still just a few.

xiaoming 我不否认你说得对，不过普通朋友的作用也不能忽视啊。
wǒ bù fǒurèn nǐ shuō de duì búguò pǔtōng péngyou de zuòyòng yě bù néng hūshì a · I don't deny you're right, but you can't ignore what ordinary friends do for you either.

anna 这倒也是。也许两种朋友我们都需要，区别只是相处的方式不一样。
zhè dào yě shì yěxǔ liǎng zhǒng péngyou wǒmen dōu xūyào qūbié zhǐshì xiāngchǔ de fāngshì bù yíyàng · That's true too. Maybe we need both kinds of friends; the only difference is how we get on with them.

repeat listen, then say it back

我觉得真正的朋友不在多，而在于彼此信任。 wǒ juéde zhēnzhèng de péngyou bú zài duō ér zàiyú bǐcǐ xìnrèn I think real friendship isn't about numbers; it's about trusting each other.

这种看法虽有道理，但我们也不能忽视另一面。 zhè zhǒng kànfǎ suī yǒu dàolǐ dàn wǒmen yě bù néng hūshì lìng yí miàn That view has a point, but we can't ignore the other side either.

我们俩虽然不在一个城市，但一直保持来往。 wǒmen liǎ suīrán bú zài yí gè chéngshì dàn yìzhí bǎochí láiwǎng We don't live in the same city, but we've always kept in touch.

跟真诚的人相处久了，心里会觉得特别轻松。 gēn zhēnchéng de rén xiāngchǔ jiǔ le xīnlǐ huì juéde tèbié qīngsōng After spending time with sincere people, you feel really at ease.

reply answer out loud

如果好朋友搬走了，你会怎么办？ rúguǒ hǎo péngyou bān zǒu le nǐ huì zěnme bàn If a close friend moved away, what would you do?

→ 我会想办法保持联系。 wǒ huì xiǎng bànfǎ bǎochí liánxì

→ 比如每个月视频一次，过节的时候寄一张卡片。 bǐrú měi gè yuè shìpín yí cì guòjié de shíhou jì yì zhāng kǎpiàn

→ 距离远了，感情却不一定会变淡。 jùlí yuǎn le gǎnqíng què bù yídìng huì biàn dàn

为什么有的朋友越走越远？ wèi shénme yǒude péngyou yuè zǒu yuè yuǎn Why do some friends drift apart?

→ 我觉得主要是因为生活变了。 wǒ juéde zhǔyào shì yīnwèi shēnghuó biàn le

→ 比如毕业以后大家不仅去了不同的城市，而且共同的话题也越来越少。 bǐrú bìyè yǐhòu dàjiā bùjǐn qù le bù tóng de chéngshì érqiě gòngtóng de huàtí yě yuè lái yuè shǎo

→ 如果双方都不主动联系，关系自然就淡了。 rúguǒ shuāngfāng dōu bù zhǔdòng liánxì guānxì zìrán jiù dàn le

你怎么看在网上交朋友？ nǐ zěnme kàn zài wǎngshang jiāo péngyou What do you think of making friends online?

→ 我觉得在网上也能遇见真诚的朋友。 wǒ juéde zài wǎngshang yě néng yùjiàn zhēnchéng de péngyou

→ 不过刚认识的时候，即使聊得很好，也最好谨慎一点儿。 búguò gāng rènshi de shíhou jíshǐ liáo de hěn hǎo yě zuìhǎo jǐnshèn yìdiǎnr

→ 比如我有一个网友，我们先在网上聊了一年，后来才见面。 bǐrú wǒ yǒu yí gè wǎngyǒu wǒmen xiān zài wǎngshang liáo le yì nián hòulái cái jiànmiàn

read aloud 75 seconds

朋友是人生路上的伙伴。维持朋友之间的感情，靠的不是常常见面，而是彼此的真诚和信任。有的人天天在一起，却并不了解对方；有的人一年只见一次面，却愿意把什么都告诉对方。由此可见，交往时间的长短并不是最重要的。只要相处的时候真诚，就算分开十年，再见面时也会像从前一样亲密。 péngyou shì rénshēng lùshang de huǒbàn wéichí péngyou zhījiān de gǎnqíng kào de bú shì chángcháng jiànmiàn ér shì bǐcǐ de zhēnchéng hé xìnrèn yǒude rén tiān tiān zài yìqǐ què bìng bù liǎojiě duìfāng yǒude rén yì nián zhǐ jiàn yí cì miàn què yuànyì bǎ shénme dōu gàosu duìfāng yóu cǐ kějiàn jiāowǎng shíjiān de chángduǎn bìng bú shì zuì zhòngyào de zhǐyào xiāngchǔ de shíhou zhēnchéng jiùsuàn fēnkāi shí nián zài jiànmiàn shí yě huì xiàng cóngqián yíyàng qīnmì

words to watch

相处 xiāngchǔ · 长短 chángduǎn · 了解 liǎojiě · 一样 yíyàng

talk 90 seconds

Some say what matters is not how many friends you have but how sincere they are; others say the more friends the better. What do you think? Weigh both views and give yours. Talk for a minute and a half.

有人认为朋友不在多，而在于真心；也有人认为朋友越多越好。你怎么看？ yǒu rén rènwéi péngyou bú zài duō ér zàiyú zhēn xīn yě yǒu rén rènwéi péngyou yuè duō yuè hǎo nǐ zěnme kàn

有人认为……，也有人认为…… yǒu rén rènwéi yě yǒu rén rènwéi

我比较同意…… wǒ bǐjiào tóngyì

……虽有道理，但…… suī yǒu dàolǐ dàn

不过，我们也不能忽视…… búguò wǒmen yě bù néng hūshì

所以我认为…… suǒyǐ wǒ rènwéi

model answer

关于交朋友，有人认为朋友越多越好，也有人认为朋友不在多，而在于真心。 guānyú jiāo péngyou yǒu rén rènwéi péngyou yuè duō yuè hǎo yě yǒu rén rènwéi péngyou bú zài duō ér zàiyú zhēn xīn

我比较同意第二种看法。 wǒ bǐjiào tóngyì dì èr zhǒng kànfǎ

朋友多虽有好处，比方说遇到问题的时候找人帮忙比较方便，但这样的关系也有缺点，往往不够深厚。 péngyou duō suī yǒu hǎochù bǐfang shuō yùdào wèntí de shíhou zhǎo rén bāngmáng bǐjiào fāngbiàn dàn zhèyàng de guānxì yě yǒu quēdiǎn wǎngwǎng búgòu shēnhòu

那么，真正的朋友究竟是什么样的？在我看来，就是你遇到困难时，第一个想到的人。 nàme zhēnzhèng de péngyou jiūjìng shì shénme yàng de zài wǒ kànlái jiùshì nǐ yùdào kùnnan shí dì yī gè xiǎng dào de rén

比如我刚来北京那年生病了，是小明带着药来看我，这样的朋友，有一两个就够了。 bǐrú wǒ gāng lái Běijīng nà nián shēngbìng le shì Xiǎomíng dài zhe yào lái kàn wǒ zhèyàng de péngyou yǒu yìliǎng gè jiù gòu le

不过，我们也不能忽视普通朋友的作用。 búguò wǒmen yě bù néng hūshì pǔtōng péngyou de zuòyòng

跟不同的人打交道，能让我们了解不同的想法，生活也会更丰富。 gēn bù tóng de rén dǎ jiāodao néng ràng wǒmen liǎojiě bù tóng de xiǎngfǎ shēnghuó yě huì gèng fēngfù

所以我认为，最好的朋友不需要很多，但普通朋友也值得珍惜。 suǒyǐ wǒ rènwéi zuìhǎo de péngyou bù xūyào hěn duō dàn pǔtōng péngyou yě zhídé zhēnxī

When it comes to friends, some say the more the better, and others say it's not the number but the sincerity that counts. I tend to agree with the second view. Lots of friends has its advantages — it's easier to find help when you have a problem, for instance — but such friendships have a weakness too: they are often not very deep. So what exactly is a real friend? In my view, it's the first person you think of when you're in trouble. In my first year in Beijing, for example, when I was ill, it was Xiaoming who came round with medicine; one or two friends like that are enough. But we can't ignore what ordinary friends do for us either. Dealing with all kinds of people shows us different ways of thinking and makes life richer. So I think you don't need many best friends, but ordinary friends are worth treasuring too.

good to know · Start a two-views answer by saying both views back in one sentence (有人认为……，也有人认为……): it buys you thinking time and shows you understood. An anecdote lives in its twist. Keep "secretly" and "exactly the same scarf"; drop the rest if you must. In the passage, 一样 is said yí yàng: 一 changes to the second tone before a fourth tone.

Two views weighed, one chosen, the other given its due: that balance is what examiners listen for. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 5 mission: grandma's birthday

Chinese HSKK advanced in 37 days
unit 1 · people & growing up

Retell a story and an explainer back to back, read a passage about old photos aloud, then answer two questions in a row: a plan and an experience, a minute and a half each.

A mock round on unit 1: growing up, turning points, three generations and friendship, in the order of the test's own tasks.

chapter 1 getting ready

ms zhang 安娜，你来得正好！今天是奶奶七十五岁生日，我们一家三代人难得团圆。
Ānnà nǐ lái de zhènghǎo jīntiān shì nǎinai qīshíwǔ suì shēngrì wǒmen yì jiā sān dài rén nándé tuányuán · Anna, perfect timing! It's Grandma's 75th birthday today, and for once all three generations are together.

anna 祝奶奶生日快乐！我带了相机，今天的合影就交给我吧。
zhù nǎinai shēngrì kuàilè wǒ dài le xiàngjī jīntiān de héyǐng jiù jiāo gěi wǒ ba · Happy birthday to Grandma! I've brought my camera, so leave the family photo to me.

little sister 太好了！我还要采访奶奶，老师让我们写一写老人小时候的生活。
tài hǎo le wǒ hái yào cǎifǎng nǎinai lǎoshī ràng wǒmen xiě yi xie lǎorén xiǎoshíhou de shēnghuó · Great! And I'm going to interview Grandma: our teacher wants us to write about an older person's childhood.

ms zhang 奶奶二十岁就从村子里来北京工作了，她的故事可多了。
nǎinai èrshí suì jiù cóng cūn zi lǐ lái Běijīng gōngzuò le tā de gùshi kě duō le · Grandma came from her village to work in Beijing at twenty. She has so many stories.

anna 那我一边听，一边拍几张照片，正好做个纪念。
nà wǒ yìbiān tīng yìbiān pāi jǐ zhāng zhàopiàn zhènghǎo zuò gè jìniàn · Then I'll listen and take a few pictures at the same time: a perfect keepsake.

little sister 我们先把蛋糕藏起来，等奶奶散步回来，给她一个惊喜！
wǒmen xiān bǎ dàngāo cáng qǐlai děng nǎinai sànbù huilai gěi tā yí gè jīngxǐ · Let's hide the cake first and surprise Grandma when she's back from her walk!

chapter 2 grandma's story

little sister 奶奶，您小时候在村子里过的是什么样的生活?
nǎinai nín xiǎoshíhou zài cūn zi lǐ guò de shì shénme yàng de shēnghuó · Grandma, what was life like in the village when you were little?

grandma 那时候条件很差，家里连电灯都没有。我每天放学还要帮家里干活。
nà shíhou tiáojiàn hěn chà jiā lǐ lián diàn dēng dōu méiyǒu wǒ měi tiān fàngxué hái yào bāng jiā lǐ gànhuó · Things were very hard then: we didn't even have electric light. Every day after school I had to help with the work at home.

little sister 那您为什么二十岁就一个人来北京了?
nà nín wèi shénme èrshí suì jiù yí gè rén lái Běijīng le · So why did you come to Beijing on your own at twenty?

grandma 我想看看外面的世界。我本来也犹豫过，可是一想到能自己挣钱，就下了决心。
wǒ xiǎng kàn kan wàimiàn de shìjiè wǒ běnlái yě yóuyù guo kěshì yì xiǎng dào néng zìjǐ zhèng qián jiù xià le juéxīn · I wanted to see the world outside. I hesitated too at the time, but once I thought of earning my own money, I made up my mind.

anna 奶奶，您一个人来北京的时候，害怕吗?
nǎinai nín yí gè rén lái Běijīng de shíhou hàipà ma · Grandma, were you scared when you came to Beijing on your own?

grandma 怕啊！不过回顾这几十年，我一点儿也不后悔。你不也是一个人来北京的吗?
pà a búguò huígù zhè jǐ shí nián wǒ yìdiǎnr yě bú hòuhuǐ nǐ bù yě shì yí gè rén lái Běijīng de ma · Of course! But looking back over all these decades, I don't regret it at all. Didn't you come to Beijing on your own too?

anna 是啊，所以我特别能理解您。
shì a suǒyǐ wǒ tèbié néng lǐjiě nín · I did, which is why I understand you so well.

chapter 3 the cake and the photo

xiaoming 奶奶，生日快乐！祝您健康长寿！
nǎinai shēngrì kuàilè zhù nín jiànkāng chángshòu · Happy birthday, Grandma! Wishing you good health and a long life!

dr li 妈妈，我们全家祝福您天天开心。
māma wǒmen quán jiā zhùfú nín tiān tiān kāixīn · Mum, the whole family wishes you happiness every day.

grandma 谢谢你们。一家人团圆，就是我最好的礼物。
xièxie nǐmen yì jiā rén tuányuán jiùshì wǒ zuìhǎo de lǐwù · Thank you all. Having the family together is the best present I could have.

anna 大家站近一点儿，我们拍一张合影吧！
dàjiā zhàn jìn yìdiǎnr wǒmen pāi yì zhāng héyǐng ba · Everyone come in a bit closer, and let's take a group photo!

little sister 等一下，大白也要一起拍！
děng yíxià Dàbái yě yào yìqǐ pāi · Wait, Dabai has to be in it too!

grandma 这张照片太珍贵了。我祝愿你们每个人都平平安安、一帆风顺！
zhè zhāng zhàopiàn tài zhēnguì le wǒ zhùyuàn nǐmen měi gè rén dōu píngpíngānān yìfān fēngshùn · This photo is so precious. I wish every one of you safety and smooth sailing!

read aloud 75 seconds

家里的柜子里，放着一张发黄的老照片。照片上的人很年轻，穿着几十年前的衣服，站在一座老房子前面，笑得有点儿紧张。那时候照相是一件大事，一家人要穿上最好的衣服。如今，手机走进了千家万户，一天能拍几百张照片，可是最珍贵的，往往还是那一张。照片留住的是一个瞬间，家人留住的却是整个故事。 jiā lǐ de guìzi lǐ fàng zhe yì zhāng fā huáng de lǎo zhàopiàn zhàopiàn shàng de rén hěn niánqīng chuān zhe jǐ shí nián qián de yīfu zhàn zài yí zuò lǎo fángzi qiánmiàn xiào de yǒudiǎnr jǐnzhāng nà shíhou zhàoxiàng shì yí jiàn dàshì yì jiā rén yào chuān shàng zuìhǎo de yīfu rújīn shǒujī zǒu jìn le qiānjiā wànhù yì tiān néng pāi jǐ bǎi zhāng zhàopiàn kěshì zuì zhēnguì de wǎngwǎng háishi nà yì zhāng zhàopiàn liú zhù de shì yí gè shùnjiān jiārén liú zhù de què shì zhěnggè gùshi

words to watch

照相 zhàoxiàng · 一座 yí zuò · 一张 yì zhāng · 笑得 xiào de

talk 90 seconds

If you were organising a special birthday for an older person in your family, how would you prepare? Lay out the plan in steps and say why. Talk for a minute and a half.

如果你要为家里的一位老人办一次特别的生日，你打算怎么准备？ rúguǒ nǐ yào wèi jiā lǐ de yí wèi lǎorén bàn yí cì tèbié de shēngrì nǐ dǎsuàn zěnme zhǔnbèi

首先，……，为的是…… shǒuxiān wèi de shì

接着，…… jiēzhe

最后，…… zuìhòu

我之所以这样安排，是因为…… wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ zhèyàng ānpái shì yīnwèi

model answer

如果我要为奶奶办一次特别的生日，我会先想清楚她最需要的是什么。 rúguǒ wǒ yào wèi nǎinai bàn yí cì tèbié de shēngrì wǒ huì xiān xiǎng qīngchu tā zuì xūyào de shì shénme

在我看来，对老人来说，最珍贵的不是贵重的礼物，而是家人的陪伴和尊敬。 zài wǒ kànlái duì lǎorén lái shuō zuì zhēnguì de bú shì guìzhòng de lǐwù ér shì jiārén de péibàn hé zūnjìng

首先，我会悄悄联系所有的亲人，请每个人录一段祝福的视频，为的是给她一个惊喜。 shǒuxiān wǒ huì qiāoqiāo liánxì suǒyǒu de qīnrén qǐng měi gè rén lù yí duàn zhùfú de shìpín wèi de shì gěi tā yí gè jīngxǐ

接着，我会把这些年拍的家庭照片整理成一本相册，让她回顾自己几十年的岁月。 jiēzhe wǒ huì bǎ zhèxiē nián pāi de jiātíng zhàopiàn zhěnglǐ chéng yì běn xiàngcè ràng tā huígù zìjǐ jǐ shí nián de suìyuè

最后，我们全家一起吃一顿团圆饭，菜都是她年轻时最爱吃的，让她再尝尝当初的味道。 zuìhòu wǒmen quán jiā yìqǐ chī yí dùn tuányuán fàn cài dōu shì tā niánqīng shí zuì ài chī de ràng tā zài cháng chang dāngchū de wèidào

我之所以这样安排，是因为奶奶最大的心愿就是一家人在一起。 wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ zhèyàng ānpái shì yīnwèi nǎinai zuì dà de xīnyuàn jiùshì yì jiā rén zài yìqǐ

哪怕有的亲人平时住得很远，那一天也要想办法回去看望她。 nǎpà yǒude qīnrén píngshí zhù de hěn yuǎn nà yì tiān yě yào xiǎng bànfǎ huíqù kànwàng tā

总之，我希望这个生日能让她感到，大家一直都记着她，也珍惜跟她在一起的时光。 zǒngzhī wǒ xīwàng zhège shēngrì néng ràng tā gǎndào dàjiā yìzhí dōu jì zhe tā yě zhēnxī gēn tā zài yìqǐ de shíguāng

If I were organising a special birthday for my grandma, I'd first work out what she needs most. In my view, what's most precious to older people isn't an expensive present but their family's company and respect. First, I'd quietly contact all our relatives and ask each one to record a video message, to surprise her. Next, I'd sort the family photos from all these years into an album, so she could look back over all her years. Finally, the whole family would have a reunion dinner, with all the dishes she loved most when she was young, so she could taste the flavours of those days again. I'd plan it this way because her biggest wish is for the family to be together. Even relatives who live far away would find a way to come and see her that day. In short, I'd want the birthday to show her that we all remember her and treasure our time with her.

talk 90 seconds

Tell us about a person who influenced you a lot. What did you learn from them? Tell one story about them, in order, and end with the lesson. Talk for a minute and a half.

说说一位对你影响很大的人。你从他身上学到了什么？ shuō shuo yí wèi duì nǐ yǐngxiǎng hěn dà de rén nǐ cóng tā shēn shàng xué dào le shénme

对我影响最大的人是…… duì wǒ yǐngxiǎng zuì dà de rén shì

那是……的时候，…… nà shì de shíhou

后来……，结果…… hòulái jiéguǒ

他让我明白了…… tā ràng wǒ míngbai le

model answer

对我影响最大的人是我爸爸，他是英国一所中学的老师。 duì wǒ yǐngxiǎng zuì dà de rén shì wǒ bàba tā shì Yīngguó yì suǒ zhōngxué de lǎoshī

那是我上中学的时候，有一次数学考得很差，我难过得不想去学校。 nà shì wǒ shàng zhōngxué de shíhou yǒu yí cì shùxué kǎo de hěn chà wǒ nánguò de bù xiǎng qù xuéxiào

我以为爸爸会批评我，没想到他什么都没说，只是每天晚上陪我做一道题。 wǒ yǐwéi bàba huì pīpíng wǒ méi xiǎng dào tā shénme dōu méi shuō zhǐshì měi tiān wǎnshang péi wǒ zuò yí dào tí

起初我很不耐烦，后来却慢慢发现，数学并没有我想的那么难。 qǐchū wǒ hěn bú nàifán hòulái què màn màn fāxiàn shùxué bìng méiyǒu wǒ xiǎng de nàme nán

结果到了期末，我的数学取得了很大的进步。 jiéguǒ dào le qīmò wǒ de shùxué qǔdé le hěn dà de jìnbù

自从那以后，我遇到挫折就不再急着放弃，而是一点一点地去克服。 zìcóng nà yǐhòu wǒ yùdào cuòzhé jiù bú zài jí zhe fàngqì ér shì yìdiǎn yìdiǎn de qù kèfú

我之所以有勇气一个人来北京学习，也和他教给我的这种态度有关系。 wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ yǒu yǒngqì yí gè rén lái Běijīng xuéxí yě hé tā jiāo gěi wǒ de zhè zhǒng tàidù yǒu guānxì

他让我明白了，有耐心、能坚持的心态比聪明更重要。 tā ràng wǒ míngbai le yǒu nàixīn néng jiānchí de xīntài bǐ cōngmíng gèng zhòngyào

The person who influenced me most is my dad, who teaches at a secondary school in England. When I was at secondary school, I once did really badly in a maths test and was so upset I didn't want to go to school. I thought Dad would tell me off, but he said nothing; he just sat with me every evening and did one problem with me. At first I was impatient, but slowly I found that maths wasn't as hard as I'd thought. By the end of term, I had made great progress in maths. Ever since then, when I hit a setback I don't rush to give up; I overcome it bit by bit. That attitude he taught me is part of why I had the courage to come to Beijing to study on my own. He taught me that a patient, persistent attitude matters more than being clever.

Unit 1 done: two retells, a passage and two answers in a row. Unit 2 brings longer passages and an extra fifteen seconds for every answer.
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