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day 31 sorting rubbish

Chinese HSKK intermediate in 37 days
unit 7 · city, nature & change

Give causes and results with 由于……，因此……, say what someone did with 把 + thing + verb + 了; describe a family sorting rubbish for two minutes; give your attitude to sorting rubbish, and why.

Unit 7 is near test level: two minutes, ten sentences and an attitude question (你对……是什么态度？) in the paper's style.

words to say

word	pinyin	meaning	example
垃圾	lājī	rubbish, trash	请不要乱扔垃圾。 Please don't drop litter.
环境	huánjìng	environment, surroundings	这里的环境很好。 It's a lovely place here.
保护	bǎohù	to protect	我们要保护环境。 We need to protect the environment.
污染	wūrǎn	pollution; to pollute	工厂不能污染河水。 Factories must not pollute the river.
塑料	sùliào	plastic	去超市带个包，少用塑料袋。 Take a bag to the supermarket and use fewer plastic bags.
瓶子	píngzi	bottle	这个瓶子里有水吗? Is there any water in this bottle?
分开	fēnkāi	to separate, part	把大的和小的分开。 Separate the big ones from the small ones.
责任	zérèn	responsibility	照顾孩子是父母的责任。 Looking after children is the parents' responsibility.
生活	shēnghuó	life; to live	我很喜欢北京的生活。 I really like life in Beijing.
一定	yīdìng	definitely; must	你一定要来! You must come!

pattern 由于……，因此…… and 把 + thing + verb + 了

由于 cause, 因此 把 + thing + verb + 了

由于……，因此…… is a more careful “because…, therefore…”, good for opinions and explanations. 把 brings the thing forward so the verb can say what happened to it: 她把瓶子放进垃圾桶里了 (she put the bottle in the bin).

由于下大雨，因此我们没去公园。 **yóuyú xià dà yǔ yīncǐ wǒmen méi qù gōngyuán** Because of the heavy rain, we didn’t go to the park.

由于大家都把垃圾分开了，因此小区变得很干净。 **yóuyú dàjiā dōu bǎ lājī fēnkāi le yīncǐ xiǎoqū biàn de hěn gānjìng** Because everyone sorts their rubbish, the estate has become very clean.

她把瓶子放进蓝的垃圾桶里了。 **tā bǎ píngzi fàng jìn lán de lājī tǒng lǐ le** She put the bottle in the blue bin.

我已经把垃圾拿下楼了。 **wǒ yǐjīng bǎ lājī ná xià lóu le** I’ve already taken the rubbish downstairs.

dialogue which bin?

anna 妹妹，这个塑料瓶子应该放在哪个垃圾桶里？
mèimei zhège sùliào píngzi yīnggāi fàng zài nǎge lājī tǒng lǐ · Which bin does this plastic bottle go in?

little sister 放在蓝的那个里。你看，上面画着一个瓶子。
fàng zài lán de nàge lǐ nǐ kàn shàngmiàn huà zhe yí gè píngzi · The blue one. Look, there’s a bottle drawn on it.

anna 那吃剩的菜呢？
nà chī shèng de cài ne · And leftover food?

little sister 放在绿色的里。我们老师说，一定要把垃圾分开放。
fàng zài lǜsè de lǐ wǒmen lǎoshī shuō yídìng yào bǎ lājī fēnkāi fàng · In the green one. Our teacher says we must always sort the rubbish.

anna 在英国我们也分，可是没有这么认真。
zài Yīngguó wǒmen yě fēn kěshì méiyǒu zhème rènzhēn · We sort it in the UK too, but not this carefully.

little sister 刚开始我也常常放错，后来就习惯了。
gāng kāishǐ wǒ yě chángcháng fàng cuò hòulái jiù xíguàn le · At first I often got it wrong too, but then I got used to it.

anna 你真认真！保护环境，我也要向你学习。
nǐ zhēn rènzhēn bǎohù huánjìng wǒ yě yào xiàng nǐ xuéxí · You’re so careful! When it comes to the environment, I should learn from you.

little sister 保护环境是我们每个人的责任。
bǎohù huánjìng shì wǒmen měi gè rén de zérèn · Protecting the environment is everyone’s responsibility.

repeat listen, then say it back

吃剩的菜应该放在绿色的垃圾桶里。 **chī shèng de cài yīnggāi fàng zài lǜsè de lājī tǒng lǐ** Leftover food should go in the green bin.

她把塑料瓶子放进了蓝的那个垃圾桶里。 **tā bǎ sùliào píngzi fàng jìn le lán de nàge lājī tǒng lǐ** She put the plastic bottle in the blue bin.

出门的时候自己带袋子，就能少用塑料袋。 **chūmén de shíhou zìjǐ dài dàizi jiù néng shǎo yòng sùliào dài** If you take your own bag when you go out, you use fewer plastic bags.

由于污染越来越严重，因此我们要保护环境。 **yóuyú wūrǎn yuè lái yuè yánzhòng yīncǐ wǒmen yào bǎohù huánjìng** Because pollution is getting worse, we have to protect the environment.

保护环境不是一个人的事，是每个人的责任。 **bǎohù huánjìng bú shì yí gè rén de shì shì měi gè rén de zérèn** Protecting the environment isn't one person's job; it's everyone's responsibility.

我们小区每天都有人告诉大家怎么分开放垃圾。 **wǒmen xiǎoqū měi tiān dōu yǒu rén gàosu dàjiā zěnme fēnkāi fàng lājī** Every day someone on our estate shows people how to sort their rubbish.

reply answer out loud

你会把垃圾分开放吗？ **nǐ huì bǎ lājī fēnkāi fàng ma** Do you sort your rubbish?

→ 我会把垃圾分开放。 **wǒ huì bǎ lājī fēnkāi fàng**

→ 因为这样对环境好。 **yīnwèi zhèyàng duì huánjìng hǎo**

你买东西自己带袋子吗？ **nǐ mǎi dōngxi zìjǐ dài dàizi ma** Do you take your own bag when you shop?

→ 我一般自己带袋子。 **wǒ yìbān zìjǐ dài dàizi**

→ 因为塑料袋会污染环境。 **yīnwèi sùliào dài huì wūrǎn huánjìng**

你们那儿的环境怎么样？ **nǐmen nàr de huánjìng zěnmeyàng** What do you think of the environment where you live?

→ 我觉得我们那儿的环境还不错。 **wǒ juéde wǒmen nàr de huánjìng hái búcuò**

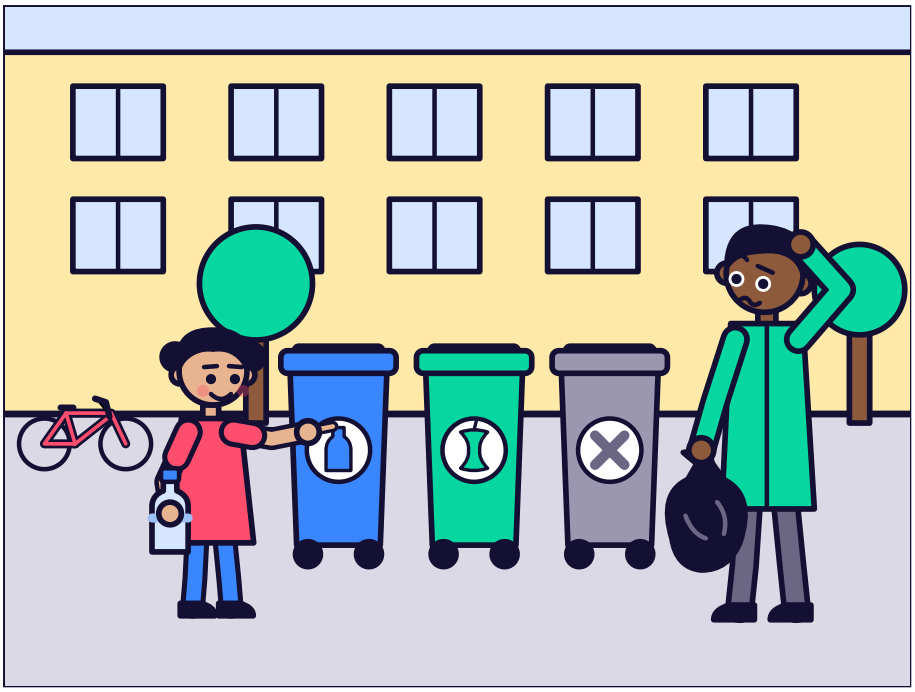
→ 小区里有很多树，空气也比较新鲜。 **xiǎoqū lǐ yǒu hěn duō shù kōngqì yě bǐjiào xīnxiān**

你出门坐车还是骑车？ **nǐ chūmén zuò chē háishi qí chē** Do you take a bus or cycle when you go out?

→ 我一般骑自行车。 **wǒ yìbān qí zìxíngchē**

→ 骑车不但能锻炼身体，还不会污染空气。 **qí chē búdàn néng duànliàn shēntǐ hái bú huì wūrǎn kōngqì**

describe the picture 120 seconds



Describe the picture: say who is there, where they are and what they are doing, add some details, guess what is going on and why, and link it to yourself.

她把……放进……里了。 tā bǎ fàng jìn lǐ le

由于……，因此……。 yóuyú yīncǐ

model answer

这张图片上是一个小区，后边有一座黄色的楼。 zhè zhāng túpiàn shàng shì yí gè xiǎoqū hòu biān yǒu yí zuò huángsè de lóu

楼前边放着三个垃圾桶，颜色都不一样。 lóu qián biān fàng zhe sān gè lājī tǒng yánsè dōu bù yíyàng

每个垃圾桶上都画着一个图，蓝的上面画着一个瓶子，绿色的上面画着一个吃完的苹果。 měi gè lājī tǒng shàng dōu huà zhe yí gè tú lán de shàngmiàn huà zhe yí gè píngzi lǜsè de shàngmiàn huà zhe yí gè chī wán de píngguǒ

左边站着一个小姑娘，她一只手拿着一个塑料瓶子，另一只手指着蓝的那个垃圾桶。 zuǒbian zhàn zhe yí gè xiǎo gūniang tā yì zhī shǒu ná zhe yí gè sùliào píngzi lìng yì zhī shǒu zhǐ zhe lán de nàge lājī tǒng

右边站着一个男人，他手里拿着一个很大的垃圾袋。 yòubian zhàn zhe yí gè nánrén tā shǒu lǐ ná zhe yí gè hěn dà de lājī dài

他一直看着那些垃圾桶。 tā yìzhí kàn zhe nàxiē lājī tǒng

旁边有一辆红色的自行车和两棵树。 pángbiān yǒu yí liàng hóngsè de zìxíngchē hé liǎng kē shù

这个男人可能是小姑娘的爸爸，看起来他不知道应该把垃圾放进哪个桶里，因为他的另一只手一直放在头上。 zhège nánrén kěnéng shì xiǎo gūniang de bàba kàn qǐlai tā bù zhīdào yīnggāi bǎ lājī fàng jìn nǎge tǒng lǐ yīnwèi tā de lìng yì zhī shǒu yìzhí fàng zài tóu shàng

小姑娘却很清楚，她在告诉爸爸，塑料瓶子要放在蓝的垃圾桶里。 xiǎo gūniang què hěn qīngchu tā zài gàosu bàba sùliào píngzi yào fàng zài lán de lājī tǒng lǐ

我估计，由于现在很多地方都要求把垃圾分开放，因此她可能在学校里学过这些。 wǒ gūjì yóuyú xiànzài hěn duō dìfang dōu yāoqiú bǎ lājī fēnkāi fàng yīncǐ tā kěnéng zài xuéxiào lǐ xué guo zhèxiē

如果我是这位爸爸，我会认真听女儿的话。 rúguǒ wǒ shì zhè wèi bàba wǒ huì rènzhēn tīng nǚér dehuà

我觉得保护环境，大人和孩子都有责任。 wǒ juéde bǎohù huánjìng dàren hé háizi dōu yǒu zérèn

This picture shows a housing estate, with a yellow block of flats behind. In front of the block there are three bins, each a different colour. Each bin has a picture on it: the blue one has a bottle, the green one an apple core. On the left stands a girl holding a plastic bottle in one hand and pointing at the blue bin with the other. On the right stands a man holding a big rubbish bag. He keeps looking at the bins. There's also a red bicycle and two trees. The man is probably the girl's dad. It looks as if he doesn't know which bin to put the rubbish in, because his other hand stays on his head. The girl, though, knows exactly: she's telling her dad that plastic bottles go in the blue bin. My guess is that because many places now ask people to sort their rubbish, she has probably learned this at school. If I were the dad, I'd listen carefully to my daughter. I think adults and children all have a responsibility to protect the environment.

talk 120 seconds

What is your attitude to sorting rubbish? Why? Think for a minute, then talk for two minutes.

你对把垃圾分开放是什么态度？为什么？ nǐ duì bǎ lājī fēnkāi fàng shì shénme tàidù wèi shénme

我对……的态度是……，因为……。 wǒ duì de tàidù shì yīnwèi

由于……，因此……。 yóuyú yīncǐ

model answer

我非常支持把垃圾分开放。 wǒ fēicháng zhīchí bǎ lājī fēnkāi fàng

首先，这样做可以保护环境。 shǒuxiān zhèyàng zuò kěyǐ bǎohù huánjìng

由于很多垃圾还可以再用，比如塑料瓶子和纸，因此分开放以后，污染就会少一些。 yóuyú hěn duō lājī hái kěyǐ zài yòng bǐrú sùliào píngzi hé zhǐ yīncǐ fēnkāi fàng yǐhòu wūrǎn jiù huì shǎo yìxiē

其次，这件事不难，每个人都能做到。 qícì zhè jiàn shì bù nán měi gè rén dōu néng zuò dào

我住的小区现在每天都有人告诉大家怎么把垃圾分开放。 wǒ zhù de xiǎoqū xiànzài měi tiān dōu yǒu rén gàosu dàjiā zěnme bǎ lājī fēnkāi fàng

刚开始我觉得有点儿麻烦，甚至常常放错。 gāng kāishǐ wǒ juéde yǒudiǎnr máfan shènzhì chángcháng fàng cuò

可是习惯了以后，每天只要多花一两分钟就够了。 kěshì xíguàn le yǐhòu měi tiān zhǐyào duō huā yìliǎng fēnzhōng jiù gòu le

当然，也有人反对，他们觉得太麻烦，而且不知道什么垃圾应该放在哪儿。 dāngrán yě yǒu rén fǎnduì tāmen juéde tài máfan érqiě bù zhīdào shénme lājī yīnggāi fàng zài nǎr

我能理解他们的想法，所以我觉得小区和学校应该多教教大家。 wǒ néng lǐjiě tāmen de xiǎngfǎ suǒyǐ wǒ juéde xiǎoqū hé xuéxiào yīnggāi duō jiāo jiao dàjiā

即使一开始放错了，也没关系，慢慢就习惯了。 jíshǐ yì kāishǐ fàng cuò le yě méi guānxi màn màn jiù xíguàn le

所以我觉得，保护环境是每个人的责任，把垃圾分开放就是一个很好的开始。 suǒyǐ wǒ juéde bǎohù huánjìng shì měi gè rén de zérèn bǎ lājī fēnkāi fàng jiùshì yí gè hěn hǎo de kāishǐ

I strongly support sorting rubbish. First, it protects the environment. Because a lot of rubbish can be used again, like plastic bottles and paper, sorting it means less pollution. Second, it isn't hard: anyone can do it. In my block someone now tells us every day how to sort the rubbish. At first I found it a bit of a nuisance, and I often even put things in the wrong bin. But once you're used to it, it only takes a minute or two extra a day. Of course, some people are against it: they find it a nuisance and don't know what goes where. I can understand them, so I think blocks of flats and schools should teach people more. Even if you get it wrong at first, it doesn't matter: you get used to it. So I think protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility, and sorting rubbish is a very good start.

good to know · There is no HSK 1–4 word for “sorting” rubbish: say 把垃圾分开放 (put the rubbish out separately). With 把, the verb always needs something after it: 放进垃圾桶里了, 拿下楼了, 分开了. 他把瓶子放 on its own is not finished.

Ten sentences on a picture, with a cause and a result: that is test level.
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day 32 phones at the table

Chinese HSKK intermediate in 37 days
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Weigh both sides with 一方面……，另一方面……, mark a contrast with 却; describe a boy on his phone while his dog waits, for two minutes; say whether phones have made life better.

"Has X made life better?" is a classic attitude question. 一方面……另一方面…… gives you a two-sided answer that easily fills two minutes.

words to say

word	pinyin	meaning	example
信息	xìnxī	information; message	网上的信息不一定都对。 Not everything you read online is right.
新闻	xīnwén	news	你看今天的新闻了吗? Have you seen today's news?
联系	liánxì	contact, get in touch	要是有问题，请联系我。 If there's a problem, please get in touch.
交流	jiāoliú	to communicate, exchange	我常常|用汉语跟中国朋友交流。 I often talk with Chinese friends in Chinese.
无聊	wúliáo	boring; bored	一个人在家太无聊了。 It's so boring at home on my own.
影响	yǐngxiǎng	to affect; influence	睡不好会影响工作。 Not sleeping well affects your work.
游戏	yóuxì	game	孩子们在玩游戏。 The kids are playing a game.
其实	qíshí	actually, in fact	其实我不喜欢咖啡。 Actually, I don't like coffee.
比如	bǐrú	for example	我喜欢运动，比如跑步和游泳。 I like sport, for example running and swimming.
却	què	but, yet	他很忙，却每天都锻炼。 He's busy, yet he exercises every day.

pattern 一方面……，另一方面…… and 却

一方面 | one side, | 另一方面 | subject + 却 + the unexpected

一方面……，另一方面…… lays out two sides or two reasons. 却 means “but, yet”; it goes after the subject, never at the start of the sentence: 饭菜很香，大家却都在看手机.

手机一方面让联系变得很方便，另一方面也让人越来越离不开它。 **shǒujī yì fāngmiàn ràng liánxì biàn de hěn fāngbiàn lìng yì fāngmiàn yě ràng rén yuè lái yuè lí bu kāi tā** On the one hand phones make keeping in touch easy; on the other, people can’t do without them.

一方面我想多赚钱，另一方面我也想有时间休息。 **yì fāngmiàn wǒ xiǎng duō zhuàn qián lìng yì fāngmiàn wǒ yě xiǎng yǒu shíjiān xiūxi** On the one hand I want to earn more; on the other I want time to rest too.

饭菜很香，大家却都在看手机。 **fàn cài hěn xiāng dàjiā què dōu zài kàn shǒujī** The food smells great, yet everyone is on their phone.

他住得很近，却常常迟到。 **tā zhù de hěn jìn què chángcháng chídào** He lives very close, but he’s often late.

dialogue no phones at dinner

grandma 吃饭了！今天我做了你们最喜欢的鱼。
chī fàn le jīntiān wǒ zuò le nǐmen zuì xǐhuan de yú · Dinner’s ready! I’ve made your favourite fish today.

little sister 好的，奶奶，我看完这个视频就来。
hǎo de nǎinai wǒ kàn wán zhège shìpín jiù lái · OK, Grandma, I’ll come when I’ve finished this video.

xiaoming 我也马上来，我在回同事的信息。
wǒ yě mǎshàng lái wǒ zài huí tóngshì de xìnxī · I’m coming too, I’m just answering a colleague’s message.

grandma 菜都快凉了，你们却还在看手机。
cài dōu kuài liáng le nǐmen què hái zài kàn shǒujī · The food is getting cold, and you’re still on your phones.

ms zhang 妈妈说得对。以后我们吃饭的时候都别看手机了，好不好？
māma shuō de duì yǐhòu wǒmen chī fàn de shíhou dōu bié kàn shǒujī le hǎo bu hǎo · Mum’s right. From now on, no phones while we eat, OK?

little sister 可是有时候同学们会在网上联系我。
kěshì yǒu shíhou tóngxuémen huì zài wǎngshang liánxì wǒ · But sometimes my classmates message me online.

xiaoming 其实，吃完饭再回也来得及。
qíshí chī wán fàn zài huí yě láidejí · Actually, there’s still time to answer after dinner.

grandma 对啊，一家人在一起，最重要的是多交流。
duì a yì jiā rén zài yìqǐ zuì zhòngyào de shì duō jiāoliú · That’s right. When the family is together, what matters most is talking to each other.

repeat listen, then say it back

我每天早上都用手机看一会儿新闻。 wǒ měi tiān zǎoshang dōu yòng shǒujī kàn yíhuìr xīnwén Every morning I spend a little while reading the news on my phone.

奶奶有点儿难过，因为没有人跟她说话。 nǎinai yǒudiǎnr nánguò yīnwèi méiyǒu rén gēn tā shuōhuà Grandma is a bit sad, because nobody is talking to her.

饭菜都快凉了，大家却还在低头看手机。 fàn cài dōu kuài liáng le dàjiā què hái zài dī tóu kàn shǒujī The food is nearly cold, but everyone is still looking down at their phones.

手机一方面很方便，另一方面也影响睡觉。 shǒujī yì fāngmiàn hěn fāngbiàn lìng yì fāngmiàn yě yǐngxiǎng shuìjiào Phones are handy on the one hand, but on the other they affect sleep.

其实，一家人吃饭的时候最需要的是交流。 qíshí yì jiā rén chī fàn de shíhou zuì xūyào de shì jiāoliú Actually, what a family needs most at dinner is to talk.

有什么事你就给我发信息，我们用手机联系。 yǒu shénme shì nǐ jiù gěi wǒ fā xìnxī wǒmen yòng shǒujī liánxì If anything comes up, just message me; we'll keep in touch by phone.

reply answer out loud

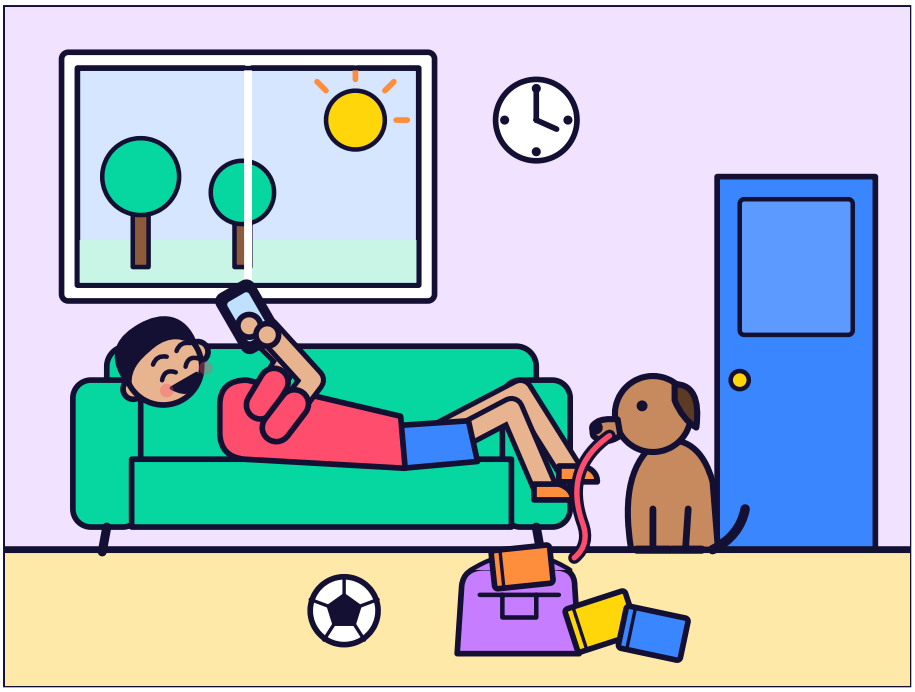
你觉得网上的新闻怎么样？ nǐ juéde wǎngshang de xīnwén zěnmeyàng What do you think of the news online?
→ 我觉得网上的新闻又快又多。 wǒ juéde wǎngshang de xīnwén yòu kuài yòu duō
→ 不过有的新闻不一定是真的，要自己想一想。 búguò yǒude xīnwén bù yídìng shì zhēn de yào zìjǐ xiǎng yi xiang

你喜欢打电话还是发信息？ nǐ xǐhuan dǎ diànhuà háishi fā xìnxī Do you prefer calling or sending messages?
→ 我更喜欢发信息。 wǒ gèng xǐhuan fā xìnxī
→ 发信息的话，可以想好了再回答。 fā xìnxī dehuà kěyǐ xiǎng hǎo le zài huídá

一个人在家你觉得无聊吗？ yí gè rén zài jiā nǐ juéde wúliáo ma Do you get bored on your own?
→ 我一般不觉得无聊。 wǒ yìbān bù juéde wúliáo
→ 因为我可以看书或者听音乐。 yīnwèi wǒ kěyǐ kàn shū huòzhě tīng yīnyuè

吃饭时你看手机吗？ chī fàn shí nǐ kàn shǒujī ma Do you look at your phone while you eat?
→ 我吃饭时很少看手机。 wǒ chī fàn shí hěn shǎo kàn shǒujī
→ 因为我想好好地跟朋友聊天。 yīnwèi wǒ xiǎng hǎohǎo de gēn péngyou liáotiān

describe the picture 120 seconds



Describe the picture: say who is there, where they are and what they are doing, add some details, guess what is going on and why, and link it to yourself.

外边……，他却……。 wàibian tā què

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

model answer

这张图片上只有一个男孩儿，他躺在一个绿色的沙发上，正在玩手机。 zhè zhāng túpiàn shàng zhǐyǒu yí gè nánháir tā tǎng zài yí gè lǜsè de shāfā shàng zhèngzài wán shǒujī

他手里拿着手机，眼睛一直看着它，笑得很开心。 tā shǒu lǐ ná zhe shǒujī yǎnjing yìzhí kàn zhe tā xiào de hěn kāixīn

他的两条腿放在沙发上，脚上还穿着鞋。 tā de liǎng tiáo tuǐ fàng zài shāfā shàng jiǎo shàng hái chuān zhe xié

窗户外边有两棵树，太阳很大，天气非常好。 chuānghu wàibian yǒu liǎng kē shù tàiyáng hěn dà tiānqì fēicháng hǎo

右边有一个蓝的门，门旁边坐着一只狗，它一直看着男孩儿。 yòubian yǒu yí gè lán de mén mén pángbiān zuò zhe yì zhī gǒu tā yìzhí kàn zhe nánháir

地上有一个足球，还有一个打开的书包，三本书都掉了出来。 dì shàng yǒu yí gè zúqiú hái yǒu yí gè dǎkāi de shūbāo sān běn shū dōu diào le chulai

外边天气这么好，他却一直躺在沙发上看手机。 wàibian tiānqì zhème hǎo tā què yìzhí tǎng zài shāfā shàng kàn shǒujī

看起来狗很想出去，因为它一直坐在门旁边，好像在等他带它去散步；地上的书也可能说明他的作业还没写完。 kàn qǐlai gǒu hěn xiǎng chūqù yīnwèi tā yìzhí zuò zài mén pángbiān hǎoxiàng zài děng tā dài tā qù sànbù dì shàng de shū yě kěnéng shuōmíng tā de zuòyè hái méi xiě wán

我觉得手机一方面让生活变得很方便，另一方面也让我们花在别的事情上的时间少了。 wǒ juéde shǒujī yì fāngmiàn ràng shēnghuó biàn de hěn fāngbiàn lìng yì fāngmiàn yě ràng wǒmen huā zài biéde shìqing shàng de shíjiān shǎo le

我小时候也很喜欢玩游戏，常常忘了写作业。 wǒ xiǎoshíhou yě hěn xǐhuan wán yóuxì chángcháng wàng le xiě zuòyè

如果我是他，我会先把手机放下，带狗出去走走，回来再写作业。 **rúguǒ wǒ shì tā wǒ huì xiān bǎ shǒujī fàng xià dài gǒu chūqù zǒu zou huílái zài xiě zuòyè**

There is only one person in this picture, a boy lying on a green sofa, playing on his phone. He has the phone in his hand, keeps his eyes on it and is laughing happily. His legs are up on the sofa, and he still has his shoes on. Outside the window there are two trees, the sun is strong and the weather is lovely. On the right there is a blue door, and by the door sits a dog that keeps looking at the boy. On the floor there is a football and an open schoolbag, with three books fallen out of it. The weather outside is so nice, yet he just lies on the sofa looking at his phone. The dog looks keen to go out, because it keeps sitting by the door, as if waiting for him to take it for a walk; the books on the floor may also mean his homework isn't finished. I think phones, on the one hand, make life very convenient, but on the other hand they leave us less time for other things. When I was a child I loved playing games too, and I often forgot my homework. If I were him, I would put the phone down first, take the dog out for a walk, and do my homework when I got back.

talk 120 seconds

Do you think phones have made our lives better? Why? Think for a minute, then talk for two minutes.

你觉得手机让我们的生活变得更好了吗？为什么？ nǐ juéde shǒujī ràng wǒmen de shēnghuó biàn de gèng hǎo le ma wèi shénme

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

其实，问题是……。 qíshí wèntí shì

model answer

我觉得手机让我们的生活变得更好了，但是也带来了一些问题。 wǒ juéde shǒujī ràng wǒmen de shēnghuó biàn de gèng hǎo le dànshì yě dài lái le yìxiē wèntí

一方面，手机给我们带来了很多方便。 yì fāngmiàn shǒujī gěi wǒmen dài lái le hěn duō fāngbiàn

比如，我们可以用手机看新闻、买东西、坐地铁，还可以用手机付钱。 bǐrú wǒmen kěyǐ yòng shǒujī kàn xīnwén mǎi dōngxi zuò dìtiě hái kěyǐ yòng shǒujī fù qián

我在中国学习，离家很远，可是每个星期都能用手机跟爸爸妈妈视频，一点儿也不觉得远。 wǒ zài Zhōngguó xuéxí lí jiā hěn yuǎn kěshì měi gè xīngqī dōu néng yòng shǒujī gēn bàba māma shìpín yìdiǎnr yě bù juéde yuǎn

遇到不认识的字，我也可以马上在手机上查。 yùdào bú rènshi de zì wǒ yě kěyǐ mǎshàng zài shǒujī shàng chá

另一方面，手机也影响了我们的生活。 lìng yì fāngmiàn shǒujī yě yǐngxiǎng le wǒmen de shēnghuó

很多人一有时间就看手机，尤其是年轻人，不看就觉得很无聊。 hěn duō rén yì yǒu shíjiān jiù kàn shǒujī yóuqí shì niánqīng rén bú kàn jiù juéde hěn wúliáo

有时候朋友们坐在一起吃饭，大家却都在看手机，没有人说话。 yǒu shíhou péngyoumen zuò zài yìqǐ chī fàn dàjiā què dōu zài kàn shǒujī méiyǒu rén shuōhuà

而且晚上看手机看得太晚，第二天上课就很累，甚至会影响学习。 érqiě wǎnshang kàn shǒujī kàn de tài wǎn dì èr tiān shàngkè jiù hěn lèi shènzhì huì yǐngxiǎng xuéxí

其实，问题不在手机，而在我们怎么用它。 qíshí wèntí bú zài shǒujī ér zài wǒmen zěnme yòng tā

所以我觉得，我们应该好好用手机，但是吃饭和睡觉的时候，最好把它放下。 suǒyǐ wǒ juéde wǒmen yīnggāi hǎohǎo yòng shǒujī dànshì chī fàn hé shuìjiào de shíhou zuìhǎo bǎ tā fàng xià

I think phones have made our lives better, but they've also brought some problems. On the one hand, phones make things very convenient. For example, we can use them to read the news, shop, take the subway, and pay too. I study in China, far from home, but every week I can video-call my parents, so it doesn't feel far at all. When I meet a character I don't know, I can look it up on my phone at once. On the other hand, phones have changed our lives for the worse too. Many people look at their phone the moment they have time, especially young people, and feel bored without it. Sometimes friends sit down to eat together and everyone looks at their phone; nobody talks. And if you're on your phone too late at night, you're tired in class the next day; it can even affect your studies. Actually, the problem isn't the phone, it's how we use it. So I think we should make good use of our phones, but at meals and at bedtime it's best to put them down.

good to know · 却 never starts a sentence: put it after the subject (大家却……). To start with "but", use 但是 or 可是. 看手机 and 玩手机 are the everyday ways to say "be on your phone"; 视频 is both a video and a video call (跟妈妈视频). One person in the picture: spend the extra time on the place and the things around them (how many, what colour, where), a second guess, and yourself.

Both sides, then your view: that is how a strong two-minute opinion is built.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 33 new year's eve

Describe a lively scene with 有A有B (有说有笑), say what never changes with 不管……都……; describe a grandfather making New Year dumplings for two minutes; tell the story of your most memorable festival.

Festivals are the most natural "tell us about a time" question: you remember a day, tell what happened in order and say why it stayed with you.

words to say

word	pinyin	meaning	example
新年	xīnnián	New Year	新年快乐! Happy New Year!
节日	jiérì	festival, holiday	中国的节日真多! China has so many festivals!
热闹	rènao	lively, bustling	春节的时候，街上特别热闹。 The streets are really lively at Spring Festival.
红包	hóngbāo	red envelope (with money)	春节的时候，孩子们会收到红包。 At Spring Festival, children get red envelopes.
亲戚	qīnqi	relative, relation	春节的时候，很多亲戚来我家。 At Spring Festival lots of relatives come to our home.
表演	biǎoyǎn	to perform; performance	妹妹在晚会上表演了一个节目。 My little sister did an act at the party.
孙子	sūnzi	grandson	爷爷最喜欢跟孙子聊天。 Grandpa loves chatting with his grandson.
幸福	xìngfú	happiness; happy (in life)	他们一家人生活得很幸福。 Their family has a happy life.
大人	dàren	adult, grown-up	大人和孩子都喜欢大白。 Grown-ups and children all love Dabai.
节目	jiémù	programme, show, act	今天晚上有什么好节目? What's good on tonight?

pattern 有a有b and 不管……都……

有说有笑 | 不管 | any case, | 都……

有A有B pairs two short words to paint a full, lively scene: 有说有笑 (talking and laughing), 有鱼有肉 (fish and meat, a feast). 不管……都…… says the result is the same whatever happens; after 不管 comes a question form: 不管多忙, 不管下不下雪, 不管在哪儿.

吃饭的时候，大家有说有笑。 **chī fàn de shíhou dàjiā yǒu shuō yǒu xiào** Over dinner everyone talks and laughs.

桌子上有鱼有肉，还有饺子。 **zhuōzi shàng yǒu yú yǒu ròu hái yǒu jiǎozi** There's fish and meat on the table, and dumplings too.

不管多忙，过年的时候我都回家。 **bùguǎn duō máng guònián de shíhou wǒ dōu huí jiā** However busy I am, I always go home for New Year.

不管大人还是孩子，都喜欢过年。 **bùguǎn dàren háishi háizi dōu xǐhuan guònián** Adults and children alike all love New Year.

dialogue a red envelope for anna

grandma 安娜，欢迎你来我们家过年！
Ānnà huānyíng nǐ lái wǒmen jiā guònián · Anna, welcome! Come and spend New Year with us!

anna 谢谢奶奶！你们家今天真热闹。
xièxie nǎinai nǐmen jiā jīntiān zhēn rènao · Thank you, Grandma! It's so lively here today.

xiaoming 今天亲戚们都来了，一共十几个人。
jīntiān qīnqimen dōu lái le yígòng shí jǐ gè rén · All the relatives are here today, over ten of us.

little sister 安娜姐姐，晚上电视上有很多好看的节目，有唱歌的，有跳舞的。
Ānnà jiějie wǎnshang diànshì shàng yǒu hěn duō hǎokàn de jiémù yǒu chàng gē de yǒu tiàowǔ de · Anna, there are lots of good shows on TV tonight, singing and dancing.

grandma 来，这是给你的红包，新年快乐！
lái zhè shì gěi nǐ de hóngbāo xīnnián kuàilè · Here, this red envelope is for you. Happy New Year!

anna 我已经是大人了，还有红包吗？
wǒ yǐjīng shì dàren le hái yǒu hóngbāo ma · I'm a grown-up now. Do I still get a red envelope?

grandma 不管多大，在奶奶这儿都是孩子。
bùguǎn duō dà zài nǎinai zhèr dōu shì háizi · No matter how old you are, to Grandma you're still a child.

anna 谢谢奶奶！祝您新年快乐，身体健康！
xièxie nǎinai zhù nín xīnnián kuàilè shēntǐ jiànkāng · Thank you, Grandma! Happy New Year, and good health!

repeat listen, then say it back

不管工作多忙，新年的时候我都要回家。 bùguǎn gōngzuò duō máng xīnnián de shíhou wǒ dōu yào huí jiā However busy work is, I always go home at New Year.

奶奶给了孙子一个红包，孙子笑得很开心。 nǎinai gěi le sūnzi yí gè hóngbāo sūnzi xiào de hěn kāixīn Grandma gave her grandson a red envelope, and he beamed.

过年的时候，亲戚们都来了，家里特别热闹。 guònián de shíhou qīnqimen dōu lái le jiā lǐ tèbié rènao At New Year all the relatives came, and the flat was really lively.

大人们一边包饺子，一边看电视上的节目。 dàrenmen yìbiān bāo jiǎozi yìbiān kàn diànshì shàng de jiémù The adults make dumplings while they watch the TV show.

吃饭的时候大家有说有笑，看起来非常幸福。 chī fàn de shíhou dàjiā yǒu shuō yǒu xiào kàn qǐlai fēicháng xìngfú Everyone talks and laughs over dinner; they look very happy.

对很多中国人来说，新年是一年里最重要的节日。 duì hěn duō Zhōngguó rén lái shuō xīnnián shì yì nián lǐ zuì zhòngyào de jiérì For many Chinese people, New Year is the most important festival of the year.

reply answer out loud

你觉得红包这个习惯怎么样？ nǐ juéde hóngbāo zhège xíguàn zěnmeyàng What do you think of the red-envelope custom?

→ 我觉得这个习惯挺好的。 wǒ juéde zhège xíguàn tǐng hǎo de

→ 对孩子来说，收到红包是新年最高兴的事。 duì háizi lái shuō shōudào hóngbāo shì xīnnián zuì gāoxìng de shì

你家亲戚多吗？ nǐ jiā qīnqi duō ma Do you have a lot of relatives?

→ 我家亲戚不太多。 wǒ jiā qīnqi bú tài duō

→ 所以过节的时候家里比较安静。 suǒyǐ guòjié de shíhou jiā lǐ bǐjiào ānjìng

过节你喜欢热闹还是安静？ guòjié nǐ xǐhuan rènao háishi ānjìng At festivals, do you like it lively or quiet?

→ 我更喜欢热闹。 wǒ gèng xǐhuan rènao

→ 人多的时候，大家有说有笑，我觉得特别开心。 rén duō de shíhou dàjiā yǒu shuō yǒu xiào wǒ juéde tèbié kāixīn

你喜欢看表演吗？ nǐ xǐhuan kàn biǎoyǎn ma Do you like watching shows?

→ 我很喜欢看表演。 wǒ hěn xǐhuan kàn biǎoyǎn

→ 因为唱歌跳舞的节目让人很放松。 yīnwèi chàng gē tiàowǔ de jiémù ràng rén hěn fàngsōng

describe the picture 120 seconds



Describe the picture: say who is there, where they are and what they are doing, add some details, guess what is going on and why, and link it to yourself.

我估计……，因为……；不管……，……都……。 wǒ gūjì yīnwèi bùguǎn dōu

model answer

这张图片上是晚上，窗户外边正在下雪，窗户上挂着两个红色的灯。 zhè zhāng túpiàn shàng shì wǎnshang chuānghu wàibian zhèngzài xià xuě chuānghu shàng guà zhe liǎng gè hóngsè de dēng

桌子旁边只坐着一位老人，他的头发是白色的，穿着黄色的衣服。 zhuōzi pángbiān zhǐ zuò zhe yí wèi lǎorén tā de tóufa shì báisè de chuān zhe huángsè de yīfu

他两只手拿着一个饺子，正在包饺子，笑得很开心。 tā liǎng zhī shǒu ná zhe yí gè jiǎozi zhèngzài bāo jiǎozi xiào de hěn kāixīn

桌子上有三大盘饺子，旁边还有一个蓝的小碗。 zhuōzi shàng yǒu sān dà pán jiǎozi pángbiān hái yǒu yí gè lán de xiǎo wǎn

桌子边上放着六个空碗和六双筷子，还有一个手机。 zhuōzi biān shàng fàng zhe liù gè kōng wǎn hé liù shuāng kuàizi hái yǒu yí gè shǒujī

一个人吃不了这么多饺子，所以我估计他的家人今天晚上要回来。 yí gè rén chī bu liǎo zhème duō jiǎozi suǒyǐ wǒ gūjì tā de jiārén jīntiān wǎnshang yào huílái

看起来今天是过年，因为外边下着雪，窗户上还挂着红色的灯。 kàn qǐlai jīntiān shì guònián yīnwèi wàibian xià zhe xuě chuānghu shàng hái guà zhe hóngsè de dēng

我想等一会儿孩子们回来以后，大家一定有说有笑，非常热闹。 wǒ xiǎng děng yíhuìr háizimen huílái yǐhòu dàjiā yídìng yǒu shuō yǒu xiào fēicháng rènao

我觉得不管孩子们工作多忙，过年的时候都应该回家看看老人。 wǒ juéde bùguǎn háizimen gōngzuò duō máng guònián de shíhou dōu yīnggāi huí jiā kàn kan lǎorén

我第一次包饺子，就是过年的时候跟小明的奶奶学的。 wǒ dì yī cì bāo jiǎozi jiùshì guònián de shíhou gēn Xiǎomíng de nǎinai xué de

如果我是他的孙子，我会早一点儿回家，帮爷爷一起包饺子。 rúguǒ wǒ shì tā de sūnzi wǒ huì zǎo yìdiǎnr huí jiā bāng yéye yìqǐ bāo jiǎozi

This picture shows a night scene: snow is falling outside the window, and two red lanterns hang in the window. Only one old man sits at the table; his hair is white, and he is wearing yellow. He holds a dumpling in both hands: he is making dumplings, and smiling happily. On the table there are three big

plates of dumplings, and a small blue bowl beside them. Round the edge of the table there are six empty bowls and six pairs of chopsticks, and a phone. One person can't eat so many dumplings, so my guess is his family is coming home tonight. It looks like New Year, because it is snowing outside and there are red lanterns in the window. I imagine that when his children get back, everyone will be talking and laughing, and it will be very lively. I think however busy the children are with work, they should go home to see their parents at New Year. The first time I made dumplings was at New Year: Xiaoming's grandma taught me. If I were his grandson, I would get home early and help Grandpa make the dumplings.

talk 120 seconds

Tell us about your most memorable festival. Why was it memorable? Think for a minute, then talk for two minutes.

说说你最难忘的一个节日。为什么难忘？ shuō shuo nǐ zuì nánwàng de yí gè jiérì wèi shénme nánwàng

不管……，……都……。 bùguǎn dōu

model answer

我最难忘的节日，是我在中国过的第一个新年。 wǒ zuì nánwàng de jiérì shì wǒ zài Zhōngguó guò de dì yī gè xīnnián

当时小明一家请我去他们家一起过。 dāngshí Xiǎomíng yì jiā qǐng wǒ qù tāmen jiā yìqǐ guò

那天晚上，亲戚们都来了，家里非常热闹。 nà tiān wǎnshang qīnqimen dōu lái le jiā lǐ fēicháng rènao

大人们在厨房里包饺子，孩子们在客厅里玩。 dàrenmen zài chúfáng lǐ bāo jiǎozi háizimen zài kètīng lǐ wán

大家一边吃饭，一边看电视上的节目，有说有笑。 dàjiā yìbiān chī fàn yìbiān kàn diànshì shàng de jiémù yǒu shuō yǒu xiào

到了晚上十二点，大家都互相说“新年快乐”。 dào le wǎnshang shíèr diǎn dàjiā dōu hùxiāng shuō xīnnián kuàilè

奶奶也给了我一个红包，虽然我已经是大人了。 nǎinai yě gěi le wǒ yí gè hóngbāo suīrán wǒ yǐjīng shì dàren le

那时候我离家很远，可是我觉得自己好像也是他们家的人。 nà shíhou wǒ lí jiā hěn yuǎn kěshì wǒ juéde zìjǐ hǎoxiàng yě shì tāmen jiā de rén

这就是那个新年让我难忘的原因：我第一次感到，即使离家很远，也能有家的感觉。 zhè jiùshì nàge xīnnián ràng wǒ nánwàng de yuányīn wǒ dì yī cì gǎndào jíshǐ lí jiā hěn yuǎn yě néng yǒu jiā de gǎnjué

不管你在哪儿工作、学习，过年的时候大家都想回家，跟家人在一起。 bùguǎn nǐ zài nǎr gōngzuò xuéxí guònián de shíhou dàjiā dōu xiǎng huí jiā gēn jiārén zài yìqǐ

所以对我来说，新年最重要的不是吃什么，而是跟谁一起过。 suǒyǐ duì wǒ lái shuō xīnnián zuì zhòngyào de bú shì chī shénme ér shì gēn shéi yìqǐ guò

My most memorable festival is my first New Year in China. Xiaoming's family invited me to spend it at their home. That evening all the relatives came, and the flat was so lively. The adults made dumplings in the kitchen while the children played in the living room. Everyone ate and watched the shows on TV, talking and laughing. At midnight everyone wished each other "Happy New Year". Grandma gave me a red envelope too, although I'm an adult. I was far from home then, but I felt as if I were part of their family. That's why that New Year stays with me: for the first time I felt that even far from home, you can feel at home. Wherever you work or study, at New Year everyone wants to go home and be with their family. So for me, New Year isn't about what you eat, but who you spend it with.

good to know · Our HSK lists have no word for Spring Festival, lanterns or fireworks: say 过年, 新年 or 中国新年, and 红色的灯 for the lanterns. After 不管 put a question form, never a plain statement: 不管多忙 (however busy), 不管下不下雪 (snow or not), 不管在哪儿 (wherever). One person in the picture: spend the extra time on the place and the things around them (how many, what colour, where), a second guess, and yourself.

A picture, a memory and a reason, all in one festival. Two more days to the full practice run.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 34 then and now

Talk about change with 随着…… and correct an idea with 不是……，而是……; describe an old photo against a new city for two minutes, using all six steps; give your view of growing cities, and why.

“Then and now” lets you use every tense of a story in one answer. It is the last learn day before the full practice run, so the picture model uses all six steps.

words to say

word	pinyin	meaning	example
变化	biànhuà	change; to change	北京的变化很大。 Beijing has changed a lot.
以前	yǐqián	before; in the past	以前我不喝咖啡。 I didn’t use to drink coffee.
过去	guòqù	the past; in the past	过去{guo4qu4-3}，这里没有高铁。 In the past there was no high-speed rail here.
发展	fāzhǎn	to develop, grow	这个城市发展得很快。 This city is developing very fast.
农村	nóngcūn	the countryside, rural area	我奶奶以前住在农村。 My grandma used to live in the countryside.
童年	tóngnián	childhood	我的童年是在老家过的。 I spent my childhood in my home town.
照片	zhàopiàn	photo	这是我家人的照片。 This is a photo of my family.
随着	suízhe	along with, as	随着生活变好，买车的人越来越多。 As life gets better, more and more people buy cars.
变成	biànchéng	to turn into	雨变成了雪。 The rain turned to snow.
后来	hòulái	afterwards, later on	后来他去了上海。 Later on he went to Shanghai.

pattern 随着…… and 不是……，而是……

随着 | ……的发展 / 变化， | 不是 A，而是 B | the right idea

随着…… opens a sentence with a change that brings another change: 随着城市的发展，…… (as the city grows, …). 不是……，而是…… corrects an idea: not A, but B. It is a strong way to end an opinion.

随着城市的发展，这里的变化越来越大。 **suízhe chéngshì de fāzhǎn zhèlǐ de biànhuà yuè lái yuè dà** As the city grows, this place keeps changing.

随着手机的发展，我们的生活变得更方便了。 **suízhe shǒujī de fāzhǎn wǒmen de shēnghuó biàn de gèng fāngbiàn le** As phones have developed, our lives have become more convenient.

这不是一张新照片，而是爷爷童年的照片。 **zhè bú shì yì zhāng xīn zhàopiàn ér shì yéye tóngnián de zhàopiàn** This isn't a new photo; it's from Grandpa's childhood.

他不是北京人，而是从农村来的。 **tā bú shì Běijīng rén ér shì cóng nóngcūn lái de** He isn't from Beijing; he came from the countryside.

dialogue grandma's old photos

anna 奶奶，这张照片上的小姑娘是您吗？
nǎinai zhè zhāng zhàopiàn shàng de xiǎo gūniang shì nín ma · Grandma, is the little girl in this photo you?

grandma 是我！那是我的童年，那时候我才七岁。
shì wǒ nà shì wǒ de tóngnián nà shíhou wǒ cái qī suì · It's me! That's my childhood; I was only seven.

anna 照片后边的房子好小啊！
zhàopiàn hòu biān de fángzi hǎo xiǎo a · The house behind you is so small!

grandma 那时候我们住在农村，家里没有电视，也没有电话。
nà shíhou wǒmen zhù zài nóngcūn jiā lǐ méiyǒu diànshì yě méiyǒu diànhuà · We lived in the countryside then. We had no TV and no phone.

anna 那您后来是怎么来北京的？
nà nín hòulái shì zěnme lái Běijīng de · So how did you come to Beijing later?

grandma 二十岁的时候，我来北京工作，后来就留在这儿了。
èrshí suì de shíhou wǒ lái Běijīng gōngzuò hòulái jiù liú zài zhèr le · At twenty I came to Beijing to work, and then I stayed.

anna 这些年北京的变化大吗？
zhèxiē nián Běijīng de biànhuà dà ma · Has Beijing changed a lot over the years?

grandma 太大了！随着城市的发展，过去的小路都变成了大马路。
tài dà le suízhe chéngshì de fāzhǎn guòqù de xiǎo lù dōu biànchéng le dà mǎlù · Enormously! As the city has grown, the little roads have all become big main roads.

anna 那您想以前的生活吗？
nà nín xiǎng yǐqián de shēnghuó ma · So do you miss the old days?

grandma 我想的不是以前的房子，而是以前的邻居，大家都很热情。
wǒ xiǎng de bú shì yǐqián de fángzi ér shì yǐqián de línjū dàjiā dōu hěn rèqíng · What I miss isn't the old houses, it's the old neighbours: everyone was so warm.

repeat listen, then say it back

以前没有手机，大家都是写信联系的。 yǐqián méiyǒu shǒujī dàjiā dōu shì xiě xìn liánxì de Before mobile phones, people kept in touch by letter.

随着城市的发展，这里的变化越来越大了。 suízhe chéngshì de fāzhǎn zhèlǐ de biànhuà yuè lái yuè dà le As the city grows, this place keeps changing more and more.

这张照片上的小房子，就是爷爷童年的家。 zhè zhāng zhàopiàn shàng de xiǎo fángzi jiùshì yéye tóngnián de jiā The little house in this photo was Grandpa's childhood home.

他不是北京人，而是从农村来北京工作的。 tā bú shì Běijīng rén ér shì cóng nóngcūn lái Běijīng gōngzuò de He isn't from Beijing: he came from the countryside to work here.

过去这里是农村，后来变成了现在的大城市。 guòqù zhèlǐ shì nóngcūn hòulái biànchéng le xiànzài de dà chéngshì This used to be countryside; later it became the big city it is today.

问题不是城市大不大，而是生活方便不方便。 wèntí bú shì chéngshì dà bu dà ér shì shēnghuó fāngbiàn bù fāngbiàn The question isn't how big the city is, but how easy life is.

reply answer out loud

你家乡这几年变化怎么样？ nǐ jiāxiāng zhè jǐ nián biànhuà zěnmeyàng How has your home town changed in recent years?

→ 我家乡的变化很大。 wǒ jiāxiāng de biànhuà hěn dà

→ 以前那里没有这么多高楼，现在到处都是。 yǐqián nàlǐ méiyǒu zhème duō gāo lóu xiànzài dàochù dōu shì

你喜欢看老照片吗？ nǐ xǐhuan kàn lǎo zhàopiàn ma Do you like looking at old photos?

→ 我很喜欢看老照片。 wǒ hěn xǐhuan kàn lǎo zhàopiàn

→ 因为能看到家人以前的样子。 yīnwèi néng kàn dào jiārén yǐqián de yàngzi

你喜欢住在农村还是城市？ nǐ xǐhuan zhù zài nóngcūn háishi chéngshì Do you prefer living in the countryside or the city?

→ 我更喜欢住在城市。 wǒ gèng xǐhuan zhù zài chéngshì

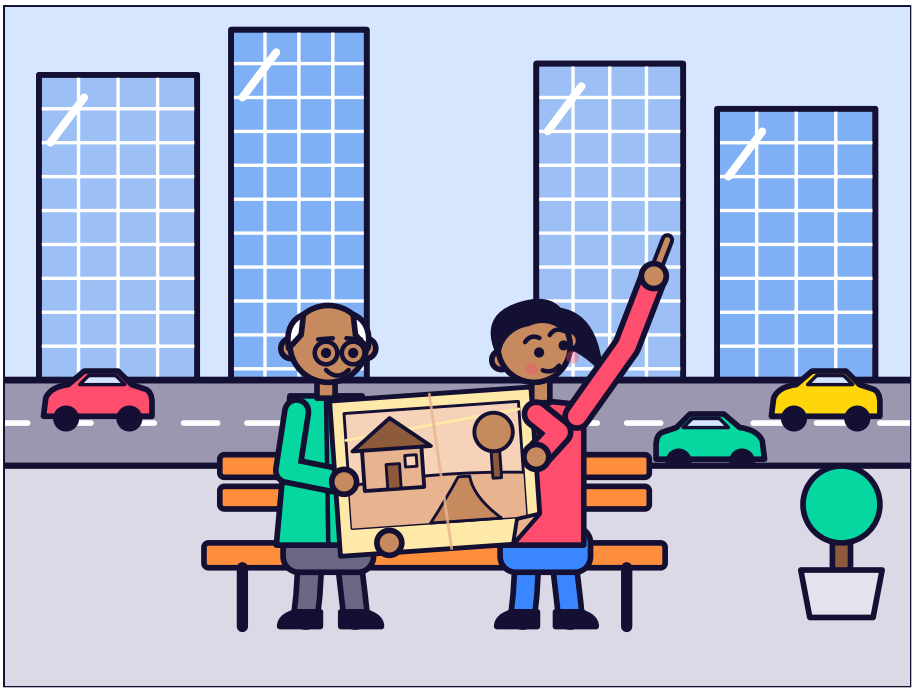
→ 不过将来老了，我想去安静的农村住。 búguò jiānglái lǎo le wǒ xiǎng qù ānjìng de nóngcūn zhù

你小时候有什么爱好？ nǐ xiǎoshíhou yǒu shénme àihào What did you like doing as a child?

→ 我小时候特别爱踢足球。 wǒ xiǎoshíhou tèbié ài tī zúqiú

→ 几乎每天放学以后，我都跟哥哥一起去踢。 jīhū měi tiān fàngxué yǐhòu wǒ dōu gēn gēge yìqǐ qù tī

describe the picture 120 seconds



Describe the picture: say who is there, where they are and what they are doing, add some details, guess what is going on and why, and link it to yourself.

我估计照片上的地方过去是……，后来变成了……。 wǒ gūjì zhàopiàn shàng de dìfang guòqù shì hòulái biànchéng le

model answer

这张图片上是一个很大的城市，后边有四座很高的楼。 zhè zhāng túpiàn shàng shì yí gè hěn dà de chéngshì hòu biān yǒu sì zuò hěn gāo de lóu

楼前边有一条马路，马路上有三辆车，一辆红色的，一辆绿色的，一辆黄色的。 lóu qián biān yǒu yì tiáo mǎlù mǎlù shàng yǒu sān liàng chē yí liàng hóngsè de yí liàng lǜsè de yí liàng huángsè de

前边的椅子上坐着一位爷爷和他的孙女。 qián biān de yǐzi shàng zuò zhe yí wèi yéye hé tā de sūnnǚ

爷爷戴着眼镜，头发不多了，穿着绿色的衣服。 yéye dài zhe yǎnjìng tóufa bù duō le chuān zhe lǜsè de yīfu

孙女穿着红色的衣服，她一只手指着后边的高楼。 sūnnǚ chuān zhe hóngsè de yīfu tā yì zhī shǒu zhǐ zhe hòu biān de gāo lóu

他们两个人一起拿着一张很大的老照片。 tāmen liǎng gè rén yìqǐ ná zhe yì zhāng hěn dà de lǎo zhàopiàn

照片上有一个小房子，除了它，还有一棵树和一条小路。 zhàopiàn shàng yǒu yí gè xiǎo fángzi chúle tā hái yǒu yì kē shù hé yì tiáo xiǎo lù

我估计照片上的地方就是这里，过去这儿可能是农村，后来变成了现在的大城市。 wǒ gūjì zhàopiàn shàng de dìfang jiùshì zhèlǐ guòqù zhèr kěnéng shì nóngcūn hòulái biànchéng le xiànzài de dà chéngshì

孙女好像在问爷爷：“那个小房子以前在哪儿？” sūnnǚ hǎoxiàng zài wèn yéye nàge xiǎo fángzi yǐqián zài nǎr

随着城市的发展，很多地方的变化都非常大。 suízhe chéngshì de fāzhǎn hěn duō dìfang de biànhuà dōu fēicháng dà

如果我是这个孙女，我会请爷爷多讲一讲他童年的事。 rúguǒ wǒ shì zhège sūnnǚ wǒ huì qǐng yéye duō jiǎng yi jiang tā tóngnián de shì

我觉得老照片很有意思，它不是一张纸，而是一段过去的生活。 wǒ juéde lǎo zhàopiàn hěn yǒu yìsi tā bú shì yì zhāng zhǐ ér shì yí duàn guòqù de shēnghuó

This picture shows a big city, with four very tall buildings behind. In front of the buildings there's a road with three cars on it: a red one, a green one and a yellow one. On a bench in front sit a grandfather and his granddaughter. The grandfather wears glasses, hasn't much hair left, and is dressed in green. The granddaughter is in red, and she is pointing at the tall buildings behind with one hand. Together they're holding a big old photo. In the photo there's a small house, and besides it, a tree and a little path. My guess is that the place in the photo is right here: it was probably countryside in the past and later became the big city it is now. The granddaughter seems to be asking her grandfather, "Where was that little house?" As cities develop, many places change enormously. If I were the granddaughter, I'd ask my grandfather to tell me more about his childhood. I find old photos really interesting: they aren't just paper, they're a piece of life from the past.

talk 120 seconds

What is your view of cities growing bigger and bigger? Why? Think for a minute, then talk for two minutes.

你对城市越来越大有什么看法？为什么？ nǐ duì chéngshì yuè lái yuè dà yǒu shénme kànfǎ wèi shénme

随着……，……；可是……。 suízhe kěshì

model answer

对于城市越来越大，我的看法是：有好的地方，也有不好的地方。 duìyú chéngshì yuè lái yuè dà wǒ de kànfǎ shì yǒu hǎo de dìfang yě yǒu bù hǎo de dìfang

先说好的地方。 xiān shuō hǎo de dìfang

随着城市的发展，人们的生活越来越方便了。 suízhe chéngshì de fāzhǎn rénmen de shēnghuó yuè lái yuè fāngbiàn le

以前很多地方没有地铁，现在坐地铁去哪儿都很快。 yǐqián hěn duō dìfang méiyǒu dìtiě xiànzài zuò dìtiě qù nǎr dōu hěn kuài

城市大了，工作的机会也多了，很多年轻人离开农村，来到城市找工作。 chéngshì dà le gōngzuò de jīhuì yě duō le hěn duō niánqīng rén líkāi nóngcūn lái dào chéngshì zhǎo gōngzuò

可是城市太大，问题也越来越多。 kěshì chéngshì tài dà wèntí yě yuè lái yuè duō

比如，由于路上的车越来越多，因此上下班的时候常常堵车。 bǐrú yóuyú lùshang de chē yuè lái yuè duō yīncǐ shàng xiàbān de shíhou chángcháng dǔchē

房子也越来越贵，很多年轻人买不起，生活压力很大。 fángzi yě yuè lái yuè guì hěn duō niánqīng rén mǎi bu qǐ shēnghuó yālì hěn dà

而且城市里的树和草地变少了，空气也不如以前好。 érqiě chéngshì lǐ de shù hé cǎodì biàn shǎo le kōngqì yě bùrú yǐqián hǎo

我的爷爷奶奶住在英国的一个小城市，那里人不多，生活很安静，他们觉得很幸福。 wǒ de yéye nǎinai zhù zài Yīngguó de yí gè xiǎo chéngshì nàlǐ rén bù duō shēnghuó hěn ānjìng tāmen juéde hěn xìngfú

所以我觉得，问题不是城市大不大，而是城市能不能让人生活得舒服。 suǒyǐ wǒ juéde wèntí bú shì chéngshì dà bu dà ér shì chéngshì néng bu néng ràng rén shēnghuó de shūfu

My view of cities getting bigger and bigger is that there are good sides and bad sides. First the good side. As cities develop, people's lives become more and more convenient. In the past many places had no subway; now you can get anywhere quickly by subway. A bigger city also means more jobs, and many young people leave the countryside to find work in the city. But when a city gets too big, the problems grow too. For example, because there are more and more cars on the roads, there are often traffic jams at rush hour. Housing keeps getting more expensive; many young people can't afford it, and life is very stressful. And there are fewer trees and less grass in the city, and the air isn't as good as it used to be. My grandparents live in a small town in the UK: there aren't many people, life is quiet, and they're very happy. So I think the question isn't whether a city is big or not, but whether it lets people live comfortably.

good to know · 过去 is a noun here, “the past” (过去的生活); 以前 is “before, formerly”. Both can start a then-and-now sentence: 过去这里是农村 / 以前这里是农村. For the full practice run tomorrow, use all six steps on every picture: the place, the people, the action, details, one guess with its reason, and yourself.

Every step of the picture task, in order, on one picture. Tomorrow you run the whole test.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 35 mission: the speaking test

Run the whole speaking test once, without the clock pressure: plan both questions in one go as in the test's ten-minute preparation, then ten sentences to repeat, two pictures back to back and two questions in a row, two minutes each.

The practice exams ask you to talk for eight minutes almost without a break. Today you do it once first, with the models to check yourself against.

chapter 1 teacher wang's advice

teacher wang 安娜，明天就要口语考试了，准备得怎么样了？
Ānnà míngtiān jiù yào kǒuyǔ kǎoshì le zhǔnbèi de zěnmeyàng le · Anna, the speaking test is tomorrow. How are your preparations going?

anna 有点儿紧张，我怕说得不够流利。
yǒudiǎnr jǐnzhāng wǒ pà shuō de búgòu liúlì · I'm a bit nervous. I'm afraid I won't be fluent enough.

teacher wang 别担心。这两年你的普通话水平提高了很多。
bié dānxīn zhè liǎng nián nǐ de pǔtōnghuà shuǐpíng tígāo le hěn duō · Don't worry. Your Mandarin has improved a lot over these two years.

anna 可是看图说话要说两分钟，我常常说到一半就不知道说什么了。
kěshì kàn tú shuōhuà yào shuō liǎng fēnzhōng wǒ chángcháng shuō dào yíbàn jiù bù zhīdào shuō shénme le · But the picture task is two minutes, and I often run out of things to say halfway.

teacher wang 你可以先说图上有谁、在哪儿、在做什么，再猜一猜为什么，最后说说你自己。
nǐ kěyǐ xiān shuō tú shàng yǒu shéi zài nǎr zài zuò shénme zài cāi yi cai wèi shénme zuìhòu shuō shuo nǐ zìjǐ · Say who is in the picture, where they are and what they're doing first, then guess why, and finally talk about yourself.

anna 好的，我今天晚上再多练习几次。
hǎo de wǒ jīntiān wǎnshang zài duō liànxí jǐ cì · OK, I'll practise a few more times tonight.

chapter 2 a practice run

xiaoming 来，我问你问题，你回答，就像真的考试一样。
lái wǒ wèn nǐ wèntí nǐ huídá jiù xiàng zhēn de kǎoshì yíyàng · Come on, I'll ask you questions and you answer, just like the real test.

anna 好！你问吧。
hǎo nǐ wèn ba · OK! Go ahead.

xiaoming 第一个问题：今年哪件事让你最高兴?
dì yī gè wèntí jīnnián nǎ jiàn shì ràng nǐ zuì gāoxìng · First question: what made you happiest this year?

anna 太多了！我的生日、搬新家、你找到第一份工作，还有运动会。
tài duō le wǒ de shēngrì bān xīn jiā nǐ zhǎo dào dì yī fèn gōngzuò hái yǒu yùndònghuì · So many things! My birthday, moving house, you getting your first job, and sports day.

xiaoming 还有我们一起去上海，航班晚点了，我在机场睡着了！
hái yǒu wǒmen yìqǐ qù Shànghǎi hángbān wǎndiǎn le wǒ zài jīchǎng shuì zháo le · And our trip to Shanghai, when the flight was late and I fell asleep at the airport!

anna 对！我还拍了你睡觉的照片呢。还有过年的时候，奶奶给了我一个红包。
duì wǒ hái pāi le nǐ shuìjiào de zhàopiàn ne hái yǒu guònián de shíhou nǎinai gěi le wǒ yí gè hóngbāo · Yes! I even took a photo of you asleep. And at New Year, Grandma gave me a red envelope.

chapter 3 grandma's tea

grandma 安娜，喝杯茶，休息一下吧。
Ānnà hē bēi chá xiūxi yíxià ba · Anna, have a cup of tea and take a break.

anna 谢谢奶奶。练习了一个晚上，我现在有信心多了。
xièxie nǎinai liànxí le yí gè wǎnshang wǒ xiànzài yǒu xìnxīn duō le · Thank you, Grandma. After a whole evening of practice, I feel much more confident.

grandma 你现在的普通话，比我刚认识你的时候流利多了。
nǐ xiànzài de pǔtōnghuà bǐ wǒ gāng rènshi nǐ de shíhou liúlì duō le · Your Mandarin is far more fluent now than when I first met you.

anna 都是因为你们每天跟我说中文。学语言就是要多说。
dōu shì yīnwèi nǐmen měi tiān gēn wǒ shuō Zhōngwén xué yǔyán jiùshì yào duō shuō · It's because you all speak Chinese with me every day. Learning a language means talking a lot.

grandma 明天别紧张，考完了我们包饺子。
míngtiān bié jǐnzhāng kǎo wán le wǒmen bāo jiǎozi · Don't be nervous tomorrow. When it's over, we'll make dumplings.

anna 太好了！那我明天一定好好考。
tài hǎo le nà wǒ míngtiān yídìng hǎohǎo kǎo · Wonderful! Then I'll do my very best tomorrow.

repeat listen, then say it back

她穿着一件红色的毛衣，看起来又年轻又漂亮。 tā chuān zhe yí jiàn hóngsè de máoyī kàn qǐlai yòu niánqīng yòu piàoliang She's wearing a red sweater and looks young and pretty.

星期天我们一家人一边做饭，一边聊天。 xīngqītiān wǒmen yì jiā rén yìbiān zuòfàn yìbiān liáotiān On Sundays our family chats while we cook.

虽然复习到很晚，但是她第二天的考试很顺利。 suīrán fùxí dào hěn wǎn dànshì tā dì èr tiān de kǎoshì hěn shùnlì Although she revised until late, her exam went smoothly the next day.

医生说每天运动半个小时，对身体很有好处。 yīshēng shuō měi tiān yùndòng bàn gè xiǎoshí duì shēntǐ hěn yǒu hǎochù The doctor says half an hour of exercise a day is very good for you.

尽管这件衣服有点儿贵，但是质量非常好。 jǐnguǎn zhè jiàn yīfu yǒudiǎnr guì dànshì zhìliàng fēicháng hǎo Although these clothes are a bit expensive, the quality is excellent.

我们要快一点儿，否则就赶不上飞机了。 wǒmen yào kuài yìdiǎnr fǒuzé jiù gǎn bu shàng fēijī le We need to hurry, or we'll miss the plane.

随着手机的发展，我们的生活越来越方便了。 suízhe shǒujī de fāzhǎn wǒmen de shēnghuó yuè lái yuè fāngbiàn le As phones develop, our lives get more and more convenient.

这两年她的普通话水平提高得非常快。 zhè liǎng nián tā de pǔtōnghuà shuǐpíng tígāo de fēicháng kuài Her Mandarin has improved very fast over these two years.

学一门语言，就是要每天多听多说多练习。 xué yì mén yǔyán jiùshì yào měi tiān duō tīng duō shuō duō liànxí Learning a language means listening, speaking and practising a lot every day.

只要每天坚持练习口语，你一定会越来越有信心。 zhǐyào měi tiān jiānchí liànxí kǒuyǔ nǐ yídìng huì yuè lái yuè yǒu xìnxīn As long as you keep practising speaking every day, you'll get more and more confident.

reply answer out loud

你学中文多长时间了？ nǐ xué Zhōngwén duō cháng shíjiān le How long have you been learning Chinese?
→ 我学了两年多了。 wǒ xué le liǎng nián duō le
→ 我觉得越学越有意思。 wǒ juéde yuè xué yuè yǒu yìsi

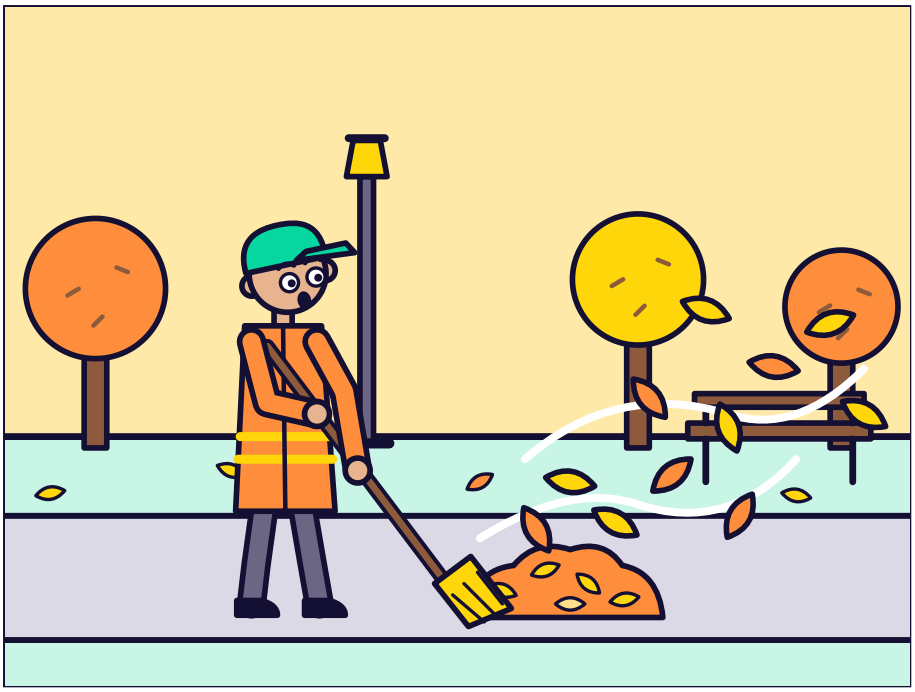
你觉得口语难吗？ nǐ juéde kǒuyǔ nán ma Do you find speaking hard?
→ 我觉得口语有点儿难。 wǒ juéde kǒuyǔ yǒudiǎnr nán
→ 因为说的时候没有时间慢慢想。 yīnwèi shuō de shíhou méiyǒu shíjiān màn màn xiǎng

考试前你会紧张吗？ kǎoshì qián nǐ huì jǐnzhāng ma Do you get nervous before exams?
→ 我会有一点儿紧张。 wǒ huì yǒuyìdiǎnr jǐnzhāng
→ 不过准备好了，就有信心了。 búguò zhǔnbèi hǎo le jiù yǒu xìnxīn le

你觉得自己的普通话怎么样？ nǐ juéde zìjǐ de pǔtōnghuà zěnmeyàng What do you think of your Mandarin?
→ 我觉得还不太流利。 wǒ juéde hái bú tài liúlì
→ 不过比刚来的时候好多了，至少能跟别人聊天了。 búguò bǐ gāng lái de shíhou hǎo duō le zhìshǎo néng gēn biérén liáotiān le

你为什么学中文？ nǐ wèi shénme xué Zhōngwén Why are you learning Chinese?
→ 因为我对中国文化很感兴趣。 yīnwèi wǒ duì Zhōngguó wénhuà hěn gǎn xìngqù
→ 而且将来我想在中国工作。 érqiě jiānglái wǒ xiǎng zài Zhōngguó gōngzuò

describe the picture 120 seconds



Describe the picture: say who is there, where they are and what they are doing, add some details, guess what is going on and why, and link it to yourself.

model answer

这张图片上是秋天的一个公园。 zhè zhāng túpiàn shàng shì qiūtiān de yí gè gōngyuán

公园里有三棵树，树上的叶子都变成了黄色，非常漂亮。 gōngyuán lǐ yǒu sān kē shù shù shàng de yèzi dōu biànchéng le huángsè fēicháng piàoliang

后边还有一个路灯和一张椅子。 hòu biān hái yǒu yí gè lù dēng hé yì zhāng yǐzi

路上站着一个男人，他戴着绿色的帽子，穿着工作的衣服。 lùshang zhàn zhe yí gè nánrén tā dài zhe lǜsè de màozi chuān zhe gōngzuò de yīfu

他正在扫路上的叶子。 tā zhèngzài sǎo lùshang de yèzi

他已经把很多叶子扫到了一起，地上的叶子像一座小山。 tā yǐjīng bǎ hěn duō yèzi sǎo dào le yìqǐ dì shàng de yèzi xiàng yí zuò xiǎo shān

本来他快扫完了，可是这时候突然刮起了大风，把叶子都刮了起来。 běnlái tā kuài sǎo wán le kěshì zhè shíhou tūrán guā qǐ le dà fēng bǎ yèzi dōu guā le qǐlai

很多叶子又飞到了路上和椅子旁边。 hěn duō yèzi yòu fēi dào le lùshang hé yǐzi pángbiān

他张着嘴，眼睛看着那些叶子。 tā zhāng zhe zuǐ yǎnjing kàn zhe nàxiē yèzi

我估计他只好再扫一次了，因为刚扫好的叶子都被风刮走了，他看起来又吃惊又着急。 wǒ gūjì tā zhǐhǎo zài sǎo yí cì le yīnwèi gāng sǎo hǎo de yèzi dōu bèi fēng guā zǒu le tā kàn qǐlai yòu chījīng yòu zháojí

如果我是他，我会先等风停了再扫，否则扫了也没用。 rúguǒ wǒ shì tā wǒ huì xiān děng fēng tíng le zài sǎo fǒuzé sǎo le yě méi yòng

我觉得这样的工作很辛苦，我们应该谢谢他们，也不要在公园里乱扔垃圾。 wǒ juéde zhèyàng de gōngzuò hěn xīnkǔ wǒmen yīnggāi xièxie tāmen yě búyào zài gōngyuán lǐ luàn rēng lājī

This picture shows a park in autumn. There are three trees, and their leaves have all turned yellow; it's beautiful. Behind, there's a street lamp and a bench. A man is standing on the path, wearing a green cap and work clothes. He's sweeping the leaves off the path. He's already swept lots of leaves together, and they're piled up like a little hill. He had almost finished, but just then a strong wind suddenly gets up and blows the leaves into the air. Lots of leaves fly back onto the path and next to the bench. His mouth is open and his eyes are on the leaves. My guess is he'll have to sweep again, because the leaves he has just swept have blown away; he looks surprised and stressed. If I were him, I'd wait for the wind

to stop before sweeping, or else the sweeping is wasted. I think this kind of work is hard, so we should thank these workers and not drop litter in the park.

describe the picture 120 seconds



Describe the picture: say who is there, where they are and what they are doing, add some details, guess what is going on and why, and link it to yourself.

model answer

这张图片上是一个很大的商场，后边有两家商店和一个电梯。 zhè zhāng túpiàn shàng shì yí gè hěn dà de shāngchǎng hòu biān yǒu liǎng jiā shāngdiàn hé yí gè diàntī

图片上有两个人：一个女警察和一个小姑娘。 túpiàn shàng yǒu liǎng gè rén yí gè nǚ jǐngchá hé yí gè xiǎo gūniang

警察穿着蓝衣服，戴着帽子，她一条腿放在地上，跟小姑娘差不多一样高。 jǐngchá chuān zhe lán yīfu dài zhe màozi tā yì tiáo tuǐ fàng zài dì shàng gēn xiǎo gūniang chàbuduō yíyàng gāo

她一只手拉着小姑娘，另一只手拿着手机打电话。 tā yì zhī shǒu lā zhe xiǎo gūniang lìng yì zhī shǒu ná zhe shǒujī dǎ diànhuà

小姑娘大概五岁，穿着一条裙子，手里抱着一只小熊。 xiǎo gūniang dàgài wǔ suì chuān zhe yì tiáo qúnzi shǒu lǐ bào zhe yì zhī xiǎo xióng

她正在哭，看起来非常害怕。 tā zhèngzài kū kàn qǐlai fēicháng hàipà

旁边还有一张椅子和两个绿色的植物。 pángbiān hái yǒu yì zhāng yǐzi hé liǎng gè lǜsè de zhíwù

我估计这个小姑娘找不到妈妈了，可能是因为商场里人太多，她不小心跟妈妈分开了。 wǒ gūjì zhège xiǎo gūniang zhǎo bu dào māma le kěnéng shì yīnwèi shāngchǎng lǐ rén tài duō tā bù xiǎoxīn gēn māma fēnkāi le

警察也许正在给小姑娘的妈妈打电话，或者在找她的家人。 jǐngchá yěxǔ zhèngzài gěi xiǎo gūniang de māma dǎ diànhuà huòzhě zài zhǎo tā de jiārén

警察对小姑娘很有耐心，所以我想她很快就能找到妈妈。 jǐngchá duì xiǎo gūniang hěn yǒu nàixīn suǒyǐ wǒ xiǎng tā hěn kuài jiù néng zhǎo dào māma

如果我是这个小姑娘的妈妈，我一定会非常着急。 rúguǒ wǒ shì zhège xiǎo gūniang de māma wǒ yídìng huì fēicháng zháojí

我觉得带孩子去人多的地方，不管多忙，都一定要拉好孩子的手，还要让孩子记住爸爸妈妈的电话号码。 wǒ juéde dài háizi qù rén duō de dìfang bùguǎn duō máng dōu yídìng yào lā hǎo háizi de shǒu hái yào ràng háizi jì zhù bàba māma de diànhuà hàomǎ

This picture shows a big shopping centre, with two shops and an escalator behind. There are two people: a policewoman and a little girl. The policewoman wears blue and a cap; she has one knee on the floor, so she's about the same height as the girl. She holds the girl's hand with one hand and makes a call on her phone with the other. The girl is about five; she wears a dress and holds a little bear in her arms. She's crying and looks very scared. Nearby there's a bench and two green plants. My guess is that the girl can't find her mum, probably because the shopping centre is so crowded that she got separated from her by accident. The policewoman may be phoning the girl's mum, or looking for her family. She is very patient with the girl, so I think she'll find her mum soon. If I were the girl's mother, I'd be terribly worried. I think when you take children somewhere crowded, however busy you are, you must hold their hand and make sure they know their parents' phone numbers.

talk 120 seconds

First question: what is your attitude to studying abroad? Why? You planned it at the start: a short look at your notes, then two minutes.

你对出国留学是什么态度？为什么？ nǐ duì chūguó liúxué shì shénme tàidù wèi shénme

model answer

我对出国留学的态度是支持，因为我自己就是一个留学生。 wǒ duì chūguó liúxué de tàidù shì zhīchí yīnwèi wǒ zìjǐ jiùshì yí gè liúxuéshēng

随着世界的发展，会说外语变得越来越重要了。 suízhe shìjiè de fāzhǎn huì shuō wàiyǔ biàn de yuè lái yuè zhòngyào le

一方面，在国外学习，每天都要用外语，口语提高得特别快。 yì fāngmiàn zài guó wài xuéxí měi tiān dōu yào yòng wàiyǔ kǒuyǔ tígāo de tèbié kuài

我本来只能说几句简单的中文，来北京两年，现在已经能跟别人聊天了。 wǒ běnlái zhǐ néng shuō jǐ jù jiǎndān de Zhōngwén lái Běijīng liǎng nián xiànzài yǐjīng néng gēn biérén liáotiān le

另一方面，留学还能让人了解不同的文化，认识很多新朋友。 lìng yì fāngmiàn liúxué hái néng ràng rén liǎojiě bù tóng de wénhuà rènshi hěn duō xīn péngyou

对我来说，留学以后最大的变化不是中文好了，而是我学会了自己照顾自己。 duì wǒ lái shuō liúxué yǐhòu zuì dà de biànhuà bú shì Zhōngwén hǎo le ér shì wǒ xué huì le zìjǐ zhàogù zìjǐ

当然，留学也有缺点。 dāngrán liúxué yě yǒu quēdiǎn

离开家人，一个人在国外，有时候很想家，甚至想过放弃。 líkāi jiārén yí gè rén zài guó wài yǒu shíhou hěn xiǎng jiā shènzhì xiǎng guo fàngqì

而且在国外留学要花很多钱。 érqiě zài guó wài liúxué yào huā hěn duō qián

不过我觉得，既然有机会出国，就应该好好试一试。 búguò wǒ juéde jìrán yǒu jīhuì chūguó jiù yīnggāi hǎohǎo shì yi shi

即使遇到困难，也能学到很多东西。 jíshǐ yùdào kùnnan yě néng xué dào hěn duō dōngxi

所以，不管以后在哪儿工作，我都不会忘记这两年的留学生活。 suǒyǐ bùguǎn yǐhòu zài nǎr gōngzuò wǒ dōu bú huì wàngjì zhè liǎng nián de liúxué shēnghuó

My attitude to studying abroad is positive, because I'm a student abroad myself. As the world develops, being able to speak a foreign language matters more and more. On the one hand, when you study abroad you use the language every day, so your speaking improves really fast. At first I could only say a few simple sentences in Chinese; after two years in Beijing I can chat with people. On the other hand, studying abroad lets you get to know different cultures and make lots of new friends. For me, the biggest change isn't that my Chinese got better, but that I learned to look after myself. Of course, studying abroad has its downsides. Away from your family, alone in another country, you sometimes miss home terribly, and I even thought about giving up. And studying abroad costs a lot of money. But I think that if you have the chance to go abroad, you should give it a real try. Even when you meet difficulties, you learn a lot from them. So wherever I work in the future, I'll never forget these two years of studying abroad.

talk 120 seconds

Second question: when you learn a foreign language, is speaking more important than writing? Why? You planned it at the start: a short look at your notes, then two minutes.

你觉得学外语的时候，说比写更重要吗？为什么？ nǐ juéde xué wàiyǔ de shíhou shuō bǐ xiě gèng zhòngyào ma wèi shénme

model answer

我觉得学外语的时候，说和写都重要，但是对我来说，说更重要一点儿。 wǒ juéde xué wàiyǔ de shíhou shuō hé xiě dōu zhòngyào dànshì duì wǒ lái shuō shuō gèng zhòngyào yìdiǎnr

首先，学语言是为了交流。 shǒuxiān xué yǔyán shì wèile jiāoliú

如果你会写很多字，可是不敢开口说话，就很难跟别人交流。 rúguǒ nǐ huì xiě hěn duō zì kěshì bù gǎn kāi kǒu shuōhuà jiù hěn nán gēn biérén jiāoliú

我刚来北京的时候，虽然认识很多汉字，却连饭馆服务员的简单问题都回答不好。 wǒ gāng lái Běijīng de shíhou suīrán rènshi hěn duō Hànzì què lián fànguǎn fúwù yuán de jiǎndān wèntí dōu huídá bù hǎo

于是我每天跟中国朋友聊天，口语提高得很快。 yúshì wǒ měi tiān gēn Zhōngguó péngyou liáotiān kǒuyǔ tígāo de hěn kuài

现在我说普通话越来越流利，也越来越有信心了。 xiànzài wǒ shuō pǔtōnghuà yuè lái yuè liúlì yě yuè lái yuè yǒu xìnxīn le

其次，在生活里，我们说话的时间比写字的时间多得多。 qícì zài shēnghuó lǐ wǒmen shuōhuà de shíjiān bǐ xiě zì de shíjiān duō de duō

比如买东西、问路、看医生，都要用口语。 bǐrú mǎi dōngxi wèn lù kàn yīshēng dōu yào yòng kǒuyǔ

当然，写也很重要，尤其是在大学学习和以后工作的时候。 dāngrán xiě yě hěn zhòngyào yóuqí shì zài dàxué xuéxí hé yǐhòu gōngzuò de shíhou

写可以帮助我们记住生词，也能让我们说得更准确。 xiě kěyǐ bāngzhù wǒmen jì zhù shēngcí yě néng ràng wǒmen shuō de gèng zhǔnquè

所以我觉得，不管学哪种外语，都应该先多说，再慢慢提高写的水平。 suǒyǐ wǒ juéde bùguǎn xué nǎ zhǒng wàiyǔ dōu yīnggāi xiān duō shuō zài màn màn tígāo xiě de shuǐpíng

I think when you learn a foreign language, speaking and writing both matter, but for me speaking matters a bit more. First, we learn languages to communicate. If you can write lots of characters but don't dare open your mouth, it's hard to communicate with anyone. When I first came to Beijing, I knew lots of characters, yet I couldn't even answer a waiter's simple questions. So I started chatting with Chinese friends every day, and my speaking improved fast. Now my Mandarin is getting more and more fluent, and I'm more and more confident. Second, in daily life we spend much more time speaking than writing. Shopping, asking the way, seeing a doctor: they all need speaking. Of course, writing matters too, especially at university and later at work. Writing helps us remember new words and makes our speaking more accurate. So I think whatever language you learn, you should speak a lot first, and then gradually raise your writing level.

Eight minutes of Chinese, almost without a break. You are ready for the practice exams.
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