wishyou.today learning

day 69 my parents

Chinese TOCFL A in 113 days
unit 10 · family & feelings

Talk about your parents and grandparents, and say where and when someone was born.

Where are you from, where did you grow up? It's one of the first things new friends ask in Taiwan.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
父親	fùqīn	father	我父親是在臺南出生的。 My father was born in Tainan.
母親	mǔqīn	mother	我母親是在花蓮出生的。 My mother was born in Hualien.
父母	fùmǔ	parents	我父母都住在臺北。 My parents both live in Taipei.
男人	nánrén	man	照片上的男人是我外公。 The man in the photo is my grandpa.
女人	nǚrén	woman	照片上的女人是我外婆。 The woman in the photo is my grandma.
兄弟	xiōngdì	brothers	你有兄弟嗎？ Do you have any brothers?
外公	wàigōng	grandpa (mum's father)	我外公今年八十歲。 My grandpa (mum's dad) is eighty this year.
外婆	wàipó	grandma (mum's mother)	外婆做的包子很好吃。 Grandma's steamed buns are delicious.
孫子	sūnzi	grandson	外公有三個孫子。 Grandpa has three grandsons.
孫女	sūnnǚ	granddaughter	美玲是林奶奶的孫女。 Meiling is Grandma Lin's granddaughter.
年紀	niánjì	age (of a person)	請問，您今年多大年紀？ May I ask how old you are?
出生	chūshēng	be born	我是在英國出生的。 I was born in the UK.
長大	zhǎngdà	grow up	志明在臺北長大。 Zhiming grew up in Taipei.

pattern 在 + place + 出生; 是……年出生的

who | 是 | 在 + place / year | 出生 | 的

To say where someone was born, put 在 + place before 出生: 他在臺南出生. To stress when or where (it's a past fact), wrap it in 是……的: 我是1995年出生的, 我是在英國出生的. 長大 (grow up) works the same way.

我母親是在花蓮出生的。 **wǒ mǔqīn shì zài Huālián chūshēng de** My mother was born in Hualien.

我外婆是1950年出生的。 **wǒ wàipó shì nián chūshēng de** My grandma was born in 1950.

安娜在英國出生，在英國長大。 **Ānnà zài Yīngguó chūshēng zài Yīngguó zhǎngdà** Anna was born and grew up in the UK.

dialogue old photos

anna 志明，這張照片上的人是誰？
Zhìmíng zhè zhāng zhàopiàn shàng de rén shì shéi · Zhiming, who are the people in this photo?

zhiming 這是我父母。穿紅色衣服的女人是我母親，旁邊的男人是我父親。
zhè shì wǒ fùmǔ chuān hóngsè yīfú de nǚrén shì wǒ mǔqīn pángbiān de nánrén shì wǒ fùqīn · These are my parents. The woman in red is my mum, and the man next to her is my dad.

anna 你父親是在臺北出生的嗎？
nǐ fùqīn shì zài Táiběi chūshēng de ma · Was your dad born in Taipei?

zhiming 不是，他是在臺南出生的，在臺北長大。我母親是在花蓮出生的。
bú shì tā shì zài Táinán chūshēng de zài Táiběi zhǎngdà wǒ mǔqīn shì zài Huālián chūshēng de · No, he was born in Tainan and grew up in Taipei. My mum was born in Hualien.

anna 那這兩個老人呢？
nà zhè liǎng ge lǎorén ne · And these two older people?

zhiming 他們是我外公和外婆，現在還住在花蓮。外公差不多八十歲了。
tāmen shì wǒ wàigōng hé wàipó xiànzài hái zhù zài Huālián wàigōng chàbùduō bāshí suì le · They're my mum's parents. They still live in Hualien. Grandpa is almost eighty.

anna 你有兄弟嗎？
nǐ yǒu xiōngdì ma · Do you have any brothers?

zhiming 沒有，我只有一個妹妹。外公有三個孫子，只有一個孫女，所以他最愛我妹妹！
méiyǒu wǒ zhǐ yǒu yí ge mèimei wàigōng yǒu sān ge sūnzi zhǐ yǒu yí ge sūnnǚ suǒyǐ tā zuì ài wǒ mèimei · No, just a younger sister. Grandpa has three grandsons and only one granddaughter, so my sister is his favourite!

anna 桌子上這一盤是什麼？看起來很好吃！
zhuōzi shàng zhè yì pán shì shénme kànqǐlái hěn hǎochī · What's this plate on the table? It looks delicious!

zhiming 是外婆做的包子，太多了！你喜歡就吃吃看吧！
shì wàipó zuò de bāozi tài duō le nǐ xǐhuān jiù chī chi kàn ba · Grandma's steamed buns: there are far too many! Try one if you like!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

商
shāng
trade

件
jiàn
(measure word for clothes)

張
zhāng
(measure word for flat things)



太 tài too (much)	太	太	太	太	太					

good to know · 父親 and 母親 are the formal words for forms, speeches and writing; at home everyone says 爸爸 and 媽媽. Mum's parents are 外公 and 外婆; dad's parents are 爺爺 and 奶奶. That's why Meiling's grandma, on her dad's side, is 林奶奶.

You can now tell anyone where your family comes from and where you grew up.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 70 aunts and uncles

Name the people in your family on dad's side and mum's side, and call neighbours politely.

Chinese has a different word for each uncle and aunt, and in Taiwan you use them for neighbours too.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
伯伯	bóbo	uncle (dad's older brother)	我伯伯住在臺南。 My uncle lives in Tainan.
伯父	bófù	uncle (dad's older brother)	伯父，您好！ Hello, uncle!
伯母	bómǔ	aunt (wife of dad's older brother)	伯母做的菜很好吃。 Auntie's cooking is delicious.
叔叔	shúshu	uncle (dad's younger brother)	我叔叔比我爸爸小五歲。 My uncle is five years younger than my dad.
姑姑	gūgu	aunt (dad's sister)	陳老師是志明的姑姑。 Teacher Chen is Zhiming's aunt.
阿姨	āyí	aunt (mum's sister); auntie	我阿姨住在花蓮。 My aunt lives in Hualien.
老太太	lǎotàitai	old lady	樓下的老太太很喜歡小黑。 The old lady downstairs loves Xiaohei.
鄰居	línjū	neighbour	我們是鄰居。 We're neighbours.
關係	guānxì	relationship, connection	你們是什麼關係？ How do you two know each other?
身邊	shēnbiān	by one's side	小黑總是在美玲身邊。 Xiaohei is always by Meiling's side.
不同	bùtóng	different	臺北和臺南的天氣不同。 The weather in Taipei and Tainan is different.
同樣	tóngyàng	the same; equally	我們做同樣的工作。 We do the same job.
這樣	zhèyàng	like this, this way	你這樣做不對。 That's not the right way to do it.

pattern dad's side and mum's side: 伯伯, 叔叔, 姑姑 / 外公, 外婆, 阿姨

爸爸的哥哥 | 伯伯 | 爸爸的弟弟 | 叔叔 | 爸爸的姊妹 | 姑姑 | 媽媽的姊妹 | 阿姨

Dad's older brother is 伯伯 (formal 伯父) and his wife is 伯母; dad's younger brother is 叔叔; dad's sisters are 姑姑. On mum's side, her parents are 外公 and 外婆 and her sisters are 阿姨. 伯伯, 叔叔 and 阿姨 are also friendly names for any neighbour of your parents' age.

爸爸的哥哥是我伯伯，伯伯的太太是我伯母。 **bàba de gēge shì wǒ bóbo bóbo de tàitai shì wǒ bómǔ** Dad's older brother is my uncle, and his wife is my aunt.

爸爸的妹妹是我姑姑。 **bàba de mèimei shì wǒ gūgu** Dad's younger sister is my aunt.

媽媽的姊姊是我阿姨。 **māma de jiějie shì wǒ āyí** Mum's older sister is my aunt.

dialogue aunt or teacher?

anna 陳老師，志明叫您姑姑。您是他父親的姊姊還是妹妹？
Chénlǎoshī Zhìmíng jiào nín gūgu nín shì tā fùqīn de jiějie háishì mèimei · Teacher Chen, Zhiming calls you 姑姑. Are you his dad's older or younger sister?

teacher chen 我是他父親的妹妹。他父親是我哥哥。
wǒ shì tā fùqīn de mèimei tā fùqīn shì wǒ gēge · His dad's younger sister. His dad is my older brother.

anna 那志明的父親還有兄弟嗎？
nà Zhìmíng de fùqīn hái yǒu xiōngdì ma · And does Zhiming's dad have any brothers?

teacher chen 有，我們家有四個孩子。最大的是志明的伯伯，然後是志明的父親，再來是他叔叔，我最小。
yǒu wǒmen jiā yǒu sì ge háizi zuì dà de shì Zhìmíng de bóbo ránhòu shì Zhìmíng de fùqīn zài lái shì tā shúshu wǒ zuì xiǎo · Yes, there were four of us. The eldest is Zhiming's 伯伯, then Zhiming's dad, then his 叔叔, and I'm the youngest.

anna 這樣啊！中文真不同！在英文裡，伯伯和叔叔是同樣的字。
zhèyàng a zhōngwén zhēn bùtóng zài yīngwén lǐ bóbo hé shúshu shì tóngyàng de zì · I see! Chinese is so different! In English, 伯伯 and 叔叔 are the same word.

teacher chen 對。爸爸的姊妹是姑姑，媽媽的姊妹是阿姨。
duì bàba de jiě mèi shì gūgu māma de jiě mèi shì āyí · Right. Dad's sisters are 姑姑 and mum's sisters are 阿姨.

anna 所以王阿姨是您的姊妹嗎？
suǒyǐ Wángāyí shì nín de jiě mèi ma · So is Auntie Wang your sister?

teacher chen 不是！在臺灣，我們也叫鄰居阿姨、伯伯，跟家人沒有關係。
bú shì zài táiwān wǒmen yě jiào línjū āyí bóbo gēn jiārén méiyǒu guānxì · No! In Taiwan we call neighbours 阿姨 and 伯伯 too: it has nothing to do with family.

anna 樓下的那位老太太呢？我叫她奶奶，可以嗎？
lóuxià de nà wèi lǎotàitai ne wǒ jiào tā nǎinai kěyǐ ma · What about the old lady downstairs? Can I call her 奶奶?

teacher chen 可以！她一定很高興。
kěyǐ tā yídìng hěn gāoxìng · Of course! She'll be delighted.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

新 xīn new

舊
jiù
old (things), used

長
cháng
long



短
duǎn
short (length)

good to know · 叔叔 is read shúshu in Taiwan (shūshu on the mainland). Children call any friendly man 叔叔 and any friendly woman 阿姨. Meeting a friend's parents? Greet them 伯父好 and 伯母好: it's polite and warm.

You can now find your way around a big Taiwanese family dinner, uncles, aunts and all.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 71 happy or sad?

Say how you feel, and ask “isn’t it…?” when you expect a yes.

Feelings make a conversation real: worry, relief, joy and “what a pity!”.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
傷心	shāngxīn	sad, heartbroken	小黑不見了，美玲很傷心。 Xiaohei has gone missing and Meiling is heartbroken.
害怕	hàipà	scared, afraid	一個人在家，我有一點害怕。 I’m a bit scared at home on my own.
擔心	dānxīn	worry (about)	別擔心，我很好。 Don’t worry, I’m fine.
關心	guānxīn	care about	謝謝你關心我。 Thank you for caring about me.
放心	fàngxīn	be at ease, stop worrying	你放心，我到了就打電話給你。 Don’t worry: I’ll call you when I get there.
心情	xīnqíng	mood	天氣很好，我的心情也很好。 The weather is lovely and I’m in a good mood too.
幸福	xìngfú	happy (deeply), blessed	林奶奶有很多孫子和孫女，她很幸福。 Grandma Lin has lots of grandchildren: she’s very happy.
可怕	kěpà	scary, terrible	這個電影很可怕。 This film is really scary.
可惜	kěxí	what a pity	下雨了，不能去山上，真可惜！ It’s raining, so we can’t go up the mountain: what a pity!
煩	fán	annoyed; annoying	功課這麼多，真煩！ So much homework: how annoying!
急	jí	anxious; in a hurry	別急，我們有時間。 No rush, we have time.
沒想到	méixiǎngdào	didn’t expect; who knew	沒想到你也在這裡！ Fancy seeing you here!
出門	chūmén	go out (of the house)	下雨天我不想出門。 I don’t feel like going out on rainy days.

pattern adjective + 壞了 / 得很; 不是……嗎?

adjective 壞了 / 不是 ..... 嗎?

After a feeling, 壞了 means “to bits, terribly”: 急壞了 (frantic), 餓壞了 (starving). 得很 after an adjective means “very”: 好得很. (極了, “so...!”, comes on day 75.) And 不是.....嗎? asks “isn’t it...?” when you expect a yes.

小黑不見了，美玲急壞了。 **Xiǎohēi bú jiàn le Měilíng jí huài le** Xiaohei has gone missing and Meiling is frantic.

我一天沒吃飯，餓壞了！ **wǒ yì tiān méi chī fàn è huài le** I haven’t eaten all day: I’m starving!

你不是說小黑怕人嗎？ **nǐ bú shì shuō Xiǎohēi pà rén ma** Didn’t you say Xiaohei is scared of people?

dialogue where’s xiaohei?

meiling 安娜，你看見小黑了嗎？我找不到它！
Ānnà nǐ kànjiàn Xiǎohēi le ma wǒ zhǎo bu dào tā · Anna, have you seen Xiaohei? I can’t find him!

anna 沒有。別急，小黑一定在附近。
méiyǒu bié jí Xiǎohēi yídìng zài fùjìn · No. Don’t panic, Xiaohei must be close by.

meiling 小黑不常出門，我擔心壞了。外面那麼多車，太可怕了！
Xiǎohēi bù cháng chūmén wǒ dānxīn huài le wàimiàn nàme duō chē tài kěpà le · Xiaohei hardly ever goes out, and I’m worried sick. There are so many cars out there, it’s terrifying!

anna 你不是說小黑怕人嗎？它可能在樓下。
nǐ bú shì shuō Xiǎohēi pà rén ma tā kěnéng zài lóuxià · Didn’t you say Xiaohei is scared of people? He might be downstairs.

meiling 我們從這裡往公園走，看看那裡有沒有。
wǒmen cóng zhèlǐ wǎng gōngyuán zǒu kàn kan nàlǐ yǒu méiyǒu · Let’s walk from here towards the park and see if he’s there.

anna 好，公園離這裡很近。
hǎo gōngyuán lí zhèlǐ hěn jìn · OK, the park isn’t far.

auntie wang 美玲，你別傷心！樓上的老太太說，小黑在她家吃魚呢！
Měilíng nǐ bié shāngxīn lóushàng de lǎotàitai shuō Xiǎohēi zài tā jiā chī yú ne · Meiling, don’t be sad! The old lady upstairs says Xiaohei is at her place eating fish!

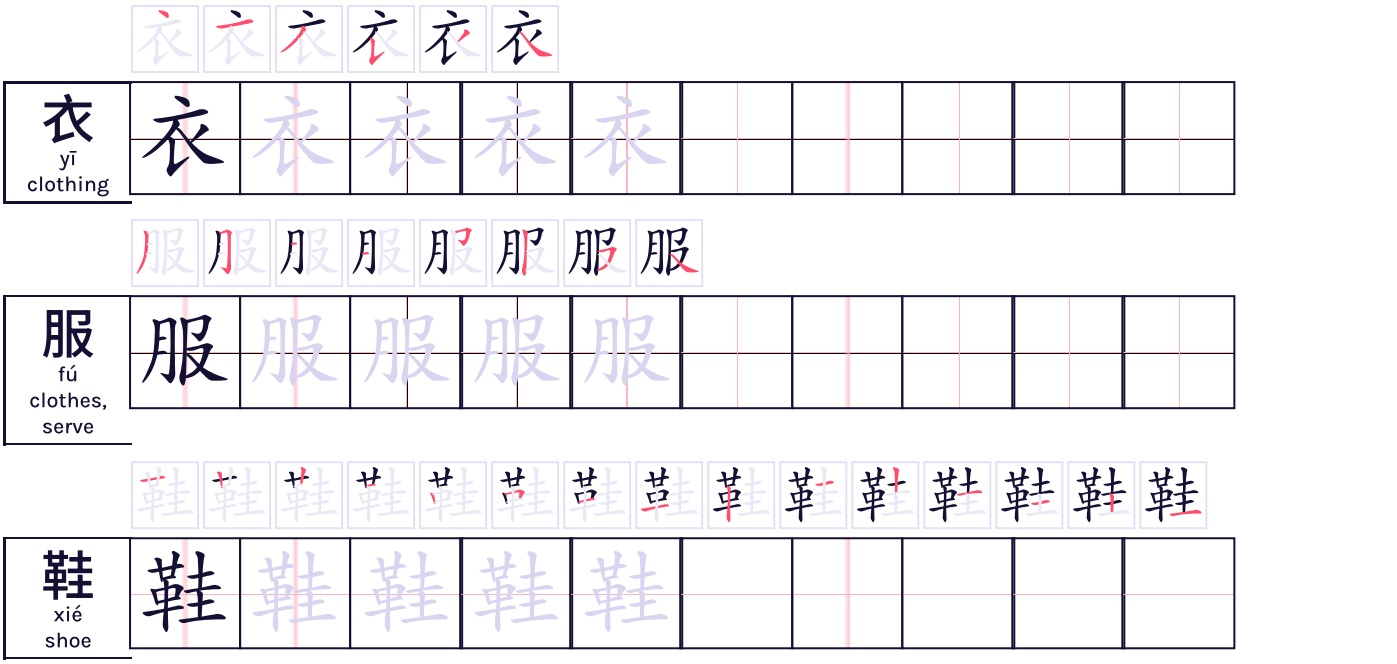
meiling 真的嗎？沒想到！謝謝王阿姨！
zhēnde ma méixiǎngdào xièxie Wáng āyí · Really? Who’d have thought! Thank you, Auntie Wang!

anna 你看，鄰居都很關心你。現在你可以放心了。
nǐ kàn línjū dōu hěn guānxīn nǐ xiànzài nǐ kěyǐ fàngxīn le · See, the neighbours all care about you. Now you can relax.

meiling 有你們在身邊，我真幸福。
yǒu nǐmen zài shēnbiān wǒ zhēn xìngfú · With you all around me, I’m so lucky.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

比 bǐ than, compared with



good to know · 擔心 is worrying about something; 關心 is caring about someone. 謝謝你的關心: thanks for your concern. 可惜 is read kěxí in Taiwan. Say 真可惜 when plans fall through.

You can now share worry, relief and joy, the moments that turn acquaintances into friends.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 72 what's he like?

Describe what someone is like, and say "not only..., but also...".

Talking about people, friends, classmates and colleagues, is everyday small talk.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
美麗	měilì	beautiful	花蓮是一個美麗的地方。 Hualien is a beautiful place.
帥	shuài	handsome; cool	你今天很帥！ You look great today!
笨	bèn	stupid, clumsy	我真笨，又忘了帶手機！ Silly me, I forgot my phone again!
認真	rènzhēn	serious, conscientious	陳老師上課很認真。 Teacher Chen takes her classes very seriously.
用功	yònggōng	hard-working (at study)	安娜很用功，每天都學中文。 Anna works hard: she studies Chinese every day.
害羞	hàixiū	shy	他很害羞，不太說話。 He's very shy and doesn't talk much.
禮貌	lǐmào	manners, politeness	志明很有禮貌。 Zhiming has very good manners.
敢	gǎn	dare	我不敢一個人去。 I don't dare go on my own.
有趣	yǒuqù	interesting, fun	這個故事很有趣。 This story is really fun.
有意思	yǒuyìsi	interesting	這本書很有意思。 This book is very interesting.
而且	érqiě	and also, moreover	這家{=(measure word for shops)}店很便宜，而且很好吃。 This place is cheap, and the food is good too.
不但	bùdàn	not only	他不但會說中文，而且會說英文。 He speaks not only Chinese but English too.
有名	yǒumíng	famous	臺北一零一很有名。 Taipei 101 is very famous.

pattern 不但……而且 / 也 / 還…… not only..., but also...

who **不但** **A** **而且 / 也 / 還** **B**

不但 A，而且 B means “not only A, but also B”. With one subject, 不但 comes after it: 他不但帥，而且很用功. Instead of 而且 you can put 也 or 還 before the second verb: 不但會唱歌，也會跳舞.

他不但很帥，而且很有禮貌。 tā búdàn hěn shuài érqiě hěn yǒu lǐmào He’s not only handsome but also very polite.

美玲不但會唱歌，也會跳舞。 Měilíng búdàn huì chànggē yě huì tiàowǔ Meiling can not only sing but dance too.

這家店的麵不但便宜，還很好吃。 zhè jiā diàn de miàn búdàn piányí hái hěn hǎochī The noodles here are not only cheap but tasty too.

dialogue the new classmate

meiling 安娜，聽說你們班來了一個新同學？
Ānnà tīngshuō nǐmen bān lái le yí ge xīn tóngxué · Anna, I hear there’s a new student in your class?

anna 對！他今天第一次來上課。他走進來的時候，大家都看他。
duì tā jīntiān dì yī cì lái shàngkè tā zǒu jìn lái de shíhòu dàjiā dōu kàn tā · Yes! Today was his first class. When he walked in, everyone looked at him.

meiling 為什麼？他很帥嗎？
wèishénme tā hěn shuài ma · Why? Is he handsome?

anna 帥得很！而且很有禮貌。可是他很害羞，不敢說話。
shuài de hěn érqiě hěn yǒu lǐmào kěshì tā hěn hàixiū bù gǎn shuōhuà · Really handsome! And very polite. But he’s shy and didn’t dare say anything.

meiling 你不是也很害羞嗎？
nǐ bú shì yě hěn hàixiū ma · Aren’t you shy too?

anna 我？我一點也不害羞！
wǒ wǒ yìdiǎn yě bú hàixiū · Me? I’m not shy at all!

anna 下課以後，他把書放在桌子上，走過來問我一個問題。
xiàkè yǐhòu tā bǎ shū fàng zài zhuōzi shàng zǒu guò lái wèn wǒ yí ge wèntí · After class he put his books on the desk and came over to ask me a question.

meiling 他問你什麼？
tā wèn nǐ shénme · What did he ask you?

anna 他說：「你不但中文好，而且很用功。你每天都學中文嗎？」
tā shuō nǐ búdàn zhōngwén hǎo érqiě hěn yònggōng nǐ měi tiān dōu xué zhōngwén ma · He said: “Your Chinese is good, and you work so hard. Do you study every day?”

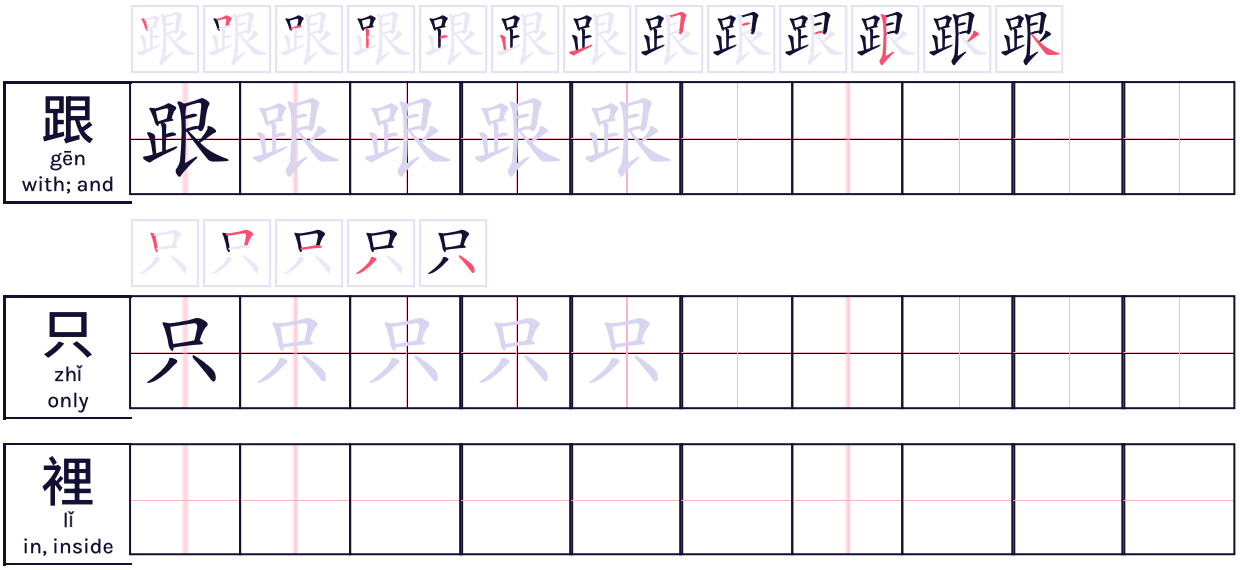
meiling 他真有趣！下次帶他回來吃飯吧！
tā zhēn yǒuqù xià cì dài tā huí lái chī fàn ba · He sounds fun! Bring him home for dinner next time!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

穿 穿 穿 穿 穿 穿 穿 穿 穿

穿
chuān
wear, put on

穿 穿 穿 穿 穿



good to know · 美麗 is lovely in writing; in conversation say 漂亮. 帥 is for men, and 很帥 also means "cool". 有禮貌 (polite) is high praise in Taiwan. Saying 謝謝, 請 and 不好意思 a lot gets you far.

You can now paint a picture of anyone you meet, and give a compliment that's twice as nice.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 73 day and night

Talk about day and night, and say how long something hasn't happened.

"I haven't slept for two days!" is something you will hear (and say) in busy Taipei.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
白天	báitian	daytime	白天很熱，晚上很舒服。 It's hot in the daytime and nice in the evening.
半夜	bànyè	middle of the night	他半夜才回家。 He didn't get home till the middle of the night.
夜晚	yèwǎn	night, nighttime	臺北的夜晚很漂亮。 Taipei is beautiful at night.
夜	yè	night	我一夜沒睡。 I didn't sleep all night.
日子	rìzi	days; life; date	這些日子我很忙。 I've been very busy these days.
時	shí	time, when (written)	上課時，請別說話。 Please don't talk during class.
當時	dāngshí	at that time, back then	當時我剛來臺灣，什麼都不懂。 Back then I had just come to Taiwan and didn't understand a thing.
同時	tóngshí	at the same time	我不能同時做兩件事。 I can't do two things at the same time.
等到	děngdào	when, by the time	等到週末，我們再去看電影。 Let's see a film when the weekend comes.
封	fēng	measure word for letters	我寫了一封信給媽媽。 I wrote a letter to my mum.
完	wán	finish; be over	我寫完功課了。 I've finished my homework.
的話	dehuà	if (如果……的話)	如果明天下{=fall (of rain)}雨的話，我們就不去了。 If it rains tomorrow, we won't go.
時鐘	shízhōng	clock	教室裡的時鐘慢了五分鐘。 The classroom clock is five minutes slow.

pattern time + 沒 + verb + 了: haven't … for (time)

who time 沒 verb 了

To say how long something hasn't happened, put the length of time before 沒 + verb and end with 了: 我兩天沒睡覺了, I haven't slept for two days. Compare 我睡了兩天, I slept for two days.

我一個月沒看電影了。 **wǒ yí ge yuè méi kàn diànyǐng le** I haven't seen a film for a month.

小黑一天沒吃東西了。 **Xiǎohēi yì tiān méi chī dōngxi le** Xiaohei hasn't eaten anything all day.

他半年沒回家了。 **tā bàn nián méi huí jiā le** He hasn't been home for six months.

那個時鐘一個星期沒走了。 **nà ge shízhōng yí ge xīngqí méi zǒu le** That clock hasn't worked for a week.

dialogue too busy to sleep

anna 志明，你看起來很累。
Zhìmíng nǐ kànqǐlái hěn lèi · Zhiming, you look really tired.

zhiming 我兩天沒睡覺了！白天在公司，晚上也在家工作，工作做不完！
wǒ liǎng tiān méi shuìjiào le báitian zài gōngsī wǎnshàng yě zài jiā gōngzuò gōngzuò zuò bu wán · I haven't slept for two days! At the office in the day, working at home at night too: the work never ends!

anna 你昨天是幾點睡的？
nǐ zuótiān shì jǐ diǎn shuì de · What time did you go to bed last night?

zhiming 半夜三點才睡，六點就起床了。
bànyè sān diǎn cái shuì liù diǎn jiù qǐchuáng le · Not till three in the morning, and I was up at six.

auntie wang 年輕人，身體最重要！不舒服的話，今天早點回家睡覺。
niánqīng rén shēntǐ zuì zhòngyào bù shūfu dehuà jīntiān zǎodiǎn huí jiā shuìjiào · Young man, your health comes first! If you're not feeling well, go home and get to bed early today.

zhiming 謝謝王阿姨！等到週末，我就可以好好休息了。
xièxie Wáng āyí děngdào zhōumò wǒ jiù kěyǐ hǎo hǎo xiūxí le · Thanks, Auntie Wang! When the weekend comes, I can finally rest.

anna 我剛來臺灣不久的時候，也常常半夜才睡。
wǒ gāng lái táiwān bùjiǔ de shíhòu yě chángcháng bànyè cái shuì · When I'd just come to Taiwan, I often didn't get to bed till the middle of the night either.

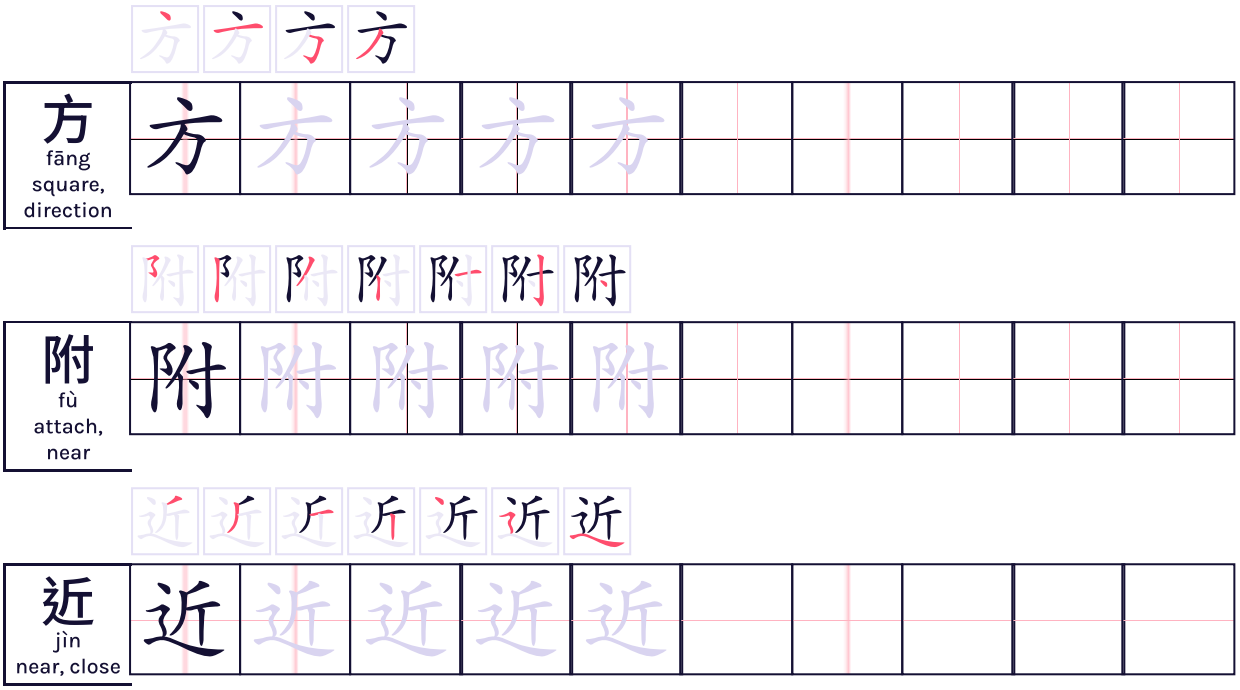
zhiming 為什麼？
wèishénme · Why?

anna 因為英國和臺灣的時間不同。我晚上常常跟媽媽打電話，也寫了很多封信。
yīnwèi Yīngguó hé táiwān de shíjiān bùtóng wǒ wǎnshàng chángcháng gēn māma dǎdiànhuà yě xiě le hěn duō fēng xìn · Because the UK and Taiwan are in different time zones. I often called my mum at night, and wrote her lots of letters.

auntie wang 你們來得正好，包子剛做好！剛才還沒有呢。
nǐmen lái de zhènghǎo bāozi gāng zuò hǎo gāngcái hái méiyǒu ne · You've come at just the right time: the buns have just come out! A moment ago there weren't any.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

地
dì
ground, floor



good to know · 剛才 is “just now, a moment ago”; 剛 (剛剛) is “just” before a verb: 包子剛做好. 時 is a short, written way to say .....的時候: 上課時 = 上課的時候. Verb + 完 is “finish doing”: 做完, 吃完; 做不完 is “can’t get it all done”. .....的話 at the end of a condition means “if”: 不舒服的話. It often pairs with 如果 (day 46).

You can now talk about long days, late nights and how long it’s been: perfect for catching up with friends.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 74 fill in the form

Fill in a form, and say “over”, “under”, “about” and “times as much”.

Bank accounts, phone plans, gym cards: life in Taiwan comes with forms.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
住址	zhùzhǐ	home address	請寫你的住址。 Please write your home address.
母語	mǔyǔ	mother tongue	我的母語是英文。 My mother tongue is English.
表	biǎo	form, table, chart	請在這張表上寫你的名字。 Please write your name on this form.
傳真	chuánzhēn	fax	我們公司還有傳真。 Our company still has a fax machine.
鐘	zhōng	o’clock; clock	現在三點鐘。 It’s three o’clock.
倍	bèi	times (as much)	臺北的房租是臺南的兩倍。 Rent in Taipei is twice as much as in Tainan.
左右	zuǒyòu	about, around (a number)	我八點左右到。 I’ll get there around eight.
以上	yǐshàng	and over, above	十八歲以上才可以開車。 You have to be eighteen or over to drive.
以下	yǐxià	and under, below	這些衣服都在五百塊以下。 These clothes are all under 500 dollars.
整	zhěng	whole; sharp (of time)	現在兩點整。 It’s two o’clock sharp.
差	chà	poor, bad; short of	我的中文還很差。 My Chinese is still pretty poor.
樣	yàng	kind, sort (measure word)	我買了三樣東西。 I bought three things.
搬家	bānjiā	move house	我們下{=next}個月要搬家。 We’re moving house next month.

pattern 以上, 以下, 左右, 倍: over, under, about, times

number | **以上 / 以下 / 左右** | **/** | **A 是 B 的** | **number** | **倍**

After a number, 以上 means “and over”, 以下 “and under” and 左右 “about”: 十八歲以上, 一百塊以下, 八點左右. For “times as much”, say A 是 B 的兩倍.

這個工作要二十歲以上的人。 **zhè ge gōngzuò yào èrshí suì yǐshàng de rén** This job is for people aged twenty and over.

我每天睡七個小時左右。 **wǒ měi tiān shuì qī ge xiǎoshí zuǒyòu** I sleep about seven hours a night.

我們班的學生是他們班的兩倍。 **wǒmen bān de xuéshēng shì tāmen bān de liǎng bèi** Our class has twice as many students as theirs.

dialogue a form at the bank

anna 美玲，這張表好難！「住址」是什麼意思？
Měilíng zhè zhāng biǎo hǎo nán zhùzhǐ shì shénme yìsi · Meiling, this form is so hard! What does 住址 mean?

meiling 住址就是地址。我們還沒搬家，你寫我們家的地址吧。
zhùzhǐ jiù shì dìzhǐ wǒmen hái méi bānjiā nǐ xiě wǒmen jiā de dìzhǐ ba · 住址 is your address. We haven’t moved, so write our address.

anna 好。「母語」呢？
hǎo mǔyǔ ne · OK. And 母語?

meiling 就是你從小說的語言。你的母語是英文。
jiù shì nǐ cóng xiǎo shuō de yǔyán nǐ de mǔyǔ shì yīngwén · The language you’ve spoken since you were small. Yours is English.

anna 這裡要寫電話號碼，還要寫傳真號碼？
zhèlǐ yào xiě diànhuà hàomǎ hái yào xiě chuánzhēn hàomǎ · Here I need my phone number, and a fax number too?

meiling 你沒有傳真，不用寫。
nǐ méiyǒu chuánzhēn búyòng xiě · You don’t have a fax, so leave it.

anna 太好了！我一個星期沒去銀行了，錢包裡沒有錢了。
tài hǎo le wǒ yí ge xīngqí méi qù yínháng le qiánbāo lǐ méiyǒu qián le · Good! I haven’t been to the bank for a week and my wallet is empty.

meiling 快一點！我們已經寫了二十分鐘左右了，銀行三點半就關門了。
kuài yìdiǎn wǒmen yǐjīng xiě le èrshí fēnzhōng zuǒyòu le yínháng sān diǎn bàn jiù guān mén le · Hurry up! We’ve been filling it in for about twenty minutes, and the bank closes at half past three.

anna 別急，你看那個時鐘，現在才兩點整。
bié jí nǐ kàn nà ge shízhōng xiànzài cái liǎng diǎn zhěng · Relax, look at that clock: it’s only two o’clock.

meiling 那個鐘不對！現在差五分三點了！
nà ge zhōng bú duì xiànzài chà wǔ fēn sān diǎn le · That clock is wrong! It’s already five to three!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

公 公 公 公

公
gōng
public

園
yuán
garden



路
lù
road, street



走
zǒu
walk; leave

good to know · 住址 is the form word; in conversation people say 地址. You'll also see 姓名 (full name) on every form. 左右 goes after the number: 八點左右 (around eight). 差 + minutes + time is "to": 差五分三點, five to three.

Forms don't scare you any more, and you can talk about prices, ages and times in round numbers. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 75 it turns out...

Tell a little story with twists: “it turns out...”, “in the end...”, “the more..., the more...”, “never”.

These little words turn a list of facts into a story people want to hear.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
立刻	lìkè	at once, immediately	你等一下，我立刻回來。 Hang on, I’ll be right back.
接著	jiēzhe	next, then; carry on	我們先吃飯，接著去看電影。 We’ll eat first, then go to the cinema.
結果	jiéguǒ	in the end, as a result	我等了他一個小時，結果他沒來。 I waited an hour for him, and in the end he didn’t come.
原來	yuánlái	so it turns out; original	原來是你！ Oh, it’s you!
其實	qíshí	actually, in fact	其實我不喜歡喝咖啡。 Actually, I don’t like coffee.
也許	yěxǔ	maybe, perhaps	也許明天會下雨。 Maybe it’ll rain tomorrow.
大概	dàgài	probably; about	他大概不會來了。 He probably isn’t coming.
從來	cónglái	ever (with 不/沒: never)	我從來沒去過花蓮。 I’ve never been to Hualien.
已	yǐ	already (written)	本{=this}店已搬到對面。 This shop has moved across the road.
越	yuè	the more...	天氣越來越冷了。 It’s getting colder and colder.
極	jí	extremely; 極了: so...!	今天熱極了！ It’s incredibly hot today!
相當	xiāngdāng	quite, fairly	這個問題相當難。 This question is quite hard.
完全	wánquán	completely, totally	我完全不懂。 I don’t understand at all.

pattern 越……越……, 越來越……; 從來不/沒, 不再……了

越 verb 越 adjective / 從來 不 / 沒 verb

越 A 越 B is “the more A, the more B”: 越學越有意思. 越來越 + adjective is “more and more”: 越來越胖. 從來不 + verb is “never (as a habit)”, 從來沒 + verb + 過 “have never”; 不再……了 is “not any more”. Adjective + 極了 is “so…!”: 熱極了.

天氣越來越熱了。 **tiānqì yuè lái yuè rè le** It’s getting hotter and hotter.

這本書越看越有意思。 **zhè běn shū yuè kàn yuè yǒuyìsi** The more I read this book, the more interesting it gets.

我從來不喝咖啡。 **wǒ cónglái bù hē kāfēi** I never drink coffee.

小黑不再出去了。 **Xiǎohēi bú zài chū qù le** Xiaohei doesn’t go out any more.

dialogue the mystery of the fat cat

meiling 安娜，你看小黑，它越來越胖了！
Ānnà nǐ kàn Xiǎohēi tā yuè lái yuè pàng le · Anna, look at Xiaohei: he’s getting fatter and fatter!

anna 其實我每天只給它一點魚。也許它也吃別人的東西？
qíshí wǒ měi tiān zhǐ gěi tā yìdiǎn yú yěxǔ tā yě chī biérén de dōngxi · Actually, I only give him a little fish every day. Maybe he eats other people’s food too?

meiling 我們跟著它，看看它去哪裡。
wǒmen gēn zhe tā kàn kan tā qù nǎlǐ · Let’s follow him and see where he goes.

anna 你看，它出去了！接著往樓上走。
nǐ kàn tā chū qù le jiēzhe wǎng lóushàng zǒu · Look, he’s out the door! Now he’s heading upstairs.

meiling 結果它走進了老太太的家！
jiéguǒ tā zǒu jìn le lǎotàitai de jiā · And he’s gone into the old lady’s flat!

anna 是那位戴眼鏡、穿紅色外套的老太太嗎？
shì nà wèi dài yǎnjìng chuān hóngsè wàitào de lǎotàitai ma · The old lady with glasses and the red jacket?

meiling 對。原來它每天都來這裡吃晚飯！
duì yuánlái tā měi tiān dōu lái zhèlǐ chī wǎn fàn · Yes. So that’s it: he comes here for dinner every day!

anna 我完全不知道！她大概很喜歡小黑。
wǒ wánquán bù zhīdào tā dàgài hěn xǐhuān Xiǎohēi · I had no idea! She must really like Xiaohei.

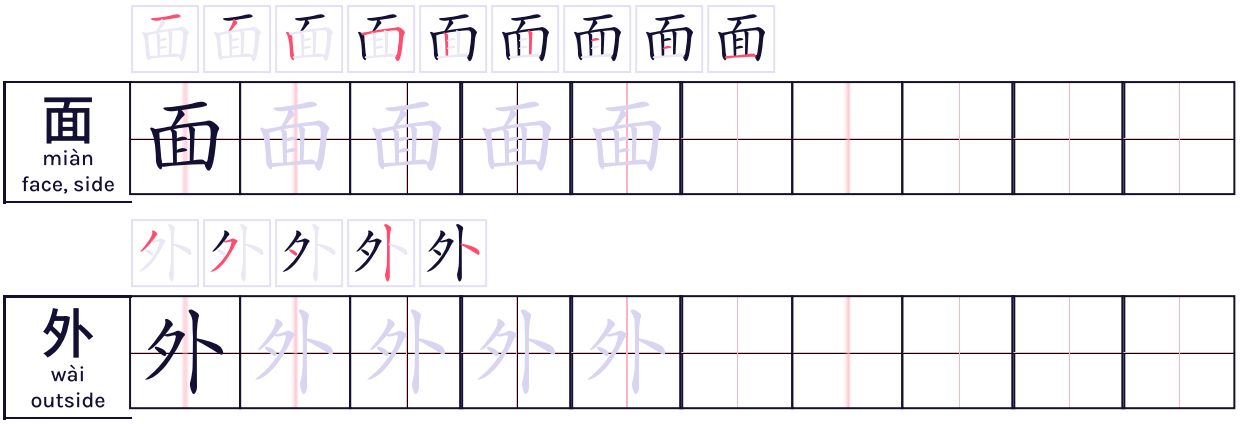
meiling 我們立刻去跟她說，小黑不能再吃了。
wǒmen lìkè qù gēn tā shuō Xiǎohēi bù néng zài chī le · Let’s go and tell her straight away that Xiaohei can’t eat any more.

anna 好，可是我從來沒看過這麼高興的貓。這件事相當有意思！
hǎo kěshì wǒ cónglái méi kàn guò zhème gāoxìng de māo zhè jiàn shì xiāngdāng yǒuyìsi · OK, but I’ve never seen such a happy cat. This is quite a story!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

從
cóng
from

邊
biān
side



good to know · 原來 is the “aha!” word: 原來是你！(Oh, it’s you!). 其實 is “actually”, when the truth is different from what people think. 結果 tells how things turned out, often not as planned: 我等了他一個小時，結果他沒來.

Your stories now have twists, surprises and endings: that’s real storytelling.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 76 mission: zhiming's family

Follow a family lunch from the gift to the goodbye: greet the family, talk about the past and share your feelings.

Days 69–75 all meet in one story: family words, feelings, personality, day and night, numbers and little twists.

chapter 1 what should i bring?

anna
王阿姨，明天志明請我和美玲去他父母家吃飯，我緊張極了！
Wáng āyí míngtiān Zhìmíng qǐng wǒ hé Měilíng qù tā fùmǔ jiā chī fàn wǒ jǐnzhāng jí le · Auntie Wang, Zhiming has invited Meiling and me to lunch at his parents' tomorrow, and I'm so nervous!

auntie wang
別擔心！志明的父母很有禮貌，也很關心別人。
bié dānxīn Zhìmíng de fùmǔ hěn yǒu lǐmào yě hěn guānxīn biérén · Don't worry! Zhiming's parents are very polite, and they really care about people.

meiling
志明的外公和外婆也從花蓮來了。外公八十歲了，年紀相當大。
Zhìmíng de wàigōng hé wàipó yě cóng Huālián lái le wàigōng bāshí suì le niánjì xiāngdāng dà · Zhiming's grandparents have come up from Hualien too. His grandpa is eighty: quite old.

anna
我要帶什麼禮物？我完全不知道。
wǒ yào dài shénme lǐwù wǒ wánquán bù zhīdào · What present should I take? I have no idea.

auntie wang
你可以帶水果去，老人都喜歡。我這裡有一些，一盒三百塊左右。
nǐ kěyǐ dài shuǐguǒ qù lǎorén dōu xǐhuān wǒ zhèlǐ yǒu yìxiē yì hé sānbǎi kuài zuǒyòu · You could take fruit: older people all like that. I have some here, about three hundred dollars a box.

anna
好！我買兩樣：香蕉和蘋果。
hǎo wǒ mǎi liǎng yàng xiāngjiāo hé píngguǒ · Great! I'll take two kinds: bananas and apples.

auntie wang
你們明天早點去。也許可以先幫伯母做菜。
nǐmen míngtiān zǎodiǎn qù yěxǔ kěyǐ xiān bāng bómǔ zuò cài · Go a bit early tomorrow. Maybe you can help his mum with the cooking first.

meiling
別急，安娜。你放心，有我在你身邊。
bié jí Ānnà nǐ fàngxīn yǒu wǒ zài nǐ shēnbiān · No rush, Anna. Relax: I'll be right by your side.

chapter 2 meet the family

zhiming 歡迎你們！這是我父母，這是我外公和外婆。
huānyíng nǐmen zhè shì wǒ fùmǔ zhè shì wǒ wàigōng hé wàipó · Welcome! These are my parents, and these are my grandparents.

anna 伯父好！伯母好！外公、外婆好！這是我們買的水果。
bófù hǎo bómǔ hǎo wàigōng wàipó hǎo zhè shì wǒmen mǎi de shuǐguǒ · Hello, Uncle! Hello, Auntie! Hello, Grandpa and Grandma! We've brought you some fruit.

meiling 沒想到陳老師也在這裡！
méixiǎngdào Chén lǎoshī yě zài zhèlǐ · I didn't expect to see Teacher Chen here!

teacher chen 今天我不是老師，是志明的姑姑！你們叫我陳阿姨就好。
jīntiān wǒ bú shì lǎoshī shì Zhìmíng de gūgu nǐmen jiào wǒ Chén āyí jiù hǎo · Today I'm not a teacher, I'm Zhiming's aunt! Just call me Auntie Chen.

anna 那位很高的叔叔是誰？
nà wèi hěn gāo de shúshu shì shéi · And who's that very tall man?

zhiming 他不是叔叔，是我伯伯，我父親的哥哥。他的身高是我們家最高的。
tā bú shì shúshu shì wǒ bóbo wǒ fùqīn de gēge tā de shēngāo shì wǒmen jiā zuì gāo de · He's not my 叔叔, he's my 伯伯, my dad's older brother. He's the tallest in the family.

teacher chen 他們是兄弟，可是很不同：大哥很害羞，二哥很有趣。
tāmen shì xiōngdì kěshì hěn bùtóng dà gē hěn hàixiū èr gē hěn yǒuqù · They're brothers, but very different: the eldest is shy, and the second is great fun.

anna 那個小朋友呢？
nà ge xiǎopéngyǒu ne · And that little one?

zhiming 她是我叔叔的女兒，今年五歲。她不敢跟你說話，因為你是外國人！
tā shì wǒ shúshu de nǚér jīnnián wǔ suì tā bù gǎn gēn nǐ shuōhuà yīnwèi nǐ shì wàiguó rén · She's my 叔叔's daughter, five this year. She doesn't dare talk to you because you're a foreigner!

chapter 3 grandma's cooking

zhiming 你們吃吃看，這盤魚是外婆做的。
nǐmen chī chi kàn zhè pán yú shì wàipó zuò de · Try some: Grandma made this plate of fish.

anna 好吃極了！外婆做的菜越吃越好吃。
hǎochī jí le wàipó zuò de cài yuè chī yuè hǎochī · It's delicious! The more I eat Grandma's cooking, the better it gets.

teacher chen 外婆每次來臺北都做很多菜。她說：「孫子和孫女吃得飽，我就很幸福。」
wàipó měi cì lái Táiběi dōu zuò hěn duō cài tā shuō sūnzi hé sūnnǚ chī de bǎo wǒ jiù hěn xìngfú · Every time Grandma comes to Taipei she cooks loads. She says: "When my grandchildren eat well, I'm happy."

meiling 外婆是在花蓮出生的嗎？
wàipó shì zài Huālián chūshēng de ma · Was Grandma born in Hualien?

zhiming 對，她在花蓮出生，也在花蓮長大。她十九歲就跟外公結婚了。
duì tā zài Huālián chūshēng yě zài Huālián zhǎngdà tā shíjiǔ suì jiù gēn wàigōng jiéhūn le · Yes, she was born and grew up in Hualien. She married Grandpa at nineteen.

teacher chen 外婆不但很會做菜，而且很會說故事。
wàipó búdàn hěn huì zuò cài érqiě hěn huì shuō gùshi · Grandma isn't just a great cook: she's a great storyteller too.

anna 當時外公做什麼工作？
dāngshí wàigōng zuò shénme gōngzuò · What did Grandpa do back then?

zhiming 他是司機。他白天開車，有時候半夜才回家。
tā shì sījī tā báitian kāichē yǒushíhou bànyè cái huí jiā · He was a driver. He drove all day, and sometimes he didn't get home till the middle of the night.

teacher chen 其實外公年輕的時候很帥。等一下你們看他的照片，就知道了。
qíshí wàigōng niánqīng de shíhòu hěn shuài děng yíxià nǐmen kàn tā de zhàopiàn jiù zhīdào le · Actually, Grandpa was very handsome when he was young. You'll see when you look at his photos later.

chapter 4 grandma's letter

anna 這張照片上的男人是外公嗎？他真帥！
zhè zhāng zhàopiàn shàng de nánrén shì wàigōng ma tā zhēn shuài · Is that Grandpa in this photo? He's so handsome!

zhiming 對，那是1965年，當時他二十歲左右。
duì nà shì nián dāngshí tā èrshí suì zuǒyòu · Yes, that was 1965. He was about twenty then.

anna 原來志明跟外公很像！
yuánlái Zhìmíng gēn wàigōng hěn xiàng · So that's who Zhiming takes after!

meiling 旁邊那個美麗的女人是外婆吧？
pángbiān nà ge měilì de nǚrén shì wàipó ba · And the beautiful woman next to him must be Grandma?

zhiming 是。你們看，這裡還有外婆寫給我們的信。我念給你們聽：
shì nǐmen kàn zhèlǐ hái yǒu wàipó xiě gěi wǒmen de xìn wǒ niàn gěi nǐmen tīng · Yes. Look, here's a letter Grandma wrote to us. Let me read it to you:

zhiming 「孫子、孫女：外婆的年紀越來越大了，可是心情很好，因為你們都很認真、很用功。花蓮的日子很舒服，白天我們去海邊走走，夜晚在家看電視。鄰居也常常來看我們。你們放心，也別太忙，有時間就來花蓮。外婆」
sūnzi sūnnǚ wàipó de niánjì yuè lái yuè dà le kěshì xīnqíng hěn hǎo yīnwèi nǐmen dōu hěn rènzhēn hěn yònggōng Huālián de rìzi hěn shūfu báitian wǒmen qù hǎi biān zǒu zou yèwǎn zài jiā kàn diànshì línjū yě chángcháng lái kàn wǒmen nǐmen fàngxīn yě bié tài máng yǒu shíjiān jiù lái Huālián wàipó · "My grandchildren: Grandma is getting older, but I'm in a good mood, because you all work so hard. Life in Hualien is lovely: in the day we walk by the sea, and at night we watch TV at home. The neighbours often visit us too. Don't worry about us, don't work too hard, and come to Hualien when you have time. Grandma"

anna 寫得真好！我聽了有一點想哭。
xiě de zhēn hǎo wǒ tīng le yǒuyìdiǎn xiǎng kū · That's beautiful! It almost makes me cry.

teacher chen 安娜，你不是說你從來沒去過花蓮嗎？
Ānnà nǐ bú shì shuō nǐ cónglái méi qù guò Huālián ma · Anna, didn't you say you've never been to Hualien?

anna 對！我越聽越想去。
duì wǒ yuè tīng yuè xiǎng qù · Yes! The more I hear, the more I want to go.

zhiming 外公說，你們一定要來，你們一來，他就帶你們去看海！
wàigōng shuō nǐmen yídìng yào lái nǐmen yì lái tā jiù dài nǐmen qù kàn hǎi · Grandpa says you must come, and the moment you arrive he'll take you to see the sea!

chapter 5 what a day!

anna 今天真有意思！我本來很緊張，結果一點也不害怕。
jīntiān zhēn yǒuyìsi wǒ běnlái hěn jǐnzhāng jiéguǒ yìdiǎn yě bú hàipà · What a day! I was so nervous, and in the end I wasn't scared at all.

meiling 你剛才跟外婆說：「您的菜比餐廳的好吃兩倍！」大家都笑了。
nǐ gāngcái gēn wàipó shuō nín de cài bǐ cāntīng de hǎochī liǎng bèi dàjiā dōu xiào le · Just now you told Grandma: "Your cooking is twice as good as a restaurant's!" Everyone laughed.

anna 我說錯了嗎？我真笨！
wǒ shuō cuò le ma wǒ zhēn bèn · Did I say it wrong? Silly me!

meiling 沒有！外婆高興壞了。
méiyǒu wàipó gāoxìng huài le · Not at all! Grandma was thrilled.

anna 可惜我們不能多坐一會兒。志明說，外婆三年沒來臺北了。
kěxí wǒmen bù néng duō zuò yìhuǐr Zhìmíng shuō wàipó sān nián méi lái Táiběi le · Shame we couldn't stay a bit longer. Zhiming says Grandma hadn't been to Taipei for three years.

meiling 現在已經九點整了。等到我們到家，大概十點左右。
xiànzài yǐjīng jiǔ diǎn zhěng le děngdào wǒmen dào jiā dàgài shí diǎn zuǒyòu · It's already nine o'clock. By the time we get home, it'll be about ten.

anna 沒想到志明家有這麼多人！我們英國的家跟這裡完全不同。
méixiǎngdào Zhìmíng jiā yǒu zhème duō rén wǒmen Yīngguó de jiā gēn zhèlǐ wánquán bùtóng · Who knew Zhiming had such a big family! My family in the UK is completely different.

meiling 有什麼不同？
yǒu shénme bùtóng · How is it different?

anna 我們家人不多，可是同樣很愛家人。明天我要打電話給我母親！
wǒmen jiārén bù duō kěshì tóngyàng hěn ài jiārén míngtiān wǒ yào dǎdiànhuà gěi wǒ mǔqīn · There aren't many of us, but we love our family just as much. Tomorrow I'm calling my mum!

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