wishyou.today learning

day 37 grandma and grandpa

Chinese TOCFL A in 113 days
unit 6 · people, feelings & seasons

Say what people are doing right now and describe people by what they do.

Family video calls are a Taiwan ritual: “what are you doing?” is the first question.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
爺爺	yéye	grandpa (dad’s father)	爺爺喜歡喝著茶看電視。 Grandpa likes to watch TV over a cup of tea.
奶奶	nǎinai	grandma (dad’s mother)	奶奶在{zai4-tw3}做飯呢。 Grandma is cooking.
家庭	jiātíng	family, household	我們家是一個大家庭。 We’re a big family.
別人	biérén	other people, others	別人都說奶奶做的菜最好吃。 Everyone says Grandma’s cooking is the best.
大人	dàrén	adult, grown-up	大人在{zai4-tw3}吃飯，小朋友在{zai4-tw3}玩。 The adults are eating and the kids are playing.
老人	lǎorén	old person, the elderly	公園裡有很多老人。 There are lots of old people in the park.
年輕	niánqīng	young	奶奶很年輕！ Grandma is so young!
男生	nánshēng	boy, guy (young man)	那個會說英文的男生是志明。 The guy who speaks English is Zhiming.
女生	nǚshēng	girl, young woman	那個在{zai4-tw3}唱歌的女生是美玲。 The girl who is singing is Meiling.
小朋友	xiǎopéngyǒu	child, kid	小朋友在公園裡玩。 The kids are playing in the park.
結婚	jiéhūn	get married	我爺爺和奶奶結婚五十年了。 My grandpa and grandma have been married for fifty years.
在	zài	(doing right now)	你在{zai4-tw3}做什麼？ What are you doing?
小孩子	xiǎoháizi	child, kid	那個小孩子很高。 That kid is tall.

pattern (正)在 + verb: doing right now

who **在** **verb** **(呢)**

在 before a verb says it's happening right now: 他在吃飯, he's eating. Add 呢 at the end to sound natural; you'll also hear 正在 for "right in the middle of". A verb phrase + 的 describes a noun: 在唱歌的女生 (the girl who is singing), 奶奶做的菜 (the food Grandma makes).

你在做什麼？ **nǐ zài zuò shénme** What are you doing?

美玲在打電話呢。 **Měilíng zài dǎdiànhuà ne** Meiling is on the phone.

爺爺常常喝著茶看電視。 **yéye chángcháng hē zhe chá kàn diànshì** Grandpa often watches TV over a cup of tea.

那個會說英文的男生是志明。 **nà ge huì shuō yīngwén de nánshēng shì Zhìmíng** The guy who speaks English is Zhiming.

dialogue a call to tainan

meiling 奶奶，您在做什麼呢？
nǎinai nín zài zuò shénme ne · Grandma, what are you up to?

grandma lin 我在做飯呢。爺爺在看電視。
wǒ zài zuò fàn ne yéye zài kàn diànshì · I'm cooking. Grandpa is watching TV.

meiling 奶奶，這是我的朋友安娜，她是英國人。
nǎinai zhè shì wǒ de péngyǒu Ānnà tā shì Yīngguó rén · Grandma, this is my friend Anna. She's from the UK.

anna 林奶奶好！
Línnǎinai hǎo · Hello, Grandma Lin!

grandma lin 安娜好！你中文說得真好！
Ānnà hǎo nǐ zhōngwén shuō de zhēn hǎo · Hello, Anna! Your Chinese is so good!

anna 哪裡，哪裡！
nǎlǐ nǎlǐ · Oh, not at all!

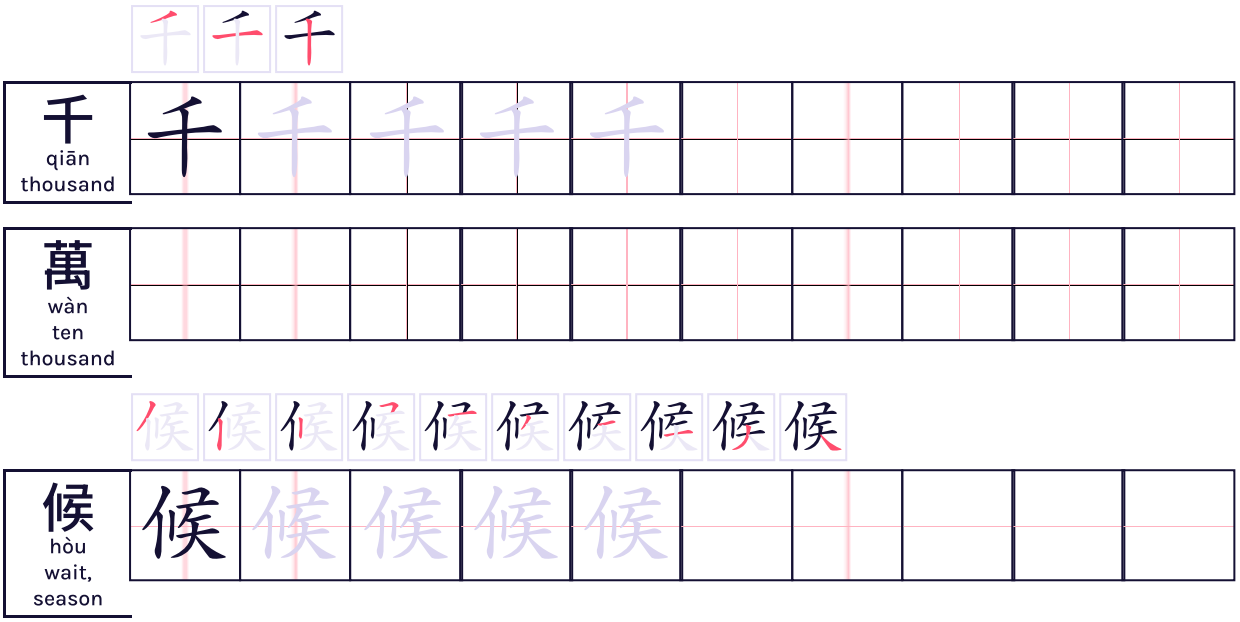
grandma lin 你們十一月來臺南玩玩吧！我們家是一個大家庭，有老人，也有小孩子。
nǐmen shíyī yuè lái Táinán wán wan ba wǒmen jiā shì yí ge dà jiātíng yǒu lǎorén yě yǒu xiǎoháizi · Come and visit Tainan in November! We're a big family: old folks and kids too.

meiling 好！別人都說奶奶做的菜最好吃！
hǎo biérén dōu shuō nǎinai zuò de cài zuì hǎochī · We will! Everyone says Grandma's cooking is the best!

grandma lin 你們來的時候，帶志明來吧！爺爺在叫我，我得出去了。
nǐmen lái de shíhòu dài Zhìmíng lái ba yéye zài jiào wǒ wǒ děi chū qù le · Bring Zhiming when you come! Grandpa is calling me, I have to go.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

第
dì
(makes ordinals: 第一 first)



good to know · Taiwan grandparents: 爺爺 and 奶奶 are your dad's parents. Your mum's parents are 外公 and 外婆. People call Taipei 101 "一零一" (yī líng yī): digits read one by one, with 零 for zero.

You can now say what everyone is doing, and point out who's who by what they do.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 38 how do you feel?

Ask what's wrong and talk about how you feel.

你怎麼了？ (what's wrong?) is how friends show they care.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
笑	xiào	laugh, smile	你笑的時候最漂亮！ You look your best when you smile!
哭	kū	cry	她在{zai4-tw3}哭，她怎麼了？ She's crying. What's the matter with her?
緊張	jǐnzhāng	nervous	明天考試，我很緊張。 I've got a test tomorrow and I'm nervous.
可愛	kěài	cute, lovely	小黑真可愛！ Xiaohei is so cute!
生氣	shēngqì	angry; get angry	別生氣！ Don't be angry!
難過	nánguò	sad, upset	別難過。 Don't be sad.
聰明	cōngmíng	clever, bright	你很聰明，一定沒問題！ You're so clever, you'll be fine!
辛苦	xīnkǔ	hard, tiring (work)	你辛苦了！ Thanks for all your hard work!
舒服	shūfu	comfortable, well	你不舒服嗎？ Aren't you feeling well?
渴	kě	thirsty	我很渴，我想喝水。 I'm thirsty: I'd like some water.
健康	jiànkāng	healthy; health	我爺爺八十歲了，身體還很健康。 My grandpa is eighty and still very healthy.
心	xīn	heart, mind	我心裡很不舒服。 I feel awful inside.
開心	kāixīn	happy, cheerful	今天我很開心！ I'm so happy today!

pattern 你怎麼了？；不知道……

who **怎麼了** **？**

怎麼了 asks what happened or what's wrong: 你怎麼了？, 小黑怎麼了？ To say "I wonder…", start with 不知道 and add a question: 不知道他會不會來, I wonder whether he'll come.

你怎麼了？你不舒服嗎？ **nǐ zěnme le nǐ bù shūfu ma** What's wrong? Are you unwell?

小黑怎麼了？它不吃東西。 **Xiǎohēi zěnme le tā bù chī dōngxi** What's up with Xiaohei? He isn't eating.

不知道志明在做什麼。 **bù zhīdào Zhìmíng zài zuò shénme** I wonder what Zhiming is doing.

不知道考試難不難。 **bù zhīdào kǎoshì nán bu nán** I wonder if the test will be hard.

dialogue what's wrong?

anna 美玲，你怎麼了？你在哭嗎？
Měilíng nǐ zěnme le nǐ zài kū ma · Meiling, what's wrong? Are you crying?

meiling 沒事。我很緊張，明天有一個很難的考試。
méi shì wǒ hěn jǐnzhāng míngtiān yǒu yí ge hěn nán de kǎoshì · It's nothing. I'm nervous: I've got a really hard exam tomorrow.

anna 別難過。你很聰明，一定沒問題！
bié nánguò nǐ hěn cōngmíng yídìng méi wèntí · Don't be sad. You're so clever, you'll be fine!

meiling 不知道考試難不難。我心裡很不舒服，不能睡覺。
bù zhīdào kǎoshì nán bu nán wǒ xīn lǐ hěn bù shūfu bù néng shuìjiào · I don't know how hard it'll be. I feel awful inside, I can't sleep.

anna 你應該早一點睡覺。你渴不渴？我去給你拿一杯熱茶。
nǐ yīnggāi zǎo yìdiǎn shuìjiào nǐ kě bu kě wǒ qù gěi nǐ ná yì bēi rè chá · You should get to bed early. Are you thirsty? I'll get you a hot tea.

meiling 謝謝，你真好。
xièxie nǐ zhēn hǎo · Thanks, you're so kind.

anna 你看，小黑在看你！它真可愛。
nǐ kàn Xiǎohēi zài kàn nǐ tā zhēn kěài · Look, Xiaohei is watching you! He's so sweet.

meiling 好，我不哭了。
hǎo wǒ bù kū le · OK, I'll stop crying.

anna 你笑的時候最漂亮！
nǐ xiào de shíhòu zuì piàoliàng · You look your best when you smile!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

百
bǎi
hundred

床
chuáng
bed

睡
shuì
to sleep

覺
jiào
sleep

good to know · 你辛苦了 thanks someone for their effort: say it to a friend after a long day, or to anyone who worked hard for you. Use 怎麼了 for people, pets and things: 手機怎麼了？ (what's wrong with the phone?) 開心 and 高興 both mean happy. 開心 is a little more casual and very common in Taiwan; 很高興認識你 stays the set phrase.

You can now notice when someone is down, ask what's wrong, and cheer them up.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 39 my address

Give your address, phone number and email, and send a parcel.

Deliveries, forms and new friends all ask for 地址 and 電話號碼.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
號碼	hàomǎ	number	你的電話號碼是多少？ What's your phone number?
地址	dìzhǐ	address	我的地址是臺北市公園路12號5樓。 My address is 5th floor, No. 12, Park Road, Taipei.
市	shì	city (in addresses)	我住在臺北市。 I live in Taipei City.
城市	chéngshì	city	臺北是一個大城市。 Taipei is a big city.
街	jiē	street	街上人很多。 The streets are full of people.
電子郵件	diànzǐyóujiàn	email	我給你寫電子郵件吧。 I'll send you an email.
信	xìn	letter	我想去郵局寄信。 I'd like to go to the post office to send a letter.
信封	xìnfēng	envelope	信封上要寫地址和名字。 Write the address and the name on the envelope.
寄	jì	send, post	我想給她寄一些英國的茶。 I want to send her some English tea.
郵局	yóujú	post office	郵局在哪裡？ Where's the post office?
銀行	yínháng	bank	郵局在銀行旁邊。 The post office is next to the bank.
接	jiē	meet, pick up; answer (the phone)	我去接你！ I'll come and pick you up!
錢包	qiánbāo	wallet, purse	你看見我的錢包了嗎？ Have you seen my wallet?

pattern addresses, big to small: 臺北市……路12號

city 市 **road 路** **number 號** **floor 樓**

Chinese addresses start with the biggest place and end with the smallest: city 市, road 路, number 號, floor 樓. It is the opposite of English, and it works like dates (year, month, day).

臺北市公園路12號 **Táiběi shì gōngyuán lù hào** No. 12, Park Road, Taipei

我住在臺南市大學路20號3樓。 **wǒ zhù zài Táinán shì dàxué lù hào lóu** I live on the 3rd floor, No. 20, University Road, Tainan.

信封上要寫地址和名字。 **xìnfēng shàng yào xiě dìzhǐ hé míngzi** Write the address and the name on the envelope.

郵局在銀行旁邊。 **yóujú zài yínháng pángbiān** The post office is next to the bank.

dialogue a parcel for grandma

anna 美玲，奶奶的地址是什麼？我想給她寄一些英國的茶。
Měilíng nǎinai de dìzhǐ shì shénme wǒ xiǎng gěi tā jì yìxiē Yīngguó de chá · Meiling, what's Grandma's address? I want to send her some English tea.

meiling 你真好！地址是臺南市大學路25號。
nǐ zhēn hǎo dìzhǐ shì Táinán shì dàxué lù hào · That's so kind! It's No. 25, University Road, Tainan.

anna 我得寫她的電話號碼嗎？
wǒ děi xiě tā de diànhuà hàomǎ ma · Do I have to write her phone number?

meiling 對，也要寫你自己的地址。
duì yě yào xiě nǐ zìjǐ de dìzhǐ · Yes, and your own address too.

anna 我沒去過郵局。郵局在哪裡？
wǒ méi qù guò yóujú yóujú zài nǎlǐ · I've never been to the post office. Where is it?

meiling 在銀行旁邊，我帶你去。
zài yínháng pángbiān wǒ dài nǐ qù · Next to the bank. I'll take you.

anna 美玲，我的錢包呢？你看見我的錢包了嗎？
Měilíng wǒ de qiánbāo ne nǐ kànjiàn wǒ de qiánbāo le ma · Meiling, where's my wallet? Have you seen my wallet?

meiling 你怎麼了？別緊張，錢包在你手上！
nǐ zěnme le bié jǐnzhāng qiánbāo zài nǐ shǒu shàng · What's up with you? Relax, it's in your hand!

anna 因為我昨天睡得很晚，所以今天很累！
yīnwèi wǒ zuótiān shuì de hěn wǎn suǒyǐ jīntiān hěn lèi · I went to bed really late last night, so I'm shattered today!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

休
xiū
rest

息
xí
breath, rest

飯
fàn
meal;
cooked rice



水
shuǐ
water

good to know · Read phone numbers digit by digit, with 零 for zero: 0912 is 零九一二. 接 is “meet, pick up” and also “answer”: 接你 (pick you up), 接電話 (answer the phone).

Now you can tell anyone where to find you, and send a little love across Taiwan.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 40 four seasons

Talk about the seasons and nature, and say “more and more” and “much more”.

Taiwan’s seasons are very different from Europe’s: a great small-talk topic.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
春天	chūntiān	spring	我最喜歡春天。 Spring is my favourite season.
夏天	xiàtiān	summer	臺灣的夏天很熱。 Summers in Taiwan are hot.
秋天	qiūtiān	autumn	秋天到了，天氣一天比一天冷。 Autumn is here: it gets colder every day.
冬天	dōngtiān	winter	英國的冬天比臺灣冷得多。 Winters in the UK are much colder than in Taiwan.
雪	xuě	snow	我沒看過雪！ I’ve never seen snow!
下雪	xiàxuě	snow (verb), it snows	英國會下雪嗎？ Does it snow in the UK?
太陽	tàiyáng	sun	太陽很大，我們去海邊吧！ It’s sunny: let’s go to the seaside!
火	huǒ	fire	冬天我們常常在火旁邊喝茶。 In winter we often drink tea by the fire.
世界	shìjiè	world	臺北一零一以前是世界上最高的樓{=building}。 Taipei 101 used to be the tallest building in the world.
海	hǎi	sea	我們去海邊吧！ Let’s go to the seaside!
河	hé	river	我們去河邊走走吧！ Let’s go for a walk by the river!
湖	hú	lake	這個湖比那個湖大得多。 This lake is much bigger than that one.
草	cǎo	grass	湖邊有很多草和花。 There’s lots of grass and flowers by the lake.

pattern 一天比一天冷; 大得多

一天 **比** **一天** **adjective**

一天比一天 + adjective says something changes day by day: 一天比一天冷, colder every day. For “much more”, put 得多 after the adjective: 英國比臺灣冷得多, the UK is much colder than Taiwan.

天氣一天比一天熱。 **tiānqì yì tiān bǐ yì tiān rè** It gets hotter every day.

他的中文一天比一天好。 **tā de zhōngwén yì tiān bǐ yì tiān hǎo** His Chinese gets better every day.

這個湖比那個湖大得多。 **zhè ge hú bǐ nà ge hú dà de duō** This lake is much bigger than that one.

山上比山下冷得多。 **shān shàng bǐ shān xià lěng de duō** It’s much colder up the mountain than at the bottom.

dialogue winter in the uk

zhiming 安娜，英國的冬天冷不冷？
Ānnà Yīngguó de dōngtiān lěng bu lěng · Anna, are British winters cold?

anna 很冷！英國比臺灣冷得多。
hěn lěng Yīngguó bǐ táiwān lěng de duō · Very! The UK is much colder than Taiwan.

zhiming 英國會下雪嗎？
Yīngguó huì xiàxuě ma · Does it snow in the UK?

anna 會，可是不常下。冬天我們常常在火旁邊喝茶。
huì kěshì bù cháng xià dōngtiān wǒmen chángcháng zài huǒ pángbiān hē chá · Yes, but not often. In winter we often drink tea by the fire.

zhiming 我沒看過雪！臺北的冬天不下雪。
wǒ méi kàn guò xuě Táiběi de dōngtiān bú xiàxuě · I’ve never seen snow! It doesn’t snow in Taipei.

anna 臺灣的夏天比英國熱得多！太陽太大了！
táiwān de xiàtiān bǐ Yīngguó rè de duō tàiyáng tài dà le · And Taiwan’s summers are much hotter than in the UK! The sun is so strong!

zhiming 對，所以夏天我們常常去海邊。
duì suǒyǐ xiàtiān wǒmen chángcháng qù hǎi biān · Yes, that’s why we go to the seaside a lot in summer.

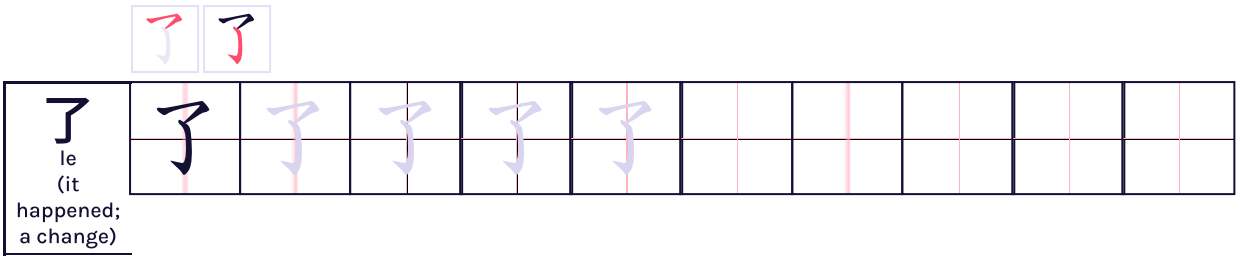
anna 現在秋天了，天氣一天比一天冷。我們去山上看看吧！
xiànzài qiūtiān le tiānqì yì tiān bǐ yì tiān lěng wǒmen qù shān shàng kàn kan ba · Now it’s autumn and it’s getting colder every day. Let’s go and see the mountains!

zhiming 好！山上有一個很漂亮的湖，湖邊有很多草和花。
hǎo shān shàng yǒu yí ge hěn piàoliàng de hú hú biān yǒu hěn duō cǎo hé huā · Great! There’s a beautiful lake up there, with grass and flowers all around it.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

回
huí
go back, return

到
dào
arrive; to (a place)





good to know · The seasons all end in 天: 春天, 夏天, 秋天, 冬天. In writing you will also see them short: 春, 夏, 秋, 冬. Snow in Taiwan falls only on the high mountains, like Hehuanshan, and people drive up just to see it.

You can now chat about the seasons anywhere in the world, and say how things change day by day. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 41 cats, dogs and birds

Talk about animals and nature, and ask how big, how old, how long.

Pets are the best ice-breaker, and 多大? (how old?) is the first thing people ask about them.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
樹	shù	tree	樹上有一隻鳥。 There's a bird in the tree.
馬	mǎ	horse	從前，這裡有很多馬。 Long ago, there were lots of horses here.
鳥	niǎo	bird	樹上有一隻鳥。 There's a bird in the tree.
貓	māo	cat	我家有兩隻貓。 We have two cats at home.
狗	gǒu	dog	你的狗多大了？ How old is your dog?
隻	zhī	(measure word for animals)	我家有一隻狗和兩隻貓。 We have a dog and two cats at home.
長	zhǎng	grow; look (appearance)	小黑長{zhang3-tw}大了。 Xiaohei has grown up.
地	dì	ground, floor	小黑在地上睡覺。 Xiaohei is sleeping on the floor.
風景	fēngjǐng	scenery, view	這裡的風景真美！ The view here is gorgeous!
經驗	jīngyàn	experience	我沒有經驗。 I don't have any experience.
從前	cóngqián	in the past, long ago	從前，這裡有很多馬。 Long ago, there were lots of horses here.
後來	hòulái	later, afterwards	後來，它每天都在公園門口等我。 After a while, he waited for me at the park gate every day.
最後	zuìhòu	finally, last	最後你帶它回家了！ And in the end you took him home!

pattern 多 + adjective? how big, how long?

多 **adjective** ?

多 before an adjective asks “how…?”: 多大 (how big, how old), 多高 (how tall), 多長 (how long), 多久 (how long a time). For pets and children, 多大了？ asks their age.

你多高？ **nǐ duō gāo** How tall are you?

你的貓多大了？ **nǐ de māo duō dà le** How old is your cat?

這個湖多大？ **zhè ge hú duō dà** How big is this lake?

你等了多久？ **nǐ děng le duō jiǔ** How long did you wait?

dialogue how xiaohei came home

anna 美玲，小黑多大了？
Měilíng Xiǎohēi duō dà le · Meiling, how old is Xiaohei?

meiling 它三歲了。從前，它住在公園裡。
tā sān suì le cóngqián tā zhù zài gōngyuán lǐ · He’s three. He used to live in the park.

anna 真的嗎？它那時候多大？
zhēnde ma tā nà shíhòu duō dà · Really? How big was he then?

meiling 很小，在樹下叫。
hěn xiǎo zài shù xià jiào · Tiny, meowing under a tree.

meiling 我每天給它帶吃的去。後來，它每天都在公園門口等我。
wǒ měi tiān gěi tā dài chī de qù hòulái tā měi tiān dōu zài gōngyuán ménkǒu děng wǒ · I took him food every day. After a while, he waited for me at the park gate every day.

anna 最後你帶它回家了！
zuìhòu nǐ dài tā huí jiā le · And in the end you took him home!

meiling 對！現在它長大了，一天比一天胖！
duì xiànzài tā zhǎng dà le yì tiān bǐ yì tiān pàng · Yes! Now he’s grown up, and he gets chubbier every day!

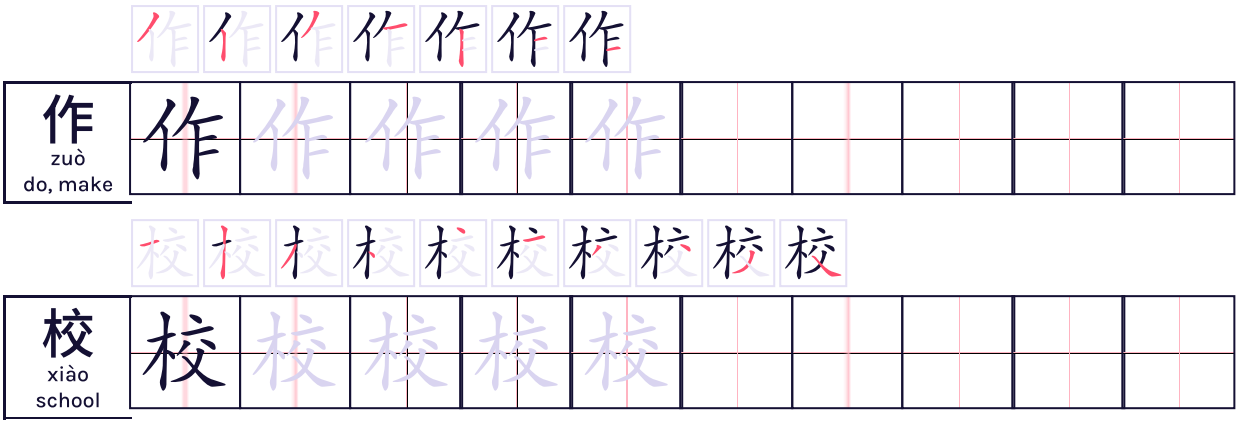
anna 我覺得它比以前可愛得多！
wǒ juéde tā bǐ yǐqián kěài de duō · I think he’s much cuter than before!

meiling 你看，它在地上睡著了。
nǐ kàn tā zài dì shàng shuì zháo le · Look, he’s fallen asleep on the floor.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

忙
máng
busy

工
gōng
work, labour



good to know · Most animals take 隻: 一隻狗, 一隻貓, 一隻鳥. (Horses usually take 匹, which you'll meet later.) Tell a story with 從前 (once, long ago), 後來 (later, after that) and 最後 (in the end).

You can now ask about anyone's pet, and tell a little story from beginning to end.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 42 i think so

Give your opinion, say what you thought (wrongly), and what you hope.

Agreeing, disagreeing and changing your mind are what real conversations are made of.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
相信	xiāngxìn	believe, trust	我相信你！ I believe in you!
願意	yuànyì	be willing to	你願意教我嗎？ Would you be willing to teach me?
習慣	xíguàn	habit; be used to	我習慣臺灣的天氣了。 I'm used to the weather in Taiwan now.
當然	dāngrán	of course	當然可以！ Of course!
更	gèng	even more	這個更好吃！ This one is even tastier!
希望	xīwàng	hope	我希望你明天能來。 I hope you can come tomorrow.
以為	yǐwéi	think (wrongly)	我以為今天是星期六！ I thought today was Saturday!
認為	rènwéi	think, believe (opinion)	我認為這個想法很好。 I think this is a good idea.
決定	juédìng	decide; decision	我們決定了：星期五晚上一起做蛋糕！ That's decided: we'll make the cake together on Friday evening!
想法	xiǎngfǎ	idea, way of thinking	這個想法真好！ What a great idea!
本來	běnlái	originally, at first	我本來想去山上，可是下雨了。 I was going to go to the mountains, but it rained.
好像	hǎoxiàng	seem, look like	他今天好像有一點奇怪。 He seems a bit strange today.
奇怪	qíguài	strange, odd	真奇怪！ How strange!

pattern 以為 (thought, wrongly) vs 認為; 本來

我 | 以為 / 認為 | what you thought

以為 is “I thought (but I was wrong)”: 我以為你不來了. 認為 is “I think, in my view”: 我認為這個想法很好. 本來 is “originally, at first” (then it changed), and 願意 is “be willing to”.

我以為今天是星期六。 **wǒ yǐwéi jīntiān shì xīngqíliù** I thought it was Saturday today.

我認為中文不太難。 **wǒ rènwéi zhōngwén bú tài nán** In my view, Chinese isn’t too hard.

我本來不喜歡吃魚，現在很喜歡。 **wǒ běnlái bù xǐhuān chī yú xiànzài hěn xǐhuān** I didn’t like fish at first, but now I love it.

你願意教我嗎？ **nǐ yuànyì jiāo wǒ ma** Would you be willing to teach me?

dialogue a cake for grandma

meiling 奶奶的生日是星期六，她要來臺北！
nǎinai de shēngrì shì xīngqíliù tā yào lái Táiběi · Grandma’s birthday is on Saturday, and she’s coming to Taipei!

anna 我以為她住在臺南，不來臺北。
wǒ yǐwéi tā zhù zài Táinán bù lái Táiběi · I thought she lived in Tainan and wouldn’t come up.

meiling 她本來不想來，因為從臺南到臺北坐火車有一點累。
tā běnlái bù xiǎng lái yīnwèi cóng Táinán dào Táiběi zuò huǒchē yǒuyìdiǎn lèi · She didn’t want to at first: the train from Tainan to Taipei is a bit tiring.

anna 坐火車要多久？
zuò huǒchē yào duō jiǔ · How long is it by train?

meiling 兩個多小時。我們給她做一個蛋糕吧！
liǎng ge duō xiǎoshí wǒmen gěi tā zuò yí ge dàngāo ba · Two-something hours. Let’s make her a cake!

anna 這個想法真好！可是蛋糕好像很難做。
zhè ge xiǎngfǎ zhēn hǎo kěshì dàngāo hǎoxiàng hěn nán zuò · Great idea! But cakes seem hard to make.

meiling 不難，我相信你！我做過，又好看又好吃。
bù nán wǒ xiāngxìn nǐ wǒ zuò guò yòu hǎokàn yòu hǎochī · It’s not hard, I believe in you! I’ve made one: it looked good and tasted great.

anna 你願意教我嗎？
nǐ yuànyì jiāo wǒ ma · Would you teach me?

meiling 當然！我們決定了：星期五晚上一起做蛋糕！
dāngrán wǒmen juédìng le xīngqíwǔ wǎnshàng yìqǐ zuò dàngāo · Of course! That’s decided: we’ll make the cake together on Friday evening!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

課
kè
class, lesson

做
zuò
do, make



看
kàn
look, watch, read

聽
tīng
listen, hear

good to know · 以為 almost always means you were wrong: 我以為你是日本人 “I thought you were Japanese (but you’re not)”. 更 means “even more”: 這個更好 (this one is even better).

You can now share an opinion, admit you got it wrong, and make plans together.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 43 sorry to trouble you

Chinese TOCFL A in 113 days
unit 6 · people, feelings & seasons

Be polite: thank, apologise, welcome guests and ask for help on the phone.

Taiwan is famously polite: 不好意思 and 不客氣 open almost every door.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
客人	kèrén	guest	今天家裡有客人。 We have guests at home today.
客氣	kèqi	polite, formal	你太客氣了！ You're too kind!
不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	sorry, excuse me	不好意思，麻煩你了。 Sorry to trouble you, thank you so much.
喂	wéi	hello (on the phone)	喂？ Hello?
喂	wèi	hey! (calling out)	喂{wei4-tw2}，你的錢包！ Hey, your wallet!
麻煩	máfan	trouble, bother	不好意思，麻煩你了。 Sorry to trouble you, thank you so much.
禮物	lǐwù	present, gift	這是給你的禮物。 This is a present for you.
歡迎	huānyíng	welcome	歡迎你來我家！ Welcome to my home!
啊	a	(warm or surprised ending)	你真好啊！ You're the best!
呀	ya	(lively ending: oh, ah)	我以為美玲很會做蛋糕呀！ I thought Meiling was great at cakes!
啦	la	(ending: come on!, all done)	好啦！ Oh, all right!
怎麼辦	zěnmebàn	what to do?	下雨了，怎麼辦？ It's raining, what do we do?
太太	tàitai	Mrs; wife	她是王太太。 She's Mrs Wang.

pattern 怎麼辦? what now?

a problem **，怎麼辦?**

怎麼辦 is “what do we do now?”: 下雨了，怎麼辦？ To make a suggestion softer, add .....好嗎？ or .....好不好？ at the end. To check a guess, put 是不是 before it: 你是不是累了?

我的手機不見了，怎麼辦？ **wǒdeshǒujībújiàn le zěnmebàn** My phone is gone, what do I do?

明天再來，好嗎？ **míngtiān zài lái hǎo ma** Come back tomorrow, OK?

你是不是不舒服？ **nǐ shì bu shì bù shūfu** Are you feeling unwell?

我們一起去，好不好？ **wǒmen yìqǐ qù hǎo bu hǎo** Let’s go together, shall we?

dialogue the cake disaster

zhiming 喂？
wéi · Hello?

anna 喂，志明，是我，安娜。不好意思，我有一件事想麻煩你。
wéi Zhìmíng shì wǒ Ānnà bùhǎoyìsi wǒ yǒu yí jiàn shì xiǎng máfan nǐ · Hi Zhiming, it’s me, Anna. Sorry, I need to ask you a favour.

zhiming 別客氣！什麼事？
bié kèqi shénme shì · No need to be polite! What’s up?

anna 我和美玲做的蛋糕不好看啦！明天就是奶奶的生日了，怎麼辦？
wǒ hé Měilíng zuò de dàngāo bù hǎokàn la míngtiān jiù shì nǎinai de shēngrì le zěnmebàn · The cake Meiling and I made looks awful! Grandma’s birthday is tomorrow, what do we do?

zhiming 我以為美玲很會做蛋糕呀！
wǒ yǐwéi Měilíng hěn huì zuò dàngāo ya · I thought Meiling was great at cakes!

anna 她會，可是這個蛋糕是我做的…
tā huì kěshì zhè ge dàngāo shì wǒ zuò de · She is… but I made this one.

zhiming 沒關係！你們明天來我家附近的蛋糕店，好不好？那裡的蛋糕又好看又好吃。
méiguānxi nǐmen míngtiān lái wǒ jiā fùjìn de dàngāo diàn hǎo bu hǎo nàlǐ de dàngāo yòu hǎokàn yòu hǎochī · Don’t worry! Come to the cake shop near my place tomorrow, OK? Their cakes look great and taste great.

anna 太好了！你真好啊！
tài hǎo le nǐ zhēn hǎo a · Brilliant! You’re the best!

zhiming 不客氣！明天見！
búkèqì míngtiān jiàn · You’re welcome! See you tomorrow!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

說
shuō
say, speak

寫
xiě
write

以 以 以 以

以
yǐ
by, with
以 以 以 以 以

電 diàn electricity, power														

good to know · On the phone, 喂 is said wéi (rising, “hello?”). Called out to someone, 喂 wèi (falling) is “hey!”, a bit abrupt. 啊, 呀 and 啦 at the end of a sentence add feeling: warmth, surprise or “come on!”. They are very common in Taiwan.

With 不好意思, 麻煩你 and 不客氣, you can ask anyone for help and leave them smiling.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 44 mission: grandma lin's birthday

Chinese TOCFL A in 113 days
unit 6 · people, feelings & seasons

Follow a birthday from the station to the cake: welcome guests, share feelings and tell a story.

Days 37–43 all meet in one story: family, feelings, addresses, seasons, animals, opinions and polite phrases.

chapter 1 welcome to taipei!

meiling 喂？奶奶，您在哪裡？
wéi nǎinai nín zài nǎlǐ · Hello? Grandma, where are you?

grandma lin 我到了！我在門口，旁邊有很多大人和小朋友。
wǒ dào le wǒ zài ménkǒu pángbiān yǒu hěn duō dàrén hé xiǎopéngyǒu · I'm here! I'm at the entrance, with lots of grown-ups and children around me.

meiling 好，我們馬上來！
hǎo wǒmen mǎshàng lái · OK, we'll be right there!

anna 歡迎您來臺北！林奶奶，您辛苦了！
huānyíng nín lái Táiběi Línnǎinai nín xīnkǔ le · Welcome to Taipei, Grandma Lin! You must be tired!

grandma lin 不辛苦！我坐了三個多小時的火車，可是外面的風景很美，有山，有河，也有海。
bù xīnkǔ wǒ zuò le sān ge duō xiǎoshí de huǒchē kěshì wàimiàn de fēngjǐng hěn měi yǒu shān yǒu hé yě yǒu hǎi · Not at all! Three-something hours on the train, but the view was lovely: mountains, rivers and the sea.

anna 三個多小時？我以為兩個小時就到了。
sān ge duō xiǎoshí wǒ yǐwéi liǎng ge xiǎoshí jiù dào le · Three-something hours? I thought it only took two.

grandma lin 我本來想坐快的火車，可是我更喜歡看風景。
wǒ běnlái xiǎng zuò kuài de huǒchē kěshì wǒ gèng xǐhuān kàn fēngjǐng · I was going to take the fast train, but I prefer the scenery.

meiling 奶奶，您的錢包呢？
nǎinai nín de qiánbāo ne · Grandma, where's your wallet?

grandma lin 在這裡，別緊張！喂，那個男生，你的東西！
zài zhèlǐ bié jǐnzhāng wèi nà ge nánshēng nǐ de dōngxi · Right here, don't worry! Hey, young man, you dropped something!

meiling 奶奶真聰明，眼睛比我們好得多！
nǎinai zhēn cōngmíng yǎnjīng bǐ wǒmen hǎo de duō · Grandma's so sharp: her eyes are much better than ours!

chapter 2 which cake?

anna 奶奶下午就到我們家了，可是我們還沒買蛋糕，怎麼辦？
nǎinai xiàwǔ jiù dào wǒmen jiā le kěshì wǒmen hái méi mǎi dàngāo zěnmebàn · Grandma will be at our place this afternoon and we still haven't got a cake: what do we do?

zhiming 別怕！你看，這個蛋糕怎麼樣？上面有一隻貓！
bié pà nǐ kàn zhè ge dàngāo zěnmeyàng shàngmiàn yǒu yì zhī māo · Don't panic! Look, what about this one? It has a cat on top!

anna 真可愛！好像小黑！可是有一點貴。
zhēn kěài hǎoxiàng Xiǎohēi kěshì yǒuyìdiǎn guì · So cute! It looks like Xiaohei! But it's a bit expensive.

zhiming 那個小的呢？比這個便宜得多，上面有草和花。
nà ge xiǎo de ne bǐ zhè ge piányí de duō shàngmiàn yǒu cǎo hé huā · What about the small one? It's much cheaper, with grass and flowers on top.

anna 那個蛋糕多大？夠不夠我們五個人吃？
nà ge dàngāo duō dà gòu bu gòu wǒmen wǔ ge rén chī · How big is it? Is it enough for the five of us?

zhiming 當然夠！我認為小的就很好。
dāngrán gòu wǒ rènwéi xiǎo de jiù hěn hǎo · Of course! I think the small one is just right.

anna 好，我們決定了：買小的！你的想法最好。
hǎo wǒmen juédìng le mǎi xiǎo de nǐ de xiǎngfǎ zuì hǎo · OK, that's decided: the small one! Good thinking.

anna 我們得給店裡寫地址和電話號碼嗎？
wǒmen děi gěi diàn lǐ xiě dìzhǐ hé diànhuà hàomǎ ma · Do we have to give the shop our address and phone number?

zhiming 不，我們自己拿回去就可以了。
bù wǒmen zìjǐ ná huí qù jiù kěyǐ le · No, we can just carry it back ourselves.

anna 你願意跟我們一起吃蛋糕嗎？
nǐ yuànyì gēn wǒmen yìqǐ chī dàngāo ma · Will you have cake with us?

chapter 3 once upon a time

anna 林奶奶，您從前住在哪裡？
Línnǎinai nín cóngqián zhù zài nǎlǐ · Grandma Lin, where did you live when you were young?

grandma lin 從前我住在花蓮，那裡有山有海。後來我們去了臺南，臺南是一個很老的城市。
cóngqián wǒ zhù zài Huālián nàlǐ yǒu shān yǒu hǎi hòulái wǒmen qù le Táinán Táinán shì yí ge hěn lǎo de chéngshì · I grew up in Hualien, with mountains and the sea. Later we moved to Tainan: it's a very old city.

grandma lin 那時候我很年輕，家裡有一隻狗和很多鳥。花蓮的冬天不冷，也不下雪。
nà shíhòu wǒ hěn niánqīng jiā lǐ yǒu yì zhī gǒu hé hěn duō niǎo Huālián de dōngtiān bù lěng yě bú xiàxuě · I was young then. We had a dog and lots of birds. Winters in Hualien aren't cold, and it never snows.

meiling 奶奶，爺爺從前給您寫信嗎？
nǎinai yéye cóngqián gěi nín xiě xìn ma · Grandma, did Grandpa write you letters back then?

grandma lin 對！他每個星期都給我寫信，信封上寫著：「給我最喜歡的女生」。
duì tā měi ge xīngqí dōu gěi wǒ xiě xìn xìnfēng shàng xiě zhe gěi wǒ zuì xǐhuān de nǚshēng · Yes! He wrote every week, and on the envelope it said: "To my favourite girl".

anna 真好！現在大家都寫電子郵件了。
zhēn hǎo xiànzài dàjiā dōu xiě diànzǐyóujiàn le · How sweet! Now everyone just sends emails.

grandma lin 後來我們結婚了，我們的家庭很快樂。
hòulái wǒmen jiéhūn le wǒmen de jiātíng hěn kuàilè · Then we got married, and we've been a happy family.

meiling 奶奶，您的身體真健康！
nǎinai nín de shēntǐ zhēn jiànkāng · Grandma, you're so healthy!

grandma lin 因為我常常笑，不生氣！
yīnwèi wǒ chángcháng xiào bù shēngqì · Because I laugh a lot and never get angry!

grandma lin 你們看，小黑在睡覺呢！它長得真胖。
nǐmen kàn Xiǎohēi zài shuìjiào ne tā zhǎng de zhēn pàng · Look, Xiaohei is having a nap! He's grown so chubby.

chapter 4 the cake

zhiming 林奶奶，生日快樂！這是我們給您的蛋糕。
Línnǎinai shēngrì kuàilè zhè shì wǒmen gěi nín de dàngāo · Happy birthday, Grandma Lin! This is our cake for you.

grandma lin 啊，你們太客氣了！
a nǐmen tài kèqi le · Oh, you're far too kind!

anna 哪裡！還有，這是給您的禮物：英國的茶。
nǎlǐ hái yǒu zhè shì gěi nín de lǐwù Yīngguó de chá · Not at all! And this is a present for you: English tea.

grandma lin 我以為你從郵局寄的茶是生日禮物呀！
wǒ yǐwéi nǐ cóng yóujú jì de chá shì shēngrì lǐwù ya · I thought the tea you posted was my birthday present!

anna 那個也是！冬天，我們英國人喜歡在火旁邊喝茶。
nà ge yě shì dōngtiān wǒmen Yīngguó rén xǐhuān zài huǒ pángbiān hē chá · That was one too! In winter, we British like to drink tea by the fire.

meiling 奶奶，您怎麼哭了？您難過嗎？
nǎinai nín zěnme kū le nín nánguò ma · Grandma, why are you crying? Are you sad?

grandma lin 我不難過，我太高興了！我相信我是世界上最快樂的奶奶。
wǒ bù nánguò wǒ tài gāoxìng le wǒ xiāngxìn wǒ shì shìjiè shàng zuì kuàilè de nǎinai · I'm not sad, I'm just so happy! I really am the happiest grandma in the world.

zhiming 我們一起唱歌吧，好嗎？
wǒmen yìqǐ chànggē ba hǎo ma · Let's all sing, shall we?

anna 好啦！明年春天，我們去臺南看您，好不好？
hǎo la míngnián chūntiān wǒmen qù Táinán kàn nín hǎo bu hǎo · Yes! And next spring we'll come and see you in Tainan, OK?

grandma lin 好！歡迎你們！臺南的夏天太陽太大，春天最美。
hǎo huānyíng nǐmen Táinán de xiàtiān tàiyáng tài dà chūntiān zuì měi · Yes! You're all welcome! Tainan's summer sun is fierce: spring is the loveliest.

From the station to the cake: you just carried a whole family day in Chinese. Next: work and study.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**