day 45 at work

Say where people work, what they do and when they start and finish.

"Where do you work?" comes right after your name in Taiwan: now you can answer it.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
醫院	yīyuàn	hospital	我姊姊在醫院工作。 My older sister works at a hospital.
公司	gōngsī	company, firm	志明的公司在臺北。 Zhiming's company is in Taipei.
辦公室	bàngōngshì	office	他的辦公室在十樓。 His office is on the tenth floor.
護士	hùshì	nurse	那位護士很客氣。 That nurse is very polite.
司機	sījī	driver	計程車司機說臺北的路他都知道。 The taxi driver says he knows every road in Taipei.
老闆	lǎobǎn	boss; shop owner	老闆，我要一碗麵！ Boss, one bowl of noodles please!
上班	shàngbān	go to work, be at work	你幾點上班？ What time do you start work?
下班	xiàbān	finish work	我六點下班。 I finish work at six.
病人	bìngrén	patient (in hospital)	醫院裡的病人很多。 There are lots of patients in the hospital.
能力	nénglì	ability, capability	老闆說她很有能力。 The boss says she's very capable.
努力	nǔlì	hard-working; make an effort	他工作很努力。 He works very hard.
機會	jīhuì	chance, opportunity	這是一個好機會！ This is a great chance!
們	men	(plural for people: 朋友們, 同學們)	同學們早安！ Good morning, everyone!

pattern ……的時候: when…

something happens **的時候** **,** **what else happens**

……的時候 means “when …”. It goes after the event, and the whole “when” part comes first: 下雨的時候, 我坐計程車. In writing you may also see 當 at the front: 當……的時候.

我小的時候很喜歡畫畫。 **wǒ xiǎo de shíhòu hěn xǐhuān huà huà** When I was little, I loved drawing.

病人睡覺的時候，請別說話。 **bìngrén shuìjiào de shíhòu qǐng bié shuōhuà** Please don’t talk while the patients are sleeping.

志明下班的時候，常常去運動。 **Zhìmíng xiàbān de shíhòu chángcháng qù yùndòng** When Zhiming finishes work, he often goes and exercises.

dialogue lunch at zhiming’s office

anna 志明，這是你的辦公室嗎？好漂亮！
Zhìmíng zhè shì nǐ de bàngōngshì ma hǎo piàoliàng · Zhiming, is this your office? It’s lovely!

zhiming 對，歡迎！你看看，那是我的電腦。我們公司不大，可是大家都很努力。
duì huānyíng nǐ kàn kan nà shì wǒ de diànnǎo wǒmen gōngsī bú dà kěshì dàjiā dōu hěn nǔlì · Yes, welcome! Have a look, that’s my computer. Our company isn’t big, but everyone works hard.

anna 你每天幾點上班？
nǐ měi tiān jǐ diǎn shàngbān · What time do you start work?

zhiming 八點半。可是忙的時候，我晚上九點下班。
bā diǎn bàn kěshì máng de shíhòu wǒ wǎnshàng jiǔ diǎn xiàbān · Half past eight. But when we’re busy, I finish at nine at night.

anna 好辛苦！你們老闆呢？
hǎo xīnkǔ nǐmen lǎobǎn ne · That’s tough! What’s your boss like?

zhiming 老闆人很好。他說我很有能力，明年我有機會去日本工作。
lǎobǎn rén hěn hǎo tā shuō wǒ hěn yǒu nénglì míngnián wǒ yǒu jīhuì qù rìběn gōngzuò · My boss is nice. He says I’m very capable, and next year I might get the chance to work in Japan.

anna 太好了！我小的時候想做護士，現在我想做老師。
tài hǎo le wǒ xiǎo de shíhòu xiǎng zuò hùshì xiànzài wǒ xiǎng zuò lǎoshī · Brilliant! When I was little I wanted to be a nurse; now I want to be a teacher.

zhiming 今天我六點下班。下班的時候，我們一起去吃飯，好不好？
jīntiān wǒ liù diǎn xiàbān xiàbān de shíhòu wǒmen yìqǐ qù chī fàn hǎo bu hǎo · I finish at six today. Shall we go and eat together after work?

anna 好啊！我在公司門口等你。
hǎo a wǒ zài gōngsī ménkǒu děng nǐ · Sure! I’ll wait for you at the company entrance.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

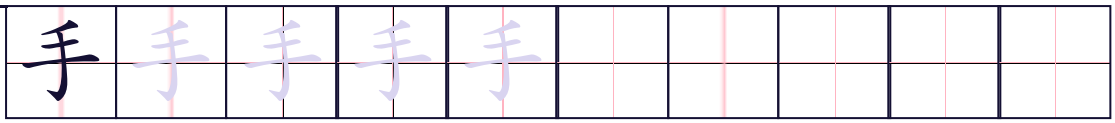
話
huà
speech



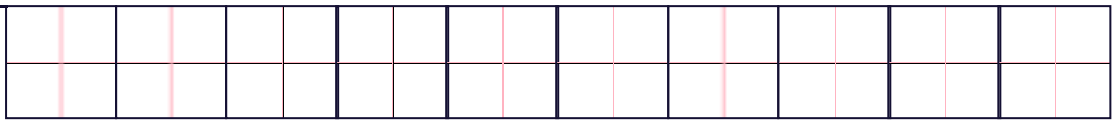
打
dǎ
hit; play (ball games)



手
shǒu
hand



機
jī
machine



good to know · 老闆 is the boss of a company, and also the owner of any shop or stall: at a noodle stall, just call out 老闆！ to order. 辛苦了 (“you’ve worked hard”) is how people in Taiwan thank someone for their work, from bus drivers to colleagues.

Office, hospital, taxi: you can now ask anyone about their working day and follow the answer.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 46 what's the plan?

Make plans with "if..., then..." and say "although..., but...".

Plans in Taiwan always come with a "what if": if it rains, if the MRT is full, if the shop is closed.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
準備	zhǔnbèi	prepare, get ready	我準備好了！ I'm ready!
打算	dǎsuàn	plan to, intend to	你週末打算做什麼？ What are you planning to do at the weekend?
計畫	jìhuà	plan	我的計畫是每天學十個字。 My plan is to learn ten characters a day.
如果	rúguǒ	if	如果下雨，我們就不去了。 If it rains, we won't go.
要是	yàoshì	if (casual)	要是你累了，就休息吧。 If you're tired, have a rest.
雖然	suīrán	although	雖然很貴，可是很好吃。 It's expensive, but it's delicious.
但是	dànshì	but	中文很難，但是我很喜歡。 Chinese is hard, but I love it.
不過	bùguò	but, however	這家店不錯，不過有一點貴。 This shop is good, but it's a bit pricey.
或是	huòshì	or (in statements)	週末我想看書或是看電影。 At the weekend I want to read or watch a film.
那麼	nàme	then, in that case; so	那麼我們明天去吧。 In that case, let's go tomorrow.
這麼	zhème	so, this (much)	你怎麼這麼高興？ Why are you so happy?
才	cái	only then; only; just	他十點才起床。 He didn't get up until ten.
已經	yǐjīng	already	已經十二點了！ It's already twelve o'clock!

pattern 如果……就……: if..., then...

如果 / 要是 **the condition** **，就** **what happens**

如果 or 要是 + a condition, then 就 + the result: 如果下雨，我們就不去. 要是 is more casual, and many people add 的話 at the end of the if-part. 雖然……但是/可是…… is “although…, (but)…”: Chinese keeps both words.

如果你有時間，我們就一起去。 **rúguǒ nǐ yǒu shíjiān wǒmen jiù yìqǐ qù** If you have time, let’s go together.

雖然他很忙，可是他每天都運動。 **suīrán tā hěn máng kěshì tā měi tiān dōu yùndòng** Although he’s very busy, he exercises every day.

那麼，我們在家看電影吧。 **nàme wǒmen zài jiā kàn diànyǐng ba** In that case, let’s watch a film at home.

已經十二點了，你怎麼這麼晚才睡？ **yǐjīng shíèr diǎn le nǐ zěnme zhème wǎn cái shuì** It’s already midnight: why are you going to bed so late?

dialogue ready for monday?

meiling 安娜，已經十一點了！你昨天兩點才睡，今天早一點睡吧。
Ānnà yǐjīng shíyī diǎn le nǐ zuótiān liǎng diǎn cái shuì jīntiān zǎo yìdiǎn shuì ba · Anna, it’s already eleven! You didn’t get to bed till two last night, so go to sleep earlier tonight.

anna 我知道。明天要上課，我在準備。
wǒ zhīdào míngtiān yào shàngkè wǒ zài zhǔnbèi · I know. I have class tomorrow, so I’m getting ready.

meiling 你打算幾點起床？
nǐ dǎsuàn jǐ diǎn qǐchuáng · What time are you planning to get up?

anna 七點。要是我七點還沒起床，你就叫我，好嗎？
qī diǎn yàoshì wǒ qī diǎn hái méi qǐchuáng nǐ jiù jiào wǒ hǎo ma · Seven. If I’m not up by seven, wake me up, OK?

meiling 好。不過我明天八點有課，我也得早一點起床。
hǎo búguò wǒ míngtiān bā diǎn yǒu kè wǒ yě děi zǎo yìdiǎn qǐchuáng · OK. But I have class at eight tomorrow, so I need to get up early too.

anna 那麼我們早上一起去王阿姨的店吃東西吧！
nàme wǒmen zǎoshàng yìqǐ qù Wángāyí de diàn chī dōngxi ba · Then let’s go and eat at Auntie Wang’s shop in the morning!

meiling 好啊！雖然她的店很小，但是東西都很好吃。
hǎo a suīrán tā de diàn hěn xiǎo dànshì dōngxi dōu hěn hǎochī · Sure! Her shop is tiny, but everything is delicious.

anna 我還有一個計畫：每天學十個字。
wǒ hái yǒu yí ge jìhuà měi tiān xué shí ge zì · I’ve got another plan too: learn ten characters a day.

meiling 這麼多？你真努力！你學中文的時候，如果有問題，就問我。快去睡吧，晚安！
zhème duō nǐ zhēn nǔlì nǐ xué zhōngwén de shíhòu rúguǒ yǒu wèntí jiù wèn wǒ kuài qù shuì ba wǎnān · That many? You’re so hard-working! When you’re studying Chinese, if you have a question, ask me. Now go to bed, good night!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

腦
nǎo
brain

視
shì
look

影
yǐng
shadow, image



書
shū
book

good to know · 不過 is a softer “but” than 但是, and very common in speech: 不錯，不過有一點貴. 才 after a time means “not until”, later than you’d expect: 兩點才睡. You’ll meet it properly tomorrow.

If…, then…; although…, but…: your Chinese can now weigh choices and make real plans.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 47 back to school

Talk about school and classes, and say when something happens later or earlier than expected.

First day of term: classes, homework and the question everyone asks, “what year are you in?”

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
小學	xiǎoxué	primary school	我弟弟今年上{shang4-tw}小學。 My little brother starts primary school this year.
高中	gāozhōng	senior high school	我妹妹上{shang4-tw}高中了。 My younger sister has started high school.
上學	shàngxué	go to school	我每天坐公車上學。 I take the bus to school every day.
開學	kāixué	start of term; term starts	明天就開學了！ Term starts tomorrow!
班	bān	class (group of students)	我們班有八個學生。 There are eight students in our class.
作業	zuòyè	homework	今天的作業很多。 There’s a lot of homework today.
成績	chéngjī	grades, results	他的成績很好。 His grades are very good.
華語	huáyǔ	Mandarin Chinese (as taught to foreigners)	我在學華語。 I’m learning Mandarin.
黑板	hēibǎn	blackboard	請看黑板。 Please look at the board.
課本	kèběn	textbook	這是我們的課本。 This is our textbook.
字典	zìdiǎn	dictionary	上課的時候可以用字典。 You can use a dictionary in class.
上	shàng	get on, go up; attend	我們在這裡上{shang4-tw}車。 We get on here.
下	xià	get off, go down; fall	我在學校前面下{xia4-tw}車。 I get off in front of the school.

pattern 才 vs 就: later or earlier than expected

who + time **才 (late) / 就 (early)** **verb**

才 before a verb says “not until”, later than expected: 九點才到. 就 says “already”, earlier than expected, often with 了: 七點就到了. Before a number, 才 means “only”: 才八個學生. And 才 + verb can be “only just”: 我才來.

他十點才起床。 **tā shí diǎn cái qǐchuáng** He didn’t get up until ten.

我七點就到學校了。 **wǒ qī diǎn jiù dào xuéxiào le** I was at school by seven.

這本字典才一百塊。 **zhè běn zìdiǎn cái yìbǎi kuài** This dictionary is only a hundred dollars.

你怎麼現在才來？ **nǐ zěnme xiànzài cái lái** Why are you only coming now?

dialogue the first class

teacher chen 同學們早安！今天開學，歡迎大家來我們班。
tóngxuémen zǎoān jīntiān kāixué huānyíng dàjiā lái wǒmen bān · Good morning, everyone! Term starts today: welcome to our class.

anna 老師早！對不起，我來晚了。我在公車上看課本，下錯站了！
lǎoshī zǎo duìbùqǐ wǒ lái wǎn le wǒ zài gōngchē shàng kàn kèběn xià cuò zhàn le · Morning! Sorry I’m late. I was reading my textbook on the bus and got off at the wrong stop!

teacher chen 沒關係，你才晚了五分鐘。請坐。
méiguānxi nǐ cái wǎn le wǔ fēnzhōng qǐng zuò · Don’t worry, you’re only five minutes late. Have a seat.

teacher chen 這是你們的課本。上課的時候，你們可以用字典。
zhè shì nǐmen de kèběn shàngkè de shíhòu nǐmen kěyǐ yòng zìdiǎn · Here are your textbooks. You can use a dictionary in class.

anna 老師，我們每天都有作業嗎？
lǎoshī wǒmen měi tiān dōu yǒu zuòyè ma · Teacher, do we have homework every day?

teacher chen 有。雖然作業不多，但是你們每天都得寫。
yǒu suīrán zuòyè bù duō dànshì nǐmen měi tiān dōu děi xiě · Yes. There isn’t much, but you have to do it every day.

anna 我們班有幾個學生？
wǒmen bān yǒu jǐ ge xuéshēng · How many students are in our class?

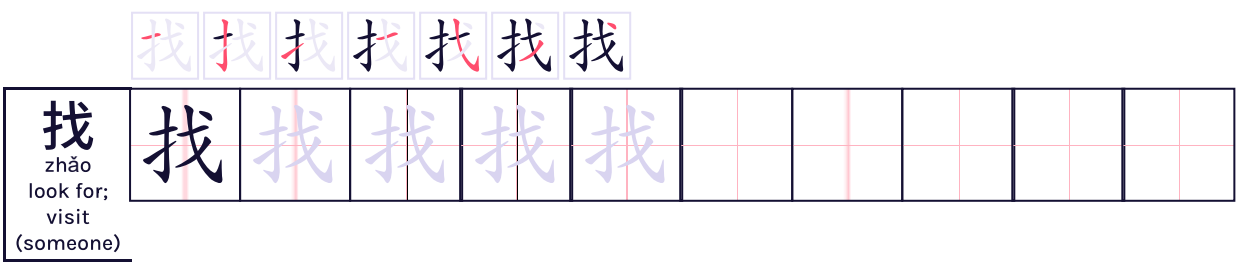
teacher chen 才八個，從六個國家來。
cái bā ge cóng liù ge guójiā lái · Only eight, from six countries.

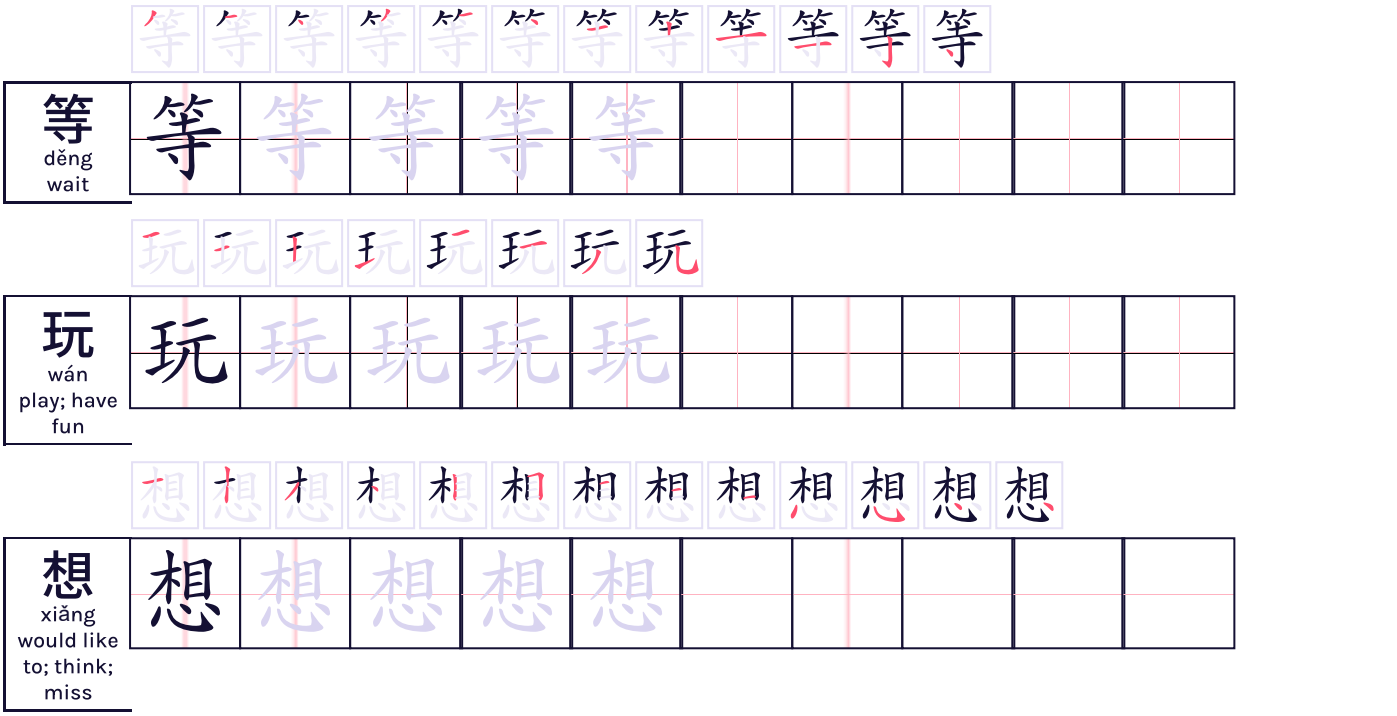
anna 學中文真不容易！
xué zhōngwén zhēn bù róngyì · Learning Chinese really isn’t easy!

teacher chen 別怕！如果你們每天努力學華語，成績就會很好。
bié pà rúguǒ nǐmen měi tiān nǔlì xué huáyǔ chéngjī jiù huì hěn hǎo · Don’t worry! If you work hard at your Mandarin every day, your results will be great.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

找 zhǎo look for; visit (someone)





good to know · 上 and 下 are verbs too: 上車 get on, 下車 get off, 上課 class starts, 下課 class ends, 下雨 it rains. Taiwan school levels: 小學 (6 years), 國中 (junior high, 3 years), 高中 (senior high, 3 years), then 大學.

Now you can say you were early, late or just in time, and survive the first day of any class.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

Say what you have or haven't done yet, and ask "have you … yet?".

你吃飯了沒有? "Have you eaten yet?" is one of the friendliest questions in Taiwan.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
注意	zhùyì	pay attention (to)	上課的時候，請注意聽。 Please listen carefully in class.
讀書	dúshū	study; read books	我晚上在家讀書。 I study at home in the evening.
回答	huídá	answer; reply	請回答這個問題。 Please answer this question.
答	dá	answer	答對了！ That's right!
句	jù	(measure word for sentences)	這句是什麼意思？ What does this sentence mean?
部分	bùfen	part, section	大部分的同學都來了。 Most of the class has come.
學習	xuéxí	study, learn	我很喜歡學習語言。 I love learning languages.
練習	liànxí	practise; exercise	我每天練習說中文。 I practise speaking Chinese every day.
參加	cānjiā	take part in, join	我明年想參加中文考試。 I want to take the Chinese exam next year.
文化	wénhuà	culture	我很喜歡臺灣的文化。 I really like Taiwan's culture.
清楚	qīngchǔ	clear	老師說得很清楚。 The teacher explains very clearly.
進步	jìnbù	improve, make progress	你的中文進步了很多！ Your Chinese has improved a lot!
語言	yǔyán	language	學一個新的語言很好玩。 Learning a new language is fun.

pattern 還沒(有): not yet; ……了沒有?

who **還沒(有)** **verb**

還沒 + verb means “not yet”: 我還沒吃. To ask “have you … yet?”, end with 了沒有？ or 了嗎？: 你吃了沒有？ Answer “yes” with verb + 了 (吃了), and “no” with 還沒(有).

他還沒來。 **tā hái méi lái** He isn’t here yet.

你寫作業了沒有？ **nǐ xiě zuòyè le méiyǒu** Have you done your homework yet?

還沒有，我等一下寫。 **hái méiyǒu wǒ děng yíxià xiě** Not yet, I’ll do it in a bit.

我還沒去過日本。 **wǒ hái méi qù guò rìběn** I haven’t been to Japan yet.

dialogue where’s the homework?

teacher chen 安娜，你的作業寫了沒有？
Ānnà nǐ de zuòyè xiě le méiyǒu · Anna, have you done your homework?

anna 還沒有。不好意思，老師，昨天我不太舒服。
hái méiyǒu bùhǎoyìsi lǎoshī zuótiān wǒ bú tài shūfu · Not yet. Sorry, Teacher, I wasn’t feeling well yesterday.

teacher chen 你怎麼了？感冒了嗎？
nǐ zěnme le gǎnmào le ma · What was wrong? Did you catch a cold?

anna 有一點感冒，現在好多了。
yǒuyìdiǎn gǎnmào xiànzài hǎo duō le · A bit of a cold, but I’m much better now.

teacher chen 那你今天回家寫，明天給我，好嗎？
nà nǐ jīntiān huí jiā xiě míngtiān gěi wǒ hǎo ma · Then do it at home today and give it to me tomorrow, OK?

anna 好，謝謝老師！我可以問一下嗎？這句是什麼意思？
hǎo xièxie lǎoshī wǒ kěyǐ wèn yíxià ma zhè jù shì shénme yìsi · OK, thank you! Can I ask something? What does this sentence mean?

teacher chen 你看一下前面的句子，就清楚了。
nǐ kàn yíxià qiánmiàn de jùzi jiù qīngchǔ le · Have a look at the sentence before it and it’ll be clear.

anna 啊，我懂了！
a wǒ dǒng le · Oh, I get it!

teacher chen 很好！你的中文進步了很多。下個月有中文考試，你想參加嗎？
hěn hǎo nǐ de zhōngwén jìnbù le hěn duō xià ge yuè yǒu zhōngwén kǎoshì nǐ xiǎng cānjiā ma · Very good! Your Chinese has really improved. There’s a Chinese exam next month: would you like to take it?

anna 想！我會每天好好學習，好好練習。
xiǎng wǒ huì měi tiān hǎo hǎo xuéxí hǎo hǎo liànxí · Yes! I’ll study and practise properly every day.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

喜 xǐ happy, like

歡 huān joyful

愛
ài
love



得
de
(links a verb to how it is done)

good to know · In Taiwan 讀書 means “study”, not only “read a book”: 我在讀書 is “I’m studying”. 吃飯了沒有？ is often just a friendly hello, like “how are you?”. 吃了！ or 還沒！ are both fine answers.

Not yet, already, have you…? Your Chinese can now keep track of what’s done and what’s still to do.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 49 can i borrow it?

Borrow, lend, give back and hand in things, and say you remember or forgot.

Flatmates borrow everything: a dictionary, a pen, a hundred dollars. Now you can give it back politely.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
記得	jìde	remember	你還記得她的名字嗎？ Do you still remember her name?
忘	wàng	forget	我忘了帶課本！ I forgot to bring my textbook!
棒	bàng	great, excellent	你真棒！ You're great!
行	xíng	OK, all right; capable	明天還{huan2-tw}給你，行嗎？ Can I give it back tomorrow, is that OK?
行	háng	(measure word for lines)	第三行{hang2-tw}我不懂。 I don't get the third line.
講	jiǎng	speak, tell, explain	陳老師講得很清楚。 Teacher Chen explains it very clearly.
加	jiā	add	你的咖啡要加牛奶嗎？ Do you want milk in your coffee?
算	suàn	calculate, count; consider	我算一下。 Let me work it out.
交	jiāo	hand in, hand over	我已經交了作業。 I've already handed in my homework.
借	jiè	borrow; lend	你的字典可以借我嗎？ Can I borrow your dictionary?
還	huán	give back, return	我明天還{huan2-tw}給你。 I'll give it back to you tomorrow.
方法	fāngfǎ	method, way	學中文有什麼好方法？ What's a good way to learn Chinese?
這些	zhèxiē	these	這些書都是你的嗎？ Are these books all yours?

pattern 借給, 還給, 交給: verb + 給 + someone

who | 借 / 還 / 交 | 給 | someone | thing

Put 給 straight after a verb of handing over: 借給 lend to, 還給 give back to, 交給 hand in to. The person comes after 給: 借給我一本書. Without 給, 借 can be "borrow": 我可以借你的筆嗎?

他借給我一百塊。 **tā jiè gěi wǒ yìbǎi kuài** He lent me a hundred dollars.

書我明天還給你。 **shū wǒ míngtiān huán gěi nǐ** I'll give you the book back tomorrow.

作業請交給陳老師。 **zuòyè qǐng jiāo gěi Chénlǎoshī** Please hand your homework in to Teacher Chen.

dialogue can i borrow it?

meiling 安娜，你的字典可以借給我嗎？我的忘在學校了。
Ānnà nǐ de zìdiǎn kěyǐ jiè gěi wǒ ma wǒ de wàng zài xuéxiào le · Anna, can you lend me your dictionary? I left mine at school.

anna 行！給你。你什麼時候還給我？
xíng gěi nǐ nǐ shénme shíhòu huán gěi wǒ · Sure! Here. When will you give it back?

meiling 今天晚上就還給你。你今天要交作業嗎？
jīntiān wǎnshàng jiù huán gěi nǐ nǐ jīntiān yào jiāo zuòyè ma · Tonight. Do you have to hand in homework today?

anna 要交給陳老師，可是第三行的句子我還不懂。
yào jiāo gěi Chénlǎoshī kěshì dì sān háng de jùzi wǒ hái bù dǒng · I have to hand it in to Teacher Chen, but I still don't understand the sentence in the third line.

meiling 我看看。這個不難，我講給你聽。
wǒ kàn kan zhè ge bù nán wǒ jiǎng gěi nǐ tīng · Let me see. It's not hard, I'll explain it to you.

meiling 你看，這裡加一個「了」，意思就清楚了。
nǐ kàn zhèlǐ jiā yí ge le yìsi jiù qīngchǔ le · Look, add a 了 here and the meaning is clear.

anna 啊，我懂了！你真棒！你的方法比課本好。
a wǒ dǒng le nǐ zhēn bàng nǐ de fāngfǎ bǐ kèběn hǎo · Oh, I get it! You're amazing! Your way is better than the textbook.

meiling 我們算一下：你這個星期已經問了我十個問題了！
wǒmen suàn yíxià nǐ zhè ge xīngqí yǐjīng wèn le wǒ shí ge wèntí le · Let's count: you've asked me ten questions this week already!

anna 不好意思啦！這些巧克力給你，謝謝你！
bùhǎoyìsi la zhèxiē qiǎokèlì gěi nǐ xièxie nǐ · Sorry! These chocolates are for you. Thank you!

meiling 你太客氣了！別忘了帶課本！
nǐ tài kèqi le bié wàng le dài kèběn · You're too kind! Don't forget your textbook!

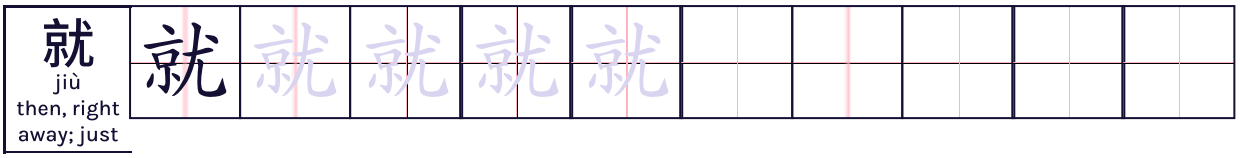
write it trace the grey, then write your own

怕
pà
be afraid (of)

快
kuài
fast, quick

樂
lè
joy





good to know · 還 is huán when it means “give back” (還給你) and hái when it means “still, also” (還沒). 講 is the everyday Taiwan word for “speak, tell”: 講中文, 講電話, 講給你聽.

Lend, borrow, return, hand in: you can now share things with flatmates and classmates without a word of English.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 50 library and dorm

Say how often you do things and find the toilet, the library and the dorm.

Sometimes here, sometimes there; once, twice, three times: how often is a big part of daily talk.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
有用	yǒuyòng	useful	這本字典很有用。 This dictionary is very useful.
圖書館	túshūguǎn	library	我常常去圖書館讀書。 I often go and study at the library.
廁所	cèsuǒ	toilet	廁所在二樓。 The toilet is on the second floor.
宿舍	sùshè	dormitory	她以前住在學校的宿舍。 She used to live in the university dorm.
一直	yīzhí	all along, all the time; straight	考試以前，她一直在讀書。 Before the exam she was studying all the time.
總是	zǒngshì	always	他總是說「沒問題」。 He always says “no problem”.
平常	píngcháng	usually; ordinary times	我平常七點起床。 I usually get up at seven.
各	gè	each, every (different)	宿舍裡有各國的學生。 There are students from all over the world in the dorm.
變	biàn	change, become	天氣變冷了。 It’s got cold.
重要	zhòngyào	important	這個考試很重要。 This exam is important.
不用	bùyòng	no need to	你不用等我。 You don’t need to wait for me.
男	nán	male, man	那個男的是誰？ Who’s that man?
女	nǚ	female, woman	我的老師是女的。 My teacher is a woman.

pattern 有時候……有時候……; 次 for times

有時候 A ，有時候 B

有時候 means “sometimes”. Twice in one sentence it shows what changes: 有時候 A，有時候 B. To say how many times, put number + 次 after the verb: 去了兩次, 一個星期三次.

他有時候坐公車，有時候走路。 **tā yǒushíhou zuò gōngchē yǒushíhou zǒulù** Sometimes he takes the bus, sometimes he walks.

我去過臺南兩次。 **wǒ qù guò Táinán liǎng cì** I’ve been to Tainan twice.

我平常七點起床，有時候八點。 **wǒ píngcháng qī diǎn qǐchuáng yǒushíhou bā diǎn** I usually get up at seven, sometimes at eight.

這個字請寫三次。 **zhè ge zì qǐng xiě sān cì** Please write this character three times.

dialogue a tour of the library

anna 這個圖書館好大！你平常在這裡讀書嗎？
zhè ge túshūguǎn hǎo dà nǐ píngcháng zài zhèlǐ dúshū ma · This library is huge! Do you usually study here?

meiling 對，我有時候在這裡，有時候在家。考試以前，我一直在這裡。
duì wǒ yǒushíhou zài zhèlǐ yǒushíhou zài jiā kǎoshì yǐqián wǒ yìzhí zài zhèlǐ · Yes, sometimes here and sometimes at home. Before exams, I’m here all the time.

anna 你一個星期來幾次？
nǐ yí ge xīngqí lái jǐ cì · How many times a week do you come?

meiling 三、四次。你不用帶書來，這裡什麼書都有。
sān sì cì nǐ búyòng dài shū lái zhèlǐ shénme shū dōu yǒu · Three or four. You don’t need to bring books: they have everything here.

anna 請問，洗手間在哪裡？
qǐngwèn xǐshǒujiān zài nǎlǐ · Excuse me, where’s the toilet?

meiling 廁所在二樓，門口右邊。
cèsuǒ zài èr lóu ménkǒu yòubiān · The toilet is on the second floor, to the right of the entrance.

meiling 你看，那是我以前住的宿舍。
nǐ kàn nà shì wǒ yǐqián zhù de sùshè · Look, that’s the dorm I used to live in.

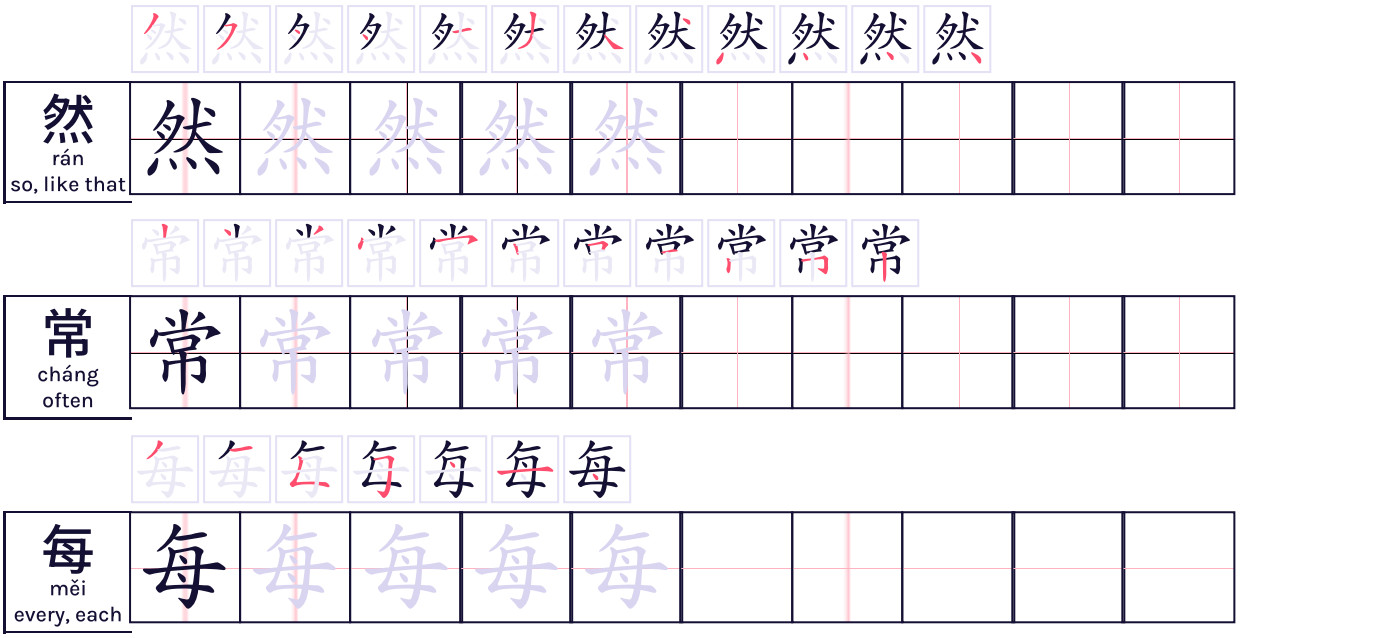
anna 宿舍怎麼樣？
sùshè zěnmeyàng · What was the dorm like?

meiling 房間比我們家小得多，可是各國的學生都住在那裡。我的英文一天比一天好！
fángjiān bǐ wǒmen jiā xiǎo de duō kěshì gè guó de xuéshēng dōu zhù zài nàlǐ wǒ de yīngwén yì tiān bǐ yì tiān hǎo · The rooms were much smaller than our flat, but students from all over the world lived there. My English got better every day!

anna 真好！我覺得朋友很重要。
zhēn hǎo wǒ juéde péngyǒu hěn zhòngyào · How great! I think friends really matter.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

先 xiān first



good to know · 洗手間 (wash-hands room) is the polite word to ask with; signs often say 廁所. 總是 is “always”, 平常 “usually”, 有時候 “sometimes”: line them up like a scale. 男 (male) and 女 (female) are on toilet and dorm signs: 男廁所, 女生宿舍. 男的 and 女的 are everyday words for a man and a woman.

Sometimes, always, usually, twice: your Chinese can now describe habits, not just single moments. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 51 a little help

Ask for and offer help, and say who lets or tells someone to do what.

Taiwan runs on small favours: 幫我一下 opens doors, and 我替你去 makes friends.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
幫忙	bāngmáng	help (out)	謝謝你幫忙！ Thanks for helping!
幫助	bāngzhù	help, assist; help (noun)	謝謝你的幫助！ Thank you for your help!
幫	bāng	help; do for someone	我幫你拿。 I'll carry it for you.
聽說	tīngshuō	hear (that)	聽說你最近很忙。 I hear you've been busy lately.
見面	jiànmiàn	meet (up)	我們明天中午見面吧。 Let's meet tomorrow at noon.
事情	shìqíng	matter, thing (to do)	我有一件事情想問你。 There's something I want to ask you.
替	tì	for, in place of	我替你去郵局。 I'll go to the post office for you.
讓	ràng	let, make (someone do)	讓我想一下。 Let me think for a moment.
拉	lā	pull	這個門要拉。 This door is "pull".
壞	huài	broken; bad	我的電腦壞了。 My computer is broken.
最近	zuìjìn	lately, recently	你最近好嗎？ How have you been lately?
辦法	bànfǎ	way (to solve something)	我有一個好辦法！ I've got a good idea!
圖	tú	picture, drawing, chart	你看一下這張圖。 Take a look at this picture.

pattern 幫, 替, 讓, 叫 + someone + verb

幫 / 替 / 讓 / 叫 | someone | verb | (一下)

幫 + someone + verb: help someone by doing it, 幫我拿. 替 + someone: do it in their place, 我替你去. 讓 or 叫 + someone + verb: let them, make them or tell them to do it, 讓我看看. Verb + 一下 makes it quick and polite: 等一下, 看一下.

我幫你拿。 **wǒ bāng nǐ ná** I'll carry it for you.

我替你去郵局寄信。 **wǒ tì nǐ qù yóujú jì xìn** I'll go to the post office and send the letter for you.

讓我想一下。 **ràng wǒ xiǎng yíxià** Let me think for a moment.

陳老師叫我們回答問題。 **Chénlǎoshī jiào wǒmen huídá wèntí** Teacher Chen told us to answer the questions.

dialogue a broken computer

anna 志明，不好意思，你可以幫我一下嗎？我的電腦壞了。
Zhìmíng bùhǎoyìsi nǐ kěyǐ bāng wǒ yíxià ma wǒ de diànnǎo huài le · Zhiming, sorry to bother you, could you help me? My computer's broken.

zhiming 怎麼了？
zěnme le · What happened?

anna 我昨天用了一下，然後就不能用了。
wǒ zuótiān yòng le yíxià ránhòu jiù bù néng yòng le · I used it for a bit yesterday, and then it stopped working.

zhiming 你的電腦用了多久了？
nǐ de diànnǎo yòng le duō jiǔ le · How long have you had it?

anna 五年了。
wǔ nián le · Five years.

zhiming 有一點舊了。我有辦法：我認識一個朋友，他在電腦店工作。我叫他幫你看一下。
yǒuyìdiǎn jiù le wǒ yǒu bànfǎ wǒ rènshi yí ge péngyǒu tā zài diànnǎo diàn gōngzuò wǒ jiào tā bāng nǐ kàn yíxià · It's a bit old. I know what to do: a friend of mine works at a computer shop. I'll get him to take a look for you.

anna 太好了！謝謝你幫忙！
tài hǎo le xièxie nǐ bāngmáng · Brilliant! Thanks for helping!

zhiming 不客氣。聽說你最近很忙？
búkèqì tīngshuō nǐ zuìjìn hěn máng · You're welcome. I hear you've been busy lately?

anna 對啊，陳老師讓我們每天寫十個字，有時候我十二點才睡。
duì a Chénlǎoshī ràng wǒmen měi tiān xiě shí ge zì yǒushíhou wǒ shíèr diǎn cái shuì · Yes, Teacher Chen makes us write ten characters a day: sometimes I don't get to bed till midnight.

zhiming 別太累了！明天中午我們見面，我替你拿電腦去店裡，好嗎？
bié tài lèi le míngtiān zhōngwǔ wǒmen jiànmiàn wǒ tì nǐ ná diànnǎo qù diàn lǐ hǎo ma · Don't wear yourself out! Let's meet tomorrow at noon and I'll take the computer to the shop for you, OK?

write it trace the grey, then write your own

英 英 英 英 英 英 英 英

英
yīng
hero, England

餓
è
hungry

飽
bǎo
full (after eating)

菜
cài
dish; vegetables



good to know · 幫忙 takes no object: say 幫我一個忙 or 幫我, not 幫忙我. Doors in Taiwan are labelled 拉 (pull) and 推 (push): worth knowing before you walk into one.

With 幫我一下 and 我替你去, you can ask for a favour and return one: that's how friendships start.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 52 mission: anna's first week of term

Chinese TOCFL A in 113 days
unit 7 · work & study

Follow a whole first week of term: classes, the library, a notice, work and favours.

Days 45–51 meet in one story: work, plans, school, practice, borrowing, the library and helping out.

chapter 1 first day nerves

meiling 安娜，今天開學！快上車！你的課本和字典都帶了沒有？
Ānnà jīntiān kāixué kuài shàng chē nǐ de kèběn hé zìdiǎn dōu dài le méiyǒu · Anna, it's the first day of term! Quick, get on! Have you got your textbook and dictionary?

anna 都帶了。雖然我昨天很晚才睡，但是我已經準備好了！
dōu dài le suīrán wǒ zuótiān hěn wǎn cái shuì dànshì wǒ yǐjīng zhǔnbèi hǎo le · Got both. I went to bed really late last night, but I'm ready!

meiling 我在這裡下車。你在學校門口下車，別忘了！
wǒ zài zhèlǐ xià chē nǐ zài xuéxiào ménkǒu xià chē bié wàng le · I get off here. You get off at the school gate, don't forget!

teacher chen 同學們早安！上課的時候，請注意聽，也請多說。
tóngxuémen zǎoān shàngkè de shíhòu qǐng zhùyì tīng yě qǐng duō shuō · Good morning, everyone! In class, please listen carefully and speak as much as you can.

teacher chen 安娜，請你念一下黑板上的句子。
Ānnà qǐng nǐ niàn yíxià hēibǎn shàng de jùzi · Anna, please read out the sentence on the board.

anna 「我在學華語。」
wǒ zài xué huáyǔ · "I am learning Mandarin."

teacher chen 很好！你們班才八個人，可是從六個國家來。學習語言的時候，朋友很重要，每天練習也是一個好方法。
hěn hǎo nǐmen bān cái bā ge rén kěshì cóng liù ge guójiā lái xuéxí yǔyán de shíhòu péngyǒu hěn zhòngyào měi tiān liànxí yě shì yí ge hǎo fāngfǎ · Very good! There are only eight of you, but from six countries. When you learn a language, friends matter, and practising every day is a good method too.

teacher chen 今天的作業不多：第一部分寫句子，第二部分回答問題。
jīntiān de zuòyè bù duō dì yī bùfen xiě jùzi dì èr bùfen huídá wèntí · Not much homework today: part one, write sentences; part two, answer the questions.

chapter 2 borrowing books

anna 美玲，這些書都很有用。我可以借幾本嗎？
Měilíng zhèxiē shū dōu hěn yǒuyòng wǒ kěyǐ jiè jǐ běn ma · Meiling, these books are all really useful. Can I borrow a few?

meiling 可以。一個人可以借十本，三個星期以後還給圖書館。
kěyǐ yí ge rén kěyǐ jiè shí běn sān ge xīngqí yǐhòu huán gěi túshūguǎn · Yes. You can borrow ten each, and give them back to the library after three weeks.

anna 我平常不太記得還書…
wǒ píngcháng bú tài jìde huán shū · I don't usually remember to take books back…

meiling 那你寫在手機裡，就不會忘了。
nà nǐ xiě zài shǒujī lǐ jiù bú huì wàng le · Then write it in your phone, and you won't forget.

anna 好辦法！你一個星期來這裡幾次？
hǎo bànfǎ nǐ yí ge xīngqí lái zhèlǐ jǐ cì · Good idea! How many times a week do you come here?

meiling 有時候兩次，有時候三次。考試以前，我一直在這裡讀書。
yǒushíhou liǎng cì yǒushíhou sān cì kǎoshì yǐqián wǒ yìzhí zài zhèlǐ dúshū · Sometimes twice, sometimes three times. Before exams I study here all the time.

anna 你總是這麼努力！請問，洗手間在哪裡？
nǐ zǒngshì zhème nǔlì qǐngwèn xǐshǒujiān zài nǎlǐ · You always work so hard! Excuse me, where's the toilet?

meiling 廁所在二樓，門口右邊。你去吧，我在這裡等你。
cèsuǒ zài èr lóu ménkǒu yòubiān nǐ qù ba wǒ zài zhèlǐ děng nǐ · The toilet is on the second floor, to the right of the entrance. Go ahead, I'll wait for you here.

chapter 3 anna reads the notice

anna 美玲，你看，這裡寫著：
Měilíng nǐ kàn zhèlǐ xiě zhe · Meiling, look, it says here:

anna 「各位同學：星期六下午兩點，圖書館一樓有臺灣文化課，歡迎大家參加。如果你打算來，請在星期五以前告訴陳老師。我們會準備茶和蛋糕。」
gè wèi tóngxué xīngqíliù xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn túshūguǎn yì lóu yǒu táiwān wénhuà kè huānyíng dàjiā cānjiā rúguǒ nǐ dǎsuàn lái qǐng zài xīngqíwǔ yǐqián gàosù Chénlǎoshī wǒmen huì zhǔnbèi chá hé dàngāo · "Dear students: on Saturday at 2 p.m. there is a Taiwan culture class on the ground floor of the library. Everyone is welcome. If you plan to come, please tell Teacher Chen by Friday. Tea and cake will be provided."

meiling 文化課？聽說很好玩！你要參加嗎？
wénhuà kè tīngshuō hěn hǎo wán nǐ yào cānjiā ma · A culture class? I hear it's great fun! Are you going?

anna 要是我有時間，我就去。不過我還沒寫作業…
yàoshì wǒ yǒu shíjiān wǒ jiù qù búguò wǒ hái méi xiě zuòyè · If I have time, I'll go. But I haven't done my homework yet…

meiling 那麼今天晚上寫，星期六就有時間了。
nàme jīntiān wǎnshàng xiě xīngqíliù jiù yǒu shíjiān le · Then do it tonight, and you'll have time on Saturday.

anna 對！我的計畫是：今天寫作業，明天交給老師，星期六去上課。
duì wǒ de jìhuà shì jīntiān xiě zuòyè míngtiān jiāo gěi lǎoshī xīngqíliù qù shàngkè · Right! My plan: homework tonight, hand it in tomorrow, culture class on Saturday.

meiling 我弟弟上小學的時候，也總是這麼說，可是他每次都忘！
wǒ dìdi shàng xiǎoxué de shíhòu yě zǒngshì zhème shuō kěshì tā měi cì dōu wàng · When my little brother was at primary school he always said that too, but he forgot every time!

anna 我不會忘！
wǒ bú huì wàng · I won't forget!

chapter 4 big news

anna 志明！你今天怎麼這麼早就下班了？
Zhìmíng nǐ jīntiān zěnme zhème zǎo jiù xiàbān le · Zhiming! How come you're off work so early today?

zhiming 老闆讓我早一點回家。他說我最近太累了。
lǎobǎn ràng wǒ zǎo yìdiǎn huí jiā tā shuō wǒ zuìjìn tài lèi le · The boss let me go home early. He said I've been too tired lately.

anna 你們辦公室的人都很努力吧？
nǐmen bàngōngshì de rén dōu hěn nǔlì ba · Everyone in your office works really hard, right?

zhiming 對啊。不過我有一件好事情要告訴你：明年公司讓我去日本工作！
duì a búguò wǒ yǒu yí jiàn hǎo shìqíng yào gàosù nǐ míngnián gōngsī ràng wǒ qù rìběn gōngzuò · Yeah. But I've got some good news for you: next year the company is sending me to work in Japan!

anna 真的嗎？太棒了！老闆一定覺得你很有能力。
zhēnde ma tài bàng le lǎobǎn yídìng juéde nǐ hěn yǒu nénglì · Really? Amazing! Your boss must think you're really capable.

zhiming 這是一個好機會。雖然我有一點緊張，但是我很高興。
zhè shì yí ge hǎo jīhuì suīrán wǒ yǒuyìdiǎn jǐnzhāng dànshì wǒ hěn gāoxìng · It's a great chance. I'm a bit nervous, but I'm really happy.

anna 你看，那個護士是美玲的姊姊！她在附近的醫院上班。
nǐ kàn nà ge hùshì shì Měilíng de jiějie tā zài fùjìn de yīyuàn shàngbān · Look, that nurse is Meiling's older sister! She works at the hospital nearby.

zhiming 她現在去上班嗎？醫院的病人很多吧，護士真辛苦。
tā xiànzài qù shàngbān ma yīyuàn de bìngrén hěn duō ba hùshì zhēn xīnkǔ · Is she on her way to work now? The hospital must have lots of patients: nurses work so hard.

chapter 5 the week is done

meiling 安娜，你的電腦還不能用嗎？
Ānnà nǐ de diànnǎo hái bù néng yòng ma · Anna, is your computer still not working?

anna 可以用了！志明的朋友幫我看了一下，現在沒問題了。
kěyǐ yòng le Zhìmíng de péngyǒu bāng wǒ kàn le yíxià xiànzài méi wèntí le · It works now! Zhiming's friend had a look at it, and it's fine.

meiling 太好了。你這個星期認識了很多新朋友吧？
tài hǎo le nǐ zhè ge xīngqí rènshi le hěn duō xīn péngyǒu ba · Great. You've met lots of new people this week, right?

anna 對！我們班的同學們都很好。明天我們在圖書館見面，一起去上文化課。
duì wǒmen bān de tóngxuémen dōu hěn hǎo míngtiān wǒmen zài túshūguǎn jiànmiàn yìqǐ qù shàng wénhuà kè · Yes! Everyone in my class is lovely. Tomorrow we're meeting at the library and going to the culture class together.

meiling 你的作業呢？交了沒有？
nǐ de zuòyè ne jiāo le méiyǒu · And your homework? Have you handed it in?

anna 已經交給陳老師了！她說我的中文進步了，回答問題的時候也說得很清楚。
yǐjīng jiāo gěi Chénlǎoshī le tā shuō wǒ de zhōngwén jìnbù le huídá wèntí de shíhòu yě shuō de hěn qīngchǔ · I've already handed it in to Teacher Chen! She says my Chinese has improved, and I speak clearly when I answer questions.

meiling 你真棒！我替你高興。
nǐ zhēn bàng wǒ tì nǐ gāoxìng · You're brilliant! I'm so happy for you.

anna 謝謝你這個星期的幫助。我好累，今天晚上要睡十個小時！
xièxie nǐ zhè ge xīngqí de bāngzhù wǒ hǎo lèi jīntiān wǎnshàng yào shuì shí ge xiǎoshí · Thanks for all your help this week. I'm so tired, I'm going to sleep for ten hours tonight!

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