day 157 notes and exams

Talk about notes, exams and marks, and give directions or go along with someone with 順著 (along, following).

Exams are a big part of student life in Taiwan, and so is the walk home afterwards to talk them over.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
筆記	bǐjì	notes	上課的時候，我都會做筆記。 I always take notes in class.
懂得	dǒngde	understand, know how to	他很懂得照顧自己。 He really knows how to look after himself.
放學	fàngxué	finish school (for the day)	孩子們四點放學。 The children finish school at four.
分數	fēnshù	mark, score; fraction	這次考試的分數不太好。 My mark in this exam wasn't great.
教學	jiàoxué	teach; teaching	陳|老師的教學很有意思。 Teacher Chen's teaching is really interesting.
流利	liúlì	fluent	她的中文說得很流利。 She speaks fluent Chinese.
舉例	jǔlì	give an example	請你舉例說明一下。 Could you explain with an example?
筆試	bǐshì	written exam	今天的筆試考得還不錯。 Today's written exam went quite well.
口語	kǒuyǔ	spoken language	我的口語比閱讀好。 My speaking is better than my reading.
入學	rùxué	start school, enrol	他今年九月入學。 He starts school this September.
碩士	shuòshì	master's degree; MA	安娜正在念{=study}碩士。 Anna is doing a master's.
普通話	pǔtōnghuà	Mandarin (as named in China)	他說的普通話很標準。 His Mandarin is very standard.
合格	hégé	qualified, up to standard	這次考試，大家都合格了。 Everyone passed this exam.
詞典	cídiǎn	dictionary	不懂的字，可以查詞典。 You can look up words you don't know in a dictionary.
發抖	fādǒu	tremble, shiver	天氣好冷，我冷得發抖。 It's so cold I'm shivering.
順	shùn	along; smooth	順著這條路走，就到學校了。 Follow this road and you'll come to the school.
朝	cháo	towards, facing	他朝我走過來。 He walked towards me.

黃昏	huánghūn	dusk	黃昏的時候，我們在河邊散步。 At dusk we went for a walk by the river.
熬夜	áoyè	stay up late, pull an all-nighter	我昨天熬夜念書。 I stayed up studying last night.

pattern 順(著): along, following

順著 | a road / a river / someone's wishes | verb

順 is "go with the flow". 順著 + a road or river means "along, following": 順著河邊走. 順著 + someone's idea means "go along with": 順著他的意思. 著 can be dropped in short phrases: 順路 (on the way).

順著河邊走，就能看到那家書店。 **shùn zhe hé biān zǒu jiù néng kàn dào nà jiā shūdiàn** Walk along the river and you'll see the bookshop.

別生氣了，我們就順著他的意思吧。 **bié shēngqì le wǒmen jiù shùn zhe tā de yìsi ba** Don't get upset: let's just go along with what he wants.

順著這個方向走十分鐘就到了。 **shùn zhe zhè ge fāngxiàng zǒu shí fēnzhōng jiù dào le** Go this way for ten minutes and you're there.

dialogue after the exam

anna 今天的筆試終於考完了！我緊張得差點昏倒，手到現在還在發抖。

jīntiān de bǐshì zhōngyú kǎo wán le wǒ jǐnzhāng de chàdiǎn hūndǎo shǒu dào xiànzài hái zài fādǒu · Today's written exam is finally over! I was so nervous I nearly fainted, and my hands are still shaking.

david 你考得怎麼樣？

nǐ kǎo de zěnmeyàng · How did you do?

anna 作文還好，可是有一題要舉例，我想了很久。

zuòwén háihǎo kěshì yǒu yì tí yào jǔlì wǒ xiǎng le hěn jiǔ · The essay was OK, but one question asked for an example, and I thought for ages.

david 那一題我也不會。不過考完了，就別理它了！

nà yì tí wǒ yě bú huì búguò kǎo wán le jiù bié lǐ tā le · I couldn't do that one either. But it's over now: forget about it!

david 我昨天熬夜念書，我再也不熬夜了！陳老師說得對，上課要一面聽，一面做筆記。

wǒ zuótiān áoyè niànshū wǒ zàiyě bù áoyè le Chén lǎoshī shuō de duì shàngkè yào yímiàn tīng yímiàn zuò bǐjì · I stayed up all night studying yesterday. Never again! Teacher Chen is right: in class, listen and take notes at the same time.

anna 下星期還有口語考試。不過你的中文已經很流利了，一定會合格。考試的時候，把重心放在發音上就好。

xià xīngqí hái yǒu kǒuyǔ kǎoshì búguò nǐ de zhōngwén yǐjīng hěn liúlì le yídìng huì hégé kǎoshì de shíhòu bǎ zhòngxīn fàng zài fāyīn shàng jiù hǎo · There's the speaking exam next week. But your Chinese is already fluent: you'll pass for sure. In the exam, just focus on your pronunciation.

david 我常常用普通話的說法，因為我的第一個老師來自中國大陸。

wǒ chángcháng yòng pǔtōnghuà de shuōfǎ yīnwèi wǒ de dì yī ge lǎoshī láizì Zhōngguó dàlù · I often use mainland expressions, because my first teacher came from mainland China.

anna 在臺灣，大家說「國語」。不過意思一樣，大家都懂得。很多大陸的說法，也是經由電視而來的。

zài Táiwān dàjiā shuō guóyǔ búguò yìsi yíyàng dàjiā dōu dǒngde hěn duō dàlù de shuōfǎ yě shì jīngyóu diànshì érlái de · In Taiwan, people say 國語 for Mandarin. But it means the same, and everyone understands. Lots of mainland expressions came over by way of TV, too.

david 天快黑了。我們順著河邊走回去吧，黃昏的河邊最漂亮。你看，還有人在釣魚。

tiān kuài hēi le wǒmen shùn zhe hé biān zǒu huí qù ba huánghūn de hé biān zuì piàoliàng nǐ kàn háiyǒu rén zài diàoyú · It's getting dark. Let's walk back along the river: it's at its prettiest at dusk. Look, there are still people fishing.

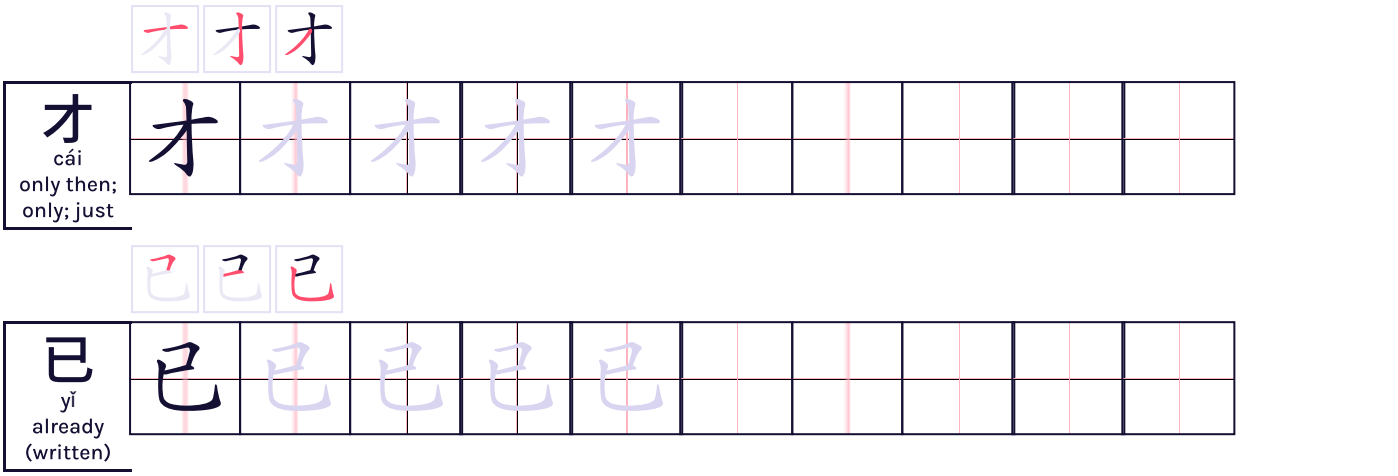
anna 好，順便去書店買一本詞典。我的那本太舊了。

hǎo shùnbiàn qù shūdiàn mǎi yì běn cídiǎn wǒ de nà běn tài jiù le · OK, and let's stop at the bookshop for a dictionary on the way. Mine is too old.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

較
jiào
comparatively, than (written)

雄
xióng
brave, male



good to know · Mandarin has several names: 國語 in Taiwan, 普通話 on the mainland, 華語 in Singapore and in Taiwan's language centres, and 中文 for the language in general. 分數 (marks) is fēnshù; the same word, with 數 shù, also means a fraction.

Notes, exams, marks and a walk along the river: you can now talk about student life in Taiwan.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 158 grammar and essays

Talk about writing, vocabulary and levels, and compare with a reference point using 與……比起來 (與……相比).

Every learner wants to know how they're doing: compared with last year, compared with others, compared with the level they aim for.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
系	xì	(university) department	我是中文系的學生。 I'm a student in the Chinese department.
準確	zhǔnquè	accurate, exact	他的發音很準確。 His pronunciation is very accurate.
及格	jígé	pass (an exam)	六十|分{=points}才及格。 You need sixty to pass.
寫作	xiězuò	writing; write	我的寫作還要多練習。 My writing needs more practice.
論文	lùnwén	thesis, paper	安娜的碩士論文寫完了嗎？ Has Anna finished her master's thesis?
註冊	zhùcè	register, enrol	開學以前要先註冊。 You have to register before term starts.
初級	chūjí	elementary, beginner	我上的是初級中文課。 I'm in a beginners' Chinese class.
學歷	xuélì	education, qualifications	這個工作需要碩士學歷。 This job requires a master's degree.
中級	zhōngjí	intermediate	她的中文已經是中級了。 Her Chinese is already intermediate.
詞彙	cíhuì	vocabulary	多看書可以增加詞彙。 Reading more builds your vocabulary.
字母	zìmǔ	letter (of an alphabet)	英文有二十六個字母。 English has twenty-six letters.
分析	fēnxī	analyse; analysis	請你分析一下這個問題。 Please analyse this problem.
語音	yǔyīn	speech sounds, pronunciation	這本書的語音練習很有用。 The pronunciation exercises in this book are really useful.
集	jí	(measure) episode; collect	這個節目一共有三十集。 This programme has thirty episodes.
遲早	chízǎo	sooner or later	只要努力，你遲早會成功。 Keep working and you'll succeed sooner or later.
反覆	fǎnfù	repeatedly, over and over	這個字我反覆練習了很多次。 I practised this character over and over.

裂	liè	crack, split	杯子裂了，不能用了。 The cup's cracked: it can't be used.

pattern (a) 與 b 相比 / 與 b 比起來: compared with b

與 / 跟 **B** **比起來 (相比)** **，A + comment**

與 B 比起來 sets B as the reference point, then says how A looks next to it: 與去年比起來，今年…… 與 is the written 跟. In formal writing you will see the shorter 與 B 相比 (xiāngbǐ) with the same meaning: 與去年相比. Put A first or after the comma.

與去年比起來，今年的考試難多了。 **yǔ qùnián bǐqǐlái jīnnián de kǎoshì nán duō le** This year's exam is much harder than last year's.

與其他學生比起來，她的發音很準確。 **yǔ qítā xuéshēng bǐqǐlái tā de fāyīn hěn zhǔnquè** Compared with the other students, her pronunciation is very accurate.

臺南的生活與臺北比起來，慢多了。 **Táinán de shēnghuó yǔ Táiběi bǐqǐlái màn duō le** Life in Tainan is much slower than in Taipei.

dialogue chapter one

anna 陳老師，這是我論文的第一章。我的教授說，我的寫作還不夠準確。
Chén lǎoshī zhè shì wǒ lùnwén de dì yī zhāng wǒ de jiàoshòu shuō wǒ de xiězuò hái bú gòu zhǔnquè · Teacher Chen, this is the first chapter of my thesis. My professor says my writing isn't precise enough yet.

teacher chen 我看一下……與去年比起來，你的寫作進步了很多，詞彙也很豐富。然而，有些句子太長了。
wǒ kàn yíxià yǔ qùnián bǐqǐlái nǐ de xiězuò jìnbù le hěn duō cíhuì yě hěn fēngfù ránér yǒu xiē jùzi tài cháng le · Let me see... Compared with last year, your writing has improved a lot, and your vocabulary is rich. But some sentences are too long.

anna 我反覆改了好幾次，也查了詞典，可是越改越長。
wǒ fǎnfù gǎi le hǎojǐ cì yě chá le cídiǎn kěshì yuè gǎi yuè cháng · I've rewritten it several times and checked the dictionary, but it just gets longer.

teacher chen 你可以先分析一下句子的結構：主要的意思是什麼？其他的可以放在下一句。
nǐ kěyǐ xiān fēnxī yíxià jùzi de jiégòu zhǔyào de yìsi shì shénme qítā de kěyǐ fàng zài xià yí jù · Analyse the structure first: what's the main point? The rest can go in the next sentence.

anna 我是初級的時候，從來不敢寫長句子。現在是中級了，反而寫太長。
wǒ shì chūjí de shíhòu cónglái bù gǎn xiě cháng jùzi xiànzài shì zhōngjí le fǎnér xiě tài cháng · When I was a beginner, I never dared write long sentences. Now I'm intermediate, I write them too long instead.

teacher chen 這很正常。中文沒有字母，每個字都要記，你已經很了不起了。
zhè hěn zhèngcháng zhōngwén méiyǒu zìmǔ měi ge zì dōu yào jì nǐ yǐjīng hěn liǎobùqǐ le · That's normal. Chinese has no alphabet: you have to learn every character. You're doing brilliantly.

anna 還有，我的語音也要多練習。下星期就是口語考試了。
háiyǒu wǒ de yǔyīn yě yào duō liànxí xià xīngqí jiùshì kǒuyǔ kǎoshì le · And I need to work on my pronunciation too. The speaking exam is next week.

teacher chen 多看臺灣的電視節目，一天看一集也好，看的時候做一點筆記。只要每天練習，你遲早會寫得又短又清楚。
duō kàn Táiwān de diànshì jiémù yì tiān kàn yì jí yěhǎo kàn de shíhòu zuò yìdiǎn bǐjì zhǐyào měi tiān liànxí nǐ chízǎo huì xiě de yòu duǎn yòu qīngchǔ · Watch more Taiwanese TV: even one episode a day helps, and take a few notes as you watch. Practise every day, and sooner or later you'll write short, clear sentences.

anna 謝謝老師！您的教學方法對我幫助很大。
xièxie lǎoshī nín de jiàoxué fāngfǎ duì wǒ bāngzhù hěn dà · Thank you! Your way of teaching has helped me so much.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

髮
fà
hair

野
yě
wild

神
shén
god, deity (in myths)



貌
mào
appearance

good to know · 及格 (pass) and 不及格 (fail): in Taiwan the pass mark is usually 60 out of 100. You will meet the written 與 B 相比 in reports and news: 與去年相比，今年的遊客多了兩成.

Compared with last year? A long way further. You can now talk about your own progress, honestly and kindly.
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day 159 tutoring and research

Chinese TOCFL B in 220 days
unit 24 · learning & research

Talk about tutoring, extra classes and research, and describe a route along a road or river with 沿著.

Tutoring and research are part of student life in Taiwan, and so is getting lost on the way to an archive.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
學者	xuézhě	scholar	他是一位有名的學者。 He's a well-known scholar.
指導	zhǐdǎo	guide, supervise	我的論文是陳|教授指導的。 My thesis is supervised by Professor Chen.
學術	xuéshù	academic; learning	這是一本學術書，不太好懂。 This is an academic book: it's not easy to read.
報到	bàodào	register, check in	新同學明天早上九點報到。 New students register at nine tomorrow morning.
記載	jìzài	record, put down in writing	這本老書記載了臺南的歷史。 This old book records the history of Tainan.
化學	huàxué	chemistry	我中學的時候最怕化學。 At secondary school, chemistry scared me most.
抄	chāo	copy (by hand)	考試的時候不可以抄別人的答案。 You mustn't copy other people's answers in an exam.
解答	jiědá	answer, explain	老師耐心地{de-tw3}解答我們的問題。 The teacher patiently answers our questions.
補課	bǔkè	make up a class	老師生病了，下{=next}星期補課。 The teacher is ill: we'll make up the class next week.
補習	bǔxí	take extra classes	很多學生放學以後去補習。 Lots of students go to extra classes after school.
輔導	fǔdǎo	tutor, coach; counsel	她每個星期輔導兩個小學生。 She tutors two primary school children every week.
改正	gǎizhèng	correct, put right	有錯就要馬上改正。 If you make a mistake, correct it straight away.
科目	kēmù	(school) subject	你最喜歡哪個科目？ What's your favourite subject?
糾正	jiūzhèng	correct (someone)	老師糾正了我的發音。 The teacher corrected my pronunciation.
沿	yán	along	沿著河邊走，就能看到學校。 Walk along the river and you'll see the school.

待會	dāihuì	in a moment, later	我待會再打{=call}給你。 I'll call you back in a bit.
反面	fǎnmiàn	reverse side; the opposite	答案寫在紙的反面。 The answers are on the back of the sheet.
甲	jiǎ	A, first (in a list)	甲班的同學比較多。 Class A has more students.

pattern 沿(著): along (a road, a river)

沿著 | a road / a river / the coast | verb (走, 開, 騎...)

沿著 + a line in space (a road, a river, a coast, a wall) means "along it". Then comes the movement: 走, 開車, 騎車. You often see 沿 alone in set phrases and on signs: 沿路 (all along the way), 沿海 (along the coast).

沿著這條街走，你會看到很多老店。 **yán zhe zhè tiáo jiē zǒu nǐ huì kàn dào hěn duō lǎo diàn** Walk along this street and you'll see lots of old shops.

我們沿著河邊騎腳踏車。 **wǒmen yán zhe hé biān qí jiǎotàchē** We cycled along the river.

沿著海邊開車，風景很美。 **yán zhe hǎi biān kāichē fēngjǐng hěn měi** Driving along the coast, the scenery is beautiful.

dialogue the tutor and the researcher

auntie wang 大衛，我孫子在甲班，英文又不及格了，二十六個字母都記不住。你可以輔導他嗎？一個星期一次就好。

Dàwèi wǒ sūnzi zài jiǎ bān yīngwén yòu bù jígé le èrshíliù ge zìmǔ dōu jì bu zhù nǐ kěyǐ fǔdǎo tā ma yí ge xīngqí yī cì jiù hǎo · David, my grandson's in class A, and he's failed English again: he can't even remember the twenty-six letters. Could you tutor him? Once a week is enough.

david 沒問題！他的英文是初級還是中級？最喜歡哪個科目？

méi wèntí tā de yīngwén shì chūjí háishì zhōngjí zuì xǐhuān nǎ ge kēmù · No problem! Is his English beginner or intermediate? And what's his favourite subject?

auntie wang 初級吧。他最喜歡化學，他說化學比英文有意思多了。

chūjí ba tā zuì xǐhuān huàxué tā shuō huàxué bǐ yīngwén yǒuyìsi duō le · Beginner, I'd say. He loves chemistry: he says it's much more interesting than English.

david 那我用化學舉例，教他英文。待會我就去找他。

nà wǒ yòng huàxué jǔlì jiāo tā yīngwén dāihuì wǒ jiù qù zhǎo tā · Then I'll use chemistry for the examples when I teach him English. I'll go and see him in a bit.

anna 我今天要去圖書館找資料、做筆記。那裡有一本老書，記載了很多老店的歷史，對我的論文很有用。

wǒ jīntiān yào qù túshūguǎn zhǎo zīliào zuò bǐjì nàlǐ yǒu yì běn lǎo shū jìzài le hěn duō lǎo diàn de lìshǐ duì wǒ de lùnwén hěn yǒuyòng · I'm going to the library today to find material and take notes. There's an old book there recording the history of lots of old shops: really useful for my thesis.

auntie wang 圖書館在哪裡？

túshūguǎn zài nǎlǐ · Where's the library?

anna 沿著河邊走二十分鐘就到了。我的指導教授說，那裡的學術資料是全臺北最多的。

yán zhe hé biān zǒu èrshí fēnzhōng jiù dào le wǒ de zhǐdǎo jiàoshòu shuō nàlǐ de xuéshù zīliào shì quán Táiběi zuì duō de · Twenty minutes' walk along the river. My supervisor says it has the most academic material in Taipei.

david （一個小時以後）王阿姨，我把英文寫在紙的正面，化學寫在反面，他都記住了。他的問題我也一一解答了。不過他一直糾正我的中文！

yí ge xiǎoshí yǐhòu Wáng āyí wǒ bǎ yīngwén xiě zài zhǐ de zhèngmiàn huàxué xiě zài fǎnmiàn tā dōu jìzhù le tā de wèntí wǒ yě yīyī jiědá le búguò tā yìzhí jiūzhèng wǒ de zhōngwén · (An hour later) Auntie Wang, I wrote the English on the front of the paper and the chemistry on the back, and he remembered it all. I answered all his questions one by one, too. But he kept correcting my Chinese!

anna 看來，他的語音比你準確！

kànlái tā de yǔyīn bǐ nǐ zhǔnquè · Looks like his pronunciation is more accurate than yours!

auntie wang 這叫互相學習。他寫錯的地方，你幫他改正；你說錯的地方，他幫你改正。

zhè jiào hùxiāng xuéxí tā xiě cuò de dìfāng nǐ bāng tā gǎizhèng nǐ shuō cuò de dìfāng tā bāng nǐ gǎizhèng · That's called learning from each other. You correct his mistakes, and he corrects yours.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

院 yuàn courtyard, institution

並 bìng (not) at all; and also



妻
qī
wife

雜
zá
mixed, miscellaneous

good to know · 補習 (extra classes) is a huge part of school life in Taiwan: many students go to evening classes in English, maths and science. Exam papers in Taiwan sometimes label versions 甲 and 乙 (A and B), and old grading used 甲, 乙, 丙. Answers can be on the 反面 (back) of the sheet.

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Chinese TOCFL B in 220 days
unit 24 · learning & research

Talk about degrees, dorms and student clubs, and give the reason behind something with (之)所以……，是因為……

Graduation is a big moment, and people love to ask why: why that university, why that subject, why that club.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
學位	xuéwèi	(academic) degree	他拿到了碩士學位。 He got his master's degree.
口音	kǒuyīn	accent	你的中文有|一點英國口音。 Your Chinese has a slight British accent.
升學	shēngxué	go on to further study	他高中畢業以後，打算升學。 He plans to go on studying after high school.
檔案	dǎngàn	file (paper or computer)	請把檔案寄給我。 Please send me the file.
成語	chéngyǔ	idiom, set phrase	中文有很多四個字的成語。 Chinese has lots of four-character idioms.
測驗	cèyàn	test, quiz	明天有一個小測驗。 There's a little quiz tomorrow.
公立	gōnglì	public (school)	這是一所公立大學。 This is a public university.
缺席	quēxí	absent	他今天缺席了。 He was absent today.
志願	zhìyuàn	wish; choice (in applications)	這所大學是我的第一志願。 This university is my first choice.
寢室	qǐnshì	dorm room	我的寢室住了四個人。 Four of us share my dorm room.
社團	shètuán	(student) club, society	你參加了什麼社團？ Which clubs have you joined?
目錄	mùlù	table of contents, catalogue	先看目錄，再找你要的那一章。 Check the contents first, then find the chapter you need.
公式	gōngshì	formula	這個數學公式很難記。 This maths formula is hard to remember.
鋼筆	gāngbǐ	fountain pen	爺爺送了我一支鋼筆。 Grandpa gave me a fountain pen.
大力	dàlì	vigorously, strongly	學校大力支持學生的社團活動。 The school strongly supports student clubs.
粉紅	fěnhóng	pink	她穿了一件粉紅的裙子。 She's wearing a pink skirt.

即將	jíjiāng	about to, soon	新學期即將開始。 The new term is about to begin.
美妙	měimiào	wonderful, beautiful	這首歌真美妙。 This song is wonderful.

pattern (之)所以……，是因為……: the reason why … is that …

someone / something | 之所以 | result | ，是因為 | reason

Usually Chinese gives the reason first: 因為……，所以…… 之所以……，是因為…… turns it round: the result comes first, then the reason, with a little weight on it, like “the reason why … is that …”. The subject goes before 之所以. In everyday speech people more often say 因為……所以…… or ……，是因為……

他之所以缺席，是因為生病了。 tā zhīsuǒyǐ quēxí shì yīnwèi shēngbìng le The reason he was absent is that he was ill.

她之所以選公立大學，是因為學費比較便宜。 tā zhīsuǒyǐ xuǎn gōnglì dàxué shì yīnwèi xuéfèi bǐjiào piányí She chose a public university because the fees are lower.

我之所以想升學，是因為我想多學一點。 wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ xiǎng shēngxué shì yīnwèi wǒ xiǎng duō xué yìdiǎn I want to go on studying because I want to learn more.

dialogue meiling’s old campus

meiling 這就是我以前的寢室！四個人住一間，很小，可是我們四個都很合得來。考試以前，大家互相抄筆記。

zhè jiù shì wǒ yǐqián de qǐnshì sì ge rén zhù yì jiān hěn xiǎo kěshì wǒmen sì ge dōu hěn hédelái kǎoshì yǐqián dàjiā hùxiāng chāo bǐjì · This was my old dorm room! Four of us in one room. Tiny, but we all got on brilliantly. Before exams, we'd copy each other's notes.

david 我入學的時候也住寢室。你為什麼選這所大學？

wǒ rùxué de shíhòu yě zhù qǐnshì nǐ wèishénme xuǎn zhè suǒ dàxué · I lived in a dorm too when I started. Why did you choose this university?

meiling 我之所以選這所大學，是因為它是我的第一志願。而且這是公立大學，學費比較便宜。

wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ xuǎn zhè suǒ dàxué shì yīnwèi tā shì wǒ de dì yī zhìyuàn érqiě zhè shì gōnglì dàxué xuéfèi bǐjiào piányí · The reason I chose it is that it was my first choice. And it's a public university, so the fees are lower.

anna 你參加過什麼社團？

nǐ cānjiā guo shénme shètuán · Which clubs were you in?

meiling 我參加了唱歌的社團。學校大力支持社團活動，每年都有美妙的音樂會。我們系百分之八十的同學，現在都找到工作了。

wǒ cānjiā le chànggē de shètuán xuéxiào dàlì zhīchí shètuán huódòng měi nián dōu yǒu měimiào de yīnyuè huì wǒmen xì bǎifēnzhī bāshí de tóngxué xiànzài dōu zhǎo dào gōngzuò le · A singing club. The university really supports clubs: there's a wonderful concert every year. And eighty per cent of my department have found jobs now.

david 你們看，那邊的學生都穿著粉紅的衣服。

nǐmen kàn nà biān de xuéshēng dōu chuān zhe fěnhóng de yīfú · Look, the students over there are all in pink.

meiling 那是今年的畢業生！我一邊上班，一邊念書，有好幾次缺席，不過今天終於要拿學位了。

nà shì jīnnián de bìyèshēng wǒ yì biān shàngbān yì biān niànshū yǒu hǎojǐ cì quēxí búguò jīntiān zhōngyú yào ná xuéwèi le · That's this year's graduates! I worked while I studied and missed class quite a few times, but today I finally get my degree.

anna 恭喜你！奶奶一定很高興。

gōngxǐ nǐ nǎinai yídìng hěn gāoxìng · Congratulations! Grandma must be so happy.

meiling 她送了我一支鋼筆。她說：「上班以後，也要記得多學習。」大衛，你的碩士即將念完了，你打算升學嗎？

tā sòng le wǒ yì zhī gāngbǐ tā shuō shàngbān yǐhòu yě yào jìde duō xuéxí Dàwèi nǐ de shuòshì jíjiāng niàn wán le nǐ dǎsuàn shēngxué ma · She gave me a fountain pen. She said, "Keep learning even when you're working." David, your master's is nearly done: are you going on to a doctorate?

david 還不知道。我之所以還沒決定，是因為我也很想工作。不過我遲早要做決定。

hái bù zhīdào wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ hái méi juédìng shì yīnwèi wǒ yě hěn xiǎng gōngzuò búguò wǒ chízǎo yào zuò juédìng · I don't know yet. The reason I haven't decided is that I really want to work too. But I'll have to decide sooner or later.

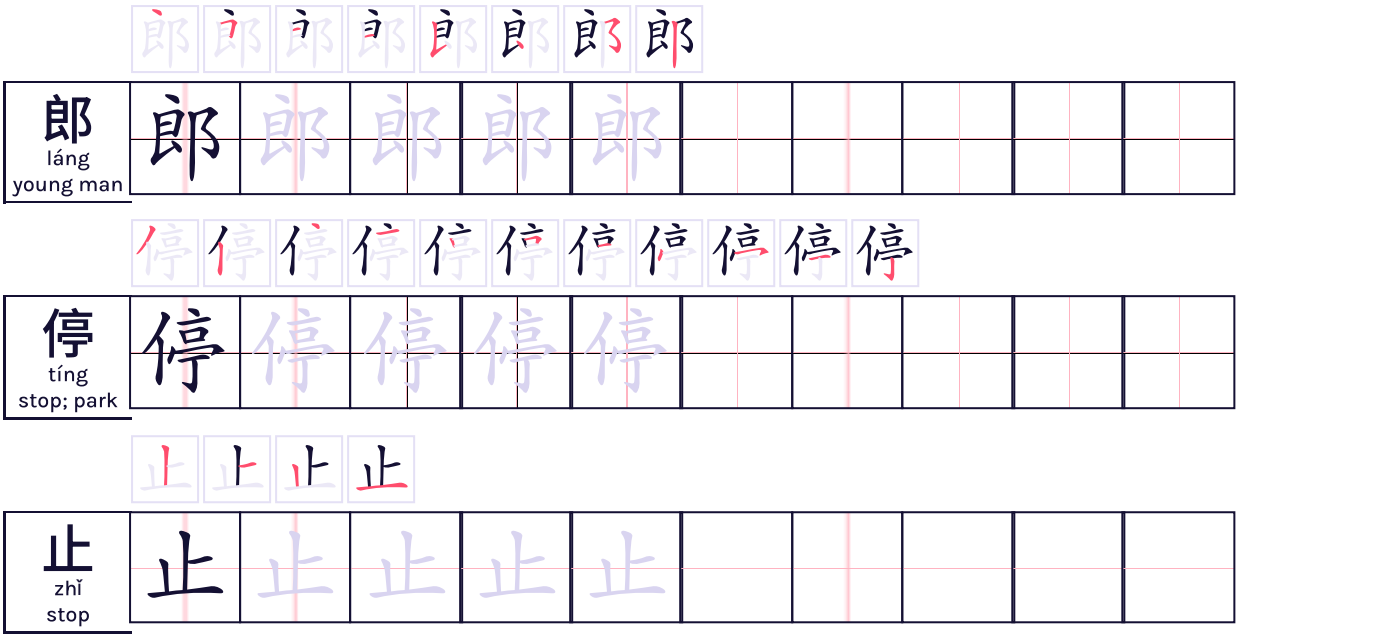
meiling 不急。待會我們去吃飯，慢慢聊。

bù jí dāihuì wǒmen qù chī fàn mànmàn liáo · No rush. We'll go and eat in a bit and talk it over.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

喊 喊 喊 喊 喊 喊 喊 喊 喊 喊 喊 喊 喊

喊
hǎn
shout, call out



good to know · In Taiwan, students list their 志願 (choices) of universities and departments, and their exam results decide where they go. 皮 meaning “naughty, cheeky” is very Taiwanese: 他好皮喔！ is said with a smile.

Dorms, clubs and a degree at last: you can now ask people why they made their choices, and tell them the reasons behind yours.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 161 private and public schools

Talk about public and private schools, cram schools and exam papers, and say what something rests on with 憑 (on the strength of).

Schools and exams are a favourite topic of conversation in Taiwan, and everyone has an opinion about cram schools.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
補習班	bǔxíbān	cram school	臺灣有很多補習班。 Taiwan has lots of cram schools.
動詞	dòngcí	verb	「吃」是一個動詞。 “Eat” is a verb.
國中	guózhōng	junior high school	我妹妹今年上國中。 My little sister starts junior high this year.
考卷	kǎojuàn	exam paper	老師在改{=mark}考卷。 The teacher is marking exam papers.
生詞	shēngcí	new word (in a lesson)	這課有二十個生詞。 This lesson has twenty new words.
研究所	yánjiùsuǒ	graduate school	他在研究所念{=study}碩士。 He’s doing a master’s at graduate school.
私立	sīlì	private (school)	這是一所私立學校。 This is a private school.
文憑	wénpíng	diploma	有文憑不一定找得到工作。 A diploma doesn’t guarantee you a job.
學業	xuéyè	studies, schoolwork	她一邊工作，一邊完成學業。 She finished her studies while working.
盯	dīng	stare at, keep an eye on	媽媽每天盯著我做功課。 Mum watches me do my homework every day.
班長	bānzhǎng	class monitor	大家選他當{=as}班長。 Everyone chose him as class monitor.
布告	bùgào	notice (posted up)	學校貼了一張布告。 The school has put up a notice.
錯字	cuòzì	wrongly written character, typo	你的作文有三個錯字。 Your essay has three wrong characters.
國立	guólì	national (university)	他念的是國立大學。 He goes to a national university.
開課	kāikè	start a course; teach a course	這門{=(measure word)}課下{=next}學期才開課。 This course won’t start until next term.
憑	píng	on the strength of; with	憑這張票可以進去。 You can get in with this ticket.

耗	hào	use up, consume	這個工作很耗時間。 This job eats up a lot of time.
極其	jíqí	extremely	這個問題極其重要。 This question is extremely important.

pattern 憑: on the strength of

憑 | a ticket / your ability / evidence | result

憑 + noun says what something rests on or is allowed by: a ticket, an ID, your own hard work. 憑票入場 (admission by ticket) is on every event sign. 憑什麼 means “what gives you the right?”, and can sound angry.

他憑自己的努力，考上了研究所。 **tā píng zìjǐ de nǔlì kǎo shàng le yánjiùsuǒ** He got into graduate school through his own hard work.

憑這張卡，在學校的書店買書可以打折。 **píng zhè zhāng kǎ zài xuéxiào de shūdiàn mǎi shū kěyǐ dǎzhé** With this card, you get a discount at the campus bookshop.

你憑什麼說我錯了？ **nǐ píng shénme shuō wǒ cuò le** What makes you say I’m wrong?

dialogue long days at junior high

auntie wang 我孫子今年上國中了。每天放學還要去補習班，晚上十點才回家。週末學校還要補課。

wǒ sūnzi jīnnián shàng guózhōng le měi tiān fàngxué háiyào qù bǔxíbān wǎnshàng shí diǎn cái huí jiā zhōumò xuéxiào háiyào bǔkè · My grandson started junior high this year. After school he goes to cram school every day, and he's not home till ten. And at weekends the school runs make-up classes.

anna 這麼晚？在英國，學生放學就回家了。

zhème wǎn zài Yīngguó xuéshēng fàngxué jiù huí jiā le · That late? In the UK, students just go home after school.

zhiming 在臺灣，這很平常。我國中的時候也天天補習。

zài Táiwān zhè hěn píngcháng wǒ guózhōng de shíhòu yě tiāntiān bǔxí · In Taiwan that's normal. I went to cram school every day at junior high too.

auntie wang 他的老師盯得很緊。每天都有小測驗，考卷上有一個錯字，就要寫十次。

tā de lǎoshī dīng de hěn jǐn měi tiān dōu yǒu xiǎo cèyàn kǎojuàn shàng yǒu yí ge cuòzì jiù yào xiě shí cì · His teacher keeps a close eye on him. There's a little quiz every day, and one wrong character on a test means writing it out ten times.

anna 那他學業的壓力一定非常大。他最怕哪個科目？

nà tā xuéyè de yālì yídìng fēicháng dà tā zuì pà nǎ ge kēmù · The pressure from his studies must be enormous. Which subject does he dread most?

auntie wang 數學。那些公式他怎麼記都記不住。他媽媽說，憑他現在的成績，考不上好高中。

shùxué nàxiē gōngshì tā zěnme jì dōu jì bu zhù tā māma shuō píng tā xiànzài de chéngjī kǎo bu shàng hǎo gāozhōng · Maths. However hard he tries, he can't remember the formulas. His mum says with his marks as they are, he won't get into a good high school.

zhiming 憑分數決定一個人，我不太贊同。我國中的分數也不好，現在不是也開了自己的公司嗎？

píng fēnshù juédìng yí ge rén wǒ bú tài zàntóng wǒ guózhōng de fēnshù yě bù hǎo xiànzài bú shì yě kāi le zìjǐ de gōngsī ma · I don't really agree with judging people by their marks. My marks weren't good at junior high either, and haven't I started my own company?

anna 私立大學跟國立大學，哪個比較好？

sīlì dàxué gēn guólì dàxué nǎ ge bǐjiào hǎo · Which is better, private universities or national ones?

zhiming 不一定。私立大學的設備好，可是學費貴；國立大學比較難考。可是有文憑不一定找得到好工作。

bù yídìng sīlì dàxué de shèbèi hǎo kěshì xuéfèi guì guólì dàxué bǐjiào nán kǎo kěshì yǒu wénpíng bù yídìng zhǎo de dào hǎo gōngzuò · It depends. Private universities have good facilities but high fees; national universities are harder to get into. And a diploma doesn't guarantee a good job.

anna 我覺得，有沒有學位不是最重要的，重要的是你喜歡做什麼。

wǒ juéde yǒu méiyǒu xuéwèi bú shì zuì zhòngyào de zhòngyào de shì nǐ xǐhuān zuò shénme · I don't think having a degree is the most important thing: what matters is what you love doing.

auntie wang 不過上星期，老師把他的作文作為例子，給全班看！他說他以後要升學，念研究所。

búguò shàng xīngqí lǎoshī bǎ tā de zuòwén zuòwéi lìzi gěi quán bān kàn tā shuō tā yǐhòu yào shēngxué niàn yánjiùsuǒ · But last week the teacher used his essay as an example for the whole class! Now he says he wants to go on studying, all the way to graduate school.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

訂
dìng
book, order, reserve

誕
dàn
birth

雙
shuāng
pair (of)

壓
yā
press, squash

good to know · Taiwan's school ladder: 國小 (6 years), 國中 (3 years), 高中 (3 years), then 大學. 研究所 is graduate school. 憑票入場 (admission by ticket only) and 憑證 (on presentation of ID) are common sign words.

Schools, cram schools, diplomas and a proud grandmother: you can now join one of Taiwan's favourite debates.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 162 school life

Talk about oral exams, school buses and notice boards, and give a written cause with 因為……而……

Exam day nerves are universal: now you can describe them, and explain causes the way reports and teachers do.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
跨	kuà	step across; span	這座橋跨過一條大河。 This bridge spans a big river.
考取	kǎoqǔ	pass an entrance exam (into)	她考取了國立大學。 She got into a national university.
課外	kèwài	extracurricular	學校有很多課外活動。 The school has lots of extracurricular activities.
口試	kǒushì	oral exam	明天的口試，我很緊張。 I'm nervous about tomorrow's oral exam.
師母	shīmǔ	teacher's wife	師母做的菜很好吃。 Our teacher's wife is a great cook.
暑期	shǔqí	summer (vacation)	我暑期要去打工。 I'm doing a summer job this summer.
校車	xiàochē	school bus	我每天坐校車上學。 I take the school bus every day.
校友	xiàoyǒu	alumnus, fellow graduate	他是我們學校的校友。 He's a graduate of our school.
造句	zàojù	make a sentence	請用這個詞造句。 Please make a sentence with this word.
紙張	zhǐzhāng	paper (in general)	請大家節省紙張。 Please everyone save paper.
准考證	zhǔnkǎozhèng	exam admission ticket	考試那天，別忘了帶准考證。 Don't forget your admission ticket on exam day.
布告欄	bùgàolán	notice board	考試的時間貼在布告欄上。 The exam times are on the notice board.
語調	yǔdiào	intonation, tone of voice	他說話的語調很溫柔。 He speaks in a gentle voice.
粉筆	fěnbǐ	chalk	老師用粉筆在黑板上寫字。 The teacher writes on the blackboard with chalk.
原子筆	yuánzǐbǐ	ballpoint pen	可以借我一支原子筆嗎？ Could I borrow a ballpoint pen?
噸	dūn	ton, tonne	這輛車有兩噸重。 This car weighs two tonnes.
何必	hébì	why bother, there's no need	你何必這麼生氣？ There's no need to get so angry.

pattern 因(為).....而.....: because of ... (written)

someone / something | 因為 | cause | 而 | result (a verb)

因為 + cause + 而 + result is the written way of saying "because of X, Y happened", in one clause. 而 links the cause to a verb: 因為下雨而取消 (cancelled because of the rain). In writing, 因為 is often shortened to 因; in speech, use 因為.....所以.....

很多人因為塞車而遲到。 **hěn duō rén yīnwèi sāichē ér chídào** Lots of people were late because of the traffic.

他因為考取了國立大學而非常高興。 **tā yīnwèi kǎoqǔ le guólì dàxué ér fēicháng gāoxìng** He was thrilled to get into a national university.

學校因為大家節省紙張而少用了一噸紙。 **xuéxiào yīnwèi dàjiā jiéshěng zhǐzhāng ér shǎo yòng le yí dùn zhǐ** Because everyone saved paper, the school used a tonne less.

dialogue the missing ticket

david 糟糕，我的准考證不見了！
zāogāo wǒ de zhǔnkǎozhèng bújiàn le · Oh no, my admission ticket's gone!

anna 別急。你看布告欄上寫著：沒有准考證，憑護照也可以進去口試。
bié jí nǐ kàn bùgàolán shàng xiě zhe méiyǒu zhǔnkǎozhèng píng hùzhào yě kěyǐ jìn qù kǒushì · Don't panic. Look, the notice board says: without an admission ticket, you can still do the oral exam with your passport.

david 太好了！老實說，我昨天因為太緊張而睡不著，一直在背生詞。
tài hǎo le lǎoshíshuō wǒ zuótiān yīnwèi tài jǐnzhāng ér shuìbùzháo yìzhí zài bèi shēngcí · Phew! To be honest, I was so nervous I couldn't sleep last night: I kept going over new words.

teacher chen 你何必這麼緊張？你的中文已經很好了。
nǐ hébì zhème jǐnzhāng nǐ de zhōngwén yǐjīng hěn hǎo le · Why be so nervous? Your Chinese is already very good.

david 怎麼說呢……我怕一緊張，語調就不自然，動詞也會用錯。
zěnme shuō ne wǒ pà yì jǐnzhāng yǔdiào jiù bú zìrán dòngcí yě huì yòng cuò · How can I put it... I'm afraid that when I'm nervous, my intonation sounds wrong and I use the wrong verbs.

teacher chen 說慢一點就好。口試很簡單：先介紹自己，再用幾個詞造句。你也可以用一兩個成語。
shuō màn yìdiǎn jiù hǎo kǒushì hěn jiǎndān xiān jièshào zìjǐ zài yòng jǐ ge cí zàojù nǐ yě kěyǐ yòng yìliǎng ge chéngyǔ · Just speak a little more slowly. The oral exam is simple: introduce yourself, then make sentences with a few words. You could use an idiom or two as well.

anna 考完以後，我們的指導教授請大家去他家吃飯。聽說師母做的菜很好吃！
kǎo wán yǐhòu wǒmen de zhǐdǎo jiàoshòu qǐng dàjiā qù tā jiā chī fàn tīngshuō shīmǔ zuò de cài hěn hǎochī · After the exam, our supervisor has invited us all to his place for dinner. Apparently his wife is a fantastic cook!

teacher chen 那太好了！還有，我們學校的一個校友來自加拿大，他暑期要回來教課外活動。大衛，你可以認識他。
nà tài hǎo le háiyǒu wǒmen xuéxiào de yí ge xiàoyǒu láizì Jiānádà tā shǔqí yào huí lái jiāo kèwài huódòng Dàwèi nǐ kěyǐ rènshì tā · Lovely! And one of our alumni, from Canada, is coming back to teach extracurricular activities this summer. David, you should meet him.

david 好！那我們走吧。啊，我的准考證在這裡，夾在書裡！
hǎo nà wǒmen zǒu ba a wǒ de zhǔnkǎozhèng zài zhèlǐ jiá zài shū lǐ · Great! Let's go, then. Oh, here's my admission ticket, stuck in my book!

anna 下次考試以前，我要盯著你把東西準備好。
xià cì kǎoshì yǐqián wǒ yào dīng zhe nǐ bǎ dōngxi zhǔnbèi hǎo · Before the next exam, I'm keeping an eye on you till you've got everything ready.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

棄
qì
abandon

標
biāo
mark



呀
ya
(lively ending: oh, ah)



鼓
gǔ
drum

good to know · Students call their teacher's wife 師母, a respectful, warm title; a female teacher's husband is 師丈. 噸 (tonne) is read dùn in Taiwan: 兩噸重 weighs two tonnes. Please save 紙張 (paper) and print on both sides!

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Read a graduate school notice and follow a week of thesis writing, corrections, a computer crisis and an oral exam.

A thesis deadline brings every study word together: notices, libraries, corrections, nerves and, at the end, a degree.

chapter 1 an email from the graduate school

anna 研究所寄來一封信。美玲，你幫我聽聽，我有沒有看錯。
yánjiùsuǒ jì lái yì fēng xìn Měilíng nǐ bāng wǒ tīng ting wǒ yǒu méiyǒu kàn cuò · The graduate school has sent an email. Meiling, listen and tell me if I've read it right.

anna 「各位碩士班同學：一、論文請在本週五下午五點以前，交到研究所辦公室。二、請交兩本論文和一份檔案，前面要有目錄。三、口試的時間會貼在布告欄上，請準時報到。四、口試合格的同學，才能拿到碩士學位。五、口試缺席的同學，下學期要重新註冊。六、請大家節省紙張，兩面都印。有問題請撥研究所的電話。」
gèwèi shuòshì bān tóngxué yī lùnwén qǐng zài běn zhōu wǔ xiàwǔ wǔ diǎn yǐqián jiāo dào yánjiùsuǒ bàngōngshì èr qǐng jiāo liǎng běn lùnwén hé yí fèn dǎngàn qiánmiàn yào yǒu mùlù sān kǒushì de shíjiān huì tiē zài bùgàolán shàng qǐng zhǔnshí bàodào sì kǒushì hégé de tóngxué cái néng ná dào shuòshì xuéwèi wǔ kǒushì quēxí de tóngxué xià xuéqí yào chóngxīn zhùcè liù qǐng dàjiā jiéshěng zhǐzhāng liǎng miàn dōu yìn yǒu wèntí qǐng bō yánjiùsuǒ de diànhuà · "Dear master's students: 1. Hand in your thesis to the graduate school office before 5 pm this Friday. 2. Submit two bound copies and one digital file, with a table of contents at the front. 3. Oral exam times will be posted on the notice board: please report on time. 4. Only students who pass the oral exam will receive their master's degree. 5. Students absent from the oral exam must re-register next term. 6. Please save paper and print on both sides. If you have questions, call the graduate school."

meiling 你沒看錯，就是這個星期五。你寫完了嗎？
nǐ méi kàn cuò jiù shì zhè ge xīngqíwǔ nǐ xiě wán le ma · You read it right: it's this Friday. Have you finished?

anna 還有兩章！我的手都在發抖了。
hái yǒu liǎng zhāng wǒ de shǒu dōu zài fādǒu le · Two chapters to go! My hands are shaking.

meiling 我記得你剛來臺灣的時候，每天晚上都在背生詞、準備測驗。
wǒ jìde nǐ gāng lái Táiwān de shíhòu měi tiān wǎnshàng dōu zài bèi shēngcí zhǔnbèi cèyàn · I remember when you'd just arrived in Taiwan: every night you were learning new words and revising for quizzes.

anna 對，那時候我的中文還是初級，現在已經是中級了。
duì nà shíhòu wǒ de zhōngwén háishì chūjí xiànzài yǐjīng shì zhōngjí le · Yes, back then my Chinese was beginner level; now it's intermediate.

meiling 你之所以這麼緊張，是因為你太想寫好了。何必這樣？你遲早會寫完的。
nǐ zhīsuǒyǐ zhème jǐnzhāng shì yīnwèi nǐ tài xiǎng xiě hǎo le hébì zhèyàng nǐ chízǎo huì xiě wán de · The reason you're so stressed is that you want it to be perfect. Why do that to yourself? You'll finish sooner or later.

anna 希望是早，不是遲！
xīwàng shì zǎo bú shì chí · Let's hope it's sooner, not later!

chapter 2 one more source

david 我們沿著河邊走去圖書館吧，順便讓你清醒一下。
wǒmen yán zhe hé biān zǒu qù túshūguǎn ba shùnbiàn ràng nǐ qīngxǐng yíxià · Let's walk to the library along the river: it'll wake you up, too.

anna 我需要一本學術書。有一位學者記載了臺北老店的招牌，對我的分析很重要。
wǒ xūyào yì běn xuéshù shū yǒu yí wèi xuézhě jìzài le Táiběi lǎo diàn de zhāopái duì wǒ de fēnxī hěn zhòngyào · I need an academic book. A scholar recorded the signs of Taipei's old shops: it's important for my analysis.

david 我也要找一本詞典。我的口語還好，可是寫作的詞彙不夠。
wǒ yě yào zhǎo yì běn cídiǎn wǒ de kǒuyǔ háihǎo kěshì xiězuò de cíhuì bú gòu · I need a dictionary too. My speaking is OK, but my writing vocabulary isn't enough.

anna 找到了！可是這本書不能借出去，只能在這裡看。
zhǎo dào le kěshì zhè běn shū bù néng jiè chū qù zhǐ néng zài zhèlǐ kàn · Found it! But it can't be borrowed: you can only read it here.

david 那你做筆記吧。不過別整段抄，要用自己的話寫。
nà nǐ zuò bǐjì ba búguò bié zhěng duàn chāo yào yòng zìjǐ de huà xiě · Then take notes. But don't copy whole passages: write it in your own words.

anna 我知道。我的指導教授說過，抄別人的句子，代價很大。
wǒ zhīdào wǒ de zhǐdǎo jiàoshòu shuō guo chāo biérén de jùzi dàijià hěn dà · I know. My supervisor told us: copying other people's sentences costs you dearly.

david 你看布告欄上的布告：暑期開課，有寫作班和語音班。老師是我們研究所的一個校友，教課外的寫作課。
nǐ kàn bùgàolán shàng de bùgào shǔqí kāikè yǒu xiězuò bān hé yǔyīn bān lǎoshī shì wǒmen yánjiùsuǒ de yí ge xiàoyǒu jiāo kèwài de xiězuò kè · Look at the notice on the board: summer courses, writing and pronunciation. The teacher is one of our graduate school alumni, teaching an extracurricular writing class.

anna 旁邊那所公立國中的學生，放學以後都來這裡念書。與補習班比起來，這裡安靜多了。
pángbiān nà suǒ gōnglì guózhōng de xuéshēng fàngxué yǐhòu dōu lái zhèlǐ niànshū yǔ bǔxíbān bǐqǐlái zhèlǐ ānjìng duō le · The kids from the state junior high next door all come here to study after school. It's much quieter here than at cram school.

david （黃昏的時候）你看，太陽朝山後面下去了。我們順著河邊回家吧。
huánghūn de shíhòu nǐ kàn tàiyáng cháo shān hòumiàn xiàqù le wǒmen shùn zhe hé biān huí jiā ba · (At dusk) Look, the sun's going down behind the hills. Let's follow the river home.

chapter 3 line by line

teacher chen 安娜，與第一章比起來，這兩章寫得準確多了。
Ānnà yǔ dì yī zhāng bǐqǐlái zhè liǎng zhāng xiě de zhǔnquè duō le · Anna, compared with chapter one, these two are much more precise.

anna 真的嗎？我反覆改了好幾次。
zhēnde ma wǒ fǎnfù gǎi le hǎojǐ cì · Really? I rewrote them over and over.

teacher chen 不過這裡有三個錯字，我幫你糾正了。還有，這個動詞用得不對，這個成語也不太自然。
búguò zhèlǐ yǒu sān ge cuòzì wǒ bāng nǐ jiūzhèng le háiyǒu zhè ge dòngcí yòng de bú duì zhè ge chéngyǔ yě bú tài zìrán · But there are three wrong characters here: I've corrected them. And this verb isn't right, and this idiom doesn't sound natural.

anna 我馬上改正。老師，您可以舉例說明一下嗎？
wǒ mǎshàng gǎizhèng lǎoshī nín kěyǐ jǔlì shuōmíng yíxià ma · I'll correct them right away. Could you show me with an example?

teacher chen 可以。你看，我把對的句子寫在紙的反面了。
kěyǐ nǐ kàn wǒ bǎ duì de jùzi xiě zài zhǐ de fǎnmiàn le · Of course. Look, I've written the correct sentences on the back of the sheet.

anna 謝謝老師！我初級的時候，連一個句子都造不好，現在居然在寫論文。
xièxie lǎoshī wǒ chūjí de shíhòu lián yí ge jùzi dōu zào bu hǎo xiànzài jūrán zài xiě lùnwén · Thank you! When I was a beginner I couldn't even make one sentence properly, and now I'm writing a thesis.

teacher chen 我以前在國立大學的中文系教學。有一個學生，每次考卷上都有錯字，我天天盯著他改。後來他考取了研究所，現在是很有名的學者。
wǒ yǐqián zài guólì dàxué de zhōngwén xì jiàoxué yǒu yí ge xuéshēng měi cì kǎojuàn shàng dōu yǒu cuòzì wǒ tiāntiān dīng zhe tā gǎi hòulái tā kǎoqǔ le yánjiùsuǒ xiànzài shì hěn yǒumíng de xuézhě · I used to teach in the Chinese department of a national university. One student had wrong characters on every exam paper, and I made him correct them every day. Later he got into graduate school, and now he's a well-known scholar.

teacher chen 憑你的努力，這是應該的。你的學業一直很好，一定沒問題。
píng nǐ de nǔlì zhè shì yīnggāi de nǐ de xuéyè yìzhí hěn hǎo yídìng méi wèntí · With all your hard work, it's no surprise. Your studies have always gone well: you'll be fine.

chapter 4 the file that vanished

anna 糟糕！我的電腦壞了，論文的檔案不見了！
zāogāo wǒ de diànnǎo huài le lùnwén de dǎngàn bújiàn le · Oh no! My computer's broken and my thesis file has gone!

meiling 怎麼了？你不是說寫論文比化學的公式還難嗎？
zěnme le nǐ bú shì shuō xiě lùnwén bǐ huàxué de gōngshì hái nán ma · What's wrong? Didn't you say writing a thesis is harder than chemistry formulas?

anna 現在更難了！寫論文極其耗時間，現在檔案也沒了！
xiànzài gèng nán le xiě lùnwén jíqí hào shíjiān xiànzài dǎngàn yě méi le · It's even harder now! A thesis eats up so much time, and now the file's gone too!

david 別急。你是否把檔案寄給過自己？
bié jí nǐ shìfǒu bǎ dǎngàn jì gěi guo zìjǐ · Don't panic. Did you ever email the file to yourself?

anna 寄過……可是那是上個星期的。
jì guo kěshì nà shì shàng ge xīngqí de · I did… but that was last week's.

david 我來試試。這種問題我解決過很多次。你待會先吃一點宵夜。
wǒ lái shì shi zhè zhǒng wèntí wǒ jiějué guo hěn duō cì nǐ dāihuì xiān chī yìdiǎn xiāoyè · Let me try. I've sorted out this kind of problem lots of times. Have a late-night snack while you wait.

meiling 我買了你最愛吃的雞排，還有一杯熱茶。
wǒ mǎi le nǐ zuì ài chī de jīpái háiyǒu yì bēi rè chá · I got your favourite fried chicken, and a hot tea.

david 找到了！你的電腦每十分鐘就保存一次。最新的檔案在這裡！
zhǎo dào le nǐ de diànnǎo měi shí fēnzhōng jiù bǎocún yí cì zuì xīn de dǎngàn zài zhèlǐ · Found it! Your computer saves every ten minutes. The latest file is right here!

anna 大衛，你太神奇了！我因為太害怕而差點哭了。
Dàwèi nǐ tài shénqí le wǒ yīnwèi tài hàipà ér chàdiǎn kū le · David, you're a miracle worker! I was so scared I almost cried.

meiling 明天早上，我們一起去印論文。簽名的時候，你要用原子筆、粉紅的筆，還是奶奶送我的那支鋼筆？用鋼筆吧，好運氣！
míngtiān zǎoshàng wǒmen yìqǐ qù yìn lùnwén qiānmíng de shíhòu nǐ yào yòng yuánzǐbǐ fěnhóng de bǐ háishì nǎinai sòng wǒ de nà zhī gāngbǐ yòng gāngbǐ ba hǎo yùnqì · Tomorrow morning we'll go and print it together. To sign it, do you want a ballpoint, a pink pen, or the fountain pen Grandma gave me? Use the fountain pen: for luck!

chapter 5 master anna

david 你的口試時間貼在布告欄上了：十點，第三教室。別忘了帶准考證……喔，口試不用准考證！

nǐ de kǒushì shíjiān tiē zài bùgàolán shàng le shí diǎn dì sān jiàoshì bié wàng le dài zhǔnkǎozhèng ō kǒushì búyòng zhǔnkǎozhèng · Your oral exam time is on the notice board: ten o'clock, room three. Don't forget your admission ticket... oh, you don't need one for an oral exam!

anna 我好緊張。我的語調會不會很奇怪？口音會不會太重？

wǒ hǎo jǐnzhāng wǒ de yǔdiào huì bu huì hěn qíguài kǒuyīn huì bu huì tài zhòng · I'm so nervous. Will my intonation sound strange? Will my accent be too strong?

david 你的中文說得很流利。說慢一點就好。

nǐ de zhōngwén shuō de hěn liúlì shuō màn yìdiǎn jiù hǎo · Your Chinese is fluent. Just speak a little slowly.

anna （一個小時以後）我合格了！教授說，我的論文是今年最好的研究之一！

yí ge xiǎoshí yǐhòu wǒ hégé le jiàoshòu shuō wǒ de lùnwén shì jīnnián zuì hǎo de yánjiù zhī yī · (An hour later) I passed! The professor says my thesis is one of the best pieces of research this year!

anna 教授叫我用一個成語造句，還問我為什麼選這個科目。他說，學歷和文憑不是最重要的，重要的是研究。

jiàoshòu jiào wǒ yòng yí ge chéngyǔ zàojù hái wèn wǒ wèishénme xuǎn zhè ge kēmù tā shuō xuélì hé wénpíng bú shì zuì zhòngyào de zhòngyào de shì yánjiù · The professor asked me to make a sentence with an idiom, and why I chose this subject. He said qualifications and diplomas aren't what matters most: the research is.

meiling 恭喜你！你終於拿到碩士學位了！

gōngxǐ nǐ nǐ zhōngyú ná dào shuòshì xuéwèi le · Congratulations! You've finally got your master's degree!

anna 晚上我的指導教授請我們去他家吃飯。師母做了一大桌菜。

wǎnshàng wǒ de zhǐdǎo jiàoshòu qǐng wǒmen qù tā jiā chī fàn shīmǔ zuò le yí dà zhuō cài · Tonight my supervisor has invited us to his home for dinner. His wife has made a huge spread.

david 那你下一步呢？你的第一志願是什麼：升學念博士，還是去輔導學生寫論文？

nà nǐ xià yí bù ne nǐ de dì yī zhìyuàn shì shénme shēngxué niàn bóshì háishì qù fǔdǎo xuéshēng xiě lùnwén · So what's next? What's your first choice: a doctorate, or tutoring students with their theses?

anna 先好好睡三天！其他的事，以後再說。

xiān hǎohǎo shuì sān tiān qítā de shì yǐhòu zài shuō · First, three days of proper sleep! Everything else can wait.

chapter 6 summer courses

david 「暑期開課！」你想把中文寫得更好嗎？你想把口語說得更流利嗎？

shǔqí kāikè nǐ xiǎng bǎ zhōngwén xiě de gèng hǎo ma nǐ xiǎng bǎ kǒuyǔ shuō de gèng liúlì ma · “Summer courses!” Do you want your written Chinese to get better? Do you want your spoken Chinese to be more fluent?

david 這個夏天，研究所的校友開了兩個班。寫作班教你怎麼寫句子、怎麼寫段落，也教你怎麼寫一篇完整的文章。語音班教你怎麼說得準確，也教你用自然的語調說話。

zhè ge xiàtiān yánjiùsuǒ de xiàoyǒu kāi le liǎng ge bān xiězuò bān jiāo nǐ zěnme xiě jùzi zěnme xiě duàn luò yě jiāo nǐ zěnme xiě yì piān wánzhěng de wénzhāng yǔyīn bān jiāo nǐ zěnme shuō de zhǔnquè yě jiāo nǐ yòng zìrán de yǔdiào shuōhuà · This summer, a graduate-school alumnus is opening two classes. The writing class teaches you how to write sentences and paragraphs, and also how to write a whole essay. The pronunciation class teaches you to speak accurately and to use a natural tone.

david 每個班有十位學生，上課的時間是星期二和星期四的晚上，每次兩個小時，一共八個星期。老師會看你寫的每一個字，聽你說的每一句話，並且告訴你哪裡可以改正。

měi ge bān yǒu shí wèi xuéshēng shàngkè de shíjiān shì xīngqíèr hé xīngqísì de wǎnshàng měi cì liǎng ge xiǎoshí yígòng bā ge xīngqí lǎoshī huì kàn nǐ xiě de měi yí ge zì tīng nǐ shuō de měi yí jù huà bìngqiě gàosù nǐ nǎlǐ kěyǐ gǎizhèng · Each class has ten students and meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for two hours, for eight weeks in all. The teacher will look at every character you write, listen to every sentence you say, and tell you what can be corrected.

david 報名的人如果是研究所的學生，可以得到八折的優惠。位子不多，想參加的同學，請盡快到辦公室報名。學校的圖書館也會開到晚上十點，讓大家下課以後可以查資料。歡迎大家來！

bàomíng de rén rúguǒ shì yánjiùsuǒ de xuéshēng kěyǐ dédào bā zhé de yōuhuì wèizi bù duō xiǎng cānjiā de tóngxué qǐng jìn kuài dào bàngōngshì bàomíng xuéxiào de túshūguǎn yě huì kāi dào wǎnshàng shí diǎn ràng dàjiā xiàkè yǐhòu kěyǐ chá zīliào huānyíng dàjiā lái · Students of the graduate school who sign up get a 20 per cent discount. Places are few, so anyone who wants to join should come to the office and sign up as soon as possible. The library will also stay open until 10 pm so you can look things up after class. Everyone is welcome!

A notice, a library, a red pen, a lost file and a pass: you followed a whole thesis week in Chinese. Congratulations, Master Anna!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**