day 48 back to class

Talk about a new term, lessons and homework, and say "what someone does" with 所 + verb + 的.

所 + verb + 的 is everywhere in Taiwan's notices, speeches and books, and it makes your Chinese sound grown-up.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
教	jiào	make, cause (教人.....)	你這樣說，教{jiao4-tw2}我怎麼辦？ If you put it like that, what am I supposed to do?
課文	kèwén	lesson text	請大家先念一遍課文。 Everyone, please read the text through once first.
鉛筆	qiānbǐ	pencil	考試的時候要{=must}用鉛筆寫。 You have to write in pencil in the exam.
校長	xiàozhǎng	head teacher, principal	校長歡迎新同學。 The principal welcomed the new students.
複習	fùxí	review, revise (lessons)	考試以前，我得{dei3-tw}好好複習。 Before the exam I need to revise properly.
記	jì	note down; remember	老師說的話，我都記在本子上。 I write down everything the teacher says in my notebook.
練	liàn	practise, train	她每天練一個小時的書法。 She practises calligraphy for an hour a day.
留學	liúxué	study abroad	安娜來臺灣留學。 Anna came to Taiwan to study.
外語	wàiyǔ	foreign language	學外語要{=need to}有耐心。 Learning a foreign language takes patience.
所	suǒ	(measure for schools); what (所 + verb)	這是我所知道的一切。 That's everything I know.
發達	fādá	developed, advanced	臺北的交通很發達。 Taipei has an excellent transport network.
及	jí	and (written)	請帶護照及照片來。 Please bring your passport and a photo.
令	lìng	make, cause (a feeling)	這個消息令人很高興。 This is very happy news.
確認	quèrèn	confirm	請你再確認一下上課的時間。 Please double-check the class time.
升	shēng	rise; go up (a grade, a job)	她今年升經理了。 She was promoted to manager this year.

特殊	tèshū	special, unusual	如果沒有特殊的原因，上課不能遲到。 Unless there's a special reason, don't be late for class.
修改	xiūgǎi	revise, edit	老師幫我修改了作文。 The teacher corrected my essay.
智慧	zhìhuì	wisdom	奶奶的話很有智慧。 Grandma's words are full of wisdom.

pattern 所 + verb + 的: what (someone) does

someone | 所 | verb | 的 | (thing)

所 before a verb turns "someone + verb" into a description: 我所知道的 (what I know), 老師所說的話 (what the teacher said). It is a little formal; in speech you can drop 所, but it adds weight in speeches and writing.

這是我所知道的一切。 **zhè shì wǒ suǒ zhīdào de yíqiè** That's everything I know.

老師所說的話，我都記住了。 **lǎoshī suǒ shuō de huà wǒ dōu jìzhù le** I've remembered everything the teacher said.

你所需要的東西，這裡都有。 **nǐ suǒ xūyào de dōngxi zhèlǐ dōu yǒu** Everything you need is here.

dialogue the first day of term

teacher chen 各位同學，歡迎回來！校長要我跟大家說：來臺灣留學的人越來越多，這個消息令我們很高興。

gèwèi tóngxué huānyíng huí lái xiàozhǎng yào wǒ gēn dàjiā shuō lái Táiwān liúxué de rén yuèláiyuè duō zhè ge xiāoxí lìng wǒmen hěn gāoxìng · Welcome back, everyone! The principal asked me to tell you that more and more people are coming to Taiwan to study, which makes us very happy.

david 老師，說到課文，上學期的我還沒複習完呢！

lǎoshī shuō dào kèwén shàng xuéqí de wǒ hái méi fùxí wán ne · Teacher, speaking of texts, I still haven't finished revising last term's!

teacher chen 難的部分我會一點一點地教。你們所學的東西，一定要常常練，這是最基本的。

nán de bùfen wǒ huì yìdiǎn yìdiǎn de jiāo nǐmen suǒ xué de dōngxi yídìng yào chángcháng liàn zhè shì zuì jīběn de · I'll take the hard parts slowly. Whatever you learn, you have to practise often: that's the most basic thing.

anna 老師，這學期我一方面想多練說話，一方面也想把字寫好，這是一個挑戰。

lǎoshī zhè xuéqí wǒ yìfāngmiàn xiǎng duō liàn shuōhuà yìfāngmiàn yě xiǎng bǎ zì xiě hǎo zhè shì yí ge tiǎozhàn · Teacher, this term I want to practise speaking more, and I also want to write characters well: it's a challenge.

teacher chen 很好。考試要用鉛筆寫。考試的範圍、時間及地點，請看黑板，再確認一下。

hěn hǎo kǎoshì yào yòng qiānbǐ xiě kǎoshì de fànwéi shíjiān jí dìdiǎn qǐng kàn hēibǎn zài quèrèn yíxià · Good. The exam is in pencil. For what the exam covers, the time and the place, please look at the board and double-check.

david 老師，我的作文可以晚一點交嗎？我昨天寫到一半，哪裡知道電腦突然壞了，害我一個晚上都沒睡！

lǎoshī wǒ de zuòwén kěyǐ wǎn yìdiǎn jiāo ma wǒ zuótiān xiě dào yíbàn nǎlǐ zhīdào diànnǎo túrán huài le hài wǒ yí ge wǎnshàng dōu méi shuì · Teacher, can I hand my essay in a bit late? I was halfway through yesterday when, of all things, my computer died, and I was up all night!

teacher chen 有特殊的情況，可以晚一點交。不過現在網路這麼發達，你怎麼不先存起來？

yǒu tèshū de qíngkuàng kěyǐ wǎn yìdiǎn jiāo búguò xiànzài wǎnglù zhème fādá nǐ zěnme bù xiān cún qǐlai · In special circumstances you can hand it in later. But with the internet as good as it is these days, why didn't you save a copy first?

david 算了，我以後一定記得。我會重新寫，再請您幫我修改。

suànle wǒ yǐhòu yídìng jìde wǒ huì chóngxīn xiě zài qǐng nín bāng wǒ xiūgǎi · Oh well, I'll remember next time. I'll rewrite it and ask you to correct it.

teacher chen 學外語需要智慧，也需要耐心。你這樣說，教我怎麼生你的氣呢？

xué wàiyǔ xūyào zhìhuì yě xūyào nàixīn nǐ zhèyàng shuō jiào wǒ zěnme shēng nǐ de qì ne · Learning a language takes wisdom, and patience too. When you put it like that, how can I be cross with you?

anna 大衛既幽默又會說話，老師永遠都不會生他的氣！

Dàwèi jì yōumò yòu huì shuōhuà lǎoshī yǒngyuǎn dōu bú huì shēng tā de qì · David is funny and a smooth talker: Teacher will never be cross with him!

write it trace the grey, then write your own



道 dào (measure word for dishes, courses)										

會
huì
can (a skill); will



倒
dào
actually, on the contrary



接
jiē
meet, pick up; answer (the phone)

good to know · 所 + verb + 的 often comes with 一切 or 都: 我所有的 (all I have), 你所說的我都同意 (I agree with all you said). 教 has two readings: jiāo (teach: 教中文) and jiào (in words like 教室, 教育, and "make someone…": 這教我怎麼辦).

You can now talk about a new term and sound a little more formal with 所 + verb + 的.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 49 courses and reading

Choose courses and talk about reading and listening, give your view with 對……來說 (for someone), and name the main point with 主要(的)是.

對我來說 is how you share an opinion politely: it says “this is just how it is for me”.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
報名	bàomíng	sign up, enrol	我想報名參加這個活動。 I’d like to sign up for this event.
教師	jiàoshī	teacher (formal)	她是一位中文教師。 She’s a Chinese teacher.
課程	kèchéng	course, curriculum	這個課程一共有十二個星期。 This course is twelve weeks long.
文章	wénzhāng	article, essay	我昨天讀了一篇很有意思的文章。 I read a really interesting article yesterday.
預習	yùxí	prepare a lesson (read ahead)	上課以前，最好先預習。 It’s best to read ahead before class.
閱讀	yuèdú	read (reading)	我每天閱讀半個小時的中文。 I read Chinese for half an hour every day.
留學生	liúxuéshēng	international student	我們學校有很多留學生。 Our university has lots of international students.
課堂	kètáng	classroom; in class	課堂上，老師常常讓我們說話。 In class, the teacher often gets us talking.
聽力	tīnglì	listening (skill)	多聽中文歌可以提高聽力。 Listening to Chinese songs can improve your listening.
主要	zhǔyào	main; mainly	我學中文，主要是為了工作。 I’m learning Chinese mainly for work.
發揮	fāhuī	bring out, make full use of	這個工作可以發揮你的能力。 This job lets you use your abilities to the full.
技巧	jìqiǎo	technique, skill	閱讀也有技巧。 There’s a technique to reading too.
面積	miànjī	area (size)	臺灣的面積不太大，可是人很多。 Taiwan isn’t very large, but it has a lot of people.
人家	rénjiā	others, other people; I (coy)	人家都準備好了，你呢？ Everyone else is ready. What about you?
生動	shēngdòng	lively, vivid	陳老師上課很生動。 Teacher Chen’s classes are really lively.

體會	tǐhuì	realise, understand (by experience)	自己當了老師，才體會到老師的辛苦。 Only when I became a teacher did I realise how hard it is.
要緊	yàojǐn	important, urgent	不要緊，我們再試一次。 Never mind, let's try again.
掌握	zhǎngwò	master, have a grasp of	這一課的文法，你掌握了嗎？ Have you got the grammar of this lesson?

pattern 對……來說 (for someone) and 主要(的)是 (mainly)

對 **someone** **來說** **, how it is for them**

對 + someone + 來說 means "for someone, as far as they're concerned": 對我來說 (for me). 主要(的)是 puts the main point or reason up front: 主要是時間不夠 (mainly, there isn't enough time).

對我來說，閱讀比聽力容易。 **duì wǒ láishuō yuèdú bǐ tīnglì róngyì** For me, reading is easier than listening.

這個課程主要是練習閱讀的技巧。 **zhè ge kèchéng zhǔyào shì liànxí yuèdú de jìqiǎo** This course mainly practises reading techniques.

我來臺灣，主要的原因是想學中文。 **wǒ lái Táiwān zhǔyào de yuányīn shì xiǎng xué zhōngwén** The main reason I came to Taiwan is to learn Chinese.

dialogue choosing courses

david 安娜，你報名了什麼課？

Ānnà nǐ bàomíng le shénme kè · Anna, what have you signed up for?

anna 一門閱讀課和一門聽力課。對我來說，聽力主要的問題是大家說得太快。

yì mén yuèdú kè hé yì mén tīnglì kè duì wǒ láishuō tīnglì zhǔyào de wèntí shì dàjiā shuō de tài kuài · A reading course and a listening course. For me, the main problem with listening is that everyone talks so fast.

david 我跟你不一樣。對我來說，閱讀最難，字太多了。學外語真不容易！

wǒ gēn nǐ bù yíyàng duì wǒ láishuō yuèdú zuì nán zì tài duō le xué wàiyǔ zhēn bù róngyì · I'm the opposite. For me reading is the hardest: there are so many characters. Learning a foreign language isn't easy!

teacher chen 閱讀也有技巧。上課以前先預習，下課以後要複習，這樣才能發揮最好的效果。

yuèdú yě yǒu jìqiǎo shàngkè yǐqián xiān yùxí xiàkè yǐhòu yào fùxí zhèyàng cái néng fāhuī zuìhǎo de xiàoguǒ · There's a technique to reading. Read ahead before class and review afterwards: that's how you get the most out of it.

david 老師，人家說讀報紙最有用，是真的嗎？

lǎoshī rénjiā shuō dú bàozhǐ zuì yǒuyòng shì zhēnde ma · Teacher, people say reading newspapers is the most useful. Is that true?

teacher chen 是有用，可是報紙的文章不一定生動。我建議你們先讀一些故事，自己去體會。

shì yǒuyòng kěshì bàozhǐ de wénzhāng bù yídìng shēngdòng wǒ jiànyì nǐmen xiān dú yìxiē gùshi zìjǐ qù tǐhuì · It is useful, but newspaper articles aren't always lively. I suggest you start with some stories and get a feel for them yourselves.

anna 上次我把「面積」看成了「面前」，大家都笑了。

shàng cì wǒ bǎ miànjī kàn chéng le miànqián dàjiā dōu xiào le · Last time I read 面積 (area) as 面前 (in front of), and everyone laughed.

teacher chen 不要緊，這是很多留學生都有的問題。主要是多讀，讀幾次就掌握了。

bú yàojǐn zhè shì hěn duō liúxuéshēng dōu yǒu de wèntí zhǔyào shì duō dú dú jǐ cì jiù zhǎngwò le · Never mind, lots of international students do that. The main thing is to read a lot: after a few times you'll have it.

david 好！我說報名就報名，現在就去！

hǎo wǒ shuō bàomíng jiù bàomíng xiànzài jiù qù · Right! No sooner said than done: I'm signing up now!

anna 幸虧有老師幫我們，要不然我們還在想呢。

xìngkuī yǒu lǎoshī bāng wǒmen yàobùrán wǒmen hái zài xiǎng ne · Lucky we had your help, Teacher, or we'd still be thinking about it.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

秒

秒 miǎo second

條 tiáo (measure word for long things)

慶 qìng celebrate



祝 zhù wish (someone something)	祝	祝	祝	祝	祝					

good to know · 對我來說 softens an opinion: it is yours, not a rule. Taiwanese speakers use it a lot in discussions. Taiwan's reading tests say 閱讀 and listening tests 聽力: you'll see both words on TOCFL papers.

You can now choose a course, say what matters to you and why, and ask a teacher for the trick of it. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 50 scholarships and fees

Talk about fees, scholarships and applications, soften your words with 不是很..... (not very), and tell what happened next with 於是 (and so).

Money and plans are delicate topics: 不是很 keeps you polite, and 於是 makes your stories flow.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
博士	bóshì	PhD, doctor (degree)	我姊姊在美國念博士。 My older sister is doing a PhD in the US.
獎學金	jiǎngxuéjīn	scholarship	她拿到了一筆獎學金。 She got a scholarship.
學費	xuéfèi	tuition fees	這所{suo3-tw2}大學的學費不太貴。 This university's fees aren't too high.
翻譯	fānyì	translate; translator	請你把這句話翻譯成英文。 Please translate this sentence into English.
文字	wénzì	writing, written words	中文的文字很美。 Written Chinese is beautiful.
專心	zhuānxīn	focused, concentrating	上課的時候要{=should}專心。 Concentrate in class.
教材	jiàocái	teaching materials	這套{=(measure word: set)}教材很適合自己在家學習。 This set of materials is great for studying on your own at home.
錄取	lùqǔ	admit (to a school), accept	她被臺北的大學錄取了。 She's been accepted by a university in Taipei.
證書	zhèngshū	certificate	上完這個課程，可以拿到證書。 You get a certificate when you finish the course.
於是	yúshì	so, and so (then)	學費太貴了，於是他決定先工作。 The fees were too high, so he decided to work first.
改進	gǎijìn	improve (methods, work)	我們的方法還|有很多地方可以改進。 Our methods could still be improved in many ways.
建立	jiànlì	establish, build up	我們要{=want}跟其他學校建立關係。 We want to build ties with other schools.
明顯	míngxiǎn	obvious, clear	你的中文進步得很明顯。 Your Chinese has clearly improved.
如	rú	such as; if (written)	如有問題，請跟我們聯絡。 If you have any questions, please contact us.
深入	shēnrù	in-depth, thorough	這篇文章寫得很深入。 This article goes into real depth.
同	tóng	same; with (written)	我們是同一年來臺灣的。 We came to Taiwan in the same year.

一時	yīshí	for a moment, temporarily	他的名字我一時想不起來。 His name escapes me for the moment.
珍貴	zhēnguì	precious, valuable	這是一個很珍貴的機會。 This is a precious opportunity.

pattern 不是很..... (not very) and 於是 (and so)

不是很 **adjective** **= not that..., gently**

不是很 + adjective is a softer “not very”: 不是很貴 (not that expensive). Plain 不貴 sounds firmer. 於是 links what happened to what came next because of it: “and so...”. It is for telling what happened, not for advice or plans.

這本教材不是很難，可是很有用。 **zhè běn jiàocái bú shì hěn nán kěshì hěn yǒuyòng** This textbook isn’t too hard, but it’s really useful.

學費太貴了，於是她開始找獎學金。 **xuéfèi tài guì le yúshì tā kāishǐ zhǎo jiǎngxuéjīn** The fees were too high, so she started looking for scholarships.

我對這個城市不是很熟悉。 **wǒ duì zhè ge chéngshì bú shì hěn shóuxī** I don’t know this city all that well.

dialogue a phd?

anna 美玲，我在想要不要念博士。最初我只想學一年中文，現在卻想留下來。
Měilíng wǒ zài xiǎng yào bu yào niàn bóshì zuìchū wǒ zhǐ xiǎng xué yì nián zhōngwén xiànzài què xiǎng liú xialai · Meiling, I'm wondering whether to do a PhD. At first I only wanted to study Chinese for a year, but now I want to stay.

meiling 真的？博士班的課程難不難？學費貴不貴？
zhēnde bóshì bān de kèchéng nán bu nán xuéfèi guì bu guì · Really? Is a PhD course hard? Are the fees expensive?

anna 不是很貴，可是對我來說，還是一個問題。主要是我還要付房租。
bú shì hěn guì kěshì duì wǒ láishuō háishì yí ge wèntí zhǔyào shì wǒ hái yào fù fángzū · Not that expensive, but for me it's still a problem. Mainly because I've also got rent to pay.

meiling 難怪你最近這麼專心看電腦！你在找獎學金？
nánguài nǐ zuìjìn zhème zhuānxīn kàn diànnǎo nǐ zài zhǎo jiǎngxuéjīn · No wonder you've been glued to your computer lately! Are you looking for a scholarship?

anna 對。有一個獎學金很適合我，條件我也都符合，像學費、房租什麼的都包括。
duì yǒu yí ge jiǎngxuéjīn hěn shìhé wǒ tiáojiàn wǒ yě dōu fúhé xiàng xuéfèi fángzū shénmede dōu bāokuò · Yes. There's one that's perfect for me, and I meet all the conditions: it covers fees, rent, that kind of thing.

meiling 太好了！要準備什麼？
tài hǎo le yào zhǔnbèi shénme · Great! What do you need to prepare?

anna 中文證書、成績的翻譯，再加上一個研究計畫。我想深入研究中文的文字，也想跟教授建立關係。
zhōngwén zhèngshū chéngjī de fānyì zài jiāshàng yí ge yánjiù jìhuà wǒ xiǎng shēnrù yánjiù zhōngwén de wénzì yě xiǎng gēn jiàoshòu jiànlì guānxì · A Chinese certificate, a translation of my grades, plus a research plan. I want to study Chinese writing in depth, and build a relationship with a professor.

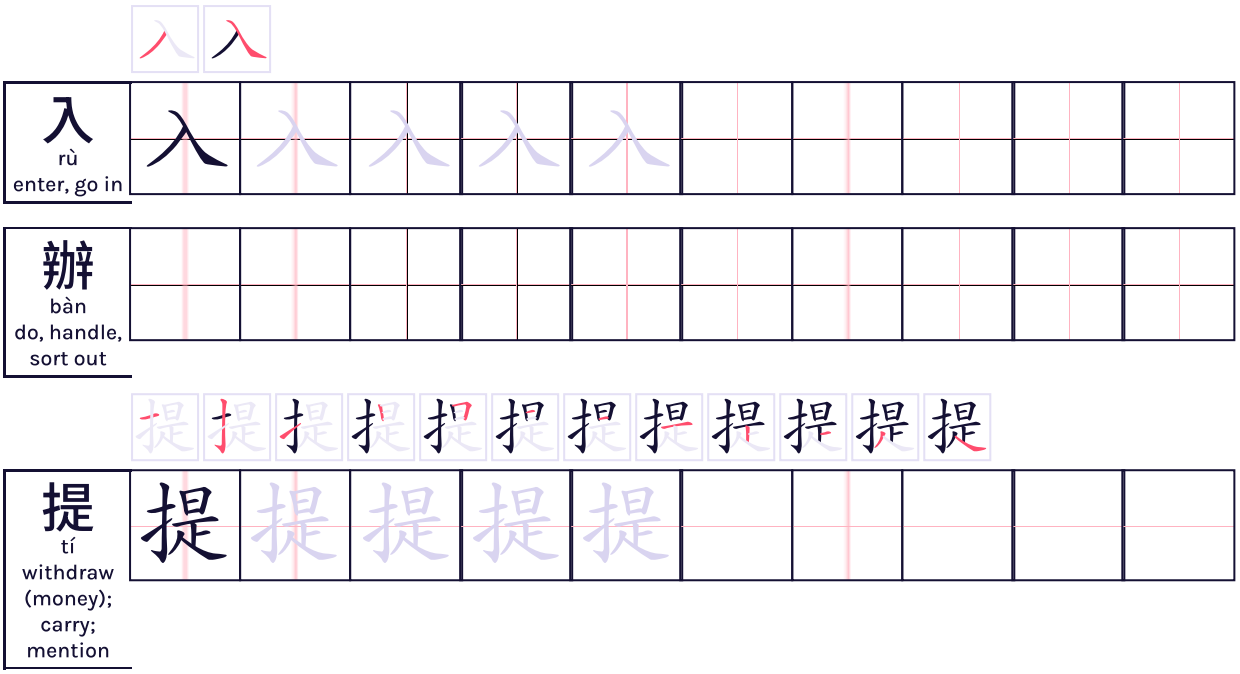
meiling 你的中文進步得很明顯，經過這一年，一定沒問題。研究計畫要寫得生動一點，才能吸引教授。我可以幫你看一下，看哪裡還可以修改、改進。
nǐ de zhōngwén jìnbù de hěn míngxiǎn jīngguò zhè yì nián yídìng méi wèntí yánjiù jìhuà yào xiě de shēngdòng yìdiǎn cái néng xīyǐn jiàoshòu wǒ kěyǐ bāng nǐ kàn yíxià kàn nǎlǐ hái kěyǐ xiūgǎi gǎijìn · Your Chinese has obviously improved; after this year you'll be fine. Make the research plan a bit lively: that's how you catch a professor's eye. I can look it over and see what could be changed or made better.

anna 謝謝！上次有一個很好的機會，我一時太忙，沒去報名，於是我決定這次早點準備。啊，我差點忘了，明天就是最後一天！
xièxie shàng cì yǒu yí ge hěn hǎo de jīhuì wǒ yìshí tài máng méi qù bàomíng yúshì wǒ juédìng zhè cì zǎodiǎn zhǔnbèi a wǒ chàdiǎn wàng le míngtiān jiù shì zuìhòu yì tiān · Thanks! Last time there was a great opportunity, but I was busy for a while and didn't apply, so this time I decided to prepare early. Oh, I almost forgot: tomorrow is the last day!

meiling 那快回家吧！這是一個很珍貴的機會。如果被錄取了，你就是安娜博士了！
nà kuài huí jiā ba zhè shì yí ge hěn zhēnguì de jīhuì rúguǒ bèi lùqǔ le nǐ jiù shì Ānnà bóshì le · Then home, quick! This is a precious chance. If you get in, you'll be Dr Anna!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

加 jiā add



good to know · Taiwanese speakers soften a lot: 不是很好吃 (not that tasty) is a polite way of saying "I didn't like it". 於是 tells a story (it happened, and so…); for a conclusion or advice use 所以.

You can now talk about fees and applications politely and tell the story of a decision.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 51 giving a talk

Prepare a talk and ask for advice, and say formally that something can't be done with 無法 (be unable to).

Sooner or later you'll speak in front of a room, and 無法 is the polite, grown-up "I can't" of emails and notices.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
記錄	jìlù	record; notes	我把老師說的重點都記錄下來了。 I wrote down all the key points the teacher made.
演講	yǎnjiǎng	give a speech; speech	明天我要{=have to}用中文演講。 Tomorrow I have to give a speech in Chinese.
參考	cānkǎo	consult, refer to	你可以參考這本書。 You can refer to this book.
請教	qǐngjiào	ask for advice	老師，我可以請教您一個問題嗎？ Teacher, may I ask you something?
地理	dìlǐ	geography	大衛對臺灣的地理很了解。 David knows Taiwan's geography well.
錄	lù	record (sound, video)	我可以錄下來嗎？ May I record it?
用法	yòngfǎ	usage, how to use	這個詞的用法很多。 This word can be used in many ways.
培養	péiyǎng	cultivate, develop (a habit, talent)	從小就要{=should}培養閱讀的習慣。 A reading habit should be built from childhood.
概念	gàiniàn	concept, idea	我對這個概念還|不太清楚。 I'm still not quite clear on this concept.
無法	wúfǎ	be unable to, can't	我太緊張了，無法專心。 I'm too nervous to concentrate.
觀察	guānchá	observe, watch closely	演講的時候，要{=should}觀察聽的人。 When you give a speech, watch your audience.
克服	kèfú	overcome	她克服了很多困難。 She has overcome a lot of difficulties.
某	mǒu	a certain, some	某些問題，我們下次再討論。 Some questions we'll discuss next time.
如此	rúcǐ	so, like this	原來如此！ Oh, so that's it!
水準	shuǐzhǔn	level, standard	他的中文水準很高。 His Chinese is at a high level.
維持	wéichí	maintain, keep up	我希望能夠維持現在的成績。 I hope I can keep my grades where they are.

一向	yīxiàng	always, all along	他一向很準時。 He's always on time.
狀態	zhuàngtài	state, condition, form	我今天的狀態很好。 I'm on good form today.

pattern 無法: be unable to

someone / something | 無法 | two-syllable verb | = can't (formal)

無法 + verb means "be unable to". It is more formal than 不能 or a verb + 不了, so it suits notices, emails and speeches. It usually takes a two-syllable verb: 無法參加, 無法回答, 無法進行.

老師生病了，今天無法上課。 **lǎoshī shēngbìng le jīntiān wúfǎ shàngkè** The teacher is ill, so there's no class today.

我一時無法決定。 **wǒ yìshí wúfǎ juédìng** I can't decide just yet.

因為下雨，活動無法進行。 **yīnwèi xiàyǔ huódòng wúfǎ jìnxíng** Because of the rain, the event can't go ahead.

dialogue help with a talk

anna 陳老師，我可以請教您一個問題嗎？下個月我得用中文演講。

Chén lǎoshī wǒ kěyǐ qǐngjiào nín yí ge wèntí ma xià ge yuè wǒ děi yòng zhōngwén yǎnjiǎng · Teacher Chen, may I ask your advice? Next month I have to give a talk in Chinese.

teacher chen 當然可以。題目是什麼？

dāngrán kěyǐ tímù shì shénme · Of course. What's the topic?

anna 臺灣的地理。可是我太緊張了，一直無法開始寫。

Táiwān de dìlǐ kěshì wǒ tài jǐnzhāng le yìzhí wúfǎ kāishǐ xiě · Taiwan's geography. But I'm so nervous I just can't start writing.

teacher chen 先參考幾本書和教材，把重要的概念記錄下來。除了書以外，你也可以觀察你身邊的東西，像山、河什麼的。

xiān cānkǎo jǐ běn shū hé jiàocái bǎ zhòngyào de gàiniàn jìlù xiàlái chúle shū yǐwài nǐ yě kěyǐ guānchá nǐ shēnbiān de dōngxi xiàng shān hé shénmede · First consult a few books and textbooks and note down the key ideas. Besides books, you can observe what's around you: mountains, rivers and so on.

anna 上次在課堂上說話，我說得太快，某些詞的用法也錯了。

shàng cì zài kètáng shàng shuōhuà wǒ shuō de tài kuài mǒu xiē cí de yòngfǎ yě cuò le · Last time I spoke in class, I went too fast and got some words wrong too.

teacher chen 不要緊。你可以把自己說的話錄下來，再聽一遍。演講的時候，維持好的狀態最重要。

bú yàojǐn nǐ kěyǐ bǎ zìjǐ shuō de huà lù xialai zài tīng yí biàn yǎnjiǎng de shíhòu wéichí hǎo de zhuàngtài zuì zhòngyào · Never mind. You can record yourself and listen again. When you give the talk, staying in good form is what matters most.

anna 老師，我的水準不是很高，真的能夠克服嗎？

lǎoshī wǒ de shuǐzhǔn bú shì hěn gāo zhēnde nénggòu kèfú ma · Teacher, my level isn't very high. Can I really get past this?

teacher chen 你一向很努力，一定可以。演講也有技巧，多練幾次就能掌握。能力是一點一點培養出來的。

nǐ yíxiàng hěn nǔlì yídìng kěyǐ yǎnjiǎng yě yǒu jìqiǎo duō liàn jǐ cì jiù néng zhǎngwò nénglì shì yìdiǎn yìdiǎn péiyǎng chū lái de · You've always worked hard; you certainly can. Giving talks is a skill too: practise a few times and you'll master it. Ability is built up bit by bit.

anna 原來如此！我先寫，寫好了再給您看。

yuánlái rúcǐ wǒ xiān xiě xiě hǎo le zài gěi nín kàn · I see! I'll write it first and show you when it's done.

teacher chen 好，加油！你的進步很明顯，我等你的好消息。

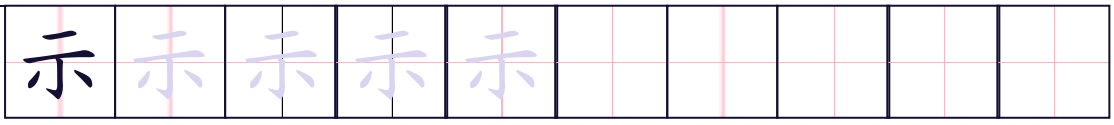
hǎo jiāyóu nǐ de jìnbù hěn míngxiǎn wǒ děng nǐ de hǎo xiāoxí · Good. Go for it! You've clearly improved: I'll wait for your good news.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

證
zhèng
prove



示
shì
indicate





交
jiāo
hand in, hand over



流
liú
flow, run

good to know · 請教 is the polite way to ask someone for advice or information, especially someone older or more expert: 我想請教您. Taiwan says 水準 for level or standard (中文水準); 水平 is more common on the mainland.

You can now ask for advice like a pro and say “I can’t” in a way that fits an email or a speech.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 52 tones and progress

Talk about tones, progress and setbacks, ask “what’s going on?” with 怎麼(一)回事, and say “if it weren’t for…” with 要不是.

Every learner has a tone disaster story; today you can tell yours, and thank whoever saved you with 要不是.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
聲調	shēngdiào	tone (of a syllable)	中文有四個聲調。 Chinese has four tones.
學會	xuéhuì	learn (to do), master	我終於學會騎機車了。 I’ve finally learned to ride a scooter.
學問	xuéwèn	learning, knowledge	陳|老師很有學問。 Teacher Chen is very learned.
退步	tuìbù	fall behind, get worse	一個月沒練，我的中文退步了。 A month without practice and my Chinese has slipped.
感想	gǎnxiǎng	thoughts, impressions	看完這部{=(measure word)}電影，你有什麼感想？ What did you think of the film?
漢語	hànyǔ	Chinese (the language)	漢語的聲調不容易。 Chinese tones aren’t easy.
禮堂	lǐtáng	auditorium, assembly hall	新生的活動在禮堂舉行。 The welcome event for new students is in the auditorium.
新生	xīnshēng	new student, freshman	今年的新生比去年多。 There are more new students this year than last.
心得	xīndé	what you’ve learned, takeaways	請大家寫一篇學習心得。 Please each write a short piece on what you’ve learned.
要不是	yàobúshì	if it weren’t for, if not	要不是你幫我，我就遲到了。 If it weren’t for your help, I’d have been late.
觀點	guāndiǎn	point of view	我同意你的觀點。 I agree with your point of view.
肯	kěn	be willing to	他不肯跟我說實話。 He won’t tell me the truth.
親自	qīnzì	in person, personally	校長親自來歡迎我們。 The principal came to welcome us in person.
如下	rúxià	as follows	考試的時間如下。 The exam times are as follows.
思想	sīxiǎng	thought, thinking (ideas)	他的思想很新。 His thinking is very fresh.
相對	xiāngduì	relative(ly)	這裡的房租相對便宜。 Rent here is relatively cheap.

意義	yìyì	meaning, significance	這次比賽對我很有意義。 This competition means a lot to me.
最佳	zuìjiā	best (formal)	這裡是看日出的最佳地點。 This is the best spot to watch the sunrise.
回事	huíshì	matter, business (怎麼回事)	這是怎麼回事？ What's going on here?

pattern 怎麼(一)回事 (what's going on?) and 要不是 (if it weren't for)

(這 / 那) 是 **怎麼(一)回事** **？**

怎麼(一)回事 asks "what's going on? what happened?" when something surprises you. 要不是 + the thing that helped, then (就) what would have happened without it: 要不是你，我就遲到了 (if it weren't for you, I'd have been late).

你的眼睛怎麼紅了？是怎麼回事？ **nǐ de yǎnjīng zěnme hóng le shì zěnmehuíshì** Why are your eyes red? What happened?

要不是老師親自幫我，我早就不學了。 **yàobúshì lǎoshī qīnzì bāng wǒ wǒ zǎo jiù bù xué le** If my teacher hadn't helped me personally, I'd have given up long ago.

大家都在笑，是怎麼一回事？ **dàjiā dōu zài xiào shì zěnmeyìhuíshì** Everyone's laughing. What's going on?

dialogue sleep or dumplings?

david 安娜，剛才在禮堂，新生都笑了，是怎麼回事？
Ānnà gāngcái zài lǐtáng xīnshēng dōu xiào le shì zěnmehuíshì · Anna, the new students were all laughing in the auditorium just now. What happened?

anna 別說了！我想說「睡覺」，可是聲調錯了，大家都聽成了「水餃」！要不是陳老師過來幫我，我一定無法說完。
bié shuō le wǒ xiǎng shuō shuìjiào kěshì shēngdiào cuò le dàjiā dōu tīng chéng le shuǐjiǎo yàobúshì Chén lǎoshī guò lái bāng wǒ wǒ yídìng wúfǎ shuō wán · Don't ask! I meant to say 睡覺 (sleep), but I got the tones wrong and everyone heard 水餃 (dumplings)! If Teacher Chen hadn't come over to help me, I'd never have got to the end.

teacher chen 別這麼想。除了聲調以外，你的演講很有意義，觀點也很清楚。
bié zhème xiǎng chúle shēngdiào yǐwài nǐ de yǎnjiǎng hěn yǒu yìyì guāndiǎn yě hěn qīngchǔ · Don't look at it that way. Apart from the tones, your talk was meaningful and your point of view was clear.

anna 可是我覺得我的聲調退步了，狀態也不好。
kěshì wǒ juéde wǒ de shēngdiào tuìbù le zhuàngtài yě bù hǎo · But I feel my tones have got worse, and I'm not on form.

teacher chen 學會聲調不容易，這是一門學問。跟一年前比，你的聲調相對好多了。
xuéhuì shēngdiào bù róngyì zhè shì yì mén xuéwèn gēn yì nián qián bǐ nǐ de shēngdiào xiāngduì hǎo duō le · Mastering tones isn't easy; it's a whole field of study. Compared with a year ago, your tones are much better.

david 對啊！你的思想很新，是今天最佳的演講！
duì a nǐ de sīxiǎng hěn xīn shì jīntiān zuìjiā de yǎnjiǎng · Exactly! Your ideas were fresh: it was the best talk today!

teacher chen 大衛說得對。你演講的時候，新生都很認真，有的還用鉛筆記下來。
Dàwèi shuō de duì nǐ yǎnjiǎng de shíhòu xīnshēng dōu hěn rènzhēn yǒude hái yòng qiānbǐ jì xialai · David's right. During your talk the new students were really focused: some were even writing it down in pencil.

anna 謝謝老師。我會繼續練習，一定要克服這個問題。
xièxie lǎoshī wǒ huì jìxù liànxí yídìng yào kèfú zhè ge wèntí · Thank you, Teacher. I'll keep practising: I'm determined to get past this.

teacher chen 我要請大家寫一篇感想，要求如下：三百字以上，寫你們學漢語的心得。
wǒ yào qǐng dàjiā xiě yì piān gǎnxiǎng yāoqiú rúxià sānbǎi zì yǐshàng xiě nǐmen xué hànyǔ de xīndé · I'd like everyone to write a short reflection. The requirements are as follows: at least three hundred characters, on what you've learned studying Chinese.

david 三百字？老師，我可以少寫一點嗎？
sānbǎi zì lǎoshī wǒ kěyǐ shǎo xiě yìdiǎn ma · Three hundred characters? Teacher, can I write a bit less?

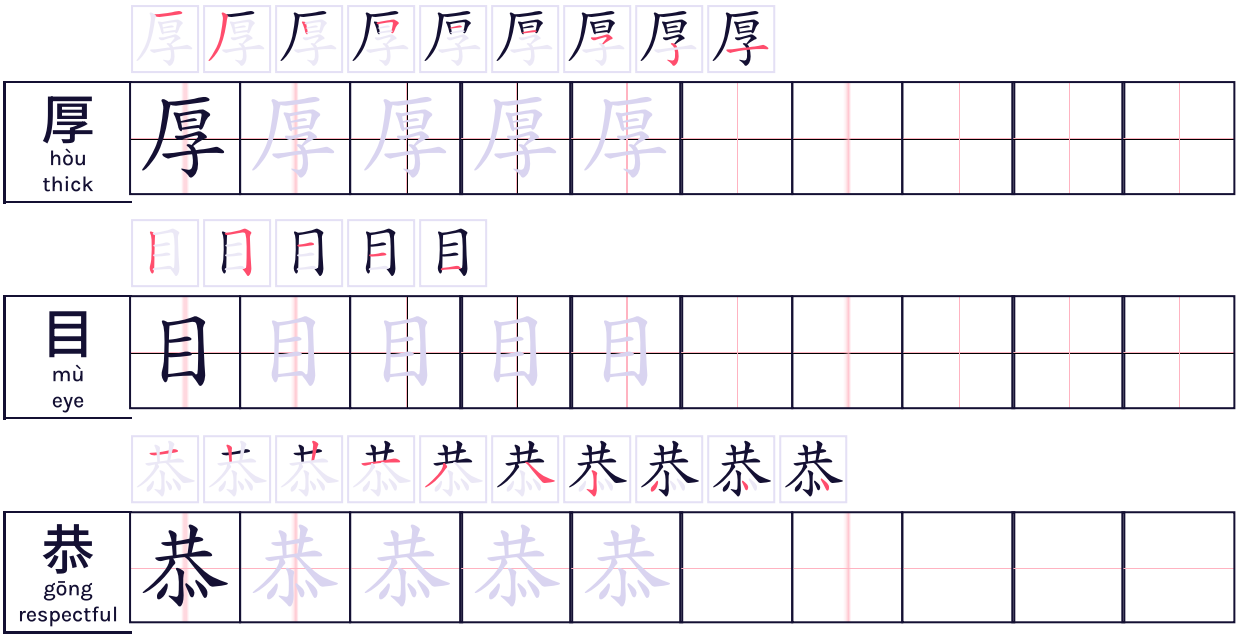
teacher chen 不行。你親自去問校長吧！
bù xíng nǐ qīnzì qù wèn xiàozhǎng ba · No. Go and ask the principal yourself!

anna 大衛，你肯寫三百字，我就請你吃水餃！
Dàwèi nǐ kěn xiě sānbǎi zì wǒ jiù qǐng nǐ chī shuǐjiǎo · David, if you're willing to write three hundred characters, I'll treat you to dumplings!

david 好吧！那我先去參考一下別的留學生寫的文章。
hǎo ba nà wǒ xiān qù cānkǎo yíxià biéde liúxuéshēng xiě de wénzhāng · Fine! Then first I'll go and look at what other international students have written.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

頓
dùn
(measure word for meals)



good to know · 睡覺 (shuìjiào) and 水餃 (shuǐjiǎo) are a famous tone trap: say “I want to sleep” wrong and you’re asking for dumplings. 要不是 looks back at what really happened; 要不然 (or else) looks at what will happen if you don’t act.

You can now laugh about a tone mistake, ask what’s going on, and thank the person who saved the day.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 53 conversation class

Take part in a conversation class, say “every single one” with a doubled measure word (件件, 次次), and “even though…” with 儘管.

Conversation class is where you finally talk about your own life in Chinese, and 儘管 lets you admit the hard parts and keep going.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
會話	huìhuà	conversation (class)	我最喜歡會話課。 Conversation class is my favourite.
名詞	míngcí	noun	「書」是一個名詞。 書 (book) is a noun.
國語	guóyǔ	Mandarin (Taiwan’s everyday word)	你的國語說得真好！ Your Mandarin is really good!
舉手	jǔshǒu	raise your hand	有問題的人請舉手。 If you have a question, please raise your hand.
教導	jiàodǎo	teach, guide	謝謝老師這一年的教導。 Thank you, teacher, for your guidance this year.
教法	jiàofǎ	teaching method	陳|老師的教法很特別。 Teacher Chen has an unusual way of teaching.
生字	shēngzì	new word (vocabulary)	這一課的生字很多。 This lesson has lots of new words.
外文	wàiwén	foreign language	他是念外文的。 He studies foreign languages.
儘管	jǐnguǎn	even though	儘管很累，她|還是{==still}去上課了。 Even though she was tired, she still went to class.
合	hé	together, jointly	我們三個人合買了一本字典。 The three of us chipped in for a dictionary.
理論	lǐlùn	theory	理論很重要，可是練習更重要。 Theory matters, but practice matters more.
清	qīng	clear	這條河的水很清。 The water in this river is very clear.
時刻	shíkè	moment, time	這是我最快樂的時刻。 This is my happiest moment.
似乎	sìhū	seemingly, it seems	他似乎不太高興。 He doesn’t seem very happy.
限	xiàn	limit (to)	每個人限買兩張票。 Two tickets per person maximum.
擁有	yǒngyǒu	own, possess	我們擁有最好的老師。 We have the best teachers.

串	chuàn	string, bunch (measure word)	我買了一串葡萄。 I bought a bunch of grapes.

pattern doubled measure words (件件, 次次: every one) and 儘管 (even though)

measure word × 2 **都** **= every single one**

Double a measure word and you get “every single one”: 件件 (every item), 次次 (every time), 本本 (every book); 都 usually follows. 天天 (every day) works the same way. 儘管…，還是 / 但是… means “even though…, still…”: you admit a fact and go on anyway.

他考試次次都拿第一名。 **tā kǎoshì cì cì dōu ná dì yī míng** He comes first in every single exam.

陳老師的書，本本都很有意思。 **Chén lǎoshī de shū běn běn dōu hěn yǒuyìsi** Every one of Teacher Chen’s books is interesting.

儘管很累，她還是去上會話課了。 **jǐnguǎn hěn lèi tā háishì qù shàng huìhuà kè le** Even though she was tired, she still went to conversation class.

dialogue conversation class

teacher chen 今天的會話課，我們不念課文，也不學生字。說到生活，你們在臺灣最喜歡什麼？
jīntiān de huìhuà kè wǒmen bú niàn kèwén yě bù xué shēngzì shuō dào shēnghuó nǐmen zài Táiwān zuì xǐhuān shénme · In today's conversation class we won't read the text or learn new words. Speaking of life, what do you like best about Taiwan?

david 我最喜歡夜市！一串一串的小吃，串串都好吃。我甚至一個星期去三次！
wǒ zuì xǐhuān yèshì yí chuàn yí chuàn de xiǎochī chuàn chuàn dōu hǎochī wǒ shènzhì yí ge xīngqí qù sān cì · Night markets! Snacks on sticks, every one of them delicious. I even go three times a week!

anna 我最喜歡這裡的人。儘管我的國語不是很好，大家還是很有耐心。
wǒ zuì xǐhuān zhèlǐ de rén jǐnguǎn wǒ de guóyǔ bú shì hěn hǎo dàjiā háishì hěn yǒu nàixīn · I love the people here. Even though my Mandarin isn't great, everyone is so patient.

teacher chen 說得很好。跟臺灣人交流，是學漢語最好的方法。拿安娜來說，她在臺北生活了一年，聲調和閱讀都進步得非常快。
shuō de hěn hǎo gēn Táiwān rén jiāoliú shì xué hànyǔ zuìhǎo de fāngfǎ ná Ānnà lái shuō tā zài Táiběi shēnghuó le yì nián shēngdiào hé yuèdú dōu jìnbù de fēicháng kuài · Well said. Talking with Taiwanese people is the best way to learn Chinese. Take Anna: she's lived in Taipei for a year, and her tones and reading have come on very fast.

teacher chen 大衛，你一直舉手，是怎麼回事？
Dàwèi nǐ yìzhí jǔshǒu shì zěnmehuíshì · David, you keep putting your hand up. What is it?

david 老師，我想請教一個問題：「理論」是名詞嗎？
lǎoshī wǒ xiǎng qǐngjiào yí ge wèntí lǐlùn shì míngcí ma · Teacher, may I ask a question: is 理論 (theory) a noun?

teacher chen 是。可是學外文，理論似乎沒有那麼重要，最重要的是多說。
shì kěshì xué wàiwén lǐlùn sìhū méiyǒu nàme zhòngyào zuì zhòngyào de shì duō shuō · Yes. But when you're learning a foreign language, theory doesn't seem to matter that much: the most important thing is to talk a lot.

anna 老師的教法很特別。您一方面教我們理論，一方面讓我們天天說。要不是這樣，我們不會進步這麼快。
lǎoshī de jiàofǎ hěn tèbié nín yìfāngmiàn jiāo wǒmen lǐlùn yìfāngmiàn ràng wǒmen tiāntiān shuō yàobúshì zhèyàng wǒmen bú huì jìnbù zhème kuài · Your teaching method is special. On the one hand you teach us the theory, on the other you get us talking every day. If it weren't for that, we wouldn't have improved so fast.

teacher chen 謝謝你們。能擁有你們這些學生，我很開心。教書的樂趣就在這裡。
xièxie nǐmen néng yǒngyǒu nǐmen zhèxiē xuéshēng wǒ hěn kāixīn jiāoshū de lèqù jiù zài zhèlǐ · Thank you. I'm very happy to have students like you. That's the joy of teaching.

david 這是上課最快樂的時刻！老師，您的教導，我們次次都記在心裡！
zhè shì shàngkè zuì kuàilè de shíkè lǎoshī nín de jiàodǎo wǒmen cì cì dōu jì zài xīn lǐ · This is the happiest moment of class! Teacher, we take your teaching to heart every single time!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

留
liú
leave (for someone); stay

言
yán
words



抱
bào
hold in your arms, hug

罵
mà
scold, tell off

good to know · In Taiwan, Mandarin is 國語 in daily life and 華語 when taught to foreigners; 中文 works everywhere. Doubled measure words are lively and spoken: 件件都好看 sounds warmer than 每一件都好看.

You can now talk about your life in Taiwan, praise every single thing, and keep going even when it's hard.
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day 54 mission: anna's graduate school interview

Follow a whole application story: an invitation email, advice, a practice run, the interview itself and the result.

An interview in Chinese is a big step: today all of unit 8 comes back in one story about Anna's PhD application.

chapter 1 an invitation

anna 美玲！學校給我寄了一封電子郵件，我念給你聽。

Měilíng xuéxiào gěi wǒ jì le yì fēng diànzǐyóujiàn wǒ niàn gěi nǐ tīng · Meiling! The university has emailed me. I'll read it to you.

anna 「安娜同學您好：您報名的博士課程及獎學金，我們已經收到。請您在十一月五號上午十點，到禮堂旁邊的辦公室，跟王教授談話。要求如下：一、帶護照及中文證書。二、準備一個三分鐘的演講，題目是「我所知道的臺灣」。三、如有特殊情況，無法參加，請早點跟我們聯絡。請確認您的時間，謝謝。」

Ānnà tóngxué nín hǎo nín bàomíng de bóshì kèchéng jí jiǎngxuéjīn wǒmen yǐjīng shōu dào qǐng nín zài shíyī yuè wǔ hào shàngwǔ shí diǎn dào lǐtáng pángbiān de bàngōngshì gēn Wáng jiàoshòu tánhuà yāoqiú rúxià yī dài hùzhào jí zhōngwén zhèngshū èr zhǔnbèi yí ge sān fēnzhōng de yǎnjiǎng tímù shì wǒ suǒ zhīdào de Táiwān sān rú yǒu tèshū qíngkuàng wúfǎ cānjiā qǐng zǎodiǎn gēn wǒmen liánluò qǐng quèrèn nín de shíjiān xièxie · "Dear Anna, we have received your application for the PhD programme and scholarship. Please come to the office next to the auditorium at 10 a.m. on 5 November to talk with Professor Wang. Requirements as follows: 1. Bring your passport and Chinese certificate. 2. Prepare a three-minute talk on 'The Taiwan I know'. 3. If special circumstances mean you cannot attend, please contact us early. Please confirm your time. Thank you."

meiling 太好了！這是一個很珍貴的機會！

tài hǎo le zhè shì yí ge hěn zhēnguì de jīhuì · Brilliant! This is a precious opportunity!

anna 我一時不知道說什麼！儘管我準備了很久，還是很緊張。對我來說，用中文演講不是很容易。

wǒ yìshí bù zhīdào shuō shénme jǐnguǎn wǒ zhǔnbèi le hěn jiǔ háishì hěn jǐnzhāng duì wǒ láishuō yòng zhōngwén yǎnjiǎng bú shì hěn róngyì · I don't know what to say! Even though I've prepared for ages, I'm still nervous. For me, giving a talk in Chinese isn't that easy.

meiling 你一向很努力，一定沒問題。先回信確認時間吧！

nǐ yíxiàng hěn nǔlì yídìng méi wèntí xiān huíxìn quèrèn shíjiān ba · You've always worked hard; you'll be fine. Reply first and confirm the time!

meiling 你把演講寫好，我幫你修改。要緊的地方，你可以用鉛筆記下來。

nǐ bǎ yǎnjiǎng xiě hǎo wǒ bāng nǐ xiūgǎi yàojǐn de dìfāng nǐ kěyǐ yòng qiānbǐ jì xialai · Write your talk and I'll help you edit it. You can mark the important bits in pencil.

anna 好，我馬上回信。然後我要去請教陳老師。

hǎo wǒ mǎshàng huíxìn ránhòu wǒ yào qù qǐngjiào Chén lǎoshī · OK, I'll reply right away. Then I'll go and ask Teacher Chen for advice.

chapter 2 how to prepare

anna 老師，我想請教您：這種談話，教授主要會問什麼？

lǎoshī wǒ xiǎng qǐngjiào nín zhè zhǒng tánhuà jiàoshòu zhǔyào huì wèn shénme · Teacher, may I ask your advice? In this kind of interview, what will the professor mainly ask?

teacher chen 主要是三個問題：你為什麼來臺灣留學、你的研究計畫，和你將來的打算。談話跟演講不同，要像會話一樣自然。

zhǔyào shì sān ge wèntí nǐ wèishénme lái Táiwān liúxué nǐ de yánjiù jìhuà hé nǐ jiānglái de dǎsuàn tánhuà gēn yǎnjiǎng bùtóng yào xiàng huìhuà yíyàng zìrán · Mainly three questions: why you came to study in Taiwan, your research plan, and your plans for the future. An interview isn't a speech: it should be as natural as a conversation.

teacher chen 你可以參考別人的經驗，把重要的概念記錄下來。可是別背課文，要用自己的話說。

nǐ kěyǐ cānkǎo biérén de jīngyàn bǎ zhòngyào de gàiniàn jìlù xiàlái kěshì bié bèi kèwén yào yòng zìjǐ de huà shuō · You can look at other people's experiences and note down the key ideas. But don't recite it like a lesson text: say it in your own words.

anna 我的聲調一緊張就錯。上次在禮堂，大家把「睡覺」聽成了「水餃」！

wǒ de shēngdiào yì jǐnzhāng jiù cuò shàng cì zài lǐtáng dàjiā bǎ shuìjiào tīng chéng le shuǐjiǎo · My tones go wrong as soon as I'm nervous. Last time, in the auditorium, everyone heard 睡覺 (sleep) as 水餃 (dumplings)!

teacher chen 把你的演講錄下來，多聽幾次，就能克服。說得慢一點，觀察教授的反應。

bǎ nǐ de yǎnjiǎng lù xialai duō tīng jǐ cì jiù néng kèfú shuō de màn yìdiǎn guānchá jiàoshòu de fǎnyìng · Record your talk and listen to it a few times, and you'll get past it. Speak a bit more slowly and watch the professor's reactions.

teacher chen 最要緊的是維持好的狀態。前一天早點睡，才能發揮你的水準。

zuì yàojǐn de shì wéichí hǎo de zhuàngtài qián yì tiān zǎodiǎn shuì cái néng fāhuī nǐ de shuǐzhǔn · The most important thing is to stay in good form. Go to bed early the night before, so you can perform at your level.

anna 謝謝老師！這一年來，要不是您的教導，我的中文不會有今天的水準。

xièxie lǎoshī zhè yì nián lái yàobúshì nín de jiàodǎo wǒ de zhōngwén bú huì yǒu jīntiān de shuǐzhǔn · Thank you, Teacher! This past year, if it weren't for your teaching, my Chinese would never have reached this level.

chapter 3 professor david

david 好，今天我是教授。安娜同學，請問你為什麼想念博士？
hǎo jīntiān wǒ shì jiàoshòu Ānnà tóngxué qǐngwèn nǐ wèishénme xiǎng niàn bóshì · Right, today I'm the professor. Ms Anna, why do you want to do a PhD?

anna 我想深入研究中文的文字。我覺得每個字都有它的意義和思想。
wǒ xiǎng shēnrù yánjiù zhōngwén de wénzì wǒ juéde měi ge zì dōu yǒu tā de yìyì hé sīxiǎng · I want to study Chinese writing in depth. I feel every character carries its own meaning and ideas.

david 很好。那你的觀點跟別人有什麼不同？
hěn hǎo nà nǐ de guāndiǎn gēn biérén yǒu shénme bùtóng · Very good. And how is your point of view different from other people's?

anna 很多人只研究理論，我想從留學生的生活來看漢語，也想研究翻譯。
hěn duō rén zhǐ yánjiù lǐlùn wǒ xiǎng cóng liúxuéshēng de shēnghuó lái kàn hànyǔ yě xiǎng yánjiù fānyì · Many people only study theory. I want to look at Chinese through the everyday life of international students, and study translation too.

david 你剛才把「文字」說成了「蚊子」！是怎麼回事？
nǐ gāngcái bǎ wénzì shuō chéng le wénzi shì zěnmehuíshì · You just said 蚊子 (mosquito) instead of 文字 (writing)! What happened?

anna 別笑！我太緊張了。儘管練了很多次，有時候聲調還是會錯。
bié xiào wǒ tài jǐnzhāng le jǐnguǎn liàn le hěn duō cì yǒushíhou shēngdiào háishì huì cuò · Don't laugh! I'm too nervous. Even though I've practised loads, my tones still slip sometimes.

david 沒關係，你的中文進步得很明顯。說到演講，你說的東西很生動，我次次聽都覺得有意思。可是你要專心，別一直看本子。
méiguānxi nǐ de zhōngwén jìnbù de hěn míngxiǎn shuō dào yǎnjiǎng nǐ shuō de dōngxi hěn shēngdòng wǒ cì cì tīng dōu juéde yǒuyìsi kěshì nǐ yào zhuānxīn bié yìzhí kàn běnzi · Never mind, your Chinese has clearly improved. Speaking of the talk, what you say is lively: I find it interesting every single time. But concentrate, and don't keep looking at your notes.

anna 謝謝你肯陪我練習。等結果出來，我請你吃飯！
xièxie nǐ kěn péi wǒ liànxí děng jiéguǒ chū lái wǒ qǐng nǐ chī fàn · Thanks for being willing to practise with me. When the results are out, dinner's on me!

chapter 4 how did it go?

auntie wang 安娜，今天怎麼樣？教授問了什麼？
Ānnà jīntiān zěnmeyàng jiàoshòu wèn le shénme · Anna, how did it go today? What did the professor ask?

anna 教授看起來很認真，可是似乎很高興。他還問了某些名詞的用法。
jiàoshòu kànqǐlái hěn rènzhēn kěshì sìhū hěn gāoxìng tā hái wèn le mǒu xiē míngcí de yòngfǎ · The professor looked very serious, but he seemed happy. He also asked about how certain nouns are used.

anna 他問我怎麼掌握閱讀和聽力的技巧，我就說：上課以前預習，下課以後複習，每天練一個小時。
tā wèn wǒ zěnme zhǎngwò yuèdú hé tīnglì de jìqiǎo wǒ jiù shuō shàngkè yǐqián yùxí xiàkè yǐhòu fùxí měi tiān liàn yí ge xiǎoshí · He asked how I'd mastered reading and listening, and I said: read ahead before class, review after class, and practise for an hour a day.

auntie wang 說得好！那演講呢？
shuō de hǎo nà yǎnjiǎng ne · Well said! And the talk?

anna 演講只限三分鐘，我說得剛好。我說到在您店裡學會的國語，教授笑了起來。
yǎnjiǎng zhǐ xiàn sān fēnzhōng wǒ shuō de gānghǎo wǒ shuō dào zài nín diàn lǐ xuéhuì de guóyǔ jiàoshòu xiào le qǐlai · The talk was limited to three minutes and I got it just right. When I mentioned the Mandarin I'd learned in your shop, the professor burst out laughing.

auntie wang 我的店也有學問！然後呢？他說你可以去了嗎？
wǒ de diàn yě yǒu xuéwèn ránhòu ne tā shuō nǐ kěyǐ qù le ma · So my shop has its own wisdom! And then? Did he say you're in?

anna 還不知道，要等兩個星期。可是他說，我所說的觀點很有意思。
hái bù zhīdào yào děng liǎng ge xīngqí kěshì tā shuō wǒ suǒ shuō de guāndiǎn hěn yǒuyìsi · I don't know yet; I have to wait two weeks. But he said the views I talked about were interesting.

chapter 5 the good news

anna 美玲！錄取了！我被錄取了，還拿到了獎學金！
Měilíng lùqǔ le wǒ bèi lùqǔ le hái ná dào le jiǎngxuéjīn · Meiling! I'm in! I've been accepted, and I got the scholarship!

meiling 真的嗎？這個消息令人太高興了！
zhēnde ma zhè ge xiāoxí lìng rén tài gāoxìng le · Really? That's the best news!

anna 獎學金包括學費，我暫時不用擔心錢的問題了。
jiǎngxuéjīn bāokuò xuéfèi wǒ zhànshí búyòng dānxīn qián de wèntí le · The scholarship covers the fees, so I don't have to worry about money for now.

meiling 你來臺灣才一年多，就要念博士了。這是你自己的智慧和努力！
nǐ lái Táiwān cái yì nián duō jiù yào niàn bóshì le zhè shì nǐ zìjǐ de zhìhuì hé nǔlì · Only a year or so in Taiwan and you're off to do a PhD. That's your own brains and hard work!

meiling 明年你又是新生了！聽說開學的時候，校長會親自歡迎新生。
míngnián nǐ yòu shì xīnshēng le tīngshuō kāixué de shíhòu xiàozhǎng huì qīnzì huānyíng xīnshēng · Next year you'll be a fresher again! They say the president welcomes the new students in person at the start of term.

anna 要不是大家幫我，我一個人無法做到。這是我來臺灣以後最快樂的時刻。
yàobúshì dàjiā bāng wǒ wǒ yí ge rén wúfǎ zuò dào zhè shì wǒ lái Táiwān yǐhòu zuì kuàilè de shíkè · If it weren't for everyone's help, I couldn't have done it alone. This is the happiest moment since I came to Taiwan.

meiling 你有什麼感想？
nǐ yǒu shénme gǎnxiǎng · How do you feel?

anna 我的心得很簡單：學外語，最重要的是朋友。我們今天晚上合請大衛吃飯吧！
wǒ de xīndé hěn jiǎndān xué wàiyǔ zuì zhòngyào de shì péngyǒu wǒmen jīntiān wǎnshàng hé qǐng Dàwèi chī fàn ba · My takeaway is simple: when you learn a foreign language, friends are what matter most. Let's treat David to dinner together tonight!

chapter 6 how to do well in an interview

teacher chen 各位同學，今天我想說一說跟教授的談話。第一，談話以前，要先了解那間學校，也要了解你想學的東西。

gèwèi tóngxué jīntiān wǒ xiǎng shuō yi shuo gēn jiàoshòu de tánhuà dì yī tánhuà yǐqián yào xiān liǎojiě nà jiān xuéxiào yě yào liǎojiě nǐ xiǎng xué de dōngxi · Class, today I'd like to talk about your conversation with the professors. First, before the interview, learn about the school and about what you want to study.

teacher chen 第二，回答問題的時候，要看著教授的眼睛，說慢一點，不要急。很多人一緊張，就把準備好的話忘了，所以最好先練習。

dì èr huídá wèntí de shíhòu yào kàn zhe jiàoshòu de yǎnjīng shuō màn yìdiǎn bú yào jí hěn duō rén yì jǐnzhāng jiù bǎ zhǔnbèi hǎo de huà wàng le suǒyǐ zuìhǎo xiān liànxí · Second, when you answer, look the professor in the eye and speak slowly, without rushing. Many people get nervous and forget what they prepared, so it's best to practise first.

teacher chen 第三，教授個個都想知道，你為什麼想學這個，所以請說真話，也請說清楚。

dì sān jiàoshòu ge ge dōu xiǎng zhīdào nǐ wèishénme xiǎng xué zhè ge suǒyǐ qǐng shuō zhēn huà yě qǐng shuō qīngchǔ · Third, every one of the professors wants to know why you want to study this, so tell the truth and say it clearly.

teacher chen 最後，記得這種談話不是考試，是聊天。放輕鬆，你們一定可以的！

zuìhòu jìde zhè zhǒng tánhuà bú shì kǎoshì shì liáotiān fàng qīngsōng nǐmen yídìng kěyǐ de · Finally, remember that an interview isn't an exam but a chat. Relax: you can do it!

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