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day 106 where traditions come from

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 16 · history & traditions

Talk about where customs come from, and organise a paragraph in time order, space order or logical order.

A Band C paragraph has a clear order: first this, then that (time); on the left, further in (space); first, secondly, therefore (logic). Readers follow you, and the writing test rewards it.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
壓歲錢	yāsuìqián	New Year money (in a red envelope)	過年的時候，小孩子最期待拿壓歲錢。 At New Year, what children look forward to most is their red-envelope money.
流傳	liúchuán	spread, be handed down	這個故事在臺南流傳了好幾百年。 This story has been handed down in Tainan for hundreds of years.
延續	yánxù	continue, carry on	我們希望這個傳統能一直延續下去。 We hope this tradition will carry on.
遺產	yíchǎn	heritage; inheritance	這座老廟是很重要的文化遺產。 This old temple is an important piece of cultural heritage.
悠久	yōujiǔ	long-standing, age-old	臺南的歷史很悠久。 Tainan has a long history.
燈籠	dēnglóng	lantern	過年的時候，街上掛滿了紅燈籠。 At New Year, the streets are hung with red lanterns.
民俗	mínsú	folk custom	我對臺灣的民俗很有興趣。 I'm really interested in Taiwanese folk customs.
起源	qǐyuán	origin	這個節日的起源是什麼？ What's the origin of this festival?
相傳	xiāngchuán	according to legend, it is said	相傳這口井已經有三百年了。 Legend has it this well is three hundred years old.
由來	yóulái	origin (of a name or custom)	你知道這條街名字的由來嗎？ Do you know where this street's name comes from?
徒弟	túdì	apprentice	老師傅收了兩個徒弟。 The old master has taken on two apprentices.
吉祥	jíxiáng	auspicious, lucky	紅色在華人文化裡代表吉祥。 In Chinese culture, red stands for good luck.
考古	kǎogǔ	archaeology; do archaeology	她大學念的是考古。 She studied archaeology at university.
遺址	yízhǐ	site (of ancient remains)	這裡發現了一個幾千年前的遺址。 A site from thousands of years ago was found here.
飽和	bǎohé	saturated	這個市場已經飽和了。 This market is already saturated.

繁多	fánduō	numerous, of many kinds	臺灣的小吃種類繁多。 Taiwan has a huge variety of snacks.
混濁	hùnzhuó	muddy, murky	下過大雨以後，河水很混濁。 After heavy rain, the river is muddy.
境地	jìngdì	situation, plight	他沒想到自己會陷入這種境地。 He never thought he'd end up in this situation.
蒙	méng	cover; receive (a favour, formal)	這些老照片都蒙上了一層灰。 These old photos are all covered in a layer of dust.
生硬	shēngyìng	stiff, awkward	這句翻譯很生硬，不像中文。 This translation is stiff: it doesn't sound like Chinese.
態勢	tàishì	situation, trend (how things stand)	現在的態勢對我們很有利。 The way things stand now is very much in our favour.
形形色色	xíngxíngsèsè	of all kinds	夜市裡有形形色色的人。 You see all kinds of people at the night market.
照耀	zhàoyào	shine on	陽光照耀著整個城市。 The sun shines over the whole city.

pattern paragraphs in time, space and logical order

time: 起初 → 後來 → 到了…… / 首先 → 接著 → 最後 **space: 一走進…… → 左邊 / 右邊 → 再往裡面**

logic: 首先 → 其次 → 因此

Choose one order for a paragraph and signal each step. Time order tells a story or a history (起初, 後來, 到了……, 最後). Space order describes a place as you walk through it (一走進……, 左邊, 再往裡面). Logical order builds an argument (首先, 其次, 因此). One order per paragraph keeps it clear.

臺南是臺灣最老的城市。起初，這裡只是海邊的一個小地方；後來，人越來越多；到了清朝，已經是最熱鬧的城市。再後來，臺北才逐步變成最重要的城市。 **Táinán shì Táiwān zuì lǎo de chéngshì qǐchū zhèlǐ zhǐshì hǎi biān de yí ge xiǎo dìfāng hòulái rén yuèláiyuè duō dào le qīng cháo yǐjīng shì zuì rènao de chéngshì zài hòulái Táiběi cái zhúbù biànchéng zuì zhòngyào de chéngshì** Tainan is Taiwan's oldest city. At first it was just a small place by the sea; later, more and more people came; by the Qing dynasty it was the liveliest city on the island. Only later did Taipei gradually become the most important city.

一走進奶奶家，左邊是客廳，右邊是廚房；再往裡面走，是一間小倉庫，裡面放著幾十年的老東西。 **yì zǒu jìn nǎinai jiā zuǒbiān shì kètīng yòubiān shì chúfáng zài wǎng lǐmiàn zǒu shì yì jiān xiǎo cāngkù lǐmiàn fàng zhe jǐ shí nián de lǎo dōngxi** As you walk into Grandma's house, the living room is on the left and the kitchen on the right; further in there's a little storeroom, full of things decades old.

過年給壓歲錢，首先是希望孩子平安長大，其次是讓孩子學會存錢，因此這個民俗一直延續到今天。 **guònián gěi yāsuìqián shǒuxiān shì xīwàng háizi píngān zhǎngdà qícì shì ràng háizi xuéhuì cún qián yīncǐ zhè ge mínsú yìzhí yánxù dào jīntiān** New Year money is given first as a wish that children grow up safe and well, and secondly to teach them to save, which is why the custom has lasted to this day.

dialogue the storeroom

grandma lin 你們來了！快進來。下個月工人來修房子，屆時倉庫裡的東西都要搬走，所以今天要整理。

nǐmen lái le kuài jìn lái xià ge yuè gōngrén lái xiū fángzi jièshí cāngkù lǐ de dōngxi dōu yào bān zǒu suǒyǐ jīntiān yào zhěnglǐ · You're here! Come in, come in. The builders are coming next month to fix the house, and by then everything in the storeroom has to be moved, so today we sort it out.

anna 整理倉庫很需要耐力，我們今天一定做完！

zhěnglǐ cāngkù hěn xūyào nàilì wǒmen jīntiān yídìng zuò wán · Sorting out a storeroom takes stamina: we'll get it done today!

david 奶奶，臺南的市容跟臺北很不一樣，小巷子交錯，像迷宮一樣！這個房子有多老了？

nǎinai Táinán de shìróng gēn Táiběi hěn bù yíyàng xiǎo xiàngzi jiāocuò xiàng mígōng yíyàng zhè ge fángzi yǒu duō lǎo le · Grandma, Tainan looks so different from Taipei: the lanes criss-cross like a maze! How old is this house?

grandma lin 一百多年了，相傳是美玲爺爺的爸爸蓋的。你們看，倉庫的窗戶很久沒開，空氣很混濁，東西也都蒙上了一層灰。

yìbǎi duō nián le xiāngchuán shì Měilíng yéye de bàba gài de nǐmen kàn cāngkù de chuānghu hěn jiǔ méi kāi kōngqì hěn hùnzhuó dōngxi yě dōu méng shàng le yì céng huī · Over a hundred years. They say Meiling's great-grandfather built it. Look, the storeroom windows haven't been opened for ages: the air's stale, and everything's covered in dust.

anna 美玲爺爺的爸爸在世的時候，是做什麼的？

Měilíng yéye de bàba zàishì de shíhòu shì zuò shénme de · What did Meiling's great-grandfather do, when he was alive?

grandma lin 他以賣布為生，生意做得很大。

tā yǐ mài bù wéishēng shēngyì zuò de hěn dà · He made his living selling cloth, and his business did very well.

meiling 哇，箱子裡有形形色色的東西：紅燈籠、紅包袋、好多舊衣服，還有爺爺以前打牌用的牌！

wā xiāngzi lǐ yǒu xíngxíngsèsè de dōngxi hóng dēnglóng hóngbāo dài hǎo duō jiù yīfú háiyǒu yéye yǐqián dǎpái yòng de pái · Wow, the boxes are full of all sorts of things: red lanterns, red envelopes, loads of old clothes, and Grandpa's old playing cards!

grandma lin 那是我小時候過年用的。我們家向來很重視過年，規矩繁多：首先大掃除，接著貼紅紙、掛燈籠，最後全家一起吃年夜飯，小孩子拿壓歲錢。雖然那時候家裡不富有，但是因為我爸爸很重視傳統，所以每年都辦得很熱鬧，甚至連隔壁的鄰居都來我們家吃年夜飯。

nà shì wǒ xiǎo shíhòu guònián yòng de wǒmen jiā xiànglái hěn zhòngshì guònián guījǔ fánduō shǒuxiān dà sǎo chú jiēzhe tiē hóng zhǐ guà dēnglóng zuìhòu quánjiā yìqǐ chī nián yè fàn xiǎoháizi ná yāsuìqián suīrán nà shíhòu jiā lǐ bú fùyǒu dànshì yīnwèi wǒ bàba hěn zhòngshì chuántǒng suǒyǐ měi nián dōu bàn de hěn rènao shènzhì lián gébì de línjū dōu lái wǒmen jiā chī nián yè fàn · Those are from New Year when I was little. Our family has always taken New Year seriously, with all sorts of rules: first a big clean, then red paper on the doors and lanterns up, and last the whole family has New Year's Eve dinner and the children get their red-envelope money. We weren't well off back then, but because my father cared so much about tradition, every year was a big celebration, and even the neighbours came to our house for New Year's Eve dinner.

anna 壓歲錢的由來是什麼？這個民俗是怎麼開始的？

yāsuìqián de yóulái shì shénme zhè ge mínsú shì zěnme kāishǐ de · Where does New Year money come from? How did the custom start?

grandma lin 起源我也說不清楚，只知道一代一代流傳下來，就是希望小孩子平安、吉祥。

qǐyuán wǒ yě shuō bu qīngchǔ zhǐ zhīdào yí dài yí dài liúchuán xialai jiùshì xīwàng xiǎoháizi píngān jíxiáng · I couldn't tell you the origin: I only know it's been handed down from generation to generation, as a wish for children to be safe and lucky.

david 附近還發現了一個考古遺址，有幾千年前的東西。這些都是很重要的文化遺產。這次來臺南，真讓我大開眼界。

fùjìn hái fāxiàn le yí ge kǎogǔ yízhǐ yǒu jǐ qiān nián qián de dōngxi zhèxiē dōu shì hěn zhòngyào de wénhuà yíchǎn zhè cì lái Táinán zhēn ràng wǒ dà kāi yǎnjiè · And there's an archaeological site nearby, with things from thousands of years ago. It's all such important cultural heritage. This trip to Tainan has really opened my eyes.

meiling 大衛，你的中文說得像課本一樣生硬！好啦，我們從左邊的箱子開始，逐一打開。
Dàwèi nǐ de zhōngwén shuō de xiàng kèběn yíyàng shēngyìng hǎo la wǒmen cóng zuǒbiān de xiāngzi kāishǐ zhú yī dǎkāi · David, you sound like a textbook! Right, let's start with the boxes on the left and open them one by one.

anna 奶奶，這裡有一個木箱，裡面好像都是老照片！
nǎinai zhèlǐ yǒu yí ge mù xiāng lǐmiàn hǎoxiàng dōu shì lǎo zhàopiàn · Grandma, there's a wooden box here, and it looks like it's full of old photos!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

谷
gǔ
valley

盆
pén
pot, basin (measure word)

偏
piān
slanting, off

航
háng
sail

good to know · New meaning: 投入 is also an adjective, "absorbed, wholehearted": 她唱戲的時候很投入 (she throws herself into it when she sings). You know it as a verb, "to put in (money, effort)". 相傳 opens a legend: 相傳這口井有三百年了 = legend has it that.... Use it for stories nobody can prove. 由來 is the story behind a name or a custom (這條街名字的由來); 起源 is the origin of something bigger (文明的起源, 節日的起源). Time-order words for writing: 起初 (at first), 後來 (later), 到了.....(by ...), 最後 (finally). For steps: 首先, 接著, 然後, 最後.

First you learned the words, then you put them in order, and finally you wrote a paragraph. That's 106 days in time order.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 107 luck and festivals

Talk about lucky numbers, festivals and old customs, add to a topic or switch to a new one (此外, 至於, 說到), and leave out words the listener already knows.

Good Chinese paragraphs move: 此外 adds, 至於 and 說到 turn to a new topic. And Chinese drops what's already clear (奶奶拿出照片，看了很久): repeating every subject sounds like a textbook.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
文明	wénmíng	civilization	這個古老的文明已經有幾千年的歷史。 This ancient civilization is thousands of years old.
福氣	fúqì	good fortune, blessing	有這麼好的家人，是我的福氣。 Having such a good family is my good fortune.
佳節	jiājié	festival (written)	中秋佳節，大家都回家團圓。 At the Mid-Autumn Festival, everyone goes home to be with family.
風水	fēngshuǐ	feng shui	很多人買房子以前，會先看風水。 Many people look at the feng shui before buying a house.
祭祀	jìsì	offer sacrifices (to ancestors)	這座老建築以前是用來祭祀祖先的。 This old building was once used for ceremonies honouring ancestors.
吉利	jílì	lucky, auspicious	在臺灣，數字八很吉利，四不太吉利。 In Taiwan, the number eight is lucky, and four not so much.
保佑	bǎoyòu	bless and protect	廟門上寫著「保佑平安」四個字。 Four characters over the temple gate read "blessing and peace".
地獄	dìyù	hell (in stories and art)	這幅古畫畫的是天堂和地獄。 This old painting shows heaven and hell.
虔誠	qiánchéng	devout, sincere	那位老太太很虔誠，每年都去廟裡拜拜。 That old lady is very devout: she goes to the temple every year.
世間	shìjiān	the world, this life (literary)	世間最美的，莫過於家人在一起。 Nothing in the world is more beautiful than a family together.
園林	yuánlín	classical garden	林家花園是臺灣很有名的園林。 The Lin Family Garden is one of Taiwan's best-known classical gardens.
風尚	fēngshàng	custom, fashion (of the times)	騎腳踏車上班，已經成了一種新的風尚。 Cycling to work has become a new trend.
洗禮	xǐlǐ	baptism; (figurative) trial by fire	經過這次比賽的洗禮，大家都長大了。 After the trial by fire of this race, everyone has grown up.
臘月	làyuè	the twelfth lunar month	臘月一到，大家就開始準備過年。 As soon as the twelfth lunar month comes, everyone starts getting ready for New Year.

波及	bōjí	affect, spread to	這次颱風波及了整個南部。 This typhoon affected the whole south.
分級	fēnjí	grade, rate (by level)	在臺灣，電影是分級的。 In Taiwan, films are rated by age.
激增	jīzēng	soar, surge	過年前，回家的人數激增。 Before New Year, the number of people travelling home soars.
揪	jiū	grab; (Taiwan) round people up	週末我們揪幾個朋友，一起去臺南吧！ Let's round up a few friends this weekend and go to Tainan!
滅	miè	go out, put out (fire, light)	風一吹，燈籠裡的火就滅了。 The wind blew and the flame in the lantern went out.
省事	shěngshì	saving trouble, convenient	在網路上買票比較省事。 Buying tickets online is less hassle.
剔除	tīchú	remove, weed out	請把壞的水果剔除。 Please pick out the bad fruit.
懸殊	xuánshū	wide apart, very unequal	兩隊的實力懸殊，比賽很快就結束了。 The teams were badly mismatched, and the match was soon over.
周密	zhōumì	careful, thorough	這個計畫很周密。 This plan is very thorough.

pattern paragraphs: extending and switching topics

topic | **此外 / 另外 / 不僅如此 (add)** | **至於 / 說到 / 話說回來 (switch)**

To add more on the same topic, use 此外, 另外 or 不僅如此 (what's more). To turn to a new topic, use 至於 (as for) or 說到 (speaking of); 話說回來 (that said) brings you back to the main point. And once a subject or object is clear, Chinese leaves it out: 「去過林家花園嗎？」「去過。」

臘月要大掃除。此外，還要準備年夜飯。 **làyuè yào dà sǎo chú cǐwài háiyào zhǔnbèi nián yè fàn** In the twelfth month you give the house a big clean. On top of that, there's New Year's Eve dinner to prepare.

過年就說到這裡。至於中秋節，我們家都去烤肉。 **guònián jiù shuō dào zhèlǐ zhìyú zhōng qiū jié wǒmen jiā dōu qù kǎoròu** That's enough about New Year. As for the Mid-Autumn Festival, our family always has a barbecue.

「你們去過林家花園嗎？」「去過，很美。」 **nǐmen qù guo Lín jiā huāyuán ma qù guo hěn měi** "Have you been to the Lin Family Garden?" "Yes, it's beautiful."

看風水很麻煩。話說回來，無非是希望家人平安罷了。 **kàn fēngshuǐ hěn máfan huàshuōhuílái wúfēi shì xīwàng jiārén píngān bàle** Feng shui is a lot of fuss. That said, it's really just a wish for the family to be safe.

dialogue why the door faces the water

anna 奶奶，這張照片是什麼時候拍的？好多人！

nǎinai zhè zhāng zhàopiàn shì shénme shíhòu pāi de hǎo duō rén · Grandma, when was this photo taken? So many people!

grandma lin 臘月，大家在廟前準備過年。以前過年最大的消遣，就是猜謎語、打牌。此外，那年過年前下了大雨，燈籠裡的火都滅了，整條街都淹水，連附近的地方都被波及。

làyuè dàjiā zài miào qián zhǔnbèi guònián yǐqián guònián zuì dà de xiāoqiǎn jiùshì cāi míyǔ dǎpái cǐwài nà nián guònián qián xià le dà yǔ dēnglóng lǐ de huǒ dōu miè le zhěng tiáo jiē dōu yān shuǐ lián fùjìn de dìfāng dōu bèi bōjí · In the twelfth month: everyone getting ready for New Year in front of the temple. Back then, the best New Year pastimes were riddles and cards. And that year, just before New Year, it poured: the lanterns all went out, the whole street flooded, and even the area around was hit.

meiling 這張是我們家門口。為什麼門要對著那條小河？

zhè zhāng shì wǒmen jiā ménkǒu wèishénme mén yào duì zhe nà tiáo xiǎo hé · This one's our front door. Why does the door face that little river?

grandma lin 看風水看的。你爺爺的爸爸說，門對著水比較吉利，可以帶來福氣，所以門上還寫著「保佑平安」。話說回來，看風水不圖發財，無非是希望家人平安罷了。

kàn fēngshuǐ kàn de nǐ yéye de bàba shuō mén duì zhe shuǐ bǐjiào jílì kěyǐ dàilái fúqì suǒyǐ mén shàng hái xiě zhe bǎoyòu píngān huàshuōhuílái kàn fēngshuǐ bù tú fācái wúfēi shì xīwàng jiārén píngān bàle · Feng shui. Your great-grandfather said a door facing water is luckier: it brings good fortune. That's why the door says "blessing and peace". That said, feng shui isn't about getting rich: it's really just a wish for the family to be safe.

meiling 那條小河現在這麼混濁，風水還好嗎？

nà tiáo xiǎo hé xiànzài zhème hùnzhuó fēngshuǐ háihǎo ma · That little river is so muddy now: is the feng shui still any good?

david 說到吉利，每個文明都有自己的吉利數字。我發現臺灣很多大樓都沒有四樓。

shuō dào jílì měi ge wénmíng dōu yǒu zìjǐ de jílì shùzì wǒ fāxiàn Táiwān hěn duō dàlóu dōu méiyǒu sì lóu · Speaking of luck, every civilization has its lucky numbers. I've noticed lots of buildings in Taiwan have no fourth floor.

grandma lin 因為「四」聽起來像「死」，不吉利。至於我媽媽，她很講究這些，連買菜都不買四個。她也很虔誠，每個月都去廟裡。

yīnwèi sì tīngqǐlái xiàng sǐ bù jílì zhìyú wǒ māma tā hěn jiǎngjiù zhèxiē lián mǎi cài dōu bù mǎi sì ge tā yě hěn qiánchéng měi ge yuè dōu qù miào lǐ · Because 四 sounds like 死, "death": unlucky. As for my mother, she was very particular about these things: she wouldn't even buy four of anything at the market. She was devout too, and went to the temple every month.

meiling 怪不得奶奶過年也要去廟裡，原來是家裡流傳下來的習慣。

guàibùde nǎinai guònián yě yào qù miào lǐ yuánlái shì jiā lǐ liúchuán xialai de xíguàn · No wonder Grandma goes to the temple at New Year too: it's a habit handed down in the family.

anna 這張好特別。牆上的畫，畫的是什麼？

zhè zhāng hǎo tèbié qiáng shàng de huà huà de shì shénme · This one's unusual. What's the painting on the wall?

grandma lin 那是廟裡的老畫，畫的是地獄，告訴大家不要做壞事。以前小孩子看了都很害怕，現在電影都分級，這種畫應該也要分級吧！以前祭祀祖先，我們家辦得很周密：首先打掃，接著準備菜，最後全家一起拜。現在大家都說要省事，把不必要的步驟都剔除了。

nà shì miào lǐ de lǎo huà huà de shì dìyù gàosù dàjiā bú yào zuò huài shì yǐqián xiǎoháizi kàn le dōu hěn hàipà xiànzài diànyǐng dōu fēnjí zhè zhǒng huà yīnggāi yě yào fēnjí ba yǐqián jìsì zǔxiān wǒmen jiā bàn de hěn zhōumì shǒuxiān dǎsǎo jiēzhe zhǔnbèi cài zuìhòu quánjiā yìqǐ bài xiànzài dàjiā dōu shuō yào shěngshì bǎ búbì yào de bùzòu dōu tīchú le · That's an old painting in the temple: it shows hell, to tell people not to do bad things. Children used to be terrified of it: films are rated nowadays, so maybe paintings like that should be too! In the old days our family honoured the ancestors with great care: first we cleaned, then we cooked, and finally the whole family paid their respects together. Now everyone wants to save trouble, and all the steps people think unnecessary have been cut.

meiling 這是新的風尚嘛！以前跟現在的生活，差距真懸殊。奶奶，你去過林家花園嗎？
zhè shì xīn de fēngshàng ma yǐqián gēn xiànzài de shēnghuó chājù zhēn xuánshū nǎinai nǐ qù guo Lín jiā huāyuán ma · That's the new fashion! Life then and now: worlds apart. Grandma, have you been to the Lin Family Garden?

grandma lin 去過，很美，是臺灣最有名的園林之一。不過雖然也姓林，跟我們家沒有關係喔！
qù guo hěn měi shì Táiwān zuì yǒumíng de yuánlín zhī yī búguò suīrán yě xìng Lín gēn wǒmen jiā méiyǒu guānxì ō · I have: it's beautiful, one of Taiwan's most famous classical gardens. But even though it's Lin too, it's nothing to do with our family!

meiling 奶奶，這些照片都蒙了一層灰，我們幫你擦乾淨。
nǎinai zhèxiē zhàopiàn dōu méng le yì céng huī wǒmen bāng nǐ cā gānjìng · Grandma, these photos are all covered in dust: we'll wipe them clean for you.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

災
zāi
disaster

托
tuō
hold up (on the palm); ask (someone to do)

窄
zhǎi
narrow

琴
qín
zither; stringed instrument

good to know · New meaning: 圖 can be a verb, "to seek, to aim for": 不圖名，不圖利 (not after fame, not after money). Taiwan slang: 揪 = round people up for something. 揪團 = get a group together (for a trip, a meal, a group buy). Ellipsis in answers: Chinese answers with just the verb. 「你吃過了嗎？」「吃過了。」「你去過嗎？」「沒去過。」 Adding 我 and the object every time sounds stiff.

此外: you can now leave words out like a native. 至於 tomorrow: archaeology.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 108 digging up the past

Talk about archaeology, ancient sites and old texts, and build words with the suffixes -界, -觀, -性 and -化.

-界, -觀, -性 and -化 turn words you know into hundreds of new ones: 教育界, 價值觀, 重要性, 現代化. Band C reading is full of them, and once you see the pattern, you can read them on sight.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
發掘	fājué	excavate; discover (talent)	考古學家在這裡發掘出很多古代的東西。 Archaeologists have dug up many ancient objects here.
廢墟	fèixū	ruins	地震以後，這裡變成了一片廢墟。 After the earthquake, this place was left in ruins.
奴隸	núlì	slave	古代有些國家有奴隸。 Some countries in ancient times had slaves.
狀元	zhuàngyuán	top scorer (originally in the imperial exam)	他是今年大學考試的狀元。 He got the top score in this year's university entrance exam.
聖賢	shèngxián	sages	古代的聖賢都很重視教育。 The sages of old all valued education.
中庸	zhōngyōng	the golden mean; middle-of-the-road	中庸之道，就是做事不要太過，也不要|不夠。 The golden mean means not doing too much, and not too little.
出土	chūtǔ	be unearthed	這些碗是從遺址出土的。 These bowls were dug up at the site.
宮殿	gōngdiàn	palace	古代的皇帝住在宮殿裡。 In ancient times, emperors lived in palaces.
古籍	gǔjí	ancient books	圖書館收藏了很多古籍。 The library holds many ancient books.
中葉	zhōngyè	middle period (of a century or dynasty)	這座廟是十八世紀中葉建的。 This temple was built in the mid-18th century.
碑	bēi	stone tablet, stele	廟前有一塊三百年前的石碑。 In front of the temple is a three-hundred-year-old stone tablet.
性	xìng	nature; -ness, -ity (suffix)	這件事的重要性，大家都知道。 Everyone knows how important this is.
觀	guān	view, outlook (suffix -觀)	每一代人的價值觀都不一樣。 Every generation has different values.
稠密	chóumì	dense, thick	臺北的人口很稠密。 Taipei is densely populated.
浮動	fúdòng	float; fluctuate	最近菜的價錢浮動很大。 Vegetable prices have been going up and down a lot lately.

艱鉅	jiānjù	arduous, formidable	這是一個很艱鉅的工作。 This is a formidable task.
就緒	jiùxù	be ready, in place	一切都準備就緒了。 Everything is ready.
破例	pòlì	make an exception	老闆破例讓我們提早下班。 The boss made an exception and let us leave early.
事態	shìtài	state of affairs, situation	事態越來越嚴重。 The situation is getting more and more serious.
突兀	túwù	abrupt, out of place	這棟新大樓在老街上看起來很突兀。 This new tower block looks out of place on the old street.
仰	yǎng	look up; admire	大家仰著頭看天上的燈籠。 Everyone tipped their heads back to look at the lanterns in the sky.
莊嚴	zhuāngyán	solemn, dignified	這座廟又古老又莊嚴。 This temple is old and solemn.
界	jiè	circles, world (suffix -界)	她在教育界很有名。 She's well known in education circles.

pattern word-building suffixes -界, -觀, -性, -化 (教育界, 價值觀, 可能性, 現代化)

noun / adjective **+ 界 (circles) / 觀 (outlook) / 性 (-ness) / 化 (-ize)**

Four suffixes build new words. -界 = the world of a field: 教育界, 藝術界. -觀 = a view of: 價值觀 (values), 人生觀 (outlook on life). -性 = the quality of: 重要性 (importance), 可能性 (possibility). -化 = to become, -ize: 現代化 (modernize), 數位化 (digitize).

這次的發現在考古界引起很大的注意。 **zhè cì de fāxiàn zài kǎogǔ jiè yǐnqǐ hěn dà de zhùyì** This find has caused a stir in the archaeology world.

奶奶的人生觀很簡單：家人平安最重要。 **nǎinai de rénshēng guān hěn jiǎndān jiārén píngān zuì zhòngyào** Grandma's outlook on life is simple: what matters most is that the family is safe.

老師說明了保存老照片的重要性。 **lǎoshī shuōmíng le bǎocún lǎo zhàopiàn de zhòngyào xìng** The teacher explained why it matters to keep old photos.

現在很多老照片都數位化了。 **xiànzài hěn duō lǎo zhàopiàn dōu shùwèi huà le** Lots of old photos have been digitized now.

dialogue the stone tablet

teacher chen 我坐高鐵來了！這塊碑的由來，我追查了很久，奶奶又給我看了照片，我一定要親自來看。

wǒ zuò gāotiě lái le zhè kuài bēi de yóulái wǒ zhuīchá le hěn jiǔ nǎinai yòu gěi wǒ kàn le zhàopiàn wǒ yídìng yào qīnzì lái kàn · I took the high-speed train down! I've been trying to trace the story of this tablet for ages, and when Grandma showed me the photo, I had to see it for myself.

david 就是這塊碑。上面說，這座廟是十八世紀中葉建的，跟古籍裡說的相符。

jiùshì zhè kuài bēi shàngmiàn shuō zhè zuò miào shì shíbā shìjì zhōngyè jiàn de gēn gǔjí lǐ shuō de xiāngfú · This is the tablet. It says the temple was built in the mid-18th century, which matches the old books.

teacher chen 碑上寫的是一位清朝狀元的話：做人要學習聖賢，走中庸之道。

bēi shàng xiě de shì yí wèi qīng cháo zhuàngyuán de huà zuòrén yào xuéxí shèngxián zǒu zhōngyōng zhī dào · The inscription quotes a Qing dynasty top scholar: in life, learn from the sages and follow the golden mean.

david 這句話的主旨，跟我們今天說的「平衡」很像。

zhè jù huà de zhǔzhǐ gēn wǒmen jīntiān shuō de pínghéng hěn xiàng · The gist of that saying is a lot like what we'd call "balance" today.

anna 這座廟又古老又莊嚴，大家都仰著頭看屋頂。可是旁邊那棟新大樓，看起來好突兀。

zhè zuò miào yòu gǔlǎo yòu zhuāngyán dàjiā dōu yǎng zhe tóu kàn wū dǐng kěshì pángbiān nà dòng xīn dàlóu kànqǐlái hǎo túwù · This temple is so old and solemn: everyone's craning their necks to look at the roof. But that new tower next to it looks so out of place.

teacher chen 這座廟經過了兩百多年風雨的洗禮，還是這麼莊嚴。

zhè zuò miào jīngguò le liǎngbǎi duō nián fēng yǔ de xǐlǐ háishì zhème zhuāngyán · This temple has weathered more than two hundred years of storms, and it's still so dignified.

meiling 說到新大樓，臺南的遊客激增，人口越來越稠密，房子的價錢一直浮動，生活的型態也跟以前很不一樣。

shuō dào xīn dàlóu Táinán de yóukè jīzēng rénkǒu yuèláiyuè chóumì fángzi de jiàqián yìzhí fúdòng shēnghuó de xíngtài yě gēn yǐqián hěn bù yíyàng · Speaking of new towers, visitor numbers in Tainan have soared, it's getting more and more crowded, house prices keep going up and down, and the way people live is very different from before.

teacher chen 至於附近那家博物館，你們去過嗎？

zhìyú fùjìn nà jiā bówùguǎn nǐmen qù guo ma · As for the museum nearby, have you been?

david 去過。那裡的東西都是考古學家從遺址發掘出來的。我在書上讀過，古代很多文明都有奴隸，這些出土的東西說明了那時候一般人怎麼生活。我最喜歡一個小小的杯子，上面還看得到一個小孩子的手印，好像他昨天才用過一樣。

qù guo nàlǐ de dōngxi dōu shì kǎogǔ xué jiā cóng yízhǐ fājué chū lái de wǒ zài shū shàng dú guo gǔdài hěn duō wénmíng dōu yǒu núlì zhèxiē chūtǔ de dōngxi shuōmíng le nà shíhòu yìbān rén zěnme shēnghuó wǒ zuì xǐhuān yí ge xiǎo xiǎo de bēizi shàngmiàn hái kàn de dào yí ge xiǎoháizi de shǒu yìn hǎoxiàng tā zuótiān cái yòng guo yíyàng · I have. Everything there was excavated from sites by archaeologists. I've read that many ancient civilizations had slaves; the things they've dug up show how ordinary people lived back then. My favourite is a tiny cup that still has a child's handprint on it, as if he'd used it only yesterday.

anna 那裡還收藏了很多玉器，每一件的特徵都不一樣。

nàlǐ hái shōucáng le hěn duō yùqì měi yí jiàn de tèzhēng dōu bù yíyàng · They've got lots of jade pieces too, and each one has its own features.

teacher chen 發掘的工作很艱鉅，計畫也要很周密。有的遺址以前是一片廢墟，花了十幾年才整理好，發掘完以後，還要把地方恢復原狀。

fājué de gōngzuò hěn jiānjù jìhuà yě yào hěn zhōumì yǒude yízhǐ yǐqián shì yí piàn fèixū huā le shí jǐ nián cái zhěnglǐ hǎo fājué wán yǐhòu hái yào bǎ dìfāng huīfù yuánzhuàng · Excavation is formidable work, and the planning has to be thorough. Some sites were nothing but ruins and took more than ten years to get in order, and when the digging is done, the land has to be put back the way it was.

meiling 博物館平常不能拍照，上次還破例讓我們拍。……奶奶傳簡訊來了：「倉庫裡一團亂，事態嚴重，快回來幫忙！」

bówùguǎn píngcháng bù néng pāizhào shàng cì hái pòlì ràng wǒmen pāi nǎinai chuán jiǎnxùn lái le cāngkù lǐ yì tuán luàn shìtài yánzhòng kuài huí lái bāngmáng · The museum doesn't normally allow photos, but last time they made an exception for us. … Grandma's texted: "The storeroom is a total mess, the situation is serious, come back and help!"

write it trace the grey, then write your own

幕
mù
curtain; act (of a play); screen

劇
jù
drama

宰
zǎi
govern

彩
cǎi
colour

good to know · New meaning: 團 is also a measure word for a lump or a tangle: 一團紙 (a ball of paper), 一團亂 (a total mess). More -化 words you already half know: 國際化 (internationalize), 數位化 (digitize), 暖化 (warming), 老化 (ageing). Taiwan's top scorer in the university entrance exam is still called a 狀元 in the news, after the top scholar of the old imperial exams.

Today's words were built, not memorized: 界, 觀, 性, 化. Your Chinese is 現代化-ing nicely.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 109 legends and fortune-tellers

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 16 · history & traditions

Talk about temple fairs, legends and fortune-tellers, and build words with the prefixes 反-, 非- and 後- (反效果, 非正式, 後現代).

反-, 非- and 後- turn one word you know into its opposite or its "after": 效果 → 反效果, 正式 → 非正式, 現代 → 後現代. Newspapers and essays use them constantly.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
傳奇	chuánqí	legend; legendary	他的一生很傳奇。 His life was the stuff of legend.
部落	bùluò	tribe; (indigenous) village	山上有一個很老的部落。 There's a very old village of a tribe up in the mountains.
教徒	jiàotú	follower (of a religion)	這個城市住著不同宗教的教徒。 People of different religions live in this city.
老天爺	lǎotiānyé	Heaven (in exclamations)	老天爺，雨怎麼下這麼大！ Good heavens, how hard it's raining!
燒香	shāoxiāng	burn incense	過年的時候，很多人會去廟裡燒香。 At New Year, many people go to the temple to burn incense.
算命	suànmìng	tell fortunes	夜市裡有人在幫人算命。 At the night market, someone is telling people's fortunes.
西洋	xīyáng	the West	她喜歡西洋的古典音樂。 She loves Western classical music.
信徒	xìntú	believer, follower	這座廟每年都吸引很多信徒。 This temple draws many worshippers every year.
報應	bàoyìng	retribution, karma	老人家常說：「做壞事會有報應。」 Old people often say, "Do bad things and they'll come back to you."
道士	dàoshì	Taoist priest	廟會的時候，可以看到道士表演傳統的儀式。 At temple fairs you can see Taoist priests perform traditional rites.
佛經	fójīng	Buddhist scriptures	博物館裡有一本一千年前的佛經。 The museum has a thousand-year-old Buddhist scripture.
富貴	fùguì	wealth and rank	在中國畫裡，紅色的花常代表富貴。 In Chinese painting, red flowers often stand for wealth and honour.
老子	lǎozi	(rough) your old man, yours truly	電影裡的老大說：「老子什麼都不怕！」 The gang boss in the film says, "Yours truly isn't afraid of anything!"

穿梭	chuānsuō	shuttle back and forth	機車在小巷子裡穿梭。 Scooters weave through the little lanes.
腐朽	fǔxiǔ	rot, decay	這根木頭已經腐朽了。 This piece of wood has rotted.
濺	jiàn	splash	車子開過去，水濺到了我的衣服上。 A car went past and splashed water on my clothes.
雷同	léitóng	identical, the same (too similar)	這兩篇文章的內容很雷同。 These two articles are suspiciously similar.
淺顯	qiǎnxiǎn	plain, easy to understand	他用淺顯的話解釋這個道理。 He explained the idea in plain words.
疏導	shūdǎo	direct, channel (traffic, water, feelings)	警察在路口疏導交通。 Police are directing traffic at the junction.
挽	wǎn	take (someone's arm); roll up	她挽著奶奶的手過馬路。 She took her grandma's arm to cross the road.
遺留	yíliú	leave behind, hand down	這些房子是一百年前遺留下來的。 These houses were left from a hundred years ago.
著眼	zhuóyǎn	focus on	我們做計畫，要著眼於未來。 When we plan, we need to keep our eye on the future.
聚會	jùhuì	party, get-together	這只是一個非正式的聚會。 It's just an informal get-together.

pattern word-building prefixes 反-, 非-, 後- (反效果, 非正式, 後現代)

反 (counter-) / 非 (non-) / 後 (post-) **+ word**

Three prefixes make new words from old ones. 反- = counter-, the opposite way: 反效果 (the opposite effect), 反方向 (the opposite direction). 非- = non-, not: 非正式 (informal). 後- = post-, after: 後現代 (postmodern). They're common in essays and the news.

你一直催他，只會有反效果。 **nǐ yìzhí cuī tā zhǐ huì yǒu fǎn xiàoguǒ** If you keep pushing him, it'll only backfire.

我們走反方向了，應該往左。 **wǒmen zǒu fǎn fāngxiàng le yīnggāi wǎng zuǒ** We've gone the wrong way: we should have turned left.

那家咖啡店的設計很後現代。 **nà jiā kāfēi diàn de shèjì hěn hòu xiàndài** That café's design is very postmodern.

dialogue the temple fair

grandma lin 今天廟會，人很多，大家跟緊我。這座廟的老木門已經腐朽了，明年要修。
jīntiān miàohuì rén hěn duō dàjiā gēn jǐn wǒ zhè zuò miào de lǎo mù mén yǐjīng fǔxiǔ le míngnián yào xiū · It's the temple fair today and it's packed, so stay close. This temple's old wooden doors have rotted: they're being repaired next year.

anna 這座廟看起來好莊嚴，我一直仰著頭看。
zhè zuò miào kànqǐlái hǎo zhuāngyán wǒ yìzhí yǎng zhe tóu kàn · This temple looks so solemn: I can't stop gazing up at it.

meiling 好熱鬧！機車在小巷子裡穿梭，連路都走不過去。還好那邊有警察在疏導交通。
hǎo rènao jīchē zài xiǎo xiàngzi lǐ chuānsuō lián lù dōu zǒu bu guoqu háihǎo nà biān yǒu jǐngchá zài shūdǎo jiāotōng · So lively! Scooters weaving through all the lanes: you can't even get down the street. Luckily there are police directing traffic over there.

anna 那位穿黃衣服的是誰？
nà wèi chuān huáng yīfú de shì shéi · Who's that in yellow?

grandma lin 是道士，他在表演傳統的儀式。旁邊那些人，是從各地來的信徒，都很虔誠。以前廟口還有人賭博，現在沒有了。
shì dàoshì tā zài biǎoyǎn chuántǒng de yíshì pángbiān nàxiē rén shì cóng gè dì lái de xìntú dōu hěn qiánchéng yǐqián miào kǒu háiyǒu rén dǔbó xiànzài méiyǒu le · A Taoist priest, performing a traditional rite. The people around him have come from all over to worship, and they're very devout. There used to be gambling outside the temple, but not any more.

meiling 奶奶，那裡有人在算命，我去看看！……他說我很有福氣，家裡的風水也很好，四十歲以後會很富貴！
nǎinai nàlǐ yǒu rén zài suànmìng wǒ qù kànkan tā shuō wǒ hěn yǒu fúqì jiā lǐ de fēngshuǐ yě hěn hǎo sìshí suì yǐhòu huì hěn fùguì · Grandma, someone's telling fortunes over there: I'm going to look! … He says I'm very blessed, our house has good feng shui, and after forty I'll be rich and important!

anna 可是他跟上一個人說的，內容好雷同喔。
kěshì tā gēn shàng yí ge rén shuō de nèiróng hǎo léitóng ō · But what he told the person before you sounded suspiciously similar.

grandma lin 老天爺，你還真信！算命固然有趣，但是不能全信，好話聽聽就好。我跟你們說一個真正的傳奇吧。
lǎotiānyé nǐ hái zhēn xìn suànmìng gùrán yǒuqù dànshì bù néng quán xìn hǎo huà tīng ting jiù hǎo wǒ gēn nǐmen shuō yí ge zhēnzhèng de chuánqí ba · Good heavens, you actually believe it! Fortune-telling is fun, admittedly, but you can't believe all of it: enjoy the nice bits and leave it there. Let me tell you a real legend instead.

grandma lin 美玲的爺爺年輕的時候，有一次颱風，他划小船出海，救了三個人。海浪一直濺到船上，大家叫他別去，他說：「老子會游泳，怕什麼！」他回來的時候，全身都濕了，手也受了傷，可是他什麼都沒說，第二天照樣去打魚。從那天起，他就是我們街上的傳奇。
Měilíng de yéye niánqīng de shíhòu yǒu yí cì táifēng tā huá xiǎo chuán chū hǎi jiù le sān ge rén hǎi làng yìzhí jiàn dào chuán shàng dàjiā jiào tā bié qù tā shuō lǎozi huì yóuyǒng pà shénme tā huí lái de shíhòu quánshēn dōu shī le shǒu yě shòu le shāng kěshì tā shénme dōu méi shuō dì èr tiān zhàoyàng qù dǎ yú cóng nà tiān qǐ tā jiùshì wǒmen jiē shàng de chuánqí · When Meiling's grandpa was young, during a typhoon, he rowed a little boat out to sea and saved three people. The waves kept crashing over the boat and everyone told him not to go, and he said, "I can swim, what's there to be scared of!" When he got back he was soaked through and his hands were hurt, but he didn't say a thing, and the next day he went fishing as usual. From that day on, he was the legend of our street.

anna 爺爺真勇敢！世間少有這樣的人。
yéye zhēn yǒnggǎn shìjiān shǎo yǒu zhèyàng de rén · Grandpa was so brave! There are few people like that in this world.

david 上次去阿里山，我們經過了一個部落，他們也有很多傳奇。西洋也有很像的故事。
shàng cì qù Ālǐshān wǒmen jīngguò le yí ge bùluò tāmen yě yǒu hěn duō chuánqí xīyáng yě yǒu hěn xiàng de

gùshi · When we went to Alishan, we passed through an indigenous village: they have lots of legends too. There are stories just like it in the West.

teacher chen

聽傳說，要著眼於它想告訴我們的道理。這個道理很淺顯：做人要勇敢。很多傳說也告訴我們，做壞事會有報應。

tīng chuánshuō yào zhuóyǎn yú tā xiǎng gàosù wǒmen de dàolǐ zhè ge dàolǐ hěn qiǎnxiǎn zuòrén yào yǒnggǎn hěn duō chuánshuō yě gàosù wǒmen zuò huài shì huì yǒu bàoyìng · With a legend, look at the lesson it's trying to teach us. And this one is simple: be brave. Lots of legends also tell us that if you do bad things, they'll come back to you.

meiling

下次揪小雯她們一起來逛廟會，求神保佑！

xià cì jiū Xiǎowén tāmen yìqǐ lái guàng miàohuì qiú shén bǎoyòu · Next time let's round up Xiaowen and the others, come to the temple fair together and ask the gods to bless us!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

繪
huì
paint, draw

型
xíng
model, form

魔
mó
magic, demon

映
yìng
project

good to know · New meaning: 衛生 is also a noun, "hygiene, sanitation": 注意衛生 (mind the hygiene), 個人衛生 (personal hygiene). You know it as an adjective, "clean, hygienic". 老子 (lǎozi) is a rough, swaggering "I": fine to recognise in films and stories, never to use yourself. The philosopher Laozi is 老子 Lǎozǐ. 老天爺! is an exclamation, like "Good heavens!": 老天爺，雨怎麼下這麼大!

Not 反效果 at all: today's legends made your Chinese stronger.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 110 confucius and the classics

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 16 · history & traditions

Talk about Confucianism, the classics and history, and use the 不 A 不 B frame: 不知不覺, 不冷不熱, 不多不少.

不 A 不 B is everywhere in good Chinese: with opposites it means “just right” (不冷不熱), with two verbs it means “not at all” (不吃不喝), and 不知不覺 is the classic “before you knew it”.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
儒家	rújiā	Confucianism, the Confucian school	儒家很重視教育和家庭。 Confucianism places great importance on education and family.
喪事	sāngshì	funeral arrangements	他家裡在辦喪事，這幾天請假。 His family is holding a funeral, so he’s taken a few days off.
史料	shǐliào	historical material, sources	這些老照片是很珍貴的史料。 These old photos are precious historical sources.
事變	shìbiàn	incident, upheaval (historical)	那次事變改變了整個國家的歷史。 That incident changed the whole country’s history.
壽星	shòuxīng	birthday person (an older one)	今天的壽星是奶奶！ Today’s birthday girl is Grandma!
鄉土	xiāngtǔ	local, of one’s native place	他的畫很有鄉土的味道。 His paintings have a real feel of the countryside.
正統	zhèngtǒng	orthodox, authentic	這家店做的是正統的臺南小吃。 This place does authentic Tainan snacks.
八字	bāzì	birth chart (eight characters)	以前的人結婚以前，要先看兩個人的八字。 In the old days, couples had their birth charts compared before they married.
國君	guójūn	monarch, ruler	古代的國君住在宮殿裡。 In ancient times, rulers lived in palaces.
經書	jīngshū	classics (ancient canonical books)	古時候的學生要背很多經書。 In ancient times, students had to learn many classics by heart.
軍閥	jūnfá	warlord	那是一個軍閥的時代，國家很亂。 That was an age of warlords, and the country was in chaos.
圖騰	túténg	totem	這個部落的圖騰是一隻鳥。 This tribe’s totem is a bird.
不知不覺	bùzhībùjué	without realizing, before you know it	不知不覺，我在臺灣已經住了三年。 Before I knew it, I’d lived in Taiwan for three years.
簇擁	cùyǒng	crowd around	記者簇擁著冠軍隊。 Reporters crowded around the winning team.

宏偉	hóngwěi	grand, magnificent	這座宮殿很宏偉。 This palace is magnificent.
揭曉	jiēxiǎo	announce (results), reveal	比賽結果明天揭曉。 The results will be announced tomorrow.
利弊	lìbì	pros and cons	每個辦法都有利弊。 Every option has its pros and cons.
強勁	qiángjìng	powerful, strong	今天的風很強勁。 The wind is very strong today.
舒展	shūzhǎn	stretch, unfold	早上起來，先舒展一下身體。 When you get up in the morning, have a good stretch first.
掀	xiān	lift (a lid or cover)	她掀開鍋蓋，香味就出來了。 She lifted the lid and the smell came out.
展望	zhǎnwàng	look ahead; outlook	展望明年，我們還有很多計畫。 Looking ahead to next year, we have lots of plans.
並列	bìngliè	stand side by side, be ranked equal	兩隊並列第一。 The two teams tied for first place.

pattern 不 a 不 b: 不知不覺, 不冷不熱, 不多不少

不 A 不 B

Put 不 before two one-syllable words. With opposites, it means “neither too A nor too B: just right”: 不冷不熱, 不大不小, 不多不少, 不早不晚. With two similar verbs, it means “not at all”: 不吃不喝 (without eating or drinking). 不知不覺 = without knowing or noticing: before you know it.

這件衣服不大不小，剛好。 **zhè jiàn yīfú bú dà bù xiǎo gānghǎo** This top is neither too big nor too small: just right.

她不吃不喝，整理了一整天的照片。 **tā bù chī bù hē zhěnglǐ le yì zhěng tiān de zhàopiàn** She spent the whole day sorting photos without eating or drinking.

我們來得不早不晚，剛好趕上。 **wǒmen lái de bù zǎo bù wǎn gānghǎo gǎnshàng** We got there neither early nor late: just in time.

dialogue the oldest school on the island

teacher chen 這就是臺南孔廟，三百多年了，是臺灣第一座孔廟。古時候的學生在這裡念經書，現在考試以前，還有很多學生來這裡燒香。

Zhèjiùshì Táinán kǒngmiào sānbǎi duō nián le Shì Táiwān dìyīzuò kǒngmiào gǔ shíhòu de xuéshēng zài zhèlǐ niàn jīngshū xiànzài kǎoshì yǐqián háiyǒu hěn duō xuéshēng lái zhèlǐ shāoxiāng · This is Tainan's Confucius Temple: over three hundred years old, the first one in Taiwan. In the old days, students studied the classics here, and even now lots of students come to burn incense before their exams.

david 雖說不大，可是很宏偉，像一座小宮殿。院子裡不冷不熱，好安靜。

suīshuō búdà kěshì hěn hóngwěi xiàng yí zuò xiǎo gōngdiàn yuànzi lǐ bù lěng bú rè hǎo ānjìng · It may not be big, but it's magnificent, like a little palace. The courtyard is neither hot nor cold, and so quiet.

teacher chen 這座廟經過了很多事變，可是一直都在。儒家是中國最重要的思潮之一，儒家認為，連國君都要重視教育，要聽有學問的人的話，做事也要走中庸之道。所以以前的讀書人，一輩子都在念這些經書，希望有一天能考上，替國家做事。

zhè zuò miào jīngguò le hěn duō shìbiàn kěshì yìzhí dōu zài rújiā shì Zhōngguó zuì zhòngyào de sīcháo zhī yī rújiā rènwéi lián guójūn dōu yào zhòngshì jiàoyù yào tīng yǒu xuéwèn de rén de huà zuòshì yě yào zǒu zhōngyōng zhī dào suǒyǐ yǐqián de dúshū rén yí bèizi dōu zài niàn zhèxiē jīngshū xīwàng yǒu yì tiān néng kǎo shàng tì guójiā zuòshì · This temple has come through many upheavals, and it's still here. Confucianism is one of the most important currents of Chinese thought: Confucians believed that even rulers had to value education, listen to learned people, and follow the golden mean. That's why scholars in the old days spent their whole lives studying these classics, hoping one day to pass the exams and serve the country.

anna 這裡好安靜，跟昨天機車穿梭的廟會完全不一樣。

zhèlǐ hǎo ānjìng gēn zuótiān jīchē chuānsuō de miàohuì wánquán bù yíyàng · It's so quiet here: nothing like yesterday's temple fair, with scooters weaving everywhere.

david 我最近在讀中國的近代歷史，那是一個軍閥的時代，國家很亂。跟這裡比，真是兩個世界。

wǒ zuìjìn zài dú Zhōngguó de jìn dài lìshǐ nà shì yí ge jūnfá de shídài guójiā hěn luàn gēn zhèlǐ bǐ zhēnshì liǎng ge shìjiè · I've been reading about modern Chinese history: an age of warlords, with the country in chaos. Compared with here, it's another world.

anna 門口那群學生簇擁著一位老師，是在上課嗎？

ménkǒu nà qún xuéshēng cùyǒng zhe yí wèi lǎoshī shì zài shàngkè ma · That group of students crowding round a teacher by the gate: is it a class?

teacher chen 是學校帶學生來參觀。好了，不知不覺已經五點了。今天晚上我是壽星，奶奶要請我吃飯！

shì xuéxiào dài xuéshēng lái cānguān hǎole bùzhībùjué yǐjīng wǔ diǎn le jīntiān wǎnshàng wǒ shì shòuxīng nǎinai yào qǐng wǒ chī fàn · A school visit. Right: before we knew it, it's five o'clock. Tonight I'm the birthday girl, and Grandma's cooking for me!

david 老天爺！陳老師，今天是你的生日，怎麼不早說？

lǎotiānyé Chénlǎoshī jīntiān shì nǐ de shēngrì zěnme bù zǎo shuō · Good heavens! Teacher Chen, it's your birthday today: why didn't you say so sooner?

grandma lin 來，坐！我現在每天過著逍遙的日子，最喜歡做菜給大家吃。今天是正統的臺南菜。我掀開鍋蓋，你們聞聞看！

lái zuò wǒ xiànzài měi tiān guò zhe xiāoyáo de rìzi zuì xǐhuān zuò cài gěi dàjiā chī jīntiān shì zhèngtǒng de Táinán cài wǒ xiān kāi guō gài nǐmen wén wen kàn · Come in, sit down! These days I live a carefree life, and cooking for everyone is my favourite thing. Tonight it's authentic Tainan food. Let me lift the lid: have a smell!

teacher chen 好香！很有鄉土的味道，鹹甜也很適中。謝謝奶奶！展望明年，我希望大家都平安。我還要在這裡宣示：明年我要把射箭練好！

hǎo xiāng hěn yǒu xiāngtǔ de wèidào xián tián yě hěn shìzhōng xièxie nǎinai zhǎnwàng míngnián wǒ xīwàng dàjiā dōu píngān wǒ háiyào zài zhèlǐ xuānshì míngnián wǒ yào bǎ shè jiàn liàn hǎo · It smells wonderful, it tastes of home, and the seasoning's just right. Thank you, Grandma! Looking ahead to next year, I hope everyone stays safe and well. And I hereby declare: next year I'm going to get good at archery!

meiling 奶奶，你跟爺爺結婚以前，真的有去算命、看八字嗎？
nǎinai nǐ gēn yéye jiéhūn yǐqián zhēnde yǒu qù suànmìng kàn bāzì ma · Grandma, before you and Grandpa got married, did you really go to a fortune-teller and have your birth charts read?

grandma lin 有啊，那時候大家都看。你爺爺過世的時候，喪事也是照老規矩辦的。吃完飯，我給你們看一張特別的照片。照片的秘密，晚上揭曉！
yǒu a nà shíhòu dàjiā dōu kàn nǐ yéye guòshì de shíhòu sāngshì yě shì zhào lǎo guījǔ bàn de chī wán fàn wǒ gěi nǐmen kàn yì zhāng tèbié de zhàopiàn zhàopiàn de mìmì wǎnshàng jiēxiǎo · We did: everyone did back then. And when your grandpa died, the funeral was done the old way too. After dinner, I'll show you a special photo. Its secret will be revealed tonight!

david 奶奶的故事，一個比一個傳奇！
nǎinai de gùshi yí ge bǐ yí ge chuánqí · Grandma's stories just get more and more legendary!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

序
xù
preface

偶
ǒu
figure, doll

墨
mò
ink
(Chinese ink, ink stick)

陶
táo
pottery

good to know · New meaning: 汙染 is also a noun, "pollution": 空氣汙染 (air pollution), 水汙染. You know it as a verb, "to pollute". Taiwan celebrates Teachers' Day on 28 September, traditionally Confucius's birthday, with a ceremony at Confucius temples around the island. Watch the split: in 不大不小, write it with 不 + 大 (not 不大 "not very"). The frame is always 不 + one syllable, twice.

不知不覺, you've reached day 110. 不多不少: just the right amount of Chinese for today.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 111 warriors and hermits

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 16 · history & traditions

Talk about antiques, old stories and the history behind them, and use 半 A 半 B (half… half…) and 忽 A 忽 B (now… now…).

半真半假 and 忽冷忽熱 say a lot in four syllables: a story that's half true, weather that keeps changing. Band C texts use these frames to describe mixed and changing things.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
武士	wǔshì	warrior; samurai	電影裡的武士穿著很重的衣服。 The warriors in the film wear very heavy clothes.
鴉片	yāpiàn	opium	十九世紀，鴉片給中國帶來很大的問題。 In the 19th century, opium brought China enormous problems.
隱士	yǐnshì	hermit, recluse	他像一個隱士，住在山上，很少下山。 He's like a hermit: he lives up in the mountains and rarely comes down.
造化	zàohuà	nature, the Creator; good fortune	能有這樣的機會，真是他的造化。 To get a chance like this is real good fortune for him.
匾額	biǎné	inscribed board (over a door)	廟門上掛著一塊老匾額。 An old inscribed board hangs over the temple gate.
佛像	fóxiàng	statue of the Buddha	博物館裡有一尊很老的佛像。 The museum has a very old statue of the Buddha.
古物	gǔwù	antique, ancient object	奶奶家有很多古物。 Grandma's house is full of antiques.
鬼怪	guǐguài	ghosts and monsters	小孩子很喜歡聽鬼怪的故事。 Children love stories about ghosts and monsters.
基督	Jīdū	Christ	這幅西洋畫畫的是基督的故事。 This Western painting tells the story of Christ.
理學	lǐxué	Neo-Confucianism	理學是中國古代的一種哲學。 Neo-Confucianism is a school of ancient Chinese philosophy.
列國	lièguó	the various states (in ancient China)	古代的聖賢，常常周遊列國。 Sages of old often travelled from state to state.
仁愛	rénài	benevolence, kindness	儒家很重視仁愛。 Confucianism places great value on benevolence.
仙丹	xiāndān	elixir of immortality	傳說吃了仙丹，就可以長生不老。 Legend says that if you take the elixir, you'll never grow old.

修女	xiūnǚ	nun	這家老醫院是一百年前幾位修女建的。 This old hospital was founded a hundred years ago by a few nuns.
造物主	zàowùzhǔ	the Creator	看到這麼美的山，真佩服造物主。 Seeing mountains this beautiful, you have to marvel at the Creator.
摧殘	cuīcán	devastate, wreck	颱風摧殘了整片芒果樹。 The typhoon wrecked the whole stand of mango trees.
劃時代	huàshídài	epoch-making	這是一個劃時代的發明。 This is an epoch-making invention.
緊湊	jǐncòu	tight, packed	這次的行程很緊湊。 This trip's schedule is very packed.
邁	mài	stride, step	我們終於邁出了第一步。 We've finally taken the first step.
深奧	shēnào	profound, hard to understand	這本書太深奧了，我看不懂。 This book is too deep: I can't understand it.
順應	shùnyìng	go with, adapt to	老店也要順應時代的變化。 Even old shops have to keep up with the times.
鑲	xiāng	inlay, set (in)	這個老盒子上鑲著貝殼。 This old box is inlaid with shells.

pattern 半 a 半 b / 忽 a 忽 b: 半真半假, 忽冷忽熱

半 A 半 B (half... half...) **忽 A 忽 B (now... now...)**

半 A 半 B: half A, half B, often with opposites: 半真半假 (half true), 半新半舊 (neither new nor old), 半開玩笑 (half joking). 忽 A 忽 B: it keeps switching between A and B: 忽冷忽熱 (hot one minute, cold the next), 忽高忽低, 忽大忽小. A and B are one-syllable words.

這間房子半新半舊，可是很舒服。 **zhè jiān fángzi bàn xīn bàn jiù kěshì hěn shūfu** The house is neither new nor old, but it's comfortable.

她半開玩笑地說：「我要當隱士了！」 **tā bàn kāiwánxiào de shuō wǒ yào dāng yǐnshì le** She said, half joking, "I'm going to become a hermit!"

收音機的聲音忽大忽小，一定是壞了。 **shōuyīnjī de shēngyīn hū dà hū xiǎo yídìng shì huài le** The radio keeps getting louder and quieter: it must be broken.

dialogue under the photos

anna 奶奶，木箱下面還有一塊很大的木頭，上面寫著四個字。

nǎinai mù xiāng xiàmiàn háiyǒu yí kuài hěn dà de mùtou shàngmiàn xiě zhe sì ge zì · Grandma, under the wooden box there's a big wooden board with four characters on it.

grandma lin 那是匾額，以前掛在美玲爺爺的爸爸開的布店門口。他賣了一輩子的布，不但賣給臺南的人，而且賣到高雄、臺中，甚至還有從日本來的客人。後來布店關了，匾額就一直放在這裡。雖然這些東西不值錢，但是因為每一件都有故事，所以我一直捨不得丟。

nà shì biǎné yǐqián guà zài Měilíng yéye de bàba kāi de bù diàn ménkǒu tā mài le yí bèizi de bù búdàn mài gěi Táinán de rén érqiě mài dào Gāoxióng Táizhōng shènzhì háiyǒu cóng Rìběn lái de kèrén hòulái bù diàn guān le biǎné jiù yìzhí fàng zài zhèlǐ suīrán zhèxiē dōngxi bù zhíqián dànshì yīnwèi měi yí jiàn dōu yǒu gùshi suǒyǐ wǒ yìzhí shěbùde diū · That's the shop sign: it used to hang over the door of the cloth shop Meiling's great-grandfather ran. He sold cloth his whole life, not only to people in Tainan but as far as Kaohsiung and Taichung, and he even had customers from Japan. When the shop closed, the sign ended up in here. None of these things is worth much, but every one has a story, so I've never been able to throw them away.

teacher chen 昨天我這個壽星吃得太飽了，今天要多做一點事。

zuótiān wǒ zhè ge shòuxīng chī de tài bǎo le jīntiān yào duō zuò yìdiǎn shì · I was the birthday girl yesterday and ate far too much: today I'd better do some work.

meiling 這裡還有一尊小佛像、一本舊佛經，和一個鑲著貝殼的盒子！

zhèlǐ háiyǒu yì zūn xiǎo fóxiàng yì běn jiù fójīng hé yí ge xiāng zhe bèiké de hézi · And here's a little statue of the Buddha, an old Buddhist scripture, and a box inlaid with shells!

david 這些貝殼的顏色好美，真佩服造物主。

zhèxiē bèiké de yánsè hǎo měi zhēn pèifú zàowùzhǔ · The colours of these shells are beautiful: you have to marvel at the Creator.

grandma lin 盒子是我出生的時候，醫院的修女送的。那家醫院是修女辦的，牆上還掛著一幅西洋的畫，畫的是基督，我小時候常去看。

hézi shì wǒ chūshēng de shíhòu yīyuàn de xiūnǚ sòng de nà jiā yīyuàn shì xiūnǚ bàn de qiáng shàng hái guà zhe yì fú xīyáng de huà huà de shì Jīdū wǒ xiǎo shíhòu cháng qù kàn · The box was a present from the nuns at the hospital when I was born. The hospital was run by nuns, and there was a Western painting of Christ on the wall: I used to go and look at it when I was little.

teacher chen 那時候臺南有不少教徒，很多醫院和學校都是他們辦的。

nà shíhòu Táinán yǒu bùshǎo jiàotú hěn duō yīyuàn hé xuéxiào dōu shì tāmen bàn de · Back then there were quite a few Christians in Tainan, and many hospitals and schools were run by them.

david 這些書是爺爺的嗎？有要效忠國君的武士、隱士、鬼怪，還有吃了仙丹就不會老的人！

zhèxiē shū shì yéye de ma yǒu yào xiàozhōng guójūn de wǔshì yǐnshì guǐguài háiyǒu chī le xiāndān jiù bú huì lǎo de rén · Are these books Grandpa's? Warriors sworn to their lords, hermits, ghosts and monsters, and people who never grow old after taking an elixir!

grandma lin 他最愛看這些故事，半真半假，他卻說得好像真的一樣。他是划船的好手，看書就不行了：那本講理學的書太深奧了，他從來沒看完。

tā zuì ài kàn zhèxiē gùshi bàn zhēn bàn jiǎ tā què shuō de hǎoxiàng zhēnde yíyàng tā shì huá chuán de hǎoshǒu kàn shū jiù bù xíng le nà běn jiǎng lǐxué de shū tài shēnào le tā cónglái méi kàn wán · He loved these stories best. Half true, half made up, but he told them as if they were real. He was an ace rower, but books weren't his thing: that one on Neo-Confucianism was too deep for him, and he never finished it.

meiling 爺爺看那本書，大概不知不覺就睡著了吧！

yéye kàn nà běn shū dàgài bùzhībùjué jiù shuìzháo le ba · Grandpa probably nodded off over that book without even noticing!

teacher chen 古代儒家的聖賢周遊列國，教大家仁愛。看了這些東西，我覺得爺爺也是一個很有意思的人。

gǔdài rújiā de shèngxián zhōuyóu lièguó jiāo dàjiā rénài kàn le zhèxiē dōngxi wǒ juéde yéye yě shì yí ge hěn

yǒuyìsi de rén · The Confucian sages of old travelled from state to state teaching benevolence. Looking at all this, I think Grandpa was a fascinating man too.

grandma lin 倘若這些東西一直放在倉庫裡，總有一天會腐朽、壞掉。時代變了，我們也要順應時代。

tǎngruò zhèxiē dōngxi yìzhí fàng zài cāngkù lǐ zǒng yǒu yì tiān huì fǔxiǔ huài diào shídài biàn le wǒmen yě yào shùnyìng shídài · If these things just stay in the storeroom, one day they'll rot and fall apart. Times have changed, and we have to change with them.

meiling 那我們把照片數位化吧！這些都是很珍貴的史料。這是第一步，我們今天就邁出去。

nà wǒmen bǎ zhàopiàn shùwèi huà ba zhèxiē dōu shì hěn zhēnguì de shǐliào zhè shì dì yī bù wǒmen jīntiān jiù mài chū qù · Then let's digitize the photos! They're precious historical sources. It's the first step, and we'll take it today.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

翁
wēng
old man

伍
wǔ
ranks

競
jìng
vie

亞
yà
second

good to know · New meaning: 先進 is also a noun, "seniors, those ahead of you in a field". In Taiwan, speeches often open with 各位先進 (distinguished guests and colleagues). 忽 A 忽 B needs two one-syllable words: 忽冷忽熱, 忽高忽低, 忽快忽慢. For people's moods: 他對我忽冷忽熱 (he blows hot and cold with me). Many Taiwanese homes still keep the inscribed board (匾額) of a family shop or a gift from a temple: it's a piece of family history.

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day 112 mission: grandma lin's old photographs

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chapter 1 second place is an honour too

grandma lin 陳老師，你是今天的壽星，我送你一個故事。來，我把紅布掀開，照片的秘密現在揭曉！

Chén lǎoshī nǐ shì jīntiān de shòuxīng wǒ sòng nǐ yí ge gùshi lái wǒ bǎ hóng bù xiān kāi zhàopiàn de mìmì xiànzài jiēxiǎo · Teacher Chen, you're the birthday girl today, so my present is a story. Here, I'll lift the red cloth: the secret of the photo is about to be revealed!

grandma lin 這是六十年前臺南的龍船比賽。那天風很強勁，河水很混濁，水一直濺到船上。船頭那個年輕人，就是你們的爺爺。

zhè shì liùshí nián qián Táinán de lóng chuán bǐsài nà tiān fēng hěn qiángjìng hé shuǐ hěn hùnzhuó shuǐ yìzhí jiàn dào chuán shàng chuán tóu nà ge niánqīng rén jiùshì nǐmen de yéye · This is the dragon boat race in Tainan, sixty years ago. The wind was strong that day, the river was muddy, and the water kept splashing into the boat. That young man at the front is your grandpa.

meiling 爺爺好帥！照片後面寫著字……「亞軍也是榮譽。」

yéye hǎo shuài zhàopiàn hòumiàn xiě zhe zì yàjūn yě shì róngyù · Grandpa looks so handsome! There's writing on the back… "Second place is an honour too."

anna 跟我們一樣，也是亞軍！他們跟冠軍隊的實力懸殊嗎？

gēn wǒmen yíyàng yě shì yàjūn tāmen gēn guànjūn duì de shílì xuánshū ma · Just like us: second place! Were they far behind the winners?

grandma lin 不懸殊，只差一點點。你們看河邊，拿著燈籠的那個小女生。那天晚上風很大，燈籠裡的火都被吹滅了。

bù xuánshū zhǐ chà yìdiǎndiǎn nǐmen kàn hé biān ná zhe dēnglóng de nà ge xiǎo nǚshēng nà tiān wǎnshàng fēng hěn dà dēnglóng lǐ de huǒ dōu bèi chuī miè le · Not far: just a whisker. Now look at the riverbank: the girl holding the lantern. It was so windy that night that the flame in the lantern blew out.

david 是奶奶！所以你們是在龍船比賽認識的？

shì nǎinai suǒyǐ nǐmen shì zài lóng chuán bǐsài rènshì de · It's you, Grandma! So you two met at the dragon boat race?

grandma lin 對。比賽完，他走過來，半開玩笑地說：「小姐，明年老子拿冠軍給你看！」結果第二年又是亞軍。後來家人看了我們的八字，說很吉利。算命的說我們以後會很富貴，結果一輩子都不富貴，可是很有福氣。

duì bǐsài wán tā zǒu guò lái bàn kāiwánxiào de shuō xiǎojiě míngnián lǎozi ná guànjūn gěi nǐ kàn jiéguǒ dì èr nián yòu shì yàjūn hòulái jiārén kàn le wǒmen de bāzì shuō hěn jílì suànmìng de shuō wǒmen yǐhòu huì hěn fùguì jiéguǒ yí bèizi dōu bú fùguì kěshì hěn yǒu fúqì · Yes. After the race he came over and said, half joking, "Miss, next year yours truly will win it for you!" And the next year: second place again. Later our families had our birth charts read and said they were very lucky. A fortune-teller said we'd be rich and important; we never were, but we were very blessed.

teacher chen 這真是一個傳奇！相傳臺南的龍船比賽起源很早，歷史很悠久。這個故事，以後也會一直流傳下去。

zhè zhēnshì yí ge chuánqí xiāngchuán Táinán de lóng chuán bǐsài qǐyuán hěn zǎo lìshǐ hěn yōujiǔ zhè ge gùshi yǐhòu yě huì yìzhí liúchuán xiaqu · What a story! Legend has it that Tainan's dragon boat races began very early: they have a long history. And this story will be handed down too.

grandma lin 能嫁給他，是我的造化。好了，不知不覺已經十點了，明天還要整理呢！

néng jià gěi tā shì wǒ de zàohuà hǎole bùzhībùjué yǐjīng shí diǎn le míngtiān háiyào zhěnglǐ ne · Marrying him was my good fortune. Right: before we knew it, it's ten o'clock, and we've got sorting to do tomorrow!

chapter 2 in order

david 照片一共有三百多張。我們就像考古學家發掘遺址一樣，每一張都是從箱子裡「出土」的。我們按照年代整理吧：首先是二十世紀中葉以前的，接著是爺爺奶奶年輕的時候，最後是美玲小時候的。

zhàopiàn yígòng yǒu sānbǎi duō zhāng wǒmen jiù xiàng kǎogǔ xué jiā fājué yízhǐ yíyàng měi yì zhāng dōu shì cóng xiāngzi lǐ chūtǔ de wǒmen ànzhào niándài zhěnglǐ ba shǒuxiān shì èrshí shìjì zhōngyè yǐqián de jiēzhe shì yéye nǎinai niánqīng de shíhòu zuìhòu shì Měilíng xiǎo shíhòu de · There are over three hundred photos. We're like archaeologists excavating a site: every one has been "dug up" out of a box. Let's sort them by period: first everything before the mid-20th century, then Grandma and Grandpa when they were young, and last Meiling as a little girl.

anna 我負責數位化，一切都準備就緒了。有的照片蒙上了一層灰，有的被雨水摧殘過，要很小心。這個鑲著貝殼的盒子和小佛像，也要拍嗎？

wǒ fùzé shùwèi huà yíqiè dōu zhǔnbèi jiùxù le yǒude zhàopiàn méng shàng le yì céng huī yǒude bèi yǔ shuǐ cuīcán guo yào hěn xiǎoxīn zhè ge xiāng zhe bèiké de hézi hé xiǎo fóxiàng yě yào pāi ma · I'll do the digitizing: everything's ready. Some of the photos are covered in dust and some have been damaged by rain, so we need to be careful. Should I photograph the box inlaid with shells and the little Buddha statue too?

meiling 要！你看這張老街：一走進街口，左邊是爺爺的爸爸開的布店，門口掛著那塊匾額；對面是一座很莊嚴的廟；再往前走，就是那條小河。那時候人口很稠密，腳踏車在小巷子裡穿梭。

yào nǐ kàn zhè zhāng lǎo jiē yì zǒu jìn jiē kǒu zuǒbiān shì yéye de bàba kāi de bù diàn ménkǒu guà zhe nà kuài biǎné duìmiàn shì yí zuò hěn zhuāngyán de miào zài wǎng qián zǒu jiùshì nà tiáo xiǎo hé nà shíhòu rénkǒu hěn chóumì jiǎotàchē zài xiǎo xiàngzi lǐ chuānsuō · Yes! Look at this one of the old street: as you come in at the top, great-grandfather's cloth shop is on the left, with the sign over the door; opposite is a solemn old temple; further on is the little river. It was crowded back then, with bicycles weaving through the lanes.

grandma lin 那年臘月，街上掛滿了紅燈籠，代表吉祥，廟門上寫著「保佑平安」。我們家祭祀祖先以後，小孩子拿了壓歲錢，都去廟口買東西吃。

nà nián làyuè jiē shàng guà mǎn le hóng dēnglóng dàibiǎo jíxiáng miào mén shàng xiě zhe bǎoyòu píngān wǒmen jiā jìsì zǔxiān yǐhòu xiǎoháizi ná le yāsuìqián dōu qù miào kǒu mǎi dōngxi chī · That year, in the twelfth month, the street was hung with red lanterns for good luck, and the temple gate read "blessing and peace". After our family honoured the ancestors, the children took their New Year money to buy snacks by the temple.

anna 這張呢？好多人，大家都仰著頭。

zhè zhāng ne hǎo duō rén dàjiā dōu yǎng zhe tóu · And this one? So many people, all looking up.

grandma lin 那是廟會。道士在表演傳統的儀式，信徒從各地來燒香，形形色色的人都有，警察還在路口疏導交通。至於旁邊那個哭的小孩，就是美玲的爸爸！

nà shì miàohuì dàoshì zài biǎoyǎn chuántǒng de yíshì xìntú cóng gè dì lái shāoxiāng xíngxíngsèsè de rén dōu yǒu jǐngchá hái zài lùkǒu shūdǎo jiāotōng zhìyú pángbiān nà ge kū de xiǎohái jiùshì Měilíng de bàba · That's the temple fair. A Taoist priest performing a traditional rite, worshippers coming from all over to burn incense, all kinds of people, and police directing traffic at the junction. As for the crying child next to them: that's Meiling's dad!

meiling 老天爺，爸爸小時候好胖！這張廟裡的畫，畫的是地獄吧？

lǎotiānyé bàba xiǎo shíhòu hǎo pàng zhè zhāng miào lǐ de huà huà de shì dìyù ba · Good heavens, Dad was so chubby! And this painting in the temple: is that hell?

grandma lin 對。那年颱風，整條街都被波及，廟差一點變成廢墟，那幅畫是大家一起救出來的。旁邊這位老先生，小時候背了很多經書，大家都叫他「狀元」。

duì nà nián táifēng zhěng tiáo jiē dōu bèi bōjí miào chà yìdiǎn biànchéng fèixū nà fú huà shì dàjiā yìqǐ jiù chū lái de pángbiān zhè wèi lǎo xiānshēng xiǎo shíhòu bèi le hěn duō jīngshū dàjiā dōu jiào tā zhuàngyuán · Yes. That year a typhoon hit the whole street and the temple was nearly reduced to ruins: everyone worked together to save that painting. And this old gentleman next to it learned so many classics by heart as a boy that everyone called him "the Top Scholar".

david 還有爺爺的書：武士、隱士、鬼怪、仙丹……這些都是他遺留給我們的。

háiyǒu yéye de shū wǔshì yǐnshì guǐguài xiāndān zhèxiē dōu shì tā yíliú gěi wǒmen de · And Grandpa's books: warriors, hermits, ghosts, elixirs… all things he left behind for us.

chapter 3 our museum would like...

teacher chen 我把幾張照片給臺南的一家博物館看，他們很有興趣，昨天寄了一封信來。我念給你們聽。

wǒ bǎ jǐ zhāng zhàopiàn gěi Táinán de yì jiā bówùguǎn kàn tāmen hěn yǒu xìngqù zuótiān jì le yì fēng xìn lái wǒ niàn gěi nǐmen tīng · I showed a few of the photos to a museum in Tainan. They're very interested, and they sent an email yesterday. I'll read it to you.

teacher chen 「林奶奶您好：謝謝您讓我們看這些照片。這三百多張照片，從日本時代到今天，記錄了臺南一條老街的生活，在歷史界是很少見的史料。首先，它們讓我們看到當時的民俗和佳節；其次，它們說明了一般人的生活怎麼逐步現代化；此外，照片裡那座宏偉的老廟、石碑和匾額，都是很重要的文化遺產。許多老照片因為保存不好，已經陷入很危險的境地。綜上所述，倘若您願意，本博物館想破例在下個月辦一個小展覽，並把照片數位化，好好保存。這是一件艱鉅的工作，但是我們的計畫很周密，請您放心。」

Línnǎinai nín hǎo xièxie nín ràng wǒmen kàn zhèxiē zhàopiàn zhè sānbǎi duō zhāng zhàopiàn cóng Rìběn shídài dào jīntiān jìlù le Táinán yì tiáo lǎo jiē de shēnghuó zài lìshǐ jiè shì hěn shǎo jiàn de shǐliào shǒuxiān tāmen ràng wǒmen kàn dào dāngshí de mínsú hé jiājié qícì tāmen shuōmíng le yìbān rén de shēnghuó zěnme zhúbù xiàndài huà cǐwài zhàopiàn lǐ nà zuò hóngwěi de lǎo miào shí bēi hé biǎné dōu shì hěn zhòngyào de wénhuà yíchǎn xǔduō lǎo zhàopiàn yīnwèi bǎocún bù hǎo yǐjīng xiànrù hěn wéixiǎn de jìngdì zòngshàngsuǒshù tǎngruò nín yuànyì běn bówùguǎn xiǎng pòlì zài xià ge yuè bàn yí ge xiǎo zhǎnlǎn bìng bǎ zhàopiàn shùwèi huà hǎohǎo bǎocún zhè shì yí jiàn jiānjù de gōngzuò dànshì wǒmen de jìhuà hěn zhōumì qǐng nín fàngxīn · "Dear Grandma Lin, thank you for letting us see these photos. These three hundred-plus pictures, from the Japanese era to today, record the life of an old street in Tainan: historical sources of a kind rarely seen. First, they show us the folk customs and festivals of the time; second, they show how ordinary life gradually modernized; in addition, the magnificent old temple, stone tablet and inscribed board in the photos are all important cultural heritage. Many old photographs, badly kept, are already in danger of being lost. In view of all this, if you are willing, our museum would make an exception and hold a small exhibition next month, and digitize the photos for safe keeping. It is a formidable task, but our plans are thorough: please rest assured."

grandma lin 博物館？我這個老太太的照片？

bówùguǎn wǒ zhè ge lǎotàitai de zhàopiàn · A museum? An old woman's photos?

david 奶奶，我的論點很簡單：這些不只是你的照片，也是臺南的文化遺產。就像古籍一樣，可以讓以後的人知道我們怎麼生活。

nǎinai wǒ de lùndiǎn hěn jiǎndān zhèxiē bù zhǐshì nǐ de zhàopiàn yě shì Táinán de wénhuà yíchǎn jiù xiàng gǔjí yíyàng kěyǐ ràng yǐhòu de rén zhīdào wǒmen zěnme shēnghuó · Grandma, my argument is simple: these aren't just your photos, they're part of Tainan's cultural heritage. Like ancient books, they'll let people in the future know how we lived.

grandma lin 好，我想開了。東西放在倉庫裡，總有一天會腐朽。給大家看，才能一直延續下去。時代變了，我們也要順應時代。

hǎo wǒ xiǎngkāi le dōngxi fàng zài cāngkù lǐ zǒng yǒu yì tiān huì fǔxiǔ gěi dàjiā kàn cáinéng yìzhí yánxù xiaqu shídài biàn le wǒmen yě yào shùnyìng shídài · All right, I've come round to it. Left in the storeroom, they'll rot one day. Only if people see them will they live on. Times have changed, and we have to change with them.

meiling 我打電話給小雯，她一定想拍。志明和阿傑也可以做一個網路上的展覽，又省事又方便。

wǒ dǎdiànhuà gěi Xiǎowén tā yídìng xiǎng pāi Zhìmíng hé Ājié yě kěyǐ zuò yí ge wǎnglù shàng de zhǎnlǎn yòu shěngshì yòu fāngbiàn · I'll call Xiaowen: she'll definitely want to film it. And Zhiming and Ajie can make an online exhibition: no fuss, and easy for everyone.

anna 我來設計海報！主軸就是那個拿著燈籠的小女生。

wǒ lái shèjì hǎibào zhǔzhóu jiùshì nà ge ná zhe dēnglóng de xiǎo nǚshēng · I'll design the poster! The girl with the lantern will be at the heart of it.

chapter 4 distinguished guests

anna 門口的海報是我設計的：一個拿著燈籠的小女生，後面是一條龍船，半新半舊。
ménkǒu de hǎibào shì wǒ shèjì de yí ge ná zhe dēnglóng de xiǎo nǚshēng hòumiàn shì yì tiáo lóng chuán bàn xīn bàn jiù · I designed the poster by the entrance: a girl holding a lantern with a dragon boat behind her, half old, half new.

teacher chen 海報上的龍船，就像這條街的圖騰。博物館還請大家吃正統的臺南小吃，很有鄉土的味道！
hǎibào shàng de lóng chuán jiù xiàng zhè tiáo jiē de túténg bówùguǎn hái qǐng dàjiā chī zhèngtǒng de Táinán xiǎochī hěn yǒu xiāngtǔ de wèidào · The dragon boat on the poster is like the street's totem. And the museum is treating everyone to authentic Tainan snacks: a real taste of home!

xiaowen 今天與會的來賓有一百多位，記者都簇擁著奶奶。唱戲的老師傅也帶著兩個徒弟來了。這個展覽很受矚目，我們的節目下星期播。
jīntiān yùhuì de láibīn yǒu yìbǎi duō wèi jìzhě dōu cùyǒng zhe nǎinai chàng xì de lǎo shīfù yě dài zhe liǎng ge túdì lái le zhè ge zhǎnlǎn hěn shòu zhǔmù wǒmen de jiémù xià xīngqí bò · Over a hundred guests came today, and the reporters are crowding round Grandma. The old opera master has come with his two apprentices too. The exhibition is getting a lot of attention: our programme goes out next week.

ajie 網路上的展覽也開了，一個早上就有逾一萬人看，人數還在激增。數位化固然有它的利弊，可是今天看得到的，都是好處。
wǎnglù shàng de zhǎnlǎn yě kāi le yí ge zǎoshàng jiù yǒu yú yí wàn rén kàn rénshù hái zài jīzēng shùwèi huà gùrán yǒu tā de lìbì kěshì jīntiān kàn de dào de dōu shì hǎochù · The online exhibition is up too: over ten thousand people looked at it in one morning, and the numbers are still soaring. Digitizing has its pros and cons, admittedly, but today it's all upside.

grandma lin 各位先進，大家好。我不會說話，只說幾句。這些照片，是我跟我先生一輩子的生活。他在世的時候常說：「亞軍也是榮譽。」今天，我覺得我們終於拿到冠軍了。
gèwèi xiānjìn dàjiā hǎo wǒ bú huì shuōhuà zhǐ shuō jǐ jù zhèxiē zhàopiàn shì wǒ gēn wǒ xiānshēng yí bèizi de shēnghuó tā zàishì de shíhòu cháng shuō yàjūn yě shì róngyù jīntiān wǒ juéde wǒmen zhōngyú ná dào guànjūn le · Distinguished guests, good afternoon. I'm no speaker, so just a few words. These photos are the life my husband and I shared. When he was alive he used to say, "Second place is an honour too." Today, I feel we've finally won.

manager li 說得好！我帶公司的同事來，看了很感動。這是一個非正式的開幕，沒有很長的演講，我很喜歡。這不是什麼劃時代的大展覽，可是每一張照片都很真。
shuō de hǎo wǒ dài gōngsī de tóngshì lái kàn le hěn gǎndòng zhè shì yí ge fēi zhèngshì de kāimù méiyǒu hěn cháng de yǎnjiǎng wǒ hěn xǐhuān zhè bú shì shénme huàshídài de dà zhǎnlǎn kěshì měi yì zhāng zhàopiàn dōu hěn zhēn · Well said! I brought some colleagues along, and we're very moved. It's an informal opening with no long speeches, which I love. It's not some epoch-making blockbuster, but every photo rings true.

teacher chen 儒家重視仁愛和家庭。這個展覽用最淺顯的方式，說明了這個深奧的道理。
rújiā zhòngshì rénài hé jiātíng zhè ge zhǎnlǎn yòng zuì qiǎnxiǎn de fāngshì shuōmíng le zhè ge shēnào de dàolǐ · Confucianism values benevolence and family. This exhibition explains that profound idea in the simplest way possible.

david 展覽不大不小，剛好讓人慢慢看。我最喜歡那兩張並列在一起的照片：六十年前的龍船比賽，跟今年的。
zhǎnlǎn bú dà bù xiǎo gānghǎo ràng rén mànmàn kàn wǒ zuì xǐhuān nà liǎng zhāng bìngliè zài yìqǐ de zhàopiàn liùshí nián qián de lóng chuán bǐsài gēn jīnnián de · The exhibition is just the right size to take your time over. My favourite is the pair of photos side by side: the dragon boat race sixty years ago, and this year's.

meiling 奶奶，有一位先生說，他是那年冠軍隊的隊員，想跟你聊聊！
nǎinai yǒu yí wèi xiānshēng shuō tā shì nà nián guànjūn duì de duìyuán xiǎng gēn nǐ liáo liao · Grandma, there's a gentleman who says he rowed in the winning team that year, and he'd like to talk to you!

chapter 5 what we take home

meiling 這次的行程很緊湊，可是我學到好多。以前我覺得那些老規矩很麻煩，應該都取消，現在才知道，每一個都有它的由來。

zhè cì de xíngchéng hěn jǐncòu kěshì wǒ xué dào hǎo duō yǐqián wǒ juéde nàxiē lǎo guījǔ hěn máfan yīnggāi dōu qǔxiāo xiànzài cái zhīdào měi yí ge dōu yǒu tā de yóulái · The trip was packed, but I learned so much. I used to think all those old customs were a pain and should be scrapped; now I see every one has its story.

anna 我的價值觀也有一點改變。世間最好的禮物，莫過於家人的故事。

wǒ de jiàzhí guān yě yǒuyìdiǎn gǎibiàn shìjiān zuìhǎo de lǐwù mòguòyú jiārén de gùshi · My values have shifted a bit too. There's no better gift in the world than your family's story.

meiling 對了，奶奶的照片，你都存到電腦裡了嗎？

duìle nǎinai de zhàopiàn nǐ dōu cún dào diànnǎo lǐ le ma · Oh, Grandma's photos: have you saved them all on the computer?

anna 存了，三百多張，一張也沒少。

cún le sānbǎi duō zhāng yì zhāng yě méi shǎo · Yes: all three hundred-odd, not one missing.

david 我呢，展望明年，我想把我們家在加拿大的老照片也整理一下。這是我要邁出的第一步。

wǒ ne zhǎnwàng míngnián wǒ xiǎng bǎ wǒmen jiā zài Jiānádà de lǎo zhàopiàn yě zhěnglǐ yíxià zhè shì wǒ yào mài chū de dì yī bù · As for me, looking ahead to next year, I want to sort out my family's old photos in Canada too. That's the first step I'm going to take.

anna 你們看，窗外的陽光照耀著大地。坐了一個多小時，我要舒展一下身體。

nǐmen kàn chuāng wài de yángguāng zhàoyào zhe dàdì zuò le yí ge duō xiǎoshí wǒ yào shūzhǎn yíxià shēntǐ · Look, the sunlight's pouring over the fields. After more than an hour sitting down, I need a stretch.

meiling 還有，明年的龍船比賽，我們再揪大家一起去。這次，冠軍是我們的！

háiyǒu míngnián de lóng chuán bǐsài wǒmen zài jiū dàjiā yìqǐ qù zhè cì guànjūn shì wǒmen de · And next year's dragon boat race: we'll round everyone up again. This time, first place is ours!

anna 「我們」？你是哪一隊的？

wǒmen nǐ shì nǎ yí duì de · "Ours"? Which team are you on?

meiling 半開玩笑啦！不過說真的，亞軍也是榮譽。

bàn kāiwánxiào la búguò shuō zhēnde yàjūn yě shì róngyù · Just half joking! But seriously: second place is an honour too.

chapter 6 sixty years of one street

david 「一條老街的六十年」上個星期，臺南一家小博物館辦了一個不大不小的展覽，展出的是八十歲的林奶奶收藏了一輩子的三百多張老照片。

yì tiáo lǎo jiē de liùshí nián shàng ge xīngqí Táinán yì jiā xiǎo bówùguǎn bàn le yí ge bú dà bù xiǎo de zhǎnlǎn zhǎnchū de shì bāshí suì de Línnǎinai shōucáng le yí bèizi de sānbǎi duō zhāng lǎo zhàopiàn · "Sixty Years of One Street." Last week a small museum in Tainan opened a modest exhibition: more than three hundred old photographs that eighty-year-old Grandma Lin kept all her life.

david 這些照片從日本時代一直拍到今天。首先，我們看到老街上的布店、廟會和過年的民俗；其次，我們看到一般人的生活怎麼逐步現代化：腳踏車變成了機車，小河邊蓋起了新大樓。

zhèxiē zhàopiàn cóng Rìběn shídài yìzhí pāi dào jīntiān shǒuxiān wǒmen kàn dào lǎo jiē shàng de bù diàn miàohuì hé guònián de mínsú qícì wǒmen kàn dào yìbān rén de shēnghuó zěnme zhúbù xiàndài huà jiǎotàchē biànchéng le jīchē xiǎo hé biān gài qǐ le xīn dàlóu · The photos run from the Japanese era right up to today. First, we see the cloth shop, the temple fair and the New Year customs of the old street; second, we see how ordinary life gradually modernized: bicycles gave way to scooters, and new tower blocks went up by the little river.

david 展覽中最受矚目的，是一張六十年前的龍船比賽照片。船頭的年輕人是林奶奶的先生，河邊拿著燈籠的小女生，就是林奶奶自己。照片後面寫著一句話：「亞軍也是榮譽。」

zhǎnlǎn zhōng zuì shòu zhǔmù de shì yì zhāng liùshí nián qián de lóng chuán bǐsài zhàopiàn chuán tóu de niánqīng rén shì Línnǎinai de xiānshēng hé biān ná zhe dēnglóng de xiǎo nǚshēng jiùshì Línnǎinai zìjǐ zhàopiàn hòumiàn xiě zhe yí jù huà yàjūn yě shì róngyù · The photo drawing most attention is one of a dragon boat race sixty years ago. The young man at the prow is Grandma Lin's husband, and the girl holding a lantern on the riverbank is Grandma Lin herself. On the back is written: "Second place is an honour too."

david 此外，這些照片都已經數位化了，網路上的展覽開幕第一天就有逾一萬人看過。博物館表示，很多老照片因為保存不好，已經一張一張不見了，這些能保存下來，是很難得的。

cǐwài zhèxiē zhàopiàn dōu yǐjīng shùwèi huà le wǎnglù shàng de zhǎnlǎn kāimù dì yī tiān jiù yǒu yú yí wàn rén kàn guo bówùguǎn biǎoshì hěn duō lǎo zhàopiàn yīnwèi bǎocún bù hǎo yǐjīng yì zhāng yì zhāng bújiàn le zhèxiē néng bǎocún xialai shì hěn nándé de · In addition, all the photos have been digitized, and more than ten thousand people visited the online exhibition on its first day. The museum says many old photos have been lost one by one because they weren't kept well, so it is rare for a collection like this to survive.

david 林奶奶說，東西放在倉庫裡，總有一天會腐朽，給大家看，才能一直流傳下去。展覽開到下個月底，學生參觀有優待。

Línnǎinai shuō dōngxi fàng zài cāngkù lǐ zǒng yǒu yì tiān huì fǔxiǔ gěi dàjiā kàn cáinéng yìzhí liúchuán xiaqu zhǎnlǎn kāi dào xià ge yuè dǐ xuéshēng cānguān yǒu yōudài · Grandma Lin says that things left in a storeroom will rot one day; only by showing them to everyone can they be handed down. The exhibition runs until the end of next month, with a discount for students.

Second place is an honour too, and so is reaching the end of unit 16. **亞軍也是榮譽!**
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