day 17 keeping in touch

Talk about getting back in touch, B&Bs and trips, and say “if we do it, let’s do it properly” with V 就 V 個 + adjective.

Social media brings old friends back every day, and 玩就玩個痛快 is exactly how people in Taiwan talk when they decide to go all in.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
高鐵	gāotiě	high-speed rail (HSR)	坐高鐵從臺北到臺南，不用兩個小時。 By high-speed rail, Taipei to Tainan takes less than two hours.
網友	wǎngyǒu	online friend; netizen	很多網友在網路上分享自己的經驗。 Lots of people share their own experiences online.
童年	tóngnián	childhood	林奶奶常常跟我們說她的童年。 Grandma Lin often tells us about her childhood.
對手	duìshǒu	opponent, rival	他是我最強的對手，也是我最好的朋友。 He’s my toughest rival, and my best friend too.
聯繫	liánxì	contact, get in touch	畢業以後，我們一直保持聯繫。 We’ve kept in touch ever since we graduated.
臺語	táiyǔ	Taiwanese (Hokkien)	林奶奶跟孫子說臺語。 Grandma Lin speaks Taiwanese with her grandchildren.
民宿	mínsù	B&B, guesthouse	我們在花蓮找到一家很舒服的民宿。 We found a really comfortable B&B in Hualien.
農曆	nónglì	lunar calendar	農曆新年是臺灣最重要的節日。 Lunar New Year is the most important holiday in Taiwan.
陪伴	péibàn	accompany, keep company	謝謝你這些年的陪伴。 Thank you for being there for me all these years.
目光	mùguāng	gaze, eyes; vision	他一走進來，大家的目光都在他身上。 The moment he walked in, all eyes were on him.
人際	rénjì	interpersonal	人際關係對工作很重要。 Relationships with people matter a lot at work.
告別	gàobié	say goodbye, bid farewell	離開臺南以前，我們去跟林奶奶告別。 Before leaving Tainan, we went to say goodbye to Grandma Lin.
描述	miáoshù	describe	你能描述一下那個人長什麼樣子嗎？ Can you describe what that person looks like?
詢問	xúnwèn	ask about, inquire	如果有問題，歡迎打電話詢問。 If you have any questions, feel free to call us.

評價	píngjià	evaluation, rating	這家民宿在網路上的評價很高。 This B&B has very good reviews online.
承諾	chéngnuò	promise, commitment	他從來不輕易給人承諾。 He never makes promises lightly.
稱呼	chēnghū	call, address (as); form of address	請問我該怎麼稱呼您？ May I ask how I should address you?
新臺幣	xīntáibì	New Taiwan dollar (NT$)	住一個晚上是新臺幣兩千元。 One night costs NT$2,000.
傳遞	chuándì	pass on, convey	這首歌想傳遞的是對家人的愛。 What this song wants to convey is love for your family.
迎	yíng	go to meet, welcome; face	看到奶奶，美玲笑著迎了上去。 When she saw her grandmother, Meiling went up to greet her with a smile.
社群	shèqún	community; social media	美玲每天都在社群上分享照片。 Meiling shares photos on social media every day.
十足	shízú	full, complete; out-and-out	他說話的時候信心十足。 He speaks with complete confidence.
歲月	suìyuè	years, time (literary)	歲月過得真快，我們都三十歲了。 Time flies: we're all thirty now.

pattern V就V個 + adjective: if you do it, do it properly

(要) V | 就 | V個 | 痛快 / 夠 / 飽 / 明白

Say the verb twice with 就 in between, then 個 and a word for "fully": 玩就玩個痛快 "if we play, let's play to our hearts' content". It sounds decisive and a little bold: no half measures. 要 often comes first: 要吃就吃個飽.

既然來了花蓮，要玩就玩個痛快。 **jìrán lái le Huālián yào wán jiù wán ge tòngkuài** Since we're in Hualien, let's make the most of it.

要吃就吃個飽，今天我請客！ **yào chī jiù chī ge bǎo jīntiān wǒ qǐngkè** If we're eating, let's eat our fill: today's on me!

要說就說個明白：你到底給了他什麼承諾？ **yào shuō jiù shuō ge míngbái nǐ dàodǐ gěi le tā shénme chéngnuò** If you're going to tell me, tell me properly: what exactly did you promise him?

dialogue a friend from long ago

meiling 安娜，你看！網友幫我在社群上找到了她，我童年最好的朋友！

Ānnà nǐ kàn wǎngyǒu bāng wǒ zài shèqún shàng zhǎo dào le tā wǒ tóngnián zuìhǎo de péngyǒu · Anna, look! People online helped me find her on social media: my best friend from when we were kids!

anna 還別說，網路真奇妙。你們多久沒聯繫了？

hái bié shuō wǎnglù zhēn qímiào nǐmen duō jiǔ méi liánxì le · You know what, the internet really is amazing. How long since you were last in touch?

meiling 十五年了。小學畢業那年的農曆新年，她家就搬走了。我們是好朋友，也是對手，考試都要比誰高分。

shíwǔ nián le xiǎoxué bìyè nà nián de nónglì xīnnián tā jiā jiù bān zǒu le wǒmen shì hǎo péngyǒu yě shì duìshǒu kǎoshì dōu yào bǐ shéi gāo fēn · Fifteen years. Her family moved away at Lunar New Year, the year we finished primary school. We were best friends and rivals too: every test, we competed for the higher mark.

meiling 她搬走以後，我失落了好久。

tā bān zǒu yǐhòu wǒ shīluò le hǎo jiǔ · After she moved away, I felt lost for ages.

anna 她現在怎麼樣？快描述給我聽聽！

tā xiànzài zěnmeyàng kuài miáoshù gěi wǒ tīng ting · How's she doing now? Tell me everything!

meiling 她從小就很有抱負，現在在花蓮開了一家民宿，評價很高。你看，她在照片裡笑臉迎人，看起來信心十足。

tā cóngxiǎo jiù hěn yǒu bàofù xiànzài zài Huālián kāi le yì jiā mínsù píngjià hěn gāo nǐ kàn tā zài zhàopiàn lǐ xiào liǎn yíng rén kànqǐlái xìnxīn shízú · She was ambitious even as a kid, and now she runs a B&B in Hualien, with great reviews. Look, in this photo she's all smiles, and she looks so confident.

anna 她的目光好溫柔。她在下面寫了「歡迎老朋友」，想傳遞的意思就是：「快來看我！」

tā de mùguāng hǎo wēnróu tā zài xiàmiàn xiě le huānyíng lǎo péngyǒu xiǎng chuándì de yìsi jiùshì kuài lái kàn wǒ · She has such kind eyes. And underneath she wrote "Welcome, old friend": the message is clearly "Come and see me!"

meiling 這些年我一直很惦記她，終於找到她了。

zhèxiē nián wǒ yìzhí hěn diànjì tā zhōngyú zhǎo dào tā le · All these years I've kept thinking about her, and at last I've found her.

meiling 我已經寫信詢問了房間，一個晚上新臺幣兩千元。可是公司最近很忙，我怕玩了三天，回來落得個天天加班。

wǒ yǐjīng xiě xìn xúnwèn le fángjiān yí ge wǎnshàng xīntáibì liǎngqiān yuán kěshì gōngsī zuìjìn hěn máng wǒ pà wán le sān tiān huí lái luòdé ge tiāntiān jiābān · I've already written to ask about a room: NT$2,000 a night. But work is crazy right now. I'm afraid I'll have three days of fun and end up working late every day when I'm back.

anna 要我說，該工作就工作，該休息就休息。要玩就玩個痛快，住三個晚上吧！

yào wǒ shuō gāi gōngzuò jiù gōngzuò gāi xiūxí jiù xiūxí yào wán jiù wán ge tòngkuài zhù sān ge wǎnshàng ba · If you ask me, work when it's time to work, rest when it's time to rest. If we're going, let's do it properly: stay three nights!

meiling 好！不過高鐵沒有到花蓮，我們得坐火車。對了，見了面我該怎麼稱呼她？叫她小名，還是叫「老闆」？

hǎo búguò gāotiě méiyǒu dào Huālián wǒmen děi zuò huǒchē duìle jiàn le miàn wǒ gāi zěnme chēnghū tā jiào tā xiǎo míng háishì jiào lǎobǎn · OK! But the high-speed rail doesn't go to Hualien, so we'll have to take the train. Oh, and what do I call her when we meet? Her childhood nickname, or "boss"?

anna 當然叫小名！說不定她還會用臺語叫你的小名呢。

dāngrán jiào xiǎo míng shuōbúdìng tā hái huì yòng táiyǔ jiào nǐ de xiǎo míng ne · Your old nickname, of course! Maybe she'll even call you by yours in Taiwanese.

meiling 好！這一天我盼了十五年！

hǎo zhè yì tiān wǒ pàn le shíwǔ nián · Yes! I've waited fifteen years for this day!

write it trace the grey, then write your own



good to know · Taiwan's high-speed rail runs only down the west coast. For Hualien and Taitung on the east coast, people take the train (the Puyuma and Taroko express trains are the fastest). Lots of everyday Taiwanese comes into Mandarin chat: 歹勢 (sorry, paiseh), 古錐 (cute). Grandparents and markets are the best Taiwanese teachers.

You can now talk about old friends, B&Bs and trips, and say "let's do it properly" like a local.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 18 guests and good manners

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 3 · talking & getting along

Welcome important guests, talk about business etiquette and work dinners, and describe things going round and round with X 了 Y，Y 了 X.

Hosting clients is where good manners count most, and 吃了睡，睡了吃 is a lively way to describe the same thing over and over.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
認錯	rèncuò	admit a mistake, apologize	他知道自己不對，馬上就認錯了。 He knew he was wrong and owned up right away.
交談	jiāotán	talk, converse	開完會，大家在門口輕鬆地{de-tw3}交談。 After the meeting, everyone stood chatting by the door.
手勢	shǒushì	hand gesture	在不同的國家，同一個手勢可能有不同的意思。 In different countries, the same gesture can mean different things.
談論	tánlùn	talk about, discuss	大家都在談論那部新電影。 Everyone's talking about that new film.
服從	fúcóng	obey, follow	在公司裡，不一定什麼都要服從老闆。 At work, you don't have to obey the boss on everything.
往來	wǎnglái	have dealings; contact	我們兩家公司往來很多年了。 Our two companies have done business for years.
親熱	qīnrè	affectionate, warm	兩個老朋友見了面，親熱得不得了。 The two old friends were all over each other when they met.
議論	yìlùn	discuss, comment on (others)	別在背後議論別人。 Don't talk about people behind their backs.
貴賓	guìbīn	VIP, honoured guest	今天公司有幾位重要的貴賓要來。 Some important guests are coming to the company today.
款待	kuǎndài	entertain, treat (guests) well	謝謝你們的熱情款待！ Thank you for your warm hospitality!
來賓	láibīn	guest (at an event)	各位來賓，歡迎大家今天來參加。 Ladies and gentlemen, welcome, and thank you for coming today.
禮節	lǐjié	etiquette, courtesy	到朋友家吃飯，要注意基本的禮節。 When you go to a friend's for dinner, mind the basic etiquette.
探望	tànwàng	visit (someone ill or old)	美玲常常回臺南探望奶奶。 Meiling often goes back to Tainan to visit her grandmother.
應酬	yìngchóu	socialize (for work)	李經理今天晚上有應酬，很晚才回來。 Manager Li has a work dinner tonight and will be home late.

交情	jiāoqíng	friendship, acquaintance	我們是二十年的交情了。 We've been friends for twenty years.
默契	mòqì	rapport, tacit understanding	他們合作了很多年，非常有默契。 They've worked together for years and really understand each other.
旁人	pángrén	other people, bystanders	旁人怎麼說，你不用太在意。 Don't worry too much about what other people say.
圈子	quānzi	circle (of people)	設計這個圈子很小，大家都認識。 The design world is small: everyone knows everyone.
拜會	bàihuì	pay a (formal) call on	下星期，日本的客戶要來拜會我們公司。 Next week our Japanese client is coming to pay us a visit.
盛情	shèngqíng	great kindness, hospitality	主人盛情邀請，我們就不客氣了。 Our hosts were so kind to invite us, so we gladly accepted.
邀	yāo	invite	美玲邀了幾個老同學來家裡吃飯。 Meiling invited a few old classmates over for dinner.
終身	zhōngshēn	lifelong, all one's life	這是我終身難忘的一天。 This is a day I'll never forget.
哼	hēng	hum; humph!	她一邊做飯，一邊哼著歌。 She hummed a song while she cooked.

pattern x了y，y了x: round and round

X了Y ， Y了X

Two actions, then the same two in reverse: 吃了睡，睡了吃 "eat then sleep, sleep then eat". It paints something that keeps going round in circles, often with a smile or a sigh. Use short verbs, and often add how long it went on.

塞車的時候，車子走了停，停了走。 **sāichē de shíhòu chēzi zǒu le tíng tíng le zǒu** In a traffic jam, the cars stop and start, start and stop.

兩個老朋友見了面，說了笑，笑了說，親熱得不得了。 **liǎng ge lǎo péngyǒu jiàn le miàn shuō le xiào xiào le shuō qīnrè de bùdéliǎo** When the two old friends met, they talked and laughed and laughed and talked: they were so happy together.

這個設計我改了看，看了改，到現在還不滿意。 **zhè ge shèjì wǒ gǎi le kàn kàn le gǎi dào xiànzài hái bù mǎnyì** I've changed this design and looked at it, looked at it and changed it, and I'm still not happy.

dialogue vips tomorrow

manager li 明天上午十點，日本的客戶要來拜會我們。我們往來十年了，很有默契，他們是公司最重要的貴賓。

míngtiān shàngwǔ shí diǎn Rìběn de kèhù yào lái bàihuì wǒmen wǒmen wǎnglái shí nián le hěn yǒu mòqì tāmen shì gōngsī zuì zhòngyào de guìbīn · Tomorrow at ten our Japanese client is coming to visit. We've done business for ten years and we understand each other well: they're the company's most important guests.

david 他們對我們的設計，評價一直很高。

tāmen duì wǒmen de shèjì píngjià yìzhí hěn gāo · They've always rated our designs very highly.

anna 歡迎詞我已經準備好了。我寫了改，改了寫，一共改了五遍！

huānyíng cí wǒ yǐjīng zhǔnbèi hǎo le wǒ xiě le gǎi gǎi le xiě yígòng gǎi le wǔ biàn · My welcome speech is ready. I wrote it, rewrote it, and changed it five times in all!

manager li 很好。見面的時候記得先鞠躬，態度要恭敬，有些手勢在日本不太禮貌。萬一說錯了話，馬上認錯就好。

hěn hǎo jiànmiàn de shíhòu jìde xiān júgōng tàidù yào gōngjìng yǒuxiē shǒushì zài Rìběn bú tài lǐmào wànyī shuō cuò le huà mǎshàng rèncuò jiù hǎo · Good. Remember to bow first when you meet them, and be respectful: some gestures are a bit rude in Japan. And if you say something wrong, just apologise straight away.

david 經理放心，我在日本住過半年，懂一些禮節，也能用日本話跟他們交談。

jīnglǐ fàngxīn wǒ zài Rìběn zhù guo bàn nián dǒng yìxiē lǐjié yě néng yòng Rìběn huà gēn tāmen jiāotán · Don't worry, boss: I lived in Japan for six months. I know a bit of the etiquette, and I can talk to them in Japanese.

manager li 好。不過別太緊張，舉止自然就好。

hǎo búguò bié tài jǐnzhāng jǔzhǐ zìrán jiù hǎo · Good. But don't be too nervous: just behave naturally.

manager li 還有，吃飯的時候別談論別的客戶。設計這個圈子很小，旁人隨便議論一句，大家很快就都知道了。

háiyǒu chī fàn de shíhòu bié tánlùn biéde kèhù shèjì zhè ge quānzi hěn xiǎo pángrén suíbiàn yìlùn yí jù dàjiā hěn kuài jiù dōu zhīdào le · And at dinner, don't talk about other clients. The design world is small: if someone gossips, everyone soon knows.

anna 了解。他們當晚就回日本嗎？

liǎojiě tāmen dāng wǎn jiù huí Rìběn ma · Got it. Are they flying back to Japan that same evening?

manager li 不，他們後天才走。晚上的應酬我跟大衛去。上次去日本，他們盛情邀我們吃飯，這次我們也要好好款待他們。

bù tāmen hòutiān cái zǒu wǎnshàng de yìngchóu wǒ gēn Dàwèi qù shàng cì qù Rìběn tāmen shèngqíng yāo wǒmen chī fàn zhè cì wǒmen yě yào hǎohǎo kuǎndài tāmen · No, they leave the day after. David and I will do the dinner. Last time we were in Japan they treated us to a wonderful meal, so this time we're going to look after them properly.

david 沒問題！要吃就吃個痛快，我訂了一家很棒的臺灣菜餐廳，保證他們吃得過癮。

méi wèntí yào chī jiù chī ge tòngkuài wǒ dìng le yì jiā hěn bàng de Táiwān cài cāntīng bǎozhèng tāmen chī de guòyǐn · No problem! If we're eating, let's do it properly: I've booked a great Taiwanese restaurant. They'll love it, I promise.

manager li 哼，我看是你自己想吃吧。

hēng wǒ kàn shì nǐ zìjǐ xiǎng chī ba · Humph. I think you're the one who wants to eat there.

anna 這不，他已經在看菜單了。

zhèbù tā yǐjīng zài kàn càidān le · See? He's already reading the menu.

david 沒辦法，我天性就愛吃嘛。

méi bànfǎ wǒ tiānxìng jiù ài chī ma · Can't help it: I was born loving food.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

衝
chōng
rush, dash



疼
téng
sore, aching

樸
pú
plain, simple

懷
huái
cherish, keep in one's heart

損
sǔn
make digs at, tease; damage

good to know · New meaning: 當 (dāng) before 晚, 年 or 時 means "that same …": 當晚 that evening, 當年 back then, 當時 at the time. 應酬 is the work dinner you can't say no to. To decline politely: 不好意思，我今天晚上有事。

You can now welcome VIPs, talk business manners and describe life going round in circles.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 19 making up

Talk through a falling-out and make up, and say "take it or leave it" with 愛 A 不 A.

Every friendship has its storms. Knowing how to say sorry, forgive and smooth things over is real C1 Chinese, and 愛理不理 describes the cold shoulder perfectly.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
拋棄	pāoqì	abandon, desert	他不會為了錢拋棄朋友。 He'd never abandon a friend for money.
人情	rénqíng	favour; human feelings	他幫了我那麼多，我欠他一個人情。 He's helped me so much: I owe him a favour.
融洽	róngqià	harmonious, on good terms	我們三個人住在一起，相處得很融洽。 The three of us live together and get on really well.
安撫	ānfǔ	soothe, calm	孩子一直哭，媽媽在旁邊安撫他。 The child kept crying, and his mother calmed him down.
成全	chéngquán	help someone fulfil their wish	既然你這麼想去，我就成全你吧。 Since you want to go so badly, I won't stand in your way.
關照	guānzhào	look after, keep an eye on	我是新來的，請大家多多關照！ I'm new here: please look after me!
和解	héjiě	reconcile, make peace	吵了一個星期，他們終於和解了。 After a week of fighting, they finally made up.
饒	ráo	forgive, let off	饒了我吧，我再也不敢了！ Give me a break, I'll never do it again!
體諒	tǐliàng	be understanding of	謝謝你體諒我的難處。 Thank you for understanding my situation.
調和	tiáohé	mediate; blend well	她很會調和大家的意見。 She's good at bringing everyone's views together.
著想	zhuóxiǎng	consider (someone's interests)	我這樣做，都是為你著想。 I'm doing this for your own good.
仇	chóu	hatred, feud	他們兩家以前有仇，現在卻成了好朋友。 Their two families used to have a feud; now they're good friends.
出賣	chūmài	betray; sell out	我只告訴了你，你怎麼可以出賣我？ I only told you: how could you betray me?
斷絕	duànjué	break off, cut off	吵架以後，他們斷絕了聯繫。 After the fight, they cut off all contact.
隔閡	géhé	gap, estrangement	兩代人之間難免有一些隔閡。 There's bound to be a gap between two generations.
孤立	gūlì	isolated	新來的同事覺得自己在辦公室裡很孤立。 The new colleague feels isolated in the office.

愛戴	àidài	love and respect (a leader)	這位老校長很受學生愛戴。 The old headmaster is loved by his students.
恩情	ēnqíng	kindness, debt of gratitude	父母的恩情，我一輩子也忘不了{liao3-tw}。 I'll never forget what my parents did for me.
老鄉	lǎoxiāng	fellow townsman	阿傑跟這家店的老闆是老鄉，都是高雄人。 Ajie and the shop owner come from the same place: both are from Kaohsiung.
恩人	ēnrén	benefactor	陳|老師是我的恩人，沒有她就沒有今天的我。 Teacher Chen changed my life: without her I wouldn't be who I am.
敬	jìng	respect; offer (respectfully)	婚禮上，新人要向長輩敬茶。 At the wedding, the couple serve tea to their elders.
比喻	bǐyù	metaphor, figure of speech	「人生像一場旅行」是很常見的比喻。 "Life is a journey" is a very common metaphor.
譬如	pìrú	for example, such as	我喜歡戶外活動，譬如爬山、游泳。 I love outdoor activities, like hiking and swimming.

pattern 愛 a 不 a: take it or leave it

愛 | verb | 不 | same verb

愛 + verb + 不 + the same verb means "do it or don't, I couldn't care less": 你愛信不信 "believe it or not, up to you". 愛理不理 (理 = pay attention to) describes someone who barely responds: the cold shoulder. It sounds impatient, so keep it for friends, family or complaints.

晚飯做好了，你愛吃不吃。 **wǎn fàn zuò hǎo le nǐ ài chī bu chī** Dinner's ready: eat it or don't, your choice.

會議十點開始，他愛來不來，我們不等了。 **huìyì shí diǎn kāishǐ tā ài lái bu lái wǒmen bù děng le** The meeting starts at ten: whether he comes or not, we're not waiting.

公司做了一份調查，可是大家都愛填不填的。 **gōngsī zuò le yí fèn diàochá kěshì dàjiā dōu ài tián bu tián de** The company ran a survey, but people could hardly be bothered to fill it in.

這位老師很受學生愛戴，可是對校長愛理不理的。 **zhè wèi lǎoshī hěn shòu xuéshēng àidài kěshì duì xiàozhǎng ài lǐ bu lǐ de** This teacher is adored by the students, but can hardly be bothered with the headmaster.

dialogue the photo

anna 美玲，你這兩天怎麼對大衛愛理不理的？他做錯了什麼？
Měilíng nǐ zhè liǎng tiān zěnme duì Dàwèi ài lǐ bu lǐ de tā zuò cuò le shénme · Meiling, why have you been ignoring David these last two days? What did he do?

meiling 他拍了我在沙發上睡覺的照片，還放到社群上，同事都看到了！我那麼信任他，他竟然出賣我。
tā pāi le wǒ zài shāfā shàng shuìjiào de zhàopiàn hái fàng dào shèqún shàng tóngshì dōu kàn dào le wǒ nàme xìnrèn tā tā jìngrán chūmài wǒ · He took a photo of me asleep on the sofa and put it on social media, and all my colleagues saw it! I trusted him, and he sold me out.

anna 「出賣」？這個比喻也太嚴重了吧！他是調皮，可是沒有惡意。你們又沒有仇，難道要斷絕往來？
chūmài zhè ge bǐyù yě tài yánzhòng le ba tā shì tiáopí kěshì méiyǒu èyì nǐmen yòu méiyǒu chóu nándào yào duànjué wǎnglái · "Sold you out"? That's a bit strong! He's cheeky, but he didn't mean any harm. You're not enemies: are you going to stop speaking for good?

meiling 當然不會。我只是覺得很丟臉。可是這兩天他一個人吃飯，看起來很孤立，我也不好受。
dāngrán bú huì wǒ zhǐshì juéde hěn diūliǎn kěshì zhè liǎng tiān tā yí ge rén chī fàn kànqǐlái hěn gūlì wǒ yě bù hǎoshòu · Of course not. I was just so embarrassed. But he's been eating on his own for two days and looks so cut off, and that doesn't feel good either.

anna 你們兩個啊，吵了好，好了吵。譬如上個月，為了誰買衛生紙，也吵了兩天。有話別憋在心裡，跟他說清楚吧。
nǐmen liǎng ge a chǎo le hǎo hǎo le chǎo pìrú shàng ge yuè wèile shéi mǎi wèishēngzhǐ yě chǎo le liǎng tiān yǒu huà bié biē zài xīn lǐ gēn tā shuō qīngchǔ ba · You two: fight, make up, fight again. Last month, for example, you argued for two days about who should buy the toilet paper. Don't bottle it up: talk it through with him.

david 美玲，對不起，照片我已經拿掉了。我不該開這種幼稚的玩笑，是我沒有為你著想。
Měilíng duìbùqǐ zhàopiàn wǒ yǐjīng ná diào le wǒ bù gāi kāi zhè zhǒng yòuzhì de wánxiào shì wǒ méiyǒu wèi nǐ zhuóxiǎng · Meiling, I'm sorry: I've taken the photo down. I shouldn't have made such a childish joke. I didn't think about how you'd feel.

meiling 好吧，我也體諒你只是想開玩笑。你這麼想被原諒，我就成全你，這次饒了你！
hǎo ba wǒ yě tǐliàng nǐ zhǐshì xiǎng kāiwánxiào nǐ zhème xiǎng bèi yuánliàng wǒ jiù chéngquán nǐ zhè cì ráo le nǐ · All right, I get that you were only joking. Since you want to be forgiven so badly, I'll grant your wish: you're off the hook this time!

david 太好了！安娜，謝謝你在中間調和，你真是我們的恩人。
tài hǎo le Ānnà xièxie nǐ zài zhōngjiān tiáohé nǐ zhēnshì wǒmen de ēnrén · Great! Anna, thanks for patching things up between us: you're our saviour.

anna 哪裡的話！你們和解了就好。不過大衛，你欠我一個人情。
nǎlǐ dehuà nǐmen héjiě le jiù hǎo búguò Dàwèi nǐ qiàn wǒ yí ge rénqíng · Not at all! I'm just glad you've made up. But David, you owe me a favour.

meiling 那今天晚上我請客，大家去吃我老鄉開的臺南小吃！
nà jīntiān wǎnshàng wǒ qǐngkè dàjiā qù chī wǒ lǎoxiāng kāi de Táinán xiǎochī · Then dinner's on me tonight: let's go to the Tainan snack place my friend from home runs!

david 好！今天晚上我一定守規矩，不拍照了。
hǎo jīntiān wǎnshàng wǒ yídìng shǒu guījǔ bù pāizhào le · Great! Tonight I'll behave myself: no photos.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

擾
rǎo
disturb

匆
cōng
hurried



豪
háo
heroic, proud



集
jí
(measure) episode; collect



癮
yǐn
craving

good to know · 請多多關照 (please look after me) is what you say when you join a new team, class or neighbourhood. It's polite and always welcome. New meaning: 調查 (to investigate) is also a noun, "a survey, an investigation": 做一份調查 do a survey.

You can now patch up a quarrel, say sorry, forgive, and tell someone "take it or leave it".
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 20 pampering and pushing

Talk about spoiling, coaxing and bossing people around, and say you don't know what to do with 不知道……才好.

Families, flatmates and pets all get spoiled, nagged and talked round. 不知道說什麼才好 is the phrase you need when words fail you.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
情侶	qínglǚ	couple (in love)	晚上的河邊有很多情侶在散步。 In the evening, lots of couples stroll along the river.
團聚	tuánjù	reunite, be together (family)	過年的時候，一家人終於團聚了。 At New Year the whole family is finally together again.
傢伙	jiāhuǒ	guy, fellow (casual)	你這個傢伙，又遲到了！ You rascal, late again!
辜負	gūfù	let down, fail to live up to	我不會辜負大家的期望。 I won't let everyone down.
侮辱	wǔrù	insult, humiliate	他覺得自己被侮辱了，很生氣。 He felt insulted and got angry.
哄	hǒng	coax, humour	她花了半個小時才把孩子哄睡。 It took her half an hour to get the child to sleep.
順從	shùncóng	obedient, compliant	小黑一點也不順從，叫牠也不來。 Xiaohei isn't obedient at all: call him and he won't come.
慫恿	sǒngyǒng	egg on, put up to	是大衛慫恿我去報名的。 It was David who talked me into signing up.
迎合	yínghé	cater to, pander to	這部電影只是為了迎合年輕人的口味。 This film is only made to cater to young people's taste.
誘惑	yòuhuò	tempt; temptation	減肥的時候，甜點的誘惑最大。 When you're on a diet, dessert is the biggest temptation.
縱容	zòngróng	indulge, let get away with	你不能再縱容孩子了。 You can't keep letting the kids get away with it.
寵愛	chǒngài	dote on, spoil	美玲非常寵愛小黑。 Meiling absolutely dotes on Xiaohei.
出面	chūmiàn	step in, intervene personally	最後是李|經理出面，問題才解決。 In the end Manager Li stepped in, and only then was it solved.
打發	dǎfā	send away; pass (time)	下雨天，我們看電影打發時間。 On rainy days we watch films to pass the time.

外號	wàihào	nickname	他的外號叫「小胖」，其實他一點也不胖。 His nickname is “Chubby”, but he isn’t chubby at all.
玩弄	wánnòng	toy with, play with	別玩弄別人的感情。 Don’t toy with people’s feelings.
怠慢	dàimàn	neglect (a guest), slight	客人來了，我們可不能怠慢。 Guests are here: we mustn’t neglect them.
恩怨	ēnyuàn	old scores, grudges	那是上一代的恩怨，跟我們沒關係。 That’s the last generation’s feud: it has nothing to do with us.
使喚	shǐhuàn	order around	你別老是使喚我，自己去拿！ Stop ordering me around: get it yourself!
拖累	tuōlèi	be a burden on, drag down	我不想拖累整個團隊。 I don’t want to hold the whole team back.
賜	sì	grant, bestow (formal)	我是新手，還請各位多多賜教{jiao4-tw2=teaching, advice}。 I’m new at this, so please give me your advice.
奇蹟	qíjī	miracle	醫生說他能好起來，是一個奇蹟。 The doctor said his recovery was a miracle.
隨身	suíshēn	(carry) on oneself	出門的時候，我一定隨身帶著手機。 When I go out, I always have my phone on me.
看在	kànzài	for the sake of (看在…的份上)	好吧，看在奶茶的份上，這次就算了。 All right: for the sake of the bubble tea, I’ll let it go this time.

pattern 不知(道).....才好: not know what to do

不知(道) **(該) 怎麼 / 說什麼 / 怎麼辦** **才好**

不知道 + a question (how? what? which?) + 才好 means “I don’t know what would be best”. It sounds more helpless, or more grateful, than plain 不知道. 該 often comes before the verb: 不知道該怎麼謝你才好 “I don’t know how to thank you”.

你送我這麼貴的禮物，我真不知道該怎麼謝你才好。 **nǐ sòng wǒ zhème guì de lǐwù wǒ zhēn bù zhīdào gāi zěnme xiè nǐ cái hǎo** Such an expensive present: I really don’t know how to thank you.

下雨天不能出門，孩子們不知道怎麼打發時間才好。 **xiàyǔ tiān bù néng chūmén háizimen bù zhīdào zěnme dǎfā shíjiān cái hǎo** It’s raining and they can’t go out, so the kids don’t know what to do with themselves.

看到情侶吵架，旁人常常不知道說什麼才好。 **kàn dào qínglǚ chǎojià pángrén chángcháng bù zhīdào shuō shénme cái hǎo** When a couple argues in front of you, it’s hard to know what to say.

他覺得自己被玩弄了，不知道該相信誰才好。 **tā juéde zìjǐ bèi wánnòng le bù zhīdào gāi xiāngxìn shéi cái hǎo** He felt he’d been played and didn’t know who to trust.

dialogue the broken cup

david 欸，美玲！小黑又把我的杯子打破了！那是我奶奶送我的，我最心愛的杯子。
āi Měilíng Xiǎohēi yòu bǎ wǒ de bēizi dǎ pò le nà shì wǒ nǎinai sòng wǒ de wǒ zuì xīnài de bēizi · Hey, Meiling! Xiaohei's broken my cup again! The one my grandma gave me: my favourite cup.

meiling 對不起啦！牠不是故意的。小黑，快來跟大衛道歉……
duìbùqǐ la tā bú shì gùyì de Xiǎohēi kuài lái gēn Dàwèi dàoqiàn · Sorry! He didn't mean to. Xiaohei, come and say sorry to David…

david 你看，叫牠，牠也愛來不來的，還對我頂嘴！你太縱容這個小傢伙了。
nǐ kàn jiào tā tā yě ài lái bu lái de hái duì wǒ dǐng zuǐ nǐ tài zòngróng zhè ge xiǎo jiāhuǒ le · See? He only comes when he feels like it, and now he's answering back! You let the little rascal get away with everything.

meiling 牠本來就不順從嘛。而且你把杯子放在桌子邊上，對貓來說是很大的誘惑。
tā běnlái jiù bú shùncóng ma érqiě nǐ bǎ bēizi fàng zài zhuōzi biān shàng duì māo lái shuō shì hěn dà de yòuhuò · He was never the obedient type. Besides, you left the cup on the edge of the table: that's a huge temptation for a cat.

anna 說真的，小黑的性情是有點古怪。
shuō zhēnde Xiǎohēi de xìngqíng shì yǒudiǎn gǔguài · Honestly, Xiaohei does have a bit of an odd temperament.

david 所以是我活該？這簡直是侮辱！你每天使喚我去買貓吃的東西，現在還怪我？
suǒyǐ shì wǒ huógāi zhè jiǎnzhí shì wǔrù nǐ měi tiān shǐhuàn wǒ qù mǎi māo chī de dōngxi xiànzài hái guài wǒ · So it's my own fault? That's an insult! You send me out for cat food every day, and now it's my fault?

anna 好了，好了，我出面說句話：你們兩個別為了一隻貓結下恩怨。美玲，你就讓一步吧。
hǎole hǎole wǒ chūmiàn shuō jù huà nǐmen liǎng ge bié wèile yì zhī māo jié xià ēnyuàn Měilíng nǐ jiù ràng yí bù ba · OK, OK, let me step in here: don't start a feud over a cat. Meiling, just give a little.

meiling 好啦，是我不對。大衛，我賠你一個新杯子，再請你喝珍珠奶茶，別生氣了喔。
hǎo la shì wǒ bú duì Dàwèi wǒ péi nǐ yí ge xīn bēizi zài qǐng nǐ hē zhēnzhū nǎichá bié shēngqì le ō · Fine, my fault. David, I'll get you a new cup and buy you a bubble tea. Don't be cross, OK?

david 好吧，看在奶茶的份上，這次就算了。
hǎo ba kànzài nǎichá de fèn shàng zhè cì jiù suànle · All right: for the sake of the bubble tea, I'll let it go this time.

anna 你看，她又在哄你了。上次她慫恿你幫小黑買新床，也是這樣。
nǐ kàn tā yòu zài hǒng nǐ le shàng cì tā sǒngyǒng nǐ bāng Xiǎohēi mǎi xīn chuáng yě shì zhèyàng · See, she's talking you round again. It was the same when she talked you into buying Xiaohei a new bed.

david 唉，我真不知道該說什麼才好。在這個家，客人可以怠慢，小黑可不能怠慢！
āi wǒ zhēn bù zhīdào gāi shuō shénme cái hǎo zài zhè ge jiā kèrén kěyǐ dàimàn Xiǎohēi kě bù néng dàimàn · Sigh. I really don't know what to say. In this house you can neglect a guest, but never the cat!

meiling 我才不是在迎合你呢，請你喝奶茶，是因為我自己也想喝！
wǒ cái bú shì zài yínghé nǐ ne qǐng nǐ hē nǎichá shì yīnwèi wǒ zìjǐ yě xiǎng hē · I'm not just trying to please you, you know: I'm buying bubble tea because I want one too!

david 你這個人真精明！
nǐ zhè ge rén zhēn jīngmíng · You really are a shrewd one!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

哀
āi
grief

劳
láo
toil



累
lèi
tired



疲
pí
tired



致
zhì
manner, delight

good to know · New meaning: 頂 (a measure word for hats) is also a verb, “push against, stand up to”: 頂嘴 answer back. As an adverb it means “very, at most” in 頂好 (really good) and 頂多 (at most). 好了, 好了 is how you calm people down: “OK, OK, that’s enough.” 好啦 with 啦 sounds like giving in: “fine, fine”.

You can now spoil, coax and boss people around in Chinese, and say when you’re lost for words.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 21 promises and claims

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 3 · talking & getting along

Talk about promises, boasts and public claims, give friendly advice with 不妨, and take care of people with 保重 and 當心.

From a friend's big talk to a company's public statement, claims are everywhere. 不妨 lets you suggest something without pushing.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
保重	bǎozhòng	take care (of yourself)	天氣冷了，你要多保重。 It's getting cold: look after yourself.
當心	dāngxīn	be careful, look out	當心！地上很滑。 Careful! The floor's slippery.
訴苦	sùkǔ	pour out one's troubles	她常常打電話來跟我訴苦。 She often rings me to pour out her troubles.
指引	zhǐyǐn	guide, show the way	謝謝陳|老師一路上的指引。 Thank you, Teacher Chen, for guiding me all the way.
吹牛	chuīniú	brag, boast	別聽他吹牛，他根本不會做飯。 Don't listen to him bragging: he can't cook at all.
自稱	zìchēng	call oneself, claim to be	那個人自稱是專家，可是什麼都不懂。 That man calls himself an expert, but he knows nothing.
告狀	gàozhuàng	tell on someone; complain	弟弟又去跟媽媽告狀了。 My little brother went and told on me to Mum again.
道別	dàobié	say goodbye	我們在高鐵站道別。 We said goodbye at the HSR station.
諾言	nuòyán	promise (one's word)	他遵守了自己的諾言。 He kept his word.
提議	tíyì	propose, suggest	我提議這個週末大家一起去爬山。 I propose we all go hiking this weekend.
指點	zhǐdiǎn	give pointers, advise	有做得不好的地方，請您多指點。 If I've done anything badly, please tell me.
囑咐	zhǔfù	tell, urge (someone to do)	媽媽囑咐我出門要多穿一點。 Mum told me to wrap up warm when I go out.
恭維	gōngwéi	flatter, compliment	這不是恭維，你的設計真的很好。 This isn't flattery: your design really is good.
聲稱	shēngchēng	claim, assert	這家公司聲稱他們的產品完全天然。 The company claims its products are completely natural.
聲明	shēngmíng	statement, announcement	公司今天發表了一份聲明。 The company issued a statement today.

宣稱	xuānchēng	declare, claim	那家店宣稱自己有全臺灣最好吃的牛肉麵。 That shop claims to have the best beef noodles in all Taiwan.
宣告	xuāngào	announce, proclaim	主持人宣告：「比賽正式開始！」 The host announced: “The contest has officially begun!”
讚嘆	zàntàn	marvel at, praise	看到山上的風景，每個人都忍不住讚嘆。 Seeing the mountain views, everyone gasped in admiration.
街坊	jiēfāng	neighbours (of the street)	王|阿姨跟街坊鄰居都很熟。 Auntie Wang knows all the neighbours well.
當代	dāngdài	contemporary	安娜很喜歡當代藝術。 Anna loves contemporary art.
爆發	bàofā	break out, erupt	他忍了很久，最後終於爆發了。 He held it in for a long time, then finally exploded.
不妨	bùfáng	might as well, why not	你不妨先試試看。 You might as well give it a try first.

pattern 不妨: you might as well, why not

(你) 不妨 do something

不妨 (literally “it does no harm”) goes before a verb to make a soft suggestion: 你不妨試試看 “you might as well give it a try”. It’s polite and a little formal, nicer than a direct 你應該. Add 先 or 問問 / 看看 to make it even lighter.

這件事你不妨直接問她。 **zhè jiàn shì nǐ bùfáng zhíjiē wèn tā** You might as well ask her directly.

有時間的話，不妨去看看當代藝術的新展覽。 **yǒu shíjiān dehuà bùfáng qù kànkan dāngdài yìshù de xīn zhǎnlǎn** If you have time, the new contemporary art exhibition is worth a look.

壓力大的時候，不妨找好朋友訴苦，別等到爆發了才想辦法。 **yālì dà de shíhòu bùfáng zhǎo hǎo péngyǒu sùkǔ bié děngdào bàofā le cái xiǎng bànfǎ** When you’re under pressure, why not talk it out with a good friend, instead of waiting until you explode?

dialogue the big promise

david 王阿姨，早！我跟你說，這個星期五我要給安娜跟美玲做一頓大餐。
Wáng āyí zǎo wǒ gēn nǐ shuō zhè ge xīngqíwǔ wǒ yào gěi Ānnà gēn Měilíng zuò yí dùn dà cān · Morning, Auntie Wang! Guess what: this Friday I'm cooking a feast for Anna and Meiling.

auntie wang 喔？你會做菜？上次你不是聲稱自己是做菜高手，結果連蛋都煎不好？
ō nǐ huì zuò cài shàng cì nǐ bú shì shēngchēng zìjǐ shì zuò cài gāoshǒu jiéguǒ lián dàn dōu jiān bu hǎo · Oh? You can cook? Last time didn't you claim you were a master chef, and then you couldn't even fry an egg?

david 那次是意外，我太匆忙了！這次我是認真的，這是我給她們的諾言，我不會辜負她們。
nà cì shì yìwài wǒ tài cōngmáng le zhè cì wǒ shì rènzhēn de zhè shì wǒ gěi tāmen de nuòyán wǒ bú huì gūfù tāmen · That was an accident: I was in too much of a hurry! This time I'm serious: I've given them my word, and I won't let them down.

anna 他昨天在家宣稱：「星期五晚上，廚房是我的！」美玲跟我都很吃驚，不知道該說什麼才好。
tā zuótiān zài jiā xuānchēng xīngqíwǔ wǎnshàng chúfáng shì wǒ de Měilíng gēn wǒ dōu hěn chījīng bù zhīdào gāi shuō shénme cái hǎo · Yesterday he announced at home: "Friday night, the kitchen is mine!" Meiling and I were so taken aback, we didn't know what to say.

auntie wang 好啊，那你不妨先跟我學個一兩道菜。我年輕的時候日子很艱苦，可是街坊鄰居都來我家吃飯。
hǎo a nà nǐ bùfáng xiān gēn wǒ xué ge yìliǎng dào cài wǒ niánqīng de shíhòu rìzi hěn jiānkǔ kěshì jiēfāng línjū dōu lái wǒ jiā chī fàn · Well then, you might as well learn a dish or two from me first. When I was young, times were hard, but the whole neighbourhood ate at my place.

david 太好了！我一定虛心學習，請阿姨多多指點。
tài hǎo le wǒ yídìng xūxīn xuéxí qǐng āyí duōduō zhǐdiǎn · Brilliant! I'll learn with an open mind: please teach me everything, Auntie.

auntie wang 先說好，炒菜的時候要當心，油很燙。還有，做菜要用心，不是用來吹牛的。
xiān shuō hǎo chǎo cài de shíhòu yào dāngxīn yóu hěn tàng háiyǒu zuò cài yào yòngxīn bú shì yòng lái chuīniú de · One thing first: be careful when you stir-fry, the oil gets very hot. And cooking is about care, not about bragging.

david 知道了，我會很謹慎的。
zhīdào le wǒ huì hěn jǐnshèn de · Got it: I'll be very careful.

anna 阿姨，您說的話跟我媽媽的囑咐完全一樣。
āyí nín shuō de huà gēn wǒ māma de zhǔfù wánquán yíyàng · Auntie, that's exactly what my mum always tells me.

david 星期五晚上，我一定創造奇蹟，讓你們讚嘆！
xīngqíwǔ wǎnshàng wǒ yídìng chuàngzào qíjī ràng nǐmen zàntàn · Friday night, I'll work a miracle and have you all amazed!

anna 好啊。要是不好吃，我們就去跟王阿姨告狀！
hǎo a yàoshì bù hǎochī wǒmen jiù qù gēn Wáng āyí gàozhuàng · Deal. And if it's no good, we'll tell on you to Auntie Wang!

auntie wang 放心，我會盯著他，不會讓他把廚房燒了。
fàngxīn wǒ huì dīng zhe tā bú huì ràng tā bǎ chúfáng shāo le · Don't worry: I'll keep an eye on him and won't let him burn the kitchen down.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

悠
yōu
long, leisurely

喪
sàng
lose

涼
liáng
cool, cold (to touch)

詳
xiáng
calm, detailed

守
shǒu
keep (rules); guard

good to know · New meaning: 頓 (a measure word for meals: 一頓飯) is also a verb, “to pause”: 他頓了一下 he paused for a moment. 聲稱 and 宣稱 often mean “claims (but who knows?)”: news reports use them when they don’t vouch for what was said.

You can now make and question promises, report claims like the news, and suggest things gently with 不妨.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 22 arguing and nagging

Argue, nag, mutter and debate, and say how bad things have got with 到……的地步.

Arguments are part of sharing a home. Knowing 囉嗦, 嘀咕 and 插嘴 helps you follow a row, and 到……的地步 says just how far it has gone.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
插嘴	chāzuǐ	interrupt, butt in	大人說話，小孩別插嘴。 Kids, don't interrupt when grown-ups are talking.
說謊	shuōhuǎng	lie, tell a lie	他從來不說謊。 He never lies.
提及	tíjí	mention (formal)	他在信裡沒有提及這件事。 He didn't mention this in his letter.
囉嗦	luōsuō	long-winded, naggy	我媽媽很囉嗦，同一件事說了五遍。 My mum nags: she said the same thing five times.
責備	zébèi	reproach, blame	他沒有責備我，只是叫我下次小心。 He didn't tell me off: he just said to be careful next time.
辯論	biànlùn	debate	我們在課堂上辯論了這個問題。 We debated this question in class.
講理	jiǎnglǐ	reasonable	他這個人很講理，你好好跟他說。 He's a reasonable person: just talk to him properly.
撒謊	sāhuǎng	lie, tell a lie	你撒謊！你昨天明明在家。 You're lying! You were at home yesterday, I know it.
爭辯	zhēngbiàn	argue, dispute	他們為了誰洗碗爭辯了半天。 They argued for ages about who should do the dishes.
嘀咕	dígū	mutter, grumble	他一邊洗碗，一邊小聲地{de-tw3}嘀咕。 He muttered under his breath as he washed up.
嚷	rǎng	shout, yell	別嚷了，鄰居都聽到了！ Stop shouting: the neighbours can hear!
俗稱	súchēng	be commonly called	臺灣高速鐵路，俗稱「高鐵」。 Taiwan High Speed Rail is commonly called "Gaotie".
俗語	súyǔ	common saying, proverb	俗語說：「好的開始是成功的一半。」 As the saying goes, "well begun is half done."
字眼	zìyǎn	wording, choice of words	寫電子郵件給客戶，要注意字眼。 When you email clients, watch your wording.
表白	biǎobái	confess (one's feelings)	他終於向她表白了，說想當她的男朋友。 He finally told her how he felt: he wants to be her boyfriend.

誇耀	kuāyào	show off, boast about	他喜歡在朋友面前誇耀自己的車。 He likes showing off his car to his friends.
座右銘	zuòyòumíng	motto	我的座右銘是「今天的事今天做」。 My motto is “do today what has to be done today”.
高見	gāojiàn	your (brilliant) opinion	不知道您有什麼高見？ What would you suggest?
辯	biàn	argue, debate	事情很清楚，沒什麼好辯的。 It’s perfectly clear: there’s nothing to argue about.
壺	hú	pot (measure word); kettle	我去泡一壺茶。 I’ll go and make a pot of tea.
猜測	cāicè	guess, speculate	這只是我的猜測，不一定對。 It’s only my guess: it might not be right.
地步	dìbù	extent, point (bad state)	事情怎麼會到這種地步？ How did things ever get this bad?

pattern 到……的地步: to the point where

verb / adjective | **到** | **what happened** | **的地步**

地步 is “the point things have reached”, usually a bad one. Put 到 after a verb or adjective, describe the result, and close with 的地步: 忙到沒時間吃飯的地步 “so busy there’s no time to eat”. As a question: 怎麼會到這種地步？ “how did it come to this?”

他忙到連吃飯的時間都沒有的地步。 **tā máng dào lián chī fàn de shíjiān dōu méiyǒu de dìbù** He’s so busy he hasn’t even got time to eat.

他喜歡誇耀自己，已經到了讓人受不了的地步。 **tā xǐhuān kuāyào zìjǐ yǐjīng dào le ràng rén shòubùliǎo de dìbù** His showing off has got to the point where people can’t stand it.

他們辯論到臉紅的地步，卻沒有人提及真正的問題。 **tāmen biànlùn dào liǎn hóng de dìbù què méiyǒu rén tíjí zhēnzhèng de wèntí** They argued until they were red in the face, yet nobody mentioned the real problem.

dialogue three days of dishes

meiling 大衛，這些碗已經放了三天了！你星期五做完大餐，到現在還沒洗。
Dàwèi zhèxiē wǎn yǐjīng fàng le sān tiān le nǐ xīngqíwǔ zuò wán dà cān dào xiànzài hái méi xǐ · David, these dishes have been here three days! You made your feast on Friday and you still haven't washed up.

david 我不是說了嗎？我明天洗。這幾天太勞累了，你別這麼囉嗦嘛。
wǒ bú shì shuō le ma wǒ míngtiān xǐ zhè jǐ tiān tài láolèi le nǐ bié zhème luōsuō ma · Didn't I say? I'll do them tomorrow. I've been worn out these last few days: stop nagging.

meiling 你每次都這樣說！這個家已經髒到小黑都不想進廚房的地步了。再不洗，我就跟王阿姨告狀。
nǐ měi cì dōu zhèyàng shuō zhè ge jiā yǐjīng zāng dào Xiǎohēi dōu bù xiǎng jìn chúfáng de dìbù le zài bù xǐ wǒ jiù gēn Wáng āyí gàozhuàng · You say that every time! This place has got so dirty that even Xiaohei won't go into the kitchen. If you don't wash up, I'm telling Auntie Wang.

david 又來了……做飯的人還要洗碗？這也太不講理了吧。
yòu lái le zuò fàn de rén hái yào xǐ wǎn zhè yě tài bù jiǎnglǐ le ba · Here we go again... The cook has to wash up too? That's just unreasonable.

meiling 你在嘀咕什麼？有話就大聲說，別在那裡小聲嘀咕。
nǐ zài dígū shénme yǒu huà jiù dà shēng shuō bié zài nàlǐ xiǎo shēng dígū · What are you muttering? If you've got something to say, say it out loud.

david 好，我說！上次你說要倒垃圾，結果呢？你的座右銘不是「今天的事今天做」嗎？
hǎo wǒ shuō shàng cì nǐ shuō yào dào lèsè jiéguǒ ne nǐ de zuòyòumíng bú shì jīntiān de shì jīntiān zuò ma · Fine, I will! Last time you said you'd take out the rubbish, and? Isn't your motto "do today what has to be done today"?

meiling 那天我是真的在加班，我又沒撒謊！你別在這裡跟我辯。
nà tiān wǒ shì zhēnde zài jiābān wǒ yòu méi sāhuǎng nǐ bié zài zhèlǐ gēn wǒ biàn · I really was working late that day: I wasn't lying! Don't start arguing with me.

david 你這樣說話也太蠻橫了吧！
nǐ zhèyàng shuōhuà yě tài mánhèng le ba · That's a bit high-handed, talking like that!

anna 不好意思，讓我插嘴一下：你們別嚷了，鄰居都聽到了。俗語說：「家不是講理的地方，是講愛的地方。」為了幾個碗爭辯半個小時，值得嗎？
bùhǎoyìsi ràng wǒ chāzuǐ yíxià nǐmen bié rǎng le línjū dōu tīng dào le súyǔ shuō jiā bú shì jiǎnglǐ de dìfāng shì jiǎng ài de dìfāng wèile jǐ ge wǎn zhēngbiàn bàn ge xiǎoshí zhíde ma · Sorry to butt in, but stop shouting: the neighbours can hear. As the saying goes, "home isn't a place for winning arguments, it's a place for love." Is half an hour of arguing over a few bowls worth it?

david 安娜，你來得正好。你有什麼高見？
Ānnà nǐ lái de zhènghǎo nǐ yǒu shénme gāojiàn · Anna, perfect timing. What do you suggest, oh wise one?

anna 與其一直吵下去，不如大家坐下來開個會，把家事寫清楚。我提議，就這個星期天吧！
yǔqí yìzhí chǎo xiaqu bùrú dàjiā zuò xialai kāi ge huì bǎ jiāshì xiě qīngchǔ wǒ tíyì jiù zhè ge xīngqítiān ba · Rather than fighting forever, let's sit down and have a meeting and write the chores down. I propose this Sunday!

meiling 好，我贊成。這個提議很明智。
hǎo wǒ zànchéng zhè ge tíyì hěn míngzhì · OK, I agree. That's a sensible idea.

david 好吧，我答應你們，星期天一定到。
hǎo ba wǒ dāyìng nǐmen xīngqítiān yídìng dào · Fine. I promise: I'll be there on Sunday.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

落
luò
fall, drop; set (sun)

仇
chóu
hatred, feud

恨
hèn
hate

慌
huāng
flustered, panicky

焦
jiāo
scorched, anxious

good to know · New meaning: 發 is also a measure word for rounds of fireworks (or ammunition): 一萬多發煙火 more than ten thousand fireworks. 說謊 and 撒謊 mean the same; Taiwan uses 說謊 more. In Taiwanese, “to lie” is 講白賊 (kóng pe̍h-tshha̍t), and you’ll hear it mixed into Mandarin.

You can now follow a real row, nag, mutter and make your case, and say how far things have gone.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 23 excuses and flattery

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 3 · talking & getting along

Spot excuses and flattery, talk about pen pals, send-offs and matchmaking, and list examples casually with 什麼 A 的 B 的.

Excuses and sweet talk are universal, and 什麼 A 的 B 的 is how people in Taiwan rattle off a list in everyday speech.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
藉口	jièkǒu	excuse, pretext	別再找藉口了。 Stop making excuses.
同鄉	tóngxiāng	person from the same hometown	我們是同鄉，都是臺南人。 We're from the same town: both from Tainan.
外遇	wàiyù	affair (extramarital)	這部連續劇講的是一個家庭因為外遇而分開的故事。 This TV drama is about a family that breaks up after an affair.
敷衍	fūyǎn	brush off; do half-heartedly	他只是隨便說說，敷衍我而已。 He was just saying it to fob me off.
接納	jiēnà	accept, take in	新同事很快就被大家接納了。 The new colleague was quickly accepted by everyone.
筆友	bǐyǒu	pen pal	我小時候有一個英國筆友。 When I was little I had a British pen pal.
口吻	kǒuwěn	tone (of voice or writing)	他用老師的口吻跟我說話。 He talked to me in a teacher's tone.
拍馬屁	pāimǎpì	suck up, flatter	他很會拍馬屁，所以老闆很喜歡他。 He's great at sucking up, so the boss loves him.
腔調	qiāngdiào	accent, intonation; tone	他說中文有一點南部的腔調。 His Chinese has a bit of a southern accent.
說笑	shuōxiào	chat and joke	大家一邊吃飯，一邊說笑。 Everyone chatted and joked over dinner.
後輩	hòubèi	junior, younger generation	李經理對後輩很照顧。 Manager Li looks after the younger staff.
生人	shēngrén	stranger	小黑很怕生人，一有人來就躲起來。 Xiaohei is scared of strangers: he hides whenever anyone comes.
吵嘴	chǎozuǐ	bicker, squabble	他們兩個常常吵嘴，可是感情很好。 Those two bicker all the time, but they're very close.
辭行	cíxíng	say goodbye before a journey	出國以前，他來跟陳老師辭行。 Before going abroad, he came to say goodbye to Teacher Chen.

撮合	cuòhé	bring together, matchmake	是美玲撮合了他們兩個。 It was Meiling who brought those two together.
歡送	huānsòng	send off (with a party)	我們為退休的老同事辦了一個歡送會。 We threw a farewell party for our retiring colleague.
來客	láikè	visitor, customer	這家餐廳每天的來客數{shu4-tw3}超過三百人。 This restaurant has more than three hundred customers a day.
鄰里	línlǐ	neighbourhood, neighbours	鄰里之間應該互相幫忙。 Neighbours should help each other.
時光	shíguāng	time, days (of one's life)	那是我人生中最快樂的時光。 That was the happiest time of my life.
成效	chéngxiào	effect, results	這個新方法很有成效。 The new method is really working.
抽象	chōuxiàng	abstract	這幅畫太抽象了，我看不懂。 This painting is too abstract: I don't get it.
搭配	dāpèi	match, pair, combine	這件襯衫搭配什麼褲子比較好看？ What trousers would go best with this shirt?

pattern 什麼 a 的 b 的: things like a and b

什麼 | A 的 | 、 | B 的 | ，(都)……

Put 什麼 in front of a list and 的 after each item to say "things like A, B, that sort of thing". It sounds casual, and often a bit fed up: 什麼洗碗的、倒垃圾的，都是我在做. The comment that follows often has 都.

這家餐廳什麼服務的、環境的，都很好。 **zhè jiā cāntīng shénme fúwù de huánjìng de dōu hěn hǎo** This restaurant is great all round: the service, the atmosphere, everything.

鄰里之間，什麼大事小事的，大家都互相幫忙。 **línlǐ zhījiān shénme dà shì xiǎo shì de dàjiā dōu hùxiāng bāngmáng** Neighbours help each other with everything, big or small.

這部連續劇什麼吵嘴的、說謊的，看得我好累。 **zhè bù liánxùjù shénme chǎozuǐ de shuōhuǎng de kàn de wǒ hǎo lèi** This TV drama is all bickering and lies: it wears me out.

什麼抽象的、當代的，這些藝術我都看不懂。 **shénme chōuxiàng de dāngdài de zhèxiē yìshù wǒ dōu kàn bu dǒng** Abstract, contemporary... I don't understand any of that art.

dialogue bubble tea and sweet talk

meiling 明天開會，我要把問題都寫下來：什麼洗碗的、倒垃圾的、打掃浴室的，全部列清楚。

míngtiān kāihuì wǒ yào bǎ wèntí dōu xiě xialai shénme xǐ wǎn de dào lèsè de dǎsǎo yùshì de quánbù liè qīngchǔ · For tomorrow's meeting I'm writing down every problem: washing up, rubbish, cleaning the bathroom, all of it, in a list.

anna 你的口吻好像在寫公司的報告。

nǐ de kǒuwěn hǎoxiàng zài xiě gōngsī de bàogào · You sound like you're writing a company report.

david 兩位，我回來了！我買了你們最愛的珍珠奶茶。美玲，你今天的衣服搭配得真好看！

liǎng wèi wǒ huí lái le wǒ mǎi le nǐmen zuì ài de zhēnzhū nǎichá Měilíng nǐ jīntiān de yīfú dāpèi de zhēn hǎokàn · Ladies, I'm home! I got your favourite bubble tea. Meiling, your outfit looks great today!

anna 你這個傢伙，又想哄美玲了吧？

nǐ zhè ge jiāhuǒ yòu xiǎng hǒng Měilíng le ba · You rascal, trying to sweet-talk Meiling again?

meiling 哼，你現在拍馬屁也沒用。明天的會你別想找藉口不來。

hēng nǐ xiànzài pāimǎpì yě méi yòng míngtiān de huì nǐ bié xiǎng zhǎo jièkǒu bù lái · Humph. Sucking up won't help you now. And don't even think of making excuses to skip tomorrow's meeting.

david 我哪有找藉口？我又沒撒謊，我只是最近工作很忙，什麼加班的、應酬的，忙到連睡覺的時間都不夠的地步。

wǒ nǎ yǒu zhǎo jièkǒu wǒ yòu méi sāhuǎng wǒ zhǐshì zuìjìn gōngzuò hěn máng shénme jiābān de yìngchóu de máng dào lián shuìjiào de shíjiān dōu bú gòu de dìbù · Since when do I make excuses? I'm not lying: work's just been crazy lately, overtime, client dinners. I barely get enough sleep.

meiling 少敷衍我。上星期你還有時間跟你的筆友講了兩個小時的電話！

shǎo fūyǎn wǒ shàng xīngqí nǐ háiyǒu shíjiān gēn nǐ de bǐyǒu jiǎng le liǎng ge xiǎoshí de diànhuà · Don't give me that. Last week you had time to spend two hours on the phone with your pen pal!

david 她是我高中時候的臺灣筆友，下個月要去加拿大念書，打電話來跟我辭行的。

tā shì wǒ gāozhōng shíhòu de Táiwān bǐyǒu xià ge yuè yào qù Jiānádà niànshū dǎdiànhuà lái gēn wǒ cíxíng de · She's been my Taiwanese pen pal since high school. She's off to study in Canada next month, and she rang to say goodbye.

meiling 原來是這樣。好啦，我不囉嗦了。

yuánlái shì zhèyàng hǎo la wǒ bù luōsuō le · Oh, I see. OK, I'll stop going on about it.

anna 你們兩個別再吵嘴了，不然鄰居又要議論了。大衛，明天的會你一定要來喔。

nǐmen liǎng ge bié zài chǎozuǐ le bùrán línjū yòu yào yìlùn le Dàwèi míngtiān de huì nǐ yídìng yào lái ō · You two, stop bickering, or the neighbours will start talking again. David, you've got to come to the meeting tomorrow.

meiling 對了，安娜，下星期我們公司給一位老同事辦歡送會。有一個臺南來的工程師，是我的同鄉，人很踏實，我想撮合你們認識一下。

duìle Ānnà xià xīngqí wǒmen gōngsī gěi yí wèi lǎo tóngshì bàn huānsòng huì yǒu yí ge Táinán lái de gōngchéngshī shì wǒ de tóngxiāng rén hěn tàshí wǒ xiǎng cuòhé nǐmen rènshì yíxià · Oh, Anna: next week my company is throwing a send-off party for an old colleague. There's an engineer from Tainan, from my hometown, really down-to-earth. I'd love to introduce you two.

anna 美玲，你先把家裡的事處理好，再來撮合我吧！

Měilíng nǐ xiān bǎ jiā lǐ de shì chǔlǐ hǎo zài lái cuòhé wǒ ba · Meiling, sort out the flat first, then you can play matchmaker!

david 安娜的高見，我完全贊成！

Ānnà de gāojiàn wǒ wánquán zànchéng · Anna's words of wisdom: I agree completely!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

慮
lǜ
worry, consider



酸
suān
sour



怨
yuàn
blame, resent



匹
pī
(measure word for horses)



妙
miào
wonderful, clever

good to know · New meaning: 服務 (to serve) is also a noun, “service”: 這家店的服務很好 the service here is good. In Taiwan the south (Tainan, Kaohsiung) has its own accent and more Taiwanese mixed in. People say 南部腔 (a southern accent) with affection.

You can now see through excuses and flattery, and list things off like a local with 什麼 A 的 B 的.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 24 mission: the flat meeting

Follow a whole house meeting: read a meeting notice and a flatmates' agreement, air complaints, make promises, make up, and host the neighbours for dinner.

Everything from unit 3 comes back in one Sunday: keeping in touch, manners, making up, pampering, promises, arguments and excuses.

chapter 1 the meeting begins

anna 好，人都到齊了。先念一下我昨天放在我們群組裡的通知。

hǎo rén dōu dào qí le xiān niàn yíxià wǒ zuótiān fàng zài wǒmen qún zǔ lǐ de tōngzhī · Right, everyone's here. First I'll read out the notice I put in our group chat yesterday.

anna 「各位室友：本週日上午十點，在客廳開家庭會議。要討論的事：一、家事怎麼分；二、客人來訪的禮節；三、小黑的事。請大家準時出席，有意見不妨先寫下來，有問題也歡迎詢問。不接受任何藉口，也請不要把今天的會議放上社群。安娜」

gèwèi shìyǒu běn zhōu rì shàngwǔ shí diǎn zài kètīng kāi jiātíng huìyì yào tǎolùn de shì yī jiāshì zěnme fēn èr kèrén lái fǎng de lǐjié sān Xiǎohēi de shì qǐng dàjiā zhǔnshí chūxí yǒu yìjiàn bùfáng xiān xiě xialai yǒu wèntí yě huānyíng xúnwèn bù jiēshòu rènhé jièkǒu yě qǐng bú yào bǎ jīntiān de huìyì fàng shàng shèqún Ānnà · "Dear flatmates: there will be a house meeting this Sunday at 10 am in the living room. To discuss: 1. sharing the chores; 2. etiquette for visitors; 3. Xiaohei. Please be on time. If you have views, you may like to write them down first, and questions are welcome. No excuses accepted, and please don't post today's meeting on social media. Anna"

david 哇，這個口吻，跟李經理寫的聲明完全一樣。

wā zhè ge kǒuwěn gēn Lǐ jīnglǐ xiě de shēngmíng wánquán yíyàng · Wow, that tone: it's exactly like one of Manager Li's statements.

meiling 別拍馬屁，也別在那裡嘀咕。你昨天不是還說：「星期天要睡就睡個夠」嗎？

bié pāimǎpì yě bié zài nàlǐ dígū nǐ zuótiān bú shì hái shuō xīngqítiān yào shuì jiù shuì ge gòu ma · Stop sucking up, and stop muttering. Didn't you say yesterday, "on Sunday I'm sleeping as long as I like"?

david 哼，我只是說說而已。你看，我還泡了一壺茶，誠意十足吧？

hēng wǒ zhǐshì shuō shuo éryǐ nǐ kàn wǒ hái pào le yì hú chá chéngyì shízú ba · Humph, I was only talking. Look, I've even made a pot of tea. How's that for good will?

meiling 我剛坐高鐵從臺南探望奶奶回來。奶奶要我多保重，還用臺語囑咐我：「跟室友要好好相處，當心別吵架。」

wǒ gāng zuò gāotiě cóng Táinán tànwàng nǎinai huí lái nǎinai yào wǒ duō bǎozhòng hái yòng táiyǔ zhǔfù wǒ gēn shìyǒu yào hǎohǎo xiāngchǔ dāngxīn bié chǎojià · I've just got back on the high-speed rail from visiting Grandma in Tainan. She told me to take care of myself, and said in Taiwanese: "Get along with your flatmates, and mind you don't quarrel."

anna 奶奶說得對，住在一起，人際關係最重要。今天的規矩：一個人說完，另一個人再說。不插嘴、不嚷、不責備，說話注意字眼。

nǎinai shuō de duì zhù zài yìqǐ rénjì guānxì zuì zhòngyào jīntiān de guījǔ yí ge rén shuō wán lìng yí ge rén zài shuō bù chāzuǐ bù rǎng bù zébèi shuōhuà zhùyì zìyǎn · Grandma's right: when you live together, getting on is what matters most. Today's rules: one person finishes before the next one speaks. No interrupting, no shouting, no blaming, and watch your words.

meiling 我同意。反正我的座右銘是：「有話直說。」

wǒ tóngyì fǎnzhèng wǒ de zuòyòumíng shì yǒu huà zhí shuō · Agreed. My motto is "say what you mean" anyway.

david 好啦好啦，大家都講理。我比個手勢：同意！

hǎo la hǎo la dàjiā dōu jiǎnglǐ wǒ bǐ ge shǒushì tóngyì · Fine, fine, we'll all be reasonable. Here's a thumbs up: agreed!

chapter 2 meiling's list

meiling 我先說。什麼洗碗的、倒垃圾的、打掃浴室的，這個月幾乎都是我在做。
wǒ xiān shuō shénme xǐ wǎn de dào lèsè de dǎsǎo yùshì de zhè ge yuè jīhū dōu shì wǒ zài zuò · I'll start. Washing up, rubbish, cleaning the bathroom: this month it's nearly all been me.

meiling 碗堆了三天，廚房髒到小黑都不想進去的地步。我提醒了好幾次，有人對我愛理不理的。
wǎn duī le sān tiān chúfáng zāng dào Xiǎohēi dōu bù xiǎng jìn qù de dìbù wǒ tíxǐng le hǎojǐ cì yǒu rén duì wǒ ài lǐ bu lǐ de · The dishes piled up for three days, and the kitchen got so dirty even Xiaohei wouldn't go in. I reminded someone several times, and he barely listened.

david 我不是愛理不理，是工作太累了。每天回家就是吃了睡，睡了吃。
wǒ bú shì ài lǐ bu lǐ shì gōngzuò tài lèi le měi tiān huí jiā jiùshì chī le shuì shuì le chī · I wasn't ignoring you: I'm just exhausted from work. I come home, eat, sleep, and that's it.

anna 大衛，先別爭辯，等一下再聽你的高見。美玲，可以描述得具體一點嗎？譬如這個星期？
Dàwèi xiān bié zhēngbiàn děng yíxià zài tīng nǐ de gāojiàn Měilíng kěyǐ miáoshù de jùtǐ yìdiǎn ma pìrú zhè ge xīngqí · David, don't argue yet: we'll hear your words of wisdom later. Meiling, can you be more specific? This week, for example?

meiling 譬如星期二，大衛說好要倒垃圾，結果十點才回來，垃圾車早就走了。他還聲稱自己在「應酬」。
pìrú xīngqíèr Dàwèi shuō hǎo yào dào lèsè jiéguǒ shí diǎn cái huí lái lèsè chē zǎo jiù zǒu le tā hái shēngchēng zìjǐ zài yìngchóu · On Tuesday, for example, David said he'd take out the rubbish, then came home at ten, long after the bin lorry had gone. And he claims he was at a "work dinner".

david 那天日本的客戶來拜會公司，李經理叫我一定要出面款待這些貴賓。在我們那個圈子，客戶還沒走，旁人都不能先走。我沒說謊，你可以問安娜。
nà tiān Rìběn de kèhù lái bàihuì gōngsī Lǐ jīnglǐ jiào wǒ yídìng yào chūmiàn kuǎndài zhèxiē guìbīn zài wǒmen nà ge quānzi kèhù hái méi zǒu pángrén dōu bù néng xiān zǒu wǒ méi shuōhuǎng nǐ kěyǐ wèn Ānnà · That day our Japanese client came to visit the company, and Manager Li told me I had to host the VIPs. In our line of work, nobody leaves before the client does. I'm not lying, ask Anna.

meiling 好，我相信你沒撒謊。可是你可以先傳個簡訊，跟我說一聲啊。
hǎo wǒ xiāngxìn nǐ méi sāhuǎng kěshì nǐ kěyǐ xiān chuán ge jiǎnxùn gēn wǒ shuō yì shēng a · OK, I believe you weren't lying. But you could have sent me a text to let me know.

meiling 我不是要責備誰，也不想提及以前的事。只是有時候我覺得一個人在做全家的事，很孤立，真不知道該怎麼辦才好。
wǒ bú shì yào zébèi shéi yě bù xiǎng tíjí yǐqián de shì zhǐshì yǒushíhou wǒ juéde yí ge rén zài zuò quánjiā de shì hěn gūlì zhēn bù zhīdào gāi zěnmebàn cái hǎo · I'm not trying to blame anyone or bring up the past. It's just that sometimes I feel I'm doing everything for everyone, all on my own, and I just don't know what to do.

anna 美玲，對不起，我也要認錯。我最近常常加班，家事做得太少，拖累了你。謝謝你一直為大家著想。
Měilíng duìbùqǐ wǒ yě yào rèncuò wǒ zuìjìn chángcháng jiābān jiāshì zuò de tài shǎo tuōlèi le nǐ xièxie nǐ yìzhí wèi dàjiā zhuóxiǎng · Meiling, I'm sorry: I have to own up too. I've been working late a lot, I've done too little at home, and you've carried the load. Thank you for always thinking of everyone.

chapter 3 fair's fair

david 現在換我說。我承認，有時候我答應你們的事只是敷衍，也太愛吹牛了。

xiànzài huàn wǒ shuō wǒ chéngrèn yǒushíhou wǒ dāyìng nǐmen de shì zhǐshì fūyǎn yě tài ài chuīniú le · My turn. I admit that sometimes when I promise you things, I'm just fobbing you off, and I do brag too much.

david 可是美玲，你也太寵愛小黑了。牠打破我的杯子，你還縱容這個小傢伙。我都給牠取了一個外號，叫「小麻煩」。

kěshì Měilíng nǐ yě tài chǒngài Xiǎohēi le tā dǎ pò wǒ de bēizi nǐ hái zòngróng zhè ge xiǎo jiāhuǒ wǒ dōu gěi tā qǔ le yí ge wàihào jiào xiǎo máfan · But Meiling, you spoil Xiaohei far too much. He broke my cup, and you still let the little rascal off. I've even given him a nickname: "Little Trouble".

meiling 小黑本來就不順從，只有我哄得動牠。而且你一生氣，牠就怕你，好像你是生人一樣。

Xiǎohēi běnlái jiù bú shùncóng zhǐyǒu wǒ hǒng de dòng tā érqiě nǐ yì shēngqì tā jiù pà nǐ hǎoxiàng nǐ shì shēngrén yíyàng · Xiaohei was never obedient: I'm the only one who can win him round. And when you get angry he's scared of you, as if you were a stranger.

david 還有，你常常使喚我：「大衛，幫我買這個！大衛，幫我拿那個！」

háiyǒu nǐ chángcháng shǐhuàn wǒ Dàwèi bāng wǒ mǎi zhè ge Dàwèi bāng wǒ ná nà ge · And you're always ordering me about: "David, buy me this! David, fetch me that!"

meiling 好吧，我不辯了。我承認我有時候很囉嗦，也太常使喚你了。我會多體諒你工作累。

hǎo ba wǒ bú biàn le wǒ chéngrèn wǒ yǒushíhou hěn luōsuō yě tài cháng shǐhuàn nǐ le wǒ huì duō tǐliàng nǐ gōngzuò lèi · OK, I won't argue. I admit I nag sometimes, and I order you about too much. I'll be more understanding about how tired you are.

anna 你看，把話說開了，隔閡就不見了。用一個比喻：我們三個就像一個團隊，少了誰都不行。我們一直相處得很融洽，又沒有仇，總不能為了幾個碗結下恩怨、斷絕往來吧？

nǐ kàn bǎ huà shuō kāi le géhé jiù bújiàn le yòng yí ge bǐyù wǒmen sān ge jiù xiàng yí ge tuánduì shǎo le shéi dōu bù xíng wǒmen yìzhí xiāngchǔ de hěn róngqià yòu méiyǒu chóu zǒng bù néng wèile jǐ ge wǎn jié xià ēnyuàn duànjué wǎnglái ba · See? Once you talk it through, the distance disappears. Think of it like this: the three of us are a team, and it doesn't work without any one of us. We've always got on so well, we're not enemies: we're hardly going to start a feud and stop speaking over a few bowls.

david 安娜說得對。我們是一家人，不是對手。美玲，這次就饒了我吧，我不會再辜負你們了。

Ānnà shuō de duì wǒmen shì yì jiā rén bú shì duìshǒu Měilíng zhè cì jiù ráo le wǒ ba wǒ bú huì zài gūfù nǐmen le · Anna's right. We're family, not rivals. Meiling, let me off this time: I won't let you down again.

meiling 好，饒了你。我們的交情這麼好，誰也不會拋棄誰。不過你要給我們一個承諾。

hǎo ráo le nǐ wǒmen de jiāoqíng zhème hǎo shéi yě bú huì pāoqì shéi búguò nǐ yào gěi wǒmen yí ge chéngnuò · Fine, you're forgiven. We're too close for anyone to give up on anyone. But you have to make us a promise.

david 我承諾：以後我做飯，我自己洗碗。要洗就洗個乾淨！這是我的諾言。

wǒ chéngnuò yǐhòu wǒ zuò fàn wǒ zìjǐ xǐ wǎn yào xǐ jiù xǐ ge gānjìng zhè shì wǒ de nuòyán · I promise: from now on, when I cook, I wash up. And when I wash up, I do it properly! You have my word.

anna 太好了，你們和解了！我們來看下一件事。

tài hǎo le nǐmen héjiě le wǒmen lái kàn xià yí jiàn shì · Great, you've made up! On to the next item.

chapter 4 five rules

anna 我把大家的提議寫成了一份「室友規定」，我念給大家聽。

wǒ bǎ dàjiā de tíyì xiě chéng le yí fèn shìyǒu guīdìng wǒ niàn gěi dàjiā tīng · I've turned everyone's suggestions into a set of "flat rules". Let me read them to you.

anna 「室友規定。一、家事輪流做，每星期換一次；誰做飯，誰洗碗。二、垃圾車晚上八點來，輪到的人如果不在家，要先找人幫忙，事後還人情。三、有客人來，請先在群組裡說一聲；晚上十一點以後，不得大聲說笑。四、小黑由美玲負責，大家都要關照牠，但是不縱容牠。五、有問題當面說，不在背後議論，不告狀，有氣不憋在心裡。違反的人，罰新臺幣一百元，放進「家庭基金」。」

shìyǒu guīdìng yī jiāshì lúnliú zuò měi xīngqí huàn yí cì shéi zuò fàn shéi xǐ wǎn èr lèsè chē wǎnshàng bā diǎn lái lún dào de rén rúguǒ bú zài jiā yào xiān zhǎo rén bāngmáng shì hòu huán rénqíng sān yǒu kèrén lái qǐng xiān zài qún zǔ lǐ shuō yì shēng wǎnshàng shíyī diǎn yǐhòu bùdé dà shēng shuōxiào sì Xiǎohēi yóu Měilíng fùzé dàjiā dōu yào guānzhào tā dànshì bú zòngróng tā wǔ yǒu wèntí dāngmiàn shuō bú zài bèihòu yìlùn bú gàozhuàng yǒu qì bù biē zài xīn lǐ wéifǎn de rén fá xīntáibì yìbǎi yuán fàng jìn jiātíng jījīn · "Flat rules. 1. Chores are shared on a rota that changes weekly; whoever cooks washes up. 2. The bin lorry comes at 8 pm; if it's your turn and you won't be home, find someone to help in advance and return the favour. 3. Tell the group chat before guests come; no loud chatting and laughing after 11 pm. 4. Meiling is responsible for Xiaohei; everyone looks out for him, but nobody spoils him. 5. Raise problems face to face: no talking behind backs, no telling tales, no bottling up anger. Anyone who breaks a rule pays NT$100 into the "house fund"."

david 寫得真好，比我們公司的聲明還清楚！第五條我最喜歡，罰的錢可以拿來請大家吃飯。

xiě de zhēn hǎo bǐ wǒmen gōngsī de shēngmíng hái qīngchǔ dì wǔ tiáo wǒ zuì xǐhuān fá de qián kěyǐ ná lái qǐng dàjiā chī fàn · Nicely written, clearer than our company's statements! Rule five is my favourite: the fines can pay for a meal for us all.

meiling 第三條我想改一下：週末晚上可以到十二點嗎？下個月大衛的筆友出國以前要來家裡玩，我們一定會聊到很晚。

dì sān tiáo wǒ xiǎng gǎi yíxià zhōumò wǎnshàng kěyǐ dào shíèr diǎn ma xià ge yuè Dàwèi de bǐyǒu chū guó yǐqián yào lái jiā lǐ wán wǒmen yídìng huì liáo dào hěn wǎn · I'd like to change rule three: can we make it midnight at weekends? Next month David's pen pal is coming over before she goes abroad, and we're bound to talk till late.

anna 好，週末改成十二點。大家都同意嗎？

hǎo zhōumò gǎi chéng shíèr diǎn dàjiā dōu tóngyì ma · OK, midnight at weekends. Does everyone agree?

david 同意！我提議再加一條：每個月一起吃一頓飯，什麼火鍋的、夜市的都好。下個月去花蓮住民宿，也算一次！

tóngyì wǒ tíyì zài jiā yì tiáo měi ge yuè yìqǐ chī yí dùn fàn shénme huǒ guō de yèshì de dōu hǎo xià ge yuè qù Huālián zhù mínsù yě suàn yí cì · Agreed! And I propose one more rule: once a month we all eat out together, hotpot, night market, whatever. Next month's B&B trip to Hualien counts too!

meiling 好！那我們都在下面簽名吧。安娜，你真會調和大家的意見。

hǎo nà wǒmen dōu zài xiàmiàn qiānmíng ba Ānnà nǐ zhēn huì tiáohé dàjiā de yìjiàn · Yes! Let's all sign at the bottom, then. Anna, you're brilliant at bringing everyone together.

anna 我宣告：今天的家庭會議圓滿結束！

wǒ xuāngào jīntiān de jiātíng huìyì yuánmǎn jiéshù · I hereby declare today's house meeting a complete success!

meiling 沒想到會議這麼有成效。俗語說：「好的開始是成功的一半。」農曆新年以前，我們再一起大掃除吧！

méixiǎngdào huìyì zhème yǒu chéngxiào súyǔ shuō hǎo de kāishǐ shì chénggōng de yíbàn nónglì xīnnián yǐqián wǒmen zài yìqǐ dà sǎo chú ba · I never thought the meeting would work so well. As the saying goes, well begun is half done. Let's do a big clean together before Lunar New Year!

chapter 5 our neighbours, our guests

meiling 為了慶祝，今天晚上我們請客吧！邀王阿姨跟李經理來吃飯，他們都是我們的街坊。
wèile qìngzhù jīntiān wǎnshàng wǒmen qǐngkè ba yāo Wáng āyí gēn Lǐ jīnglǐ lái chī fàn tāmen dōu shì wǒmen de jiēfāng · To celebrate, let's have people over tonight! Let's invite Auntie Wang and Manager Li: they're our neighbours.

david 好主意！我來做三菜一湯，搭配王阿姨最愛的烏龍茶。要吃就吃個痛快，碗我自己洗！
hǎo zhǔyì wǒ lái zuò sān cài yì tāng dāpèi Wáng āyí zuì ài de wūlóngchá yào chī jiù chī ge tòngkuài wǎn wǒ zìjǐ xǐ · Great idea! I'll make three dishes and a soup, with Auntie Wang's favourite oolong tea. We'll eat like kings, and I'll do the washing up myself!

auntie wang 謝謝你們的盛情邀請！我帶了一盤水餃來。你們看，我一進門，小黑就跑過來迎我，跟我多親熱！牠平常最怕生人了。
xièxie nǐmen de shèngqíng yāoqǐng wǒ dài le yì pán shuǐjiǎo lái nǐmen kàn wǒ yí jìn mén Xiǎohēi jiù pǎo guò lái yíng wǒ gēn wǒ duō qīnrè tā píngcháng zuì pà shēngrén le · Thank you so much for inviting me! I've brought a plate of dumplings. Look, the moment I came in, Xiaohei ran over to greet me: he's so affectionate! And he's usually so scared of strangers.

manager li 來賓還自己帶菜啊？王阿姨，您太客氣了。大衛，這些菜都是你做的？難怪你在公司那麼會款待客人，跟客戶交談也那麼自然。
láibīn hái zìjǐ dài cài a Wáng āyí nín tài kèqi le Dàwèi zhèxiē cài dōu shì nǐ zuò de nánguài nǐ zài gōngsī nàme huì kuǎndài kèrén gēn kèhù jiāotán yě nàme zìrán · A guest who brings her own food? Auntie Wang, you're too kind. David, did you cook all this? No wonder you're so good at looking after clients at work, and so relaxed talking to them.

david 經理，是王阿姨指點我的。上次我自稱是做菜高手，她說我吹牛。她說做菜要用心，不是用來誇耀的。
jīnglǐ shì Wáng āyí zhǐdiǎn wǒ de shàng cì wǒ zìchēng shì zuò cài gāoshǒu tā shuō wǒ chuīniú tā shuō zuò cài yào yòngxīn bú shì yòng lái kuāyào de · Boss, Auntie Wang showed me how. Last time I called myself a master chef, she said I was bragging. She says cooking is about care, not showing off.

auntie wang 現在我要認錯了：他做的菜，真的讓人讚嘆。這不是恭維喔！
xiànzài wǒ yào rèncuò le tā zuò de cài zhēnde ràng rén zàntàn zhè bú shì gōngwéi ō · Now I have to admit I was wrong: his cooking really is amazing. And I'm not just flattering him!

anna 經理，在家裡我們該怎麼稱呼您？一直叫「經理」，好像還在上班。
jīnglǐ zài jiā lǐ wǒmen gāi zěnme chēnghū nín yìzhí jiào jīnglǐ hǎoxiàng hái zài shàngbān · Boss, what should we call you at home? Saying "Manager" all the time feels like we're still at work.

manager li 叫我老李就好。說真的，我搬來以後，你們跟王阿姨很快就接納了我，這個鄰里真溫暖。你們三個又這麼有默契，對了，下星期的簡報……
jiào wǒ lǎo Lǐ jiù hǎo shuō zhēnde wǒ bān lái yǐhòu nǐmen gēn Wáng āyí hěn kuài jiù jiēnà le wǒ zhè ge línlǐ zhēn wēnnuǎn nǐmen sān ge yòu zhème yǒu mòqì duìle xià xīngqí de jiǎnbào · Just call me Old Li. Honestly, since I moved here, you and Auntie Wang made me welcome so quickly: it's such a warm neighbourhood. And you three work so well together, which reminds me, next week's presentation…

meiling 老李，今天是週末，我們只說笑，不談論工作！
lǎo Lǐ jīntiān shì zhōumò wǒmen zhǐ shuōxiào bù tánlùn gōngzuò · Old Li, it's the weekend: tonight it's jokes and laughs, no talking shop!

auntie wang 看到你們和和氣氣的，阿姨就放心了。我年輕的時候也常跟室友吵嘴，可是現在想起來，那段時光最快樂。歲月過得真快啊！以後有什麼事，不妨來早餐店找我訴苦。
kàn dào nǐmen héhéqìqì de āyí jiù fàngxīn le wǒ niánqīng de shíhòu yě cháng gēn shìyǒu chǎozuǐ kěshì xiànzài xiǎng qǐlai nà duàn shíguāng zuì kuàilè suìyuè guò de zhēn kuài a yǐhòu yǒu shénme shì bùfáng lái zǎocān diàn zhǎo wǒ sùkǔ · Seeing you all getting on so well puts my mind at rest. When I was young I used to bicker with my flatmates too, but looking back, those were the happiest days. Time flies! If anything's ever wrong, come to the breakfast shop and tell me all about it.

chapter 6 three flatmates, one kitchen

david 上個週末，我看了一部喜劇，叫「三個室友」。

shàng ge zhōumò wǒ kàn le yí bù xǐjù jiào sān ge shìyǒu · Last weekend I saw a comedy called “Three Flatmates”.

david 故事很簡單：三個個性完全不同的人住在一起，為了洗碗、倒垃圾這種小事，天天吵嘴。

gùshi hěn jiǎndān sān ge gèxìng wánquán bùtóng de rén zhù zài yìqǐ wèile xǐ wǎn dào lèsè zhè zhǒng xiǎo shì tiāntiān chǎozuǐ · The story is simple: three people with completely different personalities live together and bicker every day over little things like the washing-up and the rubbish.

david 最有意思的是那個愛吹牛的男生，他說謊說到連自己都相信了，我笑得停不下來。

zuì yǒuyìsi de shì nà ge ài chuīniú de nánshēng tā shuōhuǎng shuō dào lián zìjǐ dōu xiāngxìn le wǒ xiào de tíng bu xialai · The best is the guy who loves to brag: he lies so much he ends up believing it himself. I couldn’t stop laughing.

david 後來他們開了一個會，把話說清楚，學會互相體諒，最後和解了。

hòulái tāmen kāi le yí ge huì bǎ huà shuō qīngchǔ xuéhuì hùxiāng tǐliàng zuìhòu héjiě le · Later they hold a meeting, talk things through, learn to understand each other, and finally make up.

david 可惜後半部有一點囉嗦，結局也太容易猜到。我給它八十分。如果你也有室友，一定要看！

kěxí hòubànbù yǒuyìdiǎn luōsuō jiéjú yě tài róngyì cāi dào wǒ gěi tā bāshí fēn rúguǒ nǐ yě yǒu shìyǒu yídìng yào kàn · Sadly the second half is a bit long-winded, and the ending is too easy to guess. I give it eighty out of a hundred. If you have flatmates too, you have to see it!

A whole house meeting in Chinese: complaints, apologies, promises and a signed agreement. Unit 3 complete!
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