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day 25 family ties

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 4 · family & home

Talk about family ties, ancestors and inheritance, say “that’s a bit much” with 未免, and “can’t help but” with 不免.

Family is at the heart of life in Taiwan. 未免 lets you criticise politely, and 不免 explains feelings anyone would have.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
家屬	jiāshǔ	family members (of a patient etc.)	醫院只讓家屬進病房。 The hospital only lets family members into the ward.
青春	qīngchūn	youth, young days	奶奶把青春都給了這個家。 Grandma gave her youth to this family.
繼承	jìchéng	inherit; carry on	他繼承了爸爸的小餐廳。 He took over his father’s little restaurant.
兒女	érnǚ	sons and daughters, children	林奶奶的兒女都很孝順。 Grandma Lin’s children are all very devoted to her.
老人家	lǎorénjia	elderly person (respectful)	老人家走路慢，我們等一下她。 She’s getting on and walks slowly, so let’s wait for her.
子孫	zǐsūn	descendants	他希望子孫都過得平安。 He hopes all his descendants will live in peace.
親生	qīnshēng	one’s own (by birth)	她對這個孩子，比親生的還|好。 She treats this child better than if he were her own.
子弟	zǐdì	young people (of a family, group)	這所學校以前只收本地子弟。 This school used to take only local children.
祖宗	zǔzōng	ancestors	我們家的祖宗兩百年前就來到臺灣了。 Our family’s ancestors came to Taiwan two hundred years ago.
恩愛	ēnài	loving (of a couple)	他們結婚五十年了，還是很恩愛。 They’ve been married fifty years and are still devoted to each other.
和睦	hémù	harmonious (family)	一家人和睦，比什麼都重要。 A family living in harmony matters more than anything.
娘	niáng	mum, mother (old-fashioned)	奶奶說，她小時候都叫媽媽「娘」。 Grandma says that when she was little, she called her mother “niang”.
籍貫	jíguàn	ancestral home, native place	以前的身分證上，有一個地方寫「籍貫」。 Old ID cards had a space for your “ancestral home”.
嫂子	sǎozi	sister-in-law (older brother’s wife)	我嫂子做的菜，全家都喜歡。 The whole family loves my sister-in-law’s cooking.

兩口子	liǎngkǒuzi	husband and wife, the couple	他們兩口子週末常去爬山。 The two of them often go hiking at the weekend.
男方	nánfāng	the groom's side	婚禮的錢，男方出了一大半。 The groom's side paid for most of the wedding.
打擊	dǎjí	blow, setback; to hit hard	工作沒了，對他是很大的打擊。 Losing his job was a huge blow to him.
堅固	jiāngù	solid, sturdy	這棟老房子還很堅固。 This old house is still very solid.
暴露	pùlù	exposed, revealed	他的缺點很快就暴露了。 His weaknesses were exposed straight away.
損壞	sǔnhuài	damage	颱風損壞了很多房子。 The typhoon damaged a lot of houses.
隱藏	yǐncáng	hide, conceal	她把自己的難過隱藏得很好。 She hid her sadness well.
未免	wèimiǎn	rather (too), a bit much	一個生日蛋糕五千塊，未免太貴了吧？ Five thousand for a birthday cake: isn't that a bit much?

pattern 未免 (太)……: rather too, a bit much; 不免: can't help

未免 (太) **adjective** **(了吧)** **· 不免 + feeling**

未免 judges something as going too far, but gently: 未免太貴了吧 "isn't that rather expensive?". It often comes with 太 and ends with 了 or 了吧. 不免 is different: it says a feeling or result is only natural, "can't help but": 不免有點緊張 "bound to be a bit nervous".

你一天只睡四個小時，未免太辛苦了吧。 **nǐ yì tiān zhǐ shuì sì ge xiǎoshí wèimiǎn tài xīnkǔ le ba** Only four hours of sleep a night? You're pushing yourself a bit hard.

嫂子做了一桌菜，可是只有我們兩口子吃，未免太多了。 **sǎozi zuò le yì zhuō cài kěshì zhǐyǒu wǒmen liǎngkǒuzi chī wèimiǎn tài duō le** My sister-in-law cooked a whole table of food, but it's only the two of us: that's rather a lot.

婚禮的錢都讓男方出，未免太不公平了。 **hūnlǐ de qián dōu ràng nánfāng chū wèimiǎn tài bù gōngpíng le** Making the groom's side pay for the whole wedding is a bit unfair.

老人家一個人住，兒女不免擔心。 **lǎorénjia yí ge rén zhù érnǚ bùmiǎn dānxīn** When an elderly person lives alone, their children are bound to worry.

dialogue grandma's eightieth

meiling 安娜，下個月奶奶八十歲生日，我爸爸說全家都要回臺南團聚。你也一起來吧！
Ānnà xià ge yuè nǎinai bāshí suì shēngrì wǒ bàba shuō quánjiā dōu yào huí Táinán tuánjù nǐ yě yìqǐ lái ba · Anna, Grandma turns eighty next month, and Dad says the whole family is getting together in Tainan. You should come too!

anna 我？我又不是林家的家屬，去不太好吧？
wǒ wǒ yòu bú shì Lín jiā de jiāshǔ qù bú tài hǎo ba · Me? I'm not family. Is that really OK?

meiling 奶奶說了，你是她的「外國孫女」，跟親生的一樣。我伯伯是家裡最大的兒子，他要請一百桌客人呢。
nǎinai shuō le nǐ shì tā de wàiguó sūnnǚ gēn qīnshēng de yíyàng wǒ bóbo shì jiā lǐ zuì dà de érzi tā yào qǐng yìbǎi zhuō kèrén ne · Grandma says you're her "foreign granddaughter", just like her own. And my uncle, the oldest son, wants to invite a hundred tables of guests.

anna 一百桌？未免太誇張了吧！
yìbǎi zhuō wèimiǎn tài kuāzhāng le ba · A hundred tables? That's a bit over the top!

meiling 我也這麼覺得。可是伯伯說：「要辦就辦個熱鬧！」他想讓親戚鄰里都看看，林家的子孫有多少，有多威風。
wǒ yě zhème juéde kěshì bóbo shuō yào bàn jiù bàn ge rènao tā xiǎng ràng qīnqī línlǐ dōu kànkan Lín jiā de zīsūn yǒu duōshǎo yǒu duō wēifēng · I think so too. But Uncle says, "If we're throwing a party, let's make it a big one!" He wants all the relatives and neighbours to see how many descendants the Lin family has, and how impressive they are.

anna 你們林家在臺南很久了嗎？
nǐmen Lín jiā zài Táinán hěn jiǔ le ma · Has your family been in Tainan a long time?

meiling 很久了，祖宗兩百年前就來了。奶奶二十歲嫁到林家，把青春都給了這個家。她跟爺爺一輩子都很恩愛，爺爺過世的時候，對她是很大的打擊。
hěn jiǔ le zǔzōng liǎngbǎi nián qián jiù lái le nǎinai èrshí suì jià dào Lín jiā bǎ qīngchūn dōu gěi le zhè ge jiā tā gēn yéye yí bèizi dōu hěn ēnài yéye guòshì de shíhòu duì tā shì hěn dà de dǎjí · Ages: our ancestors came two hundred years ago. Grandma married into the family at twenty and gave her youth to it. She and Grandpa were devoted all their lives, and losing him was a huge blow to her.

anna 聽了真讓人心酸。
tīng le zhēn ràng rén xīnsuān · That's heartbreaking to hear.

anna 奶奶現在一個人住那棟老房子，你們不免擔心吧？
nǎinai xiànzài yí ge rén zhù nà dòng lǎo fángzi nǐmen bùmiǎn dānxīn ba · Grandma lives on her own in that old house now. You must worry about her.

meiling 會啊。不過奶奶很剛強，從來不說自己累。房子很堅固，可是很多地方都損壞了。伯伯以後要繼承那棟房子，所以想在生日以前先修一修。
huì a búguò nǎinai hěn gāngqiáng cónglái bù shuō zìjǐ lèi fángzi hěn jiāngù kěshì hěn duō dìfāng dōu sǔnhuài le bóbo yǐhòu yào jìchéng nà dòng fángzi suǒyǐ xiǎng zài shēngrì yǐqián xiān xiū yi xiu · We do. But Grandma is tough: she never says she's tired. The house is solid, but a lot of things are broken. Uncle will inherit it one day, so he wants to fix it up before the birthday.

anna 好，我去！不過我要先學一學，什麼稱呼的、禮節的，都不能錯。
hǎo wǒ qù búguò wǒ yào xiān xué yi xue shénme chēnghū de lǐjié de dōu bù néng cuò · OK, I'll come! But first I need to learn the right way to address people, the etiquette, all that: I can't get anything wrong.

meiling 放心，我會一直陪著你。
fàngxīn wǒ huì yìzhí péi zhe nǐ · Don't worry: I'll be by your side the whole time.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

勸
quàn
advise, urge, persuade



悔
huǐ
regret



拼
pīn
piece together; spell



異
yì
different



佩
pèi
admire

good to know · New meaning: 關係 (relationship) is also a verb, “to concern, to affect”: 關係到大家 it affects everyone. Uncles are precise in Chinese: 伯伯 is your father’s older brother, 叔叔 his younger brother, 舅舅 your mother’s brother. Their wives are 伯母, 嬸嬸 and 舅媽.

You can now talk about ancestors, inheritance and family ties, and politely say when something goes too far.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 26 raising and caring

Talk about raising children, caring for elders and family memories, and tease or scold someone with 你說你一個 X，.....

Families care for the young and the old, and talk about life and death with great tenderness. 你說你一個大人 is how family members tease and scold each other in real life.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
孤兒	gūér	orphan	他是孤兒，是叔叔把他養大的。 He was an orphan, brought up by his uncle.
疼愛	téngài	love dearly, dote on	奶奶最疼愛美玲。 Grandma loves Meiling most of all.
伺候	cìhòu	wait on, look after	他每天在家伺候生病的爸爸。 He looks after his sick father at home every day.
撫養	fǔyǎng	raise, bring up (a child)	她一個人把三個孩子撫養長大。 She brought up three children on her own.
寡婦	guǎfù	widow	奶奶的媽媽三十歲就成了寡婦。 Grandma's mother was widowed at thirty.
管教	guǎnjiào	discipline, bring into line	有人說，現在的父母不太會管教孩子。 Is it true that parents today don't know how to discipline their children?
生育	shēngyù	giving birth, having children	現在很多年輕人不想生育。 Many young people today don't want to have children.
養育	yǎngyù	bring up, nurture	父母養育我們，真的很辛苦。 Our parents worked so hard to bring us up.
遺棄	yíqì	abandon (a child, pet)	這隻狗被主人遺棄了。 This dog was abandoned by its owner.
墳墓	fénmù	grave, tomb	爺爺的墳墓在臺南的山上。 Grandpa's grave is in the hills outside Tainan.
棺材	guāncái	coffin	這家店以前是賣棺材的，現在變成了咖啡店。 This shop used to sell coffins; now it's a café.
生前	shēngqián	during one's lifetime	這是爺爺生前最喜歡的茶壺。 This was Grandpa's favourite teapot when he was alive.
生死	shēngsǐ	life and death	醫生每天都在面對生死。 Doctors face life and death every day.
逝世	shìshì	pass away (formal)	這位有名的作家昨天逝世了。 The famous writer passed away yesterday.
保姆	bǎomǔ	nanny, childminder	他們兩口子都上班，請了一個保姆。 They both work, so they've hired a nanny.
供養	gòngyàng	support (parents); make offerings	他每個月寄錢回家，供養父母。 He sends money home every month to support his parents.

女方	nǚfāng	the bride's side	結婚的時候，男方要送禮物給女方。 At a wedding, the groom's side gives presents to the bride's family.
孕婦	yùnfù	pregnant woman	捷運上有給孕婦坐的位子。 On the MRT there are seats for pregnant women.
定義	dìngyì	definition	每個人對「家」的定義都不一樣。 Everyone defines "home" differently.
攔	lán	block, stop	他想走，可是被媽媽攔住了。 He tried to leave, but his mum stopped him.
恰當	qiàdàng	appropriate, suitable	在這種場合，穿短褲不太恰當。 Shorts aren't really appropriate for this kind of occasion.
彈性	tánxìng	flexibility; elasticity	我們公司上班時間很有彈性。 Our company has flexible working hours.
爭議	zhēngyì	controversy, dispute	這個新規定引起很大的爭議。 This new rule has caused a lot of controversy.

pattern 你說你一個 x，……: here you are, a grown x, and...

你說你 **一個** **who they are** **，** **what they did (or didn't do)**

你說你一個 + a role (大人, 醫生, 大學生) points out that someone of that kind should know better: "here you are, a grown adult, and...". It's a family way of teasing or scolding, warm or sharp depending on your tone. It can be about someone else too: 你說你伯伯一個六十歲的人.

你說你一個大學生，連飯都不會煮？ **nǐ shuō nǐ yí ge dàxuéshēng lián fàn dōu bú huì zhǔ** You're a university student and you can't even cook rice?

你說你一個愛狗的人，怎麼能把狗遺棄在路邊？ **nǐ shuō nǐ yí ge ài gǒu de rén zěnme néng bǎ gǒu yíqì zài lù biān** You call yourself a dog lover, and you abandoned a dog by the road?

你說你一個男方的親戚，怎麼坐到女方那邊去了？ **nǐ shuō nǐ yí ge nánfāng de qīnqī zěnme zuò dào nǚfāng nà biān qù le** You're a relative of the groom: what are you doing on the bride's side?

你說你一個經理，說話未免太不恰當了吧。 **nǐ shuō nǐ yí ge jīnglǐ shuōhuà wèimiǎn tài bú qiàdàng le ba** You're a manager: what you said was rather inappropriate, wasn't it?

dialogue a call to tainan

meiling 奶奶，我是美玲！您最近身體好嗎？
nǎinai wǒ shì Měilíng nín zuìjìn shēntǐ hǎo ma · Grandma, it's Meiling! How have you been keeping?

grandma lin 好得很！你伯伯天天來伺候我，比請保姆還周到。
hǎo de hěn nǐ bóbo tiāntiān lái cìhòu wǒ bǐ qǐng bǎomǔ hái zhōudào · Very well! Your uncle comes to look after me every day: he's more attentive than any nanny.

meiling 伯伯說，您生日要請一百桌客人呢。
bóbo shuō nín shēngrì yào qǐng yìbǎi zhuō kèrén ne · Uncle says he's inviting a hundred tables of guests for your birthday.

grandma lin 唉，你說你伯伯一個六十歲的人，做事還這麼誇張！我說三十桌就夠了，他愛聽不聽。他啊，不見棺材不掉淚。
āi nǐ shuō nǐ bóbo yí ge liùshí suì de rén zuòshì hái zhème kuāzhāng wǒ shuō sānshí zhuō jiù gòu le tā ài tīng bu tīng tā a bú jiàn guāncái bú diào lèi · Oh, honestly: a man of sixty, and still so over the top! I told him thirty tables was plenty; he can listen or not. That man won't learn until it's too late.

meiling 伯伯對這件事很執著，誰也勸不了他。
bóbo duì zhè jiàn shì hěn zhízhuó shéi yě quàn bu liǎo tā · Uncle is set on it: nobody can talk him out of it.

meiling 奶奶，還有一個好消息：姊姊懷孕了！他們兩口子高興得不得了。醫生說明年三月生。她現在是孕婦，伯伯都不讓她搬東西。
nǎinai háiyǒu yí ge hǎo xiāoxí jiějie huáiyùn le tāmen liǎngkǒuzi gāoxìng de bùdéliǎo yīshēng shuō míngnián sān yuè shēng tā xiànzài shì yùnfù bóbo dōu bú ràng tā bān dōngxi · Grandma, there's good news too: my sister's pregnant! She and her husband are over the moon. The baby's due next March. Now that she's expecting, Uncle won't let her carry a thing.

grandma lin 太好了！現在很多年輕人不想生育，你姊姊願意生，奶奶真高興。你們兩姊妹從小就是奶奶最疼愛的。
tài hǎo le xiànzài hěn duō niánqīng rén bù xiǎng shēngyù nǐ jiějie yuànyì shēng nǎinai zhēn gāoxìng nǐmen liǎng jiěmèi cóngxiǎo jiùshì nǎinai zuì téngài de · Wonderful! So many young people don't want children these days: I'm so happy your sister does. You two girls have always been Grandma's favourites.

meiling 奶奶，您以前也很辛苦吧？爸爸說，您的媽媽很年輕就成了寡婦。
nǎinai nín yǐqián yě hěn xīnkǔ ba bàba shuō nín de māma hěn niánqīng jiù chéng le guǎfù · Grandma, life was hard for you too, wasn't it? Dad says your mother was widowed very young.

grandma lin 是啊。那時候日子很艱難，我娘一個人撫養我們五個孩子，管教很嚴，可是心裡最疼我們。那時候很多孤兒沒人照顧，她也常常給他們飯吃。
shì a nà shíhòu rìzi hěn jiānnán wǒ niáng yí ge rén fǔyǎng wǒmen wǔ ge háizi guǎnjiào hěn yán kěshì xīn lǐ zuì téng wǒmen nà shíhòu hěn duō gūér méi rén zhàogù tā yě chángcháng gěi tāmen fàn chī · Yes. Times were hard back then, and my mother brought up the five of us on her own. She was strict, but she loved us dearly. Back then lots of orphans had no one to look after them, and she often fed them too.

grandma lin 前幾天報紙上說，那位老歌手逝世了，跟我同年，真讓人惋惜。生死的事，誰也說不準，所以生日要好好過。
qián jǐ tiān bàozhǐ shàng shuō nà wèi lǎo gēshǒu shìshì le gēn wǒ tóng nián zhēn ràng rén wǎnxí shēngsǐ de shì shéi yě shuō bu zhǔn suǒyǐ shēngrì yào hǎohǎo guò · The paper said the other day that the old singer had passed away: he was my age, such a pity. Life and death, nobody can say, so we'll celebrate this birthday properly.

meiling 奶奶，爺爺生前常說，您是全家最辛苦的人。林家這麼和睦，都是因為您。生日那天，我們一定好好謝謝您！
nǎinai yéye shēngqián cháng shuō nín shì quánjiā zuì xīnkǔ de rén Lín jiā zhème hémù dōu shì yīnwèi nín shēngrì nà tiān wǒmen yídìng hǎohǎo xièxie nín · Grandma, Grandpa always used to say you were the hardest-working person in the family. The Lin family gets on so well, and it's all thanks to you. On your birthday, we'll thank you properly!

grandma lin 傻孩子，看到你們都這麼有出息，奶奶就很知足了。
shǎ háizi kàn dào nǐmen dōu zhème yǒu chūxi nǎinai jiù hěn zhīzú le · Silly girl. Seeing you all doing so well is all Grandma needs.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

戀 liàn love, long for	
怒 nù anger	
觸 chù touch	
勢 shì force, tendency	
繫 xì tie	

good to know · New meaning: 管理 (to manage) is also a noun, “management”: 公司的管理 the way a company is run. 不見棺材不掉淚 (“not shedding a tear till you see the coffin”) describes someone who won’t listen until it’s too late. It sounds dramatic but is used lightly in everyday talk.

You can now talk about bringing up children and caring for elders, and scold like a real Taiwanese relative.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 27 in-laws and inheritances

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 4 · family & home

Talk about in-laws, eldest sons, inheritance and family duties, and say “just”, “precisely” and “what a coincidence” with 恰好, 恰恰 and 湊巧.

Family words like 娘家 and 婆家 come up at every Taiwanese gathering, and 恰好 / 恰恰 / 湊巧 help you tell a story with perfect timing.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
單親	dānqīn	single-parent	他在單親家庭長大，跟媽媽很親。 He grew up in a single-parent family and is very close to his mother.
娘家	niángjiā	a married woman’s parents’ home	大年初二，女兒回娘家。 On the second day of Lunar New Year, daughters visit their parents’ home.
婆家	pójiā	husband’s family	她跟婆家的關係很好。 She gets on very well with her husband’s family.
長子	zhǎngzǐ	eldest son	美玲的伯伯是林家的長子。 Meiling’s uncle is the eldest son of the Lin family.
遺體	yítǐ	remains, body (of the dead)	他生前決定把遺體捐給醫學院。 During his life he decided to donate his body to a medical school.
弟兄	dìxiōng	brothers	他們弟兄三個，感情很好。 There are three brothers, and they’re very close.
孝子	xiàozǐ	devoted son	他每天都去看媽媽，大家都說他是個孝子。 He visits his mother every day: everyone says he’s a devoted son.
處女	chǔnǚ	virgin; maiden (first)	這本小說是她的處女作。 This novel is her first published work.
奉養	fèngyàng	support and care for (parents)	奉養父母是兒女的責任。 Looking after your parents is a child’s duty.
撫育	fǔyù	nurture, raise	老師撫育了一代又一代的學生。 Teachers nurture one generation of students after another.
未婚夫	wèihūnfū	fiancé	她的未婚夫是醫生。 Her fiancé is a doctor.
未婚妻	wèihūnqī	fiancée	他帶未婚妻回家見父母。 He brought his fiancée home to meet his parents.
分家	fēnjiā	divide the family property	爺爺過世以後，三個兒子就分家了。 After Grandpa died, the three sons divided up the family property.
情婦	qíngfù	mistress	這部老電影講的是一個有錢人跟他的情婦。 This old film is about a rich man and his mistress.

遺志	yízhì	last wishes, unfulfilled aim	他繼承爸爸的遺志，開了這家書店。 He opened this bookshop to carry out his late father's wish.
動機	dòngjī	motive	你學中文的動機是什麼？ What made you want to learn Chinese?
聯想	liánxiǎng	associate, think of	聞到這個味道，我就會聯想|到外婆|家。 This smell always makes me think of my grandmother's house.
缺陷	quēxiàn	defect, flaw	這個設計有一個很大的缺陷。 This design has a big flaw.
添	tiān	add	家裡添了一個小寶寶，大家都很高興。 There's a new baby in the family, and everyone is delighted.
中斷	zhōngduàn	interrupt, break off	因為颱風，比賽中斷了一個小時。 The game was suspended for an hour because of the typhoon.
恰好	qiàhǎo	just, as it happens	我到車站的時候，車恰好開走了。 Just as I got to the station, the bus pulled out.
恰恰	qiàqià	precisely, exactly	你以為他不在乎，其實恰恰相反。 You think he doesn't care, but it's exactly the opposite.
湊巧	còuqiǎo	by chance, coincidental	真湊巧，我們穿了一樣的衣服！ What a coincidence: we're wearing the same clothes!

pattern 恰好 / 恰恰 / 湊巧: just, exactly, as it happens

恰好 + verb · **恰恰 (相反 / 是)** · **真湊巧**

恰好 means "just, as it happened": two things lined up at the same moment (他恰好在家). 恰恰 means "precisely", often stressing a surprise: 恰恰相反 "quite the opposite", 問題恰恰是… "the problem is precisely…". 湊巧 is an adjective, "coincidental": 真湊巧！ "What a coincidence!"

我打電話給他的時候，他恰好也在找我。 **wǒ dǎdiànhuà gěi tā de shíhòu tā qiàhǎo yě zài zhǎo wǒ** When I rang him, he happened to be looking for me too.

這個計畫的缺陷，恰恰是太貴了。 **zhè ge jìhuà de quēxiàn qiàqià shì tài guì le** The flaw in this plan is precisely that it's too expensive.

那天湊巧下大雨，比賽中斷了一個小時。 **nà tiān còuqiǎo xià dà yǔ bǐsài zhōngduàn le yí ge xiǎoshí** As luck would have it, it poured that day, and the game was stopped for an hour.

這部小說是她的處女作，恰好在她三十歲那年出版。 **zhè bù xiǎoshuō shì tā de chǔnǚ zuò qiàhǎo zài tā sānshí suì nà nián chūbǎn** This novel was her first book, published just as she turned thirty.

dialogue family words

anna
陳老師，真湊巧！我正想打電話給您。
Chén lǎoshī zhēn còuqiǎo wǒ zhèng xiǎng dǎdiànhuà gěi nín · Teacher Chen, what a coincidence! I was just about to call you.

teacher chen
我恰好要去買書，經過這裡。怎麼了？
wǒ qiàhǎo yào qù mǎi shū jīngguò zhèlǐ zěnme le · I happened to be passing on my way to buy some books. What's up?

anna
下個月我要去臺南參加美玲奶奶的生日。美玲說，她姊姊過年會「回娘家」。娘家是什麼意思？
xià ge yuè wǒ yào qù Táinán cānjiā Měilíng nǎinai de shēngrì Měilíng shuō tā jiějie guònián huì huí niángjiā niángjiā shì shénme yìsi · Next month I'm going to Tainan for Meiling's grandmother's birthday. Meiling says her sister "goes back to her niangjia" at New Year. What does niangjia mean?

teacher chen
你說你一個在臺灣住了這麼多年的人，還不知道什麼是娘家？女人結婚以後，自己父母的家叫「娘家」，丈夫的家叫「婆家」。
nǐ shuō nǐ yí ge zài Táiwān zhù le zhème duō nián de rén hái bù zhīdào shénme shì niángjiā nǚrén jiéhūn yǐhòu zìjǐ fùmǔ de jiā jiào niángjiā zhàngfū de jiā jiào pójiā · You've lived in Taiwan all these years and you don't know what niangjia is? For a married woman, her own parents' home is her niangjia, and her husband's family is her pojia.

anna
一聽到「婆家」，我就聯想到連續劇裡那些可怕的婆婆，還有什麼吵嘴的、分家的……
yì tīng dào pójiā wǒ jiù liánxiǎng dào liánxùjù lǐ nàxiē kěpà de pópo háiyǒu shénme chǎozuǐ de fēnjiā de · Whenever I hear pojia, I think of those scary mothers-in-law in TV dramas, and the rows, and family fortunes being split up…

teacher chen
那是連續劇！真實的家庭沒那麼複雜。不過以前長子的責任很重，要奉養父母，父母過世以後，弟兄幾個才分家。
nà shì liánxùjù zhēnshí de jiātíng méi nàme fùzá búguò yǐqián zhǎngzǐ de zérèn hěn zhòng yào fèngyàng fùmǔ fùmǔ guòshì yǐhòu dìxiōng jǐ ge cái fēnjiā · That's TV! Real families aren't that complicated. But in the old days the eldest son had a heavy duty: he supported his parents, and only after they died did the brothers divide the property.

anna
當長子真不容易！
dāng zhǎngzǐ zhēn bù róngyì · Being the eldest son sounds tough!

anna
我以為現在大家都很有彈性，不在乎這些了。
wǒ yǐwéi xiànzài dàjiā dōu hěn yǒu tánxìng bú zàihū zhèxiē le · I thought people were more flexible now and didn't care about that any more.

teacher chen
恰恰相反，很多家庭還是很重視。我爸爸也是長子。他生前決定把遺體捐給醫學院，我們都完成了他的遺志。
qiàqià xiāngfǎn hěn duō jiātíng háishì hěn zhòngshì wǒ bàba yě shì zhǎngzǐ tā shēngqián juédìng bǎ yítǐ juān gěi yī xuéyuàn wǒmen dōu wánchéng le tā de yízhì · Quite the opposite: many families still take it seriously. My father was an eldest son too. In his lifetime he decided to donate his body to a medical school, and we carried out his wish.

anna
您爸爸真了不起，我很敬佩他。被您這麼一說，我真不知道該說什麼才好。
nín bàba zhēn liǎobùqǐ wǒ hěn jìngpèi tā bèi nín zhème yì shuō wǒ zhēn bù zhīdào gāi shuō shénme cái hǎo · Your father was remarkable: I really admire him. Now you've told me that, I really don't know what to say.

teacher chen
你學這些，動機是為了尊重美玲的家人，這已經很好了。
nǐ xué zhèxiē dòngjī shì wèile zūnzhòng Měilíng de jiārén zhè yǐjīng hěn hǎo le · You're learning all this out of respect for Meiling's family, and that's what matters.

anna
謝謝老師指點！
xièxie lǎoshī zhǐdiǎn · Thank you for your guidance, Teacher!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

宿
sù
lodge, stay overnight

曆
lì
calendar

描
miáo
trace, draw

述
shù
relate, tell

評
píng
judge, comment

good to know · New meaning: 規矩 (rules) is also an adjective, “well-behaved, proper”: 很規矩 well-behaved, 規規矩矩 on your best behaviour. On the second day of Lunar New Year (大年初二), married daughters traditionally go back to their parents’ home: 回娘家.

You can now name every in-law, talk about family duties, and tell a story with perfect timing.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 28 bricks and walls

Describe an old house, its bricks, walls, well and pillars, talk about cleaning and repairs, and do something "for someone's sake" with 看在……的面子上.

Old houses hold family history, and 看在……的面子上 is how people in Taiwan give in gracefully: not for you, but for someone you both respect.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
架子	jiàzi	shelf, frame; airs	他當了經理也沒有架子。 Even as a manager he doesn't put on airs.
清潔	qīngjié	clean	這家餐廳很清潔，服務也很好。 This restaurant is clean, and the service is good too.
井	jǐng	a well	奶奶家的院子裡以前有一口井。 There used to be a well in the courtyard of Grandma's house.
鈴	líng	bell	門鈴響了，快去開門！ The doorbell's ringing: go and get it!
台階	táijiē	(flight of) steps	門口有三個台階，老人家要小心。 There are three steps at the door, so elderly people need to be careful.
漏	lòu	leak	下大雨的時候，屋頂會漏水。 When it rains hard, the roof leaks.
磚	zhuān	brick	這棟老房子是用紅磚蓋的。 This old house is built of red brick.
灰塵	huīchén	dust	房子很久沒人住，到處都是灰塵。 Nobody's lived in the house for ages: there's dust everywhere.
水泥	shuǐní	cement	工人在院子裡鋪水泥。 The workers are laying cement in the yard.
別墅	biéshù	villa, country house	他在山上有一棟別墅。 He has a villa in the mountains.
爐子	lúzi	stove	奶奶以前用爐子燒水。 Grandma used to boil water on a stove.
圍牆	wéiqiáng	enclosing wall	學校的圍牆上畫了很多畫。 The school's walls are covered in paintings.
柱子	zhùzi	pillar, column	廟裡的柱子是紅色的。 The pillars in the temple are red.
籠子	lóngzi	cage	帶小黑去看醫生，要把牠放進籠子裡。 When we take Xiaohei to the vet, we have to put him in a cage.
漆	qī	paint, lacquer	門上的漆已經掉了。 The paint on the door has peeled off.
清掃	qīngsǎo	clean, sweep	過年以前，大家要把家裡清掃乾淨。 Before New Year, everyone gives the house a thorough clean.

周邊	zhōubiān	surroundings; around	車站周邊有很多小吃店。 There are lots of snack shops around the station.
動力	dònglì	driving force, motivation	孩子是我努力工作的動力。 My children are what keep me working hard.
命名	mìngmíng	name (officially)	這條路是用一位老醫生的名字命名的。 This road is named after an old doctor.
認定	rèndìng	firmly believe; recognise officially	她認定這棟老房子一定要留下來。 She was convinced the old house had to be kept.
透明	tòumíng	transparent	我買了一個透明的盒子放零食。 I bought a clear box for snacks.
主導	zhǔdǎo	lead, dominate	這個專案由安娜主導。 Anna is leading this project.

pattern 看在……的面子上: for someone's sake

看在 | someone | 的面子上 | , | what you agree to

面子 is "face", a person's standing. 看在 X 的面子上 means "out of respect for X": you do something, or let something go, not because you want to but for the sake of someone who matters. It's how disputes end politely: 看在老朋友的面子上，就算了吧.

看在你的面子上，我就不跟他計較了。 **kànzài nǐ de miànzi shàng wǒ jiù bù gēn tā jìjiào le** For your sake, I won't make a fuss about it.

看在孩子的面子上，他們兩個人和解了。 **kànzài háizi de miànzi shàng tāmen liǎng ge rén héjiě le** For the children's sake, the two of them made up.

看在王阿姨的面子上，房東答應晚一點再收房租。 **kànzài Wáng āyí de miànzi shàng fángdōng dāyìng wǎn yìdiǎn zài shōu fángzū** For Auntie Wang's sake, the landlord agreed to collect the rent a bit later.

dialogue grandma's old house

grandma lin 你們來啦！小心門口的台階。這棟房子一百年了，是用紅磚蓋的，到現在還很堅固。
nǐmen lái la xiǎoxīn ménkǒu de táijiē zhè dòng fángzi yìbǎi nián le shì yòng hóng zhuān gài de dào xiànzài hái hěn jiāngù · You're here! Mind the steps at the door. This house is a hundred years old, built of red brick, and it's still solid.

anna 哇，院子裡有一口井！還有這些紅色的柱子，好漂亮。
wā yuànzi lǐ yǒu yì kǒu jǐng háiyǒu zhèxiē hóngsè de zhùzi hǎo piàoliàng · Wow, there's a well in the courtyard! And these red pillars are beautiful.

grandma lin 那口井是祖宗留下來的，以前全家都靠它。
nà kǒu jǐng shì zǔzōng liú xialai de yǐqián quánjiā dōu kào tā · That well was left to us by our ancestors: the whole family used to depend on it.

meiling 奶奶，伯伯說要把老房子拆掉，用水泥蓋一棟新的別墅，是真的嗎？
nǎinai bóbo shuō yào bǎ lǎo fángzi chāi diào yòng shuǐní gài yí dòng xīn de biéshù shì zhēnde ma · Grandma, Uncle says he wants to knock the old house down and build a new concrete villa. Is it true?

grandma lin 他是這麼想。可是我認定這棟房子一定要留下來，爺爺在這裡住了一輩子，這裡有我們的青春。他生前也一直希望把房子留下來。
tā shì zhème xiǎng kěshì wǒ rèndìng zhè dòng fángzi yídìng yào liú xialai yéye zài zhèlǐ zhù le yí bèizi zhèlǐ yǒu wǒmen de qīngchūn tā shēngqián yě yìzhí xīwàng bǎ fángzi liú xialai · That's his idea. But I'm set on keeping this house: Grandpa lived here all his life, and our youth is in these walls. He always wanted the house kept, too.

david 奶奶，不妨先把房子清掃一下，再修一修。屋頂漏水的地方，我可以幫忙。看到這麼漂亮的房子，我就很有動力！
nǎinai bùfáng xiān bǎ fángzi qīngsǎo yíxià zài xiū yi xiu wū dǐng lòu shuǐ de dìfāng wǒ kěyǐ bāngmáng kàn dào zhème piàoliàng de fángzi wǒ jiù hěn yǒu dònglì · Grandma, why not give the house a good clean first, then fix it up? I can help with the places where the roof leaks. A house this beautiful makes me want to get to work!

meiling 大衛，屋頂很高，你要當心喔。
Dàwèi wū dǐng hěn gāo nǐ yào dāngxīn ō · David, the roof is high: be careful, OK?

grandma lin 好孩子！唉，你們伯伯從小就有一點架子，家裡的事都要他來主導，他是長子嘛。
hǎo háizi āi nǐmen bóbo cóngxiǎo jiù yǒuyìdiǎn jiàzi jiā lǐ de shì dōu yào tā lái zhǔdǎo tā shì zhǎngzǐ ma · Good lad! Oh, your uncle has always been a bit high and mighty: he wants to be in charge of everything in the family. He's the eldest son, after all.

meiling 奶奶放心，看在您的面子上，伯伯一定會聽的。
nǎinai fàngxīn kànzài nín de miànzi shàng bóbo yídìng huì tīng de · Don't worry, Grandma. For your sake, Uncle will listen.

anna 恰好我們這個週末都有空，今天就開始吧！
qiàhǎo wǒmen zhè ge zhōumò dōu yǒukòng jīntiān jiù kāishǐ ba · As it happens, we're all free this weekend: let's start today!

david 我先打電話給工人。喂，請問貴公司這個星期可以來修屋頂嗎？
wǒ xiān dǎdiànhuà gěi gōngrén wéi qǐngwèn guì gōngsī zhè ge xīngqí kěyǐ lái xiū wū dǐng ma · I'll ring the builders first. Hello, could your company come and repair a roof this week?

grandma lin 好吧，看在你們的面子上，我就不跟你們伯伯生氣了。晚上奶奶給你們煮好吃的！
hǎo ba kànzài nǐmen de miànzi shàng wǒ jiù bù gēn nǐmen bóbo shēngqì le wǎnshàng nǎinai gěi nǐmen zhǔ hǎochī de · All right, for your sakes I won't be cross with your uncle. Tonight Grandma's going to cook you something delicious!

anna 太好了！奶奶最疼我們了！
tài hǎo le nǎinai zuì téng wǒmen le · Wonderful! Grandma, you spoil us.

write it trace the grey, then write your own



承
chéng
undertake

幣
bì
currency

賓
bīn
guest



款
kuǎn
model, style (measure word)



待
dāi
stay; treat (someone)

good to know · New meaning: 貴 (expensive) is also a polite word for “your” in formal speech and letters: 貴公司 your company, 貴校 your school. 面子 (face) matters in Taiwan: 給面子 show respect, 沒面子 lose face, 愛面子 care about appearances.

You can now describe an old house brick by brick, and give in gracefully, for someone else’s sake.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 29 fixing up the flat

Deal with a burst pipe and talk about repairs, renovation and light, knitting and weaving, and give credit with 多虧……(不然)……

Things break in every home. 多虧 lets you thank the person who saved the day, and say what would have happened without them.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
梳	shū	comb	奶奶每天早上都會梳頭。 Grandma combs her hair every morning.
燈火	dēnghuǒ	lights	從山上看下去，城市的燈火很漂亮。 From the mountain, the city lights are beautiful.
管子	guǎnzi	pipe, tube	廚房的管子好像破了。 The kitchen pipe seems to have burst.
棍子	gùnzi	stick, rod	老人家走路要用一根棍子。 The old man needs a stick to walk.
套房	tàofáng	studio flat; en-suite room	他在臺北租了一間小套房。 He rents a small studio in Taipei.
容器	róngqì	container	吃不完的菜放進容器裡，再放冰箱。 Put the leftovers in a container and then in the fridge.
修補	xiūbǔ	mend, patch up	這條牛仔褲修補一下還能穿。 These jeans can still be worn if you patch them up.
編織	biānzhī	weave, knit	這個包是用竹子編織的。 This bag is woven from bamboo.
包袱	bāofú	bundle; burden	放下心裡的包袱，你會輕鬆很多。 Let go of the weight on your mind, and you'll feel much lighter.
沐浴	mùyù	bathe; be immersed	週末的公園裡，大家都沐浴在陽光下。 At the weekend everyone in the park is bathed in sunshine.
柄	bǐng	handle	這把刀的柄是木頭做的。 This knife has a wooden handle.
採光	cǎiguāng	natural light (of a room)	這間房子採光很好，白天不用開燈。 The flat gets lots of light: you don't need lights on in the day.
把手	bǎshǒu	handle, knob	門的把手壞了，打不開。 The door handle's broken: it won't open.
翻新	fānxīn	renovate, refurbish	這間老房子翻新以後，變得好漂亮。 After its renovation the old house looks lovely.
擴建	kuòjiàn	extend (a building)	學校要擴建圖書館。 The school is going to extend the library.
織	zhī	weave, knit	奶奶給我織了一件毛衣。 Grandma knitted me a jumper.

封閉	fēngbì	closed (off), shut in	這個房間太封閉了，要開窗戶通風。 This room is too stuffy: open a window to let some air in.
排除	páichú	rule out, eliminate	醫生排除|了別的可能。 The doctor ruled out the other possibilities.
融合	rónghé	blend, fuse	這家餐廳融合了臺灣菜跟日本菜。 This restaurant blends Taiwanese and Japanese cooking.
推測	tuīcè	infer, guess	從地上的水，我推測是樓上漏水了。 From the water on the floor, I'd guess the flat upstairs has a leak.
轉移	zhuǎnyí	shift, move	他想轉移話題，可是大家都不讓。 He tried to change the subject, but nobody let him.
多虧	duōkuī	thanks to, luckily	多虧你提醒我，不然我就忘了。 Thanks to your reminder: otherwise I'd have forgotten.

pattern 多虧……(不然)……: thanks to

多虧 (了) **who or what helped** **，不然 / 才** **what would have happened**

多虧 + a person or thing gives credit: "thanks to…". The second half often says what would have gone wrong without it, with 不然 (otherwise), or the good result with 才. It always describes a lucky escape, so it's grateful, never sarcastic.

多虧你提醒我，不然我就忘了。 **duōkuī nǐ tíxǐng wǒ bùrán wǒ jiù wàng le** Thanks for reminding me: otherwise I'd have forgotten.

多虧了這根棍子，奶奶走山路才不會跌倒。 **duōkuī le zhè gēn gùnzi nǎinai zǒu shān lù cái bú huì diédǎo** Thanks to this stick, Grandma can walk the mountain paths without falling.

多虧老師的指點，我才放下了心裡的包袱。 **duōkuī lǎoshī de zhǐdiǎn wǒ cái fàng xià le xīn lǐ de bāofú** It was my teacher's advice that finally took the weight off my mind.

多虧這位設計師，竹子編織跟現代設計融合在一起，年輕人也喜歡了。 **duōkuī zhè wèi shèjìshī zhúzi biānzhī gēn xiàndài shèjì rónghé zài yìqǐ niánqīng rén yě xǐhuān le** Thanks to this designer, bamboo weaving has been blended with modern design, and young people like it too.

dialogue the burst pipe

anna 大衛，快來！廚房的管子破了，水一直流出來！
Dàwèi kuài lái chúfáng de guǎnzi pò le shuǐ yìzhí liú chū lái · David, quick! The kitchen pipe's burst: water's pouring out!

david 別慌張！總開關在哪裡……找到了！好，水停了。
bié huāngzhāng zǒng kāi guān zài nǎlǐ zhǎo dào le hǎo shuǐ tíng le · Don't panic! Where's the main tap… got it! OK, the water's off.

meiling 多虧大衛反應快，不然整個廚房都要變成游泳池了。
duōkuī Dàwèi fǎnyìng kuài bùrán zhěng ge chúfáng dōu yào biànchéng yóuyǒngchí le · Thank goodness David was quick, or the whole kitchen would have been a swimming pool.

anna 大衛，你真機警！地上的水已經多到可以養魚的地步了！
Dàwèi nǐ zhēn jījǐng dì shàng de shuǐ yǐjīng duō dào kěyǐ yǎng yú de dìbù le · David, you're so quick on your feet! There's already so much water on the floor you could keep fish in it!

david 我推測是管子太老了。這棟大樓三十年了，管子都該換了。
wǒ tuīcè shì guǎnzi tài lǎo le zhè dòng dàlóu sānshí nián le guǎnzi dōu gāi huàn le · My guess is the pipes are just too old. This building's thirty years old: they should all be replaced.

anna 難怪管子周邊的牆都是濕的。
nánguài guǎnzi zhōubiān de qiáng dōu shì shī de · No wonder the walls around the pipes are all damp.

meiling 房東說，大樓明年要翻新，還要擴建停車場。到時候我們得先搬出去一個月。
fángdōng shuō dàlóu míngnián yào fānxīn háiyào kuòjiàn tíngchēchǎng dào shíhòu wǒmen děi xiān bān chū qù yí ge yuè · The landlord says the building is being renovated next year, and the car park extended. We'll have to move out for a month.

anna 一個月？那我們三個人要擠在一間又小又封閉的套房裡嗎？
yí ge yuè nà wǒmen sān ge rén yào jǐ zài yì jiān yòu xiǎo yòu fēngbì de tàofáng lǐ ma · A month? Will the three of us have to squeeze into one tiny, stuffy studio?

meiling 放心，房東很講理，會幫我們想辦法的。
fàngxīn fángdōng hěn jiǎnglǐ huì bāng wǒmen xiǎng bànfǎ de · Don't worry: the landlord is reasonable. He'll help us work something out.

david 我來跟房東談。房東跟王阿姨交情很好，看在王阿姨的面子上，他應該會讓我們先修補就好。
wǒ lái gēn fángdōng tán fángdōng gēn Wáng āyí jiāoqíng hěn hǎo kànzài Wáng āyí de miànzi shàng tā yīnggāi huì ràng wǒmen xiān xiūbǔ jiù hǎo · I'll talk to the landlord. He and Auntie Wang go way back: for her sake, he should let us just patch things up for now.

meiling 對了，客廳的門把手也壞了，順便請人修一修。
duìle kètīng de mén bǎshǒu yě huài le shùnbiàn qǐng rén xiū yi xiu · Oh, and the living room door handle is broken too: let's get someone to fix that while they're at it.

anna 好。今天先把東西轉移到客廳，把廚房清潔乾淨，再排除別的地方漏水的可能。
hǎo jīntiān xiān bǎ dōngxi zhuǎnyí dào kètīng bǎ chúfáng qīngjié gānjìng zài páichú biéde dìfāng lòu shuǐ de kěnéng · OK. Today let's move everything into the living room, clean the kitchen properly, then rule out leaks anywhere else.

david 好！我們三個人一向很有默契。
hǎo wǒmen sān ge rén yíxiàng hěn yǒu mòqì · Right! The three of us have always made a good team.

write it trace the grey, then write your own



探
tàn
stick out (the head); visit; explore



圈
quān
(measure) a circle, a lap



盛
shèng
flourishing, in full bloom; grand



邀
yāo
invite

哼
hēng
hum; humph!

good to know · New meaning: 號 (number, size) is also a verb in written Chinese: a painter or poet 號… “goes by the art name …”. Many artists chose a 號 besides their real name. Flat adverts in Taiwan love 採光佳 (lots of natural light) and 套房 (a studio with its own bathroom). A 雅房 shares a bathroom.

You can now handle a household emergency, talk renovations, and thank the person who saved the day.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 30 pipes, paint and hardware

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 4 · family & home

Shop for hardware, paint and fix up a house, choose presents, and say “whether X or Y” with X 也好，Y 也罷 and “sure enough” with 果真.

Getting a house ready for a big day means paint, pipes and presents. X 也好，Y 也罷 shows you don’t mind which, and 果真 confirms what everyone expected.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
斧頭	fǔtou	axe	他用斧頭把木頭分成兩半。 He split the wood in two with an axe.
門戶	ménhù	door; family; gateway	出門以前，記得把門戶關好。 Before you go out, remember to lock up properly.
裝潢	zhuānghuáng	do up, decorate (a home)	新家裝潢好了，下個月就可以搬進去。 The new flat is fitted out: we can move in next month.
粉刷	fěnshuā	paint (walls)	我們週末要把客廳粉刷成淺藍色。 This weekend we’re painting the living room light blue.
管線	guǎnxiàn	pipes and wiring	老房子的管線都要換新的。 All the pipes and wiring in an old house need replacing.
五金	wǔjīn	hardware	巷口有一家五金行{hang2-tw}，什麼都買得到。 There’s a hardware shop at the end of the lane that has everything.
茶具	chájù	tea set	這套茶具是奶奶結婚時的禮物。 This tea set was a wedding present to Grandma.
防水	fángshuǐ	waterproof	這支手機可以防水。 This phone is waterproof.
樓房	lóufáng	building (of several floors)	以前這裡都是田，現在都是樓房。 This used to be all fields; now it’s all buildings.
毛毯	máotǎn	blanket	晚上冷，多蓋一條毛毯吧。 It’s cold tonight: put an extra blanket on.
牆角	qiángjiǎo	corner (of a room)	小黑喜歡躲在牆角睡覺。 Xiaohei likes to curl up in the corner to sleep.
熱水瓶	rèshuǐpíng	thermos (flask)	奶奶的熱水瓶用了三十年。 Grandma has used her thermos for thirty years.
日光燈	rìguāngdēng	fluorescent light	教室裡的日光燈太亮了。 The fluorescent lights in the classroom are too bright.
下水道	xiàshuǐdào	sewer, drain	下水道塞住了，馬路上都是水。 The drains are blocked, and the road is flooded.
香皂	xiāngzào	(scented) soap	這塊香皂的味道很好聞。 This soap smells lovely.

負面	fùmiàn	negative (side)	不要只看事情的負面。 Don't only look at the negative side of things.
評論	pínglùn	comment on, review	很多人在網路上評論這部電影。 Lots of people have reviewed this film online.
柔軟	róuruǎn	soft	這條毛巾很柔軟。 This towel is very soft.
遙遠	yáoyuǎn	distant, far away	對小孩子來說，三十歲好像很遙遠。 To a child, being thirty seems a very long way off.
倒數	dàoshǔ	count down	大家一起倒數：十、九、八…… Everyone counts down together: ten, nine, eight…
果真	guǒzhēn	sure enough; if really	天氣預報說會下雨，果真下雨了。 The forecast said rain, and sure enough it rained.
也罷	yěbà	whether…or; never mind	你同意也罷，不同意也罷，我都要去。 Whether you agree or not, I'm going.

pattern X也好，Y也罷: whether X or Y; 罷了; 果真

X 也好 , **Y 也罷** , **(都)……**

X 也好，Y 也罷 means "whether X or Y, it makes no difference", and the result follows, often with 都 or 就好. 罷了 at the end of a sentence means "that's all": 隨便說說罷了 "I was only talking". 果真 means "sure enough" (it really happened), or "if it really is so" after 如果.

你喜歡也好，不喜歡也罷，這件事都要做。 **nǐ xǐhuān yěhǎo bù xǐhuān yěbà zhè jiàn shì dōu yào zuò** Whether you like it or not, this has to be done.

網路上的評論，正面也好，負面也罷，都不用太在意。 **wǎnglù shàng de pínglùn zhèngmiàn yěhǎo fùmiàn yěbà dōu búyòng tài zàiyì** Online reviews, good or bad, aren't worth worrying about too much.

我只是隨便說說罷了，你別生氣。 **wǒ zhǐshì suíbiàn shuō shuo bàle nǐ bié shēngqì** I was only talking, that's all: don't be upset.

如果他說的果真是事實，那問題就大了。 **rúguǒ tā shuō de guǒzhēn shì shìshí nà wèntí jiù dà le** If what he says is really true, then we have a big problem.

dialogue three days to go

david 生日倒數三天了！今天一定要把牆粉刷好，屋頂也要修補。
shēngrì dàoshǔ sān tiān le jīntiān yídìng yào bǎ qiáng fěnshuā hǎo wū dǐng yě yào xiūbǔ · Three days to the birthday! Today we've got to finish painting the walls, and patch up the roof too.

meiling 大衛，你今天真有勁！我們先去巷口的五金行買漆。安娜，你覺得牆要刷什麼顏色？
Dàwèi nǐ jīntiān zhēn yǒu jìn wǒmen xiān qù xiàng kǒu de wǔjīn háng mǎi qī Ānnà nǐ juéde qiáng yào shuā shénme yánsè · David, you're full of energy today! Let's go to the hardware shop at the end of the lane for paint first. Anna, what colour do you think the walls should be?

anna 白色也好，淺黃色也罷，奶奶喜歡就好。
báisè yěhǎo qiǎn huángsè yěbà nǎinai xǐhuān jiù hǎo · White or pale yellow: whatever Grandma likes.

grandma lin 我老了，什麼紅的、白的，都無所謂。只是屋頂要用防水的漆，不然下雨又要漏水。
wǒ lǎo le shénme hóng de bái de dōu wúsuǒwèi zhǐshì wū dǐng yào yòng fángshuǐ de qī bùrán xiàyǔ yòu yào lòu shuǐ · I'm old: red, white, it's all the same to me. But the roof needs waterproof paint, or it'll leak again when it rains.

david 工人說，老房子的管線都要換，日光燈也太舊了。
gōngrén shuō lǎo fángzi de guǎnxiàn dōu yào huàn rìguāngdēng yě tài jiù le · The builder says all the pipes and wiring in an old house need replacing, and the fluorescent lights are too old too.

grandma lin 換管線要花不少錢吧？奶奶的錢有限喔。
huàn guǎnxiàn yào huā bùshǎo qián ba nǎinai de qián yǒuxiàn ō · Replacing the pipes and wiring will cost a lot, won't it? Grandma's money doesn't go far, you know.

meiling 奶奶，錢的事您別擔心。工人果真說得沒錯。打開牆角一看，管子都破了，到處都是灰塵。
nǎinai qián de shì nín bié dānxīn gōngrén guǒzhēn shuō de méi cuò dǎkāi qiángjiǎo yí kàn guǎnzi dōu pò le dàochù dōu shì huīchén · Don't worry about the money, Grandma. Sure enough, the builder was right. We opened up the corner of the wall, and the pipes were all broken, with dust everywhere.

grandma lin 多虧你們來幫忙，不然我一個老人家，真不知道該怎麼辦才好。
duōkuī nǐmen lái bāngmáng bùrán wǒ yí ge lǎorénjia zhēn bù zhīdào gāi zěnmebàn cái hǎo · Thank goodness you came to help. On my own at my age, I really wouldn't know what to do.

anna 奶奶，先給您看看我們的禮物：一套茶具、一條柔軟的毛毯，還有美玲挑的香皂。
nǎinai xiān gěi nín kànkan wǒmen de lǐwù yí tào chájù yì tiáo róuruǎn de máotǎn háiyǒu Měilíng tiāo de xiāngzào · Grandma, let us show you our presents first: a tea set, a soft blanket, and some soap Meiling picked out.

grandma lin 你們太破費了！也罷，既然買了，奶奶就收下。八十歲，以前覺得好遙遠，沒想到這麼快就到了。要是爺爺也在就好了，我好思念他。
nǐmen tài pò fèi le yěbà jìrán mǎi le nǎinai jiù shōu xià bāshí suì yǐqián juéde hǎo yáoyuǎn méixiǎngdào zhème kuài jiù dào le yàoshì yéye yě zài jiù hǎo le wǒ hǎo sīniàn tā · You shouldn't have spent so much! Oh well, since you've bought them, I'll accept. Eighty used to seem so far away, and here it is already. If only Grandpa were here too: I miss him so much.

anna 奶奶一點都不老，比我們還有朝氣！
nǎinai yìdiǎn dōu bù lǎo bǐ wǒmen hái yǒu zhāoqì · Grandma, you're not old at all: you've got more energy than us!

meiling 奶奶，網路上評論這家的茶具，都說很好用喔！
nǎinai wǎnglù shàng pínglùn zhè jiā de chájù dōu shuō hěn hǎo yòng ō · Grandma, the online reviews of these tea sets all say they're lovely to use!

grandma lin 你們這些孩子啊，真讓奶奶自豪。
nǐmen zhèxiē háizi a zhēn ràng nǎinai zìháo · You children make Grandma so proud.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

融
róng
melt, blend

諒
liàng
understand, forgive

隔
gé
be apart; after (an interval)

戴
dài
wear (hats, glasses, watches)

恩
ēn
kindness

good to know · New meaning: 橫 (horizontal) is also a verb, “to lie across”: 一棵樹橫在路上 a tree is lying across the road. Taiwan’s neighbourhood 五金行 (hardware shops) sell everything from nails and paint to buckets, brooms and thermoses: if you can’t find it, ask the 老闆.

You can now shop for hardware, plan a paint job, say “whichever” and “sure enough”, and get a house ready for a party.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 31 mission: grandma lin turns eighty

Chinese TOCFL C in 142 days
unit 4 · family & home

Follow a family celebration from invitation to banquet: read a formal invitation, tour a renovated house, meet the relatives, hear an elder's life story, and give and receive birthday wishes.

Everything from unit 4 comes back in one weekend: family ties, raising and caring, in-laws, an old brick house and its renovation.

chapter 1 thirty tables

meiling 伯伯寄來了奶奶生日的邀請卡，我念給你們聽。

bóbo jì lái le nǎinai shēngrì de yāoqǐng kǎ wǒ niàn gěi nǐmen tīng · Uncle has sent the invitation for Grandma's birthday. I'll read it to you.

meiling 「各位親戚朋友：我的母親將在本月二十日迎來八十歲生日。為了感謝大家多年來的照顧，當天晚上六點，我們在臺南老家附近的餐廳準備了簡單的晚餐，請大家一起來為她祝福。人多也好，人少也罷，有您在，就是最好的禮物。敬請光臨。長子敬邀」

gèwèi qīnqī péngyǒu wǒ de mǔqīn jiāng zài běn yuè èrshí rì yíng lái bāshí suì shēngrì wèile gǎnxiè dàjiā duō nián lái de zhàogù dàngtiān wǎnshàng liù diǎn wǒmen zài Táinán lǎojiā fùjìn de cāntīng zhǔnbèi le jiǎndān de wǎn cān qǐng dàjiā yìqǐ lái wèi tā zhùfú rén duō yěhǎo rén shǎo yěbà yǒu nín zài jiùshì zuìhǎo de lǐwù jìng qǐng guānglín zhǎngzǐ jìng yāo · "Dear family and friends: on the 20th of this month my mother turns eighty. To thank you all for your kindness over the years, we have arranged a simple dinner at 6 pm that day at a restaurant near the old family home in Tainan. Please come and wish her well. However many of us there are, your presence is the best gift. We look forward to seeing you. From her eldest son"

david 「簡單的晚餐」？伯伯不是要請一百桌嗎？

jiǎndān de wǎn cān bóbo bú shì yào qǐng yìbǎi zhuō ma · "A simple dinner"? Wasn't Uncle inviting a hundred tables?

meiling 看在奶奶的面子上，伯伯最後只請了三十桌。他想拆房子的計畫，在家裡也引起了很大的爭議，最後也放棄了。

kànzài nǎinai de miànzi shàng bóbo zuìhòu zhǐ qǐng le sānshí zhuō tā xiǎng chāi fángzi de jìhuà zài jiā lǐ yě yǐnqǐ le hěn dà de zhēngyì zuìhòu yě fàngqì le · For Grandma's sake, Uncle settled on thirty tables in the end. His plan to knock the house down caused a big row in the family too, and he dropped that as well.

anna 三十桌也未免太多了吧！第一次見你們全家，我不免有點緊張。

sānshí zhuō yě wèimiǎn tài duō le ba dì yī cì jiàn nǐmen quánjiā wǒ bùmiǎn yǒudiǎn jǐnzhāng · Thirty tables is still rather a lot! Meeting your whole family for the first time, I can't help feeling a bit nervous.

meiling 你說你一個在臺灣住了這麼多年的人，還怕見老人家？奶奶最疼愛你了。

nǐ shuō nǐ yí ge zài Táiwān zhù le zhème duō nián de rén hái pà jiàn lǎorénjia nǎinai zuì téngài nǐ le · You've lived in Taiwan all these years and you're scared of meeting old people? Grandma adores you.

david 坐高鐵也好，坐火車也罷，我們星期五一定要到。還好我的上班時間很有彈性。禮物準備好了嗎？

zuò gāotiě yěhǎo zuò huǒchē yěbà wǒmen xīngqíwǔ yídìng yào dào háihǎo wǒ de shàngbān shíjiān hěn yǒu tánxìng lǐwù zhǔnbèi hǎo le ma · High-speed rail or ordinary train, we have to be there on Friday. Luckily my working hours are flexible. Are Grandma's presents ready?

meiling 準備好了！不過要保密，到了那天才給奶奶看。

zhǔnbèi hǎo le búguò yào bǎomì dào le nà tiān cái gěi nǎinai kàn · Ready! But it's a secret: Grandma doesn't see them until the day.

meiling 上次我們去五金行買的日光燈，伯伯說裝得很好。奶奶家周邊的樓房都很新，只有她家還是紅磚的。

shàng cì wǒmen qù wǔjīn háng mǎi de rìguāngdēng bóbo shuō zhuāng de hěn hǎo nǎinai jiā zhōubiān de lóufáng dōu hěn xīn zhǐyǒu tā jiā háishì hóng zhuān de · Uncle says the fluorescent lights we bought at the hardware shop last time look great. All the buildings around Grandma's are new: hers is the only red-brick one left.

chapter 2 good as new

grandma lin 你們來啦！快進來，小心台階。
nǐmen lái la kuài jìn lái xiǎoxīn táijiē · You're here! Come in, come in, mind the steps.

anna 奶奶，房子翻新以後好漂亮！牆粉刷成了淺黃色，採光也變好了。
nǎinai fángzi fānxīn yǐhòu hǎo piàoliàng qiáng fěnshuā chéng le qiǎn huángsè cǎiguāng yě biàn hǎo le · Grandma, the house looks lovely now it's been done up! The walls are pale yellow, and it's so much brighter.

grandma lin 多虧你們上次來幫忙，不然我一個人真不知道怎麼辦才好。工人把管線都換了，屋頂也用了防水的漆，下雨再也不會漏了。
duōkuī nǐmen shàng cì lái bāngmáng bùrán wǒ yí ge rén zhēn bù zhīdào zěnmebàn cái hǎo gōngrén bǎ guǎnxiàn dōu huàn le wū dǐng yě yòng le fángshuǐ de qī xiàyǔ zàiyě bú huì lòu le · Thanks to your help last time: on my own I wouldn't have known what to do. The builders replaced all the pipes and wiring and used waterproof paint on the roof, so it won't leak when it rains any more.

david 紅磚的圍牆跟柱子都沒動，還是原來的樣子。這棟房子真堅固。
hóng zhuān de wéiqiáng gēn zhùzi dōu méi dòng háishì yuánlái de yàngzi zhè dòng fángzi zhēn jiāngù · The red-brick wall and the pillars haven't been touched: they're just as they were. This house is really solid.

meiling 伯伯本來認定要拆掉，改蓋水泥的別墅。後來看到翻新的樣子，也說老房子好，還想擴建後面的廚房呢。
bóbo běnlái rèndìng yào chāi diào gǎi gài shuǐní de biéshù hòulái kàn dào fānxīn de yàngzi yě shuō lǎo fángzi hǎo hái xiǎng kuòjiàn hòumiàn de chúfáng ne · Uncle was set on knocking it down and building a concrete villa. When he saw the renovation, even he said the old house was better: now he wants to extend the kitchen at the back.

grandma lin 你們伯伯啊，從小就有架子，什麼事都要他來主導。這次果真聽了我的話，真難得！
nǐmen bóbo a cóngxiǎo jiù yǒu jiàzi shénme shì dōu yào tā lái zhǔdǎo zhè cì guǒzhēn tīng le wǒ de huà zhēn nándé · Your uncle has always been a bit high and mighty, always wanting to be in charge. This time he really did listen to me, for once!

anna 院子裡的井還在！奶奶以前用這口井的水做飯嗎？
yuànzi lǐ de jǐng hái zài nǎinai yǐqián yòng zhè kǒu jǐng de shuǐ zuò fàn ma · The well in the courtyard is still here! Did you use to cook with water from this well, Grandma?

grandma lin 是啊，以前沒有熱水瓶，水都要放在爐子上自己燒。你們看，連門鈴都是新的，門跟窗戶的把手也都修補好了。
shì a yǐqián méiyǒu rèshuǐpíng shuǐ dōu yào fàng zài lúzi shàng zìjǐ shāo nǐmen kàn lián mén líng dōu shì xīn de mén gēn chuānghu de bǎshǒu yě dōu xiūbǔ hǎo le · Yes. In the old days there were no thermoses: you boiled all your water on the stove yourself. Look, even the doorbell is new, and the door handles and window catches have all been mended.

david 我推測以前房子這麼暗，是因為房間太封閉。現在把牆角的大櫃子轉移到別的房間，光就進來了。
wǒ tuīcè yǐqián fángzi zhème àn shì yīnwèi fángjiān tài fēngbì xiànzài bǎ qiángjiǎo de dà guìzi zhuǎnyí dào biéde fángjiān guāng jiù jìn lái le · My guess is the house used to be so dark because the rooms were too closed in. Now that the big cupboard in the corner has been moved to another room, the light comes in.

grandma lin 以前我每天清掃，灰塵還是很多。現在家裡好清潔，我真高興！
yǐqián wǒ měi tiān qīngsǎo huīchén háishì hěn duō xiànzài jiā lǐ hǎo qīngjié wǒ zhēn gāoxìng · I used to clean every day and there was still dust everywhere. Now the house is so clean: I'm so happy!

chapter 3 who's who

meiling 安娜，我來介紹：那是我伯伯跟伯母，他們兩口子就住在附近。我爸爸都叫伯母「嫂子」。

Ānnà wǒ lái jièshào nà shì wǒ bóbo gēn bómǔ tāmen liǎngkǒuzi jiù zhù zài fùjìn wǒ bàba dōu jiào bómǔ sǎozi · Anna, let me introduce everyone: that's my uncle and aunt. The two of them live just nearby. My dad calls my aunt "saozi", older brother's wife.

grandma lin 美玲的爸爸是老二，下面還有一個叔叔。三個弟兄感情很好，從來沒有為了分家吵過架，也都很用心奉養我。

Měilíng de bàba shì lǎo èr xiàmiàn háiyǒu yí ge shúshu sān ge dìxiōng gǎnqíng hěn hǎo cónglái méiyǒu wèile fēnjiā chǎo guo jià yě dōu hěn yòngxīn fèngyàng wǒ · Meiling's dad is the second son, and there's a younger one too. The three brothers are very close: they've never argued about dividing up the family property, and they all look after me so well.

meiling 那邊是我姊姊，她現在是孕婦，明年三月家裡就要添一個小寶寶了。她的婆家離娘家很近，常常兩邊跑。

nà biān shì wǒ jiějie tā xiànzài shì yùnfù míngnián sān yuè jiā lǐ jiù yào tiān yí ge xiǎo bǎobao le tā de pójiā lí niángjiā hěn jìn chángcháng liǎng biān pǎo · Over there is my sister. She's expecting: there'll be a new baby in the family next March. Her husband's family lives near her parents, so she's always going back and forth.

anna 恭喜！那她旁邊的是誰？

gōngxǐ nà tā pángbiān de shì shéi · Congratulations! And who's that next to her?

meiling 是我堂哥跟他的未婚妻。真湊巧，他們今天也恰好認識一年。

shì wǒ táng gē gēn tā de wèihūnqī zhēn còuqiǎo tāmen jīntiān yě qiàhǎo rènshì yì nián · My cousin and his fiancée. What a coincidence: it's exactly a year today since they met.

grandma lin 我們林家的子孫越來越多了。祖宗要是知道，一定很高興。

wǒmen Lín jiā de zǐsūn yuèláiyuè duō le zǔzōng yàoshì zhīdào yídìng hěn gāoxìng · The Lin family keeps growing. If our ancestors knew, they'd be so happy.

anna 奶奶，以前的人見面都會問籍貫，林家的籍貫是哪裡？

nǎinai yǐqián de rén jiànmiàn dōu huì wèn jíguàn Lín jiā de jíguàn shì nǎlǐ · Grandma, people used to ask about your ancestral home when they met. Where is the Lin family's?

grandma lin 我們的祖宗兩百多年前從海的那一邊來，現在大家都是臺南人了。

wǒmen de zǔzōng liǎngbǎi duō nián qián cóng hǎi de nà yì biān lái xiànzài dàjiā dōu shì Táinán rén le · Our ancestors came from across the sea more than two hundred years ago. Now we're all Tainan people.

meiling 奶奶，你看，伯伯又在叫大家搬桌子了。

nǎinai nǐ kàn bóbo yòu zài jiào dàjiā bān zhuōzi le · Grandma, look: Uncle is ordering everyone to move tables again.

grandma lin 你說你伯伯一個六十歲的人，一大早就在院子裡嚷，像個孩子一樣！

nǐ shuō nǐ bóbo yí ge liùshí suì de rén yídàzǎo jiù zài yuànzi lǐ rǎng xiàng ge háizi yíyàng · Honestly, a man of sixty, shouting in the courtyard first thing in the morning, like a child!

chapter 4 eighty years

meiling 奶奶，我幫您梳頭。今天晚上您一定是最漂亮的人。
nǎinai wǒ bāng nín shū tóu jīntiān wǎnshàng nín yídìng shì zuì piàoliàng de rén · Grandma, let me comb your hair. Tonight you'll be the most beautiful person there.

grandma lin 好。早上你伯伯帶大家去爺爺的墳前。我跟爺爺說：「我八十了，你放心。」
hǎo zǎoshàng nǐ bóbo dài dàjiā qù yéye de fén qián wǒ gēn yéye shuō wǒ bāshí le nǐ fàngxīn · All right. This morning your uncle took everyone to Grandpa's grave. I told Grandpa: "I'm eighty now. Don't worry about me."

anna 奶奶，您跟爺爺是怎麼認識的？
nǎinai nín gēn yéye shì zěnme rènshì de · Grandma, how did you and Grandpa meet?

grandma lin 那是很遙遠的事了。我二十歲嫁到林家，把青春都給了這個家。爺爺對我很好，我們一輩子都很恩愛。
nà shì hěn yáoyuǎn de shì le wǒ èrshí suì jià dào Lín jiā bǎ qīngchūn dōu gěi le zhè ge jiā yéye duì wǒ hěn hǎo wǒmen yí bèizi dōu hěn ēnài · That was so long ago. I married into the Lin family at twenty and gave my youth to it. Grandpa was good to me, and we were devoted all our lives.

meiling 爸爸說，爺爺生病那幾年，都是奶奶在旁邊伺候，從來不肯請別人來照顧。
bàba shuō yéye shēngbìng nà jǐ nián dōu shì nǎinai zài pángbiān cìhòu cónglái bù kěn qǐng biérén lái zhàogù · Dad says that in the years Grandpa was ill, Grandma looked after him herself: she would never hire anyone to help.

grandma lin 我是跟我娘學的。她很年輕就成了寡婦，一個人撫養我們，還幫忙撫育了兩個孤兒。我知道養育孩子有多辛苦，所以我管教兒女很嚴，可是心裡最疼他們。
wǒ shì gēn wǒ niáng xué de tā hěn niánqīng jiù chéng le guǎfù yí ge rén fǔyǎng wǒmen hái bāngmáng fǔyù le liǎng ge gūér wǒ zhīdào yǎngyù háizi yǒu duō xīnkǔ suǒyǐ wǒ guǎnjiào érnǚ hěn yán kěshì xīn lǐ zuì téng tāmen · I learned from my mother. She was widowed young and brought us up on her own, and she helped raise two orphans as well. I know how hard it is to bring up children, so I was strict with mine, but I loved them dearly.

meiling 爺爺過世的時候，對奶奶是很大的打擊吧？
yéye guòshì de shíhòu duì nǎinai shì hěn dà de dǎjí ba · When Grandpa died, it must have been a terrible blow.

grandma lin 是啊。可是我把難過隱藏起來，因為還要照顧一家人。生死的事，誰也說不準。爺爺生前常說：「一家人和睦最重要。」這是他的遺志，我一直記得。
shì a kěshì wǒ bǎ nánguò yǐncáng qǐlai yīnwèi háiyào zhàogù yì jiā rén shēngsǐ de shì shéi yě shuō bu zhǔn yéye shēngqián cháng shuō yì jiā rén hémù zuì zhòngyào zhè shì tā de yízhì wǒ yìzhí jìde · It was. But I kept my sadness hidden, because there was still a family to look after. Life and death, nobody can say. In his lifetime Grandpa always said, "What matters most is a family that gets along." That was his last wish, and I've never forgotten it.

anna 奶奶，對您來說，「家」的定義是什麼？
nǎinai duì nín lái shuō jiā de dìngyì shì shénme · Grandma, what does "home" mean to you?

grandma lin 家有缺陷也好，沒有缺陷也罷，大家在一起就是家。現在我心裡沒有包袱了，看到你們，就會聯想到自己年輕的時候。
jiā yǒu quēxiàn yěhǎo méiyǒu quēxiàn yěbà dàjiā zài yìqǐ jiùshì jiā xiànzài wǒ xīn lǐ méiyǒu bāofú le kàn dào nǐmen jiù huì liánxiǎng dào zìjǐ niánqīng de shíhòu · Whether a family has its flaws or not, being together is what makes a home. There's no weight on my mind now, and when I look at you all, I think of myself when I was young.

chapter 5 happy eightieth!

david 哇，三十桌！餐廳的燈火好漂亮。
wā sānshí zhuō cāntīng de dēnghuǒ hǎo piàoliàng · Wow, thirty tables! The restaurant lights are beautiful.

grandma lin 各位親戚朋友，謝謝大家今天來。大家以為老人家喜歡安靜，恰恰相反，我最喜歡熱鬧！我八十歲了，最大的幸福，就是兒女孝順，子孫和睦。我的兒子都是孝子，我的媳婦也都對我很好。
gèwèi qīnqī péngyǒu xièxie dàjiā jīntiān lái dàjiā yǐwéi lǎorénjia xǐhuān ānjìng qiàqià xiāngfǎn wǒ zuì xǐhuān rènao wǒ bāshí suì le zuì dà de xìngfú jiùshì érnǚ xiàoshùn zǐsūn hémù wǒ de érzi dōu shì xiàozǐ wǒ de xífù yě dōu duì wǒ hěn hǎo · Family and friends, thank you all for coming today. People think old folks like peace and quiet, but quite the opposite: I love a party! I'm eighty, and my greatest happiness is that my children are devoted and my grandchildren get along. My sons are all good sons, and my daughters-in-law are all good to me too.

grandma lin 今天恰好也是我跟爺爺結婚六十年。他不在了，可是我相信他在看著我們。也謝謝美玲的朋友安娜跟大衛，像親生的孫子一樣，幫我把老房子修好。
jīntiān qiàhǎo yě shì wǒ gēn yéye jiéhūn liùshí nián tā bú zài le kěshì wǒ xiāngxìn tā zài kàn zhe wǒmen yě xièxie Měilíng de péngyǒu Ānnà gēn Dàwèi xiàng qīnshēng de sūnzi yíyàng bāng wǒ bǎ lǎo fángzi xiū hǎo · Today also happens to be sixty years since Grandpa and I married. He isn't here, but I believe he's watching over us. And thank you to Meiling's friends Anna and David, who helped me fix up the old house like my own grandchildren.

david 奶奶，其實我幫忙修房子的動機很簡單：想吃您做的菜！
nǎinai qíshí wǒ bāngmáng xiū fángzi de dòngjī hěn jiǎndān xiǎng chī nín zuò de cài · Grandma, to be honest my motive for helping with the house was simple: I wanted to eat your cooking!

david 大家一起倒數：十、九、八……生日快樂！
dàjiā yìqǐ dàoshǔ shí jiǔ bā shēngrì kuàilè · Everyone count down together: ten, nine, eight… Happy birthday!

meiling 奶奶，這是我們的禮物：一套茶具、一條毛毯、一塊香皂，還有我自己織的毛衣。
nǎinai zhè shì wǒmen de lǐwù yí tào chájù yì tiáo máotǎn yí kuài xiāngzào háiyǒu wǒ zìjǐ zhī de máoyī · Grandma, here are our presents: a tea set, a blanket, some soap, and a jumper I knitted myself.

grandma lin 這條毛毯好柔軟！你們太破費了。也罷，奶奶就收下了。
zhè tiáo máotǎn hǎo róuruǎn nǐmen tài pò fèi le yěbà nǎinai jiù shōu xià le · This blanket is so soft! You shouldn't have spent so much. Oh well, Grandma will accept.

david 三十桌，每桌十二道菜，未免太多了吧！
sānshí zhuō měi zhuō shíèr dào cài wèimiǎn tài duō le ba · Thirty tables, twelve dishes each: isn't that rather a lot?

meiling 伯伯說了，吃不完的，用容器帶回家，一點也不能浪費。這家餐廳在網路上的評論很好，一個負面的都沒有。
bóbo shuō le chī bu wán de yòng róngqì dài huí jiā yìdiǎn yě bù néng làngfèi zhè jiā cāntīng zài wǎnglù shàng de pínglùn hěn hǎo yí ge fùmiàn de dōu méiyǒu · Uncle says anything we can't finish goes home in containers: nothing goes to waste. This restaurant's online reviews are great, not a single bad one.

grandma lin 看在我的面子上，大家多吃一點！
kànzài wǒ de miànzi shàng dàjiā duō chī yìdiǎn · Do it for me: everyone eat up!

chapter 6 old houses, new life

meiling 最近，臺南有越來越多年輕人不拆老房子，而是把家裡的老房子翻新。

zuìjìn Táinán yǒu yuèláiyuè duō niánqīng rén bù chāi lǎo fángzi érshì bǎ jiā lǐ de lǎo fángzi fānxīn · Lately more and more young people in Tainan aren't knocking down old houses: they're renovating their family homes instead.

meiling 以前，很多人覺得老房子又暗又舊，不如蓋一棟水泥樓房，或是搬到新的大樓。

yǐqián hěn duō rén juéde lǎo fángzi yòu àn yòu jiù bùrú gài yí dòng shuǐní lóufáng huòshì bān dào xīn de dàlóu · In the past many people felt old houses were dark and shabby, and it was better to put up a concrete building or move into a new block of flats.

meiling 可是現在，大家發現紅磚牆和老柱子有自己的味道，那是用錢買不到的回憶。

kěshì xiànzài dàjiā fāxiàn hóng zhuān qiáng hé lǎo zhùzi yǒu zìjǐ de wèidào nà shì yòng qián mǎibúdào de huíyì · But now people are finding that red-brick walls and old pillars have a character of their own: memories that money can't buy.

meiling 翻新並不便宜，管線、防水都得重做，有時候比蓋新的還貴，所以一家人常常要先商量好。

fānxīn bìng bù piányí guǎnxiàn fángshuǐ dōu děi chóng zuò yǒushíhou bǐ gài xīn de hái guì suǒyǐ yì jiā rén chángcháng yào xiān shāngliáng hǎo · Renovating isn't cheap: the pipes, the wiring and the waterproofing all have to be redone, and sometimes it costs more than building new, so families often need to talk it over first.

meiling 一位八十多歲的老太太說：「這是祖宗留下來的房子。子孫願意住在這裡，我就放心了。」

yí wèi bāshí duō suì de lǎotàitai shuō zhè shì zǔzōng liú xialai de fángzi zǐsūn yuànyì zhù zài zhèlǐ wǒ jiù fàngxīn le · One lady in her eighties said: "This house was left to us by our ancestors. If my grandchildren are willing to live here, my mind is at rest."

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