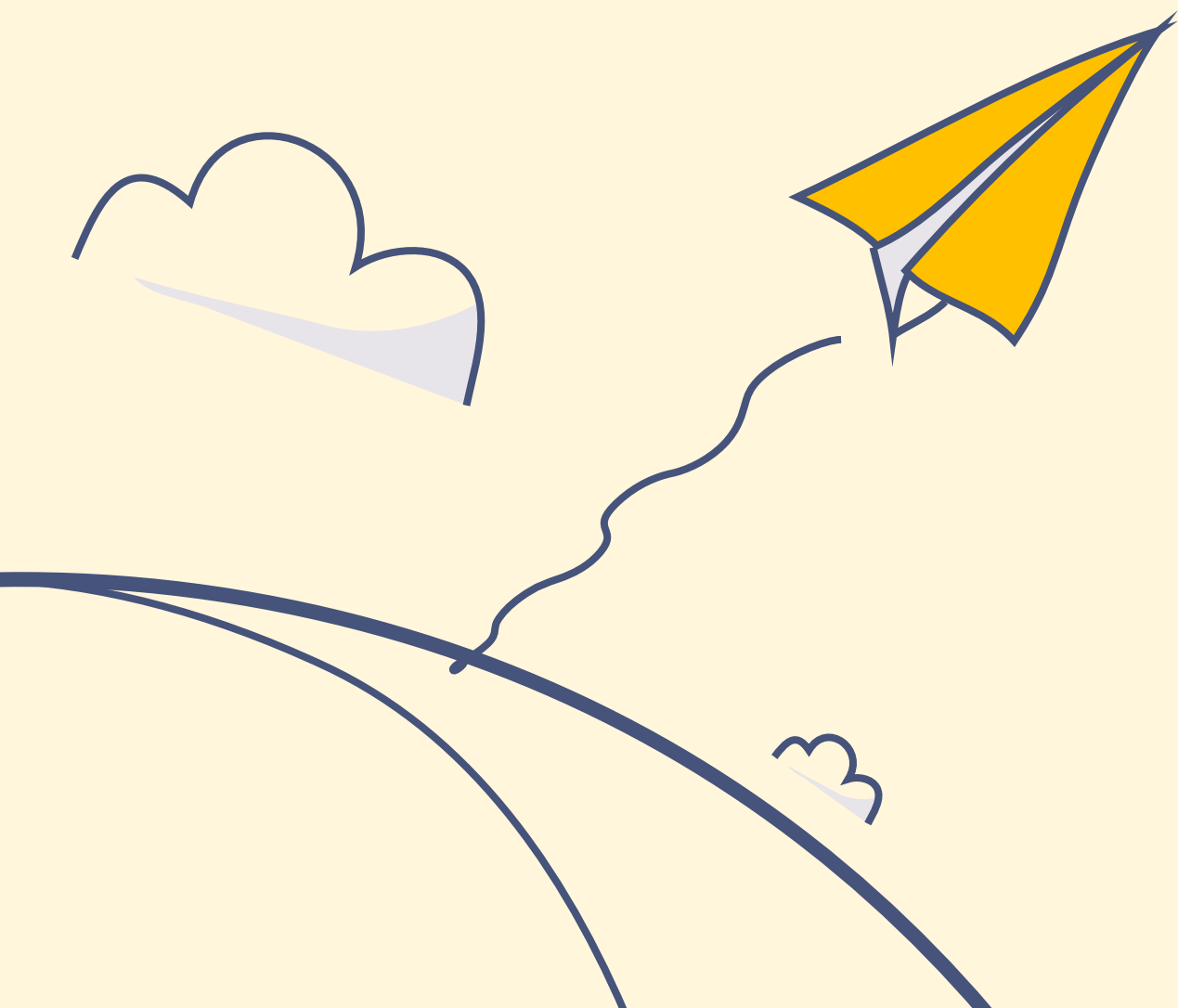


Basic Chinese for International Students

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Lesson 6

Making

Appointments

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

- Answer a phone call and initiate a phone conversation;
- Set up an appointment with a teacher on the phone;
- Ask for a favor;
- Ask someone to return your call.

Step 1

Dialogue I

1.	给	gěi	prep	to; for [See Grammar 1.]
2.	打电话	dǎ diànhuà	vo	to make a phone call
	电话	diànhuà	n	telephone
3.	喂	wéi/wèi	interj	(on telephone) Hello!; Hey!
4.	在	zài	v	to be present; to be at (a place)
5.	就	jiù	adv	precisely; exactly
6.	您	nín	pr	you (honorific for 你)
7.	哪	nǎ/něi	qpr	which
8.	位	wèi	m	(polite measure word for people)

9.	下午	xiàwǔ	t	afternoon
10.	时间	shíjiān	n	time
11.	问题	wèntí	n	question; problem
12.	要	yào	mv	will, be going to; to want to, to have a desire to [See Grammar 2.]

13.	开会	kāi huì	vo	to have a meeting
	开	kāi	v	to open; to hold (a meeting, party, etc.)
	会	huì	n	meeting
14.	上午	shàngwǔ	t	morning
15.	节	jié	m	(measure word for class periods)
16.	课	kè	n	class; course; lesson
17.	年级	niánjí	n	grade in school
18.	考试	kǎo shì	vo/n	to give or take a test; test
	考	kǎo	v	to give or take a test
	试	shì	n/v	test; to try; to experiment

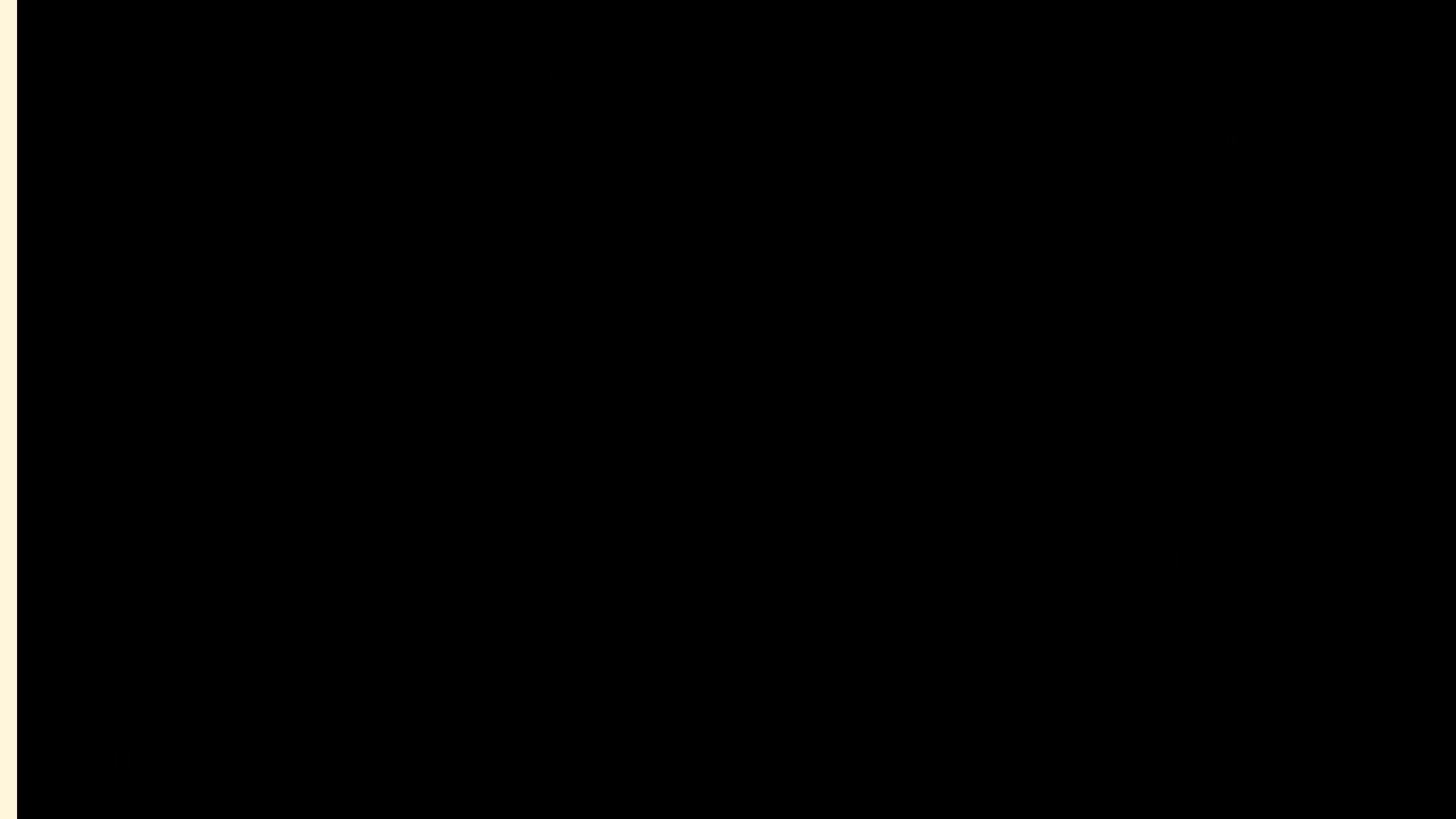
19.	以后	yǐhòu	t	after; from now on, later on
20.	空(儿)	kòng(r)	n	free time
21.	要是	yàoshi	conj	if
22.	方便	fāngbiàn	adj	convenient
23.	到	dào	v	to go to; to arrive
24.	办公室	bàngōngshì	n	office
25.	行	xíng	v	all right; O.K.
26.	等	děng	v	to wait; to wait for

27.	别	bié	adv	don't [See Grammar 3.]
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28.	客气	kèqi	adj	polite
-----	----	------	-----	--------

Proper Noun

29.	常老师	Cháng lǎoshī		Teacher Chang
-----	-----	--------------	--	---------------





Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher

Dialogue I

(Li You is on the phone with Teacher Chang.)

Teacher Chang: Hello?

Li You: Hello, is Teacher Chang there?

Teacher Chang: This is she. Who is this, please?

Li You: Teacher, how are you? This is Li You.

Teacher Chang: Hi, Li You. What's going on?

Li You: Teacher, are you free this afternoon? I'd like to ask you a few questions.

Teacher Chang: I'm sorry. This afternoon I have to go to a meeting.

Li You: What about tomorrow?

Teacher Chang: Tomorrow morning I have two classes. Tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock I have to give an exam to the second-year class.

Li You: When will you be free?

Teacher Chang: I won't be free until after four o'clock tomorrow.

Li You: If it's convenient for you, I'll go to your office at four-thirty. Is that all right?

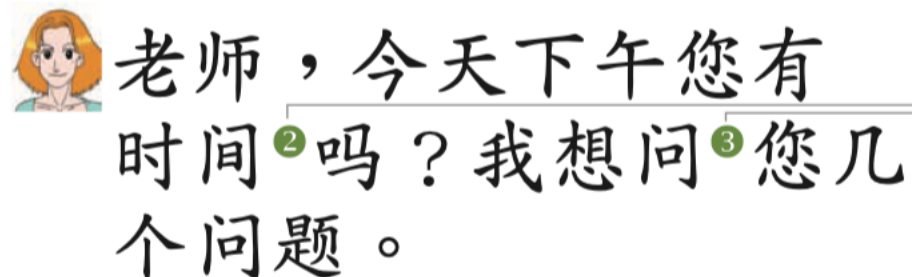
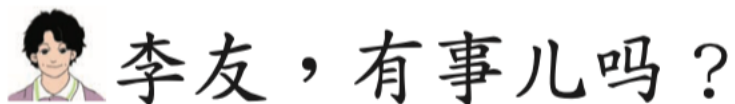
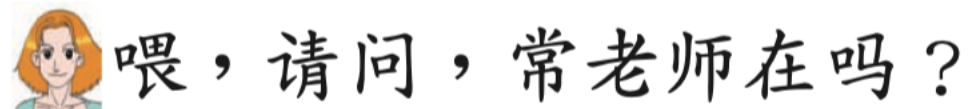
Teacher Chang: Four-thirty? No problem. I'll wait for you in my office.

Li You: Thank you.

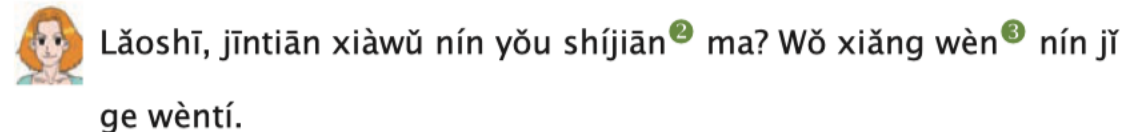
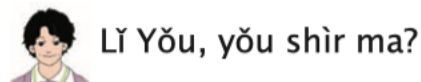
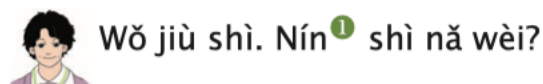
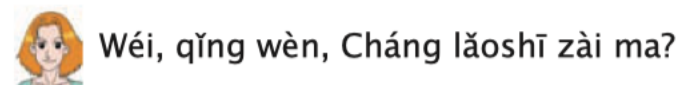
Teacher Chang: You're welcome.

Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher

(李友给^①常老师打电话)



(Lǐ Yǒu gěi ^①Cháng lǎoshī dǎ diànhuà)



Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher



要是⁷您方便，四点半我到您的办公室去，行吗？



四点半，没问题⁸。我在办公室等你。



谢谢您。



别^③客气。



Yàoshi⁷ nín fāngbiàn, sì diǎn bàn wǒ dào nín de bàngōngshì qù, xíng ma?



Sì diǎn bàn, méi wèntí⁸. Wǒ zài bàngōngshì děng nǐ.




Xièxie nín.



Bié^③ kèqì.

Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher


 对不起，今天下午我^②要开会。

 明天呢？

 明天上午我有两节^④课，下午三点要给二年级考试。


 您什么时候^⑤有空儿？

 明天四点以后^⑥才有空儿。

 Duìbuqǐ, jīntiān xiàwǔ wǒ yào^② kāi huì.

 Míngtiān ne?

 Míngtiān shàngwǔ wǒ yǒu liǎng jié^④ kè, xiàwǔ sān diǎn yào gěi èr niánjí kǎo shì.


 Nín shénme shíhòu^⑤ yǒu kòng?

 Míngtiān sì diǎn yǐhòu^⑥ cái yǒu kòng.

Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher


(李友给^①常老师打电话)


 喂？

 喂，请问，常老师在吗？

 我就是。您^①是哪位？


 老师，您好。我是李友。

 李友，有事儿吗？

 老师，今天下午您有
时间^②吗？我想问^③您几
个问题。


(Lǐ Yǒu gěi ^①Cháng lǎoshī dǎ diànhuà)


 Wéi?

 Wéi, qǐng wèn, Cháng lǎoshī zài ma?

 Wǒ jiù shì. Nín^① shì nǎ wèi?

 Lǎoshī, nín hǎo. Wǒ shì Lǐ Yǒu.

 Lǐ Yǒu, yǒu shìr ma?

 Lǎoshī, jīntiān xiàwǔ nín yǒu shíjiān^② ma? Wǒ xiǎng wèn^③ nín jǐ
ge wèntí.


Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher

LANGUAGE NOTES

- ① The personal pronoun 您 (nín) is often used to address an older person or someone of a higher social rank. It is common for strangers to address each other with 您 and then switch to 你 (nǐ) as they become more familiar with each other.
- ② "To have free time" is 有时间 (yǒu shíjiān) or 有空儿 (yǒu kòng'r), never 有时候 (yǒu shíhou).

- ③ Both 问 (wèn) and 请 (qǐng) could be "to ask" in English. The verb 问 (wèn) means "to inquire," e.g., 我问她一个问题 (Wǒ wèn tā yí ge wèntí, I ask her a question). To mean "to invite" or "to request," say 请 (qǐng), e.g., 我请她跳舞 (Wǒ qǐng tā tiào wǔ, I invite her to dance).

Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher


 对不起，今天下午我^②要开会。

 明天呢？

 明天上午我有两节^④课，下午三点要给二年级考试。


 您什么时候^⑤有空儿？


 明天四点以后^⑥才有空儿。

 Duìbuqǐ, jīntiān xiàwǔ wǒ yào^② kāi huì.

 Míngtiān ne?

 Míngtiān shàngwǔ wǒ yǒu liǎng jié^④ kè, xiàwǔ sān diǎn yào gěi èr niánjí kǎo shì.

 Nín shénme shíhòu^⑤ yǒu kòng?

 Míngtiān sì diǎn yǐhòu^⑥ cái yǒu kòng.

Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher

- ④ The measure word for academic courses is 门 (mén). Compare: 三门课 (sān mén kè, three courses), 三节课 (sān jié kè, three class periods) and 三课 (sān kè, three lessons).

- ⑤ 几点 (jǐ diǎn) is to ask for a specific time, as in "what time is it?" The general question word for "when" is 什么时候 (shénme shíhou), not 什么时间 (shénme shíjiān).

几 for approximate numbers

几 — a few (under 10)



几个人

几 for approximate numbers

你认识中国朋友吗？ I know a few.



我认识几个中国朋友

几 for approximate numbers

你有照片吗？ I have a few



我有几张照片

几 for approximate numbers

你有问题吗？ I have a few.



我有几个问题。

几 for approximate numbers

昨天晚上你做什么了？ Had a few glasses of wine.



昨天晚上我喝了几杯酒。

几 for approximate numbers

你想喝什么？ Some water.



我想喝几杯水。

几 for approximate numbers

你想打电话吗？ A few.



我想打几个电话。

几 for approximate numbers

王朋请谁去他家吃饭? A few classmates.



王朋请几个同学去他家吃饭。

Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher

– ⑥ In English, we say “after four o’clock.”

The word “after” appears before the time expression “four o’clock.” The Chinese equivalent is 四点以后 (sìdiǎn yǐhòu). Note the difference in word order. Likewise, we say “before Monday,” but 星期一以前 (xīngqīyī yǐqián) in Chinese.

Time + 以后

Time + 以后 — after Time

(Reversed order from English!)

你什么时候回家? (after 4)

我四点以后回家。

Time + 以后

你什么时候去中国？ (after June)

我六月以后去中国。

Time + 以后

你什么时候有空儿？ (not until **after** **Thursday**)

我**星期四****以后**才有空儿。

Time + 以后

你今天几点去学校? (after 9:30)

我今天九点半以后去学校。



Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher



要是⁷您方便，四点半我到您的办公室去，行吗？



四点半，没问题⁸。我在办公室等你。



谢谢您。



别^③客气。



Yàoshi⁷ nín fāngbiàn, sì diǎn bàn wǒ dào nín de bàngōngshì qù, xíng ma?



Sì diǎn bàn, méi wèntí⁸. Wǒ zài bàngōngshì děng nǐ.



Xièxie nín.



Bié^③ kèqì.

Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher

⑦ 要是 (yàoshi, if) is a conjunction to introduce a contingent or hypothetical action or situation. It's not the "whether if" in English.

要是...就...

要是我有问题，就问老师。(remember to use 就)

要是你今天太忙，我就明天来。
(notice where 就 is in relation to the second subject)

要是你没有咖啡，我就喝茶吧。

要是你没有咖啡，你有什么？(no 就 in a question)

要是...就...

要是你不知道，你问谁？

要是我不知道，我就问你。

(although there is no 就 in the question, remember to use it in the answer)

要是...就...

(Pair work)

要是今天是你妈妈的生日，你做什么？

要是今天是我妈妈的生日，我就.....



Dialogue I : Calling One's Teacher

⑧ 没问题 (méi wèntí) here means
“no problem.” It is used to assure
someone that a promise will be fulfilled
or a favor will be done. But when
people thank you and say
谢谢 (xièxie), you cannot respond
with 没问题 (méi wèntí).

打电话

Sub.(给...)打电话

打电话

她给谁打电话？



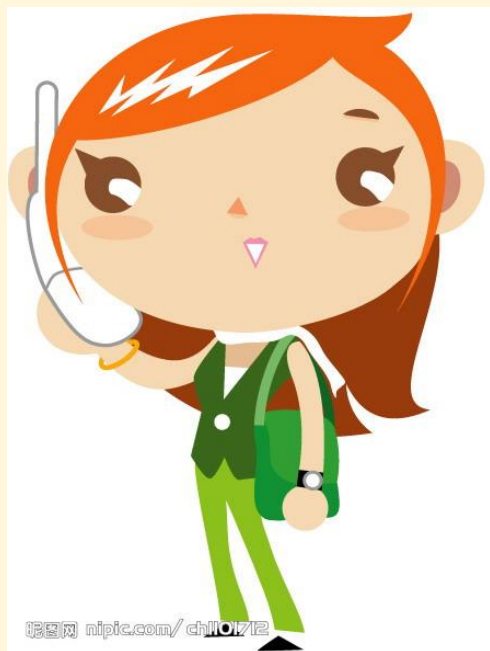
妈妈



她给妈妈打电话

打电话

她给谁打电话？



张先生



她给张先生打电话

打电话

她给谁打电话？



哥哥



她给哥哥打电话

打电话

他给谁打电话？



老师



他给老师打电话

打电话

她给谁打电话？



医生



她给医生打电话

打电话

他给谁打电话？



女朋友



他给女朋友打电话

Grammar :

1. The Preposition 给 (gěi)

给 (gěi) can be a verb or a preposition. In Chinese, prepositions are generally combined with nouns or pronouns to form prepositional phrases, which appear before verbs as adverbials.

① 他给我打了一个电话。

Tā gěi wǒ dǎ le yí ge diànhuà.

(He gave me a call.)

② 他是谁？请你给我们介绍一下。

Tā shì shéi? Qǐng nǐ gěi wǒmen jièshào yí xià.

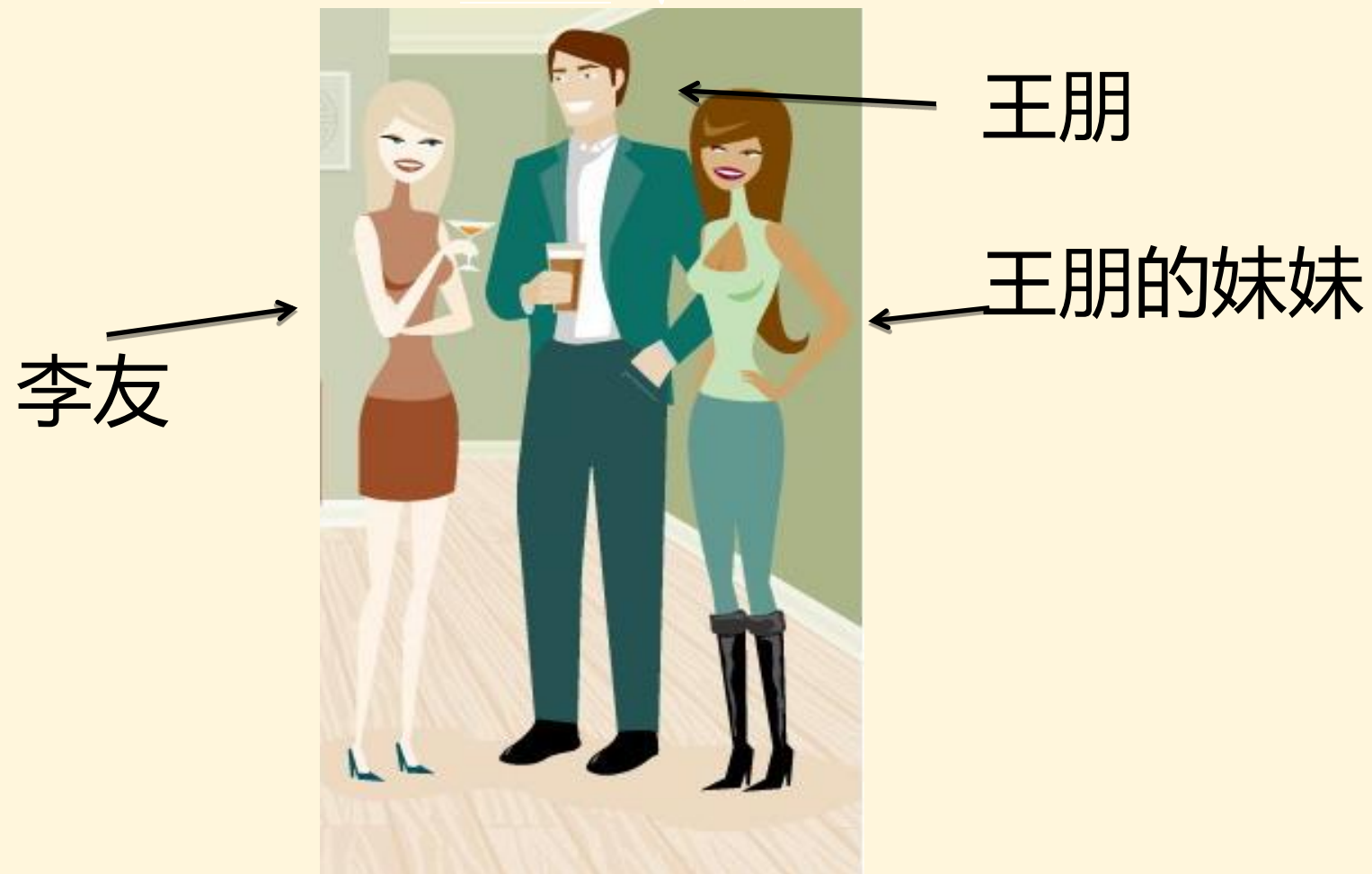
(Who is he? Please introduce us.)

③ 你有你姐姐的照片吗？给我看一下，行吗？

Nǐ yǒu nǐ jiějie de zhàopiàn ma? Gěi wǒ kàn yí xià, xíng ma?

(Do you have a picture of your older sister? Can you let me have a look?)

... 给... 介绍...



王朋给李友介绍他妹妹。

... 给...介绍...

The teacher is telling the students about China.



老师给学生介绍中国。

... 给...VO

I'll sing you a song!



我给你们唱一个歌!



Practice :

A. 给 (gěi) as a preposition

Little Gao is very nice to his friends. If you and your classmates are his friends, you will often find him doing the following:

EXAMPLE: 介绍朋友

jièshào péngyou

→ 小高常常给
我们介绍朋友。

→ Xiǎo Gāo chángcháng gěi

wǒmen jièshào péngyou.

a. 1. 打电话

a. 1. dǎ diànhuà

2. 介绍新电影

2. jièshào xīn diànyǐng

b. 1. 看他爸爸妈妈的照片

b. 1. kàn tā bàba māma de zhàopiàn

2. 听中国音乐

2. tīng Zhōngguó yīnyuè

3. 喝英国茶

3. hē Yīngguó chá

Grammar :

2. The Modal Verb 要 (yào, will; be going to) (I)

The modal verb 要 (yào) has several meanings. In this lesson, 要 (yào) indicates a future action, particularly a scheduled event or an activity that one is committed to. The negative form is expressed by adding 不 (bù) and deleting 要 (yào).

① 下午我们要考试。

Xiàwǔ wǒmen yào kǎo shì.

(In the afternoon we are going to have a test.)

② 今天晚上妹妹要去看电影。

Jīntiān wǎnshang mèimei yào qù kàn diànyǐng.

(This evening my younger sister is going to see a movie.)

Grammar :

③ A: 明天我要去小白家玩儿。你呢？

Míngtiān wǒ yào qù Xiǎo Bái jiā wánr, nǐ ne?

(Tomorrow I'm going to visit Little Bai. How about you?)

B: 明天我不去小白家玩儿，我要开会。

Míngtiān wǒ bú qù Xiǎo Bái jiā wánr, wǒ yào kāi huì.

(Tomorrow I'm not going to visit Little Bai. I am going to a meeting.)

要V

Note:

The negation for this 要V is 不V .

要V

张老师下午要开会。(will) / 李老师下午不开会。(will not)

他今年要去中国。 / 我今年不去中国。

我们明天要去打球。 / 白小姐明天不去打球。

要V

(Pair work)

你今天晚上要做什么？

你今天下午要去图书馆吗？

Practice :

B. 要 (yào) indicating a future commitment

Li You has the coming few days all planned out. What will Li You be doing? Take turns with a partner forming questions and answers based on the information provided below.

EXAMPLE: 明天◇去跳舞

míngtiān ◇ qù tiào wǔ

A: 李友明天做什么？

A: Lǐ Yǒu míngtiān zuò shénme?

B: 李友明天要去跳舞。

B: Lǐ Yǒu míngtiān yào qù tiào wǔ.

1. 今天晚上◇

1. jīntiān wǎnshang ◇

请朋友喝咖啡

qǐng péngyou hē kāfēi

2. 明天上午◇

2. míngtiān shàngwǔ ◇

去同学家练习中文

qù tóngxué jiā liànxí Zhōngwén

Practice :

3. 明天下午◇
去老师的办公室问问题
4. 这个星期五◇
去学校看电影
5. 这个周末◇
给小高介绍一个朋友

3. míngtiān xiàwǔ ◇
qù lǎoshī de bàngōngshì wèn wèntí
4. zhè ge xīngqīwǔ ◇
qù xuéxiào kàn diànyǐng
5. zhè ge zhōumò ◇
gěi Xiǎo Gāo jièshào yí ge péngyou

Practice :

c. 要是 (yàoshi, if)

Use the following chart to practice how to be flexible and accommodating.








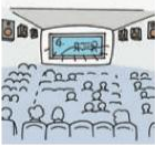


EXAMPLE: suggestion based on **personal preference**:

要是你不喜欢唱歌，
我们跳舞，怎么样？

Yàoshi nǐ bù xǐhuan chàng gē,

wǒmen tiào wǔ, zěnmeyàng?

Give suggestions based on: 1) desire, 2) personal interest, 3) personal preference, and 4) availability.

	EXAMPLE: preference (不)喜欢 (bù) xǐhuan	1. desire (不)想 (bù) xiǎng	2. interest 觉得… (没)有意思 juéde (méi) yǒu yìsi	3. preference (不)喜欢 (bù) xǐhuan	4. availability (没)有空儿 (méi) yǒu kòngr
Yes/No					
					Today
					Tomorrow

Grammar :

3. The Adverb 别 (bié, don't)

别 (bié, don't) is used to advise someone to refrain or stop someone from doing something.

Depending on the context, it can be used to form a polite formula, a gentle reminder, or a serious admonition:

① 别客气。

Bié kèqi.

(No need to be so polite.)

② 你别说。

Nǐ bié shuō.

(Don't tell/say anything.)

Grammar :

3

别进来！

Bié jìn lai!

(Don't come in!)

4

那个电影没有意思，你别看。

Nà ge diànyǐng méi yǒu yìsi, nǐ bié kàn.

(That movie is boring. Don't go see it.)

别V

别V: prohibitive – Don't (you) V!

我们是朋友，... (Don't be so polite!)

别客气!

别V

我不喜欢他，... (Don't invite him!)

别请他!

別V

我想请你去吃饭。...(Don't go home!)

別回家!

别V

他们家的茶很好喝，咖啡不好。...

别喝咖啡！

Practice :

D. Pair Activity

Ask each other:

要是你有时间，
你想去哪儿玩儿？

Yàoshi nǐ yǒu shíjiān,

nǐ xiǎng qù nǎr wánr?

要是朋友请你吃饭，
你想吃什么菜？

Yàoshi péngyou qǐng nǐ chī fàn,

nǐ xiǎng chī shénme cài?

要是同学请你看电影，
你想看什么电影？

Yàoshi tóngxué qǐng nǐ kàn diànyǐng,

nǐ xiǎng kàn shénme diànyǐng?