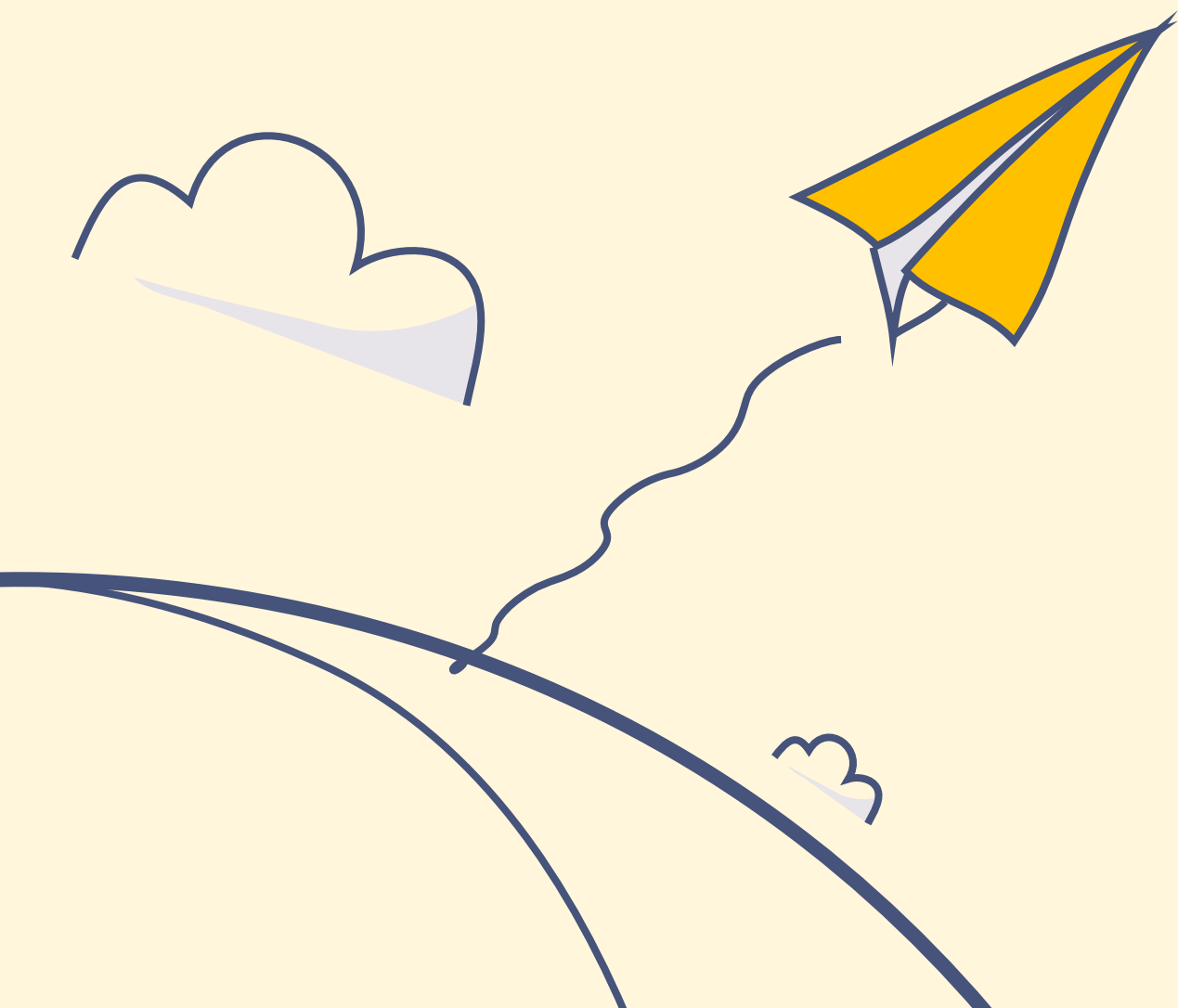


# Basic Chinese for International Students

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# Lesson 8

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

- Describe the routine of a student's life on campus;
- Write a simple diary entry;
- Write a brief letter in the proper format;
- Express your modesty in terms of your foreign language ability;
- Invite friends to go on an outing.

**Step 1**

Dialogue 2

(measure word for letters)

- 封
- Fēng
- m



# letter (correspondence)

- 信
- xìn
- n



# recently

- 最近
- Zuìjìn
- t

# school term; semester/quarter

- 学期
- xuéqī
- n





in addition to; besides

- 除了...以外
- chule...yǐwài
- conj

# major (in college); specialty

- 专业
- zhuānyè
- n



# can; know how to

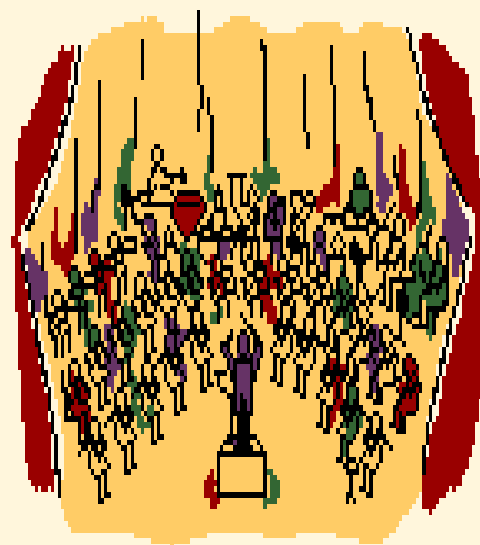
- 会
- huì
- av

# later

- 后来
- hòulái
- t

# concert

- 音乐会
- yīnyuèhuì
- n



# to hope; hope

- 希望
- xīwàng
- v/n



# Can; to be able to

- 能
- néng
- av

# to use

- 用
- Yòng
- v





to laugh at; to laugh; to smile

- 笑
- xiào
- v



# to wish (well)

- 祝
- zhù
- v



1.	封	fēng	m	(measure word for letters)
2.	信	xìn	n	letter (correspondence)
3.	最近	zuìjìn	t	recently
	最	zuì	adv	(of superlative degree; most, -est)
	近	jìn	adj	close; near
4.	学期	xuéqī	n	school term; semester/quarter
5.	除了...以外	chúle...yǐwài	conj	in addition to; besides [See Grammar 8.]
6.	专业	zhuānyè	n	major (in college); specialty
7.	会	huì	av	can; know how to [See Grammar 9.]

8.	后来	hòulái	t	later
9.	音乐会	yīnyuèhuì	n	concert
10.	希望	xīwàng	v/n	to hope; hope
11.	能	néng	av	can; to be able to [See Grammar 9.]
12.	用	yòng	v	to use
13.	笑	xiào	v	to laugh at; to laugh; to smile
14.	祝	zhù	v	to wish (well)

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

## A Letter

*(The teacher asked the students to write a letter in Chinese as an assignment. Here's what Li You wrote to Gao Xiaoyin.)*

November 18

Dear Xiaoyin,

How are you? Long time no see. How are things recently?

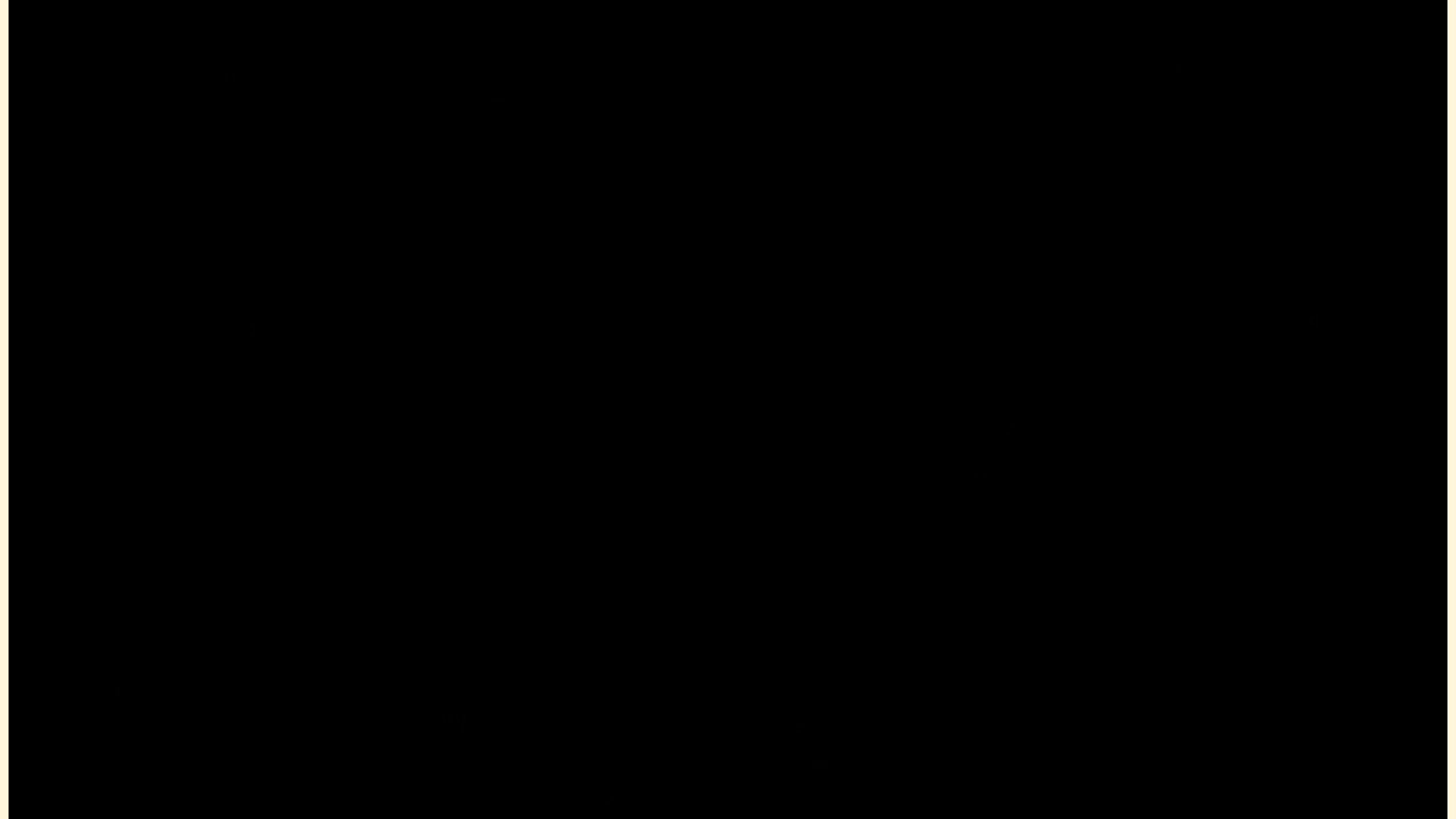
This semester I've been busy. Besides the classes required for my major, I also need to study Chinese. Our Chinese class is really interesting. Because our Chinese teacher can only speak Chinese and does not know how to speak English, in the class we speak only Chinese, no English. At the beginning I felt it was very difficult. Later, Wang Peng often helped me practice Chinese, and I don't feel it is hard anymore.

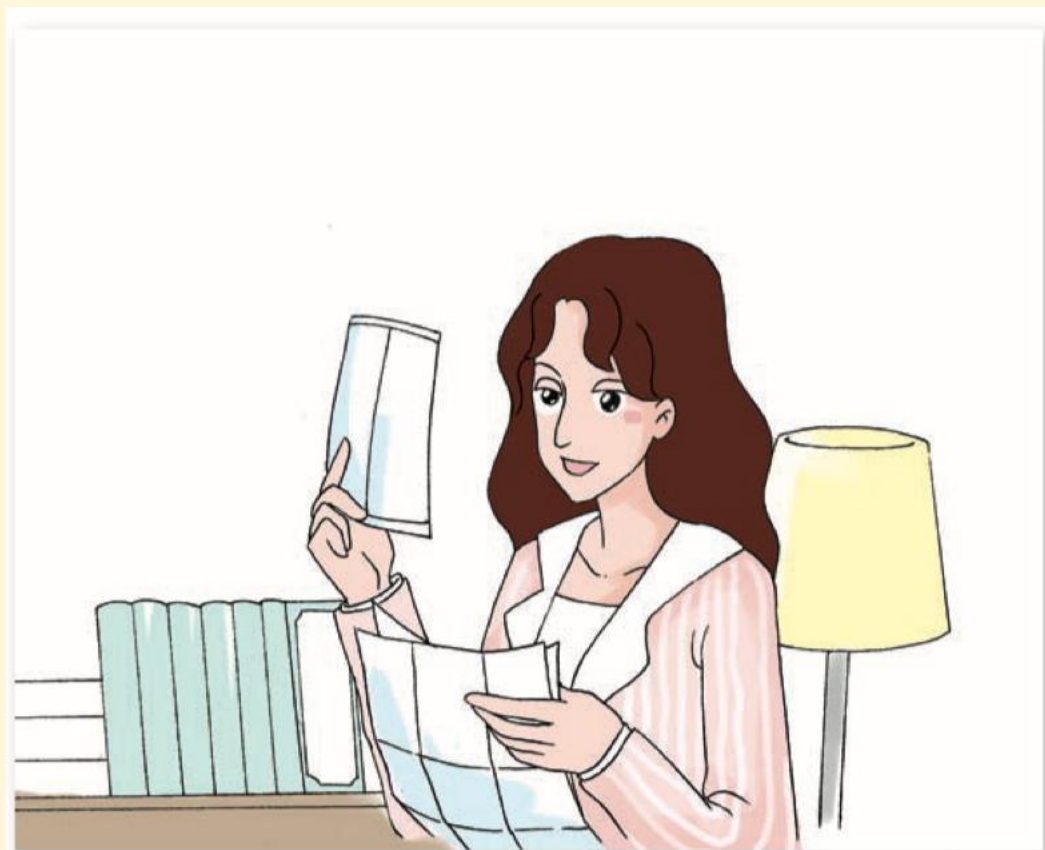
Do you like to listen to music? Next Saturday there will be a concert at our school. I hope you can come. I do not write well in Chinese. Please don't make fun of me.

Best wishes,

Your friend,

Li You





# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

## 一封信

(The teacher asked the students to write their friends a letter in Chinese as a homework assignment. Here's what Li You wrote to Gao Xiaoyin.)

小音：

你好！好久不见，最近怎么样？

这个学期我很忙，除了专业课以外，还得学中文。我们的中文课很有意思。因为我们的中文老师只会说中文，不会说英文，所以上课的时候我们只说中文，不说英文。开始我觉得很难，后来<sup>①</sup>，王朋常常帮我练习中文，就<sup>②</sup>觉得不难了。

Yì fēng xìn

(The teacher asked the students to write their friends a letter in Chinese as a homework assignment. Here's what Li You wrote to Gao Xiaoyin.)

Xiǎoyīn:

Nǐ hǎo! Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn, zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?

Zhè ge xuéqī wǒ hěn máng, chúle zhuānyè kè yǐwài, hái<sup>⑧</sup> děi xué Zhōngwén. Wǒmen de Zhōngwén kè hěn yǒu yìsi. Yīnwèi wǒmen de Zhōngwén lǎoshī zhǐ huì<sup>⑨</sup> shuō Zhōngwén, bú huì shuō Yīngwén, suǒyǐ shàng kè de shíhou wǒmen zhǐ shuō Zhōngwén, bù shuō Yīngwén. Kāishǐ wǒ juéde hěn nán, hòulái<sup>①</sup>, Wáng Péng chángcháng bāng wǒ liànxí Zhōngwén, jiù<sup>②</sup> juéde bù nán le<sup>②</sup>.



# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

你喜欢听音乐吗？下个星期六，我们学校有一个音乐会，希望你<sup>能</sup>来。我用中文写信写得  
得很不好，请别笑我。祝  
好

你的朋友  
李友  
十一月十八日

Nǐ xǐhuan tīng yīnyuè ma? Xià ge xīngqīliù, wǒmen xuéxiào yǒu yí ge yīnyuèhuì, xīwàng nǐ <sup>néng</sup> lái.  
Wǒ yòng Zhōngwén xiě xìn xiě de hěn bù hǎo, qǐng bié xiào wǒ. Zhù

Hǎo

Nǐ de péngyou

Lǐ Yǒu

Shíyīyuè shíbā rì

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

时候我们只说中文，不说英文。开始我觉得很难，后来<sup>①</sup>，王朋常常帮我练习中文，就<sup>②</sup>觉得不难了<sup>②</sup>。

## LANGUAGE NOTES

① 后来 (hòulái) is usually translated as "later," but it pertains only to an action or situation in the past.

② This sentence-final particle 了 usually indicates a change of status or the realization of a new situation. For more examples, please see Grammar 2 in Lesson 11 (Level 1 Part 2).

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

## 8. 除了…以外, 还… (chúle...yǐwài, hái... **in addition to..., also...**)

① 我除了学中文以外, 还学专业课。

Wǒ chúle xué Zhōngwén yǐwài, hái xué zhuānyè kè.

(Besides Chinese, I also take courses in my major.)

② 上个周末我们除了看电影以外, 还听音乐了。

Shàng ge zhōumò wǒmen chúle kàn diànyǐng yǐwài, hái tīng yīnyuè le.

(Last weekend, besides seeing a movie, we also listened to music.)

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

③ 他除了喜欢听音乐以外，还喜欢打球。

Tā chúle xǐhuan tīng yīnyuè yǐwài, hái xǐhuan dǎ qiú.

(In addition to listening to music, he also likes to play ball.)

The activities in each of the three sentences above are performed by the same subject. But if activities are done by different subjects, the adverb 也 has to be used.

④ 除了小王以外，小李也喜欢唱歌、跳舞。

Chúle Xiǎo Wáng yǐwài, Xiǎo Lǐ yě xǐhuan chàng gē, tiào wǔ.

(In addition to Little Wang, Little Li also likes singing and dancing.)

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

## H. 除了…以外，还… (chúle ... yǐwài, hái...)

Use the words given to describe what Mr. Bai does.

EXAMPLE: 上音乐课 ◇ 上电脑课

→ 白先生除了上音乐课  
以外，还上电脑课。 →

shàng yīnyuè kè ◇ shàng diànnǎo kè

Bái xiānsheng chúle shàng yīnyuè kè  
yǐwài, hái shàng diànnǎo kè.

1. 学英文 ◇ 学中文

xué Yīngwén ◇ xué Zhōngwén

2. 会说中文 ◇

huì shuō Zhōngwén ◇

会用中文写信

huì yòng Zhōngwén xiě xìn

3. 喜欢唱歌 ◇ 喜欢跳舞

xǐhuan chàng gē ◇ xǐhuan tiào wǔ

4. 能喝茶 ◇ 能喝咖啡

néng hē chá ◇ néng hē kāfēi

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

## 9. 能 (néng) and 会 (huì) (I) Compared

Both 能 (néng) and 会 (huì) have several meanings. The basic meaning of 能 (néng) is “to be capable of (the action named by the following verb).” It can also be an indication of whether one’s own abilities or circumstances allow the execution of an action. Additional meanings will be introduced in later lessons.

① 我能喝十杯咖啡。

Wǒ néng hē shí bēi kāfēi.

(I can drink ten cups of coffee.)

② 今天下午我要开会，不能去听音乐会。

Jīntiān xiàwǔ wǒ yào kāi huì, bù néng qù tīng yīnyuèhuì.

(I have a meeting this afternoon. I cannot go to the concert.)

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

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我们不能在图书馆聊天儿。

Wǒmen bù néng zài túshūguǎn liáo tiānr.

(We cannot chat in the library.)



# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

会 (huì), as used in this lesson, means having the skill to do something through learning or instruction.

④ 李友会说中文。

Lǐ Yǒu huì shuō Zhōngwén.

(Li You can speak Chinese.)



# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

⑤ 小白会唱很多美国歌。

Xiǎo Bái huì chàng hěnn duō Měiguó gē.

(Little Bai can sing many American songs.)

⑥ 我不会上网，请你教我。

Wǒ bú huì shàng wǎng. Qǐng nǐ jiāo wǒ.

(I don't know how to use the Internet. Please teach me how.)

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

EXAMPLE: ↩



她会写英文。

1.



\_\_\_\_\_

2. ↩



\_\_\_\_\_

3. ↩



\_\_\_\_\_

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

←

Example: ← 老师告诉我, 考试的时候, ←



→ 老师告诉我, 考试的时候, 不能问问题。 ←

←

←

←

←

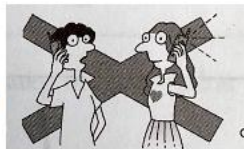
1. 老师告诉我, 上课的时候, ←



←

←

2. 老师告诉我, 上课的时候, ←



←

←

3. 妈妈告诉我, 做功课的时候, ←

←



←

←

4. 妈妈告诉我, 吃饭的时候, ←

←

←

←



# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

## 10. The Adverb 就 (jiù) (III)

The adverb 就 (jiù) can heighten the close relationship between two actions or situations. In this usage, the action or situation indicated by the verb or adjective that follows 就 (jiù) is usually contingent upon the action or situation denoted by the verb or adjective in a preceding clause. The relationship is often causal, as seen in (1) and (2), or conditional, as (3) and (4).

- 1 (因为) 小高喜欢吃中国菜，(所以) 我们就吃中国菜。

(Yīnwèi) Xiǎo Gāo xǐhuan chī Zhōngguó cài, (suǒyǐ) wǒmen jiù chī Zhōngguó cài.

(Little Gao preferred Chinese food, so we went for Chinese food.)

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

- ② (因为) 小王的专业是电脑, (所以) 我就请他教我怎么上网。

(Yīnwèi) Xiǎo Wáng de zhuānyè shì diànnǎo, (suǒyǐ) wǒ jiù qǐng tā jiāo wǒ zěnmē shàng wǎng.

(Little Wang's major is computer science, so I asked him to teach me how to use the Internet.)

- ③ 要是同学帮我复习, 我考试就考得很好。

Yàoshi tóngxué bāng wǒ fùxí, wǒ kǎoshì jiù kǎo de hěn hǎo.

(If my classmates help me review, I will do well on my test.)

- ④ 要是你不能来, 我就去你那儿。

Yàoshi nǐ bù néng lái, wǒ jiù qù nǐ nàr.

(If you can't come over, I will go to your place.)

# Dialogue II : A Letter: Talking about Studying Chinese

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写汉字，开始觉得难，常常练习，就觉得容易。

Xiě Hànzì, kāishǐ juéde nán, chángcháng liànxí, jiù juéde róngyì.

(When [you] first learn to write Chinese characters, [you] would find it difficult. If [you] practice often, [you] would find it easy.)