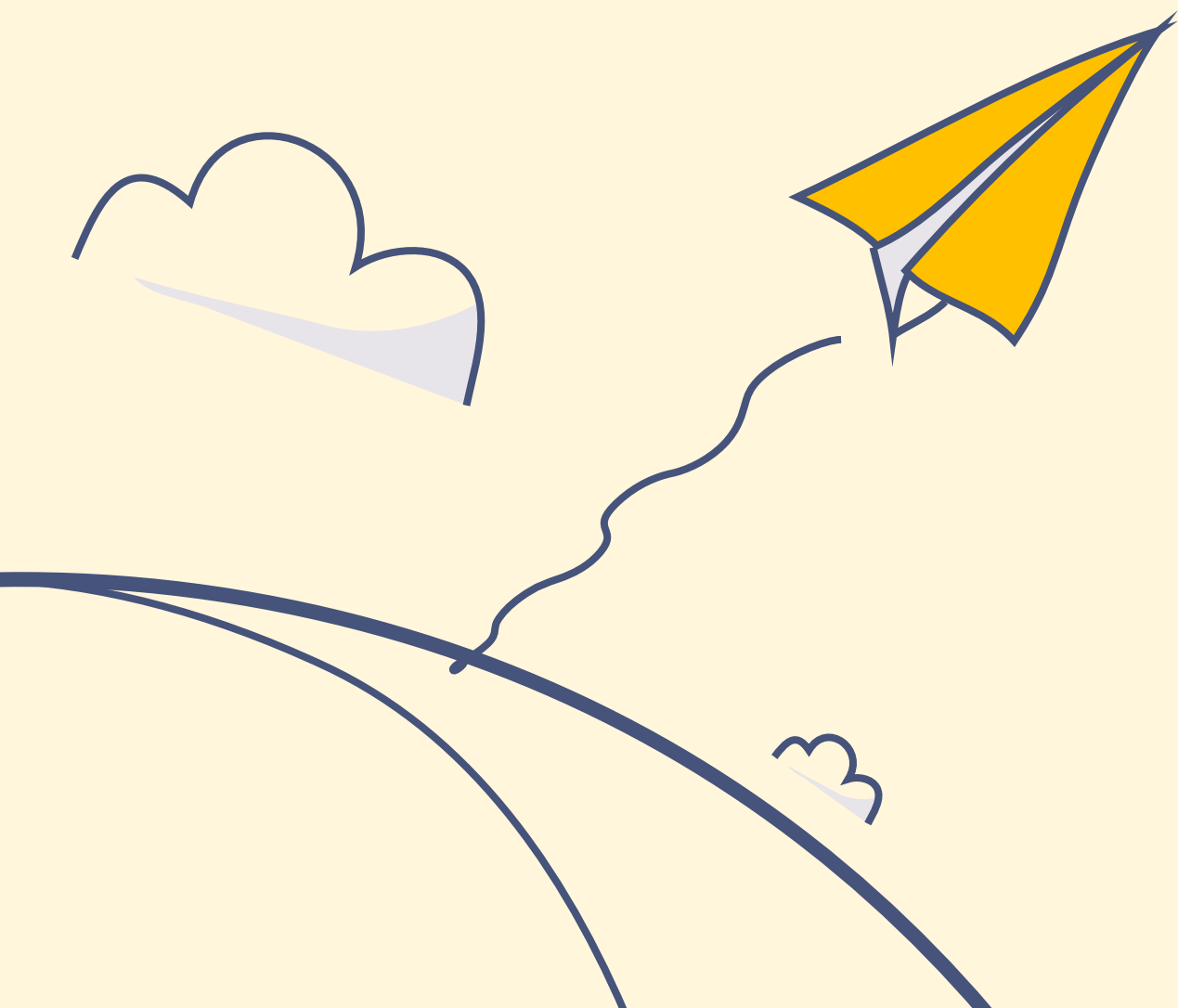


Basic Chinese for International Students

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Lesson 9

Shopping

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

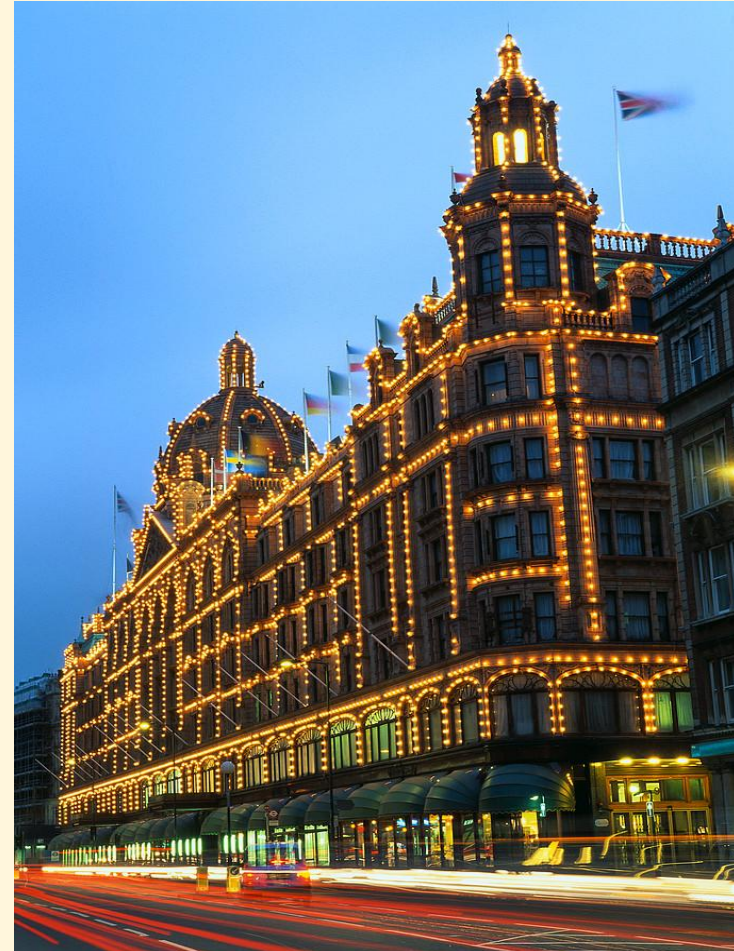
- Speak about the color, size, and price of a purchase;
- Recognize Chinese currency;
- Pay bills in cash or with a credit card;
- Determine the proper change you should receive;
- Ask for a different size and/or color of merchandise;
- Exchange merchandise.

Step 1

Dialogue 1

store; shop

- 商店
- shāngdiàn
- n



to buy

- 买
- mǎi
- v



things; objects

- 东西
- dōngxi
- n



shop assistant; salesclerk

- 售货员
- shòuhuòyuán
- n



clothes

- 衣服
- Yīfu
- n



measure word for shirts, dresses, jackets, coats, etc.

- 件
- jiàn
- m

shirt

- 衬衫
- chènshān
- n



color

- 颜色
- yánsè
- n



yellow

- 黄
- huáng
- adj



red

- 红
- hóng
- adj



to wear; to put on

- 穿
- chuān
- v



measure word for pants and long, thin objects

- 条
- tiáo
- m

pants

- 裤子
- kùzi
- n



size

- 号
- hào
- n



medium; middle

- 中
- zhōng
- adj



cheap; inexpensive

- 便宜
- piányi
- adj



if

- 如果... 的话
- rúguǒ...de huà
- conj

suitable

- 合适
- héshì
- adj



to try

- 试
- shì
- v



need not

- 不用
- búyòng

altogether

- 一共
- yígòng
- adv



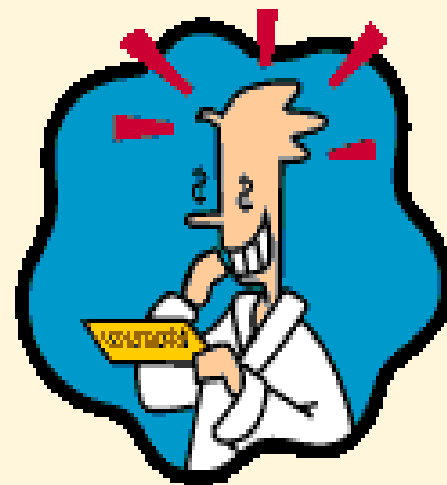
how much/many

- 多少
- duōshao
- qpr



money

- 钱
- qián
- n



measure word for the basic Chinese monetary unit

- 块
- kuài
- m



measure word for 1/10 of a kuai, dime [in US money]

- 毛
- máo
- m



measure word for 1/100 of a kuai, cent

- 分
- fēn
- m



hundred

- 百
- bǎi
- nu



to give change

- 找（钱）
- zhǎo (qián)
- v(o)



1.	商店	shāngdiàn	n	store; shop
2.	买	mǎi	v	to buy
3.	东西	dōngxi	n	things; objects
4.	售货员	shòuhuòyuán	n	shop assistant; salesclerk
5.	衣服	yīfu	n	clothes
6.	件	jiàn	m	(measure word for shirts, dresses, jackets, coats, etc.)

7. 衬衫

chènshān

n

shirt

8. 颜色

yánsè

n

color

9. 黄

huáng

adj

yellow

10. 红

hóng

adj

red

11. 穿

chuān

v

to wear; to put on

12.	条	tiáo	m	(measure word for pants and long, thin objects)
13.	裤子	kùzi	n	pants
14.	号	hào	n	size
15.	中	zhōng	adj	medium; middle
16.	便宜	piányi	adj	cheap; inexpensive
17.	如果… 的话	rúguǒ… de huà	conj	if

18.	长短	chángduǎn	n	length
	长	cháng	adj	long
	短	duǎn	adj	short
19.	合适	héshì	adj	suitable
20.	试	shì	v	to try
21.	不用	búyòng		need not
22.	一共	yíòng	adv	altogether
23.	多少	duōshao	qpr	how much/many
24.	钱	qián	n	money

25.	块	kuài	m	(measure word for the basic Chinese monetary unit)
26.	毛	máo	m	(measure word for 1/10 of a kuai, dime [in US money])
27.	分	fēn	m	(measure word for 1/100 of a kuai, cent)
28.	百	bǎi	nu	hundred
29.	找 (钱)	zhǎo (qián)	v(o)	to give change

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

Dialogue I

(Shopping for clothes at a store)

Salesperson: Miss, what are you looking for?

Li You: I'd like to buy a shirt.

Salesperson: What color [shirt] do you like? Yellow or red?

Li You: I like red. I'd also like to get a pair of pants.

Salesperson: What size? Large, medium or small?

Li You: Medium. Something not too expensive, but not too cheap, either.

Salesperson: How about these pants?

Li You: The color is nice. If the size is right, I'll take them.

Salesperson: Please try them on.

[Li You checks the size on the label, and measures the pants against her legs.]

Li You: No need to try them. They'll do.

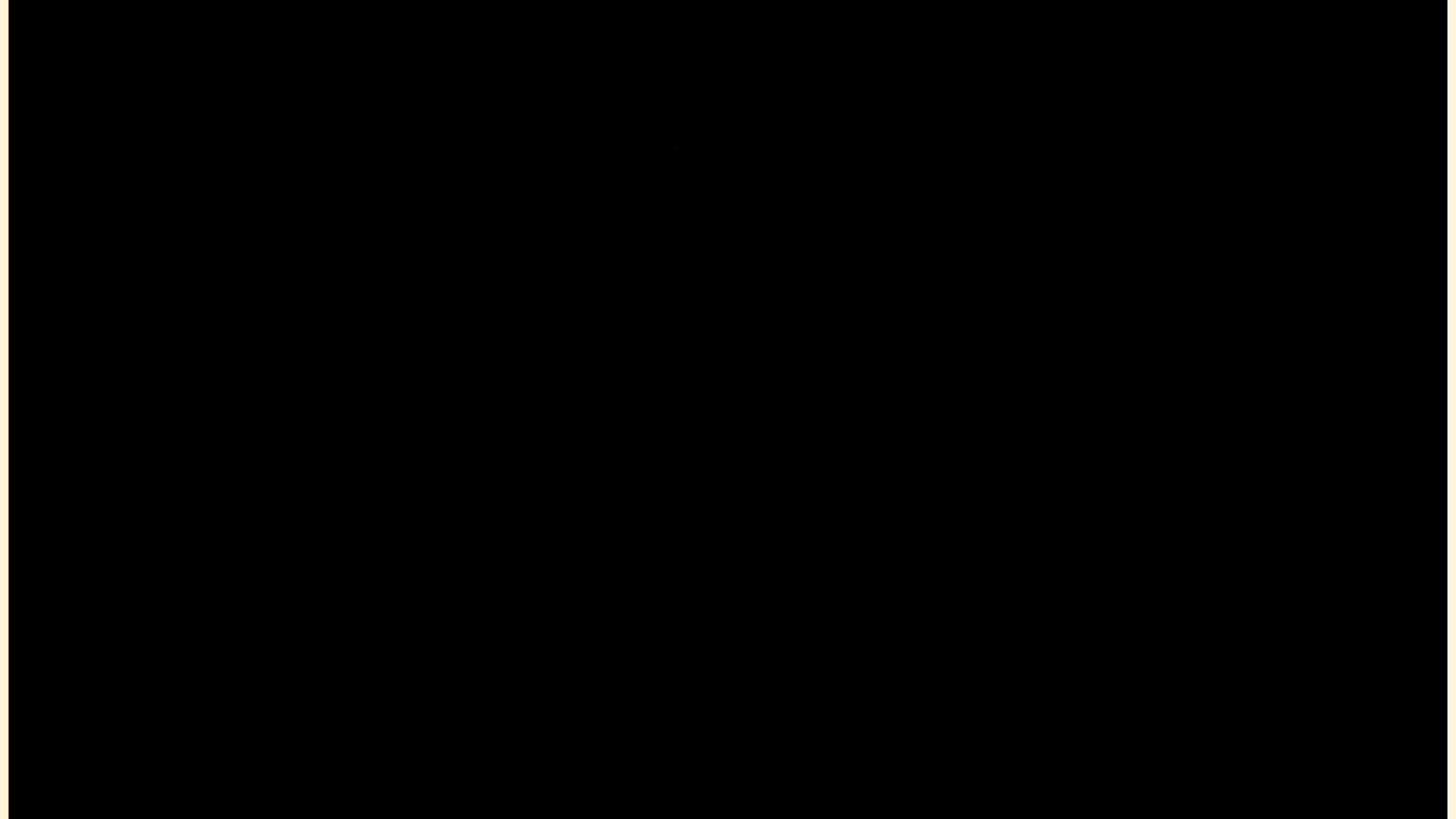
Salesperson: And how about this shirt?

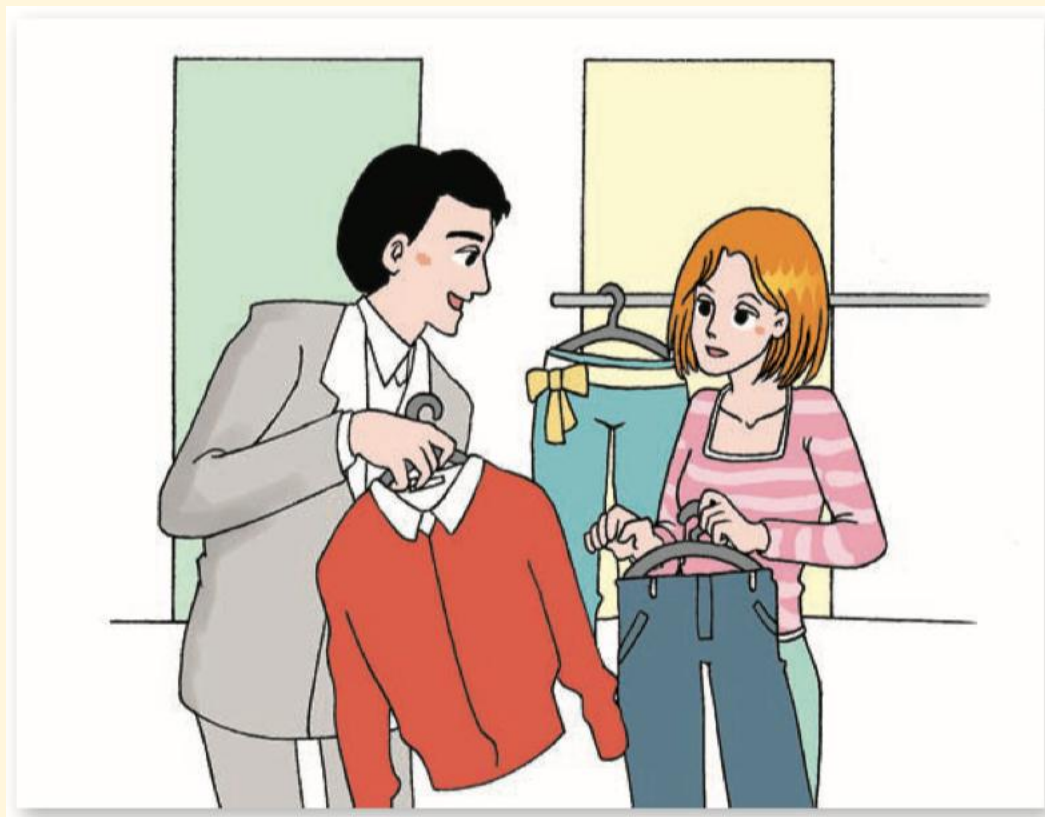
Li You: It's not bad either. How much altogether?

Salesperson: Twenty one dollars and fifty cents for the shirt, and thirty-two ninety-nine for the pants. Fifty-four dollars and forty-nine cents altogether.

Li You: OK. Here's one hundred.

Salesperson: Forty-five fifty-one is your change. Thank you.







Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes


(李友在一个商店买东西，
售货员问她…)

 小姐，您要^①买什么衣服？

 我想买一件^②衬衫。


 您喜欢什么颜色的^③，黄的
还是红的？

 我喜欢穿^①红的。我还想买
一条^②裤子^②。


 多^④大的？大号的、中号
的、还是小号的？


(Lǐ Yǒu zài yí ge shāngdiàn mǎi dōngxi, shòuhuòyuán wèn tā. . .)

 Xiǎojiě, nín yào^① mǎi shénme yīfu?

 Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yí jiàn^② chènshān.

 Nín xǐhuan shénme yánsè de^③, huáng de háishi hóng de?

 Wǒ xǐhuan chuān^① hóng de. Wǒ hái xiǎng mǎi yì tiáo^② kùzi^②.

 Duō^④ dà de? Dà hào de, zhōng hào de, háishi xiǎo hào de?

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes



中号的。不要太贵的，也

不要太便宜³的。



这条裤子怎么样？



颜色很好。如果长短合适的话，我就买。



您试一下。



Zhōng hào de. Bú yào tài guì de, yě bú yào tài piányi³ de.



Zhè tiáo kùzi zěnmeyàng?



Yánsè hěn hǎo, rúguǒ chángduǎn héshì de huà, wǒ jiù mǎi.




Nín shì yí xià.


Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

[Li You checks the size on the label and measures the pants against her legs.]


 不用试。可以。

 这件衬衫呢？


 也不错。一共多少钱？


 衬衫二十一**块**五，裤子三十二**块**九**毛**九，一共是五十四**块**四**毛**九**分**⑤。


 好，这是一百块钱。

 找您四十五块五毛一。
谢谢。


[Li You checks the size on the label and measures the pants against her legs.]

 Bùyòng shì, kěyǐ.

 Zhè jiàn chènshān ne?

 Yě búcuò. Yígòng duōshao qián?

 Chènshān èrshíyī **kuài** wǔ, kùzi sānshí'èr **kuài** jiǔ **máo** jiǔ, yígòng shì wǔshísì **kuài** sì **máo** jiǔ **fēn**⑤.

 Hǎo, zhè shì yìbǎi kuài qián.

 Zhǎo nín sìshíwǔ kuài wǔ máo yī. Xièxie.

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes



我喜欢穿^①红的。我还想买
一条^②裤子^②。

LANGUAGE NOTES

- ① Note that the verb 穿 (chuān) can mean both “to wear” and “to put on.” However, for most accessories, especially those for the upper part of the body, 戴 (dài) is used instead of 穿 (chuān).
- ② In Chinese, a pair of pants is just one single piece of clothing. Hence 一条裤子 (yì tiáo kùzi, literally, a trouser) instead of *一双裤子 (*yì shuāng kùzi, literally, a pair of trousers).

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes



中号的。不要太贵的，也

不要太便宜³的。

③ The character 便 in 便宜

(piányi, inexpensive) is pronounced

“pián.” But in 方便 (fāngbiàn,

convenient) the same character

is pronounced “biàn.” It is not

uncommon in Chinese for the

same character to be pronounced

differently and carry different

meanings. Other examples include:

乐 (yuè/lè) in 音乐 (yīnyuè,

music), 可乐 (kělè, cola); and 觉

(jué/jiào) in 觉得 (juéde, to feel)

and 睡觉 (shuì jiào, to sleep).

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

1. The Modal Verb 要 (yào) (II)

[See also Lesson 6 Grammar 2.]

One of the meanings of 要 (yào) is “to desire to do something.”

① 明天是周末，你要做什么？

Míngtiān shì zhōumò, nǐ yào zuò shénme?

(Tomorrow is the weekend. What do you want to do?)

② 我要去图书馆看书，你去不去？

Wǒ yào qù túshūguǎn kàn shū, nǐ qù bu qù?

(I want to go to the library to read. Are you going?)

③ 我要喝可乐，他要喝茶。

Wǒ yào hē kělè, tā yào hē chá.

(I want to drink cola. He wants to drink tea.)

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

To negate it, use 不想 (bù xiǎng).

④ 我不想去图书馆。

Wǒ bù xiǎng qù túshūguǎn.

(I don't feel like going to the library.)

⑤ 今天我不想做功课。

Jīntiān wǒ bù xiǎng zuò gōngkè.

(I don't feel like doing my homework today.)

For (4), however, some Chinese speakers, particularly in the South, would say:

我不要去图书馆。

Wǒ bú yào qù túshūguǎn.

Both modal verbs 想 (xiǎng) and 要 (yào) can express a desire or an intention, but 要 (yào) carries a stronger tone.

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

2. Measure Words (II)

[See also Lesson 2 Grammar 2.]

The following are the “measure word + noun” combinations that we have covered so far. You have come across these measure words along with the nouns associated with them.

一个人	yí ge rén	a person
一位先生	yí wèi xiānsheng	a gentleman
一杯茶	yì bēi chá	a cup of tea
一瓶可乐	yì píng kělè	a bottle of cola
一枝笔	yì zhī bǐ	a pen
一张纸	yì zhāng zhǐ	a piece of paper
一节课	yì jié kè	a class period



Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

一篇日记

yì piān rìjì

a diary entry

一封信

yì fēng xìn

a letter

一件衬衫

yí jiàn chènshān

a shirt

一条裤子

yì tiáo kùzi

a pair of pants

一双鞋

yì shuāng xié

a pair of shoes

[See Dialogue 2 in Lesson 9.]

一块钱

yí kuài qián

one yuan

一毛钱

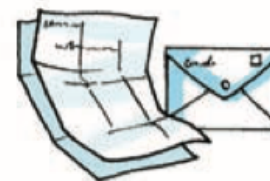
yì máo qián

1/10 of a yuan

一分钱

yì fēn qián

1/100 of a yuan, one cent



Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

Supplementary:

一本书

yì běn shū

a book

一只鞋

yì zhī xié

a shoe (one of a pair) [See also “a pair of shoes” above.]

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

3. The 的 (de) Structure (II)

We have a 的 (de) structure when a noun, a pronoun, or an adjective is followed by the structural particle 的 (de). Grammatically, a 的 (de) structure is equivalent to a noun, e.g., 老师的 (lǎoshī de, the teacher's), 我的 (wǒ de, mine), 大的 (dà de, the big one), etc. See also Grammar 8 in Lesson 7.

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

4. 多 (duō) Used Interrogatively

The adverb 多 (duō) is often used in a question asking about degree or extent, e.g.,

① 你今年多大？ [See Lesson 3.]

Nǐ jīnnián duō dà?

(How old are you this year?)

② 你穿多大的衣服？

Nǐ chuān duō dà de yīfu?

(What size clothes do you wear?)

③ 你弟弟多高？

Nǐ dìdì duō gāo?

(How tall is your younger brother?)

The adjectives that follow 多 (duō) are typically those suggesting large extents such as 大 (dà, big), 高 (gāo, tall; high) and 远 (yuǎn, far), rather than those denoting small degrees such as 小 (xiǎo, small; little), 矮 (ǎi, short), and 近 (jìn, near).

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

5. Amounts of Money

Chinese monetary units are 元 (yuán), 角 (jiǎo, 1/10 of a yuan), and 分 (fēn, one cent or 1/100 of a yuan). In colloquial speech, alternative terms 块 (kuài) and 毛 (máo) are usually used instead of 元 (yuán) and 角 (jiǎo), but price markings in stores are likely to be in 元 (yuán) and 角 (jiǎo), and many store clerks also use 元 (yuán) in their speech. Using the colloquial terms, ¥ 5.99

is 五块九毛九分钱 (wǔ kuài jiǔ máo jiǔ fēn qián). However, in casual conversation abbreviated forms are often used.

The rules for abbreviation of monetary terms are as follows: begin by omitting the last element 钱 (qián) in the expression and then the second to last element: 五块九毛九分 (wǔ kuài jiǔ máo jiǔ fēn) omitting 钱 (qián), or 五块九毛九 (wǔ kuài jiǔ máo jiǔ) omitting both 钱 (qián) and 分 (fēn). Note that if 钱 is included, the preceding measure (e.g., 分) must also be included; one doesn't say *五块九毛九钱 (*wǔ kuài jiǔ máo jiǔ qián). One or more zeros occurring internally in a complex number are read as 零/〇 (líng, zero).

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

① \$8.55 八块五毛五(分)(钱)

bā kuài wǔ máo wǔ (fēn)(qián)

② \$15.30 十五块三(毛)(钱)

shíwǔ kuài sān (máo) (qián)

③ \$103 一百零三块(钱)

yì bǎi líng sān kuài (qián)

④ \$100.30 一百块零三毛(钱)

yì bǎi kuài líng sān máo (qián)


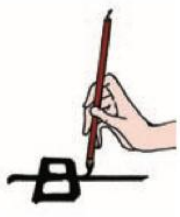



⑤ \$100.03 一百块零三分(钱)

yìbǎi kuài líng sān fēn (qián)

To avoid ambiguity, 毛 (máo) and 分 (fēn) cannot be omitted in (4) or (5).

A. 要 (yào, to want to; to have a desire to)

Practice with a partner how to ask and answer what Little Wang wishes to do next week based on the following chart.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					

EXAMPLE: 星期一

xīngqīyī

→ A: 小王下个星期一要做什么？

A: Xiǎo Wáng xià ge xīngqīyī
yào zuò shénme?

B: 小王下个星期要去上课。

B: Xiǎo Wáng xià ge xīngqīyī
yào qù shàng kè.

- 1. 星期二
- 2. 星期三
- 3. 星期四
- 4. 星期五
- 5. 星期六

- 1. xīngqīèr
- 2. xīngqīsān
- 3. xīngqīsì
- 4. xīngqīwǔ
- 5. xīngqīliù

Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

B. 想 (xiǎng, to feel like; would like to)

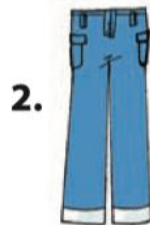
Little Li likes window shopping, and always dreams about what she would like to buy. Say what's on her wish list based on the pictures.

EXAMPLE:



→ 小李想买一件新衣服。

Xiǎo Lǐ xiǎng mǎi yí jiàn xīn yīfu.



Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

C1: Lost and Found: Identify to whom the objects belong.

EXAMPLE:



→ 这瓶可乐是谁的？

A: Zhè píng kělè shì shéi de?



这瓶可乐是
高文中的。

B: Zhè píng kělè shì

Gāo Wénzhōng de.



Dialogue I : Shopping for Clothes

C2: Identify the colors of Little Wang's belongings.

EXAMPLE:



→ **A:** 小王的笔是什么颜色的？

B: 小王的笔是黄色的。

→ **A:** Xiǎo Wáng de bǐ shì
shénme yánsè de?

B: Xiǎo Wáng de bǐ shì
huángsè de.

