

LESSON 9

第九课

Dì jiǔ kè

Shopping

买东西

Mǎi dōngxi

9



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.

RELATE AND GET READY

In your own culture/community—

1. Do people haggle over prices in stores?
2. Can merchandise be returned or exchanged?
3. How do people pay for their purchases: in cash, with a check, or with a credit card?

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？

中号的。不要太贵的，也

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).

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。

[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？



衬衫二十一^①块五，裤子三十二^②块九毛九，一共是五十四^③块四毛九分^④。



好，这是一百块钱。



找您四十五块五毛一。
谢谢。

(Lǐ Yǒu zài yí ge shāngdiàn mǎi dōngxì, 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 hái shì hóng de?



Wǒ xǐhuan chuān^④ hóng de. Wǒ hái xiǎng mǎi yì tiáo^⑤ kùzi^⑥.



Duō^⑦ dà de? Dà hào de, zhōng hào de, hái shì xiǎo hào de?



Zhōng hào de. Bú yào tài guì de, yě bú yào tài piányi^⑧ de.

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).



Zhè tiáo kùzi zěnmeyàng?



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



Nín shì yí xia.

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



Búyòng shì, kěyǐ.



Zhè jiàn chènshān ne?



Yě búcuò. Yígòng duōshao qián?



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



Hǎo, zhè shì yìbǎi kuài qián.



Zhǎo nín sìshíwǔ kuài wǔ máo yī. Xièxie.

戴眼镜 (dài yǎnjìng)

穿衣服 (chuān yīfu)

穿袜子 (chuān wǎzi)

穿鞋 (chuān xié)



帽子 (màozi)

表 (dài shǒubiǎo)

裤子 (chuān kùzi)



VOCABULARY

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------|--|
| 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 |



大家去商店
买东西。

Dàjiā qù shāngdiàn
mǎi dōngxi.

VOCABULARY

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------|-------------|------|---|
| 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 | yígòng | 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 |

Grammar

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.)

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.

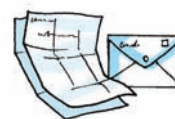
Both modal verbs 想 (xiǎng) and 要 (yào) can express a desire or an intention, but 要 (yào) carries a stronger tone.

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
一篇日记	yì piān rìjì	a diary entry
一封信	yì fēng xìn	a letter
一件衬衫	yì 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



一分钱
yì fēn qián

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.]

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.

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).

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).



Rénmínbì: from top to bottom

五元、二角、一元
wǔ yuán, èr jiǎo, yì yuán



Xíntáibì

五十元
wǔshí yuán

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)





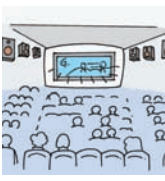
yìbǎi kuài líng sān fēn (qián)

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

Language Practice

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？
B: 小王下个星期一要 go 上课。

A: Xiǎo Wáng xià ge xīngqīyī yào zuò shénme?
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

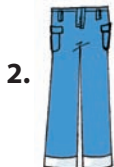
B. 想 (xiǎng, to feel like; would like to)

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.



C. 的 (de) Structure

Practice how to ask and answer the following using the words given.

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

EXAMPLE:



→ 这瓶可乐是谁的？

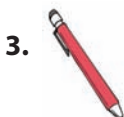
A: Zhè píng kělè shì shéi de?



这瓶可乐是
高文中的。

B: Zhè píng kělè shì

Gāo Wénzhōng de.



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.

**D.** 多 (duō)

Practice how to ask about age, height, and how expensive things are.

How do you find out the following:

1. your friend's sibling's age
2. the price of your friend's pants
3. your teacher's height

E. Pair Activity

Is your partner a shopaholic? Find out your partner's shopping habits.

你喜欢买东西吗？

Nǐ xǐhuan mǎi dōngxi ma?

你常常去买东西吗？

Nǐ chángcháng qù mǎi dōngxi ma?

你喜欢买什么东西？

Nǐ xǐhuan mǎi shénme dōngxi?

你喜欢买衣服吗？

Nǐ xǐhuan mǎi yīfu ma?

你常常去哪儿买东西？

Nǐ chángcháng qù nǎr mǎi dōngxi?

你常常跟谁一起去

Nǐ chángcháng gēn shéi yìqǐ qù

买东西？

mǎi dōngxi?

你有几件衬衫？

Nǐ yǒu jǐ jiàn chènshān?

你有几条裤子？

Nǐ yǒu jǐ tiáo kùzi?

F. Pair Activity

Be a fashion commentator. Bring in a photo, or a clipping from a magazine, of your favorite celebrity. Work with a partner to ask and answer the following questions. Then report back to the class the information gathered regarding your partner's celebrity.

Celebrity's name 喜欢什么颜色？

Celebrity's name xǐhuan shénme yánsè?

她喜欢穿什么颜色
的衣服？

Tā xǐhuan chuān shénme yánsè

de yīfu?

她今天的衣服是什么
颜色的？

Tā jīntiān de yīfu shì shénme

yánsè de?

你觉得她今天的衣服长短
合适不合适？

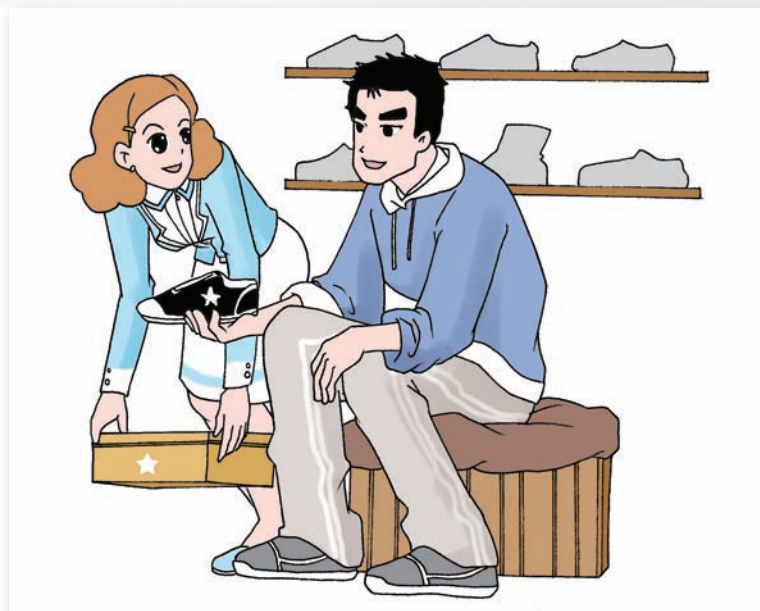
Nǐ juéde tā jīntiān de yīfu chángduǎn

héshì bù héshì?

她的衣服多吗？

Tā de yīfu duō ma?

Dialogue II: Exchanging Shoes



对不起，这双鞋太小了。能不能换一双？



没问题。您看，这双怎么样？



也不行，这双跟那双一样^⑥大。



那这双黑的呢？



这双鞋虽然大小合适，可是^⑦颜色不好。有没有咖啡色的？



对不起，这种鞋只有黑的。



这双鞋样子挺好的^①，就是它吧^②。你们这儿可以刷卡吗？



对不起，我们不收信用卡。不过，这双的钱跟那双一样，您不用再付钱了。

LANGUAGE NOTES

① 挺+adj+的

(tǐng+adj+de)

means "it's rather adj." The 的 (de) is optional.

② 就是它吧

(jiù shì tā ba)

is an expression one often uses when making a decision at the end of a process of selection. It roughly means "This is it" or "I'll take it." [See

That's How the Chinese Say It! after Lesson 10.]



Duìbuqǐ, zhè shuāng xié tài xiǎo le. Néng bu néng huàn yì shuāng?



Méi wèntí. Nín kàn, zhè shuāng zěnmeyàng?



Yě bù xíng, zhè shuāng gēn nà shuāng yíyàng^① dà.



Nà zhè shuāng hēi de ne?



Zhè shuāng xié suīrán dàxiǎo héshì, kěshì^② yánsè bù hǎo. Yǒu méiyǒu kāfēisè de?



Duìbuqǐ, zhè zhǒng xié zhǐ yǒu hēi de.



Zhè shuāng xié yàngzi tǐng hao de^①...jiù shì tā ba^②. Nǐmen zhèr kěyǐ shuā kǎ ma?



Duìbuqǐ, wǒmen bù shōu xīnyòngkǎ. Búguò, zhè shuāng de qián gēn nà shuāng yíyàng, nín búyòng zài fù qián le.



鞋店
xié diàn



VOCABULARY

1. 双	shuāng	m	(measure word for a pair)
2. 鞋	xié	n	shoes
3. 换	huàn	v	to exchange; to change
4. 一样	yíyàng	adj	same; alike [See Grammar 6.]
5. 虽然	suīrán	conj	although [See Grammar 7.]
6. 大小	dàxiǎo	n	size
7. 咖啡色	kāfēisè	n	brown; coffee color
8. 种	zhǒng	m	(measure word for kinds, sorts, types)
9. 黑	hēi	adj	black
10. 样子	yàngzi	n	style
11. 挺	tǐng	adv	very; rather
12. 它	tā	pr	it
13. 这儿	zhèr	pr	here
14. 刷卡	shuā kǎ	vo	to pay with a credit card
刷	shuā	v	to brush; to swipe
卡	kǎ	n	card
15. 收	shōu	v	to receive; to accept
16. 信用卡	xìnyòngkǎ	n	credit card
17. 不过	búguò	conj	however; but
18. 再	zài	adv	again
19. 付钱	fù qián	vo	to pay money
付	fù	v	to pay



收银台

shōuyín tái

在这儿付钱

zài zhèr fù qián

Grammar

6. 跟/和...(不)一样 (gēn/hé...{bù} yíyàng, {not} the same as...)

To express similarity or dissimilarity between objects, persons, or actions, we use the structure 跟/和...(不)一样 (gēn/hé... {bù} yíyàng).

① 你的衬衫跟我的一样。

Nǐ de chènshān gēn wǒ de yíyàng.

(Your shirt is the same as mine.)

② 贵的衣服和便宜的衣服不一样。

Guì de yīfu hé piányi de yīfu bù yíyàng.

(Expensive clothes are different from cheap ones.)

Following 一样 (yíyàng), an adjective can be used:

③ 弟弟跟哥哥一样高。

Dìdi gēn gēge yíyàng gāo.

(The younger brother is as tall as the older one.)

④ 这个电脑跟那个电脑一样新。

Zhè ge diànnǎo gēn nà ge diànnǎo yíyàng xīn.

(This computer is as new as that one.)

⑤ 常老师写汉字写得跟王老师（写汉字写得）一样漂亮。

Cháng Lǎoshī xiě Hànzì xiě de gēn Wáng Lǎoshī (xiě Hànzì xiě de) yíyàng piàoliang.

Teacher Chang writes Chinese characters as nicely as Teacher Wang does.

7. 虽然…，可是/但是… (suīrán..., kěshì/dànshì...,
although...yet...)

This pair of conjunctions links the two clauses in a complex sentence. Note, however, that 虽然 (suīrán) is often optional.

① 虽然这双鞋很便宜，可是大小不合适。

Suīrán zhè shuāng xié hěn piányi, kěshì dàxiǎo bù héshì.

(Although this pair of shoes is inexpensive, it's not the right size.)



中国布鞋
Zhōngguó bùxié
(Chinese cloth shoes)

② 这本书很有意思，可是太贵了。

Zhè běn shū hěn yǒu yìsi, kěshì tài guì le.

(This book is very interesting, but it's too expensive.)

3

中文不容易，但是很有意思。

Zhōngwén bù róngyì, dànshì hěn yǒu yìsi.

(Chinese is not easy, but it's very interesting.)

Whether or not 虽然 (suīrán) is used in the first clause, 可是/但是 (kěshì/dànshì) cannot be omitted in the second. The following sentence is, therefore, incorrect:

(2a) *虽然这本书很有意思，太贵了。

*Suīrán zhè běn shū hěn yǒu yìsi, tài guì le.

Language Practice

G. 跟...一样 (gēn...yíyàng, the same as...)

EXAMPLE: 这件衣服跟那件衣服
一样漂亮。

Zhè jiàn yīfu gēn nà jiàn yīfu

yíyàng piàoliang.

1. 这枝笔 ◇ 那枝笔 ◇ 便宜

1. zhè zhī bǐ ◇ nà zhī bǐ ◇ piányi

2. 这条裤子 ◇ 那条裤子 ◇ 贵

2. zhè tiáo kùzi ◇ nà tiáo kùzi ◇ guì

3. 这双鞋 ◇ 那双鞋

3. zhè shuāng xié ◇ nà shuāng xié

◇ 合适

◇ héshì

4. 这件衬衫 ◇ 那件衬衫

4. zhè jiàn chènshān ◇ nà jiàn chènshān

◇ 大

◇ dà

5. 第九课的语法

5. dì jiǔ kè de yǔfǎ

◇ 第八课的语法 ◇ 难

◇ dì bā kè de yǔfǎ ◇ nán

H. 虽然…可是/但是 (suīrán...kěshì/dànshì, although...yet)

EXAMPLE: 虽然中文很难，
可是很有意思。

Suīrán Zhōngwén hěn nán,
kěshì hěn yǒu yìsi.

1. 她的新衣服很多◇
她都不穿

1. tā de xīn yīfu hěn duō ◇
tā dōu bù chuān

2. 这条裤子很便宜◇
长短不合适

2. zhè tiáo kùzi hěn piányi ◇
chángduǎn bù héshì

3. 这件衬衫的颜色很
好看◇有一点儿小

3. zhè jiàn chènshān de yánsè hěn
hǎokàn ◇ yǒu yìdiǎnr xiǎo

4. 这双鞋样子挺不错的
◇太贵了

4. zhè shuāng xié yàngzi tǐng búcuò de
◇ tài guì le

5. 这个商店不小
◇不能刷卡

5. zhè ge shāngdiàn bù xiǎo
◇ bù néng shuā kǎ

I. Identical Twins

Here's some information about two sisters who are identical twins. Describe the similarities between the two.

EXAMPLE: age: 14 14

→ 姐姐跟妹妹一样大。

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. height: | 5'5" | 5'5" |
| 2. shirts: | size 6 | size 6 |
| 3. pants: | 30" inseam | 30" inseam |



J. Clothing Store

You own a small clothing store, and you want to plan your inventory. Survey your clients/everyone in the class about their color preferences and sizes and then decide how many pairs of shirts, pants, shoes, etc. you need to stock, and in what colors and sizes.

你喜欢穿什么颜色的
鞋/衬衫/裤子？

Nǐ xǐhuan chuān shénme yánsè de

xié/chènshān/kùzi?

你穿多大的
鞋/衬衫/裤子？

Nǐ chuān duō dà de

xié/chènshān/kùzi?

Write down your findings:







- shoes

- shirts

- pants

HOW ABOUT YOU?

What is your favorite color?

- | | | | | |
|--------|-----------|---|--------|---|
| 1. 蓝色 | lánsè | n | blue |  |
| 2. 绿色 | lǜsè | n | green |  |
| 3. 紫色 | zǐsè | n | purple |  |
| 4. 粉红色 | fěnhóngsè | n | pink |  |
| 5. 橘红色 | júhóngsè | n | orange |  |
| 6. 灰色 | huīsè | n | gray |  |

If your most favorite and least favorite colors are not listed above, ask your teacher and make a note here:

我最喜欢_____色。 Wǒ zuì xǐhuan _____sè.

我最不喜欢_____色。 Wǒ zuì bù xǐhuan _____sè.

What's in your wardrobe?

- | | | | | |
|--------|----------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. 上衣 | shàngyī | n | upper garment |  |
| 2. 大衣 | dàyī | n | overcoat | |
| 3. 毛衣 | máoyī | n | woolen sweater | |
| 4. 裙子 | qúnzi | n | skirt |  |
| 5. 夹克 | jiákè | n | jacket | |
| 6. 外套 | wàitào | n | outer garment; coat; jacket |  |
| 7. 西装 | xīzhuāng | n | (western-style) suit | |
| 8. T恤衫 | T-xùshān | n | T-shirt |  |
| 9. 帽子 | màozǐ | n | hat; cap | |
| 10. 袜子 | wàzi | n | socks | |

If there are items in your wardrobe that are not mentioned above, ask your teacher and make a note here: _____

Culture Highlights

- 1 In mainland China a salesperson in a department store is usually addressed as 售货员 (shòuhuòyuán), and a server in a restaurant is usually addressed as 服务员 (fúwùyuán, “Service Person”). In speaking to bus drivers or taxi drivers, as well as ticket sellers, the most common form of address (for women as well as men) is 师傅 (shīfu, an old term of respect for a master craftsman or skilled worker). However, these forms of address vary according to age and preference of the speaker as well as the status or function of the person spoken to, and usage is very much in flux in the early twenty-first century. As in so many matters of language usage, students should carefully observe actual usage and follow suit. In Taiwan, the terms 小姐 (xiǎojiě, Miss) and 先生 (xiānsheng, Mr.) have very broad usage, including the contexts mentioned above.
- 2 In mainland China prices are usually non-negotiable in supermarkets and large department stores, but bargaining is routine in street-side stalls and small shops. There is no sales tax in mainland China. It is also not customary to tip in a restaurant, although upscale restaurants often charge a service fee.
- 3 The traditional formal attire for Chinese men was a long robe called 长袍 (chángpáo, long gown) and a short jacket called 马褂 (mǎguà, Mandarin jacket), while women (in the cities) wore a modified Manchu-style dress called 旗袍 (qípáo, close-fitting woman’s dress with a high neck and a slit skirt) until 1949 in mainland China and into the 1960s and 70s in Taiwan. Through the early decades of the People’s Republic, men wore the 中山装 (Zhōngshānzhuāng, “Sun Yat-sen suit”), the top part of which came to be called in the West the “Mao jacket.” Nowadays Chinese men and women dress in about the same way as Westerners, wearing suits and ties or dresses on formal occasions, and jeans and T-shirts for more casual purposes.



一件长袍
yí jiàn chángpáo



两件旗袍
liǎng jiàn qípáo

English Text

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 II

Wang Peng: Excuse me, this pair of shoes is too small. Can I exchange them for another pair?

Salesperson: No problem. How about this pair?

Wang Peng: No, they won't do either. This pair is the same size as the other one.

Salesperson: What about this pair in black?

Wang Peng: This pair is the right size, but it's not a good color. Do you have any in brown?

Salesperson: I'm sorry. We only have black ones for this kind of shoes.

Wang Peng: The style of the pair is pretty nice. This is it. Can I use my credit card here?

Salesperson: I'm sorry, we don't take credit cards. But this pair is the same price as the other one. You don't need to pay again.

PROGRESS CHECKLIST

Before proceeding to Lesson 10, be sure you can complete the following tasks in Chinese:

I am able to—

- ☒ Name my favorite color and other common colors;
- ☒ Talk about clothing and shoe sizes;
- ☒ Count money and determine the proper change;
- ☒ Return or exchange items at a store.

Please review the lesson if any of these tasks seem difficult.