

Making Appointments

LESSON 6

第六课 约时间

Dì liù kè

Yuē shíjiān



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.

RELATE AND GET READY

In your own culture/community—

1. What does one say first when answering a phone call?
2. Do people state their names when answering the phone?
3. How do students address their teachers?
4. What do you say to ask a favor?

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。

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 shíhóu).

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).


 对不起，今天下午我**要**②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。

 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。


(Lǐ Yǒu gěi ① Cháng 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.

 Duìbuqǐ, jīntiān xiàwǔ wǒ yào ② kāi huì.

 Míngtiān ne?

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).

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.

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.

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).



Míngtiān shàngwǔ wǒ yǒu liǎng jié⁴ kè, xiàwǔ sān diǎn yào gěi èr niánjí kǎo shì.



Nín shénme shíhòu⁵ yǒu kòng?



Míngtiān sì diǎn yǐhòu⁶ cái yǒu kòng.



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.



Bié⁹ kèqì.



VOCABULARY

- | | | | |
|--------|------------|--------|---|
| 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.] |

VOCABULARY

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.]
28.	客气	kèqi	adj	polite

Proper Noun

29.	常老师	Cháng lǎoshī	Teacher Chang
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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?)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

Language 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

→ Xiǎo Gāo chángcháng gěi

我们介绍朋友。

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

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

3. 明天下午◇
去老师的办公室问问题

3. míngtiān xiàwǔ ◇
qù lǎoshī de bàngōngshì wèn wèntí
4. 这个星期五◇
去学校看电影

4. zhè ge xīngqīwǔ ◇
qù xuéxiào kàn diànyǐng
5. 这个周末◇
给小高介绍一个朋友

5. zhè ge zhōumò ◇
gěi Xiǎo Gāo jièshào yí ge péngyou

c. 要是 (yàoshi, if)








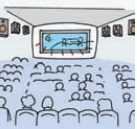


Use the following chart to practice how to be flexible and accommodating.

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
					Today
					Tomorrow

D. Pair Activity

Ask each other:

要是你有时间，
你想去哪儿玩儿？

要是朋友请你吃饭，
你想吃什么菜？

要是同学请你看电影，
你想看什么电影？

Yàoshi nǐ yǒu shíjiān,

nǐ xiǎng qù nǎr wánr?

Yàoshi péngyou qǐng nǐ chī fàn,

nǐ xiǎng chī shénme cài?

Yàoshi tóngxué qǐng nǐ kàn diànyǐng,

nǐ xiǎng kàn shénme diànyǐng?

E. Pair Activity: "Hello, is Jason there?"

Call your partner. Find out first if your partner is there.

A: You

B: Your partner

C: Your partner's brother

A: 喂，请问，
_____ 在吗？

B: 我就是。/

C: _____ 不在。

A: Wéi, qǐng wèn,
_____ zài ma?

B: Wǒ jiù shì. /

C: _____ bú zài.

Ask the caller to identify him/herself.

B/C: 您是哪位？

A: 我是_____。

B/C: Nín shì nǎ wèi?

A: Wǒ shì _____.

Find out the reason for the call:

B/C: _____，
你好！有事儿吗？

B/C: _____，

Nǐ hǎo! Yǒu shìr ma?

If it's convenient, you'd like to go to your friend's place this evening to watch TV.

A: ...

It happens that your partner and his brother are scheduled to play a ball game and are not available this evening. But they are free tomorrow night if it's okay with you.

B/C: ...

The new proposed night works for you. Accept it and set a time before saying goodbye and hanging up the phone.

A: ...

Dialogue II: Calling a Friend for Help



喂，请问，王朋在吗？



我就是。你是李友吧^①？



王朋，我下个星期^④要考中文，你帮我准备一下，跟我练习说中文，好吗？



好啊，但是你^得^⑤请我喝咖啡。



喝咖啡，没问题。那我什么时候跟你见面？你今天晚上有空儿吗？



今天晚上白英爱请我吃饭。

LANGUAGE NOTE

① Compare the two particles
吧 (ba) and 吗 (ma):

你是李友吧？

(Nǐ shì Lǐ Yǒu ba?)

You are Li You, aren't you?

(I think you're Li You. Am I right?)

你是李友吗？

(Nǐ shì Lǐ Yǒu ma?)

Are you Li You?

(I am not quite sure.)



是吗？白英爱请你吃饭？



对。我回来^⑥以后给你打电话。



好，我等你的电话。



Wéi, qǐng wèn, Wáng Péng zài ma?



Wǒ jiù shì. Nǐ shì Lǐ Yǒu ba^⑦?



Wáng Péng, wǒ xià ge xīngqī^④ yào kǎo Zhōngwén, nǐ bāng wǒ zhǔnbèi yí xià, gēn wǒ liànxí shuō Zhōngwén, hǎo ma?



Hǎo a, dànshì nǐ děi^⑤ qǐng wǒ hē kāfēi.



Hē kāfēi, méi wèntí. Nà wǒ shénme shíhou gēn nǐ jiàn miàn? Nǐ jīntiān wǎnshang yǒu kòngr ma?



Jīntiān wǎnshang Bái Yīng'ài qǐng wǒ chī fàn.



Shì ma? Bái Yīng'ài qǐng nǐ chī fàn?



Duì. Wǒ huí lai^⑥ yǐhòu gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà.



Hǎo, wǒ děng nǐ de diànhuà.

可口汤	
酸辣鸡蛋汤	12元
柿茄木须汤	10元
玉米糗	16元
凤片纯菜汤	15元
清汤三鲜	28元

白英爱和王朋吃中国菜还是美国菜？

Bái Yīng'ài hé Wáng Péng chī Zhōngguó cài háishi Měiguó cài?



VOCABULARY

- | | | | | |
|-----|----|-----------|------|---|
| 1. | 下个 | xià ge | | next one |
| | 下 | xià | | below; next |
| 2. | 中文 | Zhōngwén | n | Chinese language |
| | 文 | wén | n | language; script; written language |
| 3. | 帮 | bāng | v | to help |
| 4. | 准备 | zhǔnbèi | v | to prepare |
| 5. | 练习 | liànxí | v | to practice |
| 6. | 说 | shuō | v | to say; to speak |
| 7. | 啊 | a | p | (a sentence-final particle of exclamation, interrogation, etc.) |
| 8. | 但是 | dànshì | conj | but |
| 9. | 得 | děi | av | must; to have to |
| 10. | 跟 | gēn | prep | with |
| 11. | 见面 | jiàn miàn | vo | to meet up; to meet with |
| | 面 | | n | face |
| 12. | 回来 | huí lai | vc | to come back |

Grammar

4. Time Expressions

下个星期 (xià ge xīngqī, next week) literally means “the week below.” By the same token, 上个星期 (shàng ge xīngqī, last week) literally means “the week above.” The measure word 个 can be omitted: 下个星期=下星期; 上个星期=上星期. “Last/next month” is 上个月/下个月 (shàng ge yuè/xià ge yuè). However, we don’t say *上月/下月.

To help you remember, envision a calendar. Next week/month is below (下, xià) this week/month; last week/month is above (上, shàng) this week/month.

Time Expressions Involving Month and Week

上上个月	shàng shàng ge yuè the month before last	上上(个)星期	shàng shàng (ge) xīngqī the week before last
上个月	shàng ge yuè last month	上(个)星期	shàng (ge) xīngqī last week
这个月	zhè ge yuè this month	这(个)星期	zhè (ge) xīngqī this week
下个月	xià ge yuè next month	下(个)星期	xià (ge) xīngqī next week
下下个月	xià xià ge yuè the month after next	下下(个)星期	xià xià (ge) xīngqī the week after next

The above expressions with 月 (yuè, month) and 星期 (xīngqī, week) form two parallel series. “One week” is 一个星期 (yí ge xīngqī), therefore “one week later” is 一个星期以后 (yí ge xīngqī yǐhòu). “One month” is 一个月 (yí ge yuè), not 一月 (yī yuè, January). “One month later” is 一个月以后 (yí ge yuè yǐhòu).

Additional Time Expressions Involving Year and Day

大前天 dàqiántiān three days ago	大前年 dàqiánnián three years ago
前天 qiántiān the day before yesterday	前年 qiánnián the year before last
昨天 zuótiān yesterday	去年 qùnián last year
今天 jīntiān today	今年 jīnnián this year
明天 míngtiān tomorrow	明年 míngnián next year
后天 hòutiān the day after tomorrow	后年 hòunián the year after next
大后天 dàhòutiān three days from today	大后年 dàhòunián three years from now

The above expressions with 天 (tiān, day) and 年 (nián, year) form two parallel series except for 昨天 (zuótiān, yesterday) and 去年 (qùnián, last year).

5. The Modal Verb 得 (děi, must)

The modal verb 得 (děi) means “need to” or “must”.

① 我现在得去开会，没空儿跟你聊天儿。

Wǒ xiànzài děi qù kāi huì, méi kòngr gēn nǐ liáo tiānr.

(I need to go to a meeting right now, and have no time to chat with you.)

② 我有事儿，得去学校。

Wǒ yǒu shìr, děi qù xuéxiào.

(I've some business [to attend to]. I must go to school.)

The negative form of 得 (děi, must) is 不用 (bùyòng, need not) or 不必 (búbì, need not), not *不得 (bù děi). Therefore, the correct way to say “You don’t have to go to the library” in Chinese is A, not B:

A. 你不用去图书馆。 or 你不必去图书馆。

Nǐ bù yòng qù túshūguǎn.

Nǐ búbì qù túshūguǎn.

B. *你不得去图书馆。

*Nǐ bù déi qù túshūguǎn.

6. Directional Complements (I)

来/去 (lái/qù, to come/go) can serve as a directional complement after such verbs as 进 (jìn, to enter) and 回 (huí, to return). 来 (lái, to come) signifies movement toward the speaker, while 去 (qù, to go) signifies movement away from the speaker.

① [A is at home, speaking on the phone to B, who is away from home.]

A: 你什么时候回来？

Nǐ shénme shíhou huí lai?

(When are you coming back?)

B: 我六点回去。

Wǒ liù diǎn huí qu.

(I'm going back at six.)

② [A is outside, and B is inside. A knocks on the door, and B tells A to come in.]

B: 进来。

Jìn lai.

(Come in.)



[Both A and B are outside. A tells B to go inside.]

A: 进去。

Jìn qu.



(Go in.)











Language Practice

F. A 跟 B + V(O) (A gēn B + V(O), A does something with B)

Look at the portraits of the characters and the words given, and practice saying who does what with whom.

EXAMPLE:   说中文 shuō Zhōngwén
→ 常老师跟李友说中文。 Cháng lǎoshī gēn Lǐ Yǒu shuō Zhōngwén.

















-   聊天儿 liáo tiānr
-   跳舞 tiào wǔ
-   说英文 shuō Yīngwén
-   见面吃晚饭 jiàn miàn chī wǎnfàn


G. 别 (bié, don't) and 得 (děi, must)



Use the following key words to practice how to persuade or urge someone not to do something because he or she has to do something else.

EXAMPLE:  聊天儿  看书  liáo tiānr  kàn shū

→ 你**别**聊天儿，
你**得**看书。 → Nǐ **bié** liáo tiānr,
nǐ **děi** kàn shū.

-  喝茶  睡觉 1.  hē chá  shuì jiào
-  看电视  给老师打电话 2.  kàn diànshì  ěi lǎoshī dǎ diànhuà
-  睡觉  去考试 3.  shuì jiào  qù kǎo shì
-  打球  练习说中文 4.  dǎ qiú  liànxí shuō Zhōngwén

5.  去朋友家玩儿
 去学校工作

5.  qù péngyou jiā wánr
 qù xuéxiào gōngzuò

H. A 跟 B 见面 (A gēn B jiàn miàn, A meets with B)

Among the characters in the text, indicate whom you would or would not like to meet with.

EXAMPLE:  → 我(不)想跟
王朋见面。

Wǒ (bù) xiǎng gēn

Wáng Péng jiàn miàn.



I. With a partner

Take out your day planner, and take turns asking each other questions:

你这个星期天
上午(要)做什么?

Nǐ zhè ge xīngqītiān

shàngwǔ (yào) zuò shénme?

你下个星期三
下午(要)做什么?

Nǐ xià ge xīngqīsān

xiàwǔ (yào) zuò shénme?

你下个星期五
晚上(要)做什么?

Nǐ xià ge xīngqīwǔ

wǎnshang (yào) zuò shénme?

J. What does your friend have to do if he or she wants you to help him/her?

study Chinese practice playing ball
practice singing practice dancing

"If I help you..., you have to ..."

要是我帮你_____,
你得_____。

Yàoshi wǒ bāng nǐ_____,

nǐ děi _____.

K. Role Play: My girlfriend/boyfriend is not home.

A: the caller B: the mother of the caller's boyfriend/girlfriend

A is calling his/her girlfriend/boyfriend to go out on a date. But A is surprised that B answers the phone...

A: 您好！请问_____在吗？

A: Nín hǎo! Qǐng wèn _____ zài ma?

B: 不在。你是哪位？

B: Bú zài. Nǐ shì nǎ wèi?

A: 我是_____。

A: Wǒ shì _____.

B: 你找_____有事儿吗？

B: Nǐ zhǎo _____ yǒu shìr ma?

A then tells B the reason for the call...

A: 我明天晚上想请他/她_____。

A: Wǒ míngtiān wǎngshang xiǎng qǐng tā _____.

B seems to know her daughter/son's schedule very well...

B: 他/她明天晚上要_____, 没空儿。

B: Tā míngtiān wǎngshang yào _____, méi kòngr.

A is disappointed, but does not give up, and proposes a different time...

A: 那他/她_____有时间吗？

A: Nà tā _____ yǒu shíjiān ma?

B gives the same answer with a different activity that the daughter/son is committed to...

B: 他/她_____要_____, 没时间。

B: Tā _____ yào _____, méi shíjiān.

A thinks that he or she had better ask B to tell the daughter/son to call him/her back...

A: 那请他/她回来以后

A: Nà qǐng tā huí lai yǐhòu

_____,
我等他/她的电话。

_____,
wǒ děng tā de diànhuà.

Though a bit reluctant, B promises she will do that, then hangs up the phone.

B: 好，再见。

B: Hǎo, zàijiàn.

A tries to thank B and says goodbye before the click.

A: 谢谢您！再见。

A: Xièxie nín! Zàijiàn.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

What languages do you speak?

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1. 法文 | Fǎwén | pn | the French language |
| 2. 日文 | Rìwén | pn | the Japanese language |
| 3. 德文 | Déwén | pn | the German language |
| 4. 韩文 | Hánwén | pn | the Korean language |
| 5. 俄文 | Éwén | pn | the Russian language |
| 6. 西班牙文 | Xībānyáwén | pn | the Spanish language |
| 7. 意大利文 | Yìdàlìwén | pn | the Italian language |
| 8. 葡萄牙文 | Pútáoyáwén | pn | the Portuguese language |
| 9. 希腊文 | Xīlàwén | pn | the Greek language |
| 10. 拉丁文 | Lādīngwén | pn | the Latin language |

If a language you speak is not listed above, please ask your teacher and make a note here: _____.

Culture Highlights

- 1 About Chinese phone etiquette: The receiver of the call usually does not identify herself immediately on picking up the phone, as some people like to do in some other cultures. Instead, she would only say 喂 (wéi/wèi) and let the caller initiate the conversation.
- 2 To make a long distance call in China, dial 0 first, then the area code followed by the phone number. Here are the area codes for two of the most important cities in China:

Beijing: 10

Shanghai: 21

To call a cell phone number, however, you don't need to dial 0 first. It seems that almost every adult in China has a cell phone, 手机 (shǒujī), and they are not afraid to use it! China is now the largest cell phone market in the world. The cost of telephone communication in China can be significantly reduced by using calling cards, 电话卡 (diànhuà kǎ). There are various types of calling cards, which are available in neighborhood convenience stores.



- ③ Both 中文 (Zhōngwén) and 汉语 (Hànyǔ) mean “the Chinese language.” 汉 is the name of the predominant ethnic group in China, and 汉语 literally means “the language of the Han people.” Therefore, Chinese citizens of non-Han ethnic backgrounds will most likely refer to the Chinese language as 汉语 rather than 中文. There is also a difference in nuance between 语 (yǔ, speech) and 文 (wén, writing), but for most purposes 汉语 (Hànyǔ) and 中文 (Zhōngwén) are generally considered synonymous.



This is a billboard for one of the major telecommunication companies in China. Can you figure out what services the company provides?



As seen here, there are so many choices when purchasing calling cards.

English Text

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 II

Li You: Hello, is Wang Peng there?

Wang Peng: This is he. Is this Li You?

Li You: Hi, Wang Peng. Next week I have a Chinese exam. Could you help me prepare and practice speaking Chinese with me?

Wang Peng: Sure, but you must take me out for coffee.

Li You: Take you out for coffee? No problem. So, when can I see you? Are you free this evening?

Wang Peng: This evening Bai Ying'ai is taking me out to dinner.

Li You: Is that so? Bai Ying'ai is taking you out to dinner?

Wang Peng: That's right. I will call you when I get back.

Li You: O.K. I'll wait for your call.

PROGRESS CHECKLIST

Before proceeding to Lesson 7, be sure you can complete the following tasks in Chinese:

I am able to

- ☒ Ask about the reason for a phone call;
- ☒ Ask for a favor politely;
- ☒ Set up an appointment on the phone;
- ☒ Negotiate to find a common time that everyone can meet ;
- ☒ Request that my call be returned.

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

