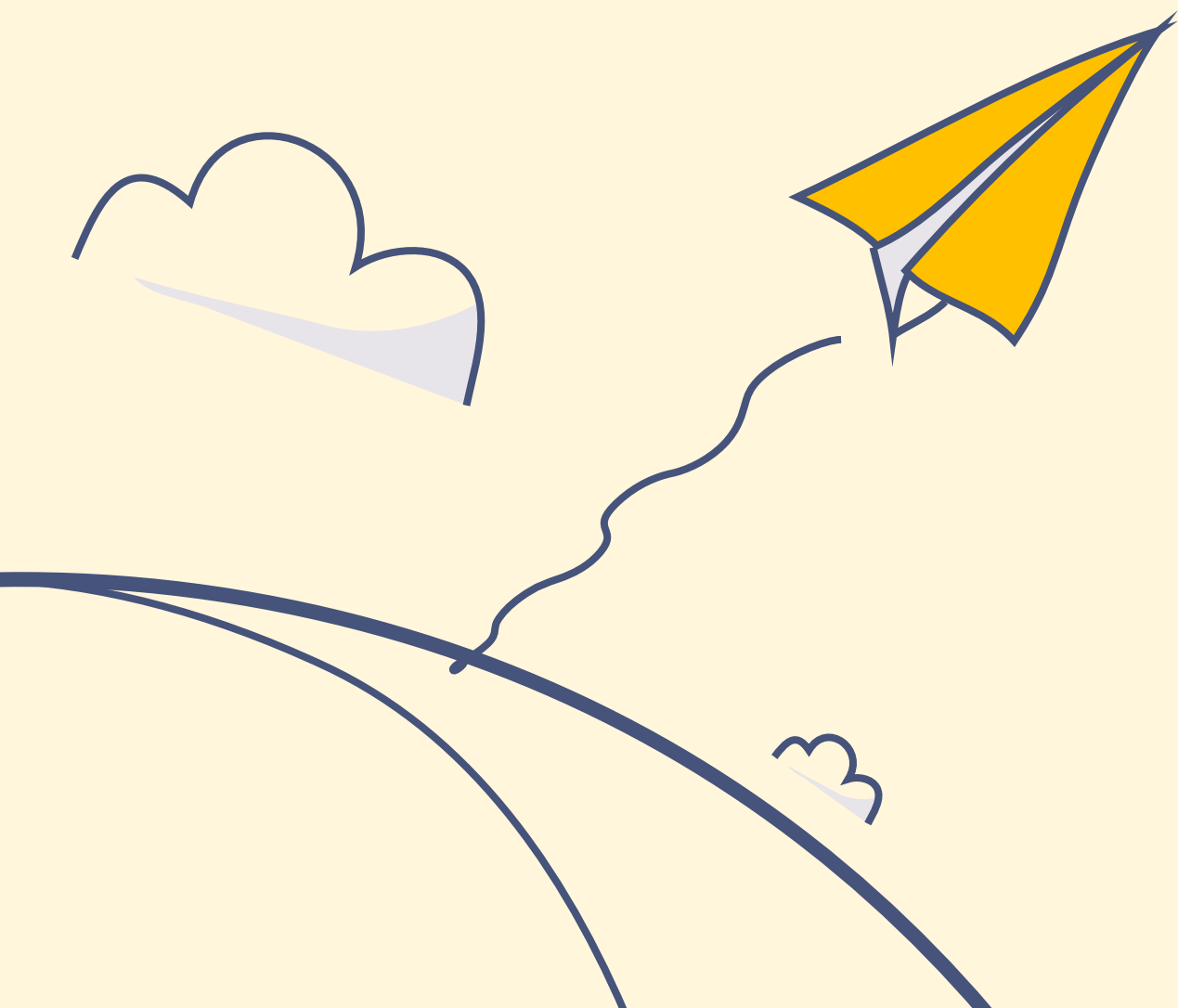


Basic Chinese for International Students

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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 1

measure word for essays, articles, etc.)

- 篇
- piān
- m



diary

- 日记
- rìjì
- n



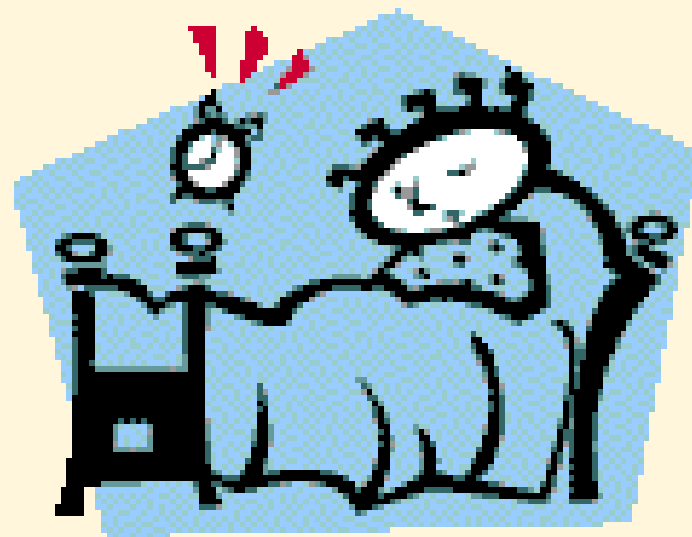
tired

- 累
- lèi
- adj



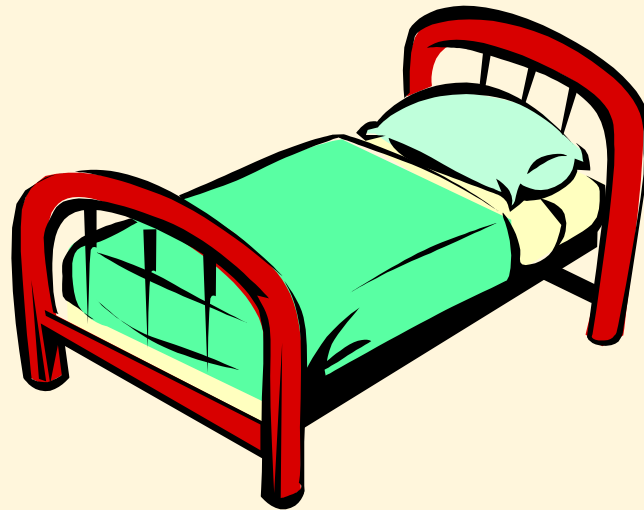
to get up

- 起床
- qǐ chuáng
- vo



bed

- 床
- chuáng
- n



to take a bath/shower

- 洗澡
- xǐ zǎo
- vo



breakfast

- 早饭
- zǎofàn
- n



simultaneously; at the same time

- 一边
- yìbiān
- adv

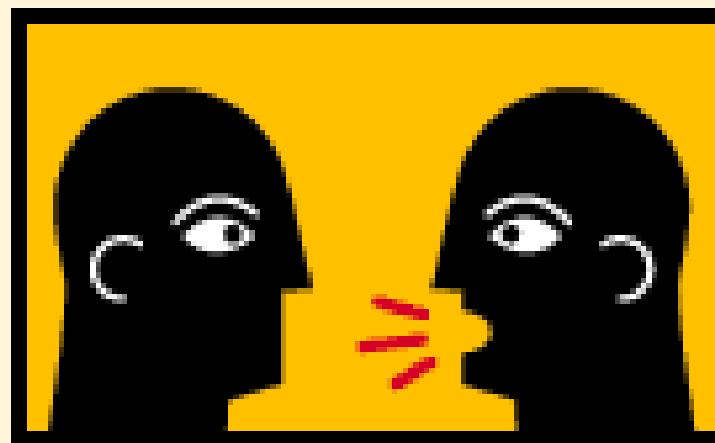
classroom

- 教室
- jiàoshì
- n



pronunciation

- 发音
- fāyīn
- n



new

- 新
- xīn
- adj

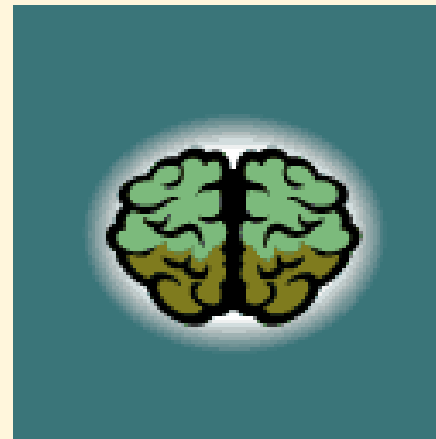
computer

- 电脑
- diànnǎo
- n



brain

- 脑
- não
- n



noon

- 中午
- zhōngwǔ
- n



dining room, cafeteria

- 餐厅
- cāntīng
- n



lunch, midday meal

- 午饭
- wǔfàn
- n



to go online; to surf the internet

- 上网
- shàng wǎng
- vo



there

- 那儿
- nàr
- pr

in the middle of (doing something)

- 正在
- zhèngzài
- adv

before

- 以前
- yǐqián
- t

to tell

- 告诉
- gàosu
- v

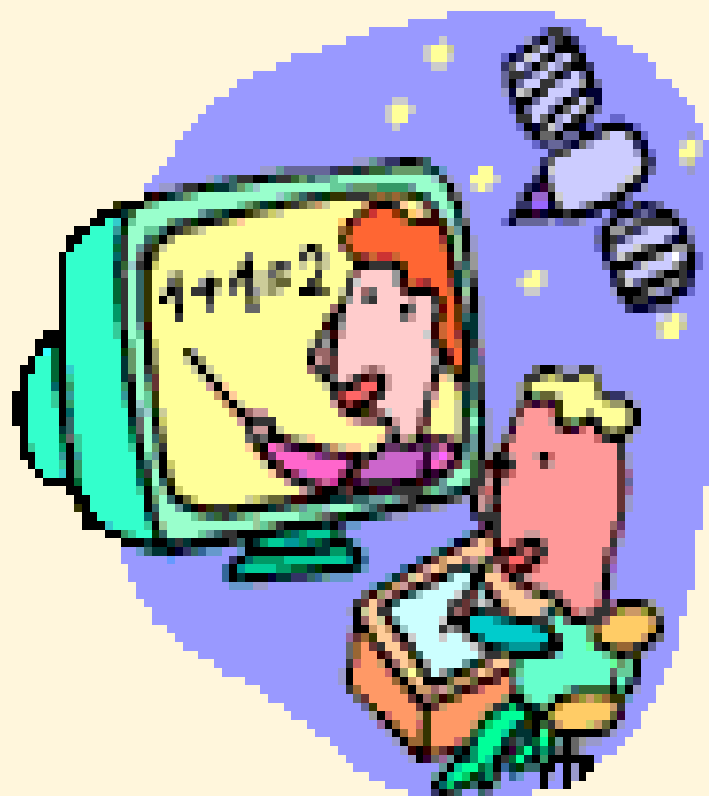


already

- 已经
- yǐjīng
- adv

to know

- 知道
- zhīdao
- v



1.	篇	piān	m	(measure word for essays, articles, etc.)
2.	日记	rìjì	n	diary
3.	累	lèi	adj	tired
4.	起床	qǐ chuáng	vo	to get up
	床	chuáng	n	bed

5.	洗澡	xǐ zǎo	vo	to take a bath/shower
6.	早饭	zǎofàn	n	breakfast
7.	一边	yìbiān	adv	simultaneously; at the same time [See Grammar 3.]
8.	教室	jiàoshì	n	classroom
9.	发音	fāyīn	n	pronunciation
10.	新	xīn	adj	new
11.	电脑	diànnǎo	n	computer
	脑	nǎo	n	brain

12.	中午	zhōngwǔ	n	noon
13.	餐厅	cāntīng	n	dining room, cafeteria
14.	午饭	wǔfàn	n	lunch, midday meal
15.	上网	shàng wǎng	vo	to go online; to surf the internet
16.	宿舍	sùshè	n	dormitory
17.	那儿	nàr	pr	there

18.	正在	zhèngzài	adv	in the middle of (doing something) [See Grammar 7.]
19.	以前	yǐqián	t	before
20.	告诉	gàosu	v	to tell
21.	已经	yǐjīng	adv	already
22.	知道	zhīdao	v	to know

Dialogue I : A Diary: A Typical School Day

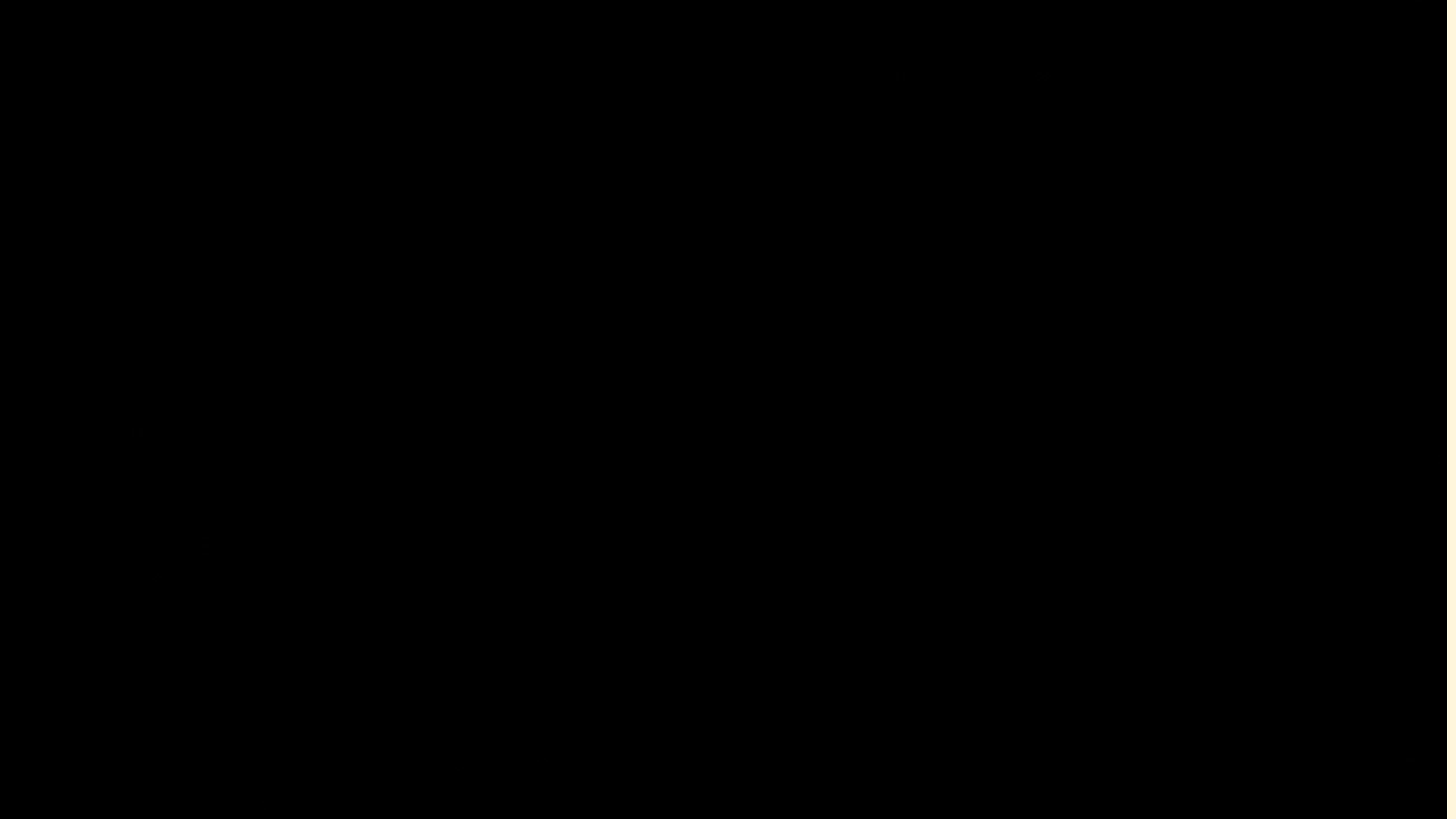
An Entry from Li You's Diary

November 3, Tuesday

I was very busy and tired today. I got up at seven-thirty this morning. After taking a shower, I had breakfast. While I was eating, I listened to the sound recording. I went to the classroom at nine o'clock.

The first period was Chinese. The teacher taught us pronunciation, new vocabulary, and grammar. The teacher also taught us how to write Chinese characters, and gave us a new text. The text was very interesting. The second period was Computer Science. It was very difficult.

At noon I went to the cafeteria with my classmates for lunch. While we were eating, we practiced speaking Chinese. In the afternoon I went to the library to go online. At four o'clock, Wang Peng came looking for me to play ball. I had dinner at a quarter to six. At seven-thirty, I went to Bai Ying'ai's dorm for a chat. When I got there, she was doing her homework. I got home at eight-thirty. Before I went to bed, Gao Wenzhong called. He told me there'd be an exam tomorrow. I said I already knew that.





Dialogue I : A Diary: A Typical School Day

李友的一篇日记

十一月三日 星期二

今天我很忙，很累。早上
七点半起床^①，洗了澡以后就^②吃
早饭。我一边吃饭，一边^③听录
音。九点到教室去上课^④。

Lǐ Yǒu de yì piān rìjì

Shíyīyuè sānrì, xīngqīèr

Jīntiān wǒ hěn máng, hěn lèi. Zǎoshang qī diǎn bàn qǐ chuáng^①, xǐ le zǎo yǐhòu jiù^② chī zǎofàn. Wǒ yìbiān chī fàn, yìbiān^③ tīng lùyīn. Jiǔ diǎn dào jiàoshì qù shàng kè^④.

Dialogue I : A Diary: A Typical School Day

第一节课是中文，老师教我们发音、生词和语法，也教我们写字，还给了^⑤ 我们一篇新课文^⑥，这篇课文很有意思。第二节是电脑^①课，很难。

Dì yī jié kè shì Zhōngwén, lǎoshī jiāo wǒmen fāyīn, shēngcí hé yǔfǎ, yě jiāo wǒmen xiě zì, hái gěi le^⑤ wǒmen yì piān xīn kèwén^⑥, zhè piān kèwén hěn yǒu yìsi. Dì èr jié shì diànnǎo^① kè, hěn nán.

Dialogue I : A Diary: A Typical School Day

中午我和同学们一起到餐厅去吃午饭。我们一边吃，一边练习说中文。下午我到图书馆去上网。四点王朋来找我打球。五点三刻吃晚饭。七点半我去白英爱的宿舍跟她聊天(儿)。到那儿的时候，她**正在**⑦做功课。我八点半回家。睡觉以前，高文中给我打了一个电话，告诉我明天要考试，我说我已经知道了。

Zhōngwǔ wǒ hé tóngxué men yìqǐ dào cāntīng qù chī wǔfàn. Wǒmen yìbiān chī, yìbiān liànxí shuō Zhōngwén. Xiàwǔ wǒ dào túshūguǎn qù shàng wǎng. Sì diǎn Wáng Péng lái zhǎo wǒ dǎ qiú. Wǔ diǎn sān kè chī wǎnfàn. Qī diǎn bàn wǒ qù Bái Yīng'ài de sùshè gēn tā liáo tiān(r). Dào nàr de shíhou, tā **zhèngzài**⑦ zuò gōngkè. Wǒ bā diǎn bàn huí jiā. Shuì jiào yǐqián, Gāo Wénzhōng gěi wǒ dǎ le yí ge diànhuà, gàosu wǒ míngtiān yào kǎoshì, wǒ shuō wǒ yǐjīng zhīdao le.

Dialogue I : A Diary: A Typical School Day

第一节课是中文，老师教我们发音、生词和语法，也教我们写字，还给了^⑤我们一篇新课文^⑥，这篇课文很有意思。第二节是电脑^①课，很难。

LANGUAGE NOTE

① The usual colloquial term for a computer is 电脑 (diànnǎo), literally, "electric brain." A more formal term, especially in mainland China, is 电子计算机 (diànzǐ jìsuànjī) or "electronic computing machine," or simply 计算机 (jìsuànjī). But in Taiwan 计算机 (jìsuànjī) means a calculator. In mainland China, a calculator is called 计算器 (jìsuànjì).

Dialogue I : Grammar

1. The Position of Time-When Expressions

Time-when expressions come before the verb. They often appear after the subject. However, they sometimes precede the subject under certain discourse conditions. In this lesson, we focus on practicing the ones positioned after the subject.

Dialogue I : Grammar

① 我们十点上课。

Wǒmen shí diǎn shàng kè.

(We start the class at ten.)

② 我们几点去？

Wǒmen jǐ diǎn qù?

(What time are we going?)

③ 你什么时候睡觉？

Nǐ shénme shíhou shuì jiào?

(What time do you go to bed?)

④ 他明天上午八点来。

Tā míngtiān shàngwǔ bā diǎn lái.

(He will come at eight tomorrow morning.)

Dialogue I : Grammar

2. The Adverb 就 (jiù) (II)

[See also Grammar 3 in Lesson 7.]

The adverb 就 (jiù) connecting two verbs or verb phrases indicates that the second action happens as soon as the first one is completed.

Dialogue I : Grammar

① 他今天早上起床以后就听中文录音了。

Tā jīntiān zǎoshang qǐ chuáng yǐhòu jiù tīng Zhōngwén lùyīn le.

(He listened to the Chinese recordings right after he got up this morning.)

② 王朋写了信以后就去睡觉了。

Wáng Péng xiě le xìn yǐhòu jiù qù shuì jiào le.

(Wang Peng went to bed right after he had finished writing the letter.)

③ 我做了功课以后就去朋友家玩儿。

Wǒ zuò le gōngkè yǐhòu jiù qù péngyou jiā wánr.

(I will go to my friend's for a visit right after I finish my homework.)

Dialogue I : Grammar

3. 一边...一边... (yìbiān...yìbiān...)

This structure denotes the simultaneity of two ongoing actions. In general, the word or phrase for the action that started earlier follows the first 一边 (yìbiān), while that for the action that started later follows the second 一边 (yìbiān).

Dialogue I : Grammar

action that started later follows the second 一边 (yibian).

① 我们一边吃饭，一边练习说中文。

Wǒmen yìbiān chī fàn, yìbiān liànxí shuō Zhōngwén.

(We practiced speaking Chinese while having dinner.)

② 他常常一边吃饭一边看电视。

Tā chángcháng yìbiān chī fàn yìbiān kàn diànshì.

(He often eats and watches TV at the same time.)

Dialogue I : Grammar

Generally, the verb that follows the first 一边 (yìbiān) indicates the principal action for the moment, while the one that follows the second 一边 (yìbiān) denotes an accompanying action.

③ 我一边洗澡一边唱歌。

Wǒ yìbiān xǐ zǎo, yìbiān chàng gē.

(I sang while taking a shower.)

④ 我妹妹喜欢一边看书一边听音乐。

Wǒ mèimei xǐhuan yìbiān kàn shū, yìbiān tīng yīnyuè.

(My younger sister loves listening to music while she reads.)

Dialogue

B. 一边...一边... (yìbiān...yìbiān...)

Look at the pictures given, and practice how to describe two simultaneous actions.

EXAMPLE: 他们



Tāmen

→ 他们一边聊天儿，
一边喝茶。

Tāmen yìbiān liáo tiānr,
yìbiān hē chá.

1. 王小姐



Wáng xiǎojiě

2. 高先生



Gāo xiānsheng

3. 小李



Xiǎo Lǐ

4. 小白



Xiǎo Bái

Dialogue I : Grammar

4. Series of Verbs/Verb Phrases

A number of verbs or verb phrases can be used in succession to represent a series of actions. The sequential order of these verbs or verb phrases usually coincides with the temporal order of the actions.

Dialogue I : Grammar

① 他常常去高小音家吃饭。

Tā chángcháng qù Gāo Xiǎoyīn jiā chī fàn.

(He often goes to eat at Gao Xiaoyin's place.)

② 下午我要到图书馆去看书。

Xiàwǔ wǒ yào dào túshūguǎn qù kàn shū.

(This afternoon I will go to the library to read.)

③ 我明天想找同学去打球。

Wǒ míngtiān xiǎng zhǎo tóngxué qù dǎ qiú.

(I'd like to find some classmates to play ball with me tomorrow.)

④ 你明天来我家吃晚饭吧。

Nǐ míngtiān lái wǒ jiā chī wǎnfàn ba.

(Come and have dinner at my house tomorrow.)

Dialogue I : Grammar

C. Subject + Verb 1+ Verb 2

Turn the following words into sentences.

EXAMPLE: 王朋 ◇ 小高家 ◇ 吃饭

→ 王朋到小高家去吃饭。

or 王朋去小高家吃饭。

1. 我弟弟 ◇ 图书馆 ◇ 看书

2. 他 ◇ 教室 ◇ 练习发音

3. 李友 ◇ 同学的宿舍
◇ 聊天儿

4. 小白 ◇ 学校 ◇ 听录音

Wáng Péng ◇ Xiǎo Gāo jiā ◇ chī fàn

Wáng Péng dào Xiǎo Gāo jiā qù
chī fàn.

or Wáng Péng qù Xiǎo Gāo jiā chī fàn.

1. Wǒ dìdi ◇ túshūguǎn ◇ kàn shū

2. Tā ◇ jiàoshì ◇ liànxí fāyīn

3. Lǐ Yǒu ◇ tóngxué de sùshè
◇ liáo tiānr

4. Xiǎo Bái ◇ xuéxiào ◇ tīng lùyīn

Dialogue I : Grammar

5. The Particle 了 (le) (II)

[See also Lesson 5 Grammar 5 and Lesson 11 Grammar 2.]

If a statement enumerates a series of realized actions or events, 了 (le) usually appears at the end of the series, rather than after each of the verbs.

昨天第一节课是中文。老师教我们发音、
生词和语法，也教我们写字，还给了我们
一篇新课文。那篇课文很有意思。

Zuótiān dì yī jié kè shì Zhōngwén. Lǎoshī jiāo wǒmen fāyīn,

shēngcí hé yǔfǎ, yě jiāo wǒmen xiě zì, hái gěi le wǒmen

yì piān xīn kèwén. Nà piān kèwén hěn yǒu yìsi.

(Yesterday the first class was Chinese. Our teacher taught us pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar, taught us how to write characters, and gave us a new text. That text was very interesting.)

Dialogue I : Grammar

6. The Particle 的 (III)

When a disyllabic or polysyllabic adjective modifies a noun, the particle 的 (de) is usually inserted between the adjective and the noun, e.g. 漂亮的学校 (piàoliang de xuéxiào, beautiful schools), 容易的汉字 (róngyì de Hànzì, easy characters), 有意思的电影 (yǒu yìsi de diànyǐng, interesting movies). However, with monosyllabic adjectives, 的 (de) is often omitted, e.g., 新课文 (xīn kèwén, new lesson texts), 新电脑 (xīn diànnǎo, new computers), 大教室 (dà jiàoshì, big classrooms); 好老师 (hǎo lǎoshī, good teachers). If the adjective is preceded by 很 (hěn), however, 的 (de) cannot be dropped, e.g., 很新的电脑 (hěn xīn de diànnǎo, very new computers); 很大的教室 (hěn dà de jiàoshì, very big classrooms); 很好的老师 (hěn hǎo de lǎoshī, very good teachers).

Dialogue I : Grammar

7. The Adverb 正在 (zhèngzài, be doing...)

The adverb 正在 (zhèngzài) denotes an ongoing or progressive action at a certain point of time.
It is more emphatic than 在 (zài) when it serves the same function.

Dialogue I : Grammar

① A: 李友，你在做什么？

Lǐ Yǒu, nǐ zài zuò shénme?

(Li You, what are you doing?)

B: 我在练习写汉字。

Wǒ zài liànxí xiě Hànzì.

(I'm practicing writing Chinese characters.)

② 我们现在正在上课，你别打电话。

Wǒmen xiànzài zhèngzài shàng kè, nǐ bié dǎ diànhuà.

(We are having a class right now. Don't make phone calls.)

Dialogue I : Grammar

③ 我昨天到他宿舍的时候，他正在练习发音。

Wǒ zuótiān dào tā sùshè de shíhou, tā zhèngzài liànxí fāyīn.

(When I got to his dorm yesterday, he was in the middle of practicing pronunciation.)

④ A: 你知道不知道王老师在哪儿？

Nǐ zhīdao bù zhīdao Wáng lǎoshī zài nǎr?

(Do you know where Teacher Wang is?)

B: 他正在办公室开会。

Tā zhèngzài bàngōngshì kāi huì.

(He is having a meeting in his office.)

Dialogue I : Grammar

E. 正在... (zhèngzài ...)

Practice with your partner how to ask and describe what they are doing based on the pictures provided.



→ A: 他正在做什么？
B: 他正在睡觉。

A: Tā zhèngzài zuò shénme?

B: Tā zhèngzài shuì jiào.

