

闪 Shǎn

Lesson 三 Notes

These notes follow no particular order, since they follow the things as they come up in the lesson.

Yíxià

“To ... for a moment”, can be used with many different verbs. In Dutch it finds a good translation with “eventjes”. This construction however, 我问一下 can also be created with other phrasing:

问一下	wèn yíxià
问问	wèn wèn
问一问	wèn yī wèn

This can mean to “tentatively do”, “do shortly”, or “do leisurely”.

我问一下 Let me ask for a minute.
I'll go ask.

Pronunciation

口 in front of a word means that this character is just there for the sound. The characters in 咖啡 for example, do not mean much on their own.

So, therefore, aha!

A word that often added to sentences is 就 (jiù). It is often used to put emphasis on what you mean, or to express that you understand something. A translation in Dutch is “dus”.

啊，您就是张教授 à, nín jiù shì Zhāng jiàoshòu.

Phrases

也可以说 yě kěyǐ shuō you can also say.

还 hái still

我是学生，你也是学生。还有他，他也是学生。

wǒ shì xuésheng, nǐ yě shì xuésheng. hái yǒu tā, tā yě shì xuésheng.

I am a student, you are also a student. Then there still is him, he too is a student.

他工作是老师。 tā gōngzuò shì lǎoshī. he works as a teacher.

他在哪儿工作？ tā zài nǎr gōngzuò? where does he work.

(Notice how the place comes before the main verb.

他工作在北京 tā gōngzuò zài Běijīng. he works in Beijing.

张教授在哪儿工作？ Zhāng jiàoshuò zài nǎr gōngzuò?

他在语言学院工作。 tā zài yǔyán xuéyuàn gōngzuò.

他们也工作吗？ tāmen yě gōngzuò ma? do they work too?

他们不工作。 tāmen bù gōngzuò.

他们两个人是学生。 tāmen liǎng gè rén shì xuésheng.

I am ... ing

You can make a sentence about something that is going on using 在 and 呢.

林娜在学习汉语呢 lín nà zài xuéxi Hànyǔ ne. Lin na is studying Chinese.

我在写汉字呢 wǒ zài xiě hànzì ne I am writing Chinese characters

Using 的

的 can be used in many places. It serves as a pause in a sentence, indicates possession, but there are rules to how it is used. When it can come between multiple words in a row, such as “a student of the institute of languages” (语言学院的学生) it only occurs once, at the end.

It does not occur with close relations or with a geographical reference:

我爸爸, 我妈妈 wǒ bàba, wǒ māma

我父亲, 我母亲 wǒ fùqīn, wǒ mǔqīn

中国文学 zhōngguó wénxué Chinese literature

中国老师 zhōngguó lǎoshī A Chinese teacher (nationality)

中文老师 zhōngwén lǎoshī A teacher of Chinese language

Phrases

我来看一下 wǒ lái kàn yíxià Let me take a look.

这就是不是你的朋友？ zhè jiù shì bù shì nǐ de péngyou?

我没有问题 wǒ méi yǒuwèntí I don't have questions.

请你问一下王小姐他是不是北京人？

qǐng nǐ wèn yíxià wáng xiǎojiě tā shì bù shì Běijīng rén

Could you ask miss Wang if she is from Beijing?