

# Transportation

## LESSON 10

### 第十课

Dì shí kè

### 交通

Jiāotōng



#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

- Comment about several means of transportation;
- Explain how to travel from one station to another;
- Describe a traffic route;
- Express your gratitude after receiving a personal favor;
- Offer New Year's wishes.

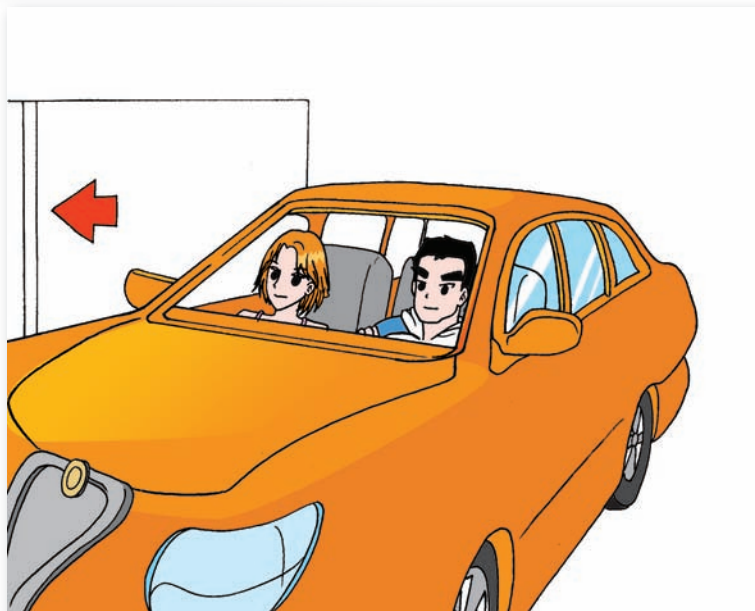


#### RELATE AND GET READY

In your own culture/community,

1. What is the most popular means of public transportation?
2. Can people hail a taxi on the street easily or do they have to call one by phone?
3. How do people express their gratitude?
4. What do people say to each other on the New Year?

## Dialogue: Going Home for the Winter Vacation



李友，寒假你回家吗？

对，我要回家。

飞机票你买了<sup>①</sup>吗？

已经买了。是二十一  
号的。

飞机是几点的？

晚上八点的。

你怎么去<sup>①</sup>机场？

我想坐公共汽车或者<sup>②</sup>  
坐地铁。你知道怎么走<sup>①</sup>吗？

## LANGUAGE NOTES

- ① 怎么去 (zěnmē qù) asks  
the means of transportation  
and 怎么走 (zěnmē zǒu)  
asks the detailed route or  
directions.



你先坐一路汽车，坐三站下车，然后换地铁。先坐红线，再<sup>③</sup>换绿线，最后换蓝线。



不行，不行，太麻烦了。我还是<sup>④</sup>打车<sup>②</sup>吧。



出租汽车太贵，我开车送你去吧。



谢谢你。



不用客气。

② Taxicabs are called 计程车 (jìchéng chē, metered cars) in Taiwan but 出租(汽)车 (chūzū {qì}chē) in mainland China. To take a taxi is 打车 (dǎ chē).



地铁站  
dìtiě zhàn



Lǐ Yǒu, hánjià nǐ huí jiā ma?



Duì, wǒ yào huí jiā.



Fēijī piào nǐ mǎi le ma<sup>①</sup>?



Yǐjīng mǎi le. Shì èrshíyī hào de.



Fēijī shì jǐ diǎn de?



Wǎnshang bā diǎn de.



Nǐ zěnmē qù<sup>①</sup> jīchǎng?



Wǒ xiǎng zuò gōnggòng qìchē huòzhě<sup>②</sup> zuò dìtiě.  
Nǐ zhīdao zěnmē zǒu<sup>①</sup> ma?



Nǐ xiān zuò yī lù qìchē, zuò sān zhàn xià chē,  
ránhòu huàn dìtiě. Xiān zuò hóng xiàn, zài<sup>③</sup> huàn  
lǜ xiàn, zuìhòu huàn lán xiàn.



Bù xíng, bù xíng, tài máfan le. Wǒ háishi<sup>④</sup> dǎ chē<sup>②</sup> ba.



Chūzū qìchē tài guì, wǒ kāi chē sòng nǐ qù ba.



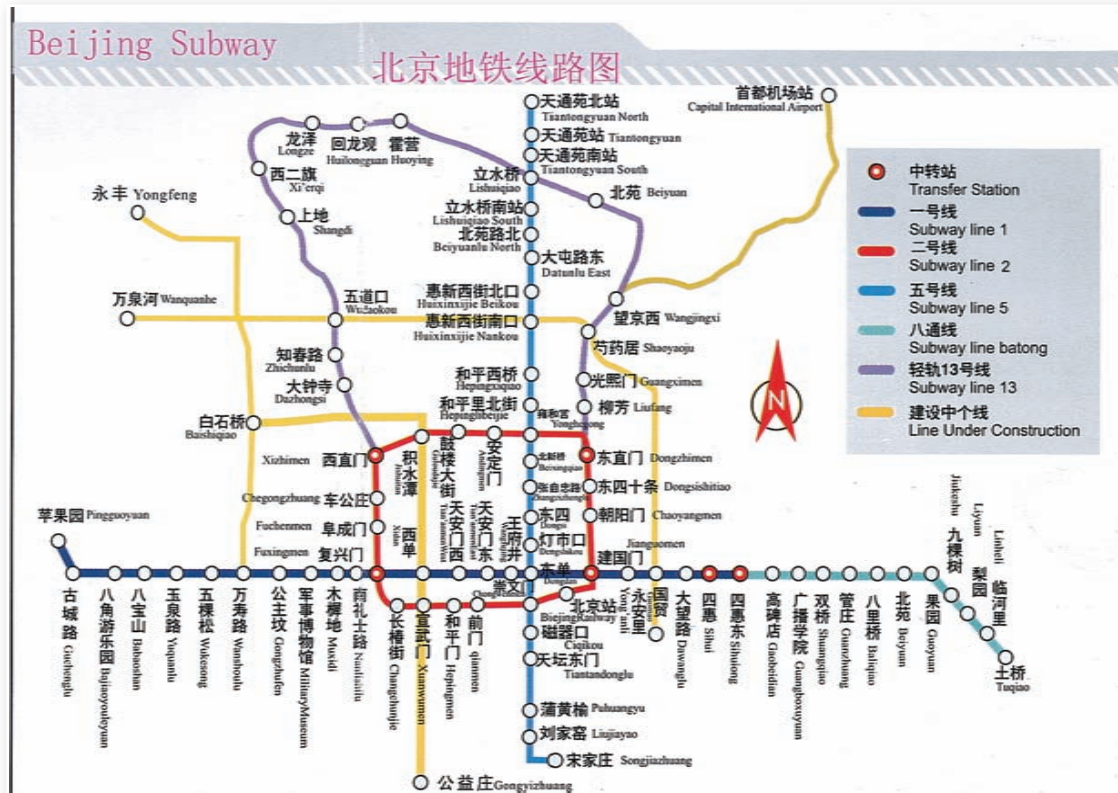
Xièxie nǐ.



Búyòng kèqì.



在这儿打车  
zài zhèr dǎ chē



## VOCABULARY

- |          |                |     |                 |
|----------|----------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1. 寒假    | hánjià         | n   | winter vacation |
| 2. 飞机    | fēijī          | n   | airplane        |
| 飞        | fēi            | v   | to fly          |
| 机        | jī             | n   | machine         |
| 3. 票     | piào           | n   | ticket          |
| 4. (飞)机场 | (fēi)jīchǎng   | n   | airport         |
| 5. 坐     | zuò            | v   | to travel by    |
| 6. 公共汽车  | gōnggòng qìchē | n   | bus             |
| 公共       | gōnggòng       | adj | public          |
| 汽车       | qìchē          | n   | automobile      |
| 车        | chē            | n   | vehicle; car    |



## VOCABULARY

7.	或者	huòzhě	conj	or [See Grammar 2.]
8.	地铁	dìtiě	n	subway
9.	走	zǒu	v	to go by way of; to walk
10.	先	xiān	adv	first [See Grammar 3.]
11.	站	zhàn	m	(measure word for stops of bus, train, etc.)
12.	下车	xià chē	vo	to get off (a bus, train, etc.)
13.	然后	ránhòu	adv	then
14.	绿	lǜ	adj	green
15.	线	xiàn	n	line
16.	最后	zuìhòu		final; last
17.	蓝	lán	adj	blue
18.	麻烦	máfan	adj	troublesome
19.	打车	dǎ chē	vo	to take a taxi
20.	出租汽车	chūzū qìchē	n	taxi
	出租	chūzū	v	to rent out; to let
	租	zū	v	to rent
21.	开车	kāi chē	vo	to drive a car
	开	kāi	v	to drive; to operate
22.	送	sòng	v	to see off or out; to take (someone somewhere)





北京机场

Běijīng jīchǎng



这张公共汽车票多少钱？

Zhè zhāng gōnggòng qìchē piào duōshao qián?

## Grammar

### 1. Topic-Comment Sentences

When a noun or noun phrase has become established as a known element in a conversation, it can occur at the beginning of the sentence as the “topic,” with the rest of the sentence functioning as a “comment” on it. This forms what is known as a “topic-comment sentence.” In such a sentence the object of the verb can be brought forward to serve as the topic of the sentence.

① A: 我昨天买了一枝笔。

Wǒ zuótiān mǎi le yì zhī bǐ.

(I bought a pen yesterday.)

B: 那枝笔你用了吗？

Nà zhī bǐ nǐ yòng le ma?

(Have you used that pen?)

② A: 你知道我的衬衫在哪儿吗?

Nǐ zhīdao wǒ de chènshān zài nǎr ma?

(Do you know where my shirt is?)

B: 你的衬衫我给你妈妈了。

Nǐ de chènshān wǒ gěi nǐ māma le.

(I gave your shirt to your mother.)

③ A: 你有朋友吗?

Nǐ yǒu péngyou ma?

(Do you have friends?)

B: 朋友我有很多，可是都不在这儿。

Péngyou wǒ yǒu hěn duō, kěshì dōu bú zài zhèr.

(I have many friends, but none of them are here.)

④ 她不想去纽约，可是飞机票她妈妈已经帮她买了。

Tā bù xiǎng qù Niǔyuē, kěshì fēijī piào tā māma yǐjīng bāng tā mǎi le.

(She does not want to go to New York, but her mother has already bought the airplane ticket for her.)

## 2. 或者 (huòzhě, or) and 还是 (háishi, or)

While both 或者 (huòzhě, or) and 还是 (háishi, or) link up two words or phrases that indicate different alternatives, the former usually appears in statements, the latter in questions.

① A: 你今天晚上做什么?

Nǐ jīntiān wǎnshang zuò shénme?

(What are you going to do tonight?)

B: 听音乐或者看电影。

Tīng yīnyuè huòzhě kàn diànyǐng.

(Listen to music or watch a movie.)

2 A: 你周末想看电影还是跳舞？

Nǐ zhōumò xiǎng kàn diànyǐng hái shì tiào wǔ?

(Would you like to see a movie or go dancing this weekend?)

B: 看电影或者跳舞都行。

Kàn diànyǐng huòzhě tiào wǔ dōu xíng.

(Either seeing a movie or going dancing would be fine with me.)

3 A: 你喜欢什么颜色的鞋？黑色的还是咖啡色的？

Nǐ xǐhuan shénme yánsè de xié? Hēisè de hái shì kāfēisè de?

(What color shoes do you like? Black or brown ones?)

B: 黑色的或者咖啡色的我都不喜欢，我喜欢白的。

Hēisè de huòzhě kāfēisè de wǒ dōu bù xǐhuan, wǒ xǐhuan bái de.

(I don't like either black or brown; I like white ones.)

4 明天你去开会或者他去开会都可以。

Míngtiān nǐ qù kāi huì huòzhě tā qù kāi huì dōu kěyǐ.

(Either you or he may attend tomorrow's meeting.)

3. 先…再… (xiān...zài..., first..., then...)

Sometimes 再 (zài) indicates a sequence of actions rather than a repetition. 先看电影再吃饭 (xiān kàn diànyǐng zài chī fàn, first go to the movie, then eat) means 看电影以后吃饭 (kàn diànyǐng yǐhòu chī fàn, eat after seeing the movie).

MORE EXAMPLES:

1 A: 你什么时候给妈妈打电话？

Nǐ shénme shíhou gěi māma dǎ diànhuà?

(When are you going to call Mom?)



**B:** 下课以后再打。

Xià kè yǐhòu zài dǎ.

(I'll call after class.)

**2** 我想先打球再去图书馆。

Wǒ xiǎng xiān dǎ qiú zài qù túshūguǎn.

(I'd like to play ball and then go to the library.)

**3 A:** 弟弟常常先做功课再上网聊天儿。

Dìdi chángcháng xiān zuò gōngkè zài shàng wǎng liáo tiānr.

(My little brother often does his homework first and then chats online.)

As adverbs, 先 (xiān) and 再 (zài) must come immediately before a verb. They cannot be placed in front of the subject.

**4** 小王先买东西再吃晚饭。

Xiǎo Wáng xiān mǎi dōngxi zài chī wǎnfàn.

(Little Wang will shop first before having dinner.)

**(4a)** \*先小王买东西再吃晚饭。

\*Xiān Xiǎo Wáng mǎi dōngxi zài chī wǎnfàn.

#### 4. 还是…(吧) (háishi...{ba}, had better)

The structure 还是…(吧) (háishi...{ba}, had better) can be used to signify making a selection after considering two or more options. Sometimes in making such a decision one is forced to give up one's preference.

**1 A:** 你说，明天看电影还是看球？

Nǐ shuō, míngtiān kàn diànyǐng hái shì kàn qiú?

(What do you think we should watch tomorrow, a movie or a ball game?)

**B:** 还是看电影吧。

Háishi kàn diànyǐng ba.

(Let's see a movie.)

② A: 我的车有问题。怎么办？

Wǒ de chē yǒu wèntí. Zěnmé bàn?

(There is a problem with my car. What shall we do?)

B: 那别去听音乐会了。我们还是在家看电视吧。

Nà bié qù tīng yīnyuèhuì le. Wǒmen háishi zài jiā kàn diànshì ba.

(Let's not go to the concert then. We'd better stay home and watch TV.)

## Language Practice

### A. Topic-Comment Sentence

A brings up a piece of new information. That piece of information then becomes known/old information, or the topic of B's response. Let's practice.

EXAMPLE: A: 你喜欢我的

这件衣服吗？✗

A: Nǐ xǐhuan wǒ de

zhè jiàn yīfu ma? ✗

B: 这件衣服我不喜欢。

B: Zhè jiàn yīfu wǒ bù xǐhuan.

1. A: 你会不会上网？✓

1. A: Nǐ huì bu huì shàng wǎng? ✓

2. A: 你复习课文了吗？✓

2. A: Nǐ fùxí kèwén le ma? ✓

3. A: 你现在想不想

喝咖啡？✗

3. A: Nǐ xiànzài xiǎng bu xiǎng

hē kāfēi? ✗

4. A: 你认识白英爱吗？✗

4. A: Nǐ rènshi Bái Yīng'ài ma? ✗

### B. 或者 vs. 还是 (huòzhě vs. háishi)

Practice with a partner how to offer choices and how to be diplomatic or accommodating when answering.

EXAMPLE: 今天晚上做什么

听音乐/看电视

jīntiān wǎnshang zuò shénme

tīng yīnyuè/kàn diànshì

→ A: 我们今天晚上做什么? 听音乐  
还是看电视?

B: 听音乐或者  
看电视都行。

1. 明天下午做什么  
去打球/去跳舞
2. 明天晚上做什么  
去商店买东西/  
去朋友家聊天儿
3. 这个周末怎么去机场  
坐地铁/打车
4. 喝什么茶  
中国茶/英国茶
5. 买什么颜色的车  
蓝的/黑的

c. 先…再… (xiān...zài...)

Let's practice how to place two actions in order.



→ 我先吃早饭，  
再去图书馆学习。

→ A: Wǒmen jīntiān wǎnshang zuò  
shénme? Tīng yīnyuè  
háishi kàn diànshì?

B: Tīng yīnyuè huòzhě  
kàn diànshì dōu xíng.

1. míngtiān xiàwǔ zuò shénme  
qù dǎ qiú/qù tiào wǔ
2. míngtiān wǎnshang zuò shénme  
qù shāngdiàn mǎi dōngxi/  
qù péngyou jiā liáo tiānr
3. zhège zhōumò zěnmē qù jīchǎng  
zuò dìtiě/dǎ chē
4. hē shénme chá  
Zhōngguó chá/Yīngguó chá
5. mǎi shénme yánsè de chē  
lán de/hēi de

Wǒ xiān chī zǎofàn,  
zài qù túshūguǎn xuéxí.



### D. 还是...吧 (háishi...ba)

With a partner, practice persuading each other to accept an alternative.

EXAMPLE: 听音乐 ◇ 复习生词语法

tīng yīnyuè ◇ fùxí shēngcí yǔfǎ

→ A: 我们听音乐，好吗？

→ A: Wǒmen tīng yīnyuè, hǎo ma?

B: 我们**还是**复习生词  
语法**吧**。

B: Wǒmen **háishi** fùxí shēngcí  
yǔfǎ **ba**.

1. 坐地铁去机场 ◇ 开车

1. zuò dìtiě qù jīchǎng ◇ kāi chē

2. 坐公共汽车去  
买东西 ◇ 打车

2. zuò gōnggòng qìchē qù  
mǎi dōngxi ◇ dǎ chē

3. 刷卡 ◇ 别用信用卡

3. shuā kǎ ◇ bié yòng xìnyòngkǎ

4. 买黑色的衬衫 ◇  
买红色的

4. mǎi hēisè de chènshān ◇  
mǎi hóngsè de

5. 学中文专业 ◇  
学电脑专业

5. xué Zhōngwén zhuānyè ◇  
xué diànnǎo zhuānyè

### E. Take turns directing your friend to...

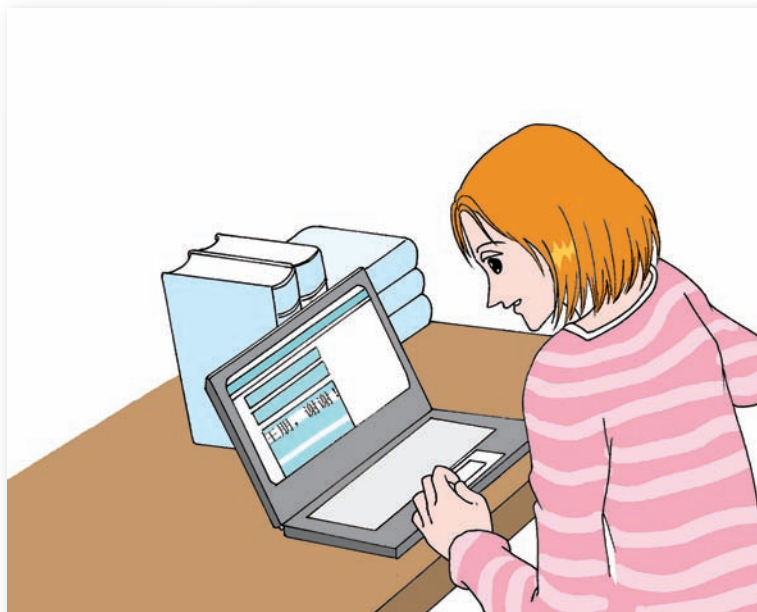
1. **Mr. Wang's office:** Take the subway – the Red Line. Get off after 5 stops.
2. **Mary's house:** Take Bus #5. Get off after 4 stops. Then change to the subway. Take the Green Line first and then switch to the Red Line. Get off after 6 stops.
3. **Mark's school:** Take Bus # 29. Get off after 6 stops. Then switch to the subway. Take the Red Line first and then switch to the Blue Line. Get off after 3 stops.



This is a sign found at a bus stop. Can you locate the words meaning "getting on" and "getting off"?



## An Email: Thanking Someone for a Ride

电子邮件<sup>①</sup>

Date: 2008年12月20日

From: 李友

To: 王朋

Subject: 谢谢!

王朋:

谢谢你那天开车送我到机场。不过，让你花那么多时间，真不好意思。我这几天每天都<sup>⑤</sup>开车出去看老朋友。这个城市的人开车开得特别快。我在高速公路上开车，真有点儿紧张。可是这儿没

## LANGUAGE NOTE

① The Chinese word for email, 电子邮件 (diànzǐ yóujiàn), literally means electronic mail. It is sometimes abbreviated as 电邮 (diàn yóu). More informal Chinese terms for email include 伊妹儿 (yīmèier) and 伊媚儿 (yīmèier); both are facetious transliterations of "email."

有公共汽车，也没有地铁，只能自己开车，很不方便。

有空儿的话打我的手机或者给我发短信，我想跟你聊天儿。

新年快要到了<sup>⑥</sup>，祝你新年快乐！

李友

Diànzǐ yóujiàn<sup>①</sup>

Date: 2008 nián 12 yuè 20 rì

From: Lǐ Yǒu

To: Wáng Péng

Subject: Xièxie!

Wáng Péng:

Xièxie nǐ nà tiān kāi chē sòng wǒ dào jīchǎng. Búguò, ràng nǐ huā nàme duō shíjiān, zhēn bù hǎoyìsi. Wǒ zhè jǐ tiān měi tiān dōu<sup>⑤</sup> kāi chē chūqu kàn lǎo péngyou. Zhè ge chéngshì de rén kāi chē kāi de tèbié kuài. Wǒ zài gāosù gōnglù shang kāi chē, zhēn yǒudiǎn(r) jǐnzhāng. Kěshì zhèr méiyǒu gōnggòng qìchē, yě méiyǒu dìtiě, zhǐ néng zìjǐ kāi chē, hěn bù fāngbiàn.

Yǒu kòng de huà dǎ wǒ de shǒujī huòzhě gěi wǒ fā duǎnxìn, wǒ xiǎng gēn nǐ liáo tiānr.

Xīnnián kuài yào dào le<sup>⑥</sup>, zhù nǐ xīnnián kuàilè!

Lǐ Yǒu



## VOCABULARY

- |         |                |     |  |
|---------|----------------|-----|--|
| 1. 电子邮件 | diànzǐ yóujiàn | n   | email  |
| 电子      | diànzǐ         | n   | electron   |
| 2. 让    | ràng           | v   | to allow or cause (somebody to do something)           |
| 3. 花    | huā            | v   | to spend   |
| 4. 不好意思 | bù hǎoyìsi     |     | to feel embarrassed                                    |
| 6. 每    | měi            | pr  | every; each [See Grammar 5.]                           |
| 7. 城市   | chéngshì       | n   | city   |
| 8. 特别   | tèbié          | adv | especially   |
| 9. 高速公路 | gāosù gōnglù   | n   | highway  |
| 高速      | gāosù          | adj | high speed   |
| 公路      | gōnglù         | n   | highway; public road                                   |
| 路       | lù             | n   | road; path   |
| 10. 紧张  | jǐnzhāng       | adj | nervous, anxious                                       |
| 11. 自己  | zìjǐ           | pr  | oneself  |
| 12. 手机  | shǒujī         | n   | cell phone   |
| 13. 发短信 | fā duǎnxìn     | vo  | to send a text message; (lit.) to send a short message |
| 14. 新年  | xīnnián        | n   | new year   |
| 15. 快乐  | kuàilè         | adj | happy  |



中国的一个城市  
Zhōngguó de yí ge chéngshì



Describe the modes of transportation above.

## Grammar

### 5. 每…都… (měi...dōu..., every)

In a sentence that contains the term 每 (měi, every), usually 都 (dōu, all) has to be inserted further along in the sentence, immediately in front of the verb.

#### ① 他每天晚上都预习课文。

Tā měi tiān wǎnshang dōu yùxí kèwén.

(He studies the lessons in advance every night.)

#### ② 我每节课都来。

Wǒ měi jié kè dōu lái.

(I come to every class.)

#### ③ 这儿每个人我都认识。

Zhèr měi ge rén wǒ dōu rènshi.

(I know everyone here.)

#### ④ 常老师的字每个都好看。

Cháng lǎoshī de zì měi ge dōu hǎokàn.

(Every one of Teacher Chang's characters looks nice.)

### 6. 要…了 (yào...le, soon)

The 要…了 (yào...le) structure indicates the imminence of an anticipated action or situation. It also appears in the form of 快要……了 (kuài yào...le).

# 1 新年快要到了，我们给爸爸妈妈写一封信吧。

Xīnnián kuài yào dào le, wǒmen gěi bàba māma xiě yì fēng xìn ba.

(New Year is around the corner. Let's write to Mom and Dad.)

# 2 寒假要到了，你要做什么？

Hánjià yào dào le, nǐ yào zuò shénme?

(It'll be winter break soon. What do you want to do?)

# 3 电影快要开始了，你买票了吗？

Diànyǐng kuài yào kāishǐ le, nǐ mǎi piào le ma?

(The movie is going to start soon. Did you get the tickets?)

# 4 快要考试了，我们大家得准备一下。

Kuài yào kǎo shì le, wǒmen dàjiā dēi zhǔnbèi yí xià.

(The exam is coming. We have to study for it.)

## Language Practice

### F. 每…都 (měi...dōu..., every)

Look at the words given, and tell each other how predictable Little Bai is.

EXAMPLE: 晚上 ◇ 复习生词语法 EXAMPLE: wǎnshang ◇ fùxí shēngcí yǔfǎ

→ 小白 每天 晚上 都  
复习生词语法。

→ Xiǎo Bái měi tiān wǎnshang dōu  
fùxí shēngcí yǔfǎ.

1. 早上 ◇ 洗澡

2. 衬衫 ◇ 是白色的

3. 裤子 ◇ 是三十二号的

4. 周末 ◇ 去商店买东西

5. 寒假 ◇ 坐飞机回家

1. zǎoshang ◇ xǐ zǎo

2. chènshān ◇ shì báisè de

3. kùzi ◇ shì sānshíèr hào de

4. zhōumò ◇ qù shāngdiàn mǎi dōngxi

5. hánjià ◇ zuò fēijī huí jiā



## G. Pair Activity

Is your partner a good driver? Find out!

你会开车吗？  
你每天都开车吗？  
你开车开得快不快？  
在高速公路上开车让你紧张吗？

Nǐ huì kāi chē ma?

Nǐ měitiān dōu kāi chē ma?

Nǐ kāi chē kāi de kuài bu kuài?

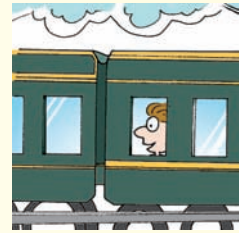
Zài gāosù gōnglù shang kāi chē ràng

nǐ jǐnzhāng ma?

## HOW ABOUT YOU?

How do you get around?

- |         |                |    |  |
|---------|----------------|----|--|
| 1. 走路   | zǒu lù         | vo | to walk                                      |
| 2. 坐火车  | zuò huǒchē     | vo | to travel by train                           |
| 3. 坐计程车 | zuò jìchéngchē | vo | to take a taxi (in Taiwan)                   |
| 4. 坐电车  | zuò diànchē    | vo | to take a cable car,<br>trolley bus, or tram |
| 5. 坐船   | zuò chuán      | vo | to travel by ship; to take a boat            |
| 6. 骑自行车 | qí zìxíngchē   | vo | to ride a bicycle                            |
| 7. 骑摩托车 | qí mótuōchē    | vo | to ride a motorcycle                         |



If the means of transportation of your choice is not listed above, ask your teacher and make a note here: \_\_\_\_\_

## Culture Highlights

- 1 Many taxi drivers in China, especially those in Beijing, are known to be very outgoing and talkative. If you go to China and your taxi driver happens to be a chatty one, it may be a good opportunity for you to learn about ordinary Chinese people's lives and their opinions on current affairs.
- 2 In China the railroad system has long constituted the principal means of travel and of transport in general. However, in recent years both the highway system and airline travel have expanded very rapidly. China now ranks second only to the United States in total miles of roadway in the highway system.
- 3 Chinese New Year, also known as 春节 (Chūnjié, Spring Festival), is the most important annual holiday in Chinese communities. It is determined by the lunar calendar and usually falls in late January or early February on the international solar calendar. However, nowadays the January 1 international New Year is also recognized. The most common New Year greetings are 新年好 (xīnnián hǎo) and 新年快乐 (xīnnián kuàilè), which can be used for both New Years, but for the Chinese New Year many people prefer the traditional greeting: 恭喜发财 (gōngxǐ fā cái). The phrase, which literally means "Congratulations and may you make a fortune," can be translated as "May you be happy and prosperous!"



What kind of tickets do they sell here?



## English Text

### Dialogue

Wang Peng: Are you going home during the winter break?

Li You: Yes, I am.

Wang Peng: Have you booked a plane ticket?

Li You: Yes, for the twenty-first.

Wang Peng: When is the plane leaving?

Li You: 8 p.m.

Wang Peng: How are you going to the airport?

Li You: I'm thinking of taking the bus or the subway. Do you know how to get there?

Wang Peng: You first take Bus No. 1. Get off after three stops. Then take the subway. First take the red line, then change to the green line, and finally change to the blue line.

Li You: Oh no. That's too much trouble. I'd better take a cab.

Wang Peng: It's too expensive to take a cab. I'll take you to the airport.

Li You: Thanks so much.

Wang Peng: Don't mention it.

### An Email

Date: December 20, 2008

From: Li You

To: Wang Peng

Subject: Thank you

Wang Peng:

Thank you for driving me to the airport the other day. But I feel very bad for taking up so much of your time. The past few days I've been going out by car to see old friends. People in this city drive very fast. I am really nervous driving on the highway. But there are no buses or subway here. I have to drive. It's very inconvenient.

When you have time, please call my cell phone or send me a text message. I'd like to chat with you.

New Year is almost here. Happy New Year!

Li You

### PROGRESS CHECKLIST

Before proceeding to Lesson 11, be sure you can complete the following tasks in Chinese:

I am able to—

- ☒ Speak about all common means of transportation;
- ☒ Discuss the most/least convenient way to get to a destination;
- ☒ Say if someone's driving makes me nervous;
- ☒ Thank someone for a favor;
- ☒ Extend New Year's greetings, both orally and in writing.

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



# That's How the Chinese Say It!

## A Review of Functional Expressions from Lessons 6–10

After gauging your progress and before moving on to the next phase, let's take a break and see how some of the functional expressions that you have encountered really work!

### I. 喂 (wéi, hello) [on the telephone] (Lesson 6)

This is how one starts a conversation on the telephone.

① A: 喂，哪位？

Wéi. Nǎ wèi?

(Hello! May I ask who's calling?)

B: 我是王朋。请问，李友在吗？

Wǒ shì Wáng Péng. Qǐng wèn, Lǐ Yǒu zài ma?

(This is Wang Peng. Is Li You there, please?)

A: 在，你等等，我去叫她。

Zài, nǐ děng deng, wǒ qù jiào tā.

(Yes. Wait a moment. I'll go get her.)

② A: 喂，你找谁？

Wèi, nǐ zhǎo shéi?

(Hello! Whom would you like to speak to?)

B: 我找小李。

Wǒ zhǎo Xiǎo Lǐ.

(I'd like to speak to Little Li.)

A: 我就是。你是哪位？

Wǒ jiù shì. Nǐ shì nǎ wèi?

(This is she. Who is this?)

B: 我是常老师。

Wǒ shì Cháng lǎoshī.

(This is Teacher Chang.)





③ A: 喂，请问小王在吗？

Wéi, qǐng wèn Xiǎo Wáng zài ma?

(Is Little Wang there, please?)

B: 在，你是哪位？

Zài, nǐ shì nǎ wèi?

(Yes, he is. Who is this, please?)

A: 我是小李。

Wǒ shì Xiǎo Lǐ.

(This is Little Li.)



B: 好，请等一下。

Hǎo, qǐng děng yí xià.

(OK. Wait a second, please.)

## II. 没问题 (méi wèntí, no problem) (Lesson 6)

You say this to put someone at ease that you will agree to do something that you've been asked to do, or you can say this to assure someone that there is no need to worry.

① 李友：王朋，你今天晚上帮我练习中文，好吗？

Lǐ Yǒu: Wáng Péng, nǐ jīntiān wǎnshang bāng wǒ liànxí Zhōngwén, hǎo ma?

(Li You: Wang Peng, would you help me practice Chinese this evening?)

王朋：没问题。晚上见。

Wáng Péng: Méi wèntí. Wǎnshang jiàn.

(Wang Peng: No problem. See you this evening.)

② A: 你给我介绍女朋友，好吗？

Nǐ gěi wǒ jièshào nǚpéngyou, hǎo ma?

(Can you find me a girlfriend?)

B: 没问题。

Méi wèntí.

(No problem.)

- ③ A: 你下午有空儿帮我准备考试吗？要是你没时间，就算了。

Nǐ xiàwǔ yǒu kòngr bāng wǒ zhǔnbèi kǎoshì ma? Yàoshi nǐ méi shíjiān, jiù suàn le.

(Do you have time this afternoon to help me prepare for my test? Never mind if you are busy.)

- B: 没问题，我有空儿。

Méi wèntí, wǒ yǒu kòngr.

(Don't worry, I have time.)



### III. Expressing and acknowledging gratitude

- ① A: 小李，你的电话。

Xiǎo Lǐ, nǐ de diànhuà.

(Little Li, the call is for you.)

- B: 谢谢！

Xièxie!

(Thanks!)

- A: 不客气。

Bú kèqi.

(You're welcome.)

- ② A: 小高，请喝茶。

Xiǎo Gāo, qǐng hē chá.

(Please have some tea, Little Gao.)

- B: 多谢！

Duō xiè.

(Thanks a lot.)

- A: 不谢。

Bú xiè.

(No need to thank [me].)



③ A: 王小姐，这是你的可乐。

Wáng xiǎojiě, zhè shì nǐ de kělè.

(Miss Wang, this is your cola.)

B: 谢谢！

Xièxie!

(Thanks!)

A: 没事儿。

Méi shìr.

(It's no big deal.)

④ A: 白医生，你的书。

Bái Yīshēng, nǐ de shū.

(Dr. Bai, your book.)

B: 谢了。

Xiè le.

(Thanks.)

A: 不用谢。

Búyòng xiè.

(No need to thank [me].)

#### IV. 哪里，哪里 (nǎli, nǎli, you flatter me) or 是吗？(shì ma, Is that so?)

(Lesson 7)

When receiving a compliment, the Chinese often respond modestly that they are unworthy of the praise by using 哪里 (nǎli) or 是吗 (shì ma). But now some people will say 谢谢 (xièxie) instead.

① A: 你今天很漂亮。

Nǐ jīntiān hěn piàoliang.

(You are very pretty today.)

B: 哪里，哪里。

Nǎli, nǎli.

(You flatter me.)

② A: 你写汉字写得很漂亮。

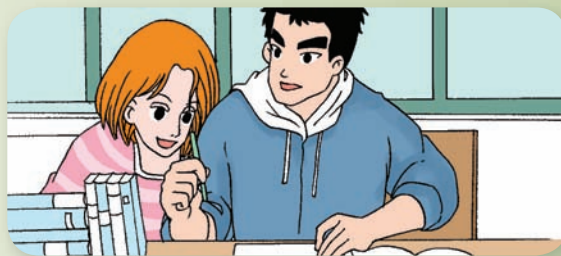
Nǐ xiě Hànzì xiě de hěn piàoliang.

(You write Chinese characters beautifully.)

B: 哪里，写得不好。

Nǎli, xiě de bù hǎo.

(I wish that were true. My writing is not good.)



③ A: 你说中文说得真好！

Nǐ shuō Zhōngwén shuō de zhēn hǎo!

(You speak Chinese really well!)

B: 是吗？我觉得我说得不好。

Shì ma? Wǒ juéde wǒ shuō de bù hǎo.

(Is that right? I don't think I speak very well.)

## V. 就是它吧/就是他/她了 (Jiù shì tā ba/Jiù shì tā le, Let's go with that)

(Lesson 9)

When you're finally making your choice, you can say 就是它吧 (jiù shì tā ba) or 就是他/她了 (jiù shì tā le) meaning "let's go with that" or "we'll go with him/her".

① A: 先生，你知道要哪一双了吗？

Xiānsheng, nǐ zhīdao yào nǎ yì shuāng le ma?

(Sir, do you know which pair you'd like?)

B: 就是它吧。

Jiù shì tā ba.

(I think I'll take that.)



② A: 王老師，小李打球打得不太好，你找別人跟你一起練習吧。

Wáng lǎoshī, Xiǎo Lǐ dǎ qiú dǎ de bù tài hǎo, nǐ zhǎo biérén gēn nǐ yìqǐ liànxí ba.

(Teacher Wang, Little Li is not a very good ball player. Why don't you find someone else to practice with?)

B: 就是他了。别人都没空儿。

Jiù shì tā le. Bírén dōu méi kòngr.

(We'll have to go with him. The others are all busy.)

VI. You can use 祝 (zhù) to offer good wishes. (Lesson 10)

① 祝你新年快乐！

Zhù nǐ xīnnián kuàilè!

(I wish you a happy New Year!)

② 祝你生日快乐！

Zhù nǐ shēngrì kuàilè!

(Happy Birthday to you!)

③ 祝你考试考得好！

Zhù nǐ kǎoshì kǎo de hǎo!

(I wish you success on the exam!)

④ 祝寒假快乐！

Zhù hánjià kuàilè!

(Have a happy winter break!)

⑤ 祝感恩节快乐！

Zhù Gǎn'ēnjié kuàilè!

(Happy Thanksgiving!)

⑥ 祝春节快乐！

Zhù Chūnjié kuàilè!

(Happy Chinese New Year!)

⑦ 祝一路平安！

Zhù yí lù píng'ān!

(Have a safe trip!)

⑧ 祝旅途愉快！

Zhù lǚtú yúkuài!

(Bon voyage!)





## **Any other useful expressions you would like to learn?**

Please ask your teacher and make a note here:

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