

## 第七课 询问时间和日期

### Lesson 7 Asking for Time and Date

#### Text

(1)

Xiànzài jǐ diǎn?

A: 现在 几 点?

What's the time?

Xiànzài shí diǎn shí fēn.

B: 现在 十 点 十 分。

It's ten past ten.

Nǐ xiàwǔ qù zuò shénme?

A: 你 下午 去 做 什么?

What are you going to do this afternoon?

Wǒ xiàwǔ qù kàn diànyǐng.

B: 我 下午 去 看 电影。

I'm going to see a movie in the afternoon.

Nǐ jǐ diǎn huí jiā?

A: 你 几 点 回 家?

When will you go home?

Wǒ liù diǎn bàn huí jiā.

B: 我 六 点 半 回 家。

I will go home at 6:30.

(2)

Jīntiān jǐ hào?

A: 今天 几 号?

What's the date today?

Jīntiān shí yuè shíbā hào.

B: 今天 十 月 十八 号。

It's October 18th.

Jīntiān xīngqī jǐ?

A: 今天 星期 几?

What day is it today?

Jīntiān xīngqī èr.

B: 今天 星期 二。

Today is Tuesday.

Nǐ jǐ hào néng huí jiā?

A: 你 几 号 能 回 家?

When will you go home?

Shí yī yuè sān hào.

B: 十 一 月 三 号。

November 3rd.

## Words

词语 Word/Phrase	拼音 Pinyin	词性 Part of Speech	词义 Meaning
现在	xiànzài	n.	now
点	diǎn	m.w.	o'clock
分	fēn	m.w.	minute
下午	xiàwǔ	n.	afternoon
去	qù	v.	to go
看	kàn	v.	to look, to watch
电影	diànyǐng	n.	movie, film
回	huí	v.	to return, go back

半	bàn	num.	half
今天	jīntiān	n.	today
号	hào	n.	date
月	yuè	n.	month
星期	xīngqī	n.	week
能	néng	v.	can

## Grammar

Xiànzài jǐ diǎn?

1. 现在 几 点? What's the time?

number + 点 + number + (分)

In Chinese, we usually use this structure to express time. And in spoken Chinese, 分 is always omitted.

For example:

jiǔ diǎn  
9:00 九 点

jiǔ diǎn líng wǔ (fēn)  
9:05 九 点 零 五 (分)

shí diǎn èrshí (fēn)  
10:20 十 点 二十 (分)

shíyī diǎn sānshí (fēn)/ shíyī diǎn bàn  
11:30 十一 点 三十 (分) / 十一 点 半

We usually use the 12-hour clock to say the time. Keep in mind, when the minutes are smaller than ten, the character “零” should be added.

Wǒ liù diǎn bàn huí jiā.

2. 我 六 点 半 回 家。 I will go home at 6:30pm.

When a time word is used as the adverbial modifier in a sentence, the time word should be placed before the verb.

For example :

Subject	Time words	Verb + (Object)
wǒ 我 I	liù diǎn bàn 六 点 半 half past six	huí jiā 回 家 go home
wǒ érzi 我 儿子 my son	liǎng diǎn 两 点 two o'clock	xuéxí Hànyǔ 学 习 汉 语 learn Chinese
tāmen 他们 they	shíyī diǎn shí fēn 十 一 点 十 分 ten past eleven	chī wǔ fàn 吃 午 饭 have lunch

Jīntiān shí yuè shíbā hào.

3. 今天 十 月 十八 号。

It is October 18th.

Months in Chinese:

yī yuè 一 月 January	èr yuè 二 月 February	sān yuè 三 月 March	sì yuè 四 月 April
wǔ yuè 五 月 May	liù yuè 六 月 June	qī yuè 七 月 July	bā yuè 八 月 August
jiǔ yuè 九 月 September	shí yuè 十 月 October	shíyī yuè 十 一 月 November	shí'èr yuè 十 二 月 December

In Chinese, the way to say the date follows the principle of “the bigger unit comes before the smaller one”.

For example:

10 yuè 18 hào

10 月 18 号

October 18th

2020 nián 10 yuè 18 hào

2020 年 10 月 18 号

October 18, 2020

2020 nián 10 yuè 18 hào shàngwǔ 10 diǎn

2020 年 10 月 18 号 上午 10 点

10:00 a.m., October 18, 2020

Jīntiān xīngqī èr.

4. 今天 星期 二。

Today is Tuesday.

Day of the week:

xīngqī yī 星期 一 Monday	xīngqī èr 星期 二 Tuesday	xīngqī sān 星期 三 Wednesday
xīngqī sì 星期 四 Thursday	xīngqī wǔ 星期 五 Friday	xīngqī liù 星期 六 Saturday
xīngqī tiān /xīngqī rì 星期 天/ 星期 日 Sunday		

In Chinese, the nominal sentence is a specific sentence, which usually uses a noun or a noun phrase as the predicate to indicate age, time, date and so on.

For example:

Subject (Noun/Noun Phrase)	Predicate (Noun/Noun Phrase)
xiànzài 现在 now	shí diǎn 十 点 ten o'clock
jīntiān 今天 today	xīngqī wǔ 星期 五 Friday
Wáng lǎoshī 王 老师 teacher Wang	sānshí suì 三十 岁 30 years old

Nǐ jǐ hào néng huí jiā?

5. 你几号能回家? When will you go home?

“能” is a modal verb, usually used in a sentence to indicate an ability, a possibility, or to ask for permission.

For example:

➤ Indicating a possibility:

Wǒ xīngqī wǔ néng huí jiā.

我 星期 五 能 回 家。

I will go home on Friday.

Wǒ shēng bìng le, bú néng qù xuéxiào.

我 生 病 了, 不 能 去 学 校。

I can't go to school because I'm sick.

➤ Indicating an ability:

Tā néng chī wǔ wǎn fàn.

他 能 吃 五 碗 饭。

He can eat five bowls of rice.

Wǒ bàba néng hē shí píng píjiǔ.

我 爸爸 能 喝 十 瓶 啤 酒。

My father can drink ten bottles of beer.

➤ Asking for permission:

Wǒ néng qù kàn diànyǐng ma?

我 能 去 看 电 影 吗?

Can I go see a movie?

Wǒ néng zuò zhèr ma?

我 能 坐 这 儿 吗?

Can I sit here?

## Expansion

### 语音 Pronunciation

#### 1. Pinyin chart

	o	un	ün	ang	iong	ua	uai	uang	ueng
f	fo	-	-	fang	-	-	-	-	-
c	-	cun	-	cang	-	-	-	-	-
ch	-	chun	-	chang	-	-	chuai	chuang	-

- means it does not exist in Chinese.

#### 2. Tone's position

As we all know, Chinese Pinyin has tone marks. However, do you know where the tone marks should be placed? It's actually quite easy. Just mark the tones in this order:

a → o → e → i → u → ü

For example:

点 **diǎn** There is a letter "a", so you should put the tone mark on the top of the "a".

分 **fēn** There is no letter "a" or "o", but there is a letter "e", so you should put the tone mark on the top of the "e".

**Note:**

However, "iu" is an exception. If the final is "iu", you should put the tone mark on top of the "u".

## 词汇 Words

kè

### 1. 刻 quarter

In Chinese, a quarter of an hour can be also called “一刻”.

For example:

Xiànzài jǐ diǎn le?

A: 现在 几 点 了?

What time is it now?

Xiànzài jiǔ diǎn shíwǔ fēn. /Xiànzài jiǔ diǎn yí kè.

B: 现在 九 点 十五 分。/现在 九 点 一 刻。

It's nine fifteen. /It's a quarter past nine.

rì hào

### 2. 日 VS 号 date

Both 日 and 号 means date. 日 is usually used in written Chinese, while 号 is usually used in spoken Chinese.

For example:

Shí yuè yī rì shì Guó qìng jié.

-十 月 一 日 是 国 庆 节。

October 1st is the National Day of China.

Jīntiān jǐ hào?

A: 今天 几 号?

What's the date today?

Jīntiān shí yuè yī hào.

B: 今天 十 月 一 号。

Today is October 1st.



## 文化 Culture

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Zhōngguó de nónglì

中国的农历

Chinese Lunar Calendar

As ancient China was a big agricultural country, there were a lot of farmers. In order to harvest more food, Chinese people formed a lot of knowledge to increase agricultural production and benefit their daily lives. The Lunar Calendar was one of them.

The lunar calendar is a tool for recording dates. The 24 solar terms in the calendar reflect the actual impact of season change on agriculture throughout the year. Until now, the lunar calendar is still an essential tool for Chinese people, especially for the elderly. The most famous traditional festival of China, Spring Festival, i.e. the Chinese New Year, is based on the annual lunar calendar date. Because the lunar calendar is often later than the regular calendar for one or two months, Chinese Spring Festival always comes around 1 to 2 months after new year.