

第四课 找汉语学校

Lesson 4 Find a Chinese School

Text

(1)

Wèi, Zhēnnī, nǐ zài zuò shénme ne?

A: 喂, 珍妮, 你 在 做 什 么 呢?

Hello, Jenny, what are you doing?

Wǒ zhèngzài zhǎo Hànyǔ xuéxiào ne.

B: 我 正 在 找 汉 语 学 校 呢。

I'm looking for a Chinese school.

Nǐ bú shì huì shuō Hànyǔ ma?

A: 你 不 是 会 说 汉 语 吗?

You can speak Chinese, can't you?

Suīrán wǒ huì shuō Hànyǔ, dànshì wǒ de hái zimen bú huì. Wǒ xiǎng gěi tāmen zhǎo

B: 虽然 我 会 说 汉 语, 但是 我 的 孩 子 们 不 会。我 想 给 他 们 找
yí ge Hànyǔ xuéxiào.

一 个 汉 语 学 校。

Although I can speak Chinese, my children can't. I want to find a Chinese school for them.

(2)

Zhēnnī, nǐ zhǎodào Hànyǔ xuéxiào le ma?

A: 珍妮, 你 找 到 汉 语 学 校 了 吗?

Jenny, did you find a Chinese school?

Zhǎodào le. Màikè hé Ānnà dōu hěn xǐhuan, tāmen míngtiān wǎnshang kāishǐ shàng kè.

B: 找 到 了。麦 克 和 安 娜 都 很 喜 欢, 他 们 明 天 晚 上 开 始 上 课。

Yes, I did. Mike and Anna like it very much. They will start their classes tomorrow evening.

Tài hǎo le. Nǐ ràng tāmen duō kàn diànshì, kàn diànshì duì xué Hànyǔ yǒu bāngzhù.

A: 太好了。你让他们多看电视，看电视对学汉语有帮助。

Great. You can ask them to watch more (Chinese) TV shows. It would be helpful with their Chinese studies.

(3)

Dàwèi, nǐ kànjiàn Màikè hé Ānnà le ma?

A: 大卫，你看见麦克和安娜了吗？

David, did you see Mike and Anna?

Tāmen zhèngzài fángjiān lǐ kàn diànshì ne. Xiànzài tāmen yǐjīng néng tīngdǒng hěn duō

B: 他们正在房间里看电视呢。现在他们已经能听懂很多汉语了。

汉语了。

They are watching TV in the room. Now they can understand a lot of Chinese.

Tāmen jīntiān kànle tài cháng shíjiān le. Nǐ ràng tāmen xiūxi yíxià ba.

A: 他们今天看了太长时间了。你让他们休息一下吧。

They spend too much time watching TV today. Just ask them to take a break.

Words

词语 Word/Phrase	拼音 Pinyin	词性 Part of Speech	词义 Meaning
正在	zhèngzài	adv.	in the process of
虽然	suīrán	conj.	although, though
但是	dànshì	conj.	but, still, yet
晚上	wǎnshang	n.	evening, night
开始	kāishǐ	v.	to begin, to start
课	kè	n.	class, lesson

让	ràng	v.	to ask, to let, to allow
帮助	bāngzhù	v.	to help, to assist, to aid
懂	dǒng	v.	to understand, to know
长	cháng	adj.	long
时间	shíjiān	n.	time
休息	xiūxi	v.	to have or take a rest
吧	ba	part.	used at the end of a sentence to indicate consultation, suggestion, request or command

Grammar

Nǐ bú shì huì shuō Hànyǔ ma?

1. 你 **不是** 会 说 汉语 **吗**? You can speak Chinese, can't you?

The structure “**不是 吗**” is a rhetorical question. We use this sentence pattern to ask someone about something even though we know the answer already. It is often used to remind someone of something or to show confusion or dissatisfaction.

For example:

Nǐ bú shì Běijīng rén ma?

-你 **不是** 北京 人 **吗**?

You are from Beijing, aren't you?

Tā bú shì yǒu nǚ péngyou ma?

-他 **不是** 有 女 朋友 **吗**?

He has a girlfriend, doesn't he?

Mǎkè bú shì zǒu le ma?

-马克 **不是** 走 了 **吗**?

Mark went, didn't he?

Suīrán wǒ huì shuō Hànyǔ, dànshì wǒ de hái zimen bú huì.

2. 虽然 我会说 汉语， 但是 我的 孩子们 不会。

Although I can speak Chinese, my children can't.

“虽然” is a conjunction meaning “although”, and “但是” is a conjunction indicating “but”. In English, although and but can't be used together in one sentence. But in Chinese, “虽然.....但是” is usually used together in a complex sentence to indicate a contrary statement.

For example:

	Clause 1		Clause 2
suīrán 虽然 although	wàimiàn hěn lěng 外面 很 冷 it is cold outside	dànshì 但是 but	fángjiān lǐ hěn rè 房间 里 很 热 it is hot in the room
	tā shì Měiguó rén 他 是 美国 人 he is American		tā bú zhùzài Měiguó 他 不 住在 美国 he does not live in the United States
	hē niú nǎi duì shēntǐ hǎo 喝 牛奶 对 身体 好 drinking milk is good for your health		wǒ bù xǐhuan hē niú nǎi 我 不 喜欢 喝 牛奶 I don't like milk
	wǒ jiā lí gōngsī hěn yuǎn 我 家 离 公司 很 远 my home is far from the company		wǒ méi chídào guo 我 没 迟到 过 I have never been late

Xiànzài tāmen yǐjīng néng tīngdǒng hěn duō Hànyǔ le.

3. 现在 他们 已经 能 听懂 很 多 汉语 了。

Now they can understand a lot of Chinese.

Some verbs or adjectives, such as “懂”, “见”, “到”, “好”, etc., can be used after a verb to supplement the result of an action, that is, the result complement.

For example:

subject	predicate	
	V. + complement of result	object
wǒ 我 I	kànjiàn 看 见 saw	yì zhī māo 一 只 猫 a cat
wǒ 我 I	tīngdǒng 听 懂 understood	tā de Hànyǔ le 他 的 汉 语 了 his Chinese
māma 妈妈 mother	zuòhǎo 做 好 cooked	fàn le 饭 了 dinner
Mǎkè 马克 Mark	zhǎodào 找 到 found	xīn gōngzuò le 新 工 作 了 a new job

“没有” is added before the verb to form the negative form of the result complement. In this case, “了” cannot appear at the end of the sentence.

For example:

subject	predicate		
		V. + complement of result	object
wǒ 我 I	méi (yǒu) 没 (有) did not	kànjiàn 看 见 see	yì zhī māo 一 只 猫 a cat
wǒ 我 I		tīngdǒng 听 懂 understand	tā de Hànyǔ 他 的 汉 语 his Chinese

māma 妈妈 mother		zuòhǎo 做 好 cook	fàn 饭 dinner
Mǎkè 马克 Mark		zhǎodào 找 到 find	xīn gōngzuò 新 工作 a new job

To form a question, “（了）没有” is often added at the end of the sentence.

For example:

subject	predicate		
	V. + complement of result	object	
nǐ 你 you	kànjiàn 看 见 seen	yì zhī māo 一只猫 a cat	(le) méiyǒu (了) 没有?
nǐ 你 you	tīngdǒng 听 懂 understood	tā de Hànyǔ 他的汉语 his Chinese	
māma 妈妈 mother	zuòhǎo 做 好 made	fàn 饭 dinner	
Mǎkè 马克 Mark	zhǎodào 找 到 found	xīn gōngzuò 新工作 a new job	

Nǐ ràng tāmen xiūxi yí xià ba.

4. 你 让 他们 休息 一下 吧。 Just ask them to take a break.

The predicate of a pivotal sentence is made up of two verbal phrases, the object of the first verb serving as the subject of the second verb. The first verb is often a causative verb, such as “请”(to invite), “让”(to let) and “叫”(to ask).

For example:

Subject 1	V.	Object(Subject2)	Predicate
wǒ 我 I	qǐng 请 to invite	nǐ 你 you	chī fàn 吃饭 to dinner
nǐ 你 you	ràng 让 to let	tā 他 he	zài xiǎngxiang 再想想 think about it
māma 妈妈 mother	jiào 叫 to ask	wǒ 我 I	qù kànkàn 去看看 have a look

Nǐ ràng tāmen xiūxi yíxià ba.

5. 你 让 他们 休息一下 吧。 Just ask them to take a break.

吧 is a modal particle. It is usually used at the end of a sentence to indicate a suggestion.

For example:

Wǒmen jīntiān wǎnshàng qù kàn diànyǐng ba.

-我们 今天 晚上 去 看 电影 吧。

Let's go see a movie tonight.

Nǐ qù wènwen lǎoshī ba.

-你 去 问问 老师 吧。

Why not ask your teacher?

Wǒmen chī Zhōngguó cài ba.

-我们 吃 中国 菜 吧。

Let's eat Chinese food.

Expansion

语音 Pronunciation

Please try to read the following sentences first, and then follow the recording to see if you read it correctly.

Zhège xīngqī, Xiǎohóng kāishǐ qù xīn gōngsī shàng bān le.

1. 这个 星期, 小红 开始 去 新 公司 上 班 了。

This week, Xiaohong started her new job.

Zhège gōngsī měi tiān dōu yǒu hěn duō gōngzuò.

2. 这个 公司 每 天 都 有 很 多 工 作。

At this company, the staff are asked to do a lot of work every day.

Tā měi tiān wǎnshang jiǔ diǎn dào jiā.

3. 她 每 天 晚 上 九 点 到 家。

She gets home at 9pm every day.

Dào jiā yǐhòu, tā yào xuéxí Hànyǔ.

4. 到 家 以后, 她 要 学 习 汉 语。

She has to study Chinese when she gets home.

Tā měi tiān shí'èr diǎn shuì jiào.

5. 她 每 天 十 二 点 睡 觉。

She goes to bed at 12 am every day.

汉字 Character

1. 偏旁 Radical:

日

The radical “日” called the “sun” (日字旁[rì zì páng]). it is usually related to time or sunlight. It's usually put at the left side of a character. But sometimes it also can put at the upside or the downside of the character.

For example:

时 晚 昨 明 早

词语 Words

zǎo wǎn

1. 早 & 晚 early & late

We have learned about the time nouns "早上(morning)" and "晚上(night)" in recent classes. But do you know that "早" and "晚" can be used alone? When they are used alone, they are not nouns, but adjectives, meaning early and late, respectively.

For example:

Lili, nǐ měi tiān jǐ diǎn qǐchuáng a?

A: 丽丽, 你 每 天 几 点 起床 啊?

Lily, what time do you get up everyday?

Wǒ měi tiān liù diǎn qǐchuáng.

B: 我 每 天 六 点 起床。

I get up at six o'clock every day.

Tài zǎo le! Nǐ wèishénme zhème zǎo qǐchuáng a?

A: 太 早 了! 你 为 什 么 这 么 早 起床 啊?

Too early! Why do you get up so early?

Wǒ yào gěi lǎogōng hé háizi zuò zǎofàn a!

B: 我 要 给 老 公 和 孩 子 做 早 饭 啊!

I have to make the breakfast for my husband and children.

Tài wǎn le, wǒ yào huí jiā le.

A: 太 晚 了, 我 要 回 家 了。

It's too late. I'm going home.

Xiànzài hái hěn zǎo, nǐ zài zuò yí huìr ba!

B: 现在 还 很 早, 你再 坐 一会儿 吧!

It's still early, stay a little longer!

Bù le, wǒ míngtiān yào shàng bān ne, xiǎng zǎo diǎnr huí jiā xiūxi.

A: 不了, 我 明天 要 上 班 呢, 想 早 点儿 回 家 休息。

No, I have to work tomorrow. I want to go home and go to bed early.

Hǎo ba, zàijiàn!

B: 好吧, 再见!

OK, bye.

cháng duǎn

2. 长 & 短 long & short

In today's lesson, we learned that the adjective “长” is long. The antonym of “长” is “短”. In English, we can say someone is short. But in Chinese, we don't use “短” to describe people's heights. If you want to say someone is short, you should use the word “矮”.

For example:

Nǐ kàn zhège míngxīng, shuàibushuài?

A: 你 看 这个 明星, 帅不帅?

What does this star look like? Isn't he handsome?

Tǐng shuài de, jiù shì yǒu diǎnr ǎi.

B: 挺 帅 的, 就 是 有 点儿 矮。

He's handsome, just a bit short.

Nǐ érzi zhēn gāo! Tā duō dà le?

A: 你 儿子 真 高! 他 多 大了?

Your son is so tall! How old is he?

Tā shí sì suì le.

B: 他 十四 岁了。

He is 14 years old.

Wǒ érzi shí wǔ suì le, dànshì bǐ nǐ érzi ǎi.

A: 我 儿子 十五 岁了, 但是 比你 儿子 矮。

My son is 15 years old, but shorter than your son.

文化 Culture

Zhōngguó xuéxiào de zhìdù ānpái xíguàn

中国 学校 的 制度 安排 习惯

System Arrangement Custom of Chinese Schools

The school system is different in many countries and regions of the world. Today, let's talk about Chinese schools. In China, the learning phase is generally divided into six years in primary school, six years in middle school, and four years (or more) in college. Among them, the six years in middle school are divided into three years in junior high school and three years in senior high school. In these phases, learning in middle school is of the greatest importance, as students have to go through China's high school entrance examination and college entrance examination. Many Chinese families firmly believe that the college entrance examination makes one's life, so many children attend a lot of cram schools at an early age to prepare for the college entrance exam 12 years after. Certainly, Chinese schools are not all about study and exams. There are also holidays. In addition to national holidays, schools also have a one-month winter vacation every year during the Spring Festival and summer holidays during the hottest days of July and August. Although we don't have vacations in spring and fall, schools will organize spring and autumn trips, which is one of the extracurricular activities that students like very much.