



*Examples*

i) Wǒmen xiān qù Běijīng kànwàng wǒ qīzi de qīnqi, ránhòu qù Shànghǎi kāihuì. Běnyuè dǐ jiù huílai.

First we're going to Beijing to visit my wife's relatives, and then we're going to Shanghai for a conference. [We]'ll be back at the end of the month.

*Notes*

kànwàng 'visit; call on; see [people]'  
běnyuè 'this month (root month)'; běnyuè dǐ 'at the end of the month'.

ii) Jīběnshàng, wǒmen dǎsuàn dào Xīnán qù dāi jǐ ge xīngqī cānguān yìxiē Yízú de nóngcūn. Ránhòu wǒmen qù Mínzú Xuéyuàn zuò yí ge yuè de yánjiū.

Basically, we plan to go to the Southwest to spend a few weeks visiting some Yi villages. After that we're going to do a month's research at the Minority Peoples' Institute.

*Notes*

- a) jīběnshàng 'basically (base-root-on)' □
- b) dāi 'stay [over]' □
- c) cānguān 'visit; tour; see [places]' □
- d) Yízú 'the Yi people', a non-Han people with extensive presence in southwest China. Mínzú Xuéyuàn are found in Chengdu, and also in Beijing and other cities. □

iii) Wǒmen qǐxiān dǎsuàn shàngwǔ jiǔ diǎn qǐ chéng kěshì yīnwèi liǎng ge rén dùzi dōu bù shūfu, wǒmen xiàwǔ sì diǎn cái néng líkāi Lìjiāng. Jiéguǒ, dào Báishā de shíhou, tiān yǐjing hēi le. Wǒmen zài xiǎo lǚguǎn shuì-le yí yè, ránhòu dì-èr tiān zǎoshàng kāishǐ shàng shān. Hòulái, wǒmen zài lù shàng pèngdào-le yìxiē Nàxīzú de rén; tāmen gào-su-le wǒmen shàng shān zuì hǎo de lù.

Originally, we had planned to start at 9:00 in the morning, but because two people got upset stomachs, we couldn't leave Lijiang until 4 pm. As a result, when we got to Baisha, it was already dark. We spent the night in a small inn; then the next morning we started up the mountain. Later on, we met a group of Naxi people on the road, and they told us the best way up the mountain.

*Notes*

- a) qǐchéng 'start off [on a journey] (raise-journey)' □
- Báishā: a village about 15 kms north of Lìjiāng, at the base of a chain of peaks □ which go under the name of Yùlóngxuěshān 'Jade-dragon-snow-mountain'. □
- b) lǚguǎn, generic for hotels, but in this case, more of a hostel. □
- c) yí yè: 'one night'. □
- d) pèngdào: 'run into; meet up with'. □

e) Nàxīzú: the Naxi (sometimes spelled Nahsi) are a minority people with their own language and writing system, who live in and around Lijiang.

iv) Wǒmen bā hào fēidào-le Xiāng Gǎng, ránhòu dì-èr tiān, zuò huǒchē dào-le Guǎngzhōu. Zài Guǎngzhōu dāi-le liǎng tiān kàn-le kàn, ránhòu shíyī hào yòu zuò fēijī dào Chéngdū qù le. Wǒmen zài Chéngdū dāi-le yí ge xīngqī mǎi dōngxì, hòulái zuò huǒchē qù-le Xīchāng. Xīchāng zài Dàliáng shān, zài Chéngdū xīnán biān yǒu wǔ bǎi gōnglǐ.

We flew to Hóng Kǒng on the 8th, and then the next day, took a train to Canton. We stayed in Canton for two days to look around, and then, on the 11th we flew on to Chéngdū. We stayed in Chéngdū for a week to buy supplies, then later on took a train to Xichang, which is about 500 kms southwest of Chengdu, in the Great Snowy Mountains.

#### Notes

a) Xichang is a city in the ‘Great Snowy Mountains’ in the southern part of Sichuan. It is now best known for the satellite launch and tracking facilities which are some 50 kms from the town; but historically, it is also an important center of the Yi people (also called Nasu and Norsu).

v) Hánjià, wǒ xiān huí-le jiā kànwàng-le wǒ jiārén. Dāi-le yí ge xīngqī yǐhòu wǒ jiu qù Táiběi kāihuì le. Zài Táiběi zhǐ dāi-le sān tiān, méiyǒu shíjiān qù kàn hěn duō dìfang. Míngnián hěn xiǎng zài huíqù yí cì duō liǎojiě yìxiàr Táiwān de wénhuà, duō kàn yìdiǎnr Táiwān de fēngjǐng, duō chī yìdiǎnr Táiwān de xiǎochī. Yīncǐ, wǒ xiànzài zhèngzài xiǎng bànfǎ duō tígāo wǒ de Zhōngwén shuǐpíng, duō zhuàn yìdiǎnr qián. Zhèi yàng wǒ dào Táiběi yǐhòu jiu kěyǐ hé Táiwān rén shuō Guóyǔ.

[Over] winter break, first I went home to visit my family. After a week there, I went to Taipei for a meeting. I only stayed 3 days in Taipei [so] I didn’t have time to see a lot of places. Next year, I want to go back once again to get to know more about Taiwanese culture, see more of Táiwān’s scenery, and to eat more Taiwanese snacks. That’s the reason that right now I’m thinking of how I can raise the level of my Chinese some more, and earn more money. That way after I get to Taipei, I’ll be able to speak Mandarin to the people in Taiwan.

#### Notes

- a) hánjià: ‘winter break (cold-holiday)’ □
- b) liǎojiě ‘understand; appreciate’; for the pattern with duō, cf. §8... □
- c) fēngjǐng ‘scenery’ □
- d) tígāo ‘raise (raise-high)’; shuǐpíng ‘level (water-level)’ □
- e) zhuàn ‘earn [money]’ □

**Exercise 1**

a) Prepare narratives along the following lines:

1. *Itinerary*: Arrived in Shanghai at 5:30 pm; got the #4 bus to the Shanghai train station. Planned to take the subway to the hotel on Zhàojiābāng Road; tired, lots of luggage; so, took a cab. Later on, moved once again to a hotel in Zhá Běi near the train station; that way, it's easier to get to the airport.

2. *Daily schedule*: Generally get up at 7:30, shower and have some rice gruel; bike to Beijing Yǔyán Dàxué for 10 o'clock class; at noon, eat lunch in the cafeteria with classmates; 1:00 to 3:00, two more classes; after class, off to the library to study. Usually eat dinner at a local restaurant. Sometimes, in the evening we go into town or hang out at bars and coffee shops; don't get home until quite late.

3. Over the New Year, I spent a few days with friends in Guilin, then went on to Kunming by train. Originally I had planned to visit Dàlǐ and Lìjiāng in the northwest of Yúnnán as well, but I didn't feel well, so I just stayed in Kūnmíng at the Camellia Hotel (sic) (Cháhuā Bīngǔǎn), wrote letters and rested. Later on, visited the Stone Forest (Shí Lín) and Zhèng Hé 's tomb (mù) on the southern shore of Lake Tian (Diān Chí).

b) Fill in the blanks with either zài, yòu, jiù or cái

1. □ Duìbuqǐ, wǒ méi tīngqīngchū, qǐng nǐ \_\_\_\_\_ shuō yí cì.
2. □ Lù hěn yuǎn, zuò huǒchē qù yěxǔ sān tiān \_\_\_\_\_ dào.
3. □ Nǐ děi xiān mǎi piào \_\_\_\_\_ néng shàngchē.
4. □ Nǐ xiān shàngchē \_\_\_\_\_ mǎi piào, hǎo bu hǎo.
5. □ Tā zuótiān méi lái, jīntiān \_\_\_\_\_ lái.
6. □ Xiànzài méiyǒu shíjiān, wǒmen míngtiān \_\_\_\_\_ shuō, hǎo bu hǎo?
7. □ Nǐ gāng chūqù, zěnme \_\_\_\_\_ huílái le?
8. □ Píngcháng wǒ sì diǎn huíjiā, kěshi jīntiān yīnwèi yǒu kǎoshì wǒ wǔ diǎn \_\_\_\_\_ huíjiā de.
9. □ Liǎng nián qián wǒ xué-le liù ge yuè de Zhōngwén, yǐhòu méiyǒu \_\_\_\_\_ xué le.
10. Píngcháng tā chī-le bàn wǎn fàn \_\_\_\_\_ bào le, kěshi jīntiān hěn è, liǎng wǎn \_\_\_\_\_ bǎo ne!
11. Nǐ bù duō zuò yìhuǐ le ma? \_\_\_\_\_ hē yì bēi kāfēi!
12. Rén bù duō, liù píng \_\_\_\_\_ gòu le.
13. Rén bù shǎo, shí'èr píng \_\_\_\_\_ gòu ne!
14. Zài Xī'ān dāi le yí ge lǐbài, ránhòu \_\_\_\_\_ huídào le Běijīng gōngzuò liǎng ge yuè.



Báishā, Yúnnán, zài Yùlóngxuěshān jiǎo.

## 8.2 Sports

The Chinese government has long promoted sports and exercise as a means to health. Many urban dwellers participate in morning exercises timed to music over loudspeakers in public squares (yīnyuè bànzòu de chénliàn ‘music-accompanied DE morning-exercise’); and more recently, exercise courses have been constructed in public parks. A slogan from the late 90s was:

Fāzhǎn tǐyù yùndòng, zēngqiáng rénmín tǐzhì!  
 Develop PE [and] sports, strengthen the people’s constitutions!

While the traditional sports of pingpong, badminton and martial arts remain popular in China, a vast range of other sports, such as football (soccer), rock climbing, and motor racing, now attract participants or viewers. This section provides some conversational material and a list of sports and sport-like activities from which you can select.

### Vocabulary

<zuò> yùndòng	duànliàn	yùndònghuì	tǐyùchǎng	tǐyùguǎn	-qiú
<do> sports, exercise	to exercise	sports events	stadium	gymnasium	-ball
jǔxíng	qiúmí	liúxíng	gōngyuán	fèijin	
hold-go	ball-fanatic	flow-go	public-garden	use energy	
to hold [event]	[sports] fan	popular	park	be strenuous	

### Usage

Nǐ xǐhuan shénme yàng de yùndòng?  
 Wǒ xǐhuan dǎ wǎngqiú, yóuyǒng.

What sort of sports do you like to do?  
 I like to play tennis and to swim.

Wǒ hěn xǐhuan kàn yùndòngguì. <i>Qù tǐyùchǎng kàn ma?</i> Yǒushíhou; yǒushíhou kàn diànshì.	I like to watch sports events. <i>You go to stadiums to see [them]?</i> Sometimes, and sometimes I watch TV.
Zuì liúxíng de yùndòng yǐqián shì pīngpāngqiú, yǔmáoqiú, tàijǐquán; xiànzài pānyán, zúqiú yě hěn liúxíng.	The most popular sports used to be pingpong, badminton, and taiji; now rock climbing and football are popular too.
Nǐ chángcháng duànliàn ma? <i>Wǒ hěn xiǎng duànliàn, kěshi chángcháng méiyǒu shíjiān.</i>	Do you often work out? <i>I try, but often, I don't have time.</i>
Zhèr fùjìn yǒu méiyǒu dìfāng kěyǐ pǎobù? <i>Zài gōngyuán, xíng bu xíng?</i>	Is there any place in the vicinity where I can jog? <i>How about in the park?</i>
2008 nián de Àoyùnhuì zài Běijīng jǔxíng; 2012 nián de zài Lúndūn.	The 2008 Olympics is being held at Beijing; and the 2012 [Games] are in London.
Zài Xīlà Àoyùnhuì, Zhōngguó yíng-le 63 méi jiǎngpái (jīnpái, yínpái, tóngpái).	At the Olympics in Greece, China won 63 medals (gold, silver, bronze medals).
Wǒ shì ge zúqiúfān. <i>Wǒ yě shì!</i>	I'm a football fan. <i>Me too!</i>
Wǒ zuì xǐhuan dǎ májiàng. <i>Dǎ májiàng? Nà bú shì yùndòng!</i> Nǎrdehuà? Dǎ májiàng yǒushíhou yě hěn fèijìn!	I like playing mahjong best! <i>Mahjong? That's not a sport!</i> What do you mean? Playing mahjong is also sometimes quite strenuous!

*Notes*

- a) méi M-word for medals, badges; also for rockets, mines.  
 b) zúqiúfān 'foot-ball-fan'; cf. mí 'be enchanted'; yǐngmí 'a film buff'.  
 c) nǎrdehuà 'whence the words' – an expression of disbelief; also used like nǎlǐ to ward off compliments.

**8.2.1 List of sports**

tí zúqiú	play football (kick foot-ball)	dǎ yǔmáoqiú	play badminton
dǎ bīngqiú	play hockey	qímǎ	ride horses
dǎ pīngpāngqiú	play pingpong	yóuyǒng	swim
dǎ lánqiú	play basketball	diào yú	fish (hook fish)
dǎ páiqiú	play volleyball	huá chuán	row (-boats)
dǎ wǎngqiú	play tennis	qí zìxíngchē	ride bikes
pǎobù	jog (run-foot)	pá shān	climb mountains
jǔzhòng	lift weights (raise-heavy)	pānyán	(clamber on-rock)

liūbīng	skate (skate-ice)	huáxuě	ski (glide-snow)
huá hànbing	roller skate (glide dry-ice)	dǎpái	play cards
huá gūluxié	roller skate (glide coaster)	sàichē	motor-racing (race-auto)
dǎ qiáopái	play bridge	dǎ májiàng	play mahjong
sàimǎ	horse racing (race-horses)	dǎ qūgùndiú	play field hockey
fàng fēngzheng	fly kites (put kites)		(curved-club-ball)

**Exercise 2.**

1. Explain what sports you like, whether you work out, where you do such activity.
  2. Explain where the next summer and winter Olympics are being held.
  3. Explain who's number #1 in basketball, whose #1 in football (soccer), and other sports.
  4. Recall the number of medals that the US (or some other country) won in the [date or place] Olympics.
- 



Pool on the streets of Hühéhàotè.

**8.3 Comparison****8.3.1 Non-comparatives**

Questions about degrees of intensity can be asked using the question word duō:

Xiàtiān duō rè?	How hot are the summers?
Tā duō gāo?	How tall is he?
Fēijīchǎng duō yuǎn?	How far's the airport?

Responses often include adverbs or constructions that indicate degree. The list below is organized into types, and includes a number of new constructions. .

*With the modification placed before the SV*

Jīntiān hěn rè.	Today's quite hot. □
Jīntiān tǐng rè <de>!	Today's quite hot. □
Jīntiān fēicháng rè.	Today's unusually hot. □
Jīntiān bǐjiào rè.	It's quite ~ rather hot today. □
Jīntiān xiāngdāng rè.	It's relatively ~ rather ~ quite hot today. □
Jīntiān yǒu diǎnr rè.	Today's quite hot. □

*With the modification placed after the SV*

Jīntiān rè-jíle.	It's really hot today. ('hot-the max') □
Jīntiān rè-sǐle.	It's boiling today. ('hot-death') □

*Mediated by the particle +de (得) 'to the extent that' □*

Jīntiān rè+de hěn.	It's very hot today. ('hot-to very')
Jīntiān rè+de bùdeliǎo.	It's awfully hot today. ('hot-to amazing')
Jīntiān rè+de yàomìng!	It's excruciatingly hot today! ('hot-to want-life')
Jīntiān rè+de yàosǐ.	It's hot as hell today! ('hot-to want death')
Jīntiān rè+de shéi dōu bù xiǎng chūqù!	Today's so hot no one wants to go out.

Hěn, you will recall, is often found with SVs that are otherwise unmodified: Lèi ma? / Hěn lèi. In such cases, the force of hěn is weak, and it is often left untranslated. However, in the construction with +de illustrated by the first example above, hěn does convey a significant degree of intensity: Lèi+de hěn 'tired to the point of *very*', or 'very tired'. As shown above, SV+de can also be followed by bùdeliǎo 'extremely', or even a full sentence, shéi dōu bù xiǎng chūqù 'no one wants to go out'.

### 8.3.2 Comparison

a) Comparison is often implicit in the unmodified SV; but it is cancelled by the presence of preverbal hěn. Thus, for most, tā gāo is 'she's taller' but tā hěn gāo is 'she's quite tall'.

Shéi gāo? / Tā gāo.	Who's taller? / She's taller.
Tā gāo yìdiǎnr.	She's a bit taller.
Tā shāowēi gāo yìdiǎnr.	He's a wee bit taller.
Gāo duōshao?	How much taller?
Tā gāo yí cùn.	He's an inch taller.
Tā gāo yìxiē.	He's 'a measure' taller. (eg 'a few inches')
Tā shāowēi gāo yìxiē.	He's a wee bit taller.
Tā gāo yí bèi.	She's twice as tall.

*Notes*

a) Shāowēi (or more formally, shāo) is an ADV meaning 'slightly; a bit' (wēiruǎn 'Microsoft' de wēi). Like other ADVs, it appears before a V or SV, but typically also in conjunction with a post-verbal yìdiǎnr.

- b) While yìxiē (cf. xiē in §6.3.3) and yìdiǎnr are similar in meaning, the former implies a particular amount, hence a ‘few [cms, inches, etc.]’. Duō yìxiē would not be appropriate in comparing the populations of cities, for example.
- c) yí bèi ‘by one-fold; twice as’.

b) Explicit comparison involves the word bǐ ‘compare; than’, which (unlike English counterparts) is placed *before* the associated verb. Expressions indicating the degree or amount of comparison (eg yìdiǎnr) are placed *after* the SV; cf. Néng piányi yìdiǎnr ma? ‘Can [you] reduce it [by] a bit?’ from an earlier conversation.

**A      bǐ      B      SV degree**

Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà.	Běijīng is bigger than Tiānjīn.
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà yìdiǎnr.	Běijīng is a bit bigger than Tj. [by a bit]
Bj. bǐ Tiānjīn shāowēi dà yìdiǎnr.	Beijing’s a little bit bigger than Tianjin.
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà hěn duō.	Beijing’s a lot bigger than Tj. [by quite a lot]
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà+de duō.	Běijīng is much bigger than Tj. [by a lot]
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīng dà duōle.	Bj is a lot bigger than Tj. [by a whole lot]
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà yí bèi.	Běijīng is twice as big as Tj. [by one fold]

*Notes*

- a) As in English, where we generally mean ‘in terms of population’ when we say one city is bigger than another, dà in the above set of sentences is more likely to mean population (rénkǒu) than area (miànjī).
- b) Notice that the various ways of expressing degree with the *non-comparatives* do not overlap with those of the *comparatives*: +de hěn, +de bùdeliǎo etc. are unique to non-comparatives; +de duō, duōle, etc. are unique to comparatives.

*Short dialogue on population:*

Jiǎ	Shànghǎi shì Zhōngguó rénkǒu zuì duō de chéngshì ba?	Shanghai’s the city with the largest population in China, right?
Yǐ	Shì, bǐ Běijīng duō.	Right, [it’s got] more than Beijing.
Jiǎ	Bǐ Běijīng duō duōshao?	How much more than Beijing?
Yǐ	Bǐ Běijīng duō jǐbǎiwàn.	Several million more [than Beijing].
Jiǎ	Nà, Shànghǎi shì shìjiè shàng zuì dà de ba?	So Shanghai’s the largest in the world?
Yǐ	Bù, Mòxīgē-shì gèng dà, wǒ xiǎng.	No, Mexico City’s even bigger, I think.

## Summary □

	NON-COMPARATIVE		COMPARATIVE			
~ English	<i>pre-</i>	<i>SV</i>	<i>-post</i>	<i>x bǐ y</i>	<i>SV amount</i>	~ English (tall)
quite tired	hěn	lèi			gāo	taller
very ...	fēicháng	lèi		<shāowēi>	gāo yìdiǎnr	a <wee> bit taller
rather ...	bǐjiào	lèi			gāo+ de duō	much taller
quite ...	xiāngdāng	lèi			gāo hěn duō	much taller
a bit ...	yǒu yìdiǎnr	lèi			gāo duō le	a lot taller
extremely ..		lèi-jíle			gāo yí cùn	an inch taller
exhausted		lèi-sǐle		<shāowēi>	gāo yìxiē	'a measure' taller
very ...		lèi+de hěn			gāo yí bèi	twice as tall
awfully ...		lèi+de bùdeliǎo				
terribly ...		lèi+de yàomìng				
dreadfully..		lèi+de yàosǐ				
so tired that		lèi+ de ...				

## 8.3.3 Another perspective: 'not as...'

## a) Méi&lt;you&gt;...&lt;nàme&gt;

The claim that 'Beijing is bigger than Tianjin' is often negated not with 'Beijing isn't bigger' but with 'Beijing isn't as big as', ie rather than bù bǐ Tiānjīn dà (which is possible in certain contexts), the negative is usually méi<you> Tiānjīn <nàme> dà. In actual conversation, the bǐ versus méiyóu patterns may serve to shift perspective, just as a shift from comparative to non-comparative may serve to confirm.

- Běijīng méiyóu Shànghǎi <nàme> dà.  
*Duì a, Shànghǎi bǐ Běijīng dà duōle.*  
 Beijing's not as big as Shanghai.  
*Right, Shanghai's a lot bigger than Beijing.*
- Miǎndiàn méiyóu Tàiguó <nàme> fādá.  
*Shì a, Miǎndiàn bǐjiào luòhòu.*  
 Burma's not as developed as Thailand.  
*Right, Burma's more undeveloped.*
- Kūnmíng de hǎibá méiyóu Xīníng de <nàme> gāo.  
*Shì a, Xīníng de hǎibá shì sānqiān duō mǐ.*  
 Kunming[ 's elevation] isn't as high as [that of] Xining.  
*That's right, Xining's over 3000 meters high.*

Kěshì Lāsà de gèng gāo. Zài Lāsà hūxi hěn kùnnan.  
 But Lhasa[ 's] is even higher. In Lhasa, breathing is quite difficult.



## Summary □

<i>Positive perspective</i>	<i>Negative perspective</i>
Shànghǎi bǐ Běijīng dà+de duō.	Běijīng méiyǒu Shànghǎi <nàme> dà.
	Běijīng bùrú Shànghǎi dà.
<i>Shanghai's much bigger than Beijing.</i>	<i>Beijing isn't as big as Shanghai.</i>

c) *Comparatives with V+de:*

Comparing how well people do something may combine the comparative constructions with V+de. There are two options: either the comparison may be mentioned first, or the V+de is mentioned first:

*V+de, then bǐ:*

Tā Yīngyǔ shuō+de [bǐ wǒ hǎo].

He speaks English better than I do.

Tā chànggē chàng+de [bǐ wǒ hǎo].

She sings better than I do.

*Bǐ, then V+de:*

Yīngyǔ, tā bǐ wǒ [shuō+de hǎo].

He speaks English better than I do.

Chàngē, tā bǐ wǒ [chàng+de hǎo].

She sings better than I do.

**Exercise 3.**

a) *Praise other people's abilities over your own:*

1. Chàngē [hǎotīng] > Nǐ chàng +de bǐ wǒ hǎotīng. ~ Nǐ bǐ wǒ chàng+de hǎotīng.
2. Zuòfàn [hǎo]
3. Xiězì [qīngchū]
4. Yòng kuàizi [hǎo]
5. Huàhuà [bīzhēn 'lifelike']
6. Zhǎng [gāo]

b) *Do the following, either writing your answers down, or preparing for oral responses:*

1. Explain that Yáo Míng is 6 inches taller than Michael Jordan [Màikè Qiáodān].
2. Note that you both like to sing, but that (s)he sings much better than you.
3. Explain that you have an older brother who's 5 years older than you.
4. Explain that eating your own [zìjǐ zuò de] cooking is always better than eating out.
5. Note that apartments ('houses') are twice as expensive in Beijing as in Xīníng.
6. Explain that it's frustrating (tǎoyàn): he's doesn't study as hard (yònggōng) as you do, but he speaks more fluently.
7. Explain that in the winter in Lasa, it's so cold no one [shéi dōu] dares [gǎn] to go out.
8. Explain that the weather has gotten a wee bit warmer [nuǎnhuó] recently.

## 8.4 Cities, population □

### 8.4.1 Zui ‘most; very’

zuì guì	zuì hǎo
zuì lěng	zuì nán
shìjiè shàng zuì dà de chéngshì	the largest city in the world
shìjiè shàng zuì guì de qìchē	the most expensive car in the world
shìjiè shàng zuì lěng de dìfang	the coldest place in the world

Chinese uses the expression zhīyī, containing Classical Chinese zhī, which in this context functions like modern DE, to mean ‘one of’:

zuì dà de chéngshì zhīyī	one of the largest cities in the world
zuì hǎo de Zhōngguó mǐjiǔ zhīyī	one of the best Chinese rice wines
Zhōngguó shì wǔ ge Ānlǐhuì chéngyuánguó zhīyī.	China is one of the 5 permanent member states of the Security Council.

#### Note

The Chinese equivalents to what are called acronyms in alphabetic languages (eg NATO or WTO) are shortened or ‘telescoped’ phrases. Thus Àolínpíqè Yùndònghuì gets shortened to Àoyùnhuì; Ānquán Lǐshì Huì, literally ‘security directorship organization’ gets shortened to Ānlǐhuì; and Shìjiè Mào yì Zǔzhī ‘World Trade Organization’ gets shortened to Shìmào.

The same pattern with zhīyī is also the basis of fractions (and percentages):

sān fēn zhīyī	1/3	□
sì fēn zhīyī	1/4	□
wǔ fēn zhī èr	2/5	□
bǎi fēn zhī wǔ	5%	□
bǎi fēn zhī èrshí	20%	□

### 8.4.2 Approximately

Large figures are usually approximate. There are several expressions that may be used to indicate that a figure is rough. Chàbuduō and dàgài have been used in earlier units, both placed before the amount. Dàyuē ‘about; around; approximately (big-about)’ also appears before the amount. Zuǒyòu, on the other hand, which combines roots for left and right to mean ‘more or less’, is placed after the amount.

Shí Lín zài Kūnmíng de dōngbiānr, chàbuduō yǒu yìbǎi sānshí gōnglǐ.	‘The Stone Forest’ is about 130 kilometers east of Kunming.
Dàlǐ zài Kūnmíng de xībiānr, dàgài yǒu sìbǎi gōnglǐ.	Dali is about 400 kms west of Kunming.

Měi nián, dàyuē yìbǎiwàn rén cóng  
xiāngxià yímindào Běijīng.

About a million people emigrate  
from the countryside to Beijing  
every year.

Xīchāng zài Kūnmíng de běibiānr,  
yǒu wǔbǎi gōnglǐ zuǒyòu.

Xichang is about 500 kms north  
of Kunming.

#### Notes

a) Yímín ‘to emigrate (move-people)’; yímindào ‘to move to [place]’.

### 8.4.3 Large numbers

Apart from the numerals 0 to 9, Chinese also has simple words for five powers of 10: shí ‘10’, bǎi ‘100’, qiān ‘1000’, wàn ‘10,000’ and yì ‘100,000,000’. (100 million can also be expressed as wànwàn for figures from 100 – 900 million.) Notably missing is ‘million’, and it is useful to remember bǎiwàn ‘100 x 10,000’ as ‘million’. Nowadays, large numbers are often written out in Arabic numerals, rather than Chinese characters, though they are, of course, read out in Chinese.

One important rule to note is that in stating large numbers, the highest possible power of ten is always used: in other words, 1,500 is always expressed in Chinese as yìqiān wǔbǎi rather than as \*shíwǔbǎi. The key to forming large numbers, then, is to keep the five basic powers of 10 in mind, and work down from the largest relevant power to the smallest. Empty tens and hundreds columns (one or more than one) that are not final in the figure are signaled by líng ‘zero’.

105	yìbǎi líng wǔ
902	jiǔbǎi líng èr
982	jiǔbǎi bāshí'èr
1,201	yìqiān èrbǎi líng yī
11,045	yíwàn yìqiān líng sìshí wǔ
45,904	sìwàn wǔqiān jiǔbǎi líng sì
100,000	shíwàn
345,985	sānshísìwàn wǔqiān jiǔbǎi bāshí wǔ
1,000,009	yìbǎiwàn líng jiǔ
1,000,300	yìbǎiwàn líng sānbǎi
8,500,800	bābǎiwǔshíwàn líng bābǎi
11,500,000	yìqiān yìbǎi wǔshí wàn
140,000,000	yíyì sìqiānwàn
1,340,000,000	shísānyì sìqiānwàn

**Exercise 4.****a) Populations**

One of the more common occasions to cite very large numbers is in talking about population, so here are some rough figures to practice with. [Zhōngguó rénkǒu shì shísānyì.]; cite them as approximations, using zuǒyòu.

<i>place</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>place</i>	<i>population</i>
China	1.3 billion	Canada	32 million
Hong Kong	8 million	India	1.069 billion
Iraq	24 million	Indonesia	231 million
Italy	58 million	Nigeria	130 million
Singapore	4,500,000	Thailand	63 million
UK	59 million	USA	292 million
Beijing	14 million	Shanghai	17 million
NY	8 million	Chicago	2.8 million

**b) Write Chinese equivalents for the following:**

1. The Jin Mao Building (Jīn Mào Dàshà) in Shanghai is one of the tallest buildings (dàlóu) in the world. And so is the Oriental Pearl Tower (Dōngfāng Míngzhū Tǎ); the latter is 468 meters tall (pictured below).
2. Wall Mart (Wò'ěrmǎ) is one of the largest companies in the world.
3. 30% of MIT graduate students are from abroad.
4. Although everyone in Chinese class has been abroad, about 15% of us have never studied a foreign language before.

**Notes**

gōngsī 'company'; gǔfèn yǒuxiàn gōngsī 'corporation (stocks limited company)'; màoyì gōngsī 'trading corporation (trade company)'.



One of Shanghai's older streets, with the Dōngfāng Míngzhū Tǎ on the Pǔdōng side of the Huangpu River (Huángpǔ Jiāng) in the background.

**8.4.4 Talking about size of cities, population** □

a)

Shànghǎi shì bu shì Zhōngguó zuì dà de chéngshì?

Is Shanghai the largest city in China?

*Nǐ shuō de shì rénkǒu ma?**You mean in terms of population?*

Shì.

Yes.

*Dàgài Shànghǎi bǐ Běijīng dà yìdiǎnr. Tīngshuō xiànzài shì yìqiān bābǎiwàn!**I guess Shanghai's a bit bigger than Bj. I hear it's 18 million nowadays.*

b)

Měiguó zuì dà de chéngshì shì nǐ ge?

Which is the largest city in the US?

*Shì Niǔ Yuē; Luòshānjī shì dì-èr. Zhījiāgē bú shì bǐ Luòshānjī dà ma?**It's NY; LA is second. Isn't Chicago bigger than LA?**Bù, Zhījiāgē shì dì-sān ...huòzhě xiànzài Xiūsīdùn [Háosīdùn] kěnéng bǐ Zhījiāgē shāowēi dà yìdiǎnr.**No, Chicago's #3...or is Houston perhaps Houston is now a little bit bigger than Chicago.*

c)

Zhōngguó ne, Shànghǎi zuì dà, kěshì dì-èr, dì-sān wǒ bú tài qīngchu.

As for China, Shanghai's the largest, but I'm not sure about 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.*Běijīng shì bu shì dì-èr?**Is Beijing #2?*

Yǒurén shuō Chóngqìng yě shì Zhōngguó zuì dà de chéngshì zhīyī!

Some say that Chongqing is also one of the biggest cities in China.

*Kěshì Chóngqìng hǎoxiàng méiyǒu Běijīng nàme dà!**But it seems that Chongqing isn't as big as Beijing.*

Chóngqìng shì ge zhíxiáshì, duì ma?

Chongqing is a 'directly administered city', isn't it?

*Duì a, Běijīng, Tiānjīn, Shànghǎi, Chóngqìng dōu shì zhíxiáshì!**Right, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Chongqing are all dir. adm. cities.*

Běijīng de rénkǒu shì duōshao?

What's Beijing's population?

*Běijīng de wǒ bù zhīdao, Tiānjīn de rénkǒu shì bābǎiwàn ba.**I don't know what Beijing's is, [but] Tianjin's is 8 million, I guess.*

d)

Zhōngguó shì shìjièshàng rénkǒu zuì duō de guójiā, yǒu shísānyì. Yīndù shì dì-èr, rénkǒu shì shíyì zuǒyòu.

China is the largest country in the world, with 1.3 billion. India is second, with a population of about 1 billion.

*Kěshì yǒu rén shuō zài 2050 (èrlíng wǔlíng nián), Yīndù huì yǒu shíliùyì, Zhōngguó shísiyì. Nèiyàng, Yīndù huì shì zuì dà de!* *But people say that by 2050, India will have 1.6 billion, China 1.4 billion. That'll make India the largest country.*

### 8.5 Bargaining

Purchases in China, as in most countries, can be subject to bargaining. This means a certain amount of time and engagement, but it also offers a chance for language practice. The rules for bargaining are difficult to make explicit, and in any case, outsiders (to say nothing of foreigners) cannot really know local prices, so the best to hope for is to get within a few percentage points of a good price. Chinese friends will generally say you overpaid (tài guì le), but you can respond that you got a free language lesson in return (yǒu jīhuì liànxì Zhōngwén ‘have opportunity to practice Chinese’)!

Bargaining for expensive items, jewelry for example, or crafts, is a rather different skill from making minor purchases of commodity items. If there is a ‘give’ of a few percentage points built into the asking price of fruit or vegetables at your local market, or perhaps 10 to 20% in the price of material at your local bazaar, the difference between asking price and best price for an expensive item sold in a market, or even in a shop, may be 100%, or even 200%, particularly at notorious bargain markets frequented by tourists, like the Yǎxiū Fúzhuāng Shìchǎng ‘Yaxiu Clothing Market’ in east Beijing, or the Xiāngyáng Shìchǎng in Shanghai. Merchants know that if you make an absurdly low counter offer of, say 30%, that constitutes a promise, and you are stuck with the goods even if you eventually figure out that they are only worth 10% or the original asking price. So always respond to the question, ‘What are you willing to pay?’ with the counter-question, ‘What is your best price?’. Many people would say that for more expensive purchases, best to get help from a local friend.

For low intensity bargaining, here are some useful phrases to begin with:

#### *Seeking a reduction*

Kěyǐ shǎo yìdiǎnr ma?

Can you reduce it a bit? □

Piányi yìdiǎnr, kěyǐ ma?

Can you make it a little cheaper? □

Néng piányi yìdiǎnr ma? □

#### *Finding the bottom*

Nǐ zuì shǎo duōshao qián?

How much is your lowest (‘best’) price?

Zuì dī de jiàgé shì duōshao?

What’s your lowest (‘best’) price?

*Discounts*

Kěyǐ dǎ zhé&lt;kòu&gt; ma?

Hǎo, dǎ ge jiǔ zhé.

Hǎo, dǎ ge bā-wǔ zhé.

Hǎo, dǎ ge qī zhé.

Can you ‘allow a discount’?

Okay, I’ll give you 90%.

Okay, I’ll give you 85%.

Okay, I’ll give you 70%.

*Time to think*

Suǐbiàn kànkàn.

Just looking. □

Shāowēi děng yíxià.

Hang on; just a minute. □

*Seller’s defense*

Huòzhēn-jiàshí, méi piàn nǐ!

The goods are true and the price is right – □

I’m not ‘taking you for a ride’! □

Kuài sān wǒ jiù méi qián zhuàn le.

At \$1.30 won’t make anything. □

Jìnkǒu lái de, mài+de bǐjiào guì.

[They]’re imported, so they cost [‘sell for’] □  
a bit more. □*Finally, the sale*

Nà hǎo ba, mài gei nǐ ba.

Okay, that’s fine, I’ll sell [it] to you! □

Hǎo, xíng, xíng.

Okay, can do. □

*Notes*a) jiàgé ‘price’; also jiàwèi in southern regions. □b) dǎ zhékòu, or colloquially, simply dǎ zhé ‘do a discount’. Zhé has a range of □  
meanings, from ‘snap’ to ‘fold’, but in combination with dǎ, it means a ‘discount’. □  
However, while English typically focuses on the amount of the reduction (‘10% □  
off’), Chinese states the resulting discounted price (‘90%’), and it indicates this □  
with a numerical modifier before zhé: jiǔ zhé ‘90%’; bāshíwǔ zhé, ‘85%’. □c) děng yíxià (一下) ‘wait for a bit (one time)’; cf. xiūxi yíxià ‘take a break’; kàn □  
yíxià ‘take a look at’. □d) zhuàn ‘earn’ □e) jìnkǒu ‘import (enter-mouth+of+river)’; cf. §8.5 below. □f) With transactional verbs that involve movement away from the possessor, such □  
as mài ‘sell’, dì ‘to pass; to forward’, the recipient – the person who ends up with □  
the object in question – can be introduced with gěi (often untoned) placed directly □  
after the verb: mài gei tā ‘sell to him’; dì gei tā ‘pass [it] to her’. This makes yet □  
another pattern associated with gěi. □**8.5.1 At the fruit stand***G is a gùkè ‘customer’, L is the lǎobǎn ‘owner; boss’:*

G Lǎobǎn, júzi duōshao qián yì jīn?

Sir, how much are oranges per catty?

L Yí kuài wǔ. Hěn xīnxiān.

Y1.50. [They]’re fresh.

- G□ Yi jīn dàgài yǒu jǐ ge?                      Approximately how many in a catty?
- L□ Dàgài sì wǔ ge.                                  About 4 or 5.
- G□ Piányi diǎnr mài ma? Kuài sān,              Will you sell 'em a bit cheaper?  
kěyǐ ma?    How about \$1.30?
- L     Yí kuài sān wǒ jiu méi qián                  At Y1.30, I won't make any  
zhuàn le; yí kuài sì ba.                      money; how about \$1.40?
- G□ Hǎo, lái liǎng jīn.                              Okay, I'll take two catty.
- L     Liǎng jīn èr liǎng xíng ma?                  (He weighs them - they weigh a little over.)  
Is two catty two ounces okay?
- G□ Xíng. Jiù zhèiyàng ba.                      Sure. That's it then.

## Notes

- jīn                      M 'jin' a unit of weight, usually translated 'catty', = 1/2 kg.
- piányi                  SV 'be cheap; inexpensive'; piányi diǎnr 'a bit cheaper' – yìdiǎnr  
after the SV is comparative.
- mài                      V 'sell'; cf. mǎi 'buy' and zuò mǎimài 'do business'.
- <yí>kuài sān... Note the implied conditional: '[if] ¥1.30', which is resolved by jiù  
'then'.
- liǎng                    M, sometimes translated 'ounce'; equivalent to 0.05 kg. 10 liangs  
= 1 jin. Most people seem to say èr liǎng rather than liǎng liǎng.

## Other fruit

tiánguā	honeydew melon	xīguā	watermelon
mùguā	papaya	shìzi	persimmons
chéngzi	oranges	yēzi	coconuts
mángguǒ	mangos	píngguǒ	apples
gānzhe	sugarcane	níngméng	lemons
shíliu	pomegranites	pútao	grapes
xiāngjiāo	bananas	bōluó	pineapple (Tw. fēnglí)
liúlián	durian	táozi	peaches
lǐzi	plums	lí	pear
yòuzi	pomelo	lǐzhī	lychees
huǒlóngguǒ	dragonfruit	lóngyǎn	longans ('dragon-eyes')



Fruit stand, Kūnmíng. The large, red fruit on the front left are *lóngguǒzi* ‘dragonfruit’; the even larger, spiny fruit in the middle back are *liúlián* ‘durian’.

### 8.5.2 Tastes and flavors

	<i>tastes</i>		<i>ingredients</i>
tián	‘sweet’	táng	‘sugar’
xián	‘salty’	yán	‘salt’
		jiàngyóu	‘soy sauce’
suān	‘sour’	cù	‘vinegar’
là	‘hot’	làjiāo	‘chilies’
		jiāng	‘ginger’
má	‘numbing’	huājiāo	‘Sichuan pepper’
kǔ	‘bitter’		
dàn	‘bland’		
sè	‘astringent; puckery’		

#### Notes

a) Chinese call ‘pepper’ *hújiāo* ‘foreign pepper’. *Hújiāo* is not used as much in Chinese cooking as *huājiāo* ‘flower pepper’, also called *fagara*, brown pepper, or Sichuan pepper. Unlike the sharp heat of *làjiāo* ‘chilies’ which is associated with Hunnan cuisine, *huājiāo* has a slightly numbing effect and, mixed with *làjiāo*, is characteristic of Sichuan food; cf. Sichuan dishes beginning with *mala*: eg *málà ěrduo* ‘spicy pig-ears’ and *málà-jīsī* ‘spicy shredded chicken’.

b) *Dàn*, *méiyóu wèidào*.

c) *Sè* is a taste characteristic of *shìzi* ‘persimmons’ or unripe pears and peaches (*shēng de lí, táozi*).

Zhōngguó rén shuō xīfāng cài tài dàn,  
méiyóu wèidào; tāmen yě shuō nánfāng

The Chinese say that Western food is too  
bland, [it] doesn’t have any flavor; they

cài (xiàng Yìndù de, Tàiguó de) tài zhòng. say southern food (like Indian and Thai)  
 Xīfāng de tài dàn, nánfāng de tài zhòng, is too heavy. Western food, too dull,  
 kěshì Zhōngguó de zhèng hǎo! Southern, too heavy, but Chinese is just  
 right!

### 8.5.3 Adding or subtracting amounts

If it's not salty enough, you put in more salt; if you've given too much money, you want to take some back. The pattern is as follows – note the contrast with English:

<i>ADV</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>amount</i>
duō / shǎo	fàng	amount
	gěi	amount

Though the pattern also occurs with zǎo 'early' and wǎn 'late', it is most common with duō and shǎo, normally SVs, but here filling the adverbial position. Here are some relevant verbs:

gěi	fàng	ná	lái	niàn
give	put	hold; take	bring ('cause to come')	read

1. Duō chī yìdiǎnr cài! Have some more food!  
 Xièxie, chībǎo le, chībǎo le. Thank you, [I]'m fine, [I]'m full.
2. Tài dàn le, gāi duō fàng yìdiǎnr It's too bland – [you] should add more  
 yán / jiàngyóu. salt / soysauce.  
 Bù, bù, hái hǎo, zhèi yàng hái hǎo. No, it's fine; it's fine as is.
3. Qǐng duō fàng yí kuài táng. Another cube of sugar please. [coffee]  
 Yí kuài gòu le ma? One is enough?  
 Gòu le, gòu le. That's fine.
4. Qǐng duō lái sān ge kuàngquánshuǐ. Please bring 3 more mineral waters.  
 Qǐng duō lái liǎng ge bēizi. Please bring 2 more glasses.  
 Qǐng duō lái yì shuāng kuàizi. Please bring another pair of chopsticks.
5. Qǐng duō dú ~ niàn yì háng / Please read one more line / paragraph /  
 yí duàn / yí yè. page.
6. Wǒ duō ná liǎng ge, hǎo bu hǎo? I'll take 2 more, okay?
7. Wǒ duō mǎi yí ge. I'll take [ie buy] another.

When only one item is involved, the effect of the duō pattern can be achieved with zài (zàijiàn de zài [再]):

- |    |                              |                                      |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8. | Zài chī yìdiǎnr ba!          | Eat some more.                       |
|    | Qǐng zài lái yì píng kělè.   | Please bring another bottle of cola. |
|    | Nǐ zài ná yí ge, hǎo bu hǎo? | Take another one, okay?              |

And in fact, zài and duō can co-occur:

- |    |                               |   |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 9. | Qǐng zài duō chī yìdiǎnr cài! | Literally ‘Please have some more food again’, but used to mean, ‘Do have some more food!’ |
|----|-------------------------------|---|

#### 8.5.4 Cuisines

Chinese generally distinguish 8 regional cuisines which, for the most part, are named after the provinces with which each is primarily associated. These cuisines are often signaled on restaurant fronts by using standard regional abbreviations, or ‘alternate names’ (biéchēng) of the relevant provinces: Yuè for Canton, Mǐn for Fújiàn, etc. (Abbreviated names of provinces are also used on automobile licence plates and for names of regional languages, cf. §8.6 below.)

#### vocabulary

bāokuò <i>includes</i>	biéchēng <i>another-designation</i>	Huái Hé <i>Huai River</i>	kǒuwèi<r> <i>flavor</i>
zhīr <i>sauce</i>	nóng □ <i>thick; concentrated</i>	yánsè <i>color</i>	shēn hǎixiān <i>deep seafood</i>
Shāndōng cài: □	yě jiào Lǔ (魯) cài; Lǔ shi Shāndōng de biéchēng. Shāndōng cài yě bāokuò Běijīng cài. Kǒuwèir hěn zhòng, bǐjiào nóng; jiàngyóu duō.		
Guǎngdōng cài: □	yě jiào Yuè (粵) cài. Yuè shi Guǎngdōng de biéchēng. Kǒuwèir hěn dàn, yǒu yìdiǎnr tián; jiàngyóu bǐjiào shǎo.		
Sìchuān cài: □	yě jiào Chuān (川) cài. Chuān jiùshi Sìchuān de biéchēng. Hěn má, yě hěn là.		
Jiāngsū cài: □	yě jiào Huáiyáng (淮揚) cài. Huái shi Huái Hé, zài Jiāngsū; Yáng shì Yángzhōu, yě zài Jiāngsū. Zhīr bǐjiào dàn, jiàngyóu shǎo.		
Zhèjiāng cài ~ Shànghǎi cài:	yě jiào Zhè (浙) cài. Zhè shi Zhèjiāng. Kǒuwèir hěn dàn, jiàngyóu bǐjiào shǎo.		

- Ānhuì cài: yě jiào Wǎn (皖) cài. Wǎn shì Ānhuì de biéchēng. Yánsè bǐjiào shēn, jiàngyóu duō.
- Húnán cài: yě jiào Xiāng (湘) cài. Xiāng shì Húnán de biéchēng. Hěn là.
- Fújiàn cài: yě jiào Mǐn (闽) cài. Mǐn shì Fújiàn de biéchēng. Hǎixiān duō, kǒuwèi bǐjiào dàn.

### Exercise 5.

Provide Chinese for the following:

1. Sichuan food is hot, but it isn't as hot as Hunan food; Thai food is even hotter, I feel.
2. If you prefer a 'saltier' taste, put in more soysauce.
3. I'm not used to eating hot food, so please put fewer chillies in; please don't cook it too spicy.
4. Lychees are a bit too sweet for me; I prefer plums or peaches.
5. Durian is cheaper in southern regions than in the north. Durian tastes a bit sour.
6. Cantonese food tends to be a little sweet, with not much soysauce; Sichuan food is hot and 'numbing'.
7. If durian is even a tiny bit overripe [shú], it stinks to high heaven. However, if it's too unripe [shēng], it doesn't taste good either.

### 8.5.5 Banquets and toasts

Banquets and formal meals, whether in restaurants or elsewhere, are almost always served in private rooms, with food brought in from the kitchen. The host generally sits farthest from the door to the room, or at home, farthest from the kitchen, with guests arranged to his/her left and right, roughly according to rank. Guests seated in a place of honor may ritually offer the place to someone of about the same rank before falling into line with the host. (A useful expression for resisting such social honors is bùgǎndāng 'not-dare-assume-[it]', ie 'I don't deserve it; you flatter me.')

Conversation at banquets is usually light and humorous, with anecdotes, personal stories, and often a lot of language play, so that foreigners even of quite advanced conversational ability may find it difficult to follow. One subject that can break the ice is the food itself – food names, ingredients, regional dishes and differences in Chinese and foreign eating habits and cuisines.

At a banquet or formal meal, there may be several drinks served, including mineral water, soft drinks and one or more wines and liquors. While soft drinks may be drunk at one's pleasure, wines and liquor are usually drunk only with toasts, which may be made to individuals, or to the whole table. The standard toast of 'bottoms up' only applied to drinks served in small glasses:

<Dàjiā> gānbēi, gānbēi! Cheers everyone! ('dry-cup')  
 Hǎo, gānbēi. □ Fine, cheers.

Women will find it easier to resist calls to gānbēi, since many women in China do not drink in public. But men of sober character will have developed ways of resisting calls to drink with minimum loss of face. The expression suíyì 'as you please (follow-intention)' can help for a while:

Jiǎ Lái, lái gānbēi, gānbēi! Come on, bottoms up!  
 Yǐ Wǒ bù néng hē, suíyì, suíyì. I can't drink [it all], [so] at one's pleasure.  
 Jiǎ Bù xíng, gānbēi, gānbēi. That won't do, bottoms up!  
 Yǐ Hǎo, hǎo, wǒ suíyì, [in jest] Okay, fine, I'll sip, you swig.  
 nǐmen gānbēi.

Other toasts may involve health, cooperation, success, etc. The CV wèi 'for the sake of', or the verb zhù 'wish for' may introduce such toasts. For the actual invitation to drink, jīng nǐmen yì bēi, literally, 'respect you a cup' may be used instead of gānbēi. Here are some samples toasts:

Wèi dàjiā de jiànkāng gānbēi! Here's to everyone's health!  
 Wèi zánmen gòngtóng de shìyè gānbēi! Here's to our common cause!  
 Wèi nǐmen de xuéxí jìnbù gānbēi! □ Here's to progress in your studies!  
 Wèi wǒmen de hézuò yúkuài gānbēi! □ Here's to successful cooperation!  
 Zhù nín jiànkāng, jīng nǐ yì bēi! □ A glass to your health!  
 Zhù nǐmen chénggōng, jīng nǐmen yì bēi! A glass to your success!  
 Jiāqiáng jiāoliú, zēngjìn yǒuyì! □ Strengthen exchanges and promote friendship!

In giving toasts, it is important to raise the glass with two hands; extra deference can be shown by raising the glass high (still with two hands). At large gatherings, normally the host will toast first, at or near the beginning of the meal, and then later on, the head of the guest delegation will return the toast. Where a number of tables are involved, hosts and guests may walk over to toast other tables. People will often rise to toast. Possible expressions of thanks to the hosts are:

Xièxie nǐmen de kuǎndài. Thank you for the hospitality.

Xièxie nǐmen de rèqíng zhāodài! Thanks for your warm reception!

At banquets or other meals, Chinese often play very rapid games of huáquán 'finger guessing' or more generally, hējiǔ de yóuxì 'drinking games', with the loser<s> drinking. Such games come in a number of varieties, and need a lot of practice. With

foreigners, the simpler children's game of 'scissors, stone, paper' often substitutes for the real thing. That game is called shítou, jiǎnzi, bù ('stone, scissors, cloth') in Chinese, and participants play by shouting out 'shítou, jiǎnzi, bù', displaying their choice on the count of 'bù'. Another game, chóngzi, bàngzi, lǎohǔ, jī 'insect, club, tiger, chicken', is common and simple enough to learn. The rules are:

Chóngzi chī bàngzi, bàngzi dǎ lǎohǔ, lǎohǔ chī jī, jī chī chóngzi.

The cadence is fast, and participants simply utter their choice in unison, adding up wins and losses until some previously designated number is reached and losers drink.



Chóngqìng: Street stall selling Táiwān 'Zhēnzhū' nǎichá 'bubble tea'.

## 8.6 Dialogue: In the store

*L is the lǎobǎn, G is a customer, gùkè:*

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| G | Lǎobǎn, nǐ yǒu méiyǒu miànjīnzhǐ?                     | Do you have any tissues?  |
| L | Yǒu, yǒu jìnkǒu de hé guóchǎn de.<br>Nǐ yào nǐ zhǒng? | Yes, we have imported ones and national products. Which kind do you want? |
| G | Jìnkǒu de duōshǎo qián?                               | How much are the imported ones?   |

- L Liǎng kuài bā. Guóchǎn de (yì) kuài èr. Xiǎo bāor de. ¥2.80; the local ones are ¥1.20. [For] a small pack [one].
- G Jìnkǒu de tài guì le, wǒ hái shì mǎi guóchǎn de. The imported ones are too expensive, I may as well buy the local ones.
- L È, bú cuò, guóchǎn de yě bú chà! Yeah, there's nothing wrong with local ones.
- G Hǎo, lái liǎng bāo ba. Okay, two packs please.
- L Nà shì liǎng kuài sì. That's ¥2.40.
- G Zhè shì shí kuài. Here's a ¥10.
- L Hǎo, zhǎo nǐ qī kuài liù. Fine, here's ¥7.60 in change.

## Notes:

jìnkǒu	V 'to import (enter mouth=port)'; N 'imports'
guóchǎn	N 'produced in China (national-product)'
zhǎo	V 'find', but here, 'to provide change'

## Other purchases

wèishēngzhǐ	toilet paper (sanitary paper)	yì bāo 'a pack'
shūzi ~ lóngzi	comb	yí gè; yì bǎ
shuāzi	hairbrush	yí gè; yì bǎ
zhǐjiǎdāo~qián~jiǎn	nail clippers	yí gè
féizào ~ xiāngzào	soap ~ scented soap	yí kuài 'a bar'
máojīn	towel (wool-cloth)	yì tiáo
xǐfāshuǐ	shampoo (wash-hair-water)	yì píngr
yáshuā	(tooth-brush)	yí gè; yì bǎ
yágāo	(tooth-paste)	yì tǒng 'a tube'
chúngāo	lipstick (lip-paste)	yí gè
āsīpǐlín	aspirin	yì píngr; yí piànr 'a pill'
guāhúddāo	razor (shave-beard-knife)	yí gè
dāopiàn	razor blades	yí gè
kuàngquánshuǐ	spring water	yì píngr
bìyùntào	condoms (prevent-birth-	yí gè; yì hé 'a box'
~ ānquántào	glove) ~ (safety-glove)	
wèishēngmiǎn	tampons (sanitary-cotton)	yí gè; yì hé

## 8.6.1 Shì&lt;qing&gt; 'things'

The noun shìqing, or shìr [shèr] ~ shì 'things' in the sense of 'items of business', introduced in §5.6.1, is common in expressions such as the following:

1. Shì<r> tài duō le, wǒ bù néng qù. I have too much to do, I can't go.  
Nà tài kěxī le. That's too bad.
2. Shénme shìr? What's up?  
Méi shìr! Nothing!
3. Nà bú shì wǒ de shìr! That's nothing to do with me.
4. Shìqing dōu bànwán le ma? Have [you] finished everything?  
Hái méi ne, hái yǒu yí jiàn. Not yet, there's still one item.
5. Chū-le shénme shì? What happened?  
Hǎoxiàng chū chēhuò le. Looks like there was an [car] accident.
6. Yǒu shìr, dǎ diànhuà! [If] something comes up, phone!

### 7. Mini-dialogue

- Nǐ zhǎo wǒ yǒu shénme shì? What do you want to see me about?
- Xiàtiān wǒ dǎsuàn qù Zhōngguó liúxué; máfan nǐ gěi wǒ xiě yì fēng tuījiànxin.* I'm planning to study abroad in China this summer; would you mind writing a letter of recommendation for me?
- Kěyǐ. Shénme shíhou xūyào jiāo? When does [it] need to be in?
- Shíyī yuè shíwǔ hào, hái yǒu liǎng ge lǐbài.* Nov. 15 - there's still 2 weeks.
- Hǎo, nà wǒ yǐhòu yǒu wèntí jiù gēn nǐ liánxi. Okay, I'll get in touch if I have questions.

## 8.7 Regional languages: dialogue and narrative

The colloquial names for regional languages (fāngyán, shortened from dìfang de yǔyán, and misleadingly called 'dialects' in English) are generally formed from the name of the province or city where the language is most current, eg Guǎngdōnghuà for 'Cantonese', or Shànghǎihuà for 'Shanghainese'. However linguists, in order to suggest more accurately the region where the language is spoken, use more specialized names based on the names of historical kingdoms or regions, plus yǔ, eg Yuèyǔ 'Cantonese'.

Here are some of the better known Chinese regional languages; each subsumes regional variants – which are more properly called dialects. But even these may not be mutually intelligible.

*Guǎngdōnghuà or Cantonese*

The dialect grouping of which Cantonese is the standard is called Yuè, or Yuèyǔ. Yuè dialects include Táishān (also called Toisan, after the Cantonese pronunciation, and Hoisan after the pronunciation of Taishan itself), spoken on a coastal region of Canton Province, southwest of Hong Kong. Speakers of Yuè are found in many parts of the world. The majority of Chinese-Americans are descendents from emigrants from Taishan County and adjoining regions known (in Cantonese pronunciation) as *Sze Yup* ‘four counties’. Recent administrative changes have made the *Sze Yup* area actually *Ng Yup* ‘five counties’.

*Fújiàn huà or Hokkien*

Fujianese (or Fukienese) is also called Hokkien after the Fujianese pronunciation of ‘Fujian’. The dialect grouping as a whole is called Mǐn, and within Mǐn, the southern or western group that includes Taiwanese and the languages of Amoy (Xiàmén in Mandarin) and Swatou (Shāntóu in Mandarin) are often called Mǐnnányǔ ‘southern Min’. The descendents of Min speakers are now found throughout Southeast Asia (notably in Singapore, where they are the majority), as well as other parts of the world.

*Shànghǎihuà*

The language of Shanghai is usually called Shanghainese in English (with an intrusive ‘n’). The dialect grouping that includes Shànghǎihuà, Sūzhōuhuà, Níngbōhuà and others is called Wú or Wúyǔ.

*Kèjiāhuà or Hakka*

Hakka is the Cantonese pronunciation of the word kèjiā ‘guests; strangers (guest-families)’, which reflects the fact that many Kèjiā people settled in Cantonese speaking areas. Hakka speakers are found in Canton province, in bordering southwest Fujian, in Hong Kong and Taiwan, as well as in many parts of Southeast Asia.

**8.7.1 Chinese regional languages**

Place: Beijing. Jiǎ, a foreigner studying in China, has been talking to Yǐ, a Chinese student.

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| Jiǎ | Nǐ fùmǔ yě zhù zai Běijīng ma?                       | Your parents live in Beijing too?                   |
| Yǐ  | Shì, tāmen zhèr yǒu yí ge fángzi.                    | Yes, they have an apartment here.                   |
| Jiǎ | O, yǒu zìjǐ de fángzi!                               | Oh, so they have their own apartment.               |
| Yǐ  | Bú shì zìjǐ de, shì māma de dānwèi fēn gěi tāmen de. | It's not their own, it's provided by my mom's unit. |
| Jiǎ | O, dānwèi fēn gěi tāmen de.                          | Oh, it's provided by the unit!                      |

- Yī Shì, zài yí zuò liù céng lóu lǐ.  
Nèi zuò lóu bú qǐyǎnr, kěshì  
tāmen fángzi de lǐtōu hěn bú cuò!  
Yes, it's in a 6 story building.  
The building isn't much to look at,  
but inside their apartment isn't bad.
- Jiǎ Fùmǔ shì zài Běijīng zhǎng de  
ma?  
Were your parents raised in Beijing?
- Yī Bù, wǒ fùqīn shì Guǎngzhōu rén,  
mǔqīn shì Níngbō lái de.  
My father's from Canton, my mother's  
from Ningbo.
- Jiǎ Wǒ zhīdao Guǎngdōng rén shuō  
Guǎngdōnghuà. Nà, Níngbōrén  
shuō shénme huà ne?  
I know Cantonese speak Cantonese.  
So what language do Ningbo  
people speak then?
- Yī Níngbō lí Shànghǎi bù yuǎn.  
Níngbōhuà yǒu diǎnr xiàng  
Shànghǎihuà.  
Ningbo's not far from Shanghai.  
Ningbo is a bit like Shanghainese.
- Jiǎ O, Níngbō rén shuō Shànghǎihuà!  
Oh, Ningbo people speak Shanghainese!
- Yī Bù, Níngbōhuà hěn xiàng Shànghǎi-  
huà, kěshì bù wánquán yíyàng.  
Shànghǎihuà, Níngbōhuà, Sūzhōu-  
huà dēngdēng dōu shì Wú-  
fāngyán.  
No, Ningbo speech is like Shanghai  
speech, but it's not completely identical to it.  
The lgs of Shanghai, Ningbo, Suzhou and  
so on are all Wu dialects.
- Jiǎ 'Fāngyán' shì shénme yìsi?  
What's a fāngyán?
- Yī Fāngyán ne, fāngyán shì dìfāng de  
yǔyán, xiàng Guǎngdōnghuà,  
Fújiàn huà.  
A fāngyán, well, a fāngyán is a regional  
language, like Cantonese, Fujianese.
- Jiǎ Nǐ huì shuō Shànghǎihuà ma?  
Do you speak Shanghainese?
- Yī Shànghǎihuà wǒ bú huì, dànshì  
wǒ huì shuō diǎnr Guǎngdōnghuà.  
I don't speak Shanghainese, but I do  
speak some Cantonese.
- Jiǎ. Huì shuō Pǔtōnghuà de rén  
tīngdedōng Guǎngdōnghuà  
Shànghǎihuà ma?  
Can people who speak Mandarin  
understand Cantonese and Shang-  
hainese?
- Yī Bù, Pǔtōnghuà shì Pǔtōnghuà,  
Guǎngdōnghuà shì Guǎngdōnghuà,  
Shànghǎihuà shì Shànghǎihuà,  
dōu shì bù tóng de yǔyán.  
No, Mandarin's Mandarin, Cantonese  
is Cantonese, and Shanghainese is  
Shanghainese, they're all different  
languages.

Jiǎ Ài, Hànyǔ zhēn fùzá! Wow, Chinese is so complicated!

## Notes

fángzi	‘house’ but in Mainland usage (with <u>ge</u> as M-word), ‘apartment’; a free standing house in an urban setting is a rare thing in China, and is usually called a <u>biéshù</u> , often translated ‘villa’, but more a ‘mansion’ in fact. Less commonly (but more commonly in Taiwan), apartments are also called <u>gōngyù</u> .
fēn gěi	‘distribute give’, ie ‘distribute to’. Earlier in this unit, it was mentioned that <u>mài</u> ‘sell’ and <u>dì</u> ‘pass’ introduced the recipient with a following <u>gěi</u> ; <u>fēn</u> is another in this class of transactional verbs.
zuò	M for buildings, mountains.
liù céng	‘six stories’. Older Chinese residential blocks are typically six stories high; above that, they are required to have elevators.
qǐyǎnr	a colloquial expression that, literally, means ‘raise-eyes’; ie ‘be attractive; striking’; often, as here, in the negative.
Níngbō	A city in <u>Zhèjiāng</u> province, near the coast, south across the Bay of <u>Hángzhōu</u> from <u>Shànghǎi</u> . The speeches of regions in southern <u>Jiāngsū</u> and most of <u>Zhèjiāng</u> are closely related to that of Shanghai, and are classified as <u>Wú</u> dialects.
wánquán	ADV ‘completely’; SV ‘be complete’. <u>Wánquán yíyàng</u> ‘completely the same’.
bù tóng děngděng	SV ‘not the same’; cf <u>tóngxué</u> ‘classmate’, <u>tóngzhì</u> ‘comrade’. used to close a list: ‘and so on; etc.’ Written with the same character as <u>děng</u> ‘wait’, which is also frequently doubled: <u>děngděng</u> ‘wait a minute’.
fùzá	SV ‘be-complicated’; cf. <u>bù jiǎndān</u> ‘not simple’.

## 8.8 A narrative about Lin Mei

*Fāngyán: dìfang de yǔyán*

Lín Měi shì Zhōngwén lǎoshī. Lǎo péngyou dōu guǎn tā jiào xiǎo Lín, kěshì xuésheng dāngrán jiào tā Lín lǎoshī. Yīnwèi tā shì Zhōngwén lǎoshī, suǒyǐ tā de xuéshēng dōu shì wàiguó lái de, yǒu Riběn de, Měiguó de, Ōuzhōu de, yě yǒu Àozhōu de. Lín Měi chūshēng zài Běijīng. Tā fùqin yě shì Běijīng rén kěshì mǔqin shì Shànghǎi lái de, suǒyǐ Lín Měi yě huì shuō diǎnr Shànghǎihuà. Huì shuō Pǔtōnghuà de rén bù yíding tīngdedǒng Shànghǎihuà. Lín Měi de bàba huì shuō Pǔtōnghuà, bú huì shuō Shànghǎihuà, kěshì māma Pǔtōnghuà Shànghǎihuà dōu huì jiǎng. Suǒyǐ Lín Měi hé māma shuōhuà, yǒushíhou bàba dǒng, yǒushíhou bàba bù dǒng. Hěn yǒuyìsi! Wǒ kěyǐ

shuō ge Shànghǎihuà de lizi. Pǔtōnghuà shuō: Nǐ chīfàn le ma? Shànghǎihuà shuō: *Nong ch'yuq vele vuh*. Gēn Pǔtōnghuà wánquán bù tóng, duì ma?

Nà, wǒmen tántan Shànghǎihuà ba. Nǐ kànkàn dìtú. Shànghǎi fùjìn yǒu hěn duō xiǎo chéngshì: Sūzhōu, Níngbō, Hángzhōu, Wēnzhōu, Shàoxīng dēngdēng. Dōu lí Shànghǎi bù yuǎn. Nà, Sūzhōu rén shuō shénme huà ne? Sūzhōu rén dāngrán shuō Sūzhōuhuà. Níngbō rén ne? Yíyàng, Níngbō rén shuō Níngbōhuà. Kěshì Shànghǎihuà, Sūzhōuhuà, Níngbōhuà dōu hěn xiàng; kěyǐ shuō dōu shì yí ge fāngyán. Guǎngdōnghuà, Fújiànhuà, Kèjiāhuà dēngdēng dōu shǔyú bù tóng de fāngyán. Fāngyán shì shénme ne? Fāngyán shì dìfang de yǔyán.

Nà bù tóng de fāngyán yǒu bù tóng de míngzi. Bǐfāng shuō, Shànghǎi fùjìn shì Wú-fāngyán. Wèishénme jiào Wú ne? Nà shì yīnwèi yīqián, zài Chūnqiū Shídài, nèi ge dìfang yǒu ge Wúguó. Guǎngdōnghuà gēn Guǎngdōng fùjìn de fāngyán jiào Yuè fāngyán, yīnwèi yīqián nàr yǒu ge Yuèguó. Hànyǔ yígòng yǒu qī bā ge dà fāngyán: Wú (zài Shànghǎi, Zhèjiāng), Yuè (zài Guǎngdōng, Guǎngxī, Xiānggǎng), Mǐn (zài Fújiàn, Táiwān, Hǎinán), Kèjiā (zài Guǎngdōng, Fújiàn), Xiāng (zài Húnán), Gàn (zài Jiāngxī, Húnán) hé Běifāng fāngyán (zài běifāng). Běifāng de shì zuì pǔbiàn de. Pǔtōnghuà ne? Pǔtōnghuà bù néng shuō shì ge dìfang de yǔyán; shì ge guójiā de yǔyán, kěshì Pǔtōnghuà zuì xiàng Běifāng de fāngyán.

### *Xīn de hé chuántǒng de*

Lín Měi xǐhuan Běijīng, yě xǐhuan Shànghǎi. Kěshì tā shuō zuìjìn biànhuà tài duō le. Yīqián Běijīng yǒu hěn duō hùtònggr. Hùtònggr shì hěn ānjìng de dìfang, kěyǐ zǒuyizǒu, hē chá, kàn péngyou. Yǒu fángzi, xiǎo shāngdiàn, cháguañr dēngdēng. Shànghǎi yě yǒu hùtònggr, kěshì Shànghǎi de hùtònggr bú jiào hùtònggr, jiào nòngtáng – nà shì Shànghǎihuà de yí ge cí. Nòngtáng yǒu yìdiǎnr xiàng hùtònggr, kěshì bù zěnme ānjìng, bù zěnme hǎokàn!

Běijīng yīqián hùtònggr hěn duō; Shànghǎi yīqián nòngtáng yě hěn duō. Kěshì xiànzài, bù yíyàng. Yīqián de hùtònggr shì xiànzài de gòuwù-zhōngxīn le; yīqián de nòngtáng shì xiànzài de dàlóu le! Yǒude Zhōngguó rén hěn xǐhuan gòuwù-zhōngxīn.

Wèishénme ne? Yīnwèi hěn fāngbiàn, dōngxī hěn duō, yǒu chī de, hē de, wánr de.  
Gòuwù-zhōngxīn hěn gānjìng, méiyǒu lǎoshǔ, méiyǒu hàozi, méiyǒu zhāngláng, méiyǒu  
chóngzi, méiyǒu zhīzhū, méiyǒu wénzi. Xiàng ge gōngdiàn yíyàng, xiàng ge shìwài-  
táoyuán yíyàng!

Zhōngguó rén, yǒude xǐhuan lǎo de dōngxī, xǐhuan chuántǒng de; tāmen hěn  
xǐhuan Běijīng de hùtònggr. Yǒude xǐhuan xīn de, xiàndài de, hěn xǐhuan dà chéngshì de  
gòuwù-zhōngxīn, mótiān-dàlóu. Bù zhīdao nǐmen Měiguó rén, Ōuzhōu rén de kànfǎ  
zěnmeyàng!

## Notes

*Fāngyán: dìfang de yǔyán*

guān x jiào y. □	Recall this pattern as a variant of <u>jiào</u> x y. So equivalent to: <u>Lǎo péngyou dōu jiào tā xiǎo Lín.</u>
lizi	‘example’; <u>shuō ge lizi</u> ‘give an example’; cf. <u>bǐfāng shuō</u> below.
gēn...bù tóng tán	‘different from ... (with ... not the+same)’. Notice the word order! V ‘talk; discuss’ overlaps with <u>shuō</u> ‘speak; say; talk about’; <u>shuōshuō</u> would also be possible here, but <u>tántán</u> seems to suggest participation of all parties, hence ‘discuss’.
zhǒng	M ‘kind; type’; <u>yǒu liǎng zhǒng</u> ‘there are two types’.
shǔyú	V. ‘belong to’; cf. <u>Tā shǔ mǎnián.</u> ‘He’s the year of the horse.’
bǐfāng shuō	‘for example’; also <u>bírú shuō</u> ~ <u>pírú shuō</u> .
Chūnqiū Shídài	‘Spring Autumn Period’. An historical division of the Zhōu dynasty, named for the <i>Chunqiu</i> annals of that period; 770-464 B.C.
pǔbiàn	SV. ‘widespread’; <u>pǔtōng de pǔ</u> .
guójiā	N. ‘country (nation-home)’

*Xīn de hé chuántǒng de*

biànhuà □	N ‘changes’; cf. <u>huàxué</u> ‘chemistry’, ie ‘study of transformations’.
hùtònggr □	‘alleys’. The word, written with characters taken for their sounds rather than meaning, is apparently adapted from a Mongolian word.
ānjìng	SV ‘peaceful (peace-quiet)’ □
cháguǎnr	N ‘teashop (tea-shop)’; cf. <u>fànguǎnr</u> . □
nòngtáng	N. Mandarin pronunciation of a Shanghainese word for ‘lane’ or □ ‘alley’.
bù zěnmē SV	‘not so (SV)’. This is the indefinite use of <u>zěnmē</u> ; cf. <u>bù zěnmē</u> <u>gāo</u> , <u>bù zěnmē lěng</u> .
gòuwù-zhōngxīn; dàlóu	‘goods-center’; a translation of the English ‘shopping-center’. literally ‘big building’. ‘Skyscraper’ has a literal Chinese equivalent: <u>mótiān-dàlóu</u> ‘scrape-sky big-building’.

fāngbiàn	SV ‘convenient’		
gānjìng	SV ‘be-clean’		
<i>vermin and insects</i>	<u>lǎoshǔ</u> ‘mice’ <u>chóngzi</u> ‘insects’	<u>hàozǐ</u> ‘rats’ <u>wénzi</u> ‘mosquitoes’	<u>zhāngláng</u> ‘roaches’ <u>zhīzhū</u> ‘spiders’
gōngdiàn	N ‘palace’		
shìwài-táoyuán	‘world-outside peach-garden’, reference to a famous tale about a man who discovered a secret, idyllic garden.		
xīn de	‘new things’; <u>xīn</u> SV ‘new’.		
xiàndài	N. ‘modern times (new-age)’.		
kànfǎ	N. ‘viewpoint; opinion (seeing-way)’.		

### 8.8.1 A note on ‘old’

Chinese has two words that correspond, or at least overlap, with English ‘old’. One is lǎo, the other is jiù. In general terms, lǎo is the opposite of shào ‘young’, while jiù is the opposite of xīn ‘new’; but it is also true that lǎo has basically positive connotations, while jiù has basically negative ones. Below are some typical examples – or collocations:

+		–	
lǎo	old; experienced; long-standing; of earlier times	jiù	used; old fashioned; deteriorated; out-of-date; former
Tā lǎo le.	He’s getting old.	Jiù le.	[They]’re worn out!
Jīqì lǎo le.	The machinery’s old.	Shì jiù de.	[It]’s old fashioned.
lǎo péngyou	good friend □	jiùchē	used car
lǎoshǒu	an old hand □	jiùshū	used books; worn-out books
lǎojiā	hometown □	jiùyīfu	worn-out clothes
lǎorén	old people □	jiùshèhuì	the old society (ie pre-1949)
lǎogànbu	veteran cadre □	jiùsīxiǎng	old-fashioned ideas
lǎo gōngrén	experienced worker □	chuān+de hěn jiù le	worn to the point of being worn out.
lǎo chuántǒng	old customs □		

Cf. the campaign against the Sì Jiù ‘the Four Old[-fashioneds]’, ie jiùwénhuà ‘old culture’, jiùsīxiǎng ‘old thought’, jiùfēngsú ‘old customs’ and jiùxíguàn ‘old practices’.

Lǎo also means ‘tough’, as of meat, the opposite of ‘tender’, nèn.

**Exercise 6.**

Answer the following questions on the narrative:

1.  Wèishénme yǒu rén shuō Lín Měi shì Shànghǎi lái de?
  2.  Tā de xuéshēng shì shénme dìfāng lái de?
  3. Tā fùqīn huì jiǎng shénme huà?
  4.  Mǔqīn zhǐ huì jiǎng Shànghǎihuà ba?
  5.  Bàba yǒushíhou tīngbudòng Lín Měi shuō de huà; wèishénme?
  6.  Shénme shì fāngyán?
  7.  Wú fāngyán shì shénme? Wèishénme jiào ‘Wú’?
  8.  Hútònggr gēn nòngtáng zěnme bù yíyàng?
  9.  Wèishénme xiànzài de Běijīng hútònggr bù duō le?
  10.  Yǒurén bǐjiào xǐhuan hútònggr; wèishénme?
  11.  Gòuwù-zhōngxīn shì shénme?
  12.  Mótiān-dàlóu shì shénme?
  13. Yǒurén yě xǐhuan gòuwù-zhōngxīn, wèishénme?
  14.  Shénme shì shìwài-táoyuán?
  15.  Pǔtōnghuà yě kěyǐ shuō shì fāngyán ma?
  16. Nǐ de sùshè lǐmian, lǎoshǔ, chóngzi, zhāngláng duō bu duō? Zěnme bàn?
- 

**8.9 Jobs****8.9.1 Version 1**

- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| Jiǎ | Nǐ jiā lǐ yǒu xiē shénme rén?   | Who (all) do you have in your family?  |
| Yǐ  | Bàba, māma, yí ge jiějie, yí ge dìdi; o duì le, hái yǒu wǒ ne.                | My father and mother, my older sister, a younger brother; oh, and me too.    |
| Jiǎ | Nà, fùqīn mǔqīn zuò shénme gōngzuò?   | Well, what sort of work do your parents do?                                  |
| Yǐ  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bàba jiāoshū, māma dāng yīshēng.                     | Dad teaches, mum is a doctor.  |
| Jiǎ | Nà, tāmen gōngzuò dōu hěn máng ba.  | Oh, so [I] guess they’re kept pretty busy with work then.                    |
| Yǐ  | <input type="checkbox"/> Duì a, xiāngdāng máng. Yǒu-shíhou wǒmen háizimen děi | True, <they>’re quite busy. Sometimes we kids had to help them do the chores |

*bāng tāmen zuò jiāwù – mǎi dōngxì, zuòfàn, sǎodì, xǐ yīfu, zhènglǐ fángjiān.* – shopping, cooking, sweeping, clothes washing, and tidying up the rooms.

## Notes

- jiā lǐ ‘in [your] family’  
 xiē shénme xiē ‘several’ and shénme ‘what’ often occur together in sentences that ask for a listing.  
 dāng □ V ‘work as; act as; be’; eg dāng mǔqīn ‘be a mother’; dāng lǜshī ‘work as a lawyer’; dāng gōngrén ‘be a worker’. Shì is frequently an alternative to dāng: tā shì yīshēng etc. Cf. also Tā zuò shēngyì. ‘She’s in business.’  
 xiāngdāng □ Adv. ‘rather; quite’, with SVs: xiāngdāng dà, xiāngdāng guì.  
 háizimen □ N ‘child’ plus -men, the plural suffix that occurs with personal pronouns and nouns referring to human beings, eg lǎoshīmen, tóngxuémen, etc.  
 bāng V ‘help’: bāng nǐ zuò, bāng nǐ xiě, bāng tā xǐ yīfu, etc. □  
 jiāwù N ‘housework (house-things)’; in Taiwan, jiāshì is more common. □  
 sǎodì VO ‘sweep-ground’ □  
 xǐ yīfu VO ‘wash clothes’ □  
 zhènglǐ V ‘tidy up; arrange; put in order’ □  
 fángjiān N ‘room’ □

## Additional vocabulary relevant to talking about family

- jìfù, jìmǔ □ step-father; step-mother  
 zǔfù, zǔmǔ □ grandfather, grandmother on the father’s side. Wàizǔfù, wàizǔmǔ are the grandparents on the mother’s side. In the south, g-f and g-m on the mother’s side are also called wàigōng and wàipó, respectively; and in the north, they are sometimes called lǎoye and lǎolao, respectively.  
 shuāngbāotāi ‘twins (pair-placenta-embryo)’

## Other professions:

jìzhě	reporter	gōngchéngshī	engineer
lǜshī	lawyer	yīshēng ~ dàifu	doctor
jiànzhùshī	architect	jīnglǐ	manager
nóngmín	farmer	gōngrén	factory hand
jǐngchá	policeman	dàshīfu	cook; chef
cáifeng	tailor	yǎnyuán	actor
zhíyuán	clerk; office worker	sījī	driver
jūnrén	soldier	jūnguān	[army] officer
shǒuyìrén	craftsman	gōngjiàng	artisan
tuīxiāoyuán	push-sales-person	xiūlǐgōng	mechanic
diàngōng	electrician	kuànggōng	miner

wǎngōng	brick-layer	shíjiàng	mason
shòuhuòyuán	shop assistant	móshù-yǎnyuán	magician; conjurer
[zhèngfǔ] guānyuán	[government] civil servant		
gànbu	a cadre; government official		
jiěfàngjūn	People's Liberation Army soldier		



Mài shuǐguǒ de tānfàn ('street seller') □

<i>Hold a job</i>	Tā dāng yīshēng. Tā shì yīsheng.	She works as a doctor. She's a doctor.
<i>No job</i>	Tā tuìxiū le. Tā xiàgǎng le. Tā shīyè le.	She's retired. (retreat-rest) He's been laid off. (depart-post) She's lost her job. (lose-employment)

### 8.9.2 Version 2

Jiǎ	Nǐ jiā lǐ yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?	How many people in your family?
Yǐ	Liù kǒu, wǒ àirén hé sì ge hái zi.	Six, my spouse and 4 children.
Jiǎ	Sì ge hái zi? Jǐ ge nán hái zi, jǐ ge nǚ hái zi?	Four children? How many boys, how many girls?
Yǐ	Dōu shì nǚ hái zi.	[They]'re all girls.
Jiǎ	Ó, sì qiān jīn!	Oh, 4000 pieces of gold!
Yǐ	Nà jiù shì liǎng dūn ~ dùn!	[Joking] That's two tons!

Jiǎ	Nǐ yǒu zhàopiānr ma?	Do you have photos?
Yǐ	Yǒu, nǐ kàn, wǒ tàitai, lǎodà, lǎo'èr, lǎosān, zuì xiǎo de.	I do, look, my wife, my oldest, my second, third and youngest.
Jiǎ	Nǐ zhèi sì ge háizi dōu hěn kě'ài.	Those 4 kids of yours are real cute!
Yǐ	Nǎlǐ, dōu hěn tiáopí, hěn máfan.	Nah, they're all mischeivous, a nuisance!
Jiǎ	Wǒ bú tài xiāngxìn, hǎoxiàng dōu hěn guāi!	I don't believe [you], [they] all seem very well-behaved!

## Notes:

- kǒu □ M for people in a family, village etc.
- qiānjīn □ Literally '1000 <pieces of> gold', a tongue-in-cheek reference to daughters, eg liǎngqiān jīn '2000 pieces of gold' for '2 daughters'. Liǎng dùn 'two tons' is, of course, a humorous response. 2 tons is 4000 lbs or 4000 gold pieces. In some southern regions, instead of qiānjīn, daughters are described as jīnhuā 'golden flowers': sì duǒ jīnhuā '4 M gold-flowers'.
- zhàopiān<r> □N 'photograph; picture (photograph-slice)', or more colloquially, xiàngpiān<r> 'photos', both with level toned piān<r>. Without the r-suffix, both words are often pronounced with falling tone on piàn: zhàopiàn, xiàngpiàn.
- lǎodà □ Children (sons or daughters) can be referred to as lǎodà, lǎo'èr, lǎosān, etc., according to relative age; also hángdà, háng'èr, hángsān, etc. (with háng 'a row').
- xiāngxìn □V 'believe'

## 8.10 V+le revisited

As noted in earlier units, le ( 了 ) may appear at the foot of sentences to signal a change in phase (xiànzài hǎo le; yǐjīng chīfàn le), or it may intervene between a verb and its object to signal priority or completion. (Of course, if no object is present, then the two le's can only be distinguished by function – or meaning.) Historically, the two types – or two positions – of le are thought to have different sources. Post-verbal le is said to derive from destressing of the verb liǎo 'finish', which is also written 了 (cf. liǎobuqǐ), and in fact, in recitation styles, le is read liǎo, as in the following line from the song Dōngfāng Hóng 'The East is Red': Zhōngguó chūliǎo yí ge Máo Zédōng. Sentence le, on the other hand, is thought to derive from destressing of the verb lái 'come', so chīfàn le is, in an etymological sense, 'to have come to the present state of having eaten'.

## 8.10.1 Sequence of events

One particularly clear manifestation of V+le is found in sequences, where the second event is conditional on the completion of the first:

Shénme shíhòu mǎi piào?  
Shàngle chē jiù mǎi piào.

When do we buy our tickets?  
Buy your tickets after boarding.

And, of course, where the conditions are more severe, cái may substitute for jiù:

Néng chūqu wánr ma?  
Nǐ chīle fàn cái néng chūqu wánr.

Can [I] go out to play?  
You can't go out to play until you've eaten.

Wǒ zǎoshàng chīle xiànrǐng  
cái yǒu jīngshen.

Mornings, I can't function until I've  
eaten a meat-pancake. ('stuffed pancake')

In such cases, *V-le O* occupies the same position in the sentence as a time word:

Wǒ sān diǎn huíjiā.  
Wǒ chīle fàn jiù huíjiā.  
Wǒ xiàlè kè cái huíjiā.

I'm going home at 3. □  
I'm going home after I eat. □  
I'm not going home until after class. □

A sentence le can be added to the clause as a whole to indicate that the event has happened:

Tā chīle fàn jiù huí jiā le.

She went home after [she] ate.

Le after the first verb in these sentences serves much the same purpose as yǐhòu 'afterwards', and in fact, where the second event is less likely to follow immediately on the first, yǐhòu may be preferred; or *verb-le* and yǐhòu may both occur.

Tā bì<le> yè yǐhòu dǎsuàn qù  
Zhōngguó liúxué.

He's planning to go abroad to study in  
China after he graduates.

(Some speakers say bìyè le yǐhòu, treating bìyè as a compound verb.)

### 8.10.2 *V-le with quantified objects*

Another environment that is highly conducive to the post-verbal le was noted earlier: reference to particular prior events. One manifestation of this is the presence of a 'quantified object' (a numbered object). Contrast the following pairs:

Zuótiān wǒ qù Cháng Chéng le.

I visited the Great Wall yesterday.

vs

Zuótiān wǒ qù-le yí tàng  
Cháng Chéng.

I took a trip to the Great Wall yesterday.

Or:

Tā shuìjiào le.

She's gone to bed.

vs

Tā shuì-le bā ge xiǎoshí.  
Tā shuì-le bā ge xiǎoshí<de> jiào.

She slept for 8 hours.  
She slept 8 hours of sleep.

- Cf. Tā yǐjīng shuì-le bā ge xiǎoshí      She's been sleeping for 8 hours already!  
      <de> jiào le.

*A short dialogue*

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jiǎ. Lèi ma? □                      | Tired?                          |
| Yī. Hěn lèi, shuì+de bù hǎo.        | Sure am, [I] didn't sleep well. |
| Jiǎ. Zāogāo! □                      | Too bad!                        |
| Yī. Zhǐ shuì-le sān sì ge zhōngtòu! | [I] only slept 3 or 4 hours!    |
| Jiǎ. Nà, nǐ yīnggāi xiūxi yíxià.    | You should take a break then.   |

For a Chinese speaker, the relevant criterion is probably not the presence of a quantified object per se. But the notion of 'quantified object' is a useful marker for learners trying to figure out whether le should be placed after the object (at the foot of the sentence) or directly after the verb. Other examples:

1. Tā huàn-le qián jiu qù-le yí tàng      He changed some money and then took a  
     gòuwù-zhōngxīn.                              trip to the mall.

*Notes*

- a) huàn-le qián is the condition; □  
 b) qù-le yí tàng is a 'prior event, with quantified object'. □
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. Mǎi shénme le?<br>~ Mǎi-le yíxiē shénme?                 | What did you buy ~ have you bought?<br>What sort of things did you buy ~ have you bought? |
| Mǎi-le ge táidēng, mǎi-le<br>ge shōuyīnjī, yì běn zìdiǎn... | [I] bought a lamp, a radio, a dictionary...<br>[I] have bought a lamp....                 |

**8.10.3 Other cases of V-le**

There are also cases in which le intervenes between verb and object where neither the notion of sequence nor quantified object clearly applies. Such cases can only be accounted for by the more general sense of the function of V-le, as a way of checking off the fact that a particular event occurred. In the examples below, the particularity is sometimes indicated in the English by the material shown in brackets: 'my meal', 'her meal', rather than just 'a meal'. Rather than try to apply a rule that is inevitably vague, the learner will do better to shíshì-qíúshì 'seek truth from facts ([from] real-things seek-truth)'; study the examples, try to account for the presence of le and its position in the sentence, then test your concepts against material that you observe in your own interactions. Here are some examples in which the presence of le is probably not surprising, but the position directly after the verb, or not, may be harder to account for.

Shíjiān hěn jǐnzhāng, wǒmen qù-le Xīníng, kěshì méi dào Lāsà.	The time was tight! We got to Xining, but we didn't make it to Lhasa.
Wǒ xiān dǎ-le diànhuà, ránhòu qù chī-le fàn.	I made a phone call first, and then went and finished [my] meal.
Tā chī-le fàn, yě chī-le miàn.	She ate the rice as well as the noodles.
Tāmen shā-le Jiāng Jiě, yě shā-le Fǔ Zhìgāo.	They killed Jiang Jie, as well as Fu Zhigao.
Tā gānggāng chī-le fàn.	She just now finished [her] meal.

**Exercise 7:**

Explain that:

1. you generally sleep 8 hours a night;
2. but last night you only slept three hours.
3. you generally get up at 7:30;
4. but last night you didn't get up till 9.
5. After you eat breakfast, you walk (zǒulù) for 30 minutes.
6. Everyday, you do an hour's Chinese homework.
7. On MWF your 1<sup>st</sup> class is at 11:00.
8. You eat lunch after you get out of class.
9. Yesterday you didn't go home until after you'd eaten dinner.
10. You had to study last night, so you only slept 4 hours.

*Summary of le (and related patterns)*

S le	xiànzài hǎo le	it's okay now	change of state
S le	bù zǎo le	it's getting late	change of state
S le	yǐjīng xiàkè le	class is over already	new phase
S le	qù Cháng Chéng le	went to the Great Wall	earlier event
neg'n	méi qù Cháng Chéng	haven't been to the GW	didn't happen
V-guo	qù-guo Cháng Chéng	has been to the GW	had the experience
neg	méi qù-guo Cháng Chéng	haven't [ever] been to GW	hasn't had the exp.
V-le	qù-le yí tàng Cháng Chéng	took a trip to the Great Wall	accomplished (Q-obj)
shi...de	<shi> zuótiān qù de	went yesterday	focus on time etc.
V-le O	xià-le kè	after class gets out	conditional action
V-le O	dào-le Xīníng	made it to Xining	accomplished

## 8.11 Dialogue: What did you do yesterday? □

<p>           Jiǎ Zuótiān zuò (~gàn) shénme le?            Yǐ Qù mǎi dōngxī le. Wǒ mǎi-le yì shuāng xié.            Jiǎ Shi zài nǎr mǎi de?            Yǐ Zài Xīdān mǎi de.            Jiǎ Duōshao qián?            Yǐ 85 kuài!            Jiǎ Piányi.            Yǐ Yě mǎi-le jǐ jiàn chènshān. Ránhòu wǒmen chī-le yí dùn wǎnfàn. Nà, nǐmen ne?            Jiǎ Wǒmen qù-le yí tàng Cháng Chéng.            Yǐ Zuò huǒchē qù de ma?            Jiǎ Bù, huǒchē tài màn le, wǒmen shì zuò gōnggòng qìchē qù de.            Yǐ Huǒchē shì hěn màn.            Jiǎ Wǒmen yě méi qù Bādálǐng, wǒmen qù Sīmǎtái le. Zài Cháng Chéng shàng zǒu-le jǐ ge xiǎoshí.            Yǐ Sīmǎtái, Běijīng de dōngběi – nàme yuǎn!            Jiǎ Bādálǐng rén tài duō le, Sīmǎtái yuǎn yìdiǎnr kěshì yóukè méi Bādálǐng nàme duō!            Yǐ Hēng. Nà, jīntiān ne?            Jiǎ Jīntiān wǒ dèi xuéxí.            Yǐ Wǒ yě shì – yǒu qīmò kǎoshì!         </p>	<p>           What did you do yesterday?  <i>I went shopping. I bought a pair of shoes.</i>            Where from?  <i>In Xidan. [a shopping district in in western Běijīng]</i>            How much?            ¥ 85            [That]’s cheap.  <i>I also bought a shirt. Then we went out for a dinner. How about you?</i>            We took a trip to the Great Wall.  <i>By train?</i>            No, the train’s too slow, we went by bus.  <i>The train IS slow!</i>            And we didn’t go to Badaling [n.w. of Běijīng], we went to Simatai [n.e.] [We] walked for a few hours on the Great Wall.  <i>Simatai, northeast of Běijīng – so far!</i>            There are too many people at B.; Simatai’s a little farther but there aren’t as many tourists.  <i>Uhuh. And today?</i>            Today I have to study.  <i>Me too – finals!</i> </p>
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The Great Wall at Simǎtái.

**Exercise 8.**

Rearrange these words and phrases to form sentences:

1. xiǎng / wǒmen / qù / kàn / jiǔyuèfen / dào / míngnián / Xī'ān / qīnqi
  2. xiūxi xiūxi / huíjiā / yào / xiànzài / wǒ
  3. túshūguǎn / xiǎng / bu / jīntiān / wǒ / qù / xiǎng / wǒ / chéng lǐ / mǎi / qù / dōngxi / qù
  4. jǐnzhāng / dōu / lǎoshī / suǒyǐ / yán / yīnwèi / hěn / xuésheng / hěn
  5. fànguǎnr / xīngqīliù / qù / kè / dōu / de / xuéshēng / chīfàn / èrniánjí / qù / méiyóu / suǒyǐ
  6. lěng / Běijīng / suǒyǐ / tiānqì / fēng / dà / hěn / bu / wǒmen / shūfu / qiūtiān / yǒu diǎnr / yě / hěn
  7. fùmǔ / kěshì / Zhōngwén / tā / shuō / bu / huì / huì
  8. lái de / tā / shì / lǎo Běijīng / Běijīng / suǒyǐ / jiào / péngyou / dōu / tā
-

## 8.12 Verb Combos (2)

### 8.12.1 Directional complements

In Unit 7, it was shown that directional verbs (eg shàng, chū, guò) can combine with untuned lái or qù to form verb combos such as xiàlai, guòqu and huílai (or the corresponding potential forms such as xiàbulái ‘cannot come down [here]’). Now you will see that these pairs can themselves combine with compatible verbs such as ná ‘hold; take’, tái ‘lift; carry’; kāi ‘drive’, fàng ‘put’, bān ‘move; remove; take away’. The complete paradigm can be illustrated with ná ‘carry; bring; take’:

With ná

náshànglai	‘bring [them] up [here]’	náshàngqu	‘take [them] up [there]’
náxiàlai	‘bring [them] down [here]’	náxiàqu	‘take [them] down [there]’
nájìnlai	‘bring [them] in [here]’	nájìnqu	‘take [them] in [there]’
náchūlai	‘bring [them] out [here]’	náchūqu	‘take [them] out [there]’
náhuílai	‘bring [them] back [here]’	náhuíqu	‘take [them] back [there]’
náguòlai	‘bring [them] over [here]’	náguòqu	‘take [them] over [there]’

Other examples

bānjìnlai	‘move in [here]’	fàngjìnqu	‘put [them] in [there]’
táichūlai	‘carry [them] out [here]’	táichūqu	‘carry [them] out [there]’
kāihuílai	‘drive [them] back [here]’	bānhuíqu	‘move back [there]’
kāiguòlai	‘drive [it] over [here]’	kāiguòqu	‘drive [it] over [there]’

An additional directional complement can be added to this set: qǐlai ‘rise’. The qǐlai suffix has a number of extended meanings, but its with verbs of motion, it means ‘rise’ or ‘up’:

zhànqǐlai ‘stand up’    náqǐlai ‘hold up’    táiqǐlai ‘lift up’

Adding objects to directional combinations (eg ‘bring the *luggage* down’) often requires a grammatical feature that will not be introduced until Unit 9, so in this section, you can avoid mentioning objects at all (or simply place them at the head of the sentence, as in the examples).

Usage

- a) Nǐ de dōngxi nàme duō ya! Wǒ      You have so many things! I’ll help  
 bāng nǐ náchūlai, hǎo bu hǎo?      you bring them out, okay?  
*Méi guānxi, wǒ zìjǐ ná ba!*      *Never mind, I’ll get them.*  
 Bù, wǒ bāng nǐ ná ba. □      No I’ll help you with them.

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| b) | Nǐ zhù zài jǐ lóu?<br><i>Liù lóu.</i><br>Hǎo, wǒ bāng nǐ náshàngqu ba.<br><i>Nǐ tài kèqi! Bù hǎo yìsi.</i>    | What floor do you live on?<br><i>The 6th.</i><br>Okay, let me help you take [them] up.<br><i>You're too kind! You shouldn't.</i> |
| c) | Wǒ de chē xiān kāiguòlai,<br>hǎo bu hǎo?<br><i>Hǎo, nà wǒ zài zhèlǐ děng nǐ.</i><br>Jǐ fēn zhōng jiù kěyǐ le. | I'll drive my car over first, okay?<br><i>Fine, so I'll wait for you here.</i><br>I'll just be a few minutes.                    |

**Exercise 9.**

Without mentioning the destination, make requests as indicated.

*Examples*

Request that your friend help you to put the books down [there].  
<Zhèi xiē shū> qǐng bāng wǒ fàngxiàqu.

Request that your friend help you to take the clothes out [of the drawers].  
<Zhèi xiē yīfu> qǐng bāng wǒ náchūlai.

*Request that your friend help you to*

1. put [the pile of clothes] back [in the drawers].
2. bring [the flowers] up [here].
3. carry [the luggage] down [there].
4. lift up [this suitcase]. (xiāngzi 'case')
5. take [these clothes] out [of the drawers].
6. take [the shoes] out [of the room].
7. lift [this computer] up [onto the rack].
8. bring [the things] back [here].
9. carry [musical instruments] over [there].
10. move [the things] out [there].
11. drive [the car] over [there].
12. lift up [the fridge]. (bīngxiāng 'ice-box')
13. put [the dictionaries] back [there].

**8.12.2 Forgetting and remembering***a) Forgetting*

The verb wàng 'forget' is familiar from Unit 3, where it was introduced in expressions such as, Nǐ de piào, bié wàng le! 'Don't forget your tickets'.

Shǔjià, wǒ wàng le hěn duō Hànyǔ. □ I've forgotten a lot of Chinese over the summer.

Nà dāngrán, nǐ sān ge yuè méi jīhuì *That's not surprising; you haven't had a chance to practice Chinese for 3 months!*  
liànxí Zhōngwén le.

Méi guānxi, nǐ hěn kuài huì *No matter, it'll come back to you fast.*  
jiǎnqilai de

Xīwàng rúcǐ. □ *I hope so.*

## Notes

shǔjià	N	summer vacation (heat-vacation) □
jiǎn	V	pick up; collect □
huì...de		predictions with <u>huì</u> are often supported by final 'emphatic' □ <u>de</u> .
xīwàng	V	hope
rúcǐ		a phrase in Classical Chinese diction, 'like this'.

Wàng (like its English counterpart) can also be used in the sense of 'leave behind accidentally'; in such cases, the place is introduced with a *zai-phrase* placed after wàng. (In general, where the *zai-phrase* indicates where something ends up, it follows the verb; cf. fàng zai 'put [somewhere]'; guà zai 'hang [somewhere]'. The three verbs, <chū>shēng, zhǎng<dà> and zhù, which as you will recall, allow *zai-phrases* before and after, are harder to rationalize.)

O, wǒ de píbāo wàng zai *I've left my wallet at home.*  
jiā lǐ le.

Āiyā, hùzhào wàng zai *Aach, [I] left my passport at the airport.*  
jīchǎng le!

The presence of zài after the verb (where it is often untoned) precludes the possibility of *V-le*; \*wàng zài le jiā lǐ does not occur.

Wàngjì 'forget-note+down' is a common alternative to wàng...le and, especially in Taiwan, so is wàngdiào 'forget-fall'.

Wǒ wàng le ~ wǒ wàngjì le ~ wǒ wàngdiào le.

## b) Remembering:

The counterpart of wàng is jì 'to note' – the same root that shows up in the compound wàngjì 'forget', mentioned above.

Hànyǔ hái jìde ma?	You still remember your Chinese?
<i>Hái jìde yìxiē, kěshi Hànzì wàng le hěn duō.</i>	<i>Some; but I've forgotten a lot of characters.</i>
Ng, Hànzì, yòu nán jì, yòu róngyi wàng!	Chinese characters are tough to remember □ and easy to forget! □

Jì is more common in the compound, jìde 'remember': □

Nèi jiàn shìqing, nǐ hái jìde ma?	You still remember that? □
Nǐ jìde bu jìde nèi ge rén? Tā zài wǒmen de dānwèi gōngzuò le yì nián. □ <i>Wǒ jìbuqīngchu.</i>	Do you remember that guy? He worked □ in our unit for a year. □ <i>I don't recall [him] clearly.</i>

#### Notes

- a) yòu...yòu... 'both...and...'; cf. yòu mēn yòu rè.  
 b) Qīngchu in the last sentence is acting as a verb complement to jì; the whole is in the potential form; cf Tā méi shuōqīngchu. 'She didn't talk [about it] very clearly.'

Where recall takes place suddenly, the verb combo xiǎngqǐlai is used. It is a short metaphorical leap from literally rising, as in zhànqǐlai, to having memories surge up in the mind.

O, xiǎngqǐlai le! Oh, now I remember!

Wǒ xiǎngbùqǐ ta de míngzi <lai> le. I can't recall her name [anymore].

c) *In song*: □

Forgetting and remembering are common themes in popular songs. Here are lines from □ songs of one of the most popular of Chinese singers, Dèng Lìjūn – Teresa Teng (1953 – □ 1995): □

From Wàngjì tā 'forgetting him':

Wàngjì tā děngyú wàngdiào le yíqiè.  
*Forget him equals forget-drop LE everything.*

From Chūliàn de dìfang 'the place where love began':

Wǒ jìde yǒu yíge dìfang, wǒ yǒngyuǎn yǒngyuǎn bù néng wàng;  
*I remember have a place, I forever not can forget*

wǒ hé tā zài nàlǐ dīngxià le qíng, gòng dùguo hǎo shíguāng.  
*I and he at there fix-down LE love, together pass-GUO special time*

From Xiǎngqǐ nǐ ‘remembering you’:

Xiǎngqǐ nǐ, xiǎngqǐ nǐ nèi xiàoliǎn, cháng zài wǒ xīn liúliàn.  
*recall you, recall you that smiling-face, often in my heart remain-love*

### 8.12.3 I haven't slept for two days!

As you know, duration is expressed by a phrase placed after the verb (and before associated objects):

Zuótiān wǎnshàng wǒ zhǐ shuì le sān ge xiǎoshí, jīntiān hěn hūtu. I only slept 3 hours last night; today I'm quite muddled.

Duìbuqǐ, nǐ děng le hěn jiǔ le! Dǎo, gāng gāo dào. Sorry, you've been waiting a long time! No, just got here.

Not doing something for a period of time, however, is treated differently. The time of deprivation is treated as though it were ‘time when’ and placed before the verb. Final le underscores the fact that the deprivation continues – ‘so far’:

Wǒ sān ge yuè méi jīhuì shuō Hànyǔ le. Nǐ zuì hǎo duō fùxí yíxià. I haven't had a chance to speak Chinese for 3 months. You'd better review some more then.

Wǒ sān tiān méi shuìjiào le. Nà nǐ yíding hěn lèi ba. I haven't slept for 3 days. You must be tired.

Wǒ èrshí duō xiǎoshí méi chīfàn le. Nà nǐ yíding hěn è ba! I haven't eaten for over 20 hours. You must be hungry!

## 8.13 Measure words revisited

DEM	Nu	M	SV	de	NAT'LITY	NOUN	predicate
Nèi	běn					zìdiǎn	shì shéi de?
Nèi	liǎng	běn			Zhōngwén	zìdiǎn	shì tā de.
Nèi	jǐ	ge	hěn	dà	de	dōngxì	shì shéi de?
	Liǎng	ge		dà	de		jiù gòu le!

In the above schema, notice where M-words appear and where DE appears. M-words  only follow numbers (yí ge, liǎng ge) or demonstratives (nèi ge, zhèi ge). DE, on the

other hand, follows SVs (as well as other kinds of attributes, not shown on the chart): hěn dà de wénzi ‘large mosquitos’. Demonstratives do sometimes appear without measure words, in which case the meaning is ‘that class of item’: zhè chá means ‘this type of tea’ not just the sample in front of you (cf. zhèi zhǒng chá in which ‘kind’ is explicitly a M). When several items are indicated, xiē is used (cf. §6.3.3):

Zhèi xiē sǎn, nǐ bǎ shì nǐ de?	Which of these umbrellas is yours?
Nǐ gào su wǒ nǐ xiē yī fu shì xǐ de, nǐ xiē shì gān xǐ de.	Tell me which of these clothes are to be washed, and which dry-cleaned.

### 8.13.1

M-words (other than those for money and weights) that have been encountered in the first 8 units are listed below. Additional ones can be found in the Appendix to this unit.

bǎ	<i>items with handles</i> Nèi bǎ hóng de shì wǒ de. [sǎn] Sān bǎ yǐ zi bú gòu. yì bǎ dāo	The red one’s mine. [umbrella] 3 chairs aren’t enough. a knife
bāo	<i>pack of</i> yì bāo yān	a pack of cigarettes
běn	<i>books</i> Zhǐ yǒu liǎng běn. Mǎi <yì> běn Zhōngguó dì tú ba.	[I] only have 2 [dictionaries]. Why not buy a Chinese atlas?
céng	<i>floor; story</i> liù céng lóu	a 6 story building
chuàn	<i>bunch; string of</i> Nèi chuàn yào shì shì shéi de? Yí chuàn duō shao qián? Mǎi yí chuàn pú tao gěi tā ba.	Whose are those keys? How much for a bunch [of bananas]? Why not buy her a bunch of grapes?
dài	<i>bag of</i> Zěn me mài? / Yí dài sān máo.	How’re [they] sold? / 30 cents a bag.
dǐng	<i>things with points, tops</i> Tā xiǎng mǎi yì dǐng hóng mào zi. Chuáng shàng yǒu yì dǐng wén zhāng.	She wants to buy a red hat. There was a mosquito net over the bed.
fèn	<i>newspapers; copies</i> liǎng fèn bào èr shí fèn	2 newspapers 20 copies

gè	<i>people; various things; 'the general M'</i> □	
	liǎng ge Zhōngguó péngyou	2 Chinese friends
	sì ge cài yí ge tāng	4 dishes and a soup
	yí ge wèntí	a question; problem
	sì ge dōngxi	4 things
	něi ge chéngshì	which city?
	nèi sān ge júzi	those 3 tangerines
jiàn	<i>items of business, clothing, luggage</i>	
	yí jiàn shìqìng	an item of business
	Yǒu xíngli ma? / Yǒu yí jiàn.	Any luggage? / I have one piece.
	Nèi jiàn tàofú hěn piàoliang.	That's a pretty dress.
kǒu	<i>people</i>	
	Jiā lǐ yǒu liù kǒu rén.	There are 6 in my family.
liàng	<i>vehicles</i>	
	Zài Měiguó yǒu liǎng liàng chē de	In the US, quite a number of people
	bù shǎo!	have two cars.
mén	<i>course of</i>	
	yì mén Zhōngwén kè	a Chinese course
	yǒurén dú liù qī mén kè	some people take 6-7 courses
táng	<i>period [in school]; class</i>	
	Wǒ xiàwǔ hái yǒu liǎng táng.	I still have 2 more classes in the
		afternoon.
tiáo	<i>long, sinuous things (roads, rivers, fish, some animals)</i>	
	Zhōngguó yǒu liǎng tiáo dà hé.	China has two main rivers. □
	Zhèi tiáo xīnwén hěn yǒu yìsi.	This item of news is quite interesting. □
	Liǎng zhī jī, yì tiáo yú.	Two chickens, one fish.
wèi	<i>polite M for people</i>	
	Nín [shì] nǐ wèi?	Who is it [please]?
	Zhèi wèi shì wǒ de lǎoshī.	This is my teacher.
zhāng	<i>flat things</i>	
	Wǒ mǎi le liǎng zhāng [piào].	I bought 2 [tickets].
	Kànkàn zhèi zhāng dìtú ba.	Why don't you take a look at this
		map.
zhī	<i>certain animals</i>	
	yì zhī māo / gǒu / niǎo / jī	a cat / dog / bird / chicken

zuò                    *for structures, mountains*  
 yí zuò qiáo                    a bridge  
 Xībīān yǒu yí zuò shān.                    There's a mountain in the west.

**Exercise 10**

Provide Chinese equivalents:

1. Which one's yours? [umbrellas] / That large one.
2. Expensive ones aren't necessarily the best. [umbrellas]
3. One of them's imported and one of them's Chinese. [bikes]
4. One cup's enough! [coffee]
5. Have you read today's paper? I have two copies!
6. From here, walk straight ahead; there's a tall building on the right – that's the post office (yóujú).
7. We're out of beer; you'd better buy another 6.
8. In China, cars aren't as expensive as they used to be; nowadays, you can get a good one for about 120,000 yuan.
9. Which one of these bikes is yours? / That one – the old one.

**8.14 Aspirations**

Máo Zédōng, late in his era, used to talk about the sì yǒu, literally 'the four haves', but usually translated as 'the four musts': a bicycle, radio, watch and sewing machine. Later Dèng Xiǎopíng added the bā dà 'the 8 bigs' (the rest of the list below). Now, people talk, humorously, about the xīn de sì yǒu 'the new 4 musts': chē, fáng, kuǎn and xíng, which make abbreviated reference to 'a car', 'a house', 'money (funds)' and 'fashion [what's in]'. The three sets listed below can be roughly associated with particular eras, eg qīshí niándài 'the 70s', as indicated:

*qīshí niándài*

shǒubiǎo  
 féngrènjī  
 zìxíngchē  
 shōuyīnjī

*literal meanings*

hand-watch  
 sewing-machine  
 self-power-machine  
 receive-sound-machine

*ie*

watch  
 sewing machine  
 bicycle  
 radio

*bāshí niándài*

xǐyījī  
 diànbīngxiāng  
 diànshàn  
 mótuōchē

wash-clothes-machine  
 electric-ice-box  
 electric-fan  
 mo-tor-vehicle

washing machine  
 refrigerator  
 electric fan  
 motorcycle

*jiǔshí niándài*

cǎidiàn  
 yīnxiǎng  
 yí tào jiājù  
 zhàoxiàngjī

'cǎisè de diànshì'  
 sound-resound  
 a suite [of] furniture  
 reflect-image-machine

color TV  
 stereo  
 set of furniture  
 camera



In the bike lane, Kunming.

**Exercise 11.**

Place the following words in short phrases that show your understanding of their difference:

shìjiè	qīngchū	Yīngyǔ	niánjí	yǒumíng	guójí
shíjiān	qīngcài	yǐjing	biaozhun	yǒuyìsi	lǎojiā
shíhou	jīngji	yìqián	cháodài	yǒu dàolǐ	guójiā
shìqing	cāntīng	yóuyǒng	yǒuyòng	yùndòng	yīnyuè

**8.15 Highlights**

Sports	Nǐ xǐhuan shénme yàng de yùndòng? □ Nǐ cháng duànliàn ma? □
Non-compar.	Jīntiān xiāngdāng rè. □ Jīntiān rè+de bùdeliǎo. □
Compar.	Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà yìdiǎnr ~ dà duōle. □ Bǐ Běijīng duō jǐ bǎiwàn. □ Běijīng méiyǒu Shànghǎi <nàme> dà. □ Běijīng bùrú Shànghǎi dà. □ Tā Hànyǔ jiǎng+de bǐ wǒ hǎo! □
Approx	Miányáng zài Chéngdū de dōngběi, yǒu yìbǎi gōnglǐ zuǒyòu. □
One of...	Shànghǎi de Jīnmào Dàshà shì shìjiè shàng zuì gāo de dàlóu zhīyī. □
Population	Tiānjīn rénkǒu shì bābǎiwàn zuǒyòu. □
Bargaining	Kěyǐ shǎo yìdiǎnr ma? □ Kěyǐ dǎzhé<kòu> ma? Nà hǎo ba, mài gei nǐ ba.

Some more	Duō chī yìdiǎnr cài! Qǐng duō lái sān bēi. Zài chī yìdiǎnr ba.
Toasts	Lái, lái, gānbēi. Zhù nǐ jiànkāng, jīng nǐ yì bēi.
Imports	Yǒu jìnkǒu de yě yǒu guóchǎn de, nǐ yào nǎi zhǒng?
Change	Zhǎo nǐ qī kuài liù.
Things	Shìqing dōu bànwán le ma?
Completely	Bù wánquán yíyàng.
DE	Huì shuō Guǎngdōnghuà de rén yíding tīngdedǒng Pǔtōnghuà ma?
Hútònggr	Yīqián de hútònggr shì xiànzài de gòuwù-zhōngxīn le.
Jobs	Bàba jiāoshū, māma dāng yīshēng.
Sequence le	Wǒ chī le fàn jiu huíjiā.
Seq. le (past)	Wǒ chī le fàn jiu huíjiā le.
Quant. Obj.	Zuótiān shuì le bā ge xiǎoshí <de jiào>. Mǎi le jǐ jiàn chènshān.
V-directionals	Wǒ bāng nǐ fànghuíqu, hǎo bu hǎo. □
Forgot	Wǒ de hùzhào wàng zai fēijī shàng le. □
Remember	Jìbùqīngchu. □ Xiǎngqǐlai le. □
M-words	Zhèi xiē sǎn, nǎi bǎ shì nǐ de? □

### 8.16 Rhymes and rhythms

a) Rhymes like the one in Unit 3 that begins èrlóu sānlóu, chǎngzhǎng shūjì, or the one in Unit 5, beginning néng hē yì jīn, hē bā liǎng, are called shùnkǒuliūr in Chinese, meaning something like ‘tripping off the tongue’, a contagious style of doggerel as well as a way of venting frustration towards the powerful and privileged. One productive pattern of shùnkǒuliūr takes as its start a rough estimate of the population of China, and estimates the percentage – usually 90% – who indulge in some dubious activity: shíyì rénmín jiùyì (verb) ‘[among] 1 billion people, 900 million [verb]’. Here are some examples from a recent article by Hua Lin in the *Journal of the Chinese Language Teachers Association* (vol. 36.1, 2001). The first one comments wryly on the Chinese predilection for gambling and the current interest in ballroom dancing; the second is directed to officials who live off government largesse.

Shíyì rénmín jiùyì dǔ  
hái yǒu yíyì zài tiàowǔ.

1-billion people 900-million gamble  
still have 100-million be-at dancing.

Shíyì rénmín jiùyì máng,  
hái yǒu yíyì chī huángliáng.

1-billion people 900-million busy  
still have 100-million eat imperial-grain

b) Now, a less cynical rhyme, about the moon:

Yuè guāngguāng, zhào gǔchǎng,	moon bright, shine+on grain-fields
gǔchǎng shàng, nóng rén máng.	grain-fields on, farmers busy
Jīnnián dào gǔ shōuchéng hǎo,	this-year rice harvest good
jiājiā hùhù lètáotáo.	every household full+of+joy

c) And finally, a never-ending story:

Cóngqián yǒu yí zuò shān,	Formerly have a M mountain, □
shān lǐ yǒu ge miào,	mountain on have M temple, □
miào lǐ yǒu ge héshàng jiǎng gùshi;	temple in have M priest tell story; □
jiǎng de shénme gùshi?	tell DE what story? □
Cóngqián yǒu zuò shān .....	Formerly have M mountain.... □



‘Línyì’ Shípǐndiàn (Linyi’s provisions shop), Běijīng

### Appendix: Additional Measure Words

bān	<i>regularly scheduled trips (flights etc.)</i>	
	Měi tiān zhǐ yǒu liǎng bān.	Only two trips/flights a day.
chǎng	<i>shows, movies, plays</i>	
	Jīntiān qī diǎn yǒu yì chǎng.	There’s a show tonight at 7:00.
dùn	<i>meals [‘pauses’]</i>	
	Tāmen měi tiān chī sān dùn fàn.	They eat 3 meals a day.

duǒ	<i>flowers</i> Mǎi yì duǒ huā gěi tā ba. Yì duǒ ne, zhème shǎo?	Why don't you buy her a flower. <i>One? So few?</i>
dào	<i>course [of food]</i> Dì-yī dào bú cuò, kěshì dì-èr wǒ juéde wèidào bú tài hǎo.	The first course wasn't bad, but the the second didn't taste so good, I thought.
duàn	<i>part, section</i> Dì-yī duàn, nǐ niàn gěi wǒmen tīngting, hǎo bu hǎo?	Read the first paragraph for us, okay?
fēng	<i>letters</i> yì fēng xìn	a letter
jiā	<i>companies, businesses</i> Zài nèi jiā gōngsī gōngzuò hěn xīnkǔ. Nèi jiā fànguǎnr zěnmeyàng?	It's tough working for that company.  How's that restaurant?
jià overlaps with tái	<i>Airplanes, contraptions, constructions</i> □ Nǐ kàn nèi jià fēijī, nàme dī! □ Nèi liǎng jià zhàoxiàngjī, yí jià shì wǒ de, yí jià shì tā de.	Look at that plane, so low! □ One of those two cameras is mine, □ one's hers. □
jù	<i>sentence</i> Nǐ shuō yí jù huà, jiù xíng. (cf. Shuō yí ge jùzi.)	One sentence'll be enough. □ Say a sentence.) □
kē	<i>tufts, trees</i> yì kē shù yì kē yān	a tree □ a cigarette □
pǐ	<i>horses</i> yì pǐ mǎ	a horse □
piān	<i>articles, stories</i> yì piān wénzhāng yì piān gùshi	an article □ a story □
piàn	<i>slice of, expanse of</i> yí piàn miànbāo	a slice of bread □

shù □	<i>bouquet, bunch, bundle</i> Tāmen qǐng nǐ chīfàn, nà, nǐ kěyǐ mǎi yí shù huā gěi tāmen.	[If] they invite you to dinner, well, you can buy them a bouquet of flowers.
suǒ □	<i>buildings [dòng in Taiwan]</i> Nàr yǒu liǎng suǒ xuéxiào. Nǐ kàn, nèi suǒ shì tāmen de.	There are a couple of schools there. Look, that one's theirs. [house]
tái overlaps with jià	<i>platform; appliances, machines; also plays, performances ('stages')</i> Fángjiān lǐ yǒu liǎng tái diànshì, yě yǒu yì tái diànnǎo.	There are two TVs in the room and a computer.
tóu □	<i>cattle; head of</i> yì tóu niú	a cow
zhèn □	<i>bout of, burst of</i> Zhè zhèn fēng hěn lihai. yí zhèn yǔ (cf. zhènyǔ)	That gust was terrific! a shower of rain (cf. 'rainshowers')
zhī	<i>pens, candles ['stub']</i> yì zhī bǐ, liǎng zhī qiānbǐ	a pen, two pencils



Hong Kong: Kowloon street scene □