CHAPTER 4

Schedules and Appointments



● 一位中国老人

中国天津有一位老人,叫李建生,他 今年64岁。现在他不工作了,可是他还是 太忙了!为什么呀?因为他有很多事要 做。他上午常常要跟太太一起准备午饭, 下午得去老年大学。晚上李先生和太太常 常去女儿家,帮女儿家做晚饭,也帮外孙 子学习。

李建生先生只有一个女儿,她叫李小英,今年37岁。小英在一个大学的办公室工作,有的时候要跟外国人开会。小英觉得自己的英文还是不太好,所以现在她有几个晚上要去上课,跟一位美国老师见面,练习说英文。小英很喜欢学英文,常常问老师很多问题,有的时候很晚才回家。

小英的儿子叫明明,今年11岁,上五年级。明明一天有七节课,所以下午五点半才回家。明明回了家以后,就很想吃饭。可是小英要工作,有的时候晚上还做饭。可是小英要工作,有的时候晚上家做上课。她的先生工作也很忙,下午回家上被很不方便。李先生知道了,就跟女儿家人们不方便回来,没问题。我们还可以去你家,帮你给孩子做饭,和你妈妈可以去你家吃饭,吃饭以后帮明明学习。"李先生很喜欢在女儿家吃晚明明学习。"李先生很喜欢在女儿家吃晚

● 一位中國老人

中國天津有一位老人,叫李建生,他今年64歲。現在他不工作了,可是他還是太忙了!為什麼呀?因為他有很多事要做。他上午常常要跟太太一起準備午飯,下午得去老年大學。晚上李先生和太太常常去女兒家,幫女兒家做晚飯,也幫外孫子學習。

李建生先生只有一個女兒,她叫李小英年37歲。小英在一個大學的辦公室工作,有的時候要跟外國人開會。小英覺得自己的英文還是不太好,所以現在她見幾個晚上要去上課,跟一位美國老師見幾個晚上要去上課,與很喜歡學英文。 常問老師很多問題,有的時候很晚才回家。

小英的兒子叫明明,今年11歲,上五年級。明明一天有七節課,所以下午五點半才回家。明明回了家以後,就很想吃飯。可是小英要工作,有的時候晚上還做上課。如此是工作也很忙,下午回家上課不方便。李先生知道了,說問題。我們不方便回來,沒問題。我們還可以在你家,幫你給孩子做飯幫明學習。"李先生很喜歡在女兒家吃晚明

饭,也喜欢听他的外孙子说在学校学了什么。

现在李先生一个星期去女儿家三、四天。不去女儿家的时候,李先生常常跟太太在晚饭以后一起出去玩儿。他太太很喜欢唱歌、跳舞。他很喜欢舞龙、打太极拳。周末的时候李先生也很忙。他喜欢给朋友打电话,还喜欢找朋友来他家喝茶、聊天、打麻将。下个周末,他想请几个朋友来他家玩儿、一起喝茶、打麻将。

飯,也喜歡聽他的外孫子說在學校學了什麼。

現在李先生一個星期去女兒家三、四 天。不去女兒家的時候,李先生常常跟太 太在晚飯以後一起出去玩兒。他太太很喜 歡唱歌、跳舞。他很喜歡舞龍、打太極 拳。週末的時候李先生也很忙。他喜歡給 朋友打電話,還喜歡找朋友來他家崙 聊天、打麻將。下個週末,他想請幾個朋 友來他家玩兒,一起喝茶、打麻將。

Vocabulary

No.	Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	Part of	Definition	
NO.	Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	Speech	Definition	
1	老人		lăorén	n	elderly person	
2	天津		Tiānjīn	pn	Tianjin (a city in China)	
3	李建生		Lǐ Jiànshēng	pn	(a personal name)	
4	太太		tàitai	n	wife	
5	午饭	午飯	wǔfàn	n	lunch	
6	老年 大学	老年大學	lăonián dàxué	n	community center offering courses for senior citizens	
7	外孙子	外孫子	wàisūnzi	n	grandson (daughter's son)	
8	学习	學習	xuéxí	V	to study	
9	自己		zìjĩ	pr	oneself	
10	上		shàng	V	to attend (a class)	
11	方便		fāngbiàn	adj	convenient	
12	知道		zhīdao	V	to know	
13	出去		chūqu	VC	to go out	
14	舞龙	舞龍	wǔ lóng	VO	to do dragon dancing	
15	打 太极拳	打 太極拳	dă tàijíquán	vo	to practice tai chi	
16	打麻将	打麻將	dă májiàng	VO	to play mahjong	

Culture Notes

Family Support: The story reflects the concept of family support (顾家/顧家, gù jiā), a prevalent value in Chinese society. Even after retiring, Mr. Li stays busy helping his family, particularly his daughter. This illustrates the strong sense of family support and responsibility that is deeply ingrained in Chinese culture.

Comprehension Questions

A. Mark the following statements true or false.

- Mr. Li is very busy because he likes to hang out with his friends.
- **2** () Mr. Li's grandson is in fifth grade.
- 3 () The grandson has eight periods of class each day and finishes school at 4:30 pm.

B. Choose the correct answer for each question.

- 1 Why is Mr. Li still busy even though he is not working anymore?
 - a. because he likes to play mahjong
 - b. because he likes to help his family members
 - c. because he likes to practice tai chi
 - d. because he works part-time
- 2 How do Mr. Li and his wife help their daughter and grandson?
 - a. by taking their grandson to school every morning
 - b. by going to their daughter's house to prepare dinner and help their grandson with his homework
 - c. by paying for their daughter's English classes
 - d. by teaching their grandson lion dancing

Exercises in Chinese (Simplified)

- A. Choose the correct answer for each question.
- 1 李小英什么时候上英文课?
 - a. 下午五点半 b. 晚上 c. 周末
- 2 下个周末, 李先生想请朋友做什么?
 - a. 打太极拳 b. 打麻将 c. 打球
- B. Read the passage and choose the best word from the word list to fill in each blank. Not all words will be used.

Word List

帮, 得, 在, 就, 回来, 练习

李先生: 喂、小英_____吗?

女儿: 我 ______ 是! 老爸, 有事儿吗?

李先生: 你今天晚上______ 吃饭吗?

女儿: 今天晚上我得上课, 跟老师______说英

语。

李先生: 你很忙, 但是你也______ 吃饭啊。

你妈妈做了晚饭、我们等你一起吃饭。

女儿: 好的, 谢谢老爸!

- C. Answer the questions below using the target grammar.
- 1 李先生下午得做什么? (Subj. + 给 sb. + VP)
- 2 小英有的时候晚上要做什么? (Subj. + time + 要 + VP)

Exercises in Chinese (Traditional)

- A. Choose the correct answer for each question.
- 1 李小英什麽時候上英文課?
 - a. 下午五點半 b. 晚上 c. 週末
- 2 下個週末,李先生想請朋友做什麼? a. 打太極拳 b. 打麻將 c. 打球

- B. Read the passage and choose the best word from the word list to fill in each blank. Not all words will be used.

Word List

幫,得,在,就,回來,練習

李先生:喂,小英______嗎?

女兒:我______是!老爸,有事嗎?

李先生:你今天晚上_____吃飯嗎?

語。

你媽媽做了晚飯,我們等你一起吃飯。

女兒:好的,謝謝老爸!

- C. Answer the questions below using the target grammar.
- 1 李先生下午得做什麼? (Subj. + 給 sb. + VP)
- 2 小英有的時候晚上要做什麼?(Subj. + time + 要 + VP)

Chinese Open Response Prompts

A. Create a short presentation in Chinese based on the prompt.

- 1 How do older people spend their time in your country? What do they usually like to do? Who do they spend their time with? What do they think about these activities? You may consider using the following structures:
 - 喜欢 ·····, 还喜欢 ····· / 喜歡 ·····, 還喜 歡 ·····
 - · A 跟 B 一起 VO
 - Subj. 觉得 + opinion / Subj. 覺得 + opinion

Reflection Questions

A. Answer the following questions in English.

- 1 How do people in your country typically take care of their children? In particular, what do young couples usually do for childcare? Where do they commonly seek help? Compare this to the intergenerational support system observed in the Li family's story. Reflect on the differences and similarities in child-rearing practices and family dynamics across cultures, considering the roles of family, community, and external support systems.
- 2 Discuss the significance of lifelong learning, as demonstrated by Li Xiaoying's commitment to improving her English skills by taking classes. What motivates her to pursue English learning despite her busy schedule? What do young people in your country usually do in their spare time? What types of classes do they typically take, and why?



● 约朋友

今天是星期四,老李想约几个朋友星期六来他家<mark>打麻将</mark>,所以他给几个朋友打了电话,问他们有没有时间。

他先给老王打了电话。老王说,他星期六上午要跟几个朋友去唱歌,中午他儿子请他和他太太吃饭。下午两点,他还要跟几个老人去学跳舞。四点以后他才有空儿。

跟老王聊完,老李又打电话找小谢。 小谢说,他星期六上午要回家去看他爸 爸、妈妈。下午他要跟几个同学在图书馆 见面,一起准备大学英语六级考试。小谢 的一个学妹小周也有几个英语四级考试的 问题,想问小谢。所以,和同学准备完六 级考试以后,小谢还要在图书馆帮学妹。

●) 約朋友

今天是星期四,老李想約幾個朋友星期六來他家<mark>打麻將</mark>,所以他給幾個朋友打了電話,問他們有沒有時間。

他先給老王打了電話。老王說,他星期六上午要跟幾個朋友去唱歌,中午他兒子請他和他太太吃飯。下午兩點,他還要跟幾個老人去學跳舞。四點以後他才有空兒。

跟老王聊完,老李又打電話找小謝。 小謝說,他星期六上午要回家去看他爸 爸、媽媽。下午他要跟幾個同學在圖書館 見面,一起準備大學英語六級考試。小謝 見面個學妹小周也有幾個英語四級考試的 問題,想問小謝。所以,和同學準備完六 級考試以後,小謝還要在圖書館幫學妹。 小谢告诉老李他吃了晚饭以后,才能去老李家打麻将。

小謝告訴老李他吃了晚飯以後,才能去老 李家打麻將。

Vocabulary

No.	Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
1	约	約	yuē	v	to arrange, to make an appointment
2	老		lăo	adj	a prefix used before a surname to show respect; old (respectful)
3	打麻将	打麻將	dă májiàng	VO	to play mahjong
4	男朋友		nán péngyou	n	boyfriend (女朋友: girlfriend)
5	想到		xiǎng dào	VC	to think of
6	老年 大学	老年 大學	lăonián dàxué	n	community center offering courses for senior citizens
7	教		jiāo	V	to teach
8	让	譲	ràng	V	to allow, to let
9	先		xiān	adv	first
10	中午		zhōngwǔ	n	noon
11	太太		tàitai	n	wife
12	完		wán	С	(after a verb, indicates that the activity was finished)
13	英语 六级	英語六級	Yīngyǔ liù jí	phr	College English Test, Level 6 (CET- 6: see Culture Notes)
14	能		néng	mv	can, be able to
15	腰		yāo	n	waist, lower back
16	久坐		jiŭ zuò	phr	to sit for a long time
17	希望		xīwàng	V	to hope
18	会 多 对 印象	會	huì	mv	will, can
19	多		duō	adv	more
20	对	對	duì	prep	to, towards, for
21	印象		yìnxiàng	n	impression

Culture Notes

English Tests in China: In China, one of the most common English language proficiency tests is the College English Test, also known as CET. The two levels of the test are CET-6 and CET-4, which are often referred to as 六级/六級 and 四级/四級. CET-4 and CET-6 are commonly used for job applications that require English proficiency.

School Community: In Chinese culture, the terms 学 弟/學弟 and 学妹/學妹 are used to refer to younger students in the same educational institution or program, while 学姐/學姐 and 学长/學長 (xuézhǎng) are used to refer to older students in the same context. The terms 学姐/學姐 and 学长/學長 express a sense of mentorship and guidance, with older students expected to provide advice and support to their younger peers.

Comprehension Questions

- A. Mark the following statements true or false.
- 1 () Lao Li asked Lao Wang's daughter to play mahjong.
- 2 () After they finish preparing for their exams, Xiao Xie wants to treat Xiao Zhou to dinner.
- 3 () Lao Li's friend Lao Gao won't be able to join them on Saturday because he hurt himself while dancing.
- B. Choose the correct answer for each question.
- 1 Why did Lao Li invite Xiao Xie to play mahjong together?
 - a. because Xiao Xie likes playing mahjong
 - b. because Xiao Xie knows Lao Wang
 - c. because Lao Li wants to introduce a boyfriend to Lao Wang's daughter

Exercises in Chinese (Simplified)

- A. Choose the correct answer for each question.
- 1 老王星期六做了什么以后才可以去打麻将?
 - a. 他要去看医生。
 - b. 他要工作。
 - c. 他要和别的老人跳舞。
- B. Answer the questions below using the target grammar.
- 1 老王星期六什么时候有空儿? (Time 以后, subj. + verb + object)
- 2 星期六下午小谢要做什么? (Subj. 要 + VP)
- C. Read the passage and choose the best word from the word list to fill in each blank. Use each word once.

Word List

给, 约, 跟, 几个, 准备, 要, 去, 以后, 见面

老李
星期六来他家打麻将。老王说,他星期六上午
要几个朋友去唱歌,下午两点还要跟
老人去学跳舞。四点他才有空
儿。老李又打电话找小谢。小谢说他星期六上
午回家去看他爸爸、妈妈,下午要跟几
个同学在图书馆,一起考试。
吃了晚饭以后,才可以老李家打麻将。

Exercises in Chinese (Traditional)

- A. Choose the correct answer for each question.
- 1 老王星期六做了什麼以後才可以去打麻將?
 - a. 他要去看醫生。
 - b. 他要工作。
 - c. 他要和别的老人跳舞。
- B. Answer the questions below using the target grammar.
- 1 老王星期六什麼時候有空兒? (Time 以後, subj. + verb + object)
- 2 星期六下午小謝要做什麼? (Subj. 要 + VP)
- C. Read the passage and choose the best word from the word list to fill in each blank. Use each word once.

Word List

給,約,跟,幾個,準備,要,去,以後,見面

	老李 老王打電話,他	
星期	六來他家打麻將。 老王說,他星期六上	
午要		艮
	老人去學跳舞。 四點他才有	了空
兒。	老李又打電話找小謝。小謝說他星期方	六上
午	回家去看他爸爸、媽媽,下午還去	更
跟幾	個同學在圖書館,一起	考
試。	吃了晚飯以後,才可以老李家	打
麻將	- 0	

Chinese Open Response Prompts

A. Create short dialogues in Chinese based on the prompts.

- 1 Doesn't Lao Li know anyone else to play mahjong with? Write a dialogue in which Lao Li invites someone else to play mahjong with him. You may consider using the following structures:
 - Time + 以前 / 以后 , subj. + verb + object/ Time + 以前 / 以後 , subj. + verb + object
 - Subj. + time + オ + VP
 - 要是 + condition, subj. (就) verb + object
- 2 Will Xiao Xie meet up with Lao Wang's daughter, Aiwen (爱文/愛文)? What will happen? You may consider using the following structures:
 - 给 prep. + beneficiary + VP / 給 prep. + beneficiary + VP
 - Subj. + time + 要 + verb + object
 - 得 + VP

Reflection Questions

A. Answer the following questions in English.

- 1 What methods of finding potential romantic partners are popular in China and in your country? How do these methods differ or overlap?
- 2 How do societal pressures and cultural norms impact the timing of and choices about marriage in both Chinese and Western cultures?