### **CHAPTER 7**

# Friendship Abroad



Note: This story uses vocabulary and grammar introduced in *Integrated Chinese*Volume 2, Lesson 17.

## ● 在美国租房子真麻烦

留学生李冰美到美国来上研究生院, 来了以后才发现租房子的事非常麻烦!她 在上海租过房子,以为在美国租房子会更 容易些,可是没想到在美国这件事也这么 让人头疼。

幸运的是,李冰美和一些同学虽然刚 认识不久,但是他们都对李冰美特别好。 李冰美想到了这些同学,就给他们打了电 话,问能不能帮帮她。终于,有个叫Sam 的同学告诉李冰美他有个朋友要从一个离 学校很近的公寓搬走,而且正在找下一个 可以租房的人。那个公寓是一房一厅的、

## ● 在美國租房子真麻煩

留學生李冰美到美國來上研究生院,來了以後才發現租房子的事非常麻煩!她在上海租過房子,以為在美國租房子會更容易些,可是沒想到在美國這件事也這麼讓人頭疼。

幸運的是,李冰美和一些同學雖然剛認識不久,但是他們都對李冰美特別好。李冰美想到了這些同學,就給他們打了電話,問能不能幫幫她。終於,有個叫Sam的同學告訴李冰美他有個朋友要從一個離學校很近的公寓搬走,而且正在找下一個可以租房的人。那個公寓是一房一廳的,

很安静,也不太贵。李冰美马上给Sam的那个朋友打了个电话,终于租到了自己喜欢的房子。

很安靜,也不太貴。李冰美馬上給Sam的 那個朋友打了個電話,終於租到了自己喜 歡的房子。

### Vocabulary

No.	Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
1	留学生	留學生	liúxuéshēng	n	study abroad student, international student
2	研究生院		yánjiūshēng yuàn	n	graduate school
3	发现	發現	fāxiàn	v	to discover
4	头	頭	tóu	n	head
5	旅馆	旅館	lŭguăn	n	hotel
6	论坛	論壇	lùntán	n	forum
7	通过	通過	tōngguò	prep	through
8	靠关系	靠關係	kào guānxi	phr	to rely on one's connections
9	奇怪		qíguài	adj	strange, odd
10	幸运	幸運	xìngyùn	adj	lucky, fortunate
11	甚至		shènzhì	conj	even
12	无论	無論	wúlùn	conj	no matter

### **Culture Notes**

Using Connections: The term 关系/關係 (guānxi), which can mean "relationship" or "connection," is an important concept in Chinese culture. In many things, from looking for a job to finding an apartment, people tend to rely on personal networks, so establishing trust with the people you know is very important for long-term living in China.

**Furnished Apartments:** Unlike in the United States, many apartments for rent in China come with furniture included in the cost of rent, which saves a lot of headaches for early-career professionals seeking jobs in large cities away from home.

## **Comprehension Questions**

A. Ch	oose the	correct o	ption to	complete	each	sentence.
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1	W	hen	she first arrived in the United States, Li Bingmei lived
	in		·
	a.	a do	ormitory
	b.	a h	otel
	C.	a fri	end's living room
2	Li	Bing	mei started her housing search by
			king at advertisements for apartments for rent ing her friends for leads
	C.	ema	ailing her university's housing office
3	Li	Bing	mei was surprised to find that
	b.	mos the	rent was very expensive for all available apartments st apartments do not come with furniture included neighborhoods close to the university did not have ilable apartments
В.	Ma	ırk t	he following statements true or false.
1	(	)	Li Bingmei attended undergraduate college in the United States.
2	(	)	This is not Li Bingmei's first time renting an apartment.
3	(	)	Li Bingmei is ultimately satisfied with the apartment she found.

### **Exercises in Chinese (Simplified)**

- A. Mark the following statements true or false.
- 1() 李冰美来美国找工作。
- 2 ( ) 李冰美刚来美国的时候,就认识很多住 在美国的朋友。
- 3 ( ) 最后,李冰美通过一个同学找到了一个 合适的公寓。
- 4 ( ) 在中国,租给别人的公寓常常都是带家 具的。
- B. Fill in the blank using the words provided. Use each word only once.

#### **Word List**

一房一厅, 租, 房子, 搬家, 才, 家具

### **Exercises in Chinese (Traditional)**

- A. Mark the following statements true or false.
- 1() 李冰美來美國找工作。
- 2 ( ) 李冰美剛來美國的時後,就認識很多住 在美國的朋友。
- 3 ( ) 最後,李冰美通過一個同學找到了一個 合適的公寓。
- 4 ( ) 在中國,租給別人的公寓常常都是帶家 具的。
- B. Fill in the blank using the words provided. Use each word only once.

#### **Word List**

一房一廳,租,房子,搬家,才,家具

	李冰	美剛	來身	美國	不	久	,	她	覺	得	在	.美	國	找	,
		真麻)	頃!	幸:	運	的力	是	, }	地色	的·	一1	固	同日	學言	幫
她介	紹了	一個	要_				的	朋	友	0	這	個	朋	友	說
李冰	美可	以_			他	以	前	住	的	房	子	0	李	冰	美
很高	興,	可是	搬家	こ的	那	天:	她					知	道	這	個
房子	不帶			_ !	不	過	,	李	冰	美	覺	得	能	租	到
這個			的人	、寓	己	經	很	不	錯	了	0				

### **Chinese Open Response Prompts**

#### A. Create a short dialogue in Chinese based on the prompt.

- Imagine you are looking at online advertisements for different short-term rental properties with a friend. The two of you are planning to live together during summer break while you are both working, and you are hoping to save some money for the summer, but you also want a convenient and comfortable living space. Write a dialogue to show the conversation between you and your friend. You may use the following structures or ideas:
  - 带家具 / 帶家具
  - · A 离 B 远/近 / A 離 B 遠/近
  - 连……都没有 / 連……都沒有

### **Reflection Questions**

#### A. Answer the following questions in English.

- 1 If you moved to a new city or country and needed to find a place to live, how would you start your search?
- When looking for an opportunity such as a job, internship, or housing, do you prefer to search alone or to ask friends and relatives for assistance? Why?



## ● 小平的日记: 交朋友

### 2025年1月18日

我已经来中国三年多了,这三年来我 一直都觉得在中国交朋友有点难。最近, 我才发现这是因为一些美国和中国之间的 文化差异。

但是,最近我跟我的中文老师聊文文和我的关系的时候,她告诉我,文文这样做是因为她觉得我是她的好朋友。我有一点不相信,但是后来上网查了一下,好像还真的是这样。在中国,如果一个认识的人常请你帮忙,那这个人一定觉得和你是特别好的朋友,而且希望跟你继续拉近关系。以前我真的没想到这些!

## ● 小平的日記:交朋友

### 2025年1月18日

我已經來中國三年多了,這三年來我 一直都覺得在中國交朋友有點難。最近, 我才發現這是因為一些美國和中國之間的 文化差異。

但是,最近我跟我的中文老師聊文文和我的關係的時候,她告訴我,文文這樣做是因為她覺得我是她的好朋友。我有你點不相信,但是後來上網查了一下認識的是這樣。在中國人一定覺得和你是特別好的朋友,而且希望跟你繼續拉近關係。以前我真的沒想到這些!

知道了这一点以后,我不知道应该怎么办才好。我不太希望文文天天叫我做这做那,可是我很高兴她觉得我是她的好朋友。而且,我现在明白了我为什么一直都觉得在中国交朋友有点难了。如果我想在中国有更多的朋友,我是不是应该多帮别人做一些事情,也多找别人帮我做一些事情呢?

知道了這一點以後,我不知道應該怎麼辦才好。我不太希望文文天天叫我做這做那,可是我很高興她覺得我是她的好朋友。而且,我現在明白了我為什麼一直都覺得在中國交朋友有點難了。如果我想在中國有更多的朋友,我是不是應該多幫別人做一些事情,也多找別人幫我做一些事情呢?

### **Vocabulary**

				Part of	
No.	Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	Speech	Definition
1	交		jiāo	V	to make (friends)
2	发现	發現	fāxiàn	V	to discover
3	之间	之間	zhījiān	prep	between
4	文化		wénhuà	n	culture
5	差异	差異	chāyì	n	difference
6	超市		chāoshì	n	supermarket
7	事情		shìqing	n	thing, matter, affair
8	心里	心裡	xīnlĭ	n	in one's heart, in one's mind
9	需要		xūyào	V	to need
10	成熟		chéngshú	adj	mature
11	关系	關係	guānxi	n	relationship, connection
12	相信		xiāngxìn	V	to believe
13	查		chá	V	to look up
14	帮忙	幫忙	bāngmáng	V	to help out
15	继续	繼續	jìxù	V	to continue
16	拉近		lā jîn	phr	to bring closer

### **Culture Notes**

A Helping Hand: Compared to many Western cultures, it is much more common in Chinese cultural contexts to ask other people for help with errands, personal favors, or even to borrow money. Doing favors for others is a way to build trust and show closeness, whether it is among friends, coworkers, or family.

## **Comprehension Questions**

Α.	Choose the	correct o	ption to	complete	each sentence.

1	X	iaopi	ing has been in China for
	a.	one	year
	b.	thre	ee months
			e years
	d.	SIX	months
2	X	iaopi	ing made a new discovery recently about
	a.	why	dating has been so hard
	b.	why	it's been difficult to make friends
	C.	why	her teacher doesn't like her
	d.	why	it's hard for her to understand her Chinese friends'
		text	messages
3	W	hen	a peer in China asks for a lot of favors, it might mean
	a.	that	they consider the other person a close friend
			they think the other person is a pushover
	C.	that	they don't know how to take care of themself
	d.	that	they are going through a difficult time but don't want
		to a	dmit it openly
В.	Ma	ark tl	ne following statements true or false.
	,	,	Vicenius is from the United Ctates
1	(	)	Xiaoping is from the United States.
2	(	)	Wenwen is Xiaoping's Chinese teacher.
	•	•	. 5
3	(	)	Xiaoping did not immediately believe what her
			Chinese teacher told her.

### **Exercises in Chinese (Simplified)**

- A. Mark the following statements true or false.
- 1() 小平是在中国长大的。
- 2() 小平觉得文文人不错,也很成熟。
- B. Use the target grammar patterns below to answer the questions in Chinese.
- 1 你觉得做什么事情有一点麻烦? (有一点+adjective)
- 2 你在什么时候会请别人帮忙? (才)
- C. Fill in the blank using the words provided. Use each word only once.

#### Word List

说话, 地方, 菜, 帮忙, 慢慢, 文化, 看到

有一些差异是我们一到一个新的
就会看到的。每个地方的人可能会喜
欢吃不一样的、穿不一样的衣服。但
是,有一些文化差异我们不会马上就,
比如我们怎么跟别人、怎么跟别人做
朋友、怎么请别人、怎么跟别人说对
不起。这些事情我们都得在新的文化环境 (huánjìng,
environment)里 学习。

### **Exercises in Chinese (Traditional)**

- A. Mark the following statements true or false.
- 1() 小平是在中國長大的。
- 2() 小平覺得文文人不錯,也很成熟。
- B. Use the target grammar patterns below to answer the questions in Chinese.
- 1 你覺得做什麼事情有一點麻煩? (有一點+adjective)
- 2 你在什麼時候會請別人幫忙? (才)
- C. Fill in the blank using the words provided. Use each word only once.

#### Word List

說話,地方,菜,幫忙,慢慢,文化,看到

有一些差異是我們一到一個新的
就會看到的。每個地方的人可能會喜
歡吃不一樣的、穿不一樣的衣服。但
是,有一些文化差異我們不會馬上就,
比如我們怎麼跟別人、怎麼跟別人做
朋友、怎麼請別人、怎麼跟別人說對
不起。這些事情我們都得在新的文化环境 (huánjìng,
environment)裡 學習。

### **Chinese Open Response Prompts**

- A. Create a short presentation in Chinese based on the prompt.
  - Imagine an exchange student is coming to your school, and they do not know much about your culture. They are really nervous about making friends! Help them out by describing how people typically show their affection or friendship for each other in your own community. You can use the following phrases and expressions:
    - 拉近关系 / 拉近關係
    - 虽然……, 但是……/ 雖然……, 但 是……
    - 一首……

### **Reflection Questions**

- A. Answer the following questions in English.
  - 1 How do you feel when friends ask you for help or favors? Do you often ask for help from others who are close to you, or do you prefer to do things by yourself?
- 2 How do you like to find friends? What makes you interested in befriending someone?