

Lesson 14

第十四課

Dì shí sì kè

生日晚會

Shēngrì wǎnhuì

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Learning Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn to:

- Ask a friend to go to a party with you
- Suggest things to bring to a get-together
- Thank people for gifts
- Describe a duration of time
- Talk about the year of your birth and your Chinese zodiac sign

Relate & Get Ready

In your own culture/community:

- How are birthdays usually celebrated?
- What do people bring to a birthday party?
- Are there any gift-giving taboos?
- Are people supposed to open gifts in front of the gift giver?

Let's Go to a Party!

Dialogue 1



Audio



Video

(李友給王朋打電話。)

王朋，你做什麼呢¹？

我看書呢。

今天高小音過生日^a，晚上我們在她家開舞會，你能去嗎？

能去。幾點？

七點。我們先吃飯，吃完飯再唱歌跳舞。

有哪些人？

小音和她的男朋友、小音的表姐^b、白英愛、你妹妹王紅，聽說還有小音的中學同學。

你要送給小音什麼生日禮物？

我買了一本書送給她。

那我帶什麼東西？

飲料或者水果都可以。

那我帶一些飲料，再買一把花兒。

小音愛吃水果，我再買一些蘋果、梨和西瓜吧。

你住的地方²離小音家很遠，水果很重，我開車去接你，我們一起去吧。

好，我六點半在樓下等你。



Language Notes

a 過 (guò)

Apart from 過生日 (guò shēngrì) (to celebrate one's birthday), the verb 過 (guò) (to live [a life], to observe [a holiday], to celebrate [a festival]) appears in many other expressions, such as 過年 (guò nián) (to celebrate the New Year), 過節 (guò jié) (to celebrate a festival), and 過日子 (guò rìzi) (to live one's life, to live from day to day).

b 表姐 (biǎojiě) and 堂姐 (tángjiě)

The kinship term 表姐 (biǎojiě) is more narrowly defined than its translation “older female cousin” would suggest. Your “older female cousin” is a 表姐 (biǎojiě) if she is a daughter of your father's sister or your mother's sister or brother. But if she is your paternal uncle's daughter, she is a 堂姐 (tángjiě), not a 表姐 (biǎojiě). Therefore, your 堂姐 (tángjiě) typically shares the your name. For more Chinese kinship terms, see Grammar 4 in Lesson 20. Is the same distinction among kin made in English?

(Lǐ Yǒu gěi Wáng Péng dǎ diànhuà.)



Wáng Péng, nǐ zuò shénme ¹ ne?



Wǒ kàn shū ne.



Jīntiān Gāo Xiǎoyīn guò shēngrì^a, wǎnshang

wǒmen zài tā jiā kāi wǔhuì, nǐ néng qù ma?



Néng qù. Jǐ diǎn?



Qī diǎn. Wǒmen xiān chī fàn, chī wán fàn zài

chàng gē tiào wǔ.



Yǒu nǎ xiē rén?



Xiǎoyīn hé tā de nán péngyou, Xiǎoyīn de

biǎojiě^b, Bái Yīng'ài, nǐ mèimei Wáng Hóng, tīng-

shuō hái yǒu Xiǎoyīn de zhōngxué tóngxué.



Nǐ yào sòng gěi Xiǎoyīn shénme shēngrì lǐwù?



Wǒ mǎi le yì běn shū sòng gěi tā.



Nà wǒ dài shénme dōngxī?



Yǐnliào huòzhě shuǐguǒ dōu kěyǐ.



Nà wǒ dài yì xiē yǐnliào, zài mǎi yì bǎ huār.



Xiǎoyīn ài chī shuǐguǒ, wǒ zài mǎi yì xiē píngguǒ,

lí hé xīgua ba.



Nǐ zhù de dìfang² lí Xiǎoyīn jiā hěn yuǎn, shuǐguǒ

hěn zhòng, wǒ kāi chē qù jiē nǐ, wǒmen yìqǐ qù ba.



Hǎo, wǒ liù diǎn bàn zài lóu xià děng nǐ.

Vocabulary



Audio



Flashcards

No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
1	過	guò	v	to live (a life), to observe (a holiday), to celebrate (a festival), to pass
2	舞會	wǔhuì	n	dance party, ball
3	表姐	biǎojiě	n	older female cousin
4	中學	zhōngxué	n	middle school, secondary school
5	送	sòng	v	to give as a gift
6	禮物	lǐwù	n	gift, present
7	本	běn	m	(measure word for books)
8	飲料	yǐnliào	n	beverage
9	水果	shuǐguǒ	n	fruit
10	把	bǎ	m	(measure word for things with handles, for handfuls of things)
11	花	huā	n	flower
12	愛	ài	v	to love, to like, to be fond of
13	蘋果	píngguǒ	n	apple
14	梨	lí	n	pear
15	西瓜	xīgua	n	watermelon
16	住	zhù	v	to live (in a certain place)
17	重	zhòng	adj	heavy, serious
18	接	jiē	v	to catch, to meet, to welcome

On a pamphlet from your favorite cookie bakery in Kaohsiung, you notice this box set being advertised. Is this meant to be given as a gift? What do you think 入 (rù) and the numbers indicate?

超值分享包 / 7種口味 (NT 110元)

18入綜合禮盒

煎·餅·禮·盒·系·列

Fried Cookies

小瓦煎燒9入 / 海苔煎餅4入 /
格子煎餅4入 / 檸檬捲心5入 /
草莓捲心5入

每盒 / [NT220元]

GET
Real
WITH CHINESE

No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
19	樓	lóu	n	multi-story building, floor (of a multi-level building)
20	王紅	Wáng Hóng	pn	a personal name

你愛吃什麼水果？

Nǐ ài chī shénme shuǐguǒ?

What fruits do you like to eat?



我愛吃 _____。

Wǒ ài chī _____。

How About You?

See index for corresponding vocabulary or research another term.

1

Indicating an action in progress using 呢 (ne)

呢 (ne) at the end of a sentence indicates that the action denoted by the verb is in progress. In this sense, it is similar to 在 (zài). However, 在 (zài) is not used at the end of a sentence, but before the verb.

A 你寫什麼呢？

Nǐ xiě shénme ne?

What are you writing?

B 你找什麼呢？

Nǐ zhǎo shénme ne?

What are you looking for?

呢 (ne) can also be used in conjunction with 在 (zài).

C 你在寫什麼呢？

Nǐ zài xiě shénme ne?

What are you writing?

D 你在找什麼呢？

Nǐ zài zhǎo shénme ne?

What are you looking for?

在 (zài) by itself can indicate that an action is in progress; therefore, the 呢 (ne) in (C) and (D) can be omitted.

在 (zài) can also be preceded by 正 (zhèng). The phrase 正在 (zhèngzài) further emphasizes that the action is ongoing.

E 我昨天給他打電話的時候，
他正在做功課呢。

Wǒ zuótiān gěi tā dǎ diànhuà de shíhòu, tā zhèngzài zuò gōngkè ne.

When I called him yesterday, he was right in the middle of doing his homework.

F 別去找他，他正在睡覺呢。

Bié qù zhǎo tā, tā zhèngzài shuì jiào ne.

Don't go looking for him. He's sleeping at the moment.

EXERCISES

Complete the sentences with 正在…呢. Use exercise 1 as an example.



1 我回家的時候

媽媽（做飯）

→ 我回家的時候，媽媽正在做飯呢。

2 姐姐給我打電話的時候

我（聽音樂）

3 老師進教室的時候

小高（復習生詞）

SAMPLE

Chinese Chat

In a group chat, you and two friends are trying to plan a party. How would you respond?

The screenshot shows a group chat interface with a header bar containing '< Messages', 'Group', and 'Contact'. The chat history includes three messages: a woman asking '明天的舞會我準備音樂。誰帶飲料、水果？' (Tomorrow's dance party I'm preparing music. Who's bringing drinks and fruit?), a man replying '我帶些梨和蘋果吧。' (I'll bring some pears and apples.), and the woman replying '謝謝二位！別忘了舞會八點開始。明天見。' (Thank you both! Don't forget the dance party starts at 8 o'clock tomorrow. See you tomorrow.). At the bottom, there is a text input field with a camera icon on the left and a 'Send' button on the right.

Verbal phrases and subject-predicate phrases used as attributives

In Chinese, attributives, often followed by the particle 的 (*de*), always appear before what they modify. Verbs, verbal phrases, and subject-object phrases can all serve as attributives.

A 吃的東西

chī de dōngxi

things to eat

B 穿的衣服

chuān de yīfu

clothes to wear, or clothes being worn

C 新買的飯卡

xīn mǎi de fànkǎ

newly bought meal card

D 昨天來的同學

zuótiān lái de tóngxué

classmate/classmates who came yesterday

E 以前認識的朋友

yǐqián rènshi de péngyou

friend/friends one previously got to know

F 我媽媽做的豆腐

wǒ māma zuò de dòufu

the tofu dish my mother makes/made

G

老師給我們的功課

lǎoshī gěi wǒmen *de* gōngkè

the homework the teacher assigned us

H

朋友送的蘋果

péngyou sòng *de* píngguǒ

apples given by a friend

I

請你跳舞的那個人

qǐng nǐ tiàowǔ *de* nà gè rén

that person who asked you to dance

J

我妹妹喜歡去的那個很酷的地方

wǒ mèimei xǐhuan qù *de* nà ge hěn kù de dìfang

that very cool place that my younger sister loves to go to

EXERCISES

Modify the nouns with a verb phrase or clause. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 筆 (我剛買) → 我剛買的筆
- 2 書 (你送給我)
- 3 衣服 (哥哥新買)
- 4 朋友 (昨天認識)



More exercises

What do the characters mean?

What is the common radical?

What does the radical mean?

How does the radical relate to the overall meaning of the characters?

Characterize it!

1

禮

2

視

3

票

4

祝



More characters

Language Practice

A

In the midst

INTERPERSONAL

In pairs, form a question-and-answer about what these people are doing. Use 呢 (ne) to indicate the action is in progress, e.g.:



Q: 她 (在) 做什麼呢?

Tā (zài) zuò shénme ne?

A: 她 (在) 喝湯呢。

Tā (zài) hē tāng ne.



Then ask your partner what he/she was doing last night at 7:00 and 9:00.

B

Oh, that one!

PRESENTATIONAL

Combine the two short sentences into one, using the highlighted verb or verb phrase as an attributive. Add 的 (de) where appropriate, e.g.:

他買了一件衣服。那件衣服很貴。

Tā mǎi le yí jiàn yīfu. Nà jiàn yīfu hěn guì.

他買的那件衣服很貴。

Tā mǎi de nà jiàn yīfu hěn guì.

1 他寫了一個字。那個字很漂亮。

Tā xiě le yí ge zì. Nà ge zì hěn piàoliang.

2 她買了一件襯衫。那件襯衫是中號的。

Tā mǎi le yí jiàn chènshān. Nà jiàn chènshān shì zhōng hào de.

- 3 我哥哥給了我一枝筆。那枝筆是黑色的。

Wǒ gēge *gěi* le wǒ yì zhī bǐ. *Nà zhī bǐ* shì hēisè de.

- 4 妹妹帶了一些水果。那些水果很貴。

Mèimei *dài* le yì xiē shuǐguǒ. *Nà xiē shuǐguǒ* hěn guì.

- 5 表姐賣了一些花。那些花很漂亮。

Biǎojiě *mài* le yì xiē huā. *Nà xiē huā* hěn piàoliang.

C

Who's who?

INTERPERSONAL

Help your new classmate match people in your class to their names, using a verb phrase or subject-predicate phrases as an attributive. Add 的 (*de*) where appropriate, e.g.:

Q: Jamal是誰?

Jamal shì shéi?

A: Jamal是那個穿藍色襯衫的學生。

Jamal shì nà ge chuān lán sè chèn shān de xué sheng.

Q: Katy是誰?

Katy shì shéi?

A: Katy是那個正在看書的女孩。

Katy shì nà ge zhèng zài kàn shū de nǚ hái.

Then quiz the new classmate, e.g.:

Q: 那個穿藍色襯衫的學生是誰?

Nà ge chuān lán sè chèn shān de xué sheng shì shéi?

A: 那個穿藍色襯衫的學生是Jamal。

Nà ge chuān lán sè chèn shān de xué sheng shì Jamal.

Birthday Bash

Dialogue 2



Audio



Video

(在高小音家……)



王朋，李友，快進來。



小音，祝你生日快樂！這是送給你的生日禮物。



謝謝！……太好了！我一直想買這本書。帶這麼多東西，你們太客氣了。



哥哥，李友，你們來了^a。



啊^b。小紅，你怎麼樣？



我很好。每天都在學英文。



小紅，你每天練習英文練習多長時間³？



三個半鐘頭^c。還看兩個鐘頭的英文電視。



哎，你們兩個是什麼時候到的⁴？



剛到。



白英愛沒跟你們一起來嗎？



她還⁵沒來？我以為^d她已經來了。




王朋，李友，來，我給你們介紹一下，這是我表姐海倫，這是她的兒子湯姆。



你好，海倫。


 你好，王朋。文中和小音都說
你又聰明^e又用功^e。


 哪裡，哪裡。你的中文說得真好，是在哪兒學的？


 在暑期班^f學的。

 哎，湯姆長^g得真可愛！你們看，
他笑了。他幾歲了？

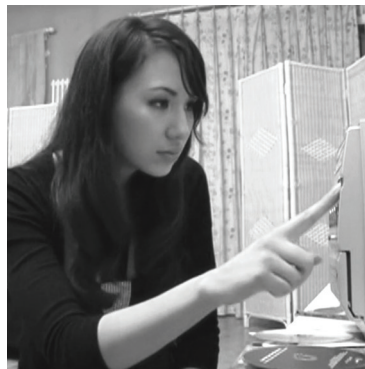
 剛一歲，是去年生的，屬狗。

 你們看，他的臉圓圓的，眼睛
大大的，鼻子高高的，嘴不大
也不小，長得很像海倫。

 媽媽這麼漂亮，兒子長大一定
也很帥。

 來，來，來，我們吃蛋糕吧。

 等等白英愛吧。她最愛吃蛋糕。



(Zài Gāo Xiǎoyīn jiā . . .)



Wáng Péng, Lǐ Yǒu, kuài jìn lai.



Xiǎoyīn, zhù nǐ shēng rì kuàilè! Zhè shì sòng gěi nǐ de shēng rì lǐwù.



Xièxiè! . . . Tài hǎo le! Wǒ yìzhí xiǎng mǎi zhè běn shū. Dài zhème duō dōngxi, nǐmen tài kèqi le.



Gēge, Lǐ Yǒu, **nǐmen lái le** ^a.



À ^b. Xiǎo Hóng, nǐ zěnmeyàng?



Wǒ hěn hǎo. Měitiān dōu zài xué Yīngwén.



Xiǎo Hóng, nǐ měitiān **liànxí Yīngwén liànxí duō cháng shíjiān** ³?



Sān ge bàn **zhōngtóu** ^c. Hái kàn liǎng ge zhōngtóu de Yīngwén diànshì.



Āi, nǐmen liǎng ge **shì shénme shíhou dào de** ⁴?



Gāng dào.



Bái Yīng'ài méi gēn nǐmen yìqǐ lái ma?



Tā **hái** ⁵ méi lái? Wǒ **yǐwéi** ^d tā yǐjīng lái le.



Wáng Péng, Lǐ Yǒu, lái, wǒ gěi nǐmen jièshào yí xià, zhè shì wǒ biǎojiè Hǎilún, zhè shì tā de érzi Tāngmǔ.



Nǐ hǎo, Hǎilún.



Nǐ hǎo, Wáng Péng. Wénzhōng hé Xiǎoyīn dōu shuō nǐ **yòu cōngmíng** ^e **yòu yònggōng** ^f.



Nǎli, nǎli. Nǐ de Zhōngwén shuō de zhēn hǎo, shì zài nǎr xué de?



Zài shǔqī **bān** ^f xué de.



Āi, Tāngmǔ **zhǎng** ^g de zhēn kě'ài! Nǐmen kàn, tā xiào le. Tā jǐ suì le?



Gāng yí suì, shì qùnián shēng de, shǔ gǒu.



Nǐmen kàn, tā de liǎn yuán yuán de, yǎnjīng dà dà de, bízi gāo gāo de, zǔi bú dà yě bù xiǎo, zhǎng de hěn xiàng Hǎilún.



Māma zhème piàoliang, érzi zhǎng dà yíding yě hěn shuài.



Lái, lái, lái, wǒmen chī dàngāo ba.



Děng děng Bái Yīng'ài ba. Tā zuì ài chī dàngāo.

a 你們來了。 (Nǐmen lái le.)

This sentence, equivalent to “You’re here,” not only acknowledges the visitors’ arrival, but also serves as a casual greeting. [See also Cultural Literacy, Lesson 13.]

b 啊 (a/à)

Different from 啊 (a) in Dialogue 2 of Lesson 6, where it is pronounced in the neutral tone as a sentence-final particle, 啊 (à) here is pronounced in the fourth tone as an answer to someone else’s greeting.

c 鐘頭 (zhōngtóu)

This is the colloquial equivalent of 小時 (xiǎoshí) (hour). [See also Vocabulary, Lesson 15.]

d 以為 (yǐwéi)

This is often used to signify an understanding or judgment that has proved to be erroneous, e.g.: 我以為你吃素 (Wǒ yǐwéi nǐ chī sù) (I thought you were vegetarian).

e 聰明 (cōngmíng)

聰 (cōng) literally means “able to hear well,” and 明 (míng) means “able to see clearly,” among other things. Therefore, 聰明 (cōngmíng) describes someone who is sharp or bright.

f 班 (bān) vs. 課 (kè)

These two words denote two different concepts that are represented by the same word, “class,” in English. While 課 (kè) refers to an educational course or a meeting time for the course, 班 (bān) means a group of students taking a course together. Thus you would say 我今天有電腦課 (Wǒ jīntiān yǒu diànnǎo kè) (I have a computer class today), but 我的電腦班有二十個人 (Wǒ de diànnǎo bān yǒu èrshí ge rén) (There are twenty people in my computer class).

g 長 (zhǎng/cháng)

This character has two different meanings and pronunciations. As a verb, it is pronounced zhǎng, meaning “to grow.” When used as an adjective, it is pronounced cháng, meaning “long.”

Vocabulary



Audio



Flashcards

No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
1	鐘頭	zhōngtóu	n	hour
2	以為	yǐwéi	v	to assume erroneously
3	聰明	cōngmíng	adj	smart, bright, clever
4	用功	yònggōng	adj	hardworking, diligent, studious
5	暑期	shǔqī	n	summer term
6	班	bān	n	class
7	長	zhǎng	v	to grow, to appear
8	可愛	kě'ài	adj	cute, lovable
9	去年	qùnián	t	last year
10	屬	shǔ	v	to belong to
11	狗	gǒu	n	dog
12	臉	liǎn	n	face
13	圓	yuán	adj	round
14	眼睛	yǎnjīng	n	eye
15	鼻子	bízi	n	nose
16	嘴	zuǐ	n	mouth
17	像	xiàng	v	to be like, to look like, to take after
18	長大	zhǎng dà	vc	to grow up
19	一定	yídìng	adj/adv	certain, definite; certainly, definitely
20	蛋糕	dàngāo	n	cake
21	最	zuì	adv	most, (of superlative degree) -est



It's your birthday!
You're having a
party, and one of
your friends has
brought over a
delicious selection
of bubble tea
(珍珠奶茶)
(zhēnzhū nǎichá).
What flavors did
she bring?

**GET
Real**
WITH **CHINESE**

SAMPLE

No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
22	海倫	Hǎilún	pn	Helen
23	湯姆	Tāngmǔ	pn	Tom

給朋友過生日開
舞會，你會準備
些什麼東西？

Gěi péngyou guò shēngrì kāi wǔhuì,
nǐ huì zhǔnbèi xiē shénme dōngxi?

What would you bring to a birthday party?



我會準備 _____。

Wǒ huì zhǔnbèi _____.

See index for corresponding vocabulary or research another term.

How About You?

3

Time duration (I)

To indicate the duration of an action, the following structure is used:

Subject + verb + (object + verb) + (了) (le) + duration of time

A 老高想在上海住一年。

Lǎo Gāo xiǎng zài Shànghǎi zhù yì nián.

Old Gao would like to live in Shanghai for a year.

B 我每天在書店工作三個鐘頭。

Wǒ měitiān zài shūdiàn gōngzuò sān ge zhōngtóu.

I work at a bookstore for three hours every day.

C 昨天下雪下了一天。

Zuótiān xià xuě xià le yì tiān.

It snowed for a whole day yesterday.

D 你上暑期班上了多長時間？

Nǐ shàng shǔqī bān shàng le duō cháng shíjiān?

How long were you in summer school for?

Sentences in this pattern must be in the affirmative. If the verb takes an object, the verb has to be repeated, as in (C) and (D). If the verb has an object, the following alternative pattern can be used to express the same idea.

Subject + verb + (了) (le) + duration of time + (的) (de) + object

E 昨天下了一天（的）雪。

Zuótiān xià le yì tiān (de) xuě.

It snowed for a whole day yesterday.



我上了四個星期（的）暑期班。

Wǒ shàng le sì ge xīngqī (de) shǔqī bān.

I was at summer school for four weeks.

[✗ 我四個星期上了暑期班。]

The phrase for the length of time must not be put before the verb.



More
exercises

EXERCISES

Complete the sentences with the phrases provided to indicate the duration of an action.

Use exercise 1 as an example.

1 我昨天上中文課 半個鐘頭

→ 我昨天上中文課上了半個鐘頭。/

我昨天上了半個鐘頭的中文課。

2 我妹妹每天聽音樂 一個半鐘頭

3 我上個星期在圖書館工作 三天

4

Sentences with 是...的 (shì...de)

To describe or inquire about the time, the place, the manner, or the initiator of an action that we know already happened, use the 是...的 (shì...de) structure. The use of 是 (shì), however, is optional.



Q: 你去過北京嗎？

Nǐ qù guo Běijīng ma?

Have you been to Beijing?

A: 我去過北京。

Wǒ qù guo Běijīng.

Yes, I've been to Beijing.

Having confirmed that the respondent has been to Beijing in the past, the questioner now wants to find out when, how, and with whom the respondent went to Beijing:

Q: 你（是）跟誰一起去的？

Nǐ (shì) gēn shéi yìqǐ qù de?

With whom did you go?

A: 我（是）跟我表姐一起去的。

Wǒ (shì) gēn wǒ biǎojiě yìqǐ qù de.

I went with my cousin.

Q: 你們（是）什麼時候去的？

Nǐmen (shì) shénme shíhou qù de?

When did you go?

A: 我們（是）寒假去的。

Wǒmen (shì) hánjià qù de.

We went over winter break.

Q: 你們（是）怎麼去的？

Nǐmen (shì) zěnmē qù de?

How did you get there?

A: 我們（是）坐飛機去的。

Wǒmen (shì) zuò fēijī qù de.

We flew.

B Q: 你看過這本書嗎？

Nǐ kàn guo zhè běn shū ma?

Have you read this book?

A: 看過。

Kàn guo.

Yes, I have.

Q: （是）什麼時候看的？

(Shì) shénme shíhou kàn de?

When did you read it?

[The questioner knows that the action 看 (kàn) already took place.]

A: （是）上個週末看的。

(Shì) shàng ge zhōumò kàn de.

I read it last weekend. (It was last weekend that I read it.)

C

你這條褲子真好看。(是)在哪兒買的?

Nǐ zhè tiáo kùzi zhēn hǎokàn. (Shì) zài nǎr mǎi de?

These pants of yours look great. Where did you get them?

[Most people buy pants (as opposed to making them at home, for example), so the action 買 (mǎi) is assumed.]

D

Q: 你吃飯了嗎?

Nǐ chī fàn le ma?

Have you eaten yet?

A: 吃了。

Chī le.

Yes, I have.

[The action 吃 (chī) is now known.]

Q: (是) 在哪兒吃的?

(Shì) zài nǎr chī de?

Where did you eat?

A: (是) 在學生餐廳吃的。

(Shì) zài xuéshēng cāntīng chī de.

In the student cafeteria.

E

Q: 你學過電腦嗎?

Nǐ xué guo diànnǎo ma?

Have you ever studied computer science?

A: 學過。

Xué guo.

Yes, I have.

Q: (是) 跟誰學的 ?

(Shì) gēn shéi xué de?

Who did you study with?

A: (是) 跟王老師學的。

(Shì) gēn Wáng lǎoshī xué de.

With Teacher Wang.

是 (shì) cannot be omitted in negative statements.

F Q: 你是在中國學的中文嗎 ?

Nǐ shì zài Zhōngguó xué de Zhōngwén ma?

Did you study Chinese in China?

A: 我不是在中國學的，是在美國學的。

Wǒ bú shì zài Zhōngguó xué de, shì zài Měiguó xué de.

No, I didn't study Chinese in China. I studied it in the U.S.

G Q: 小李是昨天走的嗎 ?

Xiǎo Lǐ shì zuótiān zǒu de ma?

Did Little Li leave yesterday?

A: 她不是昨天走的，好像是上個星期走的。

Tā bú shì zuótiān zǒu de, hǎoxiàng shì shàng ge xīngqī zǒu de.

No, she didn't leave yesterday. I think she left last week.

What do the characters mean?

What is the common radical?

What does the radical mean?

How does the radical relate to the overall meaning of the characters?

Characterize it!

1

本

2

果

3

樓

4

梨



More characters

EXERCISES

In pairs, form questions-and-answers by using the given question cue words and bracketed answers. Use 是...的 where appropriate. Use exercise 1 as an example.

1 你去紐約

去過嗎？（去過）

什麼時候？（去年）

跟誰一起（同學）

怎麼（坐飛機）

→ Q: 你去過紐約嗎？

A: 去過。

Q: （是）什麼時候去的？

A: （是）去年去的。

Q: （是）跟誰一起去的？

A: （是）跟同學一起去的。

Q: （是）怎麼去的？

A: （是）坐飛機去的。

2 你看中國電影

看過嗎？（看過）

在哪兒？（學校）

什麼時候？（上個星期）

跟誰一起？（小王）

3 你吃紅燒牛肉

吃過嗎？（吃過）

在哪兒？（中國飯館）

什麼時候？（前天）

跟誰一起？（弟弟）

5

還 (hái) (still)

還 (hái), as an adverb, can mean “still.”

A

上午十一點了，他還在睡覺。

Shàngwǔ shíyī diǎn le, tā hái zài shuì jiào.

It's 11:00 a.m. He's still sleeping.

B

今天的功課我還沒寫完。

Jīntiān de gōngkè wǒ hái méi xiě wán.

I'm still not done with today's homework.

C

這個語法老師教了，可是我還不懂。

Zhè ge yǔfǎ lǎoshī jiāo le, kěshì wǒ hái bù dǒng.

The teacher went over this grammar point, but I still don't understand it.

EXERCISES

Complete the sentences by inserting 還 where appropriate. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 已經晚上十點了，弟弟沒回家
→ 已經晚上十點了，弟弟還沒回家。
- 2 他在電話裡說了三次，我聽不清楚
- 3 這課的課文我看了一個鐘頭，不懂



More exercises

6

又...又... (yòu ... yòu ...) (both ... and ...)

When two adjectives are joined in this structure, they must both be either positive or negative in meaning. For example, in 又聰明又用功 (yòu cōngmíng yòu yònggōng) (smart and hardworking) both adjectives are positive in meaning, while in 又多又難 (yòu duō yòu nán) (too much and difficult), both adjectives are negative in meaning.

EXERCISES

Combine the adjectives by inserting 又...又... where appropriate. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 聰明用功 → 又聰明又用功
- 2 高大
- 3 餓累



More exercises

A

Where did you get that?

INTERPERSONAL

You love something your classmate has or is wearing. You want to find out whether he/she bought it, and if so, where and when it was bought. Use the 是...的 (shì... de) structure when necessary, e.g.:

你的手機真酷……

Nǐ de shǒujī zhēn kù ...

(是) 你買的還是別人送的？

(Shì) nǐ mǎi de hái shì biérén sòng de?

(是) 什麼時候買的？

(Shì) shénme shíhòu mǎi de?

(是) 在哪兒買的？

(Shì) zài nǎr mǎi de?

1



2



3



B

INTERPERSONAL

Older or younger

PRESENTATIONAL

Interview your classmates to find out everyone's birthplace, birth year, and Chinese zodiac sign. Then report to the class how many classmates are older than you, how many are younger than you, how many were born in the same state/province/city as you were, and which zodiac sign is most common in the class. Use the 是...的 (shì... de) structure when necessary.

1 你是哪兒生的？

Nǐ shì zài nǎr shēng de?

3 你屬什麼？

Nǐ shǔ shénme?

2 你是哪一年生的？

Nǐ shì nǎ yì nián shēng de?

In pairs, discuss where you have traveled. Take turns asking each other the questions below. Use the 是...的 (shì... de) structure when necessary.

1 你去過 (a city or country) 嗎？

Nǐ qù guo (a city or country) ma?

2 你 (是) 什麼時候去的？

Nǐ (shì) shénme shíhou qù de?

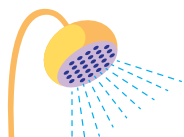
3 你 (是) 跟誰一起去的？

Nǐ (shì) gēn shéi yìqǐ qù de?

4 你 (是) 怎麼去的？

Nǐ (shì) zěnmē qù de?

Imagine that you've signed up to go on a whirlwind tour of China during summer break. You just got your itinerary, and the travel schedule looks very intense. The trip leaders have scheduled each day down to the minute. In pairs, form a question-and-answer about how much time you'll have for each activity, e.g.:



7:30 a.m. – 7:35 a.m.

Q: 你每天洗澡洗多長時間？

Nǐ měitiān xǐ zǎo xǐ duō cháng shíjiān?

A: 我每天洗澡洗五分鐘。

Wǒ měitiān xǐ zǎo xǐ wǔ fēnzhōng.

1



1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

2



5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

3



11:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m.

Ask your partner about how much time he/she typically spends eating dinner every day.

Survey your classmates about how they spent their time last night. Use the “subject + verb + (object + verb) + (了) + duration of time” or “subject + verb + (了) + duration of time + (的) + object” structure to indicate the duration of an action, e.g.:

Q: Emily, 你昨天晚上做什麼了？

Emily, nǐ zuótiān wǎnshang zuò shénme le?

A: 我昨天晚上看電視了。

Wǒ zuótiān wǎnshang kàn diànshì le.

Q: 你昨天晚上看電視看了多長時間？

Nǐ zuótiān wǎnshang kàn diànshì kàn le duō cháng shíjiān?

A: 我昨天晚上看電視看了半個鐘頭。

Wǒ zuótiān wǎnshang kàn diànshì kàn le bàn ge zhōngtóu.

Then share your findings with the class.

Emily 昨天晚上看電視看了半個鐘頭。

Emily zuótiān wǎnshang kàn diànshì kàn le bàn ge zhōngtóu.

In pairs, describe this dog's features and comment on how cute it is.



Find out among your classmates whose birthday is coming up by asking **誰的生日快到了?** (*Shéi de shēng rì kuài dào le?*) (Whose birthday is coming up?). Everyone should take a turn asking that person what he/she likes to eat, drink, and do. Then work as a class to plan a birthday party together, and decide who will bring what to the party. In Chinese, note down the day of the party and the things you were assigned to bring.

Chinese Chat

On Facebook, Gao Wenzhong just posted about a party he's throwing. What are his friends going to bring?

The screenshot shows a Facebook interface with a blue header bar containing navigation icons. The main post is by user 高文中 (Gao Wenzhong) dated November 12 at 12:50 pm. The post text asks friends to bring items to a birthday party. Below the post are four comments from friends: 王紅 (Wang Hong) brought dumplings, 王朋 (Wang Peng) brought iced tea, cola, and flowers, 李友 (Li You) brought fruit and gifts, and Helen Gore brought Japanese food.

高文中
November 12 at 12:50 pm

謝謝大家今天晚上來我家給我姐過生日！你們都準備帶些什麼呀？

Like Comment Share

52

王紅 我買了餃子。
November 12 at 12:52 pm · Like 12 · Reply

王朋 我帶冰茶、可樂和花。
November 12 at 1:12 pm · Like 10 · Reply

李友 水果和禮物！
November 12 at 1:31 pm · Like 6 · Reply

Helen Gore 我自己做的日本菜。
November 12 at 2:50 pm · Like 15 · Reply



Continue to explore



KARAOKE

Nowadays, when Chinese people sing for fun, they usually sing karaoke, 卡拉OK (kā lā'OK). Many young people in Mainland China and Taiwan regularly go to karaoke bars, known as KTVs or 歌廳 (gē tīng), to have a good time or celebrate someone's birthday. They can order food and beverages and reserve private rooms for their parties. Some people even have karaoke equipment at home.



Gift Giving

The Chinese usually express their appreciation for gifts profusely, typically by saying 你太客氣了! (Nǐ tài kèqì le!) (You're too kind!). However, to avoid giving the impression of greediness, most Chinese people would refrain from opening a present immediately in front of the gift giver. Flowers can make good gifts, but on happy occasions, one should avoid bouquets of white flowers, which are typically for funerals. Another taboo is giving a clock to an elderly person as a present, because the phrase 送鐘 (sòng zhōng) (to give a clock as a present) sounds ominously like 送終 (sòng zhōng), which means to bid farewell to a deceased person.

COMPARE & CONTRAST

- 1 What would you say to a friend giving you a present? Would you open it right away? If you gave a present to a Chinese friend and he/she didn't open it right away, how would you feel? What would be culturally appropriate to say to him/her?
- 2 In the past, on a child's first birthday, his/her parents would organize a special ceremony called 抓周 (zhuā zhōu) (grabbing test). Various objects—a book, a writing brush, a carpenter's tool, cosmetics—would be spread out before the child, and parents, grandparents, and other relatives would wait with bated breath to see which object the child would pick up, as the child's choice was supposed to indicate his/her character and inclinations. Additionally, when a baby is one month old, many parents hold a special banquet called 滿月酒 (mǎnyuèjiǔ). What special milestone celebrations are held for children in your culture?

Potluck dinner parties are not common in China. Chinese hosts and hostesses typically prepare everything for their guests, and do not count on them to bring anything. However, visitors can still bring something as a token of appreciation, such as fruit.

Party Etiquette

Lesson Wrap-Up

Make It Flow!

The following sentences are arranged in a logical order. Combine the sentences into a coherent narrative. Substitute nouns with pronouns where necessary. Avoid unnecessary repetitions of subject pronouns. Add the connective devices **只有** (zhǐyǒu), **先** (xiān), **然後** (rán hòu), **這個時候** (zhè ge shíhòu), and **最後** (zuì hòu) where appropriate.

晚上王朋和李友到了高小音家。大家都來了。白英愛還沒來。大家祝小音生日快樂。大家一起聊天。王朋問妹妹小紅每天練習中文練習多長時間。王紅說每天練習中文練習三個半鐘頭。王紅說每天還看兩個鐘頭的英文電視。小音給王朋和李友介紹她的表姐海倫。海倫中文說得非常好。海倫是在暑期班學的中文。海倫有一個兒子。海倫的兒子叫湯姆。湯姆屬狗。湯姆剛一歲。湯姆長得很像海倫。湯姆很可愛。小音讓大家吃蛋糕。

Skit

Student A Persuade your friend to go to a party with you. Tell him/her when and where the party is, who else will be there, and what kind of food and music he/she can expect.

Student B You're not sure if you want to go. You have an exam next Monday and you didn't do well on the last one. You want to study and review. Are there other reasons for your lack of interest?

Student A How can you get your friend to agree to go to the party with you?

Email

Tell a friend about the party you went to last weekend. Who was there? When did it start and what was it for? Describe somebody you met there. What did he/she look like? What did you talk about? How were the food and music? When did you get home? Did you have fun?

Can-Do Check List

I can

Before proceeding to Lesson 15, make sure you can complete the following tasks in Chinese:

- Ask a friend to a party
- Offer a ride and set up a place and time for a pickup
- Talk about the duration of an action
- Thank someone for his/her gift
- Discuss my birth year and Chinese zodiac sign
- Describe facial features in simple terms