

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



FRAME 1

1. A: Qǐngwèn, nín zhùzai <u>chénglǐtōu</u> hái shì <u>chéngwàitōu</u> ?	May I ask, do you live inside the city or outside?
B: Wǒ zhùzai chéngwàitōu. Chéngwàitōu yǒu yíge <u>xuéxiào</u> . Wǒmen jiā zài <u>xuéxiào qiántou</u> .	I live outside the city. There is a school outside the city. Our house is in front of the school.
2. A: Nín háizi zài <u>nèige</u> <u>xuéxiào shàngxué</u> ma?	Does your child go to that school?
B: Shì. Wǒ tàitai yě zài <u>nèige</u> <u>xuéxiào jiāoshù</u> .	Yes. My wife teaches at that school too.
3. A: Nèige <u>xuéxiào hěn dà</u> ma?	Is that school very big?
B: Bú <u>tài dà</u> , yě bú <u>tài xiǎo</u> .	(It's) not too big. Not too small either.

Notes

1. Positional Nouns: In lesson 5, the positional noun ending -li (fàndiǎnli, jiāli) was introduced. Further examples of positional nouns appear in this lesson and include lǐtōu, "inside" expansion of -lǐ, "wàitōu, "outside," qiántōu, "in front of," and hòutōu, "behind." They point out relative or specific position when standing after certain nouns. The -tōu ending provides the full form, but this full form is frequently abbreviated as in the case of lǐ(tōu), wài(tōu), and shàng(tōu).

<u>Full form</u>	<u>Abbreviated</u>	<u>English</u>
chénglǐtōu	chénglǐ	in(side) the city
chéngwàitōu	chéngwài	outside the city
fàndiǎn hòutōu		behind the hotel
xuéxiào qiántōu		in front of the school
shūshàng(tōu)		in (on) the book

Modification by -de. Positional nouns (usually with -de added) may stand before other nouns to modify them. As a rule, if the modified noun is a noun without "zhèige" or "nèige" before it, the noun is plural in number; when in contrast, however, it may either be singular or plural.

wàitou de xuésheng
(outside) (the students)

the students outside

Qiántou de yǐzi shì wǒde, hòutou de
(in front) (the chair) (behind)

The chair in front is mine, the one behind is his.

yǐzi shì tāde.
(the chair)

qiántou de nèige fàndiàn
(in front) (that hotel)

that hotel in front

The location becomes more specific as the main place word is stated first.

Běijīng chéngwàitou de xuéxiào
(outside the city) (the school)

the school outside the city of Běijīng

Wǒmen jiā hòutou de yóujú
(our house) (behind) (the post office)

the post office behind our house

nèige fàndiàn litou de rén
(in that hotel) (the people)

the people in that hotel

Place words (with -de) may also precede nouns to modify them:

zhèrde fàndiàn
(here) (the hotel)

the hotel here

nàlìde xuéxiào
(there) (the school)

the school there

nǎrde yínháng?
(where?) (the bank)

the bank where?

Some high-frequency nouns may stand after zài with or without the addition of a localizer. They are thus considered place words.

Tā zài jiā.
Tā zài jiāli.

He is at home.

Tā zài xuéxiào.
Tā zài xuéxiàoli.

He is at school.

Wǒ zhùzai fàndiàn
Wǒ zhùzai fàndiànli.

I am staying in a hotel.

2. Zài Used as a Co-Verb to Set Up the Main Action. In the sentence Wǒ tàitai zài nèige xuéxiào jiāoshū. (My wife teaches at that school.) Zài plays the role of the English preposition "at."

The zài phrase (zài nèige xuéxiào) in Chinese, like the "at" phrase (at that school) in English, gives more information about the main verb jiāoshū, that is, it tells where the main action takes place. When zài functions as a preposition, as in this case, it is called a co-verb. In general, a co-verb shows a relationship between a noun and the main verb of the sentence. The co-verb and the noun form what is called a co-verbial phrase.

Negating a Co-Verbial Phrase. Compare the following sentences:

Tā	jiāoshū.	She teaches.
Tā bù	jiāoshū.	She doesn't teach.
Tā zài nèige xuéxiào	jiāoshū.	She teaches at that school.
Tā bùzài nèige xuéxiào	jiāoshū.	She doesn't teach at that school.

In the last sentence, the negative adverb bù comes before the co-verb zài, rather than before the main verb jiāoshū. This makes sense. You are not saying "She doesn't TEACH.", but you are saying "She does NOT teach AT THAT SCHOOL." Literally "She does not at that school teach.", but she obviously teaches elsewhere.

Verb-Object (VO) Compounds: Shàngxué, "attending/go to school" and jiāoshū, "teach" are VO's. Shàng, "to go" and jiāo, "to teach" are the verbs. Xué (an abbreviation of xuéxiào) and shū, "book[s]" are the generalized objects. Certain verbs in Chinese have such a close relationship with a generalized object unnecessary in English.

<u>Chinese Usage</u>	<u>Literal Translation</u>	<u>English Usage</u>
<u>jiāoshū</u>	teach books	teach
<u>kànshū</u>	look at books	read

The generalized object can be supplemented or replaced by a specific object with certain VO's, but jiāoshū and shàngxué are concepts in themselves and are not normally included in this category. All VO compounds, like kànshū, "read" may be divided as follows:

<u>kàn Zhōngguó shū</u>	reading (looking at) Chinese books
NEVER <u>kànshū Zhōngguó</u>	

In subsequent lessons you will learn additional words such as "newspaper," "magazine," "pictorial," etc., which can follow kàn- as specific objects, replacing the generalized object shū. may be divided as follows:

FRAME 2

4. A: Nín shì <u>něinián shēng de</u> ? B: Wǒ shì <u>yījiǔ sānbā nián</u> <u>shēngde</u> .	In what year were you born? I was born in 1938.
5. A: Nín shì <u>jīyuè jīhào</u> <u>shēngde</u> ? B: Wǒ shì <u>jiǔyuè èrshíwǔ</u> <u>hào shēngde</u> .	(On) what month and day (date) were you born? I was born on the 25th of September.
6. A: Nín nǚpéngyou ne? B: <u>Duìbuqǐ</u> . Wǒ <u>bùzhīdao</u> .	How about your girlfriend? Sorry. I don't know.

Notes

4. The shì ... de Construction: Nín shì něinián shēng de? This shì ... de pattern is one of the most important in the Chinese language. It is used to stress various circumstances connected with the action of the main verb (such as time, means, purpose, etc.) rather than the action itself. It asks and/or answers WHEN, HOW, WHY, FROM WHERE, WITH WHOM, etc. The shì stands before the particular circumstance to be stressed, and the -de follows the main verb. In this lesson, only WHEN (year, month, date) is stressed. However, WHERE can also be asked and answered. Compare the following:

Nǐ shì zài nǎr shēng de?

Where were you born? WHERE?

Wǒ shì zài Měiguó shēng de.

I was born in America.
WHERE (Ans.)

Nǐ shì zài Měiguó nǎr
shēngde?

Where in America were you
born? WHERE?

Wǒ shì zài Měiguó Jiāzhōu
shēng de.

I was born in California.
WHERE (Ans.)

Nǐ shì něinián shēng de?

In which year were you born?
WHEN?

Wǒ shì yījiǔ liùlíng nián
shēng de.

I was born in 1960.
WHEN (Ans.)

Nǐ shì sìyuè shēng de ma?

Were you born in April?
WHEN?

Búshì. Wǒ shì báyue shēng
de.

No. I was born in August.
WHEN (Ans.)

Nǐ shì báyue jīhào shēng de? What date in August were you born? WHEN?

Wǒ shì báyue shíliù hào shēng de. I was born on the 16th of August. WHEN

4 & 5. Time Elements in Chinese: The proper sequence of time elements in Chinese is very logical. Always begin with the largest unit then work successively down through smaller units: year, month, day, AM/PM, hour, minutes, and seconds. The larger unit always precedes the smaller nián-yuè-rì. Rì (written form) is a more formal word.

Since you already know the Chinese words for "which," "this," and "how many," you will naturally be tempted to use these with "year," "month," and "day." Unfortunately Chinese has specific words for "this year," "today," "how many days," etc., which will appear in later lessons. So at the moment you are limited in what you can do. Carefully note the following examples.

Years: yīnián (one year), liǎngnián (two years), sānnián (three years), etc. yījiǔ bāèr nián (the year of 1982), yījiǔ bā sān nián (the year of 1983).

Months: yíyuè (Jan.), èryuè (Feb.) sānyuè (March), etc.

Dates: yīhào (the first day of the month), èrhào (the second day), etc.

Days: yìtiān (one day), liǎngtiān (two days), sāntiān (three days), etc. (Tiān is a new vocabulary item, it has not been introduced.)

Year: něinián? (jīnnián) nèinián jīnián (NEVER -ge.)

month: něi(ge)yuè? zhéi(ge)yuè nèi(ge)yuè jīgeyuè? (USE -ge.) jīyuè?

Date: jīhào? (zhèitiān) (nèitiān)

Days: (nèitiān?) (jīntiān, today) (nèitiān) (jītiān?) (NEVER -ge.)

(Note: The words tiān, "day" and jīn, "this" will be introduced in a subsequent lesson. They are only given here to alert you, and to prevent both a misunderstanding and the formation of a habit which could be hard to break.)

Last Month - Next Month: Borrowing the shàng- from shàngtōu, "on, above, etc.", shànggēyuè becomes "last month" (i.e., the month "above" this one). Taking the xià- from xiàtōu, "below," xiàgēyuè becomes "next month" (the month below this one).

4B. Yījiǔ sānbā nián - 1938: Years are normally given as a sequence of digits, so 1972, yījiǔ qièr nián is literally "one-nine-seven-two year." In a sequence of digits, the ordinal word èr (not liǎng) is used for 2. The words for 1, 7, and 8 (yī, qī, and bā) keep their basic high tones.

5B. Months of the Year: Note the tone changes on yī, qī, and bā before the Fourth tone -yuè. An exception is November, shíyīyuè where yī retains its First tone.

<u>JÌYUÈ?</u>	<u>WHAT MONTH?</u>	<u>JÌYUÈ?</u>	<u>WHAT MONTH?</u>
<u>yíyuè</u>	January	<u>qíyuè</u>	July
<u>èryuè</u>	February	<u>báiyuè</u>	August
<u>sānyuè</u>	March	<u>jǐuyuè</u>	September
<u>sìyuè</u>	April	<u>shíyuè</u>	October
<u>wǔyuè</u>	May	<u>shíyīyuè</u>	November
<u>liùyuè</u>	June	<u>shíèryuè</u>	December

Dates of the Month: Dates of the month are expressed using the number followed by the word hào. In asking "which day" the word jǐ-, "how many" is used, and an exception to the rule of "the expected answer of 10 or less" is made here. Jīhào is used even though the answer may be a number as high as 31.

FRAME 3

7. A: Nín zài nǎr <u>gōngzuò</u> ? B: Wǒ zài <u>yínháng</u> <u>gōngzuò</u> .	Where do you work? I work in a bank.
8. A: <u>Cóngqián</u> ne? B: <u>Cóngqián</u> wǒ zài <u>yóujú</u> <u>gōngzuò</u> .	How about before? Before (this) I worked in a post office.
9. A: Yínháng zài nǎr? B: Nín kàn. (Points at his pen.) <u>Zhèi</u> shì wǒmen <u>yínháng</u> de <u>bǐ</u> . <u>Shàngtōu</u> yǒu yínháng de <u>dìzhǐ</u> .	Where is the bank? Look here. (pointing at his his pen) This (here) is our bank's pen. On it is the address of our bank.

FRAME 3 (continued)

10. A: Yóujú, yínháng <u>dōu</u> zài yíkùàir ma? B: Bù. Yóujú zài xuéxiào hòutou. Yínháng zài xuéxiào qiántou.	Are (both) the post office and the bank together (in the same place, near)? No. The post office is behind the school. The bank is in front of the school.
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Notes

10. The adverb dōu. Dōu is translated as "both" when referring to two persons or things, and as "all" when referring to more than two. Since it is an adverb, it must be placed after the subject and before the verb in the sentence. It can be separated from the verb by another adverb, such as hěn.

Yóujú, yínháng dōu zài yíkùàir.

The post office and the bank are (both) together.

Tāmen dōu hěn hǎo.

They are all very well.
(They are both very well.)

Shū dōu xiǎo.

The books are all small.

Jiāzhōu gēn Dézhōu dōu zài Měiguó.

Both California and Texas are in the United States.

Bù dōu and dōu bù-: Bùdōu, "not all" or "not both" and dōu bù, "none" or "neither" refer to the nouns occurring before them.

dōu	all/both
bùdōu	not all/not both
dōu bù-	none/neither

Fàndiàn gēn yóujú dōu dà.

The hotel and the post office are both big.

Fàndiàn bùdōu dà.

Not all hotels are big.

Fàndiàn dōu búdà.

None of the hotels is big.

Měiguó rén bùdōu xìng Smith.

Not all Americans are sur-named Smith.

Rìběn fàndiàn dùdōu dà.

Not all Japanese hotels are big.

Jiǎzhōu gēn Dézhōu dōu
bùxiǎo.

Neither California nor Texas is small.

Tāmen dōu bùhǎo.

None of them are fine.
(They are all bad.)