

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



Shàngkè (Going to Class)

Lǎo Zhào (LZ) asks Xiǎo Lǐ (XL) about his class schedules.

Frame 1

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| 1 | LZ: Měitiān zǎoshang <u>shàngkè yǐqián</u> nǐ dōu zuò xiē shénme? | What (all) do you do every morning before going to class? |
| 2 | XL: Wǒ liùdiǎn yíkè <u>qǐchuáng</u> . <u>Qǐchuáng yǐhòu niànshū</u> . Wǒ xiān niàn <u>shēngcí</u> zài niàn <u>kèwén</u> . | I get up at 6:15. After getting up, I study. I first study the vocabulary, then study the lesson. |
| 3 | LZ: Nǐmen jǐdiǎn shàngkè, jǐdiǎn <u>xiàkè</u> ? | What time do you go to class, (and) what time do you get out of class? |
| 4 | XL: Zǎoshang bādiǎn shàngkè, xiǎowǔ sān diǎnbàn xiàkè. Wǒ chà shífēn bādiǎn gēn wǒ-de <u>tóngxué yìqǐ zǒudào jiàoshì qù</u> . | I go to class at eight o'clock in the morning, (and) get out of class at 3:30 in the afternoon. At ten minutes before eight I walk to the classroom together with my classmate(s). |

Notes:

1. Měitiān zǎoshang shàngkè yǐqián, "every morning before going to class," is a Time When expression including three elements: (1) měitiān "every day," (2) zǎoshang "morning," and (3) shàngkè yǐqián "before going to class."

Shàngkè yǐqián "before going to class" is a new grammatical feature in this lesson. It is called Specific Relative Time and is usually joined with another action. Other examples:

chīfàn yǐqián
mǎishū yǐqián
hējiǔ yǐqián

before eating a meal
before buying a book
before drinking

If there is a Time Word before the word yǐqián, then the meaning becomes "... ago." Examples:

sānnián yǐqián
liǎnggèyuè yǐqián
wǔtiān yǐqián

three years ago
two months ago
five days ago

Nǐ dōu zuò xiē shénme? "What all do you do?" The adverb dōu "all" refers to the things (plural) you do every morning. Xiē "several" indicates plurality in nature, and it does not need a measure to follow it.

2. Time When by the clock. Liùdiǎn yíkè "at 6:15" is a pattern which can be used as an MA. Examples:

Wǒ liùdiǎn yíkè qǐchuáng. I get up at 6:15.
Liùdiǎn yíkè wǒ qǐchuáng. I get up at 6:15.

Qǐchuáng yǐhòu niànshū "After getting up, I study." This is another example of specific relative time with another action (see yǐqián "before," Note 1). Examples:

chīfàn yǐhòu hējiǔ drink after eating
hējiǔ yǐhòu kànbào read the newspaper after drinking

3. Nǐmen jǐdiǎn shàngkè?, "What time do you go to class?" This is a typical way to ask a Time When by the Clock question.

4. Telling Time. Sāndiǎnbàn, "3:30" and chà shífēn bādiǎn "ten minutes before eight" are used for telling time. Also guò "past" is often used in telling time as in sìdiǎn guò wǔfēn, "five minutes past four." Examples:

<u>qīdiǎn guò yíkè</u> OR	a quarter after seven
<u>qīdiǎn guò shíwǔfēn zhōng</u>	
<u>qīdiǎnbàn (zhōng)</u> OR	seven thirty
<u>qīdiǎn (guò) sānshífēn (zhōng)</u>	
<u>jiǔdiǎn (guò) sìshíèrfēn (zhōng)</u>	forty-two minutes past nine
<u>chà yíkè shíyidiǎn</u> OR	a quarter to eleven
<u>shídiǎn sānkè</u> OR	
<u>shídiǎn sìshíwǔfēn</u>	
<u>shíyidiǎn (guò) bāfēn</u>	eight minutes past eleven

Wǒ chà shífēn bādiǎn gēn wǒde tóngxué yìqǐ zǒudào jiàoshì "At ten minutes before eight I walk to the classroom together with my classmate(s)." There are two usages here of old vocabulary:

(1) ... gēn ... yìqǐ "together with." Examples:

Wǒ gēn tā yìqǐ chīfàn. I eat together with her.
Tā gēn Wáng Dànián yìqǐ niànshū. He studies together with Daniel Wang.

(2) ... zǒudào ... Dào here is a verbal suffix. Examples:

Wǒmen niàndào Dìshísì- We have studied to Lesson 14.
kè le.
Tāmen zǒudào chénglǐ- They (have) walked into the
tōu qùle. city.

Frame 2

5	LZ: Nǐmen měige jiàoshì dōu yǒu <u>zhōng</u> ba?	Each of your classrooms has a clock, I presume.
6	XL: Dōu yǒu. Měige xuésheng yě dōu yǒu <u>biǎo</u> .	They all do. Each student also has a watch.
7	LZ: Lǎoshī zěnmē jiāo nǐmen xīn kè?	How does the teacher introduce (Lit: teach) the new lesson to you?
8	XL: Tā dìyītiān xiàwǔ xiān gěi wǒmen <u>jiǎng(jiě)</u> <u>yǔfǎ</u> , dìèrtiān gēn dìsāntiān wǒmen <u>liànxí</u> <u>huīhuà</u> gēn <u>fāyīn</u> .	On the afternoon of the first day he first explains the grammar to us. Then, on the second and third days we practice conversation and pronunciation.
9	LZ: Lǎoshī shénme shíhòu gěi nǐmen <u>kǎoshì</u> ?	When does the teacher give you a test?
10	XL: Měitiān dìyījié kè yǒu <u>cèyàn</u> ; kǎoshì shì zài dìsāntiān dìsìjié.	In the first period of every day there is a quiz; tests are given during the fourth period of the third day.

Notes:

7 Lǎoshī zěnmē jiāo nǐmen xīn kè? "How does the teacher introduce the new lesson to you?" This question contains an old VO pattern with jiāo "to teach" (a contraction of jiāoshū) and kè "lesson." Kè is modified by xīn "new".

8 Dìyītiān xiàwǔ "the afternoon of the first day" dìèrtiān gēn dìsāntiān "on the second and third days." In these two expressions, dì- means "the."

10 Dìyījié "the first period" and dìsìjié "the fourth period" are also Time When patterns with dì- "the." Examples:

dìyītiān shàngwǔ dìèrjié the second period in the
morning of the first day

dìsāntiān xiàwǔ dìyījié the first period in the afternoon of the third day

Frame 3

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| 11 | LZ: Xiàwǔ dìyījié shì jǐdiǎn dào jǐdiǎn? | The first period in the afternoon is from what time to what time? |
| 12 | XL: Shìèrdiǎnbàn dào yīdiǎn èrshífēn. Zài zhè yījié, wǒmen xué xiě Hànzì. | (From) 12:30 to 1:20. During this first period we practice (Lit: study) writing Chinese characters. |
| 13 | LZ: Hànzì hěn nánxué ba. | I suppose Chinese characters are very hard to learn. |
| 14 | XL: Yǐqián wǒ juéde hěn nán, xiànzài bú tài nán le. | Previously I thought it was very hard; now it is not too hard. |
| 15 | LZ: Yǐhòu nǐ jiù huì juéde hěn róngyì le. Wǎnshàng nǐmen yě yǒu kè ma? | Later on you will think that it is very easy. Do you also have classes in the evening? |
| 16 | XL: Méiyǒu. Yǒu(de) shíhou Lǎoshī lái fǔdǎo wǒmen. | No. Sometimes the teacher comes to coach (tutor) us. |
| 17 | LZ: Lǎoshī zěnmé fǔdǎo nǐmen? | How does the teacher tutor you? |
| 18 | XL: Wǒmen yǒu wèntí de shíhou tā huídá wǒmende wèntí. | When we have questions, the teacher answers our questions. |

Notes:

11 Xiàwǔ dìyījié shì jǐdiǎn dào jǐdiǎn? "The first period in the afternoon is from what time to what time?" In this question the Chinese word cóng "from" is omitted. It is optional. Example:

(cóng) bādiǎn dào jiǔdiǎn from eight to nine o'clock

12 Xué xiě Hànzì is a VO within a VO:

<u>xué</u>	<u>xiě Hànzì</u>
V	O
	<u>xiě Hànzì</u>
	V O

13 Hànzi hěn nánxué ba? "I suppose Chinese characters are very hard to learn." Here nán "hard (difficult)" is used as an adverb to modify the verb. There are three such very common adverbs, hǎo "good," "easy," nán "hard (difficult)," and róngyì "easy." Examples of these adverbs with the verbs they modify:

<u>hǎokàn</u>	pretty, handsome, good-looking beautiful
<u>nánkàn</u>	ugly, bad looking, hard to read
<u>róngyì kàn</u>	easy to read, easy to look at
<u>hǎochī</u>	delicious, good, easy to eat
<u>nánchī</u>	tastes bad, unpalatable, hard to eat
<u>róngyì chī</u>	easy to eat
<u>hǎozuò</u>	easy to make, easy to do
<u>nánzuò</u>	hard to make, hard to do
<u>róngyì zuò</u>	easy to make, easy to do

14/15 General Relative Time. Yǐqián "formerly (previously)" and yǐhòu "later on," "afterwards" refer to General Relative Time. Yǐqián is the same as cóngqián "formerly." Examples:

<u>Yǐqián (cóngqián) wǒ</u> <u>zài Dézhōu.</u>	Formerly I was in Texas.
<u>Xiànzài wǒ zài Jiāzhōu.</u>	At present I am in California.
<u>Yǐhòu dào nǎr qù, wǒ</u> <u>bùzhīdào.</u>	Later on, where I will go I don't know.

16 Yǒu(de) shíhòu "sometimes." This extremely useful expression behaves like an MA. Examples:

<u>Yǒude shíhòu wǒ méiyǒu</u> <u>qián.</u>	Sometimes I have no money.
<u>Dōngxi yǒude shíhòu</u> <u>piányi, yǒude shíhòu</u> <u>guì.</u>	Things are sometimes inexpen- sive, sometimes expensive.

18 Wǒmen yǒu wèntí de shíhòu.... "When we have questions...." Here ...de shíhòu is used to complete the Specific Relative Time with an action. Examples:

<u>chīfàn de shíhòu</u>	when eating
<u>shuōhuà de shíhòu</u>	when talking

In summary: Relative Time

(1) General Relative Time:

Yǐqián/Cóngqián ...	formerly, previously ...
Xiànzài ...	now, at present ...
Yǐhòu ...	later on, afterwards ...

(2) Specific Relative Time:

... yǐqián	before ... (... ago)
... de shíhòu	when ...
... yǐhòu	after ...