



Learn in Your Car®

MANDARIN CHINESE

by Henry N. Raymond

LEVEL THREE

Learn In Your Car – Mandarin Chinese is the only language learning system designed to teach a foreign language in your car as you drive, without the aid of a textbook. However, for your reference, this booklet contains the entire recorded text so that you can see how the words are spelled. This booklet also contains additional explanations which will be helpful to you if you have trouble understanding some of the concepts in the program.

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Learn In Your Car – Mandarin Chinese Level Three is designed and organized with the traveler in mind. The following guidelines are used:

1. The basic premise is that communicating in a language requires learning words, phrases and sentences: but you can't learn to communicate effectively in a language unless you know the individual meaning of each word.
2. The emphasis is on communication. Words, phrases or sentences can be used to communicate. It is not always necessary to use a complete sentence to convey a thought.
3. It teaches the way a child learns. Children start by learning one-word sentences, then two-word sentences, etc.
4. It teaches the most important things first. This course does not use your valuable memory to store useless words. The important words you need to survive and get around are taught first. Grammar is introduced in the later lessons, but it is taught with examples rather than rules.

5. No more than one new word is introduced at a time. This means you won't hear a sentence or a phrase and wonder which sound corresponds to which word.

6. No textbook is required. The fact that no more than one new word is introduced at a time enables you to use the CDs effectively without referring to a textbook. The CDs are designed to be used without a textbook so that you can use them while driving a car or while doing other things that require similar amounts of concentration.

7. Literal (word-for-word) translations are used as much as possible. This enables you to understand how a sentence or phrase is constructed and what the individual words mean.

HOW TO USE "LEARN IN YOUR CAR-MANDARIN CHINESE"

The first track on the first disk is an introduction. Lessons start on the following track.

Start by playing through the first lesson. For each expression you will hear the English version followed by a pause, then the Chinese translation followed by a pause, then the Chinese translation a second time followed by a third pause. At first, you will only be able to imitate the Chinese words in the two pauses after the Chinese translations (the second and third pauses). As you learn and progress, you will be able to recall and recite the Chinese version during the first pause before you hear the first Chinese translation. Be sure to speak the Chinese expressions out loud. The rate at which you learn will be significantly slower if you do not speak the expressions aloud.

Play the first lesson several times until you learn most of it. Then start playing the first lesson followed by the second lesson until you learn most of this lesson. As you progress, keep adding lessons. Always go back to the beginning of the first lesson to reinforce the material you have already learned. (As you progress through the material, you may want to restart at some place other

than the start of the first lesson. This is fine as long as you know all the material ahead of your starting point. Later lessons are designed with the assumption that you already know the material in earlier lessons.)

NOTES ABOUT THE TEXT

- Words that are colored with either red or blue font in the text have the same meaning in both English and Mandarin. When a new word is introduced, it will usually be in colored font.
- Literal translations are in brackets with an "L." such as: [L. This is a literal translation.]
- Words in brackets [like this] are understood, but are not heard on the tapes.

NOTES ABOUT THE CDs

- The CD format with each lesson on a separate track allows you to instantly target the exact lesson you wish to review. The disc and track numbers for each lesson are listed in the Table of Contents.
- The Chinese and English translations are on separate channels. If you wish to hear only the Chinese translations, simply adjust the balance control of your CD player so that you hear only the Chinese version.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Michelle LeSourd, Dr. Ming Feng, Dr. Shannon Shi, Annette Stone and Linda Bensadoun who helped to make this audio production possible.

—Henry N. Raymond

Published and distributed by
Penton Overseas, Inc.

© 2006 Penton Overseas. All rights reserved.

THE LANGUAGES OF CHINA

Depending on the source, experts say that Chinese has five to eight major language groupings and at least 200 dialects. Mandarin Chinese, the language recorded in this series, is the official language of both the People's Republic of China ("Mainland China") and Taiwan. Mandarin is universally used and understood throughout Mainland China and Taiwan, though there are some differences in word usage that have developed between the Mainland and Taiwan. Mandarin is also one of Singapore's official languages.

Mandarin is based on the Beijing (Peking) dialect of northern China. In many places, the traveler will encounter people who use Mandarin but speak it with a heavy accent based on the dialect of their region, making it more challenging for the Mandarin learner to understand them. In some areas, the people prefer to speak their own dialect among themselves, but will politely switch to Mandarin when talking with a Mandarin speaker. Most notable in this regard are Guangdong (Canton) Province and Hong Kong, where the residents speak Cantonese; and Tibet, along with the western and northwestern provinces of Mainland China, where the native groups of these areas speak Tibetan or Turkic languages. Other regional Chinese dialects, especially in northern China, are more similar to Mandarin.

CHINESE CHARACTERS

1

Despite the number of dialects, Chinese has a universal writing system based on pictographic characters. People speaking different dialects can communicate by writing Chinese characters. Each character represents a one-syllable word or concept (and often has multiple meanings, just like English words), though most words in modern Chinese consist of two or more characters.

In the modern era, however, there is a significant differentiation between two types of written Chinese. A simplified character system was officially adopted by Mainland China in the 1950s and expanded upon later. The pronunciation of these characters does not change; but they are written with fewer strokes, so that they are more easily memorized and written. Simplified characters are also used by Chinese speakers in Singapore and Malaysia.

Simplified characters are not used in Taiwan, where the character writing system is a somewhat sensitive issue due to its political tensions with Mainland China. The retention and use of traditional characters is widely viewed in Taiwan as a means of preserving Chinese culture. Hong Kong has also retained the use of traditional characters, but since Mainland China regained political control of Hong Kong in

1997, the use of simplified characters there has increased.

The booklets in this series contain simplified characters.

PINYIN AND TONES IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE

Pinyin – representing Chinese sounds with the Latin alphabet

Speakers of Western languages require a pronunciation aid when learning the pictographic Chinese language. This is because Chinese characters themselves contain no phonetic pronunciation element. When the Latin alphabet is used as such an aid, the system is referred to as "romanization". Numerous romanization systems have been used over the years by both Western and Chinese scholars and teachers. The "Hànyǔ Pīnyīn" 汉语拼音 system (often referred to as "pinyin") used in this series was officially adopted in Mainland China in the late 1950s as the romanization system for Mandarin Chinese and is widely used inside and outside of China. Educators in China now use pinyin along with characters to teach Chinese children their own language. Nevertheless, most Chinese are not completely comfortable with pinyin spellings, and tend to think in terms of characters, rather than their renderings in pinyin.

The traveler will find that, along with characters, pinyin is used widely on public and commercial signs in Mainland

China (in part a result of official policy). While the pinyin spellings are not always correct, this signage is often useful to Mandarin language learners.

It should be noted that numerous Mandarin romanization systems have been used in Taiwan, which now officially uses a slightly different system known as "Tōngyòng Pīnyīn" 通用拼音. Many romanized spellings of Mandarin names and words in Taiwan will look somewhat different from those in "Hànyǔ Pīnyīn" 汉语拼音.

Tones and tone markings

The Chinese languages and dialects are tonal in nature. This means that each word is assigned a particular tonal inflection. Chinese has many fewer syllables than English, and using tones multiplies the possible uses of those syllables. Many words sound exactly alike except for the tone inflection added to the word, so the tone is important to the understanding of the word.

Mandarin has four tones. Here they are with their symbols as used in this text:

- first tone (This is a steady high tone)
- ˊ second tone (This tone rises as the syllable is spoken.)

- ✓ third tone (This tone starts high, dips low, then rises high again)
- ✓ fourth tone (This tone falls from high to low as the syllable is spoken.)

Mandarin also uses a fifth, neutral tone, represented by no mark. It is frequently, but not always, applied to the second character in a two-character word. For example, “**qián**mian” 前面 (L. **front** **side**) means “in front” or “ahead”, and “mian”, which usually carries the fourth tone, has the neutral tone when used in this word.

A common example of the importance of tones to distinguish meaning is with the sound “ma”. “Mā” 妈 (first tone) represents the character for “mother”; “má” 麻 (second tone) represents the character for “numb” or “tingling”; “mǎ” 马 (third tone) represents the character for “horse”; and “mà” 骂 (fourth tone) represents the character for “to scold”.

Tone changes in context

Sometimes the spoken tone of a character changes when it precedes another character. The most common changes occur with the words “yī” 一 (one) and “bù” 不 (no, not).

“Yī” 一 (one) has the first tone. However, when it precedes a

first-tone or third-tone character it is pronounced with the fourth tone. For example “yī zhāng piào” 一张票 (one ticket, or a ticket) is pronounced “yì zhāng piào”, and “yībǎi” 一百 (one hundred) becomes “yìbǎi”.

When preceding a fourth-tone character, “yī” 一 takes the second tone; for example “yīkuài” 一块儿 (together) is pronounced “yíkuài”.

“Bù” 不 (no, not) has the fourth tone, but preceding the fourth tone, it is pronounced with the second tone. For example, “bù shì” 不是 (is not) is spoken as “bú shì”.

Also, as a general rule, any third tone character changes to a second tone when preceding another third tone. For example the pronunciation of “kěyǐ” 可以 (can, may) changes to “kéyǐ”. This rule also applies to two characters that are not actually part of the same word. For example “hěn hǎo” 很好 (very good) would be pronounced “hén hǎo”.

Since this series emphasizes learning conversational Mandarin, the recordings reflect changes to the spoken tone of a character in context. The booklet shows all written tone changes for yī and bù, but shows the written changes from the third to the second tone only when the characters in

question are part of the same word, as with the example of “kěyǐ” changing to “kéyǐ” above.

Continuing to listen to and repeat the words and phrases in this series will help in memorizing these tone changes in context.

Quick pinyin pronunciation guide

Pinyin makes use of all the vowels in English, along with an additional u containing an umlaut mark (ü), and most of the consonants. Here is a rough guide to the pronunciation of vowels and vowel combinations in pinyin:

a	a, like in father
ai	ai, like I
ao	ow, like now
e	uh, like spud
ei	ey, like hey
i	(after b, d, j, l, m, n, p, q, t, x, and y) ee, like in bee
i	(after c, s, and z); “sǐ” would be roughly like in sir
i	(after ch, r, sh, and zh) ir, “chǐ” would be roughly chir as in chirp
ia / ie	ye, like yen
o	(at the end of a syllable) short o, between oh and aw, roughly like maw
o	(in the middle of a syllable) long o, like on loan

ou	o, like show
u	(after b, d, f, g, h, k, l, p, r, s, t, w, and z) oo, like tool
u	(after j, q, x, and y) eu, roughly like news
ua	wa, like wallow
uai	wai, like why
ue	ueh, roughly like went
ui	way, like sway
uo	uoh, like war
ü	eu, roughly like news

The more difficult consonants and consonant combinations used in pinyin are roughly pronounced as follows:

c	ts, roughly like waits
q	tch, roughly like twitch
x	thin sh, roughly like shell
z	dz, roughly like adze
zh	thick g, roughly like George

Word spacing in pinyin

Chinese characters have the same spacing in between them no matter whether they stand alone or are combined to form a word. Word spacing in pinyin is a little more like English. Although there are some official standards for how syllables and words in pinyin are grouped, they are often not followed. In this text, two- or three-character words are grouped together in pinyin, single-character words stand

alone, and grammatical particles stand alone, with certain exceptions, including the aspect markers “le” 了, “guo” 过, and “zhe” 着.

Vowels preceded by an apostrophe

For some two-character words in the pinyin text, the vowel beginning the second character is preceded by an apostrophe. This is to help distinguish where the second character begins in cases where more than one reading is possible. For example, “dàng'àn” 档案 (a file or record) without the apostrophe might be confused with “dǎngǎn” 胆敢 (to dare to, be reckless as to).

Measure words

In Mandarin Chinese, when a noun is counted in any way, a measure word must be placed between the number and the noun. It is similar to certain nouns in English that require measures, such as “three sheets of paper” or “a flock of birds.” Measure words are used when talking about amounts or quantities of things. Different types of items use different measure words. “Gè” 个 is the most common measure word. It is often substituted for other measure words when one does not know the correct measure word to use. In this text, measure words will often be written on the English side as “(m.)” because there is not always a direct translation for it.

Particles

Mandarin Chinese contains a number of words called “particles” that do not carry meaning themselves, but play a grammatical role. Three important roles for particles are to indicate a question, to indicate the possessive, and to indicate past tense. For example, the particle “mā” 吗 at the end of a sentence shows that the sentence is a question, such as “Nǐ hǎo ma?” 你好吗? meaning “How are you?” [L. You good (question)?]. Another particle, “de” 的 indicates the possessive. For example “wǒ de shū” 我的书 means “my book” [L. me (possessive) book]. It functions in some ways like the possessive “’s” in English. Finally, the past tense is not indicated by verb conjugation, but rather by context and/or the addition of the particle “le” 了 or “guo” 过. For example “Wǒmen chīle wǎnfàn.” 我们吃了晚饭 means “We ate dinner.” [L. We eat (past tense particle) dinner.] There are also a number of other particles with different functions. In this text, particles are indicated with the following notations: “q.” = the question particle “mā” 吗
“p.” = the possessive particle “de” 的
“asp.” = the aspect markers “le” 了, “guo” 过, and “zhe” 着, which are usually added to a verb to indicate the completion of an action, a past experience, a changed feature or a new situation, or an ongoing state.
“part.” = for particles like “de” (得, 地, or 的), “ne” 呢 and “ba” 吧 that serve various other purposes.

LESSON 51 - MORE PRACTICE WITH THE PAST TENSE DÌ WŨSHÍYĪ KÈ - GÈNGDUŌ DE GUÒQÙSHÍ LIÀNXÍ

[L. more (p.) past tense practice]] 第五十一课 - 更多的过去时练习

They dreamed./They made dream. [while sleeping]	Tāmen zuò mèng le.	他们 做 梦了。
He dreamed about the house. [L. He make (asp.) about house (p.) dream.]	Tā zuò le guānyú fángzi de mèng.	他 做 了关于房子的梦。
I spent time.	Wǒ huā le shíjiān.	我 花 了时间。
She went home./She returned home. [L. She return home went .]	Tā huí jiā qù le.	她 回 家去了。
I went to the post office.	Wǒ dào yóujú qù le.	我 到 邮局去了。
I spent money.	Wǒ huā le qián.	我 花 了钱。
to seem/to appear	hǎoxiàng	好像
At the time , (it) seem(ed) very easy	Dāngshí hǎoxiàng hěn róngyì	当时 好像很 容易 。
computer [L. calculate machine/electric brain]	jìsuànjī /diànnǎo	计算机 /电脑
He used a computer	Tā yòng le jìsuànjī	他 用 了 计算机 。
We used the product	Wǒmen yòng le chǎnpǐn	我们 用了 产品 。
The third-tone chǎn 产 (produce) changes to the second tone when preceding the third-tone pǐn 品 (article, goods).		
What did she say? [L. She say (asp.) what ?]	Tā shuō le shénma ?	她 说 了 什么 ?
measure word for frequency of occurrences	xià	下
one time	yí xià.	一下
to try one time	shì yí xià	试 一下
He tried one time	Tā shì le yí xià.	他 试 了 一下 。
He tried again one time	Tā zài shìle yí xià.	他 再 试了 一下 。

to take away [L. take take-go]	bǎ.... nǎzǒu	把...拿走
She took away the pillow. [L. She take pillow take-go (asp.).]	Tā bǎ zhěntou nǎzǒule.	她把枕头拿走了。
to owe money	qiàn qián	欠钱
a lot of money/very much money	hěn duō qián	很多钱
Did you owe a lot of money? [L. You owe (asp.) very much money (q.)?]	Nǐ qiànle hěn duō qián ma?	你欠了很多钱吗?
Did they pay back the money?/ Did they return the money ?	Tāmen huánle qián ma?	他们还了钱吗?
to borrow or to lend	jiè	借
Wang Shan borrow money	Wáng Shān jiè qián.	王山借钱。
Wang Shan borrowed money	Wáng Shān jièle qián.	王山借了钱。
to lend money/lend give money	jiè gěi.... qián	借给...钱
to lend money to my younger male cousin on my father's side	jiè gěi wǒ tángdì qián	借给我堂弟钱
I loaned money to my younger male cousin on my father's side. [L. I lend give my cousin money.]	Wǒ jiè gěi wǒ tángdì qián.	我借给我堂弟钱。
I loaned money to my older female cousin on my mother's side	Wǒ jiè gěi wǒ biáojiě qián.	我借给我表姐钱。
The third-tone biǎo 表 (model, exterior) changes to the second tone when preceding the third-tone jiě 姐 (sister).		
When did they begin? [L. They are what time begin (asp.)?]	Tāmen shì shénma shíhòu kāishǐ de?	他们是什么时候开始的?
My grandfather on my father's side returned today. [L. My grandfather today return-come (asp.).]	Wǒ de zǔfù jīntiān huíláile.	我的祖父今天回来了。
to go out	chūqù	出去

maternal grandmother	wàizǔmǔ	外祖母
My grandmother went out last night. [L. My grandmother yesterday evening out-go (asp.)]	Wǒ de wàizǔmǔ zuótiān wǎnshàng chūqùle.	我的外祖母昨天晚上出去了。
The third-tone zǔ 祖 (ancestor) in "grandmother" changes to the second tone when preceding the third-tone mǔ 母 (mother).		
grandfather (less formal)/grandpa	yéye	爷爷
grandmother (less formal)/grandma.	pópo	婆婆
my uncle/my father's younger brother	wǒ de shūfù	我的叔父
My uncle listened to the radio . [L. My uncle listen (asp.) radio .]	Wǒ de shūfù tīngle shōuyīnjī.	我的叔父听了收音机。
to hear	tīngjiàn	听见
My uncle heard the radio broadcast.	Wǒ de shūfù tīngjiànle guǎngbō.	我的叔父听见了广播。
[L. My uncle hear (asp.) broadcast.]		
to keep/to save/to stay	liúxià.	留下
We kept the blanket . [L. We keep (asp.) blanket .]	Wǒmen liúxiàle máotǎn.	我们留下了毛毯。
Did you look at the chair?/Did you see that chair?	Nǐ kànle nàge yǐzi ma?	你看了那个椅子吗?
a fork/one (m.) fork	yí gè chāzi	一个叉子
another fork/a different fork [L. other one (m.) fork]	língwài yí gè chāzi	另外一个叉子
to take hold of in the hand.	ná.	拿
I took a different fork. [L. I take (asp.) other one (m.) fork.]	Wǒ nále língwài yí gè chāzi.	我拿了另外一个叉子。
to send/to convey by post	jì.	寄
Did you people send the package ? [L. You take package send (asp.) package (q.)?]	Nǐmen bǎ bāoguǒ jìle ma?	你们把包裹寄了吗?

They accepted my check	Tāmen jiēshòu le wǒ de zhīpiào	他们 接受 了我的 支票 。
She read the tourist information. [L. She read (asp.) tourist material .]	Tā kànle yóukè zīliào	她看了 游客资料 。
to open/to open up/to hold	kāi	开
to hold a party	kāi wǎnhuì	开晚会
They played together. [L. They at together play (asp.)]	Tāmen zài yíkuài r wánr le.	他们在一 块儿 玩儿了。
to think about [L. think to]	xiǎngdào	想到
He thought about that movie. [L. He think- to (asp.) that (m.) movie .]	Tā xiǎng dào le nàge diànyǐng	他 想到 了那个 电影 。
I waited for the taxi /I wait for the taxi	Wǒ děng chūzūchē	我 等 出租车。
I saw that ball. [L. I see (asp.) that (m.) ball .]	Wǒ kànjian le nàge qiú	我 看见 了那个 球 。
take/bring/bring along	dài	带
You took your friend to the [theater] show ./You took your friend go see show	Nǐ dài le nǐ de péngyou qù kàn xì	你 带 了你的朋友去 看 戏 。
Did you repair the refrigerator? (polite) [L. You fix refrigerator (asp.) (q.)].	Nín xiū bīngxiāng le ma?	您 修 冰箱了吗?
to like	xǐhuān	喜欢
to prefer [L. compare like]	bǐjiào xǐhuān	比较喜欢
an apartment/ apartment room	gōngyù fángjiān	公寓房间
She preferred the small apartment. [L. She compare like small (p.) apartment-room.]	Tā bǐjiào xǐhuān xiǎo de gōngyù	她 比较喜欢 小 的公 寓 房间 。

In the sentence above, the English uses past tense, but the Chinese has nothing to indicate the past. Since this is not a specific action, but rather a feeling, context would probably be used to indicate past tense.

to wash or to clean [L. clean-wash].	xǐ/qīng xǐ	洗/清洗
We washed the furniture . [L. We wash (asp.) furniture].	Wǒmen qīng xǐle jiājù.	我们清洗了家具。
groceries/ miscellaneous goods or commodities	záhuò	杂货
They carried the groceries	Tāmen dài le záhuò.	他们带了杂货。
to bring [L. bring-come]	dàilái	带来
I brought ice	Wǒ dài lái le bīng.	我带来了冰。
I brought ice cream	Wǒ dài lái le bīngqílín.	我带来了冰淇淋。
Yesterday we wanted to buy ice cream. [L. Yesterday we very want buy ice cream.]	Zuótiān wǒmen hěn xiǎng mǎi bīngqílín.	昨天我们很想买冰淇淋。

Since the sentence above is not a specific action, but rather a feeling, the Chinese translation does not have an indicator of past or completed action. Context (the addition of a time adverb like "yesterday" for example) is used to indicate past tense. Also, Chinese often uses adverbs of degree such as "hěn" 很 (very) where the equivalent English sentence would not.

boss/employer/shopkeeper	lǎobǎn	老板
The third tone "lǎo" 老 (old) changes to the second tone when preceding the third tone "bǎn" 板 (boss).		
to meet/to encounter/to run into	pèngdào	碰到
He met the boss	Tā pèngdào le lǎobǎn.	他碰到了老板。
at the party	zài wǎnhuì shàng.	在晚会上
He met the boss at the party	Tā zài wǎnhuì shàng pèngdào le lǎobǎn.	他在晚会上碰到了老板。

to ask	wèn.	问
She asked her boyfriend	Tā wèn le tā de nán péngyou.	她问了她的男朋友。
Did you ask your girlfriend ?	Nǐ wèn le nǐ de nǚ péngyou ma?	你问了你的女朋友吗?

president of a nation. zǒngtǒng 总统

The third tone zǒng (chief) changes to the second tone when preceding the third-tone tǒng (system/unite).

I believed the president. [L. I believe (asp.)

president.] Wǒ xiāngxìnle zǒngtǒng. 我相信了总统。

We felt the heat. [L. We feel heat (asp.)] Wǒmen gǎndào rèqì le. 我们感到热气了。

They stayed at his house./They live at his

house. [L. They at his house in live.] Tāmen zài tā de fángzi lǐ zhù. 他们在他的房子里住。

She worked for many years./She worked very

many years. Tā gōngzuòle hěn duō nián. 她工作了这么多年。

to find zhǎodào. 找到

I found some money./I found a little money. Wǒ zhǎodàole yìxiē qián. 我找到了一些钱。

fire disaster. huǒzāi 火灾

There was a fire last week./Last week have

fire disaster. Shàng ge xīngqī yǒu huǒzāi. 上个星期有火灾。

As you can see from some of the examples in this lesson, some things that are spoken in the past tense in English, when translated into Chinese will use a kind of present tense construction or may be translated into something entirely different which gets the idea across. Actually, since Chinese doesn't conjugate verbs in tenses, it's almost inappropriate to refer to a sentence in Chinese as being written in the past tense. You can think of it this way: Most things in Chinese are spoken and written in the present tense, but may have various time adverbs (such as "tomorrow" or "yesterday") added to indicate past or future.

The particle "le" 了 is used to emphasize that something is completed; therefore "le" 了 can be in the past, present or future. Simply because something is in the past does not mean that "le" 了 should be used. In fact, in many situations, the past is indicated through context, or a time adverb.

LESSON 52 - THE VERB "TO BE" (PAST AND PRESENT TENSE) TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE

DÌ WŨSHÍ'ÈR KÈ - Bǎ "SHÌ" DÒNGCÍ DE **XIÀNZÀISHÍ** HÉ **GUÒQÙSHÍ** FĀNCHÉNG ZHŌNGWÉN

[L. take "to be" move word (p.) **present tense** and **past tense** translate into Chinese]

第五十二课 - 把“是”动词的 **现在时**和**过去时**翻成中文

I am at the bus station./I was at the bus

station. [L. I **at bus station**.] Wǒ **zài** gōnggòng qìchē zhàn. 我**在**公共汽车站。

I'm at the bus **station now**. Wǒ **xiànzài** zài gōnggòng qìchē **zhàn**. . 我**现在**在公共汽车站。

I was at the **bus station yesterday**. Wǒ **zuótiān** zài **gōnggòng qìchē zhàn**. . 我**昨天**在公共汽车站。

In the examples above, English uses the past and present tense of the verb "to be" (am, was). Notice however that the Chinese doesn't even use a verb as we know it in English. The sense of past or present is conveyed by using a time adverb such as "now" or "yesterday." The word "zài" 在 functions a bit like a verb and is sometimes called a coverb.

The **towel is dry**./**Towel very dry**. **Máojīn** hěn **gān**. 毛巾很干。

later/afterwards (referring to the past) **hòulái** 后来

The towel was dry. /The towel used to be dry.

[L. Towel **in past very dry**.] **Máojīn hòulái** hěn **gān**. 毛巾**后来**很干。

The towel is dry./**Towel has [recently] become dry**. **Máojīn gānle**. 毛巾**干了**。

The towel is **wet**./**Towel has [recently] become wet**. **Máojīn shīle**. 毛巾**湿了**。

The towel was wet./Towel **afterwards** very **wet**. **Máojīn hòulái** hěn **shī**. 毛巾**后来**很湿。

the body **shēn / shěntǐ** 身/身体

the **whole body** **quán shēn** **全身**

She is wet./Her whole body **all became** wet. **Tā quán shēn dōu shīle**. 她**全身都**湿了。

on the **body** **shēn shàng**. **身上**

the wet body [L. body on wet] shēn shàng shī 身上湿
 She was wet. [L. She body on wet (asp.).] Tā shēn shàng shī le. 她身上湿了。
 The aspect marker “le” 了 follows the adjective “shī” 湿 (wet) to indicate that something has or had become wet (new condition).

young niánqīng 年轻
 youth / young time niánqīng de shíhòu 年轻的时候

You were very strong when you were young.

[L. You young (p.) time very strong.] Nǐ niánqīng de shíhòu hěn qiángzhuàng. 你年轻的时候很强壮。

You guys were very cold last night. Nǐmen zuótiān wǎnshàng hěn lěng. 你们昨天晚上很冷。

They are with their husbands./They were with their husbands.

[L. They with their husband at together]. Tāmen gēn tāmen de zhàngfu zài yíkuài. 她们跟她们的丈夫在一块儿。

You were at my house early./You arrived at my home comparatively early. [L. You arrive my home arrive (p.) compare early.] Nǐ dào wǒ jiā dào de bǐjiào zǎo. 你到我家到得比较早。

You people were late./You people came late.

[L. You come late (asp.).] Nǐmen lái wǎnle. 你们来晚了。

Chinese tends to use more specific verbs about arriving or coming rather than just “to be” or “being” somewhere.

play / fun wánr 玩儿

They are very amusing./They were very amusing.

[L. They very good play/fun.] Tāmen hěn hǎo wánr. 他们很好玩儿。

to be funny / to be interesting (in a funny way)

[L. have interest] yǒuqù 有趣

He is very funny./He was very funny.

[L. He **very have interest.**] Tā hěn yǒuqù. 他很有趣。

Everybody was there yesterday. [L Everyone

yesterday **all** at there.] Dàjiā zuótiān dōu zài nàr. 大家昨天都在那儿。

sad nánguò 难过

She was **very sad yesterday.** Tā zuótiān hěn nánguò. 她昨天很难过。

Yesterday there were **several** trains at the train station. /

Yesterday train **station** had **several [(m.)]** trains. Zuótiān huǒchē zhàn yǒu jǐ ge huǒchē. 昨天火车站有几个火车。

I was very **hungry** last night.

[L. I yesterday **evening** very **hungry.**] Wǒ zuótiān wǎnshàng hěn è. 我昨天晚上很饿。

The English verb “to be” is often not translated into Chinese. If a sentence can be understood without the verb, then it is frequently just not used. When this is the case, context or a time adverb (such as: yesterday, earlier, etc.) is often used to indicate the past, present or future, or an aspect marker (such as “le” 了 or “guo” 过) is often used to indicate that something is a changed situation.

Sometimes the English verb “to be” is translated into a different verb entirely. This is because Chinese just says things in a different way than English does. It’s just something you have to wrap your mind around through practice.

LESSON 53 - THE VERB “TO HAVE” - PAST TENSE DÌ WŨSHÍSĀN KÈ - “YǒU” DÒNGCÍ DE GUÒQÙSHÍ

[L. “To have” **move word** (p.) **past tense**] 第五十三课 - “有”动词的过去时

(in the) past / past guòqù 过去

I had... / I used to have... / (In the) **past** I had... Wǒ guòqù yǒu... 我过去有...

I had a small house. / I used to have a small house.

[L. I **before** have one (m.) **small** house.]. Wǒ **guòqù** yǒu yí gè **xiǎo** fángzi. 我过去有一个小房子。
Chinese verbs do not have past tenses as in English, so you can't tell from the verb whether a sentence refers to the present or the past (or the future.) To indicate that something happened in the past, a time adverb is often used. In the example above, "guòqù" 过去 ("before" or "past") is used to indicate something happened in the past.

difficult to **solve**. **nánjiě** **难解**

a difficult problem

[L. one (m.) **difficult** **solve** (p.) problem]. yí gè **nánjiě** de wèntí 一个**难解**的问题

at the time / at that time **dāngshí** **当时**

He had a difficult problem **at the time**. Tā **dāngshí** yǒu yí gè **nánjiě** de wèntí. 他**当时**有一个**难解**的问题。

I have a **big** car. / I had a **big** car. / I have **one big** car. Wǒ yǒu yí liàng **dà** chē. 我有一辆**大**车。

that [(m.)] **time** **nàgè shíhòu** **那个时候**

I **had** a big car. / That time I **had** a big car. Nàgè shíhòu wǒ **yǒu** yí liàng **dà** chē. 那个时候我**有**一辆**大**车。

In the sentence above, the past is indicated by adding the phrase "nàgè shíhòu" 那个时候 (that time) to the phrase "I have a big car."

You people were having too many problems./You

people **at that time** have **too many** problems. Nǐmen **dāngshí** yǒu **tài duō** de wèntí. 你们**当时**有**太多**的问题。

Was there anyone at the house at that time?

[L. House in **at that time** **have not have** person?]. Fángzi lǐ **dāngshí** yǒu **méi yǒu** rén? 房子里**当时**有**没有**人?

They had **tickets yesterday**. Tāmen **zuótiān** yǒu **piào**. 他们**昨天**有票。

There were **several** trains at the **train station** yesterday. / **Train station** yesterday have **several** [(m.)] train.

Huǒchē zhàn zuótiān yǒu jǐ ge huǒchē. 火车站昨天有几个火车。
车。

This lesson shows the Chinese verb “yǒu” 有 (to have) as it is sometimes used to say things that in English would use the past tense of “to have” or “to be.”

In Chinese, the verb “yǒu” 有 (to have) is the same whether it is used like an infinitive or whether it refers to the present, the past, or the future. This means that the English words “to have,” “have,” “had,” “has,” “used to have,” etc. all translate into “yǒu” 有 (to have). Since Chinese does not have a past tense as such, another means such as context or a time adverb (such as: yesterday, earlier, etc.) or an aspect marker (such as “le” 了 or “guo” 过) is often used to indicate that something was in the past.

LESSON 54 - SPEAKING ABOUT THE PAST WITH SOME COMMON VERBS

DÌ WŨSHÍSÌ KÈ – YÒNG CHÁNGYÒNG DE DÒNGCÍ BIǎODÁ GUÒQŪSHÍ [L. use **frequent-use** (p.) **verb** speak-to past] 第五十四课 – 用**常用**的**动词**表达过去时

to speak / to explain shuō / shuōhuà. 说/说话
to talk / to discuss tán / tánhuà / jiǎng 谈/谈话/讲
I used to speak Chinese. / I before **able to speak** Chinese. Wǒ yǐqián huì shuō Zhōngwén. 我以前会**说**中文。
to talk every day méitiān tánhuà **每天谈话**
We all talk every day. Wǒmen méitiān dōu tánhuà. **我们每天都谈话。**
We used to talk every day. / **Before**, we **all** talk

every day. Wǒmen yǐqián méitiān dōu tánhuà. 我们**以前**每天都**都**谈话。

game/ball game [L. ball-competition]	qiúsài	球赛
They talk about the game.	Tāmen tán qiúsài.	他们谈球赛。
They were talking about the game. / They were just in the process of talking about the game. [L. They just in process of talk competition.]	Tāmen gāngcái zài tán qiúsài.	他们刚才在谈球赛。
to finish doing [L. finish-accomplish]	wánchéng.	完成
I am in the process of finishing my work. [L. I exact at complete my work.]	Wǒ zhèng zài wánchéng wǒ de gōngzuò.	我正在完成我的工作。
I was finishing my work yesterday. / Yesterday I was in the process of finishing my work. [L. I yesterday in process of finish-accomplish my work.]	Wǒ zuótiān zài wánchéng wǒ de gōngzuò.	我昨天在完成我的工作。
We were finishing the project. / We were in the process of finishing the project. [L. We in process of finish- accomplish project.]	Wǒmen zài wánchéng xiàngmù.	我们在完成项目。
You were finishing your homework last night. / Last night you were in the process of finishing your homework. [L. You last night in process of finish-accomplish your homework.]	Nǐ zuótiān wǎnshàng zài wánchéng nǐ de gōngkè.	你昨天晚上在完成你的 功课。
You were just finishing your homework. [L. You just in process of finish-accomplish your homework.]	Nǐ zhèng zài wánchéng nǐ de gōngkè.	你正在完成你的功课。
I used to sell cars. / My work before is sell cars.	Yǐqián wǒ de gōngzuò shì mài chē.	以前我的工作是卖车。
in the process of selling your car	zài mài nǐ de chē	在卖你的车

You were selling your car last month. / Last month you

were in the process of selling your car. Nǐ shàng ge yuè zài mài nǐ de chē. 你上个月在卖你的车。

He was selling radios. [L. He in process of sell radios.] Tā zài mài shōuyīnjī. 他在卖收音机。

every thing suǒyǒu de dōngxi 所有的东西

He wants to sell his house. Tā xiǎng mài tā de fángzi. 他想卖他的房子。

He was wanting to sell his house at that time.

[L. He at the time want sell his house.] Tā dāngshí xiǎng mài tā de fángzi. 他当时想卖他的房子。

At the time, we were wanting to buy something.

[L. We at the time want buy thing.] Wǒmen dāngshí xiǎng mǎi dōngxi. 我们当时想买东西。

At the time, he wanted to buy one ticket. Tā dāngshí yào mǎi yì zhāng piào. 他当时要买一张票。

at home [L. at home inside] zài jiā lǐ 在家里

I eat lunch at home. Wǒ zài jiā lǐ chī wǔfàn. 我在家里吃午饭。

Yesterday I was eating lunch at home.

[L. I yesterday at home inside eat lunch.] Wǒ zuótiān zài jiā lǐ chī wǔfàn. 我昨天在家里吃午饭。

Notice that "zài" 在 often means "in the process of" when it occurs in front of a verb, but that it means something more like "at" when it occurs in front of a noun.

We're looking for a gift. / We are in the

process of looking for a gift. Wǒmen zài zhǎo lǐwù. 我们在找礼物。

We were [in the process of] looking for a gift yesterday. Wǒmen zuótiān zài zhǎo lǐwù. 我们昨天在找礼物。

You are closing the door. / You were just closing

the door. [L. You just in process of close door.] Nǐ zhèng zài guān mén. 你正在关门。

I am eating breakfast with my wife. / I was eating

breakfast with my wife.

[L. I in process of with my wife eat breakfast.] Wǒ zài gēn wǒ de qīzi chī zǎofàn. 我在跟我的妻子吃

早饭。

They are **are in the process of** renting a house. /

They were **renting** a house. Tāmen **zài zū** fángzi. 他们在租房子。

They are learning Chinese. / They were studying

Chinese. [L. They **in process of study** Chinese.] Tāmen **zài xué** Zhōngwén. 他们在学中文。

What were you doing **yesterday?** (polite)

[L. You **yesterday** in process of do **what?**] Nín **zuótiān** zài zuò **shénma?** 您昨天在做什么?

In Chinese there really is no direct way to translate the English past progressive tenses. These are English constructions that use the past tense of the verb "to be" along with the "-ing" form of the main verb such as "was buying," "were buying," etc. There is also no direct way to translate constructions that use "used to" as in, "I used to buy..." Chinese handles these concepts by using words such as "zài" 在 (an aspect marker) to indicate "in the process of" or the aspect marker "-zhe" 着 after the verb which means about the same thing. Time adverbs (such as "yesterday" or "before") are also used to indicate when something happened, or the aspect markers "le" 了 and "guò" 过 are used to indicate completion of an action. Without these adverbs or aspect markers or some sort of context, it can be difficult to know whether the speaker is talking about the past, the present or the future. This lesson shows several ways that sentences like this might be translated into Chinese but, as you can see, the translations are not perfect. When you can't say exactly what you would in English, it is usually possible to say the same thing in English a different way that works with the way Chinese is constructed.

LESSON 55- USING THE "SHÌ" AND "SHÌ....DE" CONSTRUCTIONS FOR EMPHASIS AND PAST TENSE

DÌ WŭSHÍWŭ KÈ - YÒNG "SHÌ" HÉ "SHÌ-DE" BIǎODÁ QIÁNGDIÀO HUÒ GUÒQŪSHÍ

[L. use "shì" and "shì....de" express emphasis or past]

第五十五课 - 用“是”和“是的”表达强调或过去时

The verb "shì" 是 "to be" is often used before a specific word or before a phrase in a sentence to place emphasis on it. When used alone in this way, it usually refers to the present or future. When used in combination with the possessive particle "de" 的 it usually refers to the past. In English, this emphasis is often done by tone of voice (stressing the emphasized word.) Chinese often does this by placing "shì" 是 in front of the word to be emphasized and placing "de" 的 at the end of the sentence. Sometimes the "de" 的 is not used, depending on the situation. This can become quite complex. Negative emphasis can be formed by adding "bù" 不 (no, not) before the "shì" 是. This lesson shows some simple examples. (Emphasized words in English are in italics.)

The examples below use "shì" 是 alone to speak about the present and future:

My grandmother (is) very old .	Wǒ de pópó hěn lǎo.	我的婆婆很老。
My grandmother is (<i>indeed</i>) very old.	Wǒ de pópó shì hěn lǎo.	我的婆婆是很老。
It's my <i>grandmother</i> (who) is very old .	Shì wǒ de pópó hěn lǎo.	是我的婆婆很老。
He is going tomorrow . / He will go tomorrow . / He tomorrow go .	Tā míngtiān zǒu.	他明天走。
It is tomorrow that he will go.	Tā shì míngtiān zǒu.	他是明天走。
They're talking about the game. / They talk game .	Tāmen tán qiú sài.	他们谈球赛。
<i>They are talking</i> about the game. [Emphasis is on are talking .]	Tāmen shì tán qiú sài.	他们是谈球赛。
<i>It's the game</i> that they're talking about. [Emphasis is on game .] [L. They talk (p.) is game .]	Tāmen tán de shì qiú sài.	他们谈的是球赛。

They were talking about the game. [L. They are/were talk ball-competition (p.).]	Tāmen shì tán qiú sài de.	他们是 谈球赛 的。
It was the <i>game</i> (that) they were talking about. [L. They talk (p.) was ball-competition.].	Tāmen tán de shì qiú sài .	他们 谈 的是球赛。
You were at my home <i>very early</i> . [L. You are/were very early at me home (p.).]	Nǐ shì hěn zǎo dào wǒ jiā de.	你是 很早到 我家的。
They were alone. / They used to be alone. [L. They are/were alone (p.).]	Tāmen shì gū dú de.	他们是 孤独 的。
We (are) very busy .	Wǒmen hěn máng .	我们 很忙 。
We were very <i>busy</i> . [L. We are/were very busy (p.).]	Wǒmen shì hěn máng de .	我们是 很忙 的。
The view is very beautiful./The view was very beautiful. [L. View very beautiful.]	Fēng jǐng hěn piào liang .	风景 很 漂亮 。
The view was very beautiful .	Fēng jǐng shì hěn piào liang de .	风景 是 很漂亮 的。
It's the view that was very beautiful .	Shì fēng jǐng hěn piào liang de .	是 风景 很 漂亮 的。
She did not come from England.	Tā bú shì cóng Yīng guó lái de.	她 不是 从 英国 来的。
She came from France.	Tā shì cóng Fǎ guó lái de.	她是 从法国 来的。
I was not born in China.	Wǒ bú shì zài Zhōng guó chū shēng de.	我 不是 在 中国 出生的。
I was born in the United States .	Wǒ shì zài Měi guó chū shēng de.	我是 在美国 出生的。
I didn't pay the bill./I haven't paid the bill.	Wǒ méi fù zhàng .	我 没付 账。
It was not <i>me</i> (who) paid the bill. [L. Not is me pay bill (p.).]	Bú shì wǒ fù zhàng de.	不是 我 付 账的。
It was my younger brother (who) paid the bill. [L. Is me (p.) younger brother pay (p.) bill]	Shì wǒ de dì dì fù de zhàng .	是 我的弟弟 付的账。
The towel was <i>dry</i> ./Towel used to be <i>dry</i> ./Towel originally dry .	Máo jīn yuán lái shì gān de.	毛巾 原来 是 干 的。

- The towel was wet./Towel originally
wet through. Máojīn yuánlái shì tòushī de. 毛巾原来是透湿的。
- a line of people / a queue [L. person **line-row**] rén páiduì. 人排队
- There was a queue at the **post office.** / The **post office had** a line of people. Yóujú yǒu rén páiduì. 邮局有人排队。
- There are a lot of people in town.
 [L. **Town** in **has** very many people.] Zhèn lǐ yǒu hěn duō rén. 镇里有很多人。
- There were a lot of people in town./ **In town had** very many people.
 [L. **Town in had** very many person.] Zhèn lǐ shì yǒu hěn duō rén de. 镇里是有很多人的。
- the park. gōngyuán. 公园
- There was a park near the old hotel.
 [L. Old hotel **vicinity had** park.] Lǎo lúguǎn fùjìn shì yǒu gōngyuán de. 老旅馆附近是有公园的。
- He **speaks** with his **friend.** Tā gēn tā de péngyou shuōhuà. 他跟他的朋友说话。
- He was speaking with his friend. / He **was in the process of** speaking with his friend. [L. He **was in the process of** with his friend speak (p.)] Tā shì zài gēn tā de péngyou shuōhuà de. 他是在跟他的朋友说话的。
- You **finish** at **five o'clock.** Nǐ wǔ diǎn zhōng zuòwán. 你五点钟做完。
- Before,** you used to finish at **five o'clock.**
 [L. You **before** five o'clock **finished.**] Nǐ yǐqián shì wǔ diǎn zhōng zuòwán de. 你以前是五点钟做完的。
- on time [L. accurate time] zhǔnshí 准时
- She used to finish **on time.**
 [L. She before **is accurate time** do-finish (p.)]. Tā yǐqián shì zhǔnshí zuòwán de. 她以前是准时做完的。

They used to finish *together*.

[L. They before **together** finished.] Tāmen yǐqián shì yíkuài zuòwán de. . . 他们以前是一块儿做完的。

I used to *sell* cars. [L. I **before** sold cars.] Wǒ yǐqián shì mài chē de. 我以前是卖车的。

In the past, I *sold* cars. [L. I **past** sold cars.] Wǒ guòqù shì mài chē de. 我过去是卖车的。

In the past, I sold cars. / Cars are what I sold in the past. [L. I (in the) past **sell** (p.) is cars.] Wǒ guòqù mài de shì chē. 我过去卖的是车。

We used to *sell* ice. / We before **sold** ice. Wǒmen yǐqián shì mài bīng de. 我们以前是卖冰的。

They used to *sell* clothes. / They **before** sold clothes. Tāmen yǐqián shì mài yīfu de. 他们以前是卖衣服的。

They used to sell clothes. / *Clothes* are what they sold before. [L. They before **sell** (p.) is clothes.] Tāmen yǐqián mài de shì yīfu. 他们以前卖的是衣服。

Grammar note: When using the “shì”是 or “shì”是...“de”的 construction with a negative, bù不 is used rather than méi没, even when expressing past tense.

LESSON 56 – ADDING TO VERBS USING THE PARTICLE “DE” OR THE NEGATIVE “BÙ”

DÌ WŨSHÍLIÙ KÈ – YÒNG “DE” HUÒ “BÙ” LÁI – YǐNDǎO BŪYŪ

[L. **use** “de” and “bu” to **lead** supplement-language] 第五十六课 – 用 “得” 或 “不” 来引导补语

to run pǎo 跑

He runs very well. [L. He run (part.) **very** well.] Tā pǎo de hěn hǎo. 他跑得很好。

He **runs** very fast. Tā pǎo de hěn kuài. 他跑得很快。

He used to run very fast. / He before run very fast.

[L. He **before** run (part.) very fast.] Tā yǐqián pǎo de hěn kuài. 他以前跑得很快。

He used to do (it) very fast.

[L. He before **do** (part.) **very fast**.] Tā yǐqián zuò de hěn kuài. 他以前做得很快。
your English nǐ de Yīngwén 你的英文

You speak English very well.

[L. Your English **speak** (part.) very good.] Nǐ de Yīngwén shuō de hěn hǎo. 你的英文说得很好。

They speak Chinese very well.

[L. Their **Chinese speak** (part.) very good.] Tāmen de Zhōngwén shuō de hěn hǎo. 他们的中文说得很好。
too much tài duō. 太多

He talks too much.

[L. He **speak speech speak** (part.) too much.] Tā shuōhuà shuō de tài duō. 他说话说得太多。

The Chinese sentence above could also be translated something like, "His speech speaks too much." or "His talking talks too much."

You guys talk too much.

[L. **You** speak speech **speak** (part.) too much.] Nǐmen shuōhuà shuō de tài duō. 你们说话说得太多。
too quickly / too fast tài kuài 太快

You people **speak** [(part.)] too quickly. Nǐmen shuōhuà shuō de tài kuài. 你们说话说得太快。

You speak too quickly for me. / You **with me**

speak [(part.)] **too fast**. Nǐ gēn wǒ shuōhuà shuō de tài kuài. 你跟我说话说得太快。

He is smart / He very smart. Tā hěn cōngmíng. 他很聪明。

He **is** smart, but he talks too much. [L. He **very** smart

but he speak speech speak (part.) too much.] Tā hěn cōngmíng, kěshì tā shuōhuà 他很聪明，可是
 shuō de tài duō. 他说话说得太多。

I hear (and) understand.

[L. I **hear** (part.) **understand**.] Wǒ tīng de dǒng. 我听得懂。

I hear but don't understand.

[L. I hear **not understand**.] Wǒ tīng bù dǒng. 我听不懂。

her speech [L. she **speak** (p.) **speech**] tā shuō de huà 她说的话

I understand what she says. / I understand her speech.

[L. She **speak** (p.) **speech** I **hear** (part.) understand] Tā shuō de huà wǒ tīng de dǒng. . . . 她说的话我听得懂。

I don't understand what you're saying. / I hear

but don't understand your speech. [L. You

speak (p.) **speech** I **hear not** understand.] Nǐ shuō de huà wǒ tīng bù dǒng. 你说的话我听不懂。

to smell wén. 闻

Do you smell the cake?

[L. You smell (**part.**) **to** cake (q.)?] Nǐ wén de dào dàngāo ma? 你闻得到蛋糕吗?

to do and finish [L. **do** (**part.**) finish] zuò de wán. 做得完

He finishes his homework/He is able to finish his

homework. [L. He **do** (**part.**) **finish** homework.]. Tā zuò de wán gōngkè. 他做得完功课。

Will you finish your homework? / Are you able to

finish your homework?

[L. **Homework** you **do** (**part.**) finish (q.)?] Gōngkè nǐ zuò de wán ma? 功课你做得完吗?

to drink and finish [L. **drink** (**part.**) **finish**] hē de wán 喝得完

Can you finish your drink?

[L. You drink (**part.**) finish **your** drink (q.)?] Nǐ hē de wán nǐ de yǐnliào ma? 你喝得完你的饮料吗?

I can't finish my drink.

[L. I drink **not finish** me (p.) drink.] Wǒ hē bù wán wǒ de yǐnliào. 我喝不完我的饮料。

a little early. zǎo yì diǎn 早一点

He left a little early.

[L. He **leave** (**part.**) early a little.] Tā zǒu de zǎo yì diǎn. 他走得早一点。

The particle “de” 得 in the sentences above is often used between a verb and an adjective or adjectival phrase (or between a verb and another verb or verbal phrase) to show ability, success, degree or extent of same. For example, in the sentences above, “He runs...” is connected by the particle “de” 得到 “very fast” or “very well,” which shows the degree, ability, success or extent to which he runs. The negative bù 不 can be used to show inability or lack of success.

Note: Do not confuse the possessive particle “de” 的 with the particle “de” 得.

LESSON 57 – THE VERB SUFFIX “GUO” - SPEAKING ABOUT THE PAST

DÌ WŭSHÍQĪ KÈ – Yòng Dòngcí Hòuzhù “GUO” BIǎODÁ GUÒQŪSHÍ

[L. use verb suffix “guo” to express past]

第五十七课 - 用动词后缀“过”表达过去时

The aspect markers “le” 了 (lesson 46) and “guo” 过 are interchangeable in many cases. However, one difference between them is that “le” 了 implies a completed action and “guo” 过 implies something more like a past experience as in “has been (somewhere/something)”, “has gone”, “have eaten”, “have read”, “have worked” etc. For example, “Tā qùle Běijīng.” 她去了北京。(She went to Beijing.) implies that she went to Beijing and the action is completed. However, “Tā qùguo Běijīng.” 她去过北京。 means something more like “She has gone to Beijing.” or “She has been to Beijing.” or “She has had the experience of going to Beijing.” implying that she has been there before.

Note, however, that when “guo” 过 is attached to a verb (as in the examples above), it indicates a completed past experience that is not ongoing. This means that “guo” 过 could be used to say “has/have been somewhere” or “has eaten” or “have read” but not with a gerund as in “has been eating” or “have been reading”.

Note that the character “guo” 过 loses its tone when it is a verb suffix particle.

the aspect marker that indicates that something
has happened or has been experienced in
the past

He read that [(m.)] book.	guo	过
He has read that [(m.)] book	Tā kànle nà běn shū.	他看了那本书。
She went (to) Beijing.	Tā kànguo nà běn shū.	他看过那本书。
She has gone (to) Beijing./She has been to Beijing.	Tā qùle Běijīng.	她去了北京。
He has been to the United States. [L. He go (asp.) United States.]	Tā qùguo Běijīng.	她去过北京。
They have been to Germany. [L. They go (asp.) Germany .]	Tā qùguo Měiguó.	他去过美国。
She went to China this year ./She has gone to China this year . [L. She this year go (asp.) China].	Tāmen qùguo Déguó.	他们去过德国。
He has never been to Australia./He has never gone to Australia. [L. He not go (asp.) Australia.]	Tā jīnnián qùguo Zhōngguó.	她今年去过中国。
Have you been to Great Britain ? [L. You go (asp.) Great Britain (q.)?]	Tā méi qùguo Àodàliyà.	他没去过澳大利亚。
Have you guys been to New Zealand before ? [L. You before go (asp.) New Zealand (q.)?]	Nǐ qùguo Dà Bùlìediān ma?	你去过大不列颠吗?
Have you people been here before?/ Have you people come here before? [L. You before come (asp.) here (q.)?]	Nǐmen yǐqián qùguo Xīnxīlán ma?.	你们以前去过新西兰吗?
Have you already read that book?	Nǐmen yǐqián lái guo zhèr ma?	你们以前来过这儿吗?
	Nǐ yǐjīng kànguo nà běn shū le ma?.	你已经看过那本书了吗?

In the sentence above, the aspect marker "le" is added because it is a new situation.

You have loved [very] many people. [L. You **love**

(asp.) **very** many person.] Nǐ àiguò hěn duō rén. 你爱过很多人。

In Chinese, the word "hěn" 很 (very) is often used when such emphasis would not be used in the English translation.

I have ridden a ferry boat./I have had the
experience of riding a ferry boat.

[L. I **ride** (asp.) **ferry boat**.] Wǒ zuòguò dùchuán. 我坐过渡船。

Have you guys eaten dinner? [L. You **eat** (asp.)

dinner (q.)?]. Nǐmen chīguò wǎnfàn ma? 你们吃过晚饭吗?

We called on the telephone. [L. We **call** (asp.)

telephone.] Wǒmen dǎle diànhuà. 我们打了电话。

We have called on the **telephone**. [L. We call (asp.)

telephone.] Wǒmen dǎguò diànhuà. 我们打过电话。

We have called her three times on the telephone.

[L. We **give** her call (asp.) three **times** telephone.]. Wǒmen gěi tā dǎguò sān cì diànhuà. 我们给她打过三次电话。

Mexican food [L. **Mexico food**] Mòxīgē cài 墨西哥菜

My younger sister has eaten Mexican food. [L.

Me (p.) **younger sister eat** (asp.) Mexico food.] Wǒ de mèimei chīguò Mòxīgē cài. 我的妹妹吃过墨西哥菜。

We have not rented a car./We have not had the
experience of renting a car. [L. We **not**

rent (asp.) car.] Wǒmen méi zūguò qìchē. 我们没租过汽车。

My grandmother has never seen the beach. [L.

Me (p.) grandma not **see** (asp.) **beach**.] Wǒ de pópo méi kànguò hǎitān. 我的婆婆没看过海滩。

My elder brother has swum in the ocean.

[L. My elder brother at **ocean** in **swim** (asp.).] Wǒ de gēge zài hǎi lǐ yóuguoyǒng. 我的哥哥在海里游过泳。

Did you live alone **last year**? [L. You **last year**

one (m.) person live (asp.) (q.)?]. Nǐ qùnián yí gè rén zhùguo ma? 你去年一个人住过吗?

I have worked in a store./I have had the experience

of working in a store. [L. I **at store** in **work** (asp.).] Wǒ zài shāngdiàn lǐ gōngzuòguo. 我在商店里工作过。

Have you ever lost a credit card?/Have you had the experience of losing a credit card?

[L. You **lose** (asp.) **credit card** (q.)?]. Nǐ diūguo xìnyòngkǎ ma? 你丢过信用卡吗?

He has tried./He has tried (it) before (at some

point in the past.) [L. He before **try** (asp.).] Tā yǐqián shìguo. 他以前试过。

Have you people **tried** (it)? [L. You **try** (asp.) (q.)?]. Nǐmen shìguo ma? 你们试过吗?

Has she repaired a clock?/Has she had the experience of repairing a clock?

[L. She **repair** (asp.) **clock** (q.)?]. Tā xiūguo zhōng ma? 她修过钟吗?

Has he **tried** to repair a clock?

[L. He **try** (asp.) **repair** clock (q.)?]. Tā shìguo xiū zhōng ma? 他试过修钟吗?

Since Chinese verbs do not conjugate for tense, the time of action is often indicated by using a time expression (a time adverb such as "yesterday", "last year", "tomorrow", "before" etc.) either before the verb or at the beginning of a sentence. However, Chinese verbs need to be related to aspect. This means that there must be some indication of whether the action is completed, is part of past experience, or is ongoing. This indication is done with aspect markers. The aspect marker "le" 了 (lesson 46) is used to indicate completed action. The aspect marker "guo" 过 (this lesson) is used to indicate that the action is part of past experience. And the aspect markers "zhe" 着 (next lesson) and "zài" 在 (lesson 42) are used to indicate ongoing action. The aspect markers "le" 了, "guo" 过 and "zhe" 着 are usually used as suffixes to verbs whereas "zài" 在 is usually used

directly before a verb. Action verbs without these aspect markers usually express something one intends to do or does habitually. For example, "Wǒ dào miànbāodiàn qù." 我到面包店去。 [L. I to bakery go.] means "I am going to go to the bakery (in the near future.)" "Wǒ měitiān dào miànbāodiàn qù." 我每天到面包店去。 [L. I each day to bakery go.] means "I go to the bakery every day."

Technical grammar note: Some grammar texts show "le" 了 and "zài" 在 as aspect markers, but refer to "zhe" 着 and "guo" 过 as verbal indicators or to "guo" 过 as an experience marker. This is a subtle point and is not something that you need to know or remember at this point in your study of Chinese. In this text, for simplicity, all four characters are referred to as aspect markers.

LESSON 58 – THE VERB SUFFIX "ZHE" - SPEAKING ABOUT ONGOING ACTION

DÌ WŨSHÍBĀ KÈ – Yòng Dòngcí Hòuzhù "ZHE" Lái Biǎodá Zhèng Zài Jìnxíng DE HUŌDòng Huò Cúnzài DE Shìshí [L. use verb suffix "zhe" to express just at in progress (p.) activity or existing (p.) facts]

第五十八课 - 用动词后缀“着”来表达正在进行的活动或存在的事实

The aspect marker "zhe" 着 indicates an ongoing state resulting from an action, or an action in progress, which can be either in the present or the past. It can be used alone or together with "zài" 在 (at) to indicate an action in progress. In general, the aspect marker "zài" 在 (lesson 42) is used to indicate that an action is actually in progress as the speaker speaks, whereas "zhe" 着 would be used to describe a scene resulting from an action. For example, "Tā zài kāi mén." 他在开门。 [L. He (asp.) open door.] means that the door is actually in the process of opening as the speaker is speaking, whereas "Mén kāizhe." 门开着。 [L. Door open (asp.)] means that the door is open and continues to be open.

In general, use "zhe" 着 as a verb suffix to describe a static scene, and use "zài" 在 before a verb to describe dynamic action that is in the process of happening as the speaker is speaking.

He is opening the door. [L. He (asp.) open door.]	Tā zài kāi mén.	他在开门。
The door is open. [L. Door open (asp.).]	Mén kāizhe.	门开着。
the windows in our room/our room's windows.	wǒmen de fángjiān de chuānghu	我们的房间的窗户
All of the windows in our room are open./All the windows in our room were open. [L. We (p.) room (p.) windows all open (asp.).]	Wǒmen de fángjiān de chuānghu dōu kāizhe.	我们的房间的窗户 都开着。
She is putting on a shirt.	Tā zài chuān chènshān.	她在穿衬衫。
She is wearing a shirt. [L. She wear (asp.) shirt.]	Tā chuānzhe chènshān.	她穿着衬衫。
The stores are all closing.	Shāngdiàn dōu zài guānmén.	商店都在关门。
The stores are all closed./Store all close [(asp.)] door.	Shāngdiàn dōu guānzhe mén.	商店都关着门。
to live (as in "to be alive").	huó.	活
He is alive./He lives [(asp.).]	Tā huózhe.	他活着。
He is still alive./He still lives (asp.).	Tā hái huózhe.	他还活着。
John was talking with the waiter. [L. John with waiter talk (asp.) speech.]	Yūehàn gēn fūwùyuán tánzhe huà.	约翰跟服务员谈着话。
They are carrying their suitcases./They were carrying their suitcases. [L. They carry (asp.) they (p.) suitcase.]	Tāmen dàizhe tāmen de yīxiang.	他们带着他们的衣箱。
The children are waiting in the car./The children were waiting in the car. [L. Children at car in wait (asp.).]	Háizimen zài qìchē lǐ děngzhe.	孩子们在汽车里等着。

His **son** was in the process of writing a letter.

[L. He (p.) **son** in process of write letter.] Tā de **érzi** zài xiě xìn. 他的**儿子**在写信。

Grammar note:

"Zhe" 着 can also be used to make a verb into an accompaniment to another action, such as "Tā xiào**zhe** gēn hái zǐ shōu huà." 他**笑着**跟孩子说话。 [L. He **smile** (asp.) with child talk speech.] ("He smiled when talking to the child." or "He talked to the child with a smile.")

LESSON 59 – SOME IMPORTANT CONCEPTS DÌ WŨSHÍJIŨ KÈ – ZHÒNGYÀO GÀINIÀN

第五十九课 - 重要概念

very **tall** man [L. very **tall** (p.) **male** person] hěn **gāo** de **nán** rén 很**高**的**男**人

the physical size of a person gè zǐ. 个**子**

He **is** a tall man. [L. He **is** one (m.) frame very tall

(p.) male person.] Tā shì **yí** gè gè zǐ hěn **gāo** de **nán** rén. . . 他**是**一个**个**子很**高**的**男**人。

measure word for buildings, mountains,

bridges and cities zuò 座

It's a very high building.

[L. Is **one** (m.) very tall (p.) **building**]. Shì **yí** zuò hěn **gāo** de **lóu fáng**. 是**一**座很**高**的**楼**房。

Note that the subject pronoun is often dropped for inanimate objects.

relatively **close**/relatively **near**. bǐ jiào jìn. 比**较**近

It's a short distance **from here**.

[L. **From here** (it is) relatively close.] Lí zhèr bǐjiào jìn. 离这儿比较近。

Turn on the light please. [L. **Please open** light.] Qǐng kāi dēng. 请开灯。

an imperative particle, usually used at
the end of a sentence to make a mildly
imperative sentence ba. 吧

Turn off the light! [L. **Close light** (part.)] Guān dēng ba. 关灯吧。

anyone/someone/who shéi. 谁

Does anyone want this book?/Is there anyone
(who) wants this book? [L. Have anyone

want this (m.) book?] Yǒu shéi yào zhè běn shū? 有谁要这本书?

everyone/everybody [L. **anyone all**] shéi dōu. 谁都

Anyone can buy a ticket./Everybody can buy a
ticket. [L. Anyone all **can buy** ticket.] Shéi dōu néng mǎi piào. 谁都能买票。

Nobody can buy a ticket.

[L. Everybody **not** can buy ticket.] Shéi dōu bù néng mǎi piào. 谁都不能买票。

Nobody has a ticket. Shéi dōu méi piào. 谁都没票。

something/anything/what/what kind of shénma 什么

anything/everything [L. **anything all**] shénma dōu 什么都

to compare with/compared to bǐ 比

Anything is better than this./**Everything**
compared to this is good.

[L. **Anything all** compared to this (m.) (is) good.] Shénma dōu bǐ zhège hǎo. 什么都比这个好。

You **can go now.** Nǐ xiànzài kěyǐ qù le. 你现在可以去了。

The particle “le” 了 is added to the sentence above because it is a changed situation.

One **can't** go there./**Not able** to go there.

[L. **Not able to there go.**] Bù néng dào nàr qù. 不能到那儿去。

Do you go there often?

[L. You **often** to there **go** (q.)?]. Nǐ jīngcháng dào nàr qù ma? 你经常到那儿去吗?

No, never./No, **always not** go. Bù, cónglái bú qù. 不, 从来不去。

right away [L. **horse on**]. mǎshàng 马上

He is going to the **bank right away**. Tā mǎshàng dào yínháng qù. 他马上到银行去。

They are going to the **museum together**. Tāmen yíkuàir dào bówùguǎn qù. 他们一块儿到博物馆去。

I need to think..../I **must think**.... Wǒ děi xiǎng.... 我得想....

I need to think about it./I **must think one** think. Wǒ děi xiǎng yì xiǎng. 我得想一想。

This is not correct. [L. **This (m.) not correct.**] Zhège bú duì. 这个不对。

Is this correct? [L. **This (m.) correct not correct?**] Zhège duì bú duì? 这个对不对?

You are right. / You are correct [L. You **correct. (asp.)**] Nǐ duì le. 你对了。

He is **not correct**. Tā bú duì. 他不对。

He is wrong. [L. He **wrong (asp.)**] Tā cuò le. 他错了。

We're going on the wrong road./

Go wrong [(asp.)] **road**. Zǒu cuò le lù. 走错了路。

This is not the right road./**This [(m.)] road not correct**. Zhè tiáo lù bú duì. 这条路不对。

It's the right **address**. [L. **Address is correct (p.)**]. Dìzhǐ shì duì de. 地址是对的。

Whose **glass** is this?/This **glass** is **who's**?

[L. **This (m.) glass is who (p.)?**]. Zhège bēizi shì shéi de? 这个杯子是谁的?

to take a drink of water/drink one **mouth water**. hē yì kǒu shuǐ 喝一口水

They are going to take a drink of water./They

will drink one mouth water. Tāmen yào hē yì kǒu shuǐ. 他们要喝一口水。

Sometimes the word "yào" 要 (want) can be translated as "will" when someone intends to do something.

to bring along their husbands.	dài tāmen de zhàngfu	带她们的丈夫
They will take their husbands with them. [L. They will take their husbands together go.]	Tāmen yào dài tāmen de zhàngfu yíkuài zǒu.	她们要带她们的丈夫一块儿走。
Look at him. [L. Look (asp.) him.]	Kàn tā ba.	看他吧。
She is an old woman. [L. She is old lady/Mrs.]	Tā shì lǎo tài tai.	她是老太太。
He is an old man. [L. He is old Mr.]	Tā shì lǎo xiānsheng.	他是老先生。
He's an old guy./He's an old geezer. [L. He is old head.]	Tā shì lǎo tóuzi.	他是老头子。

"Lǎo tóuzi" 老头子 is less respectful (old guy, old geezer). "Lǎo xiānsheng" 老先生 is more respectful.

That is an old building.

[L. That is one (m.) old (p.) building.] Nà shì yí zuò jiù de lóufáng. 那是一座旧的楼房。
 The word "jiù" can only describe things, however "lǎo" 老 is used to describe people or things and is more respectful than "jiù" 旧.

young	niánqīng	年轻
She is a young [(p.)] lady.	Tā shì yí wèi niánqīng de nǚshì.	她是一位年轻的女士。
She is an unmarried girl.	Tā shì yí gè gūniáng.	她是一个姑娘。
There's my new car. [L. That is me new (p.) car.]	Nà shì wǒ xīn de chē.	那是我新的车。

When more than one possessive "de" 的 occurs in a sentence, as in "wǒ de xīn de chē" 我的新的车, the first one can be dropped.

Have you seen my new truck? (polite)

[L. You see (asp.) me new (p.) truck (q.)?] Nín kànguo wǒ xīn de kàchē ma? 你看过我新的卡车吗?
 They bought new clothes.

[L. They buy (asp.) new (p.) clothes.] Tāmen mǎile xīn de yīfu. 他们买了新的衣服。
 everything yíqiè 一切

Everything is brand new./Everything all is new.

[L. Everything **all** is **new** (p.)]. Yíqiè dōu shì xīn de. 一切都是新的。

each thing [L. **each** (m.) **thing**]. měi gè dōngxi. 每个东西

Everything is brand new./Each thing all is new.

[L. Each (m.) **thing** all **is** new (p.)]. Měi gè dōngxi dōu shì xīn de. 每个东西都是新的。

hungry/hunger è. 饿

stomach. dùzi 肚子

I'm hungry./My **stomach** has become hungry. Wǒ dùzi è le. 我肚子饿了。

Are you **hungry**?/You **become** hungry?

[L. You **hungry** (asp.) (q.)?]. Nǐ è le ma? 你饿了吗?

The train left late. [L. Train leave **late** (asp.)]. Huǒchē líkāi wǎn le. 火车离开晚了。

The weather was cold./**Weather** very **cold**. Tiānqì hěn lěng. 天气很冷。

He had a **difficult** problem **at that time**. Tā dāngshí yǒu yí gè nánjiě de. 他当时有一个难解的问题。

LESSON 60 – MORE IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

DÌ LIÙSHÍ KÈ – GÈNG DUÒ DE ZHÒNGYÀO GÀINIÀN

第六十课 - 更多的重要概念

one [(m.)] **bus** yì bān gōnggòng qìchē. 一班公共汽车

how often/how **much** **time** [L. **many-few** time] duōshǎo shíjiān. 多少时间

How often does the bus come by?/How much

time is one bus? [L. **Bus** **how much** time one (m.)?] Gōnggòng qìchē duōshǎo shíjiān 公共汽车多少时间

yì bān? 一班?

How often does the bus leave for town?/One bus to town (is) how much time? [L. To **town** in (p.) bus how much time **one** (m.)?]. Dào **chéng** lǐ de gōnggòng qìchē 到**城**里的公共汽车多少时间**一**班?

Every twenty minutes./**Twenty** minutes one bus. [L. **20** minute **clock** one (m.) bus.] Èrshí fēn zhōng yì bān gōnggòng qìchē. **二十**分钟**一**班公共汽车。

In the sentence above, the word "bus" (gōnggòng qìchē 公共汽车) would probably be omitted if it is obvious that the speakers are talking about a bus. The measure word "bān" 班 indicates that they are talking about scheduled transportation.

I would like to sit at the table./I would like to sit at table **side**. Wǒ xiǎng zuò zài zhuōzi **biān**. 我想坐在**桌**子**边**。

I am sitting. [L. I **sit** (asp.)]. Wǒ zuò**zhe**. 我**坐**着。

Sit down please. [L. **Please sit-down**.] Qǐng zuò**xià**. 请**坐**下。

I sat down. [L. I **sit-down** (asp.)]. Wǒ zuò**xià**le. 我**坐**下了。

I would like to stand in the corner. [L. I **would like** stand at **corner** in.] Wǒ xiǎng zhàn zài **jiǎoluò** lǐ. 我想站在**角**落里。

I am standing. [L. I **stand** (asp.)]. Wǒ zhàn**zhe**. 我**站**着。

Stand up please. [L. **Please stand-rise-come**.] Qǐng zhàn**qǐ**lái. 请**站**起来。

I stood up. [L. I **stand-rise** come (asp.)]. Wǒ zhàn**qǐ**láile. 我**站**起来了。

base/ground. dǐ 底

ground-level. dǐcéng 底**层**

the ground floor/**ground-level** **floor**. dǐcéng **lóu** 底**层**楼

first floor/**number** one level **floor**. dì yī céng **lóu** **第**一**层**楼

the second level/**number** **two** level dì èr céng. **第**二**层**

In China, the **first floor** is at the ground level.

[L. At China **number one level floor** at **ground-level**.]

Zài Zhōngguó **dì yī céng lóu** zài **dǐcéng**. 在中国**第一层楼**在**底层**。

The second floor is above the first floor. [L. Number two level floor **at** number two level floor **above-side**.]

Dì èr céng lóu **zài** dì yī céng lóu **shàngmiàn**. 第二层楼**在**第一层楼**上面**。

The ground level is below the second level.

[L. **Ground-level** at number one level **below-side**.] **Dǐcéng** zài dì èr céng **xiàmiàn**. 底层在第二层**下面**。

the rain yǔ. 雨

It's raining./Rain falls. [L. **Fall rain (asp.)**.] **Xià yǔ le**. 下雨了。

The aspect marker "le" 了 indicates a changed condition. It is often used when talking about the weather because the weather is always changing.

Is it raining? [L. Fall **rain (q.)?**] Xià yǔ **ma?** 下雨**吗?**

Is it still raining? [L. **Still at fall rain (q.)?**] **Hái zài** xià yǔ **ma?** **还**在下雨**吗?**

I **don't like** rain. [L. I **not like** rain] Wǒ **bù xǐhuān** yǔ. 我**不**喜欢雨。

to **come out** **chūlái** **出来**

soon/about to kuài. **快**

It's going to be sunny./The **sun** is about to **come out**. **Tàiyáng** kuài **chūlái**. 太阳**快**出来。

the sky. tiān 天

It's going to be sunny./The sky **is about to clear**. **Tiān** kuài **qíng**. 天**快**晴。

this **afternoon/today afternoon**. **jīntiān xiàwǔ**. 今天**下午**

to prepare zhǔnbèi 准备

I'm going for a walk this afternoon./I prepare today afternoon go for walk.	Wǒ zhǔnbèi jīntiān xiàwǔ qù sànbù.	我准备今天下午去散步。
I went for a walk this morning. [L. I today morning go for walk.]	Wǒ jīntiān shàngwǔ qù sànbù le.	我今天上午去散步了。
I rode in a car. [L. I ride (asp.) car.]	Wǒ zuòle chē.	我坐了车。
What a pretty young girl!/ Such (a) pretty [(p.)] unmarried girl.	Zhèma piàoliàng de gūniáng!.	这么漂亮的姑娘!
Ugly [L. hard-look]	nánkàn	难看
That is an ugly building./ That (m.) building very ugly.	Nà zuò lóufáng hěn nánkàn.	那座楼房很难看。
This book is about China./ This book is related to China. [L. This (m.) book is related China.]	Zhè běn shū shì yǒuguān Zhōngguó de.	这本书是有关中国的。
What are you [in the process of] looking for?	Nǐ zài zhǎo shénma?	你在找什么?
We want to find something cheaper./ We want to look for something cheaper. [L. We want seek compare cheap (p.) thing.]	Wǒmen yào zhǎo bǐjiào piányi de dōngxi.	我们要找比较便宜的东西。
Please give me two kilograms.	Qǐng gěi wǒ liǎng gōngjīn.	请给我两公斤。
some stamps [L. one-few stamp].	yìxiē yóupiào	一些邮票
take some stamps	bǎ yìxiē yóupiào	把一些邮票
bring me..../bring (and) give me....	dài gěi wǒ	带给我
Please bring me some stamps./Please take some stamps, bring (them and) give (them to) me. [L. Please take some stamp bring give me.]	Qǐng bǎ yìxiē yóupiào dài gěi wǒ.	请把一些邮票带给我。

Is the sandwich still in the car?

[L. Sandwich still at car in (q.)?] Sānmíngzhì hái zài chē lǐ ma? 三明治还在车里吗?

I just bought a sandwich.

[L. I just buy (asp.) sandwich.] Wǒ gāngcái mǎile sānmíngzhì. 我刚才买了三明治。

LESSON 61 – SOME USEFUL SENTENCES IN THE PRESENT TENSE

DÌ LIÙSHÍYĪ KÈ – CHÁNGYòng XIÀNZÀISHÍ YòngYŭ [L. often-use present tense use-language]

第六十一课 - 常用现在时用语

In English, sentences like "I drink coffee." and "He drinks coffee." are in the present tense, whereas sentences like "I am drinking coffee." and "He is drinking coffee." are in the progressive form of the present tense. Chinese does not conjugate verbs for tense, so the verb forms for past, present and future are all the same. The time that something happens (past, present or future) is indicated in other ways. One way to indicate time is by the use of a time adverb such as "yesterday", "tomorrow", "this morning," etc.. Chinese has no equivalent for the progressive form of the present tense, however the word "zài" 在 which means "at" or "in the process of" can be used to approximate it. There is, however, a difference between the English present progressive and the Chinese use of "zài" 在. The word "zài" 在 (to be in the process of) can only be used if the action is actually in the process of happening as the speaker speaks. The English present progressive is not nearly as strict. This means English sentences that use the present progressive are very frequently translated into Chinese without the use of "zài" 在.

I drink coffee. Wǒ hē kāfēi. 我喝咖啡。

I am drinking coffee./I am in the process of

drinking coffee. [L. I in process of drink coffee.] Wǒ zài hē kāfēi. 我在喝咖啡。

I pay for the drinks./I pay drink money. Wǒ fù yǐnliào qián. 我付饮料钱。

I am taking the airplane./I ride airplane. Wǒ zuò fēijī. 我坐飞机。

I take sugar in my coffee./I drink coffee, put sugar .	Wǒ hē kāfēi fàng táng.	我喝咖啡 放糖 。
I sleep in the room. [L. I at room in sleep.]	Wǒ zài fángjiān lǐ shuìjiào.	我 在 房间里睡觉。
I am doing the laundry./ I am in the process of washing clothes .	Wǒ zài xǐ yīfu.	我 在 洗衣服。
I am making a cup of coffee./ I'm in the process of making one cup of coffee.	Wǒ zài zuò yì bēi kāfēi.	我 在 做一杯咖啡。
Notice that in the sentence above, the word "cup" is a measure word in English just like the word "bēi" 杯 is a measure word in Chinese.		
I live in Beijing. [L. I live at Beijing.]	Wǒ zhù zài Běijīng.	我 住 在北京。
about noon [L. noon left-right]	zhōngwǔ zuǒyòu.	中午 左右
I arrive about noon.	Wǒ zhōngwǔ zuǒyòu dào.	我中午左右 到 。
Are you drinking fruit juice ?		
[L. You in process of drink fruit juice (q.)?]	Nǐ zài hē guǒzhì ma?	你 在 喝果汁吗?
You're taking the suitcase, aren't you?		
[L. You take (asp.) suitcase, is not is?]	Nǐ dài zhe yīxiāng, shì bú shì?	你 带 着衣箱, 是不是?
You are taking the children , aren't you?		
[L. You take (asp.) children , is not is?]	Nǐ dài zhe hái zimen, shì bú shì?	你 带 着孩子们, 是不是?
You are not sleeping well./Your sleep not good.		
[L. You sleep (part.) not good.]	Nǐ shuì de bù hǎo.	你 睡 得不好。
What are you doing?/You do what ?	Nǐ zuò shénma?	你 做 什么?
Where do you live ? [L. You live at where?]	Nǐ zhù zài nǎr?	你 住 在哪儿?
He's looking for a job .		
[L. He in process of seek work .]	Tā zài zhǎo gōngzuò.	他 在 找工作。
to drink liquor .	hē jiǔ.	喝 酒

She drinks a lot./

She drinks liquor, drinks [(part.)] very **much**. Tā hē jiǔ hēde hěn **duō**. 她喝酒喝得很多。

He is paying the **hotel bill**.

[L. He in process of pay **hotel bill**.] Tā zài fù **lúguǎn zhàngdān**. 他在付**旅馆**帐单。

The third-tone lǚ 旅 (travel) changes to the second tone when followed by the third-tone guǎn 馆 (place/accomodation).

Take the number five bus to go to the **beach**./To
the **beach**, you want to **ride** the number five bus.

[L. To **beach** want **ride** five (m.) bus.] Dào **hǎitān** yào **zuò** wǔ lù 到**海滩**要**坐**五路公共
gōnggòng qìchē. 汽车。

She sleeps in the bedroom.

[L. She **at** bedroom **in** sleep.] Tā zài wǒfáng lǐ shuìjiào. 她在卧房里睡觉。

He's making tea./He's brewing tea.

[L. He **in process of** brew **tea**.] Tā zài qī chá. 他在沏茶。

My **older brother** lives **in** Spain. Wǒ de **gēge** zhù zài Xībānyá. 我的**哥哥**住在西班牙。

We are leaving by airplane./We **ride** airplane **go**. Wǒmen **zuò** fēijī **zǒu**. 我们**坐**飞机**走**。

We are paying for your ticket./

We **pay** your travel **fee**. Wǒmen fù nǐ de lǚ **fèi**. 我们付你的**旅**费。

cash/**ready money** xià**qián** **现**钱

We pay cash./We **use** cash, **pay** money. Wǒmen yòng xià**qián** fù **qián**. 我们**用**现**钱**付**钱**。

We are looking for the road./

[L. We **in process of** **seek** road.] Wǒmen zài zhǎo lù. 我们在**找**路。

We're drinking **beer**.

[L. We **in process of** drink **beer**.] Wǒmen zài hē pǐjiǔ. 我们在**喝**啤酒。

to **bring along** the luggage/**take** luggage **go** dài xínglǐ **zǒu** **带**行李**走**

We're taking the luggage with us.

[L. We take (asp.) luggage go.] Wǒmen dàizhe xínglǐ zǒu. 我们带着行李走。

We're taking the children with us.

[L. We take (asp.) children go.] Wǒmen dàizhe háizimen zǒu. 我们带着孩子们走。

The two preceding sentences are examples where the aspect marker "zhe" 着 is used to make a verb into an accompaniment to another action verb.

We're sleeping at the hotel tonight.

[L. We today evening at hotel sleep.] Wǒmen jīntiān wǎnshàng zài lǚguǎn. 我们今天晚上在旅馆睡觉。

We're making dinner this evening.

[L. We today evening make dinner.] Wǒmen jīntiān wǎnshàng zuò 我们今天晚上做晚饭。
wǎnfàn.

We live in Shanghai. [L. We live at Shanghai.] Wǒmen zhù zài Shànghǎi. 我们住在上海。

each child [L. each one (m.) child] měi yí gè hái zi. 每个孩子

We give each child.... Wǒmen gěi měi yí gè hái zi.... 我们给每个孩子...

We're buying a gift for each child.

[L. We give each one (m.) child buy present.] Wǒmen gěi měi yí gè hái zi mǎi lǐwù. 我们给每个孩子买礼物。

to leave by train/ride train go zuò huǒchē zǒu 坐火车走

Are you guys leaving on the next train?

[L. You ride next one (m.) train go (q.)] Nǐmen zuò xià yì bān huǒchē zǒu ma? 你们坐下一班火车走吗?

Are you people looking for something?

[L. You in process of seek something?] Nǐmen zài zhǎo shénma? 你们在找什么?

You guys are drinking our drinks.

[L. You in process of **drink** we (p.) **drink**.] Nǐmen zài hē wǒmen de yǐnliào. 你们在喝我们的饮料。

Are you sleeping? [L. You in process of **sleep** (q.)?] Nǐ zài shuìjiào ma? 你在睡觉吗?

What are you guys doing?/

What are you people in the process of doing? Nǐmen zài zuò shénma? 你们在做什么?

They can **rent** (a) car./They are able to **rent** car. Tāmen kényǐ zū qìchē. 他们可以租汽车。

to look at/to watch/to visit kàn 看

to successfully see or to catch sight of kànjian/kàndào. 看见/看到

They can **see** (the) clock./

They are able to **see** clock. Tāmen néng kànjian zhōng. 他们能看见钟。

Are they able to see the clock from there?

[L. They from there can **see** clock (q.)?] Tāmen cóng nàr néng kànjian 他们从那儿能看见钟吗?
zhōng ma?

Are they able to see to the clock from there?

[L. They from there can **see to** clock (q.)?] Tāmen cóng nàr néng kàndào 他们从那儿能看到钟吗?
zhōng ma?

They are leaving tomorrow.

[L. They tomorrow **then go**.] Tāmen míngtiān jiù zǒu. 他们明天就走。

whatever **expense** shénma fèiyòng. 什么费用

pay for everything/whatever expense **all pay** shénma fèiyòng dōu fù. 什么费用都付

My parents pay for everything.

[L. Me (p.) **parents** whatever **expense** all pay.] Wǒ de fùmǔqīn shénma fèiyòng 我的父母亲什么费用都付。
dōu fù.

They are looking for their husbands.

[L. They in process of seek they (p.) **husband**.] Tāmen zài zhǎo tāmen de zhàngfu. 她们在找她们的丈夫。

They are drinking with their friends. [L. They in process of with they (p.) friends drink liquor.]	Tāmen zài gēn tāmen de péngyoumen hē jiǔ.	他们 在 跟他们的 朋友 们喝酒。
too many [(p.)] things	tài duō de dōngxi	太多 的东西
My friends sleep at my house. [L. Me (p.) friends at me (p.) home in sleep.]	Wǒ de péngyoumen zài wǒ de jiā lǐ shuǐjiào.	我的 朋友们 在我的家 里睡觉。
My friends sometimes sleep at my house. [L. Me (p.) friends sometimes at me (p.) home in sleep .]	Wǒ de péngyoumen yǒushíhòu zài wǒ de jiā lǐ shuǐjiào .	我的朋友们 有时候 在 我的家里 睡觉 。
They're making lunch. [L. They in process of make lunch.]	Tāmen zài zuò wǔfàn.	他们 在 做午饭。
They live with our parents./They live together with our parents.	Tāmen gēn wǒmen de fùmǔqīn yíkuài r zhù.	他们 跟 我们的父母亲 一块儿住。
I forget./I forgot. [L. I forget (asp.).]	Wǒ wàngle	我 忘了 。

Notice that "zài" 在 is often a preposition meaning "at", "in" or "on". If it appears in front of a verb (sometimes with intervening words or a phrase) it usually means "in the process of".

LESSON 62 – USING DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS IN SENTENCES

DÌ LIUSHÍ'ÈR KÈ - ZÀI JÚZI Lǐ YÒNG ZHÍJIĒ BĪNYŮ DÀICÍ

[L. at sentence in use direct object pronoun]

第六十二课 - 在句子里用直接宾语代词

They saw me.	Tāmen kànjian wǒ le.	他们看见我了。
I know you.	Wǒ rènshi nǐ.	我认识你。
He visits you. (polite).	Tā kàn nín.	他看您。
I see him.	Wǒ kànjian tā.	我看见他。
You want her.	Nǐ yào tā.	你要她。
They're looking for us.	Tāmen zài zhǎo wǒmen.	他们在找我们。
We like you people.	Wǒmen xǐhuān nǐmen.	我们喜欢你们。
They're watching them. (referring to people)	Tāmen zài kàn tāmen.	他们在看他们。
He loves her.	Tā ài tā.	他爱她。
I like wine. [L. I like grape liquor.]	Wǒ xǐhuān pútáojiǔ.	我喜欢葡萄酒。
I love it./I very like.	Wǒ hěn xǐhuān.	我很喜欢。
To love things, usually the verb "xǐhuān" 喜欢 (like) is used with an adverb like "very" or "extremely" to add emphasis.		

Do you people know her?	Nǐmen rènshi tā ma?	你们认识她吗?
I saw you.	Wǒ kànjian nǐ le.	我看见你了。
He wanted her.	Tā yào tā le.	他要她了。
I knew him.	Wǒ rènshi tā le.	我认识他了。
You said (it). [L. You say (asp.).]	Nǐ shuōle.	你说了。
He did (it). [L. He do (asp.).]	Tā zuòle.	他做了。
We rented (them). [L. We rent (asp.).]	Wǒmen zūle.	我们租了。

In English there is usually a distinction between a pronoun used as a subject (nominative case such as "I", "you", "he", "she", "it", "we" and "they") and a pronoun used as an object (objective case such as "me", "you", "him", "her", "it", "us" and "them"). In Chinese, however, there is no distinction. The position of a pronoun in a sentence determines whether a pronoun is a subject or an object.

The English object pronouns "it" and "them" (when referring to inanimate objects) are not normally translated into Chinese. Sentences are usually correct without these pronouns if the context is understood. If the context would not be understood, then the specific nouns themselves would be used.

LESSON 63 – USING INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS IN SENTENCES

DÌ LIUSHÍSĀN KÈ - ZÀI JÚZI Lǐ Yòng Jiānjiē Bīnyǔ Dàicí

[L. at sentence in use indirect object pronoun]

第六十三课 - 在句子里用间接宾语代词

I'm giving a gift to Paul./I give Paul one (m.) gift. Wǒ gěi Bǎoluó yí gè lǐwù. 我给保罗一个礼物。

I'm giving it to Paul./I take it, give Paul. Wǒ bǎ tā gěi Bǎoluó. 我把它给保罗。

I'm giving a gift to him./I give him one (m.) gift. Wǒ gěi tā yí gè lǐwù. 我给他一个礼物。

I'm giving myself a gift. [L. I give myself one (m.) gift.]. Wǒ gěi zìjǐ yí gè lǐwù. 我给自己一个礼物。

I'm giving you a necklace./I give you one (m.) necklace. Wǒ gěi nǐ yí tiáo xiàngliàn. 我给你一条项链。

He's giving a painting to us. /

[L. He give us one (m.) painting.]. Tā gěi wǒmen yí fú huà. 他给我们一幅画。

I'm giving you guys a pet. [L. I give you one (m.) pet.]. Wǒ gěi nǐmen yí gè chǒngwù. 我给你们一个宠物。

I'm giving them a pizza.

[L. I give them one (m.) pizza.]. Wǒ gěi tāmen yí gè bǐsàbǐng. 我给他们一个比萨饼。

I'm giving it to **him**./I'm giving it to **her**.

[L. I **give** **him/her**.] Wǒ **gěi** **tā**. 我**给**他/她。

I'm giving it to **you**. (polite) [L. I **give** **you**.] Wǒ **gěi** **nín**. 我**给**您。

In English, an indirect object is the thing or person that the action of the verb is done "to" or "for". For example, in the sentence, "I bought him a gift," the direct object is "gift" because that is what receives the action of the verb. (The thing that was bought was a "gift".) The indirect object is "him" because that is the person (or thing) that the gift was bought "for". As you can see from the examples in this lesson and the next lesson, Chinese handles these concepts very differently.

LESSON 64 – MORE INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

DÌ LIÙSHÍSÌ KÈ – GÈNG DUŌ DE JIĀNJĪĒ BĪNYŭ DÀICÍ [L. **more** (p.) indirect **object** pronoun]

第六十四课 - 更多的间接宾语代词

I'm bringing the luggage..../I **take** luggage **bring**.... Wǒ **bǎ** xínglǐ **dài**.... 我**把**行李**带**...

I'm bringing the luggage to my parents.

[L. I **take** luggage **bring** give me (p.) **parents**.] Wǒ **bǎ** xínglǐ **dài** **gěi** wǒ de **fùmǔqīn**. 我**把**行李**带**给我的父
母亲。

I'm bringing them the luggage./I'm bringing
the luggage to them.

[L. I **take** **luggage** **bring** give **them**.] Wǒ **bǎ** xínglǐ **dài** **gěi** **tāmen**. 我**把**行李**带**给他们。

I'm bringing it to my parents.

[L. I **take** **it** **bring** **give** **parents**.] Wǒ **bǎ** **tā** **dài** **gěi** fùmǔqīn. 我**把**它**带**给父母亲。

I'm bringing it to them. [L. I **take** **it** **bring** give **them**.] Wǒ **bǎ** **tā** **dài** **gěi** **tāmen**. 我**把**它**带**给他们。

I'm bringing them to my parents.

[L. I take **them bring** give parents.] Wǒ bǎ **tāmen dài** gěi fùmǔqīn. 我把**它们**带给父母亲。

He **gave** me a gift yesterday./

He yesterday **give** me **one (m.)** gift. Tā zuótiān **gěi** wǒ **yí gè** lǐwù. 他昨天**给**我一个礼物。

She bought him a gift this morning./

She this morning **give** him **bought** one gift. Tā jīntiān zǎoshang **gěi** tā **mǎile** 她今天早上**给**他**买了**
yí gè lǐwù.
一个礼物。

She sold him a gift./ [L. She give him **sell (asp.) (m.)** gift.] Tā **mài** gěi tā **le** yí gè lǐwù. 她**卖**给他**了**一个礼物。

Notice that the difference between "buy" and "sell" in spoken Chinese is only the tone on "mǎi" 买 vs. "mài" 卖. Notice also that the Chinese characters for these two words are similar, but not identical.

He **rented** her a car. [L. He give her **rent (asp.)**

one (m.) car.] Tā gěi tā **zūle** yí liàng chē. 他给她**租**了一辆车。

He **has already spoken** with them./He **already spoke** with them.

[L. He **already** with them **speak (asp.)**.] Tā **yǐjīng** gēn tāmen **shuō** le. 他**已经**跟他们**说了**。

LESSON 65 – PRONOUNS IN NEGATIVE SENTENCES

DÌ LIÙSHÍWŭ KÈ – ZÀI FǒUDÌNG DE JÚZI Lǐ Yòng Dàicí

[L. at negate (p.) sentence in use pronoun]

第六十五课 - 在否定的句子里用代词

I don't want it./I don't want any. [L. Not want.] Bú yào. 不要。

I would not like any./I don't want, thanks.

[L. I not want, thanks.] Wǒ bú yào, xièxie. 我不要，谢谢。

They don't want us. Tāmen bú yào wǒmen. 他们不要我们。

I see him. [L. I see to him.] Wǒ kànjian tā. 我看见他。

I don't see him. [L. I see not to him.] Wǒ kàn bú jiàn tā. 我看不见他。

"Kàn bú jiàn" 看不见 is common a construction parallel to "kànjian" 看见. "jiàn" 见 also means "to see". Here it translates more as "to."

I didn't see him. Wǒ méi kànjian tā. 我没看见他。

In the sentence above, "méi" 没 is used instead of "bù" 不 for "not". This is one instance in which the past tense is clearly indicated without more context, so the literal translation of "méi" 没 is "did not".

I can't see them. [L. I see not to them.] Wǒ kàn bú jiàn tāmen. 我看不见他们。

I did not see you. (polite) [L. I did not see to you.] Wǒ méi kànjian nín. 我没看见您。

I don't like it. [L. I not like.] Wǒ bù xǐhuān. 我不喜欢。

You did not say it. [L. You did not speak.] Nǐ méi shuō. 你没说。

He is not doing it. [L. He not do.] Tā bú zuò. 他不做。

He did not do it. [L. He did not do.] Tā méi zuò. 他没做。

We did not rent them. [L. We did not rent.] Wǒmen méi zū. 我们没租。

I'm not giving it to Paul. [L. I not give Paul.] Wǒ bù gěi Bǎoluó. 我不给保罗。

I'm not giving a gift to him. /I'm not giving him

a gift. [L. I not give **him** gift.] Wǒ bù gěi tā lǐwù. 我不给他礼物。

I didn't give you a gift.

[L. I **didn't** give **you** gift.] Wǒ méi gěi nǐ lǐwù. 我没给你礼物。

I'm not giving it to you. [L. I **not** give you.] Wǒ bù gěi nǐ. 我不给你。

I **did not** give it to her. Wǒ méi gěi tā. 我没给她。

bring luggage. dài xínglǐ 带行李

I'm not bringing the luggage to my parents.

[L. I not **give** **parents** bring luggage.] Wǒ bù gěi fùmǔqīn dài xínglǐ. 我不给父母亲带行李。

I'm not bringing them the luggage.

[L. I not give **them** **bring** luggage.] Wǒ bù gěi tāmen dài xínglǐ. 我不给他们带行李。

I'm not bringing it to them.

[L. I not give them **bring-come**.] Wǒ bù gěi tāmen dài lái. 我不给他们带来。

In spoken Mandarin, "lái" 来 (come) or another word indicating direction like "qù" 去 (go) is often added to "dài" 带 (bring) when it occurs at the end of a sentence.

He did not rent them a car.

[L. He did not **give** them **rent** car.] Tā méi gěi tāmen zū chē. 他没给他们租车。

He did not speak with them.

[L. He did not **with** them **speak** speech.] Tā méi gēn tāmen shuō huà. 他没跟他们说话。

to the **movie theater**. dào diànyǐngyuàn 到电影院

We did not take them to the movie theater.

[L. We **did not** **take** them to movie theater.] Wǒmen méi dài tāmen dào diànyǐngyuàn. 我们没带他们到电影院。

When the word "méi" 没 is used in negative sentences instead of "bù" 不, it very often indicates the past tense without needing more context. In this case, "méi" 没 can be translated as "did not".

LESSON 66 – THE CAR

DÌ LIÙSHÍLIÙ KÈ – QÌCHĒ

第六十六课 - 汽车

In China, most people don't own cars and car rental is not common, so many travelers don't drive, get gas, etc. But car ownership in China is increasing rapidly.

to drive/drive car kāi chē. 开车
 She **knows how** to drive./She **can drive** car. Tā **huì** kāi chē. 她**会**开车。
 huì= can/able/know how to, vs. néng= able/possible

Do you **know how** to drive? [L. You **can** drive car (q.)?] . . . Nǐ **huì** kāi chē **ma**? 你**会**开车吗?
 No, I don't know how to drive./**Not know how**. **Bú huì**. **不会**。

Yes, I **have driven** my parents' car.

[L. Can, I **drive (asp.)** me **parents** (p.) car.] Huì, wǒ **kāiguò** wǒ **fùmǔqīn** de chē. 会, 我**开过**我**父母**
 亲的车。

Questions using a verb are often answered by repeating the verb.

went to the school [L. to **school** go (asp.)] dào **xuéxiào** qùle. 到**学校**去了
 I drove to the school yesterday.

[L. I **Yesterday** drive car **to** school go (asp.)] Wǒ **zuótiān** kāi chē **dào** **xuéxiào** qùle. 我**昨天**开车到**学校**
 去了。

But now the motor doesn't work./

Now motor broke. [L. **Now** motor **break** (asp.)]. Xiànzài mótuō **huàile**. 现在摩托**坏**了。
 gasoline/gas-oil. qìyóu. 汽油

oil/machine-oil	jīyóu	机油
You need to add gasoline.	Nǐ xūyào jiā qìyóu.	你需要加汽油。
I also need oil.	Wǒ yě xūyào jīyóu.	我也需要机油。
once/ one time	yíxià	一下
to check/to inspect.	jiǎnchá.	检查
Can you check the oil, please? [L. Please you inspect one time oil.]	Qǐng nǐ jiǎnchá yíxià jīyóu.	请你检查一下机油。
"Yíxià" 一下 means "one time", "once" or "a short while". In a request, when placed after a verb, it softens the request and makes it more informal, as in "Will you please take a quick look...".		
service station/ add-oil station	jiāyóu zhàn.	加油站
Where is the nearest service station? [L. Most near (p.) add-gas station at where?]	Zuì jìn de jiāyóu zhàn zài nǎr?	最近的加油站在哪儿?
It's somewhere near here. [L. At here vicinity./Here vicinity have .]	Zài zhèr fùjìn./Zhèr fùjìn yǒu.	在这儿附近。/这儿附近有。
I would like to change this tire	Wǒ xiǎng huàn zhège lúntāi.	我想换这个轮胎。
Please give me 20 liters of gasoline.	Qǐng gěi wǒ èrshí shēng qìyóu.	请给我二十升汽油。
Please add gas	Qǐng jiā yóu.	请加油。
Fill the tank, please./Please add full gas.	Qǐng jiā mǎn yóu.	请加满油。
The phrase "jiā yóu" 加油 is a common phrase for "add gas" (rather than "add oil"). With "mǎn" 满 in between it indicates a full tank. "Jiā yóu" 加油 is also used to cheer on athletes during competition.		
to hold in the mouth/to contain	hán	含
leaded gasoline/contain lead gasoline	hán qiān qìyóu	含铅汽油
unleaded gasoline [L. no lead gasoline].	wú qiān qìyóu	无铅汽油

diesel fuel/ firewood-oil	chái yóu	柴油
premium gasoline/ excellent quality gasoline	yōuzhì qìyóu	优质 汽油
regular gasoline/ common gasoline	pǔtōng qìyóu	普通 汽油
Mandarin/ common speech	pǔtōnghuà	普通 话
I have a flat tire./Tire not have air [(asp.).]	Lúntāi méi yǒu qì le.	轮胎 没有 气了。
I have a flat tire./ My tire shriveled	Wǒ de lúntāi biě le.	我的 轮胎 瘪 了。
I want to check the tire pressure. [L. I want inspect tire pressure .]	Wǒ yào jiǎnchá lúntāi yā lì.	我要 检查 轮胎 压力 。
to start up/ start-move	kāidòng	开 动
"Kāi" 开 means "to open", "to start", "to operate", "to drive" (among many other things). "Kāidòng" 开动 is "to start up".		
the starter/ start-move-machine	fādòngjī	发 动机
The starter doesn't work./ Starter broke. [L. Start-move-machine break (asp.).]	fādòngjī huà ile.	发 动机 坏 了。
the battery [L. electric pool]	diànchǐ	电 池
The battery is dead. [L. Battery break (asp.).]	Diànchǐ huà ile.	电 池 坏 了。

Table of Contents

Disc 1: Tracks 1-8

- 1: Introduction
- 2: Lesson 51 More Practice with the Past Tense
- 3: Lesson 51 Continued
- 4: Lesson 52 The Verb "To Be" (Past and Present Tense)
Translated into Chinese
- 5: Lesson 53 The Verb "To Have" – Past Tense
- 6: Lesson 54 Speaking About the Past with Some Common Verbs
- 7: Lesson 55 Using the "Shì" and "Shì...De" Constructions for Emphasis and Past Tense
- 8: Lesson 56 Adding to Verbs Using the Particle "De" or the Negative "Bù"

Disc 2: Tracks 1-5

- 1: Lesson 57 The Verb Suffix "Guo" – Speaking About the Past
- 2: Lesson 58 The Verb Suffix "Zhe" – Speaking About Ongoing Action
- 3: Lesson 59 Some Important Concepts
- 4: Lesson 59 Continued
- 5: Lesson 60 More Important Concepts

Disc 3: Tracks 1-7

- 1: Lesson 61 Some Useful Sentences in the Present Tense
- 2: Lesson 61 Continued
- 3: Lesson 62 Using Direct Object Pronouns in Sentences
- 4: Lesson 63 Using Indirect Object Pronouns in Sentences
- 5: Lesson 64 More Indirect Object Pronouns
- 6: Lesson 65 Pronouns in Negative Sentences
- 7: Lesson 66 The Car