



Mandarin Chinese Guaranteed

Audioscript

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[CD 3]

Lesson Six

In this dialogue, you will hear people talking about dates and schedules.

Let's practice the words and expressions you will learn in this chapter:

tomorrow

míng tiān

míng tiān

date; order

hào

hào

again

yòu

yòu

long; of long duration

cháng

cháng

correct

duì

duì

an interjection: ah; oh

yā

yā

Independence Day

dú lì jié

dú lì jié

birthday

shēng rì

shēng rì

in that case

nà

nà

to treat

qǐng kè

qǐng kè

o'clock

diǎn zhōng

diǎn zhōng

half

bàn

bàn

How does that sound?

zěn me yàng

zěn me yàng

Listen carefully to the following dialogue. Zhong Wang and Wen Li are talking about time and date. They end up planning to see another movie together on Independence Day.

Míng tiān shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?

Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.

Yòu shì yí gè cháng zhōu mò.

Duì yā! Míng tiān shì dú lì jié, yě shì wǒ de shēng rì.

Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba. Wǒ qǐngkè.

Hǎo a! Jǐ diǎn zhōng?

Liù diǎn bàn, zěn me yàng?

Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn, bú jiàn bú sǎn.

Bú jiàn bú sǎn.

Mr. Wang began the dialogue by asking Ms. Li what the date was the next day, using the word for "tomorrow". Repeat:

míng tiān

míng tiān

The word

jǐ

is used before a noun or a measure word to ask about an unknown quantity. In this question

jǐ yuè jǐ hào

means "what month, what date". Literally, the man asked: "Tomorrow is what month, what date?" Repeat:

Míng tiān shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?

Míng tiān shì jī yuè jī hào?

The woman answered: "It is Monday, July the 4th." In Chinese, there is no word meaning "it" to indicate time. So the woman used

míng tiān

meaning "tomorrow" in her answer. She said

Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.

Remember the word order for saying the date in Chinese?

It is "month, date, day of the week". Let's repeat:

Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.

Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.

Mr. Wang realizes that Monday, July the 4th is a holiday, so they will have a long weekend. Did you hear how to say "a long weekend" in Chinese?

It was

yí gè cháng zhōu mò

yí gè cháng zhōu mò

What about "again"? That was

yòu shì

yòu shì

Now let's put the sentence together: "a long weekend again".

Yòu shì yí gè cháng zhōu mò.

Yòu shì yí gè cháng zhōu mò.

And what about Ms. Li? She was quite happy that the holiday was coming up, and besides, she said, it was her birthday! Let's listen to what she said:

Duì yā! Míng tiān shì dú lì jié, yě shì wǒ de shēng rì.

First, Miss Li responded with excitement. She said:

Duì yā!

Which means: "That's right!" Listen:

Duì yā!

Then she added: "Tomorrow is Independence Day."

To say "Independence Day" in Chinese, it's

Dú lì jié

Let's say "Tomorrow is Independence Day." Repeat:

Míng tiān shì dú lì jié.

Míng tiān shì dú lì jié.

Good! Ms. Li said it is also her birthday. "Birthday" is

shēng rì

Now let's say "my birthday".

wǒ de shēng rì

Please repeat: "It is also my birthday."

yě shì wǒ de shēng rì

yě shì wǒ de shēng rì

Then Mr. Wang suggested that they go to a movie together, to celebrate.

Repeat:

Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.

Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.

Do you remember earlier when Wen Li suggested that they could go see movies together? She said: "We can go to see movies together on weekends." That was:

Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yì qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.

Let's compare it with the sentence in this chapter:

Wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.

Did you notice the difference in front of the noun "**diàn yǐng**"?

Listen once more:

Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yì qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.

Wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.

Yes, there is an extra word in the second sentence.

gè

It is the shortened form of

yí gè

It is the measure word or counter of the noun that follows, in this case

diàn yǐng

which means "movie". The first sentence, without the word

gè

can mean either one or more movies. The second sentence, with the word

yī

means "a movie". Now let's repeat what Mr. Wang said next:

Wǒ qǐng kè.

Wǒ qǐng kè.

Literally the sentence means: "I'm inviting guest", which in English would be "My treat."

Ms. Li accepted by saying: "Okay, what time?" That was:

Hǎo a! Jǐ diǎn zhōng?

Again the question word

jǐ

is used to ask about an unknown number: "What time?" Let's repeat:

Jǐ diǎn zhōng?

Jǐ diǎn zhōng?

And the answer is "6:30. Is that alright?"

Liù diǎn bàn, zěn me yàng?

Zěn me yàng?

is a very common expression used to confirm a request. Repeat:

Zěn me yàng?

Zěn me yàng?

Ms. Li quickly agreed by saying: "See you at 6:30, tomorrow." That was:

Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn.

Do you remember where time words go in Chinese sentences? Yes, they go before the verb. And the bigger unit always goes first. So the word order of this sentence actually is: "Tomorrow, 6:30, see you".

Let's try that again. Repeat:

Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn.

Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn.

How did Mr. Wang and Miss Li end their conversation? They have set a time and date to meet, and finally Ms. Li said: "Don't leave until we meet." That was:

Bú jiàn bú sà.

Bú jiàn bú sà.

This is a very common expression in Chinese that is used after people have made plans. Chinese is a language rich in four-character expressions such as this one. In Chapter 3, you learned another one of these. Do you remember how Zhong Wang greeted Wen Li? He said: "Long time no see!"

Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn.

Let's repeat the expressions one more time.

Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn .

Bú jiàn bú sà.

At the end of the conversation, Mr. Wang responded to Ms. Li's suggestion by repeating what she had said: "Don't leave until we meet."

Bú jiàn bú sà.

Now listen to the whole conversation again, and try to follow along.

Míng tiān shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?

Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.

Yòu shì yí gè cháng zhōu mò.

Duì yā! Míng tiān shì dú lì jié, yě shì wǒ de shēng rì.

Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba. Wǒ qǐngkè.

Hǎo a! Jǐ diǎn zhōng?

Liù diǎn bàn, zěn me yàng?

Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn, bú jiàn bú sà.

Bú jiàn bú sà.

Now, play the role of Mr. Wang in the conversation by filling in the blanks.

First ask "What's tomorrow's date?"

Míng tiān shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?

Míng tiān shì qī yuè èr hào, xīng qī liù.

Did you understand what date she said? Listen again:

Míng tiān shì qī yuè èr hào, xīng qī liù.

She said, tomorrow is July the second, Saturday.

Ask her if she wants to go to a movie with you.

Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.

Hǎo a! Jǐ diǎn zhōng?

She said yes! Suggest a time to meet. Say "Is eight o'clock alright?"

Bā diǎn zhōng, zěn me yàng?

Míng tiān bā diǎn zhōng jiàn, bú jiàn bú sà.

Repeat what the woman said as an agreement: "Don't leave until we meet."

Bú jiàn bú sà.

Lesson Seven

In this chapter you are going to learn how to bargain in the Chinese markets.
First, let's practice the new vocabulary you will learn in this chapter

a measure word for flat surface

zhāng

zhāng

small plate; a colloquial word for CD

dié

dié

How much?

duō shǎo

duō shǎo

money

qián

qián

informal for “**yuán**”, the basic unit of money in China

kuài

kuài

extremely

tài

tài

a particle

le

le

expensive

guì

guì

cheap

pián yi

pián yi

buy

mǎi

mǎi

the number two, used before a measure word

liǎng
liǎng
sell

mài
mài
want

yào
yào
cash

xiàn jīn
xiàn jīn
over there

nà biān
nà biān
credit card

xìn yòng kǎ
xìn yòng kǎ
only

zhǐ
zhǐ

Dialogue One

In this dialogue, you will hear how people ask for and negotiate prices in a market. Ms. Li is a very smart shopper. Listen carefully to the whole dialogue first and see how much you can understand.

Xiān sheng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?

Shí'èr kuài wǔ yì zhāng, xiǎo jie.

Yì zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ? Tài guì le, pián yi yì diǎn ba.

Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.

Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yī zhāng ba.

Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.

So, could you figure out how much money she saved on the CD?

She saved two fifty. Let's hear how Miss Li asked for the price. She started by asking the vendor: "Sir, how much is this CD?" Repeat:

"Sir" is

xiān sheng

xiān sheng

How did she say "this CD"?

zhè zhāng dié

zhè zhāng dié

The word

dié

which means CD, is actually the same as the word for "plate" or "dish", since they have the same shape. Young people will also recognize the English word CD. The word

zhāng

is a measure word or counter, that goes before a noun indicating a flat surface. Did you notice how she asked "How much?" Repeat:

Duō shǎo qián?

Duō shǎo qián?

This is the most common way to ask for a price in Chinese. Ms Li said

zhè

"this", followed by the measure word

zhāng

Depending on the object, she might have needed a different measure word, like

gè

Next, she said the name of the object,

dié

followed by

duō shǎo qián?

Now, try to repeat the whole sentence: "Sir, how much is this CD?"

Xiān shēng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?

Xiān shēng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?

The man said: "Twelve kuai fifty each, Miss." That was

Shí'èr kuài wǔ yì zhāng, xiǎo jie.

Shí'èr kuài wǔ yì zhāng, xiǎo jie.

Did you hear how to say "twelve kuai fifty"? Repeat:

shí'èr kuài wǔ

shí'èr kuài wǔ

The word

kuài

is the colloquial word for the basic Chinese unit of money,

yuán

wǔ

in the phrase means five dimes, or 50 cents. In Chinese currency, there is one more unit:

jiǎo

which in spoken Chinese is also

máo

Please note, the last unit is usually dropped when it appears at the end of the phrase, so in this case it's just

shí'èr kuài wǔ

not

shí'èr kuài wǔ máo

Let's repeat the whole sentence one more time. "Twelve kuai fifty each, Miss."

Shí'èr kuài wǔ yī zhāng, xiǎo jie.

Shí'èr kuài wǔ yī zhāng, xiǎo jie.

Does Miss Li like the price?

No she didn't.

She said: "Twelve kuai fifty for one CD? That's too expensive." Repeat:

Yī zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ? Tài guì le.

Yī zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ? Tài guì le.

You probably understood the first part: she just repeated the price with a rising tone to show disagreement. Listen once more:

Yì zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ?

Yì zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ?

Next, she said

Tài guì le.

"Too expensive." This expression is very useful for the street market in China.

In order to get a good deal, say "That's too expensive". Repeat:

Tài guì le.

Tài guì le.

followed by

pián yì yì diǎn ba

which means "Cut down the price a little". Let's repeat:

pián yì yì diǎn ba

pián yì yì diǎn ba

Let's repeat the whole sentence one more time:

Tài guì le, pián yì yì diǎn ba.

Tài guì le, pián yì yì diǎn ba.

Most vendors in China are willing to reduce their price in order to make a sale, but they may try to bargain a little more. In this dialogue, the vendor offered: "Twenty for two".

That was

Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.

Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.

In this sentence, the phrase "for two items" comes first. Repeat:

Mǎi liǎng zhāng

Mǎi liǎng zhāng

Then, the vendor says "twenty kuai". How would you say that in Chinese?

èr shí kuài

èr shí kuài

Good! Now let's try the whole phrase: "Twenty kuai for two."

Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.

Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.

Miss Li didn't want to buy two CDs, so she responded: "I only need to buy one CD. Sell me one for 10 kuai." Let's listen to the whole sentence:

Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.

How did she say "I only want to buy one"? Repeat:

zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng

zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng

The word

zhǐ

is similar to "only" in English. It comes before the verb, which in this sentence is

mǎi

meaning "to buy". So,

zhǐ mǎi

means "only to buy". So Miss Li continued negotiating. She said: "Sell me one for 10 kuai, will you?" Repeat:

Mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.

Mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.

Was Miss Li successful? Yes, the vendor let her buy one for 10 kuai, but asked for cash. Let's repeat: "Okay, I want cash."

Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.

Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.

Remember how Miss Li accepted when Mr. Wang invited her to see a movie in the previous chapter? She said "okay!" That was

Hǎo a!

Hǎo a!

This is a phrase used to show an agreement. Here in this sentence, the vendor says

Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.

In this phrase he uses

ba

instead of

a

to also indicate agreement. Let's repeat

Hǎo ba!

Hǎo ba!

When you travel in China, make sure you have enough cash to make purchases in the markets. Credit cards are accepted mostly in large department stores and hotels. So a phrase you may hear a lot in China is:

Yào xiàn jīn.

Cash please.

Let's listen to the dialogue once more.

Xiān sheng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?

Shí'èr kuài wǔ yì zhāng, xiǎo jie.

Yì zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ? Tài guì le, pián yi yì diǎn ba.

Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.

Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yī zhāng ba.

Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.

Now play the role of Miss Li, and bargain with the vendor. Start with "Sir, how much is this CD?"

Zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?

Zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?

What would you say if the vendor gives you a price that you think is too high?

Tài guì le, pián yi yì diǎn ba.

Tài guì le, pián yi yì diǎn ba.

The vendor gives you a lower price but wants you to buy more. Say that you only want one, and ask him to sell you one for ten kuai.

Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.

Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.

Good! Now you are on your way to negotiating in Chinese markets.

Let's practice bargaining in a market. You want to buy a CD. Start by asking the vendor how much for one:

Xiān shēng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?

Shí wǔ kuài yì zhāng.

Did you understand how much that is?

Right, that was fifteen kuai each.

Shí wǔ kuài yì zhāng.

Shí wǔ kuài yì zhāng.

Repeat the price, and tell him that is too expensive

Yì zhāng shí wǔ kuài, tài guì le!

Ask, "Can you lower the price a little?"

Pián yi yì diǎn hǎo ma?

Let's listen to the dialogue once more:

Xiān shēng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?

Shí wǔ kuài yì zhāng.

Yì zhāng shí wǔ kuài? Tài guì le, pián yi yì diǎn ba.

Good! Let's try another one. This time you want to buy a book. Do you remember the Chinese word for "book"?

shū

The counter, or measure word, that you use with "book" is

běn

běn

Ask "Sir, how much is this book?"

Xiān shēng, zhè běn shū duō shǎo qián?

Èr shí kuài yì běn, xiǎo jie.

Did you understand how much it is? Listen to just the price:

Èr shí kuài

Èr shí kuài

Twenty kuai each. Repeat the price, then tell him "That's too expensive."

Yì běn shū èr shí kuài? Tài guì le.

Ask, "Could you cut the price a little?"

Pián yi yì diǎn ba?

Listen to the man's response, and see if you can tell what price he's offering you:

Hǎo ba, shí wǔ kuài.

So, how much did he offer you? Listen to the price once more:

shí wǔ kuài

shí wǔ kuài

He offered you a price of fifteen kuai. So, how much money did you save? Say it in Chinese!

wǔ kuài

Five kuai.

Let's listen to the dialogue once more:

Xiān shēng, zhè běn shū duō shǎo qián?

Èr shí kuài yī běn, xiǎo jie.

Yì běn shū èr shí kuài? Tài guì le. Pián yi yì diǎn ba?

Hǎo ba, shí wǔ kuài.

Lesson Eight

In this lesson, you will learn how to reserve a room and seat.

The new words you will learn in this lesson are as follows:

Hotel, or, restaurant

fàn diàn

fàn diàn

to help

bāng zhù

bāng zhù

to reserve (a seat, ticket, etc.)

dìng

dìng

measure word

gè

gè

room

fáng jiān

fáng jiān

single room

dān rén jiān

dān rén jiān

double room

shuāng rén jiān

shuāng rén jiān

how much?

duō shǎo

duō shǎo

day

tiān

tiān

Chinese currency

Rén mín bì

Rén mín bì

hundred

bǎi

bǎi

seat

wèi zi

wèi zi

time

shí jiān

shí jiān

to smoke (a cigarette)

chōu yān

chōu yān

Listen carefully to the dialogue. Mr. Wang calls a hotel to book a room. See if you can understand whether he books a single or a double room.

Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?

Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?

Wǒ xiǎng dīng yí gè fáng jiān.

Shì dān rén jiān ma?

Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān. Duō shǎo qián yì tiān?

Rén mǐn bì sān bǎi kuài.

Hǎo. Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?

Shōu.

So were you able to understand what kind of room he wants?

Mr. Wang wanted to book a double room. Now let's see what else they said. Mr.

Wang started by asking

Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?

“Is this Beijing Hotel, please?”

Did the first phrase sound familiar? Listen again:

qǐng wèn

What does it mean?

Yes, it means “May I ask?”

fàn diàn

means “hotel” here, and

Běijīng Fàn Diàn

is the name of a hotel. So,

shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?

means “Is this Beijing Hotel?” Repeat the whole sentence:

Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?

Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?

The woman replied:

shì

which means “yes.” Then she asked:

wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?

Did

kě yǐ

sound familiar?

That’s right, it means “may” or “can” and

bāng zhù

means “help”. So

wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?

means “Can I help you?”

Now put everything together and repeat the sentence:

Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?

Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?

Next, Mr. Wang said

Wǒ xiǎng dìng yí gè fáng jiān.

Did

xiǎng

sound familiar? Do you remember what it means?

It means “want” or “would like to”.

dìng

means “to reserve”, and

fáng jiān

means “room.” So,

dìng fáng jiān

means “to reserve room”. Repeat:

dìng fáng jiān

dìng fáng jiān

Did you notice that Mr. Wang also used

gè

before the number

yí

“one”? That’s because in Chinese, a number cannot modify a noun directly. Instead, a measure word is needed between a numeral and a noun. Different nouns are modified by different measure words, but

gè

is one of the most frequently used. This serves the same function as the measure word

zhāng

for CDs and flat surfaces, which we learned in the last chapter.

Now repeat the whole sentence again:

Wǒ xiǎng dīng yí gè fáng jiān.

Wǒ xiǎng dīng yí gè fáng jiān.

Next, the woman asked:

Shì dān rén jiān ma?

Is it single room?

dān rén jiān

means “single room”. Repeat:

dān rén jiān

Say the whole sentence one more time:

Shì dān rén jiān ma?

Shì dān rén jiān ma?

Mr. Wang replied:

Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān.

No, it’s a double room.

shuāng rén jiān

means “double room.” Repeat that sentence again:

Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān.

Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān.

Then he asked something else. See if you can recognize the question:

Duō shǎo qián yì tiān?

Did the phrase

duō shǎo

sound familiar?

It means “How much?” Mr. Wang's question was, "How much is it per day?"

qián

means “money”, and

tiān

means “day”, so

yi tiān

here means “per day”. Did you notice that Mr. Wang didn't use

ma

in the end of that sentence? Can you figure out why?

It's just like the words “where” and “who”

nǎ lǐ

shéi

When

duō shǎo

is used in a question, the word

ma

is not needed. Repeat the whole sentence:

Duō shǎo qián yi tiān?

Duō shǎo qián yi tiān?

The woman told hi

Rén mǐn bì sān bǎi kuài.

Three hundred Chinese dollars.

rén mǐn bì

means “Chinese currency”. For the numbers, remember that

sān

means “three”, and

bǎi

means “hundred. So

sān bǎi

means “three hundred”.

kuài

means “dollar”, so putting it all together

sān bǎi kuài

means “three hundred dollars.” Repeat:

sān bǎi kuài

Now repeat the whole sentence:

Rén mín bì sān bǎi kuài.

Rén mín bì sān bǎi kuài.

Mr. Wang said:

Hǎo. Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?

“Good. Do you accept credit cards?” Do you remember the word

shōu

That’s right, it means “to accept”. What about

xìn yòng kǎ

Yes, you also learned that before. It means “credit card.”

Repeat the whole sentence:

Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?

Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?

And the woman’s reply was very simple. See if you can recognize what she said:

Shōu.

She said “yes”.

Let’s listen to the dialogue again.

Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?

Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?

Wǒ xiǎng dìng yí gè fáng jiān.

Shì dān rén jiān ma?

Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān. Duō shǎo qián yì tiān?

Rén mín bì sān bǎi kuài.

Hǎo. Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?

Shōu.

Now it’s your turn.

Suppose you call a hotel to reserve a room. The receptionist answers the phone, and says:

Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?

Say “I’d like to reserve a single room.”

Wǒ xiǎng dìng yí gè dān rén jiān.

Hǎo.

Ask how much it is per day.

Duō shǎo qián yì tiān?

Rén mín bì èr bǎi kuài.

So, how much is the hotel per day? Listen to the price once more:

Rén mǐn bì èr bǎi kuài.

It's two hundred kuai per day.

Dialogue Two

Listen carefully to this dialogue. Mr. Wang will talk with a woman over the phone to reserve some seats at a restaurant. See if you can understand how many seats he books.

Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.

Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.

Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?

Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.

Chōu yān ma?

Bù chōu.

So were you able to figure out how many seats Mr. Wang wants?
He wanted to reserve five seats. Now let's see what else they said.
The woman began by saying

Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.

“Hello, this is China Restaurant.”

wéi

is always used in the beginning of a phone conversation.

fàn diàn

means “restaurant” here, and

Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn

is the name of a specific restaurant. Repeat the whole sentence one more time.

“Hello, this is China Restaurant”:

Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.

Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.

Mr. Wang replied:

Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.

“Hello. I'd like to reserve five seats.” You already know how to say “five”. That's

wǔ

wèi zi

means “seat”. And you already know why the measure word

gè

is used between the number

wǔ

and the noun

wèi zi

Putting the whole sentence together,

dìng wǔ gè wèi zi

means “reserve five seats”. Repeat the whole sentence once more:

Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.

Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.

The woman replied:

Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?

“When are you coming?” Did

shén me

sound familiar? What does it mean?

That’s right, it means “what”.

shí jiān

means “time”. So

shén me shí jiān

means “what time”. Repeat:

shén me shí jiān

shén me shí jiān

Did the word

lái

sound familiar also? It means “to come”. Repeat the whole sentence:

Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?

Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?

See if you can recognize the time in Mr. Wang’s response. He says:

Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.

Listen once more:

Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.

He said “7:00 PM today.” Do you remember the word

jīn tiān

That’s right, it means “today.”

wǎn shàng

means “evening”. And what’s the meaning of

qī diǎn

Yes, it means “7:00”. Did you notice that Mr. Wang mentioned

qī diǎn

“7:00” last in the sentence? That’s because there are several units of time here, so you need to mention the largest one first, and the smallest one last. In this case, it was first “today” then “evening” then finally “seven o’clock”. Try the whole sentence again:

Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.

Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.

Then the woman asked another question:

Chōu yān ma?

Do you smoke?

chōu yān

means “to smoke”. Repeat:

Chōu yān ma?

Chōu yān ma?

And Mr. Wang’s answer was very simple. Did he say “yes” or “no”?

Bù chōu.

Bù chōu.

He said “no”.

Very good. Let’s listen to the dialogue again.

Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.

Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.

Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?

Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.

Chōu yān ma?

Bù chōu.

Now suppose you want to reserve some seats in a restaurant. Talk to the waitress in the following dialogue. First, say “Hello, I’d like to reserve three seats”.

Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng sān gè wèi zi.

Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?

Did you understand what she asked you?

Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?

That was “when are you coming?” Tell the waitress “6:00 p.m. today.”

Jīn tiān wǎn shàng liù diǎn.

Very good!

Now, let's review some vocabulary.

tomorrow

míng tiān

míng tiān

date; order

hào

hào

again

yòu

yòu

long; of long duration

cháng

cháng

correct

duì

duì

an interjection: ah; oh

yā

yā

Independence Day

dú lì jié

dú lì jié

birthday

shēng rì

shēng rì

in that case

nà

nà

to treat

qǐng kè

qǐng kè

o'clock

diǎn zhōng

diǎn zhōng

half

bàn

bàn

How does that sound?

zěn me yàng

zěn me yàng

a measure word for flat surface

zhāng

zhāng

small plate; a colloquial word for CD

dié

dié

How much?

duō shǎo

duō shǎo

money

qián

qián

informal for “**yuán**”, the basic unit of money in China

kuài

kuài

extremely

tài

tài

a particle

le

le

expensive

guì

guì

cheap

pián yi

pián yi

buy

mǎi

mǎi

the number two, used before a measure word

liǎng

liǎng

sell

mài

mài

want

yào

yào

cash

xiàn jīn

xiàn jīn

over there

nà biān

nà biān

credit card

xìn yòng kǎ

xìn yòng kǎ

only

zhǐ

zhǐ