

## Lesson 5

### 第五课

Dì wǔ kè

# 看朋友

Kàn péngyou

## VISITING FRIENDS

### Learning Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn to:

- Welcome a visitor
- Introduce one person to another
- Be a gracious guest
- Ask for beverages as a guest
- Offer beverages to a visitor
- Briefly describe a visit to a friend's place

### Relate & Get Ready

In your own culture/community:

- Is it common to visit a friend's place without advance notice?
- Do people bring anything when visiting a friend's home?
- What food and drinks do hosts commonly offer guests?

# Visiting a Friend's Place

## Dialogue

Wang Peng and Li You visit Gao Wenzhong and meet his sister, Gao Xiaoyin.  
(The doorbell rings.)



谁呀?

是我, 王朋, 还有李友。

请进, 请进, 快进来! 来, 我介绍一下<sup>1</sup>, 这是我姐姐, 高小音。

小音, 你好。认识你很高兴。

认识你们我也很高兴。

你们家很大<sup>2</sup>, 也很漂亮。

是吗?<sup>a</sup> 请坐, 请坐。

小音, 你在哪儿<sup>b</sup>工作?

我在学校工作。你们想喝点儿<sup>1</sup>什么? 喝茶还是喝咖啡?

我喝茶吧<sup>4</sup>。

我要一瓶可乐, 可以吗?

对不起, 我们家没有可乐。

那给我一杯水吧。



(The doorbell rings.)

Shéi ya?

Shì wǒ, Wáng Péng, hái yǒu Lǐ Yǒu.

Qǐng jìn, qǐng jìn, kuài jìn lái! Lái, wǒ jièshào yí xià<sup>1</sup>, zhè shì wǒ jiějie, Gāo Xiǎoyīn.

Xiǎoyīn, nǐ hǎo. Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng.

Rènshi nǐmen wǒ yě hěn gāoxìng.

Nǐmen jiā hěn dà<sup>2</sup>, yě hěn piàoliang.

Shì ma?<sup>a</sup> Qǐng zuò, qǐng zuò.

Xiǎoyīn, nǐ zài nǎr<sup>b</sup> gōngzuò?

Wǒ zài xuéxiào gōngzuò. Nǐmen xiǎng hē diǎnr<sup>1</sup> shénme? Hē chá hái shì hē kāfēi?

Wǒ hē chá ba<sup>4</sup>.

Wǒ yào yì píng kělè, kěyǐ ma?

Duìbuqǐ, wǒmen jiā méi yǒu kělè.

Nà gěi wǒ yì bēi shuǐ ba.

## Language Notes

### a 是吗? (Shì ma?)

"Is that so?" or "Really?" It is a rhetorical question here. This is a modest way to respond to a compliment.

### b 哪儿 (nǎr)

A question word meaning "where." Do not confuse it with 那儿 (nàr) (there). "Here" is 这儿 (zhèr).

# Vocabulary



Audio



Flashcards

No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
1	呀	ya	p	(interjectory particle used to soften a question)
2	进	jìn	v	to enter
3	快	kuài	adv/adj	fast, quick; quickly
4	进来	jìn lái	vc	to come in
5	来	lái	v	to come
6	介绍	jièshào	v	to introduce
7	一下	yí xià	n+m	once, a bit [See Grammar 1.]
8	高兴	gāoxìng	adj	happy, pleased
9	漂亮	piàoliang	adj	pretty
10	坐	zuò	v	to sit
11	在	zài	prep	at, in, on [See Grammar 3.]
12	哪儿	nǎr	qpr	where
13	学校	xuéxiào	n	school
14	喝	hē	v	to drink
15	点(儿)	diǎn(r)	m	a little, a bit, some [See Grammar 1.]
16	茶	chá	n	tea
17	咖啡	kāfēi	n	coffee
18	吧	ba	p	(a sentence-final particle) [See Grammar 4.]
19	要	yào	v	to want
20	瓶	píng	m	(measure word for bottled liquid, etc.)
21	可乐	kělè	n	cola



China's booming soft drinks market offers consumers a variety of choices. Can you identify these flavors?

GET Real WITH CHINESE

No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
22	可以	kěyǐ	mv	can, may
23	对不起	duìbuqǐ	v	sorry
24	给	gěi	v	to give
25	杯	bēi	m	(measure word for things contained in a cup or glass)
26	水	shuǐ	n	water
27	高小音	Gāo Xiǎoyīn	pn	(a personal name)

你喜欢喝什么?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē shénme?  
What do you like to drink?



我喜欢喝 \_\_\_\_\_。  
Wǒ xǐhuan hē \_\_\_\_\_.

How About You?

See index for corresponding vocabulary or research another term.

## 1 Moderating tone of voice: 一下 (yí xià) and (一) 点儿 (yì diǎnr)

Following a verb, both 一下 (yí xià) (lit. “once”) and (一) 点儿 (yì diǎnr) (“a bit”) can soften the tone of a question or an imperative sentence, making it more polite. When used in this way, 一下 (yí xià) modifies the verb, while (一) 点儿 (yì diǎnr) modifies the object.

**A** 你看一下，这是谁的照片？

Nǐ kàn yí xià, zhè shì shéi de zhàopiàn?

Take a look. Whose photo is this?

**B** 你想吃点儿什么？

Nǐ xiǎng chī diǎnr shénme?

What would you like to eat?

**C** 你进来一下。

Nǐ jìn lái yí xià.

Come in for a minute.

**D** 你喝一点儿茶吧。

Nǐ hē yì diǎnr chá ba.

Have some tea.

### EXERCISES

Moderate the tone of these sentences by inserting 一下 or (一) 点儿.

Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 我看\_\_\_\_\_你的照片 → 我看一下你的照片。
- 我看\_\_\_\_\_你的书。
- 你喝\_\_\_\_\_咖啡。

## 2

## Adjectives as predicates using 很 (hěn) (very)

When an adjective functions as a predicate, it is not preceded by the verb 是 (shì) (to be). It is usually modified by 很 (hěn) (very)—as in (A), (B), (C), and (D)—or some other adverbial modifier. Although usually translated as “very,” 很 (hěn) is not quite as strong as its English equivalent when not stressed. It acts as an affirmative indicator. When forming a question with an adjective as the predicate, 很 (hěn) is not used, as in (E) and (F).

**A** 我今天很高兴。

Wǒ jīntiān hěn gāoxìng.

I'm very happy today.

**B** 他妹妹很漂亮。

Tā mèimei hěn piàoliang.

His younger sister is very pretty.

**C** 那个电影很好。

Nà ge diànyǐng hěn hǎo.

That movie is very good.

**D** 你们大学很大。

Nǐmen dàxué hěn dà.

Your university is very large.

**E** Q: 你弟弟高吗？

Nǐ dìdì gāo ma?

Is your younger brother tall?

A: 他很高。

Tā hěn gāo.

He is very tall.

**F** Q: 你家大吗？

Nǐ jiā dà ma?

Is your house big?

A: 我家不大，很小。

Wǒ jiā bú dà, hěn xiǎo.

My house is not big; it's very small.



More exercises

Chinese adjectives without **很** (*hěn*) or any sort of modifier before them can often imply comparison or contrast, as in (G) and (H).

- G** Q: 姐姐忙还是妹妹忙? A: 妹妹忙。  
*Jiějie máng háishi mèimei máng? Mèimei máng.*  
 Who's busier, the older sister or the younger sister? The younger sister is busier.

- H** 哥哥的中文好, 我的中文不好。  
*Gēge de Zhōngwén hǎo, wǒ de Zhōngwén bù hǎo.*  
 My older brother's Chinese is good. My Chinese is not good.

### EXERCISES

Use adjectives as predicates by inserting **很**. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 我弟弟          高。 → 我弟弟很高。  
 2 我妹妹今天          高兴。  
 3 王律师的中文          好。



More exercises

## 3 The preposition 在 (zài) (at, in, on)

**在** (*zài*) is a verb in (A).

- A** Q: 我的书在哪儿? A: 在那儿。  
*Wǒ de shū zài nǎr? Zài nàr.*  
 Where is my book? It's over there.

It is a preposition when a “**在** (*zài*) + location” appears before a verb, as in (B), (C), and (D).

- B** Q: 你在哪儿工作? A: 我在这儿工作。  
*Nǐ zài nǎr gōngzuò? Wǒ zài zhèr gōngzuò.*  
 Where do you work? I work here.

- C** 我在这个大学学中文。  
*Wǒ zài zhè ge dàxué xué Zhōngwén.*  
 I study Chinese at this university.

- D** 我不在家看电影。  
*Wǒ bú zài jiā kàn diànyǐng.*  
 I don't watch movies at home.

### EXERCISES

Form a question-and-answer about where each of the activities occurs, inserting **在** where appropriate. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 白英爱          跳舞          学校。  
 → Q: 白英爱在哪儿跳舞? A: 她在学校跳舞。  
 2 白英爱这个周末          喝茶          高文中家。  
 3 高文中明天          吃中国饭          老师家。



More exercises

## 4 The particle 吧 (ba)

**吧** (*ba*) is a sentence-final particle often used to soften the tone of a command or suggestion.

- A** 你喝咖啡吧。  
*Nǐ hē kāfēi ba.*  
 Why don't you have some coffee?

- C** 我们跳舞吧。  
*Wǒmen tiào wǔ ba.*  
 Let's dance.

- B** 请进来吧。  
*Qǐng jìn lai ba.*  
 Come in, please.

EXERCISES

Soften the tone of these suggestions by inserting 吧. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 你喝点儿水\_\_\_\_\_。 → 你喝点儿水吧。
- 我们明天去看中国电影\_\_\_\_\_。
- 你今天晚上去听音乐\_\_\_\_\_。

Chinese Chat

Gao Wenzhong just published a new post on Weibo (微博) (Weibó), a popular Chinese microblogging platform. Based on his tone, can you tell how he's feeling?



高文中

02-13 17:54 来自 iPhone 客户端

晚上朋友请客! 太高兴了! 去哪吃呀?  
@白英爱

转发 1

评论 7

赞 79

GET Real WITH CHINESE

Chinese lanterns are sometimes used as advertisements. What are these lanterns promoting?

photo courtesy of ShuWen Zhang

Language Practice

A

If you ask politely ...

Complete the sentences by using 一下 (yí xià) to moderate the tone of voice, e.g.:

You'd like to see a picture of your brother's girlfriend, so you ask him ...

哥哥, 我看一下你女朋友的照片, 好吗?

Gēge, wǒ kàn yí xià nǐ nǚpéngyou de zhàopiàn, hǎo ma?

- You'd like your friend Little Bai to introduce you to Miss Li, so you say ...

小白, 我想认识李小姐。请你\_\_\_\_\_。

Xiǎo Bái, wǒ xiǎng rènshi Lǐ xiǎojiě. Qǐng nǐ \_\_\_\_\_.

- You're at the doctor's office for your appointment; the nurse tells you the doctor is busy, and asks you to take a seat, so she says ...

对不起, 医生现在有事儿, 请你\_\_\_\_\_。

Duìbuqǐ, yīshēng xiànzài yǒu shìr, qǐng nǐ \_\_\_\_\_.

- Your roommate is streaming an album and suggests that you listen to it, so she says ...

这个音乐不错。你\_\_\_\_\_。

Zhè ge yīnyuè búcuò. Nǐ \_\_\_\_\_.

- Your teacher wants to talk to you after class and asks you to come with him, so he says ...

我有事儿找你。你\_\_\_\_\_。

Wǒ yǒu shìr zhǎo nǐ. Nǐ \_\_\_\_\_.

What do the characters mean?

What is the common radical?

What does the radical mean?

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

Characterize it!

1

菜

2

茶



More characters

## B

## What do you think?

INTERPERSONAL

In pairs, use the sentences to form questions about each other's personal opinions. Answer in the affirmative by inserting 很 (hěn) in the ◇, and then in the negative, e.g.:

高文中的家◇漂亮

Gāo Wénzhōng de jiā ◇ piàoliang

If people ask your opinion of Gao Wenzhong's house,

Q: 高文中的家漂亮吗?

Gāo Wénzhōng de jiā piàoliang ma?

and you think Gao Wenzhong's house is beautifully decorated (affirmative), you can say . . .

A: 高文中的家很漂亮。

Gāo Wénzhōng de jiā hěn piàoliang.

But, if you don't think Gao's house is beautifully decorated (negative), you can say . . .

A: 高文中的家不漂亮。

Gāo Wénzhōng de jiā bú piàoliang.

1 你的医生◇忙

nǐ de yīshēng ◇ máng

2 你的学校◇大

nǐ de xuéxiào ◇ dà

3 你的同学◇高兴

nǐ de tóngxué ◇ gāoxìng

4 你的老师◇好

nǐ de lǎoshī ◇ hǎo

5 你的书◇有意思

nǐ de shū ◇ yǒu yìsi

## C

## Hanging out

INTERPERSONAL

Where are Wang Peng and Li You and what are they doing there? Use the visual information and 在 (zài) to form different answers to the question, e.g.:



王朋和李友在学校看书。

Wáng Péng hé Lǐ Yǒu zài xuéxiào kàn shū.



Then ask your classmates where they like to do certain activities, e.g.:

你喜欢在哪儿看书/打球/听音乐?

Nǐ xǐhuan zài nǎr kàn shū/dǎ qiú/tīng yīnyuè?

## D

## May I offer you a refreshment?

INTERPERSONAL

In groups of five, act out a brief scenario. One of you is hosting a party for Gao Wenzhong, Wang Peng, Li You, and Bai Ying'ai. Find out what your guests would like to drink, and have them answer by using 吧 (ba), e.g.:



高文中，你想喝点儿什么?

Gāo Wénzhōng, nǐ xiǎng hē diǎnr shénme?



我喝茶吧。

Wǒ hē chá ba.



## E

## Do you know everyone in your class?

INTERPERSONAL

Form a circle and take turns introducing the classmate on your right to the classmate on your left.

Student A

我介绍一下，这是\_\_\_\_\_。

Wǒ jièshào yí xià, zhè shì \_\_\_\_\_.

Student B

认识你很高兴。我介绍一下，这是\_\_\_\_\_。

Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng. Wǒ jièshào yí xià, zhè shì \_\_\_\_\_.

Student C

认识你很高兴。我介绍一下，这是\_\_\_\_\_。

Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng. Wǒ jièshào yí xià, zhè shì \_\_\_\_\_.

Form groups of three and role-play the following exchange:

**Host** 你/你们想喝点儿什么?

Nǐ/Nǐmen xiǎng hē diǎnr shénme?

**Guests** 我喝\_\_\_\_\_吧。

Wǒ hē \_\_\_\_\_ba.

Apologize for not having that beverage and offer an alternative:

**Host** 对不起，没有\_\_\_\_\_。\_\_\_\_\_, 可以吗?

Duìbuqǐ, méiyǒu \_\_\_\_\_, kěyǐ ma?

The guests accept or ask for something else:

**Guests** 那给我一杯/一瓶\_\_\_\_\_吧。

Nà gěi wǒ yì bēi/yì píng \_\_\_\_\_ba.

In groups, interview your classmates about what they like to drink. Have a representative from each group record the results on the board, in a book, or on a computer, and another report the results to the class. Tally the results from all groups and have someone announce the class's favorite drinks.

你喜欢喝什么?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē shénme?

你喜欢喝可乐还是咖啡?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē kělè háishi kāfēi?

你喜欢喝茶吗?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē chá ma?

你喜欢喝水还是喝茶?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē shuǐ háishi hē chá?

# At a Friend's Place

## Narrative

Wang Peng and Li You visited Gao Wenzhong and Gao Xiayon.



昨天晚上，王朋和李友去高文中家玩儿。在高文中家，他们认识了<sup>5</sup>高文中的姐姐。她叫高小音，在学校的图书馆工作。她请王朋<sup>a</sup>喝茶，王朋喝了<sup>5</sup>两杯。李友不喝茶，只喝了一杯水。他们一起聊天儿、看电视。王朋和李友晚上十二点才<sup>6</sup>回家。



Audio



Video

Pinyin Narrative

Zuótiān wǎnshang, Wáng Péng hé Lǐ Yǒu qù Gāo Wénzhōng jiā wánr. Zài Gāo Wénzhōng jiā, tāmen rènshi le<sup>5</sup> Gāo Wénzhōng de jiějie. Tā jiào Gāo Xiǎoyīn, zài xuéxiào de túshūguǎn gōngzuò. Tā qǐng Wáng Péng hē<sup>a</sup> chá, Wáng Péng hē le<sup>5</sup> liǎng bēi. Lǐ Yǒu bù hē chá, zhǐ hē le yì bēi shuǐ. Tāmen yìqǐ liáo tiānr, kàn diànshì. Wáng Péng hé Lǐ Yǒu wǎnshang shí'èr diǎn cái<sup>6</sup> huí jiā.

Language Note

### <sup>a</sup> 喝 (hē)

Unlike its English counterpart, 喝 (hē) always functions as a transitive verb, i.e., unless it's clear from the context, the beverage has to be specified. Therefore, 他常常喝 (Tā chángcháng hē) is not a complete sentence unless the beverage is understood; e.g., when it occurs as an affirmative answer to a question:

**Q:** 他常常喝咖啡吗?

Tā chángcháng hē kāfēi ma?

Does he often drink coffee?

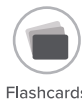
**A:** 他常常喝。

Tā chángcháng hē.

He often does.



# Vocabulary



No.	Word	Pinyin	Part of Speech	Definition
1	玩 (儿)	wán(r)	v	to have fun, to play
2	了	le	p	(a dynamic particle) [See Grammar 5.]
3	图书馆	túshūguǎn	n	library
4	一起	yìqǐ	adv	together
5	聊天 (儿)	liáo tiān(r)	vo	to chat
	聊	liáo	v	to chat
	天	tiān	n	sky
6	才	cái	adv	not until, only then [See Grammar 6.]
7	回家	huí jiā	vo	to go home
	回	huí	v	to return



How About You?

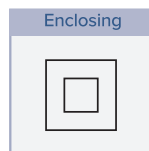
你在哪儿看书?

Nǐ zài nǎr kàn shū?  
Where do you read books?

我在\_\_\_\_\_看书。  
Wǒ zài \_\_\_\_\_ kàn shū.

See index for corresponding vocabulary or research another term.

Characterize it!



Which of these characters are formed with the pattern on the left?



# Grammar

5

## The particle 了 (le) (I)

The dynamic particle 了 (*le*) signifies : 1) the occurrence or completion of an action or event, or 2) the emergence of a situation. The action, event, or situation usually pertains to the past, but sometimes it can refer to the future. Therefore 了 (*le*) is not a “past tense” marker and should not be taken as the equivalent of the past tense in English. In this lesson, it indicates the occurrence or completion of an action or event. It is usually used directly after a verb. In interrogative and declarative sentences, it sometimes appears after a verb and the object of the verb.

**A** 今天妈妈喝了三杯水。

Jīntiān Māma hē le sān bēi shuǐ.

Mom drank three glasses of water today.

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN ACTION, IN THE PAST.

**B** 星期一小高请我喝了一瓶可乐。

Xīngqīyī Xiǎo Gāo qǐng wǒ hē le yì píng kělè.

On Monday, Little Gao bought me a bottle of cola.

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN EVENT, IN THE PAST.

**C** Q: 昨天晚上你去打球了吗?

Zuótiān wǎnshang nǐ qù dǎ qiú le ma?

Did you play ball last night?

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN EVENT, IN THE PAST, INTERROGATIVE

A: 昨天晚上我去打球了。

Zuótiān wǎnshang wǒ qù dǎ qiú le.

I went to play ball last night.

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN EVENT, IN THE PAST.

**D** 明天我吃了晚饭去看电影。

Míngtiān wǒ chī le wǎnfàn qù kàn diànyǐng.

Tomorrow I'll go see a movie after I eat dinner.

OCCURRENCE OR COMPLETION OF AN ACTION IN THE FIRST PART OF THE SENTENCE, IN THE FUTURE

There is often a specific time phrase in a sentence with the dynamic particle 了 (*le*), such as:

- 今天 (*jīntiān*) (today) in (A)
- 昨天晚上 (*zuótiān wǎnshang*) (last night) in (C)
- 星期一 (*xīngqīyī*) (Monday) in (B)

When 了 (*le*) is used between the verb and the object, the object is usually preceded by a modifier.

The following “numeral + measure word” is the most common type of modifier for the object:

- 三杯 (*sān bēi*) (three cups/glasses) in (A)
- 一瓶 (*yì píng*) (one bottle) in (B)

If there are other phrases or sentences following the object of the first clause, then the object does not need a modifier. See (D) above. This v 了 o+v (o) structure can be used to depict a sequence of actions regardless of the time of their occurrence.

If the object following 了 (*le*) is a proper noun, it doesn't need a modifier either. See (E).

**E** 我昨天看了《星球大战》，那个电影很好。

*Wǒ zuótiān kàn le «Xīngqiú Dàzhàn», nà ge diànyǐng hěn hǎo.*

I saw *Star Wars* yesterday. The movie was very good.

To say that an action did not take place in the past, use 没(有) (*méi [yǒu]*) instead of 不...了 (*bù ... le*) or 没有...了 (*méiyǒu ... le*), as in the example below.

**F** 昨天我没有听音乐。 [× 昨天我不听音乐了。]

*Zuótiān wǒ bù tīng yīnyuè le.*

I didn't listen to music yesterday.

[× 昨天我没有听音乐了。]

The following are examples of interrogative forms:

**G** Q: 你吃饭了吗? or 你吃饭了没有? A: 我没吃。

*Nǐ chī fàn le ma? or Nǐ chī fàn le méiyǒu?*

Have you eaten?

*Wǒ méi chī.*

No, I haven't.

**H** Q: 你喝了几杯水? A: 我喝了一杯水。

*Nǐ hē le jǐ bēi shuǐ?*

How many glasses of water did you drink?

*Wǒ hē le yì bēi shuǐ.*

I drank one glass of water.

## EXERCISES

Rearrange the words to form a sentence by inserting 了 after the verb and before the numeral and measure word. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 我 喝 可乐 一 → 我喝了一瓶可乐。
- 2 他昨天 看 中国电影 一
- 3 李友今天 认识 人 四

## 6

### The adverb 才 (*cái*) (not until)

The adverb 才 (*cái*) (not until) indicates the occurrence of an action or situation later than the speaker expects. That lateness is perceived by the speaker, and is not necessarily objective, as in (B) and (C). 才 (*cái*) never takes the particle 了 (*le*), even if it pertains to a past action or situation.

**A** 我请他六点吃晚饭，他六点半才来。

*Wǒ qǐng tā liù diǎn chī wǎnfàn, tā liù diǎn bàn cái lái.*

I invited him out to dinner at six o'clock. He didn't arrive until six-thirty.

**B** 小高常常晚上十二点才回家。

*Xiǎo Gāo chángcháng wǎnshang shí'èr diǎn cái huí jiā.*

Little Gao often doesn't come home until midnight.

**C** 她晚上很晚才睡觉。

*Tā wǎnshang hěn wǎn cái shuì jiào.*

She goes to bed very late at night.

## EXERCISES

Indicate perceived lateness by joining these sentences. Insert 才 where appropriate. Use exercise 1 as an example.

- 1 我们六点吃饭。她六点一刻来。  
→ 我们六点吃饭，她六点一刻才来。
- 2 我们十点钟回家。王朋十一点回家。
- 3 我们两点去打球。我弟弟四点去打球。



More exercises



More exercises

# Language Practice

H

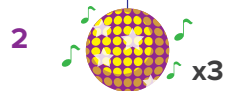
## You did what?

Little Gao has so much energy! He can do a lot in one day. Based on the images, recap what he did yesterday by using 了 (le), e.g.:



小高昨天喝了四杯咖啡。

*Xiǎo Gāo zuótiān hē le sì bēi kāfēi.*



L

## Fashionably late!

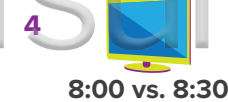
PRESENTATIONAL

Your roommate is a procrastinator and does everything later than you. Present your different schedules to the class using 才 (cái), e.g.:



我七点喝咖啡，她八点才喝（咖啡）。

7:00 vs. 8:00 *Wǒ qī diǎn hē kāfēi, tā bā diǎn cái hē (kāfēi).*



J

INTERPERSONAL

## What did you do last night?

PRESENTATIONAL

Interview your classmates about what they did last night, e.g.:

你昨天晚上去朋友家玩儿了吗?

*Nǐ zuótiān wǎnshàng qù péngyou jiā wánr le ma?*

If the answer is negative, then ask:

你昨天晚上去哪儿了? 你喝什么了?

你喝了几杯/几瓶?

*Nǐ zuótiān wǎnshàng qù nǎr le? Nǐ hē shénme le? Nǐ hē le jǐ bēi/jǐ píng?*

Then report to the class what your partner did last night, e.g.:

Mark 昨天晚上去朋友家玩儿了/没有去朋友家玩儿……

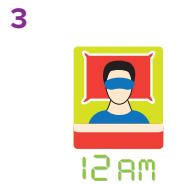
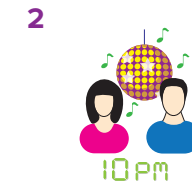
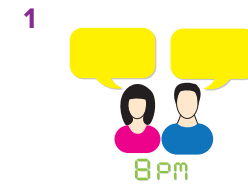
Mark *zuótiān wǎnshàng qù péngyou jiā wánr le/méiyǒu qù péngyou jiā wánr...*

K

## Birthday itinerary

PRESENTATIONAL

Describe what Little Wang did on his birthday, and when, according to these images.



**Chinese Chat**

A friend is texting you about taking a coffee break. How would you reply?

Marian

我在咖啡馆喝咖啡，想不想来?  
7 minutes ago

...

这儿很漂亮。来吧，一起聊天、喝咖啡。  
3 minutes ago

...

是吗? 好, 那周末见。  
Now

Type your message...



Continue to explore



COMPARE & CONTRAST

- 1 “Host” and “guest” are 主 (zhǔ) and 客 (kè). The Chinese often say 客随主便 (kè suí zhǔ biàn), “A good guest goes along with whatever is convenient for the host.” A related expression is 入乡随俗 (rù xiāng suí sú), “Wherever you find yourself, follow local customs.” The phrase 反客为主 (fǎn kè wéi zhǔ), meanwhile, describes a presumptive guest who usurps the place of the host. Are there similar sayings in your culture?
- 2 When you visit a friend in China, you should bring a gift. You might be asked to change into slippers and be offered something to drink. Normally, food is served family style to indicate abundance and respect for the guests. Dishes are brought out one course at a time, so the host will not join the meal until all the dishes are served. It is polite to wait for the host to urge you to start eating. If a Chinese friend asks you about visiting etiquette in your culture, what would you say?
- 3 The tea plant is native to China. The beverage made from its leaves is often called some derivative of the Mandarin or Southern Min dialect pronunciation of the Chinese word for tea. The Russian *chai* comes from Mandarin, whereas tea in English comes from the Southern Min dialect. Do you know what tea is called in any other language?

# Tea

茶 (chá) can probably be called the national drink of China. Indeed, the practice of drinking tea originated there. According to legend, tea was discovered by the ancient Chinese emperor 神农 (Shennóng) when leaves from a nearby shrub fell into the water he was boiling. It depends on whom you ask, but in general, Chinese tea may be classified into the following categories according to the different methods by which tea leaves are processed: green tea, black tea, Wulong tea, compressed tea, and scented tea.

Chrysanthemum tea, 菊花茶 (júhuā chá), is a type of scented tea, whereas Longjing tea, 龙井茶 (lóngjǐng chá), belongs to the green tea family. Nowadays, bubble tea, 珍珠奶茶 (zhēnzhū nǎichá), is gaining popularity in the West.

Although tea remains the most popular beverage in China, the number of coffee drinkers has been on the rise in recent years. Coffee is now widely available in supermarkets. Coffee shops, including international chains such as Starbucks, 星巴克 (Xīngbākè), and Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, are familiar sights in many Chinese cities.

Do you know where bubble tea originated? 奶茶 (nǎichá) literally means milk tea. How about 珍珠 (zhēnzhū)? What are they really?

# 认识你很高兴

认识你很高兴 (rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng) or 很高兴认识你 (hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ) is basically a translation of “I’m very happy to meet you.” This form of greeting is becoming more common, even though to some Chinese it sounds a bit formal.

## Greetings

# 很高兴认识你

## Etiquette

Traditionally, privacy is a somewhat less sacrosanct concept in Chinese culture than it is in the West: you would not necessarily be considered intrusive if you dropped by a friend’s place without warning; nor would topics such as age, marital status, and salary necessarily be off limits in a polite conversation. For those who believe in the traditional Chinese notion of friendship or personal loyalty, sharing such personal information is an important gesture of trust. But there is a more prosaic explanation. Until relatively recently, most people lived in close proximity to one another and everyone followed more or less the same prescribed track in life. The income gap was limited. Therefore, there were few secrets. Everyone knew what their neighbors did and how much money they made.

This is changing, however; particularly due to disparity in incomes and urbanization of communities. Chinese citizens have become more conscious of their “right to privacy,” or 隐私权 (yǐn sī quán). Nowadays, Chinese people consider it more and more important to give notice before visiting friends and to avoid asking about personal information.



# Lesson Wrap-Up

## Make It Flow!

Rearrange the following sentences into a logical sequence. Then combine them into a coherent narrative. Remember to omit repetitive elements and substitute subjects with personal pronouns where appropriate. Time expressions and place words can also serve as useful connective devices.

- \_\_\_ 高文中的姐姐叫高小音。  
\_\_\_ 他们一起聊天儿、看电视。  
\_\_\_ 1 昨天晚上，王朋和李友去高文中家玩儿。  
\_\_\_ 晚上十二点王朋和李友才回家。  
\_\_\_ 在高文中家王朋和李友认识了高文中的姐姐。  
\_\_\_ 高小音在图书馆工作。

## Role-Play

**Student A** You are the host. Introduce your guests and ask what they would like to drink.

**Student B** Meet and greet the other guest. Compliment the host's home. Ask where the other guest works. Tell the host that you don't drink tea, coffee, or cola. Ask for a glass of water instead.

**Student C** Meet and greet the other guest. Tell the other guest that you are delighted to meet him/her. Tell the other guest that you don't work; you are a student. Let the host know that you would like a cup of tea.

## Email

Email your Chinese-speaking friend about your visit to a friend's place last night. Include the following information:

- Where you went
- Whom you met there, what they did, and whether you found them interesting
- What your friend's home was like, e.g., big, nicely decorated
- What you did
- When you returned home

## Can-Do Check List



I can

Before proceeding to Lesson 6, make sure you can complete the following tasks in Chinese:

- Introduce one person to another
- Greet guests when they visit my home
- Offer drinks to my guests
- As a guest, ask the host/hostess for a beverage
- Briefly describe a visit to a friend's place