

10.15 Tōngxùn gōngjù ‘Communication tools’

Èrshí nián yǐqián, Zhōngguó rén yào gàosu qīnqī huòzhě péngyou yí jiàn shìqing, tāmen jiù kěyǐ dǎ diànhuà, yě kěyǐ xiěxìn. Suīrán xìn bǐjiào màn, kěshì hěn duō jiātíng méiyǒu diànhuà, jì xìn yě bǐjiào piányi, suǒyǐ píngcháng dàjiā chàbuduō dōu xiěxìn, bù dǎ diànhuà.

Xiànzài qíngxíng wánquán bù yíyàng le. Zài chéngshì hěn duō jiātíng dōu yǒu diànhuà le. Jiùshì zài nóngcūn, yě yǒu bù shǎo rén yǒu diànhuà le. Kěshì xiànzài zuì liúxíng de shì shǒujī. Shǒujī yǐqián yǒu yìdiǎnr bù fāngbiàn, hěn dà, diànhuàfèi yě hěn guì. Nèiyàng dàdà de shǒujī yě yǒu rén jiào ‘dàgēdà’. Wèishénme jiào dàgēdà ne? Dàgēdà nèi ge shuōfǎ běnlái shì Xiānggǎng rén yòng de. Dàgē yǒu liǎng ge yìsi. Yí ge shì zuì dà de gēge. Lìngwài yí ge shì hēishèhuì de tóur. Suǒyǐ dàgē hěn lihai, dàgēdà yě hěn lihai.

Fǎnzhèng, xiànzài shǒujī bú dà, hěn fāngbiàn, kěyǐ fàng zài kǒudài lǐ huò dài zài yāodài shàng. Zuijìn zài Zhōngguó chúle shǒujī yǐwài yě yǒu xiǎolíngtōng. Xiǎolíngtōng shì dàxiǎo de xiǎo; língtōng shì lái+de kuài de yìsi, huòzhě ‘xíng’ de yìsi. Xiǎolíngtōng bǐ pǔtōng de shǒujī piányi, dànshì zhǐ néng zài yí ge dìfang yòng, zhǐ néng dǎ dào shìnèi, bù néng dǎ dào shìwài.

Zài èrshíyī shìjì de Zhōngguó yǒu hěn duō rén yòng wǎngluò le. Wǎngluò yě yǒu rén jiào yīntèwǎng. Yǒu hěn duō rén měitiān dōu zài jiā lǐ huòzhě zài ‘wǎngbā’

shàngwǎng. Yě yǒu hěn duō liáotiānshì gēn lùntán, dàjiā kěyǐ tán guójiā de dàshì, yě kěyǐ tán gèrén de wèntí. Yǒude wǎngzhàn měitiān yǒu jǐshí wàn rén liúlǎn. Suīrán zài Zhōngguó yòng yīntèwǎng de hěn duō kěshì háishi yǒu hěn duō wǎngzhàn bù néng kàn. Zhōngguó zhèngfǔ bú ràng rénmen kàn de wǎngzhàn, hěn duō yǒu zhèngzhì de huòzhě sèqíng de nèiróng. Jiùshì MIT de wǎngzhàn yǒushíhou cóng Zhōngguó yě liánbushàng, yěxǔ shì yīnwèi yǒu yìxiē Zhōngguó zhèngfǔ bù xǐhuan de liànjiē.



Fast transport: The Mag-lev train serving Pudong Airport, Shanghai.

Zài xiànzài de Zhōngguó, diànzǐ yóujiàn yě duō le. Yǒu rén kāi wánxiào jiào diànzǐ yóujiàn ‘yīmèi’ér’, xiàng Yīngwén de ‘email’ yíyàng. Kěshì Zhōngwén de yīmèi’ér yě yǒu ‘tā mèimei’de yìsi. (Píngcháng yòng Hànzì xiě yīmèi’ér bú yòng ‘yī èr sān’ de ‘yī’; yòng lìngwài yí ge yī [伊], shì ‘tā’ de yìsi.) Dàgēdà, yīmèi’ér, kěyǐ shuō zhèi xiē dōngxi yǒu diǎnr xiàng qīnqi péngyou yíyàng!

Yěxǔ nǐmen yǐjīng zhīdao yìxiē yǒuyìsi de Zhōngwén wǎngzhàn le. Bù shǎo xué Zhōngwén de xuésheng dōu yòng <Zhongwen.com>, kěyǐ chá shēngzì, liǎojiě Hànzì de láiyuán, dú Zhōngwén wénzhāng, yě kěyǐ zài pīnyīn liáotiānshì liáotiān. Yě yǒu Xiè Tiānwèi lǎoshī de wǎngyè (www.csulb.edu/~txie) yǒu hěn duō gēn xué Zhōngwén yǒuguān de liànjiē.

Zhōngguó zuì liúxíng de wǎngzhàn zhīyī shì <sina.com> (Yīngwén), huò <sina.com.cn> (Zhōngwén). Nàr de xīnwén bàodào nǐmen háishi kànbudǒng , kěshi tiānqì yùbào yěxū néng kàndǒng yìdiǎnr. Shìshi kàn ba! Yīngguó de Guǎngbō Gōngsī de wǎngzhàn (<http://bbc.co.uk/worldservice>) yě yǒuyòng; xīnwén bàodào kěyǐ fānyìchéng sishí duō ge yǔyán.

Kàn Zhōngwén wǎngyè de shíhou, nǐ huì fāxiàn suīrán nèiróng yìbān shì Zhōngwén de, wǎngzhàn de míngzi yě shì Zhōngwén de, kěshi wǎngzhǐ háishi yòng Yīngwén xiě de. Jiùshì méiyǒu Zhōngwén wǎngzhǐ. Nǐmen zhīdao wèishénme ma?

Notes

tōngxùn	N	communication
gōngjù	N	tool
qīnqī	N	relatives; relations
jiùshi...yě..		even...as well
nóngcūn	N	village (agriculture village)
[diànhuà]fēi	N	[telephone] expenses; charges
hēishèhuì	N	criminal underworld (black society)
lingwài [yí ge]		another; an additional
shuōfǎ	N	way of speaking; cf. <u>kànfǎ</u> ‘way of looking = view’
tóu	N	head
fǎnzhèng		anyway (upside down – right way up)
kǒudài	N	pocket (hole-bag)
yāodài	N	belt (waist-belt)
shìnnèi		within the city (city-within)
wǎngluò	N	network; the net
shàngwǎng	VO	to access the net
wǎngbā	N	internet café (net-BAR)
liáotiānshì	N	chatrooms (chat-day-room)
lùntán	N	forum (discuss-forum)
tán	V	discuss; chat; talk
gèrén	N	individual
wǎngzhàn	N	website (net-station)
liúlǎn	V	browse
ràng	V	[here] let; make
zhèngzhì	N	politics
sèqíng	N,SV	sex; sexy (yánsè de sè, shìqing de qíng)
nèiróng	N	content (within-contain)
liánbushàng	VV	not able to access
liànjīe	N	links
yóujiàn	N	mail

chá shēngzi	VO	look-up vocabulary (raw-words)
liǎojiě	V	understand; comprehend; find out
láiyuán	N	origin; source; derivation; history
wénzhāng	N	article (M <u>piān</u>)
wǎngyè	N	webpage
gēn...yǒuguānde		having to do with; having some connection with (with...have-connection-DE)
xīnwén bàodào	N	news report
yùbào	N	forecast
guǎngbō	V,N	to broadcast; a broadcast
fāxiàn	V	discover
yībān	SV	normal; same as Adv normally; similarly
wǎngzhǐ	N	(net-address); cf. <u>dìzhǐ</u> ‘address’

Exercise 8.

Provide a Chinese paraphrase:

What you say about the situation in China is very interesting. Here in the U.S, telephone calls also used to be quite expensive – especially long-distance ones (chángtú); but not anymore. I still often write letters to my relatives, but that’s because they’re older and they still like to read letters. Sending a letter is still pretty inexpensive - only about 40 cents within the country; a letter to China is about 80 cents airmail. But students nowadays all have computers, so we prefer to send email. Often, I don’t know enough characters to write what I want to say in Chinese; and in any case, I have trouble sending characters. So I write pinyin and as long as I write words, my Chinese friends seem to be able to read it. I don’t write the tones (sishēng) either, since that takes too long and what’s more, it makes it too messy to read. Almost all my friends have cellphones; with the new ones, you can surf the web, take photos or listen to music. They’re kind of expensive, but we can’t live without them. My cellphone bill is more than my food bill sometimes!

10.16 Waiting and rushing

a) *The words*

děng	wait
děngdeng ~ děng yiděng ~ děng yixià	wait a sec; just a minute
shāo<wēi> děng yixià	wait for a bit
děng yíhuìr ~ yíhuǐr	wait awhile
Mǎshàng jiu lái.	[I]’ll be right there.
Mǎshàng jiu huí lái.	[I]’ll be right back.
Wǒ yíhuǐr jiu huí lái.	I’ll be back shortly.
Wǒ hěn kuài jiu <huì> huí lai!	I’ll be back right away!
Mǎshàng jiu hǎo.	[It]’ll be done in a jiffy.

Notes

- a) Yíhuìr ~ yìhuìr (the latter pronunciation is more colloquial) ‘awhile’
 b) Shāo<wēi> ‘slightly; for a bit’; (Wēiruǎn de wēi); hotel telephone operators in China tend to say qǐng shāo děng when they transfer your call.
 c) Mǎshàng ‘immediately; at once’, literally ‘on a horse’; synonymous with likè.
 d) Huì indicates a degree of probability.

Usage

Qǐng shāowēi děng yixià, wǒ mǎshàng jiù huílai!	Hang on a minute, I’ll be right back.
Qǐng děng yixià, wǒ qù lóushàng wènwen tā. Nǐ zuò yìhuìr ba.	Just a minute, I’ll go upstairs and ask her. ‘Make yourself comfortable.’
Qǐng děngdeng, wǒ qù bàngōngshì zhǎo tā.	Just a minute, I’ll go see if he’s in the office.
Qǐng děng yìhuìr, wǒ de yàoshi wàng zài bàngōngshì le.	Hang on a minute, I left my keys in the office.
Qǐng děng yixià, wǒ qù zhǎo tā. Nǐ xiān hē diǎnr chá ba.	Hold on a minute, I’ll go find him. Have some tea first.
Qǐng děngdeng, tā zài dǎ diànhuà ne.	Hold on for a minute please, he’s on the phone.
Qǐng shāowēi děng yixià, wǒ děi qù mǎi yóupiào, mǎshàng jiù huílai. Qǐng zuò yixià.	Hold on for a bit please, I have to go and buy some stamps – I’ll be right back. Make yourself at home.

Notes

- a) Zuò yixià, literally ‘sit a bit’, but often used when someone has to step out for a while, hence the freer translation of ‘make yourself at home’.

10.17 Telephoning

Speaking on the telephone involves a certain amount of conventional speech at the beginning and end of the conversation. Here are vocabulary and phrases related to telephones and telephoning:

About telephoning

dǎ diànhuà	to telephone; make a phone call
dǎ chángtú diànhuà	to make a long distance call
dǎ guójì diànhuà	to make an international call
zhuǎn fēnjī	to connect to an extension (turn; revolve)

diànhuàkǎ	phone card
diànhuàtíng	phone kiosk
diànhuàfèi	phone charges
miǎnfèi	free (avoid-fee)
Shì dìqū yòng de ma?	Is this for local calls?
Quánguó yòng de.	It's used throughout the country.
Dǎdào nǎlǐ?	Where are you phoning to?
Dǎ gěi shéi?	Who are you phoning?
Yǒu shìr, qǐng dǎ ge diànhuà gěi wǒ.	If you have a problem, feel free to phone me.
Nǐ de diànhuà.	It's for you.
Qǐng zhuǎn èrshíwǔ (fēnjī).	Please connect me to extension 25.
Néng dǎ chángtú ma?	Can you dial long distance?
Néng zìjǐ dǎ ma?	Can [we] dial [it] ourselves?
Zhǐ néng dǎdào shìnèi.	You can only call in town.
Néng dǎdào guówài ma?	Can we call abroad?

Notes

As in most parts of the world, a variety of discount telephone cards can be bought from news agents and other small shops in China. In China, these are usually sold below face value; a RMB 100 card might go for RMB 30. (Dǎ zhé ma? 'Do you allow a discount?') Some are local (dìqū yòng de); others can be used throughout China (quánguó yòng de) or even internationally (guójì de).

On the phone [phrases]:

Wei.	Hello.
<Nín> nǐ wèi?	Who is it? (which person)
Wei, nǐ shì Zhōu Yǔ ma?	Hello, is that Zhou Yu?
Wǒ jiùshì.	Speaking. [This is he.]
Qǐng zhǎo Máo Xiān'ān jiē diànhuà.	Can I speak to Mao Xian'an please? (Please find Mao Xian'an to get the phone.)
Wǒ gěi nǐ qù zhǎo tā.	I'll go find her for you. (I for you go find her.)
Yào liú ge huà gěi tā ma?	You want to leave a voice message for her?
Nǐ yào liúyán ma?	You want to leave a voice message?
Wǒ shì Léi Nuò, qǐng liúyán.	This is Lei Nuo, please leave a message. [Telephone answering machine]



Shànghǎi jūmínlóu ('residential building'). [2006]

10.17.1 Leaving a message

Lù Jìngsī, a foreign scholar, is trying to reach Wáng Xuéyīng in his office.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| W. | Wei? | Hello? |
| Lù. | <i>Wei, qǐng zhǎo Wáng lǎoshī jiē diànhuà.</i> | <i>Hi, I'm trying to get Prof. Wang.</i> |
| W. | O, tā xiànzài bú zài zhèr, kěnéng zài lóu shàng. Qǐng děng yíxià, Wǒ gěi nǐ qù zhǎo tā. | Oh, he's not here right now, he may be upstairs. Just a minute, I'll go and look for him for you. |
| Lù. | <i>Hǎo, máfan nǐ la! (le a > la)</i>
..... | <i>Okay, sorry for the trouble.</i> |
| W. | Tā yě bú zài lóu shàng. Yào bu yào liú ge huà? | He's not upstairs. You want to leave a message? |
| Lù. | <i>Hǎo, xièxie. Wǒ shì Lù Jìngsī. Qǐng tā huílai yǐhòu gěi wǒ dǎ ge diànhuà. Wǒ zài jiā lǐ.</i> | <i>Okay, thanks. This is Lù Jìngsī. Ask him to phone me when he gets home. I'm at home.</i> |
| W. | Tā zhīdao nǐ de diànhuà hàomǎ ma? | Does he know your phone #? |
| Lù. | <i>Diànhuà hàomǎ shì 245-1209.</i> | <i>[My] number's 245-1209.</i> |
| W. | Hǎo, wǒ huì gào su tā. | Fine, I'll tell him. |

Notes

a) Wèi is an exclamation used to hail people at a distance, or confirm a telephone connection. Though its tone is marked as falling in dictionaries, its actual pitch varies with context.

b) Qǐng zhǎo [*person*] jiē diànhuà ‘please get [...] to come to the phone’ is in fact a request to speak to a person (~ ‘may I speak to [...]’) and reflects the fact that before cellphones, telephones were often outside of residences and people had to be hailed or fetched from some distance away.

10.18 Chinese etiquette

Shěn Fēipéng, a teacher from Belgium, makes a phone call to his Chinese friend, Zhōu Yǔ, to ask a question about Chinese etiquette. Zhōu’s wife (Tt) answers the phone.

Tt.	Wei?	Hello?
Sh.	<i>Wei, Zhōu Yǔ?</i> [~ <i>Wei, Zhōu Yǔ ma?</i> ~ <i>Wei, nǐ shì Zhōu Yǔ ma?</i> ~ <i>Wei, nǐ shì bu shì Zhōu Yǔ?</i> ~ <i>Wei, lǎo Zhōu zài ma?</i>	<i>Hello, Zhou Yu?</i> ~ <i>Hello, Zhou Yu?</i> ~ <i>Hello, is that Zhōu Yǔ?</i> ~ <i>Hello, is that Zhou Yu?</i> ~ <i>Hello, is Zhou there?]</i>
Tt.	Qǐng děng yíxià, wǒ qù zhǎo tā... Lǎo Zhōu, nǐ de diànhuà!	Just (wait) a minute please, I’ll go and find him....Zhou, it’s for you!
Zh.	Hǎo, xièxie. ...Wei, nín (shì) nǐ wèi	Okay, thanks. ...Hello, who’s that?
Sh.	<i>Wǒ shì Shěn Fēipéng.</i>	<i>I’m Shen Feipeng.</i>
Zh.	O, Fēipéng, nǐ hǎo. Shénme shìr?	Oh, Feiping, how are you. What’s up?
Sh.	<i>Lǎo Zhōu, wǒ néng bù néng wèn nǐ yí ge Zhōngguó fēngsù xíguàn de wèntí?</i>	<i>Zhou, can I ask you a question about Chinese customs?</i>
Zh.	Wèn ba.	Sure!
Sh.	<i>Shì zhèi yàng: yǒu rén qǐng wǒ chīfàn, wǒ shì bu shì yīnggāi sòng ge lǐwù gěi tā?</i>	<i>It’s like this: someone’s invited me for a meal; should I bring them a present?</i>
Zh.	Nà yào kàn shì shénme qíngkuàng, shénme difang.	Now that depends on the situation and the place.
Sh.	<i>Shì ge tóngshì, wǒmen xiāngdāng shú. Tā qǐng wǒ dào tā jiā qù.</i>	<i>It’s a colleague. We’re close. He’s invited me to his house.</i>

Zh.	Zhèi yàng, dài yí shù xiānhuā, huòzhě yì xiē shuǐguǒ, jiù kěyǐ le. Búbì huā hěn duō qián. Biǎoshi ge yìsi.	In that case, you can take a bunch of fresh flowers or some fruit. No need to spend a lot of money. 'It's the thought.'
Sh.	Hǎo, shì chūntiān, wǒ jiù mǎiyí shù huā ba.	Okay, it's spring, I'll buy a bunch of flowers.
Zh.	Huā hěn héshì!	Flowers are fine! ('suitable')
Sh.	Hěn gǎnxiè!	Many thanks! ('very grateful')
Zh.	Bié kèqi.	You're welcome.
Sh.	Hǎo, jiù zhèi yàngr. Zàijiàn.	Okay, that's it then. Bye.

Notes

- a) Notice that in conventional usage, Chinese generally makes use of the first and second person pronouns in expressions like Nǐ shì shéi? and Wǒ shì Shěn Fēipéng, while English prefers 'it' or 'this': 'Who is it? / This is Shěn Fēipéng.' Similarly: Qǐng zhǎo Zhōu Yǔ jiē diànhuà. / Wǒ jiùshì. 'May I speak to Zhou Yu? / This is he. ~ Speaking.'
- b) The word huā has a number of senses, including 'flowers; blossoms' (yí shù huā), 'design' (huāyàng 'design; pattern'); and 'to spend' (huā qián), possibly following a semantic course from 'flower' to 'ornament', from 'ornament' to 'waste or dissipation', and from there to 'expense'. Contrast huà 'change'.
- c) Biǎoshi ge yìsi, literally 'to express a meaning', ie 'as a token [of friendship, affection, etc.]'

10.18.1 Gifts

There are a number of conventional remarks associated with the giving and receiving of gifts. For larger gifts for example, the host might say: Tài pòfèi le! '[You] spent too much [money]', using the expression pòfèi 'squander money (break-expense)'. On presenting such a present, the guest might say, with modesty: Xiǎo yìsi. 'Just a token (small meaning).' However, bringing some fruit or flowers as an expression of thanks (much as Americans and Europeans might bring a bottle of wine) usually elicits more perfunctory remarks along the following lines:

i)	Gěi nǐ dàilái yí shù huā! <i>Zhēn piàoliang. Nǐ tài kèqi le.</i>	I've brought you a bunch of flowers. <i>How pretty! 'You shouldn't have.'</i>
ii)	Dàilái yìdiǎnr shuǐguǒ, dàjiā yìqǐ chī. <i>Nǐ tài kèqi le.</i>	I've brought some fruit for everyone. <i>You shouldn't have.</i>



Suzhou: town's edge.

10.19 Highlights

shēngbìng	Tā gǎnmào le, yě ké+de hěn lihai. Chī yào le ma?
indefinites	Shénme dōu bú pà! Xiǎng chī duōshao jiu chī duōshao!
reduplication	Nǐ cháng yi cháng ba; Xiūxi xiūxi ba.
wèntí	jǐ ge jiāting de wèntí; jǐ ge àihào de wèntí
kǒuyīn	dài yìdiǎnr nánfāng de kǒuyīn
chúle...yǐwài	Chúle xīngqīsi yǐwài, měitiān dōu yǒu kè.
yuèlái yuè	Dà chéngshì yuèlái yuè wēixiǎn. Pá+de yuè gāo, shuāi+de yuè cǎn.
búbì	Búbì huànchē.
xìnjiào	Nǐ xìn shénme jiào? / Wǒ shi xìn Huíjiào de.
V-xiàlai	Qǐng bǎ tā xièxiàlai.
V-chūlai	Nǐ cāidechū<lai> wǒ shi shéi ma?
bān	Wǒmen běnyuè chū cái bānjìnlai de. ('not until the beginning of the month')
V-chéng	Qǐng bāng wǒ bǎ nèi jǐ ge jùzi fānyìchéng Yīngwén.
bèi, etc.	Tā bèi jǐngchá zhuāzǒu le. Wǒ de zìxíngchē jiào rén gěi tōu le.
qíngkuàng	Jīngji bú cuò, kěshi rénquán yǒu yìdiǎnr wèntí. ~ qíngxing.
chōuyān	Chōuyān de bǐjiào róngyì dé áizhèng. ~ xīyān. Lái yì kē yān ba.
kāichē	Wǒ juéde kāichē bìng bù róngyì.
shēnfen	Zhōngguó rén tèbié zhùyì shēnfen.
SV-xx	hóngtóngtóng de tàiyang; rèténgténg de jiāozi
tōngxùn	Wǎngluò yě yǒu rén jiào 'yīntèwǎng'; shǒujī ne, yě yǒu rén.... Zhōngguó zuì liúxíng de wǎngzhàn zhīyī ...
děng	Qǐng shāowēi děng yìxià.
mǎshàng	Mǎshàng jiu huílai.

dǎ diànhuà Wei, nǐ shì Zhōu Yǔ ma? / Wǒ jiùshì.
 Wǒ shì Zhāng Yīng, qǐng liúyán.
 mǎi lǐwù Búbì huā hěn duō qián; biǎoshi ge yìsi.
 Dàilái yìdiǎnr shuǐguǒ, dàjiā yìqǐ chī!

Exercise 9.

Distinguish the following words by citing them in short phrases:

fāshāo	fāsheng	huāshēng	mǎshàng	fákuǎn	fādá
qiǎo	jiào	xiǎo	qiáo	hěn chǎo	jiāo
bìyè	bìxū	bǐjiào	búbì	jǔxíng	liúxíng
xíguàn	xǐhuan	xīguā	xiūxi	xuéxí	xīwàng
kǎolù	kǎoshì	jǐngchá	wēixiǎn	yóuxíng	kǒuyīn

10.20 Rhymes and Rhythms

Sailing the Seas, another paean to Mao that is still popular in modern China, where Mao occupies cultural space between demagogue and demigod.

大海航行靠舵手

Dàhǎi hángxíng kào duòshǒu

Sailing the seas depends on the helmsman

大海航行靠舵手

Dàhǎi hángxíng kào duòshǒu,
 seas navigate depend+on helmsman

Sailing the seas depends on the
 helmsman,

万物生长靠太阳

wànwù shēngzhǎng kào tàiyang,
 all-things growth depend-on sun

all things depend on the sun for
 growth;

雨露滋润禾苗壮

yǔ lù zīrùn hémiáo zhuàng,
 rain dew moisten seedlings strong

water and dew moisten the seedlings
 and make them strong;

干革命靠的是毛泽东思想

gàn gémìng kào de shì Máo Zédōng sīxiǎng.
 do revolution depend-on DE is MZD Thought.

people who engage in revolution
 depend on MZD Thought.

Refrain

鱼离不开水呀

Yú líbukāi shuǐ ya,
fish separate-not-away [from] water ya

Fish can't be separated from water,

瓜儿离不开秧

guār líbukāi yāng,
melons separate-not-away [from] stalk

melons can't be separated from the
stalk,

革命群众离不开共产党

gémìng qúnzhòng líbukāi Gòngchǎndǎng,
revolution masses separate-not-away [from] CCP

revolutionary masses can't be
separated from the CCP,

毛泽东思想是不落的太阳。

Máo Zédōng sīxiǎng shì bú luò de tàiyáng.
Mao Zedong Thought is not fall DE sun.

MZD Thought is a never setting sun.



Shànghǎi: The Jing'ān Sì ('Calm-peace Temple'), with Yáo Míng advertising Reeboks.

Appendix: Body parts

Core body parts, as opposed to figurative extensions (eg ‘He’s the brains of the operation’) might seem to be well-demarcated notions that would translate easily from language to language; but in fact, though their core meanings correspond fairly well, their connotations may be quite different. This is particularly true of the internal organs, where in Chinese, for example, xīngānr, ‘heart’ and ‘liver’ is a term of affection (fùmǔ de xīngān bǎobèi ‘parents’ darling treasure’); where (at least in some regions) xīncháng ‘heart’ and ‘intestine’ is, roughly, ‘in the mood for’ (méiyou xīncháng qù kàn diànyǐng); and where fèifǔ ‘lungs’ and ‘bowels’ means ‘from the bottom of one’s heart’ (fèifǔ zhī yán ‘words from the bottom of one’s heart’).

The following list is not exhaustive. You may want to add to it, with specialized words such as ‘temple’, ‘forehead’ or ‘calf’. In addition, you should check regional and local variation (pronunciation as well as root), and observe usage and metaphorical extensions.

head tóu	hair tóufa	brain nǎozi	ears ěrduo	eyes yǎnjing	nose bízi
mouth zuǐ	teeth yáchǐ	eyebrow méimao	cheek jiá	chin xiàba	tongue shétou
throat hóulong	neck bózi	body shēntǐ	shoulders jiānbǎng	back bèi	chest xiōng
skin pífū	arm gēbei	hand shǒu	finger shǒuzhǐ	thumb dàmǔzhǐ	waist yāo
heart xīn	liver gān	lungs fèi	stomach wèi	spleen pí	kidneys shèn
bladder pángguāng	gall dǎnnáng	abdomen dùzi	navel dùqí	intestine cháng	blood xiě (~xuè)
breasts <i>milk-house</i> rúfáng	penis <i>yin-stem</i> yīnjīng	vagina <i>yin-way</i> yīndào	testicle <i>testicle-pellet</i> gāowán	uterus <i>child-temple</i> zǐgōng	anus <i>lg int.-door</i> gāngmén
buttocks pìgu	thighs dàtuǐ	knee xīgai	leg tuǐ	foot jiǎo	bones gútou (~ gǔtou)