

Examples

i) Wǒmen xiān qù Běijīng kànwàng wǒ qīzi de qīnqi, ránhòu qù Shànghǎi kāihuì. Běnyuè dǐ jiu huílai.

First we're going to Beijing to visit my wife's relatives, and then we're going to Shanghai for a conference. [We]'ll be back at the end of the month.

Notes

kànwàng 'visit; call on; see [people]'
běnyuè 'this month (root month)'; běnyuè dǐ 'at the end of the month'.

ii) Jīběnshàng, wǒmen dǎsuàn dào Xīnán qù dāi jǐ ge xīngqi cānguān yìxiē Yízú de nóngcūn. Ránhòu wǒmen qù Mínzú Xuéyuàn zuò yí ge yuè de yánjiū.

Basically, we plan to go to the Southwest to spend a few weeks visiting some Yi villages. After that we're going to do a month's research at the Minority Peoples' Institute.

Notes

a) jīběnshàng 'basically (base-root-on)'
b) dāi 'stay [over]'
c) cānguān 'visit; tour; see [places]'
d) Yízú 'the Yi people', a non-Han people with extensive presence in southwest China. Mínzú Xuéyuàn are found in Chengdu, and also in Beijing and other cities.

iii) Wǒmen qǐxiān dǎsuàn shàngwǔ jiǔ diǎn qǐ chéng kěshi yīnwèi liǎng ge rén dùzi dōu bù shūfu, wǒmen xiàwǔ sì diǎn cái néng líkāi Lìjiāng. Jiéguǒ, dào Báishā de shíhou, tiān yǐjing hēi le. Wǒmen zài xiǎo lǚguǎn shuì-le yí yè, ránhòu dì-èr tiān zǎoshàng kāishǐ shàng shān. Hòulái, wǒmen zài lù shàng pèngdào-le yìxiē Nàxīzú de rén; tāmen gào-su-le wǒmen shàng shān zuì hǎo de lù.

Originally, we had planned to start at 9:00 in the morning, but because two people got upset stomachs, we couldn't leave Lijiang until 4 pm. As a result, when we got to Baisha, it was already dark. We spent the night in a small inn; then the next morning we started up the mountain. Later on, we met a group of Naxi people on the road, and they told us the best way up the mountain.

Notes

a) qǐchéng 'start off [on a journey] (raise-journey)'
Báishā: a village about 15 kms north of Lìjiāng, at the base of a chain of peaks which go under the name of Yùlóngxuěshān 'Jade-dragon-snow-mountain'.
b) lǚguǎn, generic for hotels, but in this case, more of a hostel.
c) yí yè: 'one night'.
d) pèngdào: 'run into; meet up with'.

e) Nàxīzú: the Naxi (sometimes spelled Nahsi) are a minority people with their own language and writing system, who live in and around Lijiang.

iv) Wǒmen bā hào fēidào-le Xiāng Gǎng, ránhòu dì-èr tiān, zuò huǒchē dào-le Guǎngzhōu. Zài Guǎngzhōu dāi-le liǎng tiān kàn-le kàn, ránhòu shíyī hào yòu zuò fēijī dào Chéngdū qù le. Wǒmen zài Chéngdū dāi-le yí ge xīngqī mǎi dōngxī, hòulái zuò huǒchē qù-le Xīchāng. Xīchāng zài Dàliáng shān, zài Chéngdū xīnán biān yǒu wǔ bǎi gōnglǐ.

We flew to Hóng Kǒng on the 8th, and then the next day, took a train to Canton. We stayed in Canton for two days to look around, and then, on the 11th we flew on to Chéngdū. We stayed in Chéngdū for a week to buy supplies, then later on took a train to Xichang, which is about 500 kms southwest of Chengdu, in the Great Snowy Mountains.

Notes

a) Xichang is a city in the ‘Great Snowy Mountains’ in the southern part of Sichuan. It is now best known for the satellite launch and tracking facilities which are some 50 kms from the town; but historically, it is also an important center of the Yi people (also called Nasu and Norsu).

v) Hánjià, wǒ xiān huí-le jiā kànwàng-le wǒ jiārén. Dāi-le yí ge xīngqī yǐhòu wǒ jiu qù Táiběi kāihuì le. Zài Táiběi zhǐ dāi-le sān tiān, méiyǒu shíjiān qù kàn hěn duō dìfang. Míngnián hěn xiǎng zài huíqù yí cì duō liǎojiě yìxiàr Táiwān de wénhuà, duō kàn yìdiǎnr Táiwān de fēngjǐng, duō chī yìdiǎnr Táiwān de xiǎochī. Yīncǐ, wǒ xiànzài zhèngzài xiǎng bànfa duō tígāo wǒ de Zhōngwén shuǐpíng, duō zhuàn yìdiǎnr qián. Zhèi yàng wǒ dào Táiběi yǐhòu jiu kěyǐ hé Táiwān rén shuō Guóyǔ.

[Over] winter break, first I went home to visit my family. After a week there, I went to Taipeh for a meeting. I only stayed 3 days in Taipeh [so] I didn’t have time to see a lot of places. Next year, I want to go back once again to get to know more about Taiwanese culture, see more of Táiwān’s scenery, and to eat more Taiwanese snacks. That’s the reason that right now I’m thinking of how I can raise the level of my Chinese some more, and earn more money. That way after I get to Taipeh, I’ll be able to speak Mandarin to the people in Taiwan.

Notes

- a) hánjià: ‘winter break (cold-holiday)’
- b) liǎojiě ‘understand; appreciate’; for the pattern with duō, cf. §8...
- c) fēngjǐng ‘scenery’
- d) tígāo ‘raise (raise-high)’; shuǐpíng ‘level (water-level)’
- e) zhuàn ‘earn [money]’

Exercise 1

a) Prepare narratives along the following lines:

1. *Itinerary*: Arrived in Shanghai at 5:30 pm; got the #4 bus to the Shanghai train station. Planned to take the subway to the hotel on Zhàojiābāng Road; tired, lots of luggage; so, took a cab. Later on, moved once again to a hotel in Zhá Běi near the train station; that way, it's easier to get to the airport.

2. *Daily schedule*: Generally get up at 7:30, shower and have some rice gruel; bike to Beijing Yǔyán Dàxué for 10 o'clock class; at noon, eat lunch in the cafeteria with classmates; 1:00 to 3:00, two more classes; after class, off to the library to study. Usually eat dinner at a local restaurant. Sometimes, in the evening we go into town or hang out at bars and coffee shops; don't get home until quite late.

3. Over the New Year, I spent a few days with friends in Guilin, then went on to Kunming by train. Originally I had planned to visit Dàlǐ and Lìjiāng in the northwest of Yúnnán as well, but I didn't feel well, so I just stayed in Kūnmíng at the Camellia Hotel (sic) (Cháhuā Bīngǔǎn), wrote letters and rested. Later on, visited the Stone Forest (Shí Lín) and Zhèng Hé 's tomb (mù) on the southern shore of Lake Tian (Diān Chí).

b) Fill in the blanks with either zài, yòu, jiù or cái

1. Duìbuqǐ, wǒ méi tīngqīngchū, qǐng nǐ _____ shuō yí cì.
2. Lù hěn yuǎn, zuò huǒchē qù yěxǔ sān tiān _____ dào.
3. Nǐ děi xiān mǎi piào _____ néng shàngchē.
4. Nǐ xiān shàngchē _____ mǎi piào, hǎo bu hǎo.
5. Tā zuótiān méi lái, jīntiān _____ méi lái.
6. Xiànzài méiyǒu shíjiān, wǒmen míngtiān _____ shuō, hǎo bu hǎo?
7. Nǐ gāng chūqù, zěnme _____ huílái le?
8. Píngcháng wǒ sì diǎn huíjiā, kěshi jīntiān yīnwèi yǒu kǎoshì wǒ wǔ diǎn _____ huíjiā de.
9. Liǎng nián qián wǒ xué-le liù ge yuè de Zhōngwén, yǐhòu méiyǒu _____ xué le.
10. Píngcháng tā chī-le bàn wǎn fàn _____ bào le, kěshi jīntiān hěn è, liǎng wǎn _____ bǎo ne!
11. Nǐ bù duō zuò yìhuǐ le ma? _____ hē yì bēi kāfēi!
12. Rén bù duō, liù píng _____ gòu le.
13. Rén bù shǎo, shí'èr píng _____ gòu ne!
14. Zài Xī'ān dāi le yí ge lǐbài, ránhòu _____ huídào le Běijīng gōngzuò liǎng ge yuè.



Báishā, Yúnnán, zài Yùnlóngxuěshān jiǎo.

8.2 Sports

The Chinese government has long promoted sports and exercise as a means to health. Many urban dwellers participate in morning exercises timed to music over loudspeakers in public squares (yīnyuè bànzòu de chénliàn ‘music-accompanied DE morning-exercise’); and more recently, exercise courses have been constructed in public parks. A slogan from the late 90s was:

Fāzhǎn tǐyù yùndòng, zēngqiáng rénmín tǐzhì!
Develop PE [and] sports, strengthen the people’s constitutions!

While the traditional sports of pingpong, badminton and martial arts remain popular in China, a vast range of other sports, such as football (soccer), rock climbing, and motor racing, now attract participants or viewers. This section provides some conversational material and a list of sports and sport-like activities from which you can select.

Vocabulary

<zuò> yùndòng	duànliàn	yùndònghuì	tǐyùchǎng	tǐyùguǎn	-qiú
<do> sports, exercise	to exercise	sports events	stadium	gymnasium	-ball
jǔxíng	qiúmí	liúxíng	gōngyuán	fèijìn	
hold-go	ball-fanatic	flow-go	public-garden	use energy	
to hold [event]	[sports] fan	popular	park	be strenuous	

Usage

Nǐ xǐhuan shénme yàng de yùndòng?
Wǒ xǐhuan dǎ wǎngqiú, yóuyǒng.

What sort of sports do you like to do?
I like to play tennis and to swim.

Wǒ hěn xǐhuan kàn yùndòng huì. <i>Qù tǐyù chǎng kàn ma?</i> Yǒushíhou; yǒushíhou kàn diànshì.	I like to watch sports events. <i>You go to stadiums to see [them]?</i> Sometimes, and sometimes I watch TV.
Zuì liúxíng de yùndòng yǐqián shì pīngpāngqiú, yǔmáoqiú, tàijǐquán; xiànzài pānyán, zúqiú yě hěn liúxíng.	The most popular sports used to be pingpong, badminton, and taiji; now rock climbing and football are popular too.
Nǐ chángcháng duànliàn ma? <i>Wǒ hěn xiǎng duànliàn, kěshì chángcháng méiyǒu shíjiān.</i>	Do you often work out? <i>I try, but often, I don't have time.</i>
Zhèr fùjìn yǒu méiyǒu dìfāng kěyǐ pǎobù? <i>Zài gōngyuán, xíng bu xíng?</i>	Is there any place in the vicinity where I can jog? <i>How about in the park?</i>
2008 nián de Àoyùnhuì zài Běijīng jǔxíng; 2012 nián de zài Lúndūn.	The 2008 Olympics is being held at Beijing; and the 2012 [Games] are in London.
Zài Xīlà Àoyùnhuì, Zhōngguó yíng-le 63 méi jiǎngpái (jīnpái, yínpái, tóngpái).	At the Olympics in Greece, China won 63 medals (gold, silver, bronze medals).
Wǒ shì ge zúqiú mí. <i>Wǒ yě shì!</i>	I'm a football fan. <i>Me too!</i>
Wǒ zuì xǐhuan dǎ májiàng. <i>Dǎ májiàng? Nà bú shì yùndòng!</i> Nǎrdehuà? Dǎ májiàng yǒushíhou yě hěn fèijìn!	I like playing mahjong best! <i>Mahjong? That's not a sport!</i> What do you mean? Playing mahjong is also sometimes quite strenuous!

Notes

- a) méi M-word for medals, badges; also for rockets, mines.
 b) zúqiú mí 'foot-ball-fan'; cf. mí 'be enchanted'; yǐngmí 'a film buff'.
 c) nǎrdehuà 'whence the words' – an expression of disbelief; also used like nǎlǐ to ward off compliments.

8.2.1 List of sports

tí zúqiú	play football (kick foot-ball)	dǎ yǔmáoqiú	play badminton
dǎ bīngqiú	play hockey	qímǎ	ride horses
dǎ pīngpāngqiú	play pingpong	yóuyǒng	swim
dǎ lánqiú	play basketball	diào yú	fish (hook fish)
dǎ páiqiú	play volleyball	huá chuán	row (-boats)
dǎ wǎngqiú	play tennis	qí zìxíngchē	ride bikes
pǎobù	jog (run-foot)	páshān	climb mountains
jǔzhòng	lift weights (raise-heavy)	pānyán	(clamber on-rock)

liūbīng	skate (skate-ice)	huáxuě	ski (glide-snow)
huá hànbing	roller skate (glide dry-ice)	dǎpái	play cards
huá gūluxié	roller skate (glide coaster)	sàichē	motor-racing (race-auto)
dǎ qiáopái	play bridge	dǎ májiàng	play mahjong
sàimǎ	horse racing (race-horses)	dǎ qūgùndiú	play field hockey
fàng fēngzheng	fly kites (put kites)		(curved-club-ball)

Exercise 2.

1. Explain what sports you like, whether you work out, where you do such activity.
2. Explain where the next summer and winter Olympics are being held.
3. Explain who's number #1 in basketball, whose #1 in football (soccer), and other sports.
4. Recall the number of medals that the US (or some other country) won in the [date or place] Olympics.



Pool on the streets of Hühéhàotè.

8.3 Comparison**8.3.1 Non-comparatives**

Questions about degrees of intensity can be asked using the question word duō:

Xiàtiān duō rè?	How hot are the summers?
Tā duō gāo?	How tall is he?
Fēijīchǎng duō yuǎn?	How far's the airport?

Responses often include adverbs or constructions that indicate degree. The list below is organized into types, and includes a number of new constructions. .

With the modification placed before the SV

Jīntiān hěn rè.	Today's quite hot.
Jīntiān tǐng rè <de>!	Today's quite hot.
Jīntiān fēicháng rè.	Today's unusually hot.
Jīntiān bǐjiào rè.	It's quite ~ rather hot today.
Jīntiān xiāngdāng rè.	It's relatively ~ rather ~ quite hot today.
Jīntiān yǒu diǎnr rè.	Today's quite hot.

With the modification placed after the SV

Jīntiān rè-jíle.	It's really hot today. ('hot-the max')
Jīntiān rè-sǐle.	It's boiling today. ('hot-death')

Mediated by the particle +de (得) 'to the extent that'

Jīntiān rè+de hěn.	It's very hot today. ('hot-to very')
Jīntiān rè+de bùdeliǎo.	It's awfully hot today. ('hot-to amazing')
Jīntiān rè+de yàomìng!	It's excruciatingly hot today! ('hot-to want-life')
Jīntiān rè+de yàosǐ.	It's hot as hell today! ('hot-to want death')
Jīntiān rè+de shéi dōu bù xiǎng chūqù!	Today's so hot no one wants to go out.

Hěn, you will recall, is often found with SVs that are otherwise unmodified: Lèi ma? / Hěn lèi. In such cases, the force of hěn is weak, and it is often left untranslated. However, in the construction with +de illustrated by the first example above, hěn does convey a significant degree of intensity: Lèi+de hěn 'tired to the point of *very*', or 'very tired'. As shown above, SV+de can also be followed by bùdeliǎo 'extremely', or even a full sentence, shéi dōu bù xiǎng chūqù 'no one wants to go out'.

8.3.2 Comparison

a) Comparison is often implicit in the unmodified SV; but it is cancelled by the presence of preverbal hěn. Thus, for most, tā gāo is 'she's taller' but tā hěn gāo is 'she's quite tall'.

Shéi gāo? / Tā gāo.	Who's taller? / She's taller.
Tā gāo yìdiǎnr.	She's a bit taller.
Tā shāowēi gāo yìdiǎnr.	He's a wee bit taller.
Gāo duōshao?	How much taller?
Tā gāo yí cùn.	He's an inch taller.
Tā gāo yìxiē.	He's 'a measure' taller. (eg 'a few inches')
Tā shāowēi gāo yìxiē.	He's a wee bit taller.
Tā gāo yí bèi.	She's twice as tall.

Notes

a) Shāowēi (or more formally, shāo) is an ADV meaning 'slightly; a bit' (wēiruǎn 'Microsoft' de wēi). Like other ADVs, it appears before a V or SV, but typically also in conjunction with a post-verbal yìdiǎnr.

- b) While yìxiē (cf. xiē in §6.3.3) and yìdiǎnr are similar in meaning, the former implies a particular amount, hence a ‘few [cms, inches, etc.]’. Duō yìxiē would not be appropriate in comparing the populations of cities, for example.
- c) yí bèi ‘by one-fold; twice as’.

b) Explicit comparison involves the word bǐ ‘compare; than’, which (unlike English counterparts) is placed *before* the associated verb. Expressions indicating the degree or amount of comparison (eg yìdiǎnr) are placed *after* the SV; cf. Néng piányi yìdiǎnr ma? ‘Can [you] reduce it [by] a bit?’ from an earlier conversation.

A bǐ B SV degree

Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà.	Běijīng is bigger than Tiānjīn.
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà yìdiǎnr.	Běijīng is a bit bigger than Tj. [by a bit]
Bj. bǐ Tiānjīn shāowēi dà yìdiǎnr.	Beijing’s a little bit bigger than Tianjin.
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà hěn duō.	Beijing’s a lot bigger than Tj. [by quite a lot]
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà+de duō.	Běijīng is much bigger than Tj. [by a lot]
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīng dà duōle.	Bj is a lot bigger than Tj. [by a whole lot]
Běijīng bǐ Tiānjīn dà yí bèi.	Běijīng is twice as big as Tj. [by one fold]

Notes

- a) As in English, where we generally mean ‘in terms of population’ when we say one city is bigger than another, dà in the above set of sentences is more likely to mean population (rénkǒu) than area (miànjī).
- b) Notice that the various ways of expressing degree with the *non-comparatives* do not overlap with those of the *comparatives*: +de hěn, +de bùdeliǎo etc. are unique to non-comparatives; +de duō, duōle, etc. are unique to comparatives.

Short dialogue on population:

Jiǎ	Shànghǎi shì Zhōngguó rénkǒu zuì duō de chéngshì ba?	Shanghai’s the city with the largest population in China, right?
Yǐ	Shì, bǐ Běijīng duō.	Right, [it’s got] more than Beijing.
Jiǎ	Bǐ Běijīng duō duōshao?	How much more than Beijing?
Yǐ	Bǐ Běijīng duō jǐbǎiwàn.	Several million more [than Beijing].
Jiǎ	Nà, Shànghǎi shì shìjiè shàng zuì dà de ba?	So Shanghai’s the largest in the world?
Yǐ	Bù, Mòxīgē-shì gèng dà, wǒ xiǎng.	No, Mexico City’s even bigger, I think.

Summary

	NON-COMPARATIVE		COMPARATIVE			
~ English	<i>pre-</i>	<i>SV</i>	<i>-post</i>	<i>x bǐ y</i>	<i>SV amount</i>	~ English (tall)
quite tired	hěn	lèi			gāo	taller
very ...	fēicháng	lèi		<shāowēi>	gāo yìdiǎnr	a <wee> bit taller
rather ...	bǐjiào	lèi			gāo+ de duō	much taller
quite ...	xiāngdāng	lèi			gāo hěn duō	much taller
a bit ...	yǒu yìdiǎnr	lèi			gāo duō le	a lot taller
extremely ..		lèi-jíle			gāo yí cùn	an inch taller
exhausted		lèi-sǐle		<shāowēi>	gāo yìxiē	'a measure' taller
very ...		lèi+de hěn			gāo yí bèi	twice as tall
awfully ...		lèi+de bùdeliǎo				
terribly ...		lèi+de yàomìng				
dreadfully..		lèi+de yàosǐ				
so tired that		lèi+ de ...				

8.3.3 Another perspective: 'not as...'

a) Méi<you>...<nàme>

The claim that 'Beijing is bigger than Tianjin' is often negated not with 'Beijing isn't bigger' but with 'Beijing isn't as big as', ie rather than bù bǐ Tiānjīn dà (which is possible in certain contexts), the negative is usually méi<you> Tiānjīn <nàme> dà. In actual conversation, the bǐ versus méiyou patterns may serve to shift perspective, just as a shift from comparative to non-comparative may serve to confirm.

- Běijīng méiyou Shànghǎi <nàme> dà.
Duì a, Shànghǎi bǐ Běijīng dà duōle. Beijing's not as big as Shanghai.
Right, Shanghai's a lot bigger than Beijing.
- Miǎndiàn méiyou Tàiguó <nàme> fādá.
Shì a, Miǎndiàn bǐjiào luòhòu. Burma's not as developed as Thailand.
Right, Burma's more undeveloped.
- Kūnmíng de hǎibá méiyou Xīníng de <nàme> gāo.
Shì a, Xīníng de hǎibá shì sānqiān duō mǐ. Kunming['s elevation] isn't as high as [that of] Xining.
That's right, Xining's over 3000 meters high.

Kěshì Lāsà de gèng gāo. Zài Lāsà hūxi hěn kùnnan.
But Lhasa['s] is even higher. In Lhasa, breathing is quite difficult.

4. Yúnnán de lǎnhóu hěn kě'ài,
dànshì méiyóu xióngmāo kě'ài. The sloths in Yunnan are quite cute, but
not as cute as the panda bears.
Shì a, xióngmāo zuì kě'ài. True, pandas are the cutest!
5. Yúnnán de Shí Lín hěn zhuàngguān,
kěshì méiyóu Xīzàng fēngjǐng
nàme zhuàngguān. The Stone Forest of Yunnan is spec-
tacular, but not as spectacular as the
scenery in Tibet.

Notes

- a) Countries are often characterized as fādá ‘developed’ and luòhòu ‘backwards’.
b) hǎibá ‘elevation; height (sea-exceed)’
c) hūxi ‘to breathe (breathe out-breathe in)’
d) kùnnán ‘difficult; laborious (hard pressed-difficult)’
e) lǎnhóu ‘sloths (lazy-monkey)’
f) xióngmāo ‘pandas (bear-cat)’
g) zhuàngguān ‘spectacular (robust-sight)’

b) *Bù rú* ‘not as’

A more formal expression, bùrú, literally ‘not like’ (sìjì rúchūn de rú) can substitute for méiyǒu...<nàme>. With bùrú, where there is no following SV, ‘as good as’ is understood:

Hànyǔ ne, Wáng Xiǎobīn bùrú Léi Hàn**bó**. ‘not as good as’
= Hànyǔ ne, Wáng Xiǎobīn méiyǒu Léi Hàn**bó** <nàme> **hǎo**.

Otherwise, a SV may be explicitly mentioned:

Lǎoshī bùrú xuéshēng cōngmíng,
kěshì xuéshēng bù rú lǎoshī yònggōng. Teachers aren’t as intelligent as the
students, but the students aren’t as
hard working as the teachers!

A Nanjing newspaper, *Yángzi Wǎnbào*, had the following headline, directed to the youth of Nanjing:

Shàngxiāng bùrú shàngwǎng; qiúshén bùrú qiúzhī.
put on-incense not-as go on-web; seek-divinity not-as seek-knowledge
Better to surf the web than get stoned; better to seek knowledge than religion!

Summary

<i>Positive perspective</i>	<i>Negative perspective</i>
Shànghǎi bǐ Běijīng dà+de duō.	Běijīng méiyǒu Shànghǎi <nàme> dà.
	Běijīng bùrú Shànghǎi dà.
<i>Shanghai's much bigger than Beijing.</i>	<i>Beijing isn't as big as Shanghai.</i>

c) Comparatives with V+de:

Comparing how well people do something may combine the comparative constructions with V+de. There are two options: either the comparison may be mentioned first, or the V+de is mentioned first:

V+de, then bǐ:

Tā Yīngyǔ shuō+de [bǐ wǒ hǎo].

He speaks English better than I do.

Tā chànggē chàng+de [bǐ wǒ hǎo].

She sings better than I do.

Bǐ, then V+de:

Yīngyǔ, tā bǐ wǒ [shuō+de hǎo].

He speaks English better than I do.

Chàngē, tā bǐ wǒ [chàng+de hǎo].

She sings better than I do.

Exercise 3.

a) Praise other people's abilities over your own:

1. Chàngē [hǎotīng] > Nǐ chàng +de bǐ wǒ hǎotīng. ~ Nǐ bǐ wǒ chàng+de hǎotīng.
2. Zuòfàn [hǎo]
3. Xiězì [qīngchū]
4. Yòng kuàizi [hǎo]
5. Huàhuà [bīzhēn 'lifelike']
6. Zhǎng [gāo]

b) Do the following, either writing your answers down, or preparing for oral responses:

1. Explain that Yáo Míng is 6 inches taller than Michael Jordan [Màikè Qiáodān].
2. Note that you both like to sing, but that (s)he sings much better than you.
3. Explain that you have an older brother who's 5 years older than you.
4. Explain that eating your own [zìjǐ zuò de] cooking is always better than eating out.
5. Note that apartments ('houses') are twice as expensive in Beijing as in Xīníng.
6. Explain that it's frustrating (tǎoyàn): he's doesn't study as hard (yònggōng) as you do, but he speaks more fluently.
7. Explain that in the winter in Lasa, it's so cold no one [shéi dǒu] dares [gǎn] to go out.
8. Explain that the weather has gotten a wee bit warmer [nuǎnhuó] recently.