

Unit 9

Xīngxīng zhī huǒ kěyǐ liáo yuán.
 [Or, in more compact form: Xīnghuǒ liáoyuán.]
 Spark's flame can set-fire-to plains.
A single spark can start a prairie fire.
 Saying, classical style.

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9.1 More modification

As noted earlier, de is typically a mark of modification: zuótiān de bàozhǐ 'yesterday's newspaper'; zuótiān mǎi de huǒchē piào 'the train tickets [we] bought yesterday'. Such modifying phrases serve to pin down a particular item: not any bàozhǐ but zuótiān de bàozhǐ; not any lí but líkǎi de lí, 'the li of likai'. Often, definitions have the same form:

lǎoshī: zài xuéxiào jiāoshū de <rén>.
 gōngrén: zài gōngchǎng gōngzuò de <rén>.
 xuéshēng: zài xuéxiào dúshū de <rén>.

English speakers need to pay special attention to de-patterns, since they often show quite a different order of modifier and modified:

A chef is someone [who cooks in a restaurant].

Chúshī shì [zài fānguǎnr zuòfàn de] rén.

9.1.1 Other vocabulary:

The following vocabulary is needed for exercise 1, below:

wǎng shàng net on <i>on the internet</i>	jiāo péngyou exchange friends <i>meet friends</i>	nóngmín agric.-people <i>farmers</i>	zhòngdì plant-ground <i>cultivate the soil</i>
gōngjù work-tool <i>tool</i>	shèyǐngshī shoot-picture-expert <i>photographer</i>	gànbu a cadre; <i>political-worker</i>	
xīnwén bàodào news report <i>the news</i>	wòfáng sleep room <i>bedroom</i>	zhèngfǔ <i>government</i>	fúwù <i>to serve</i>

pāizhào VO ‘take photos (strike-reflection)’;
zhàoxiàng VO ‘to take photos (reflect-likeness)’

Wǒ zhào <yí> ge xiàng, hǎo bu hǎo? Let me take a photo, okay?
Wǒ pāi <yí> ge zhào, hǎo bu hǎo?

Wǒmen dào Tiān’ānmén Guǎngchǎng We went to Tiān’anmen Square to
zhàoxiàng qu le. take some photographs.

Zuótiān wǒmen zài Pǔdōng zhào le Yesterday, we took some photos
jǐ zhāng xiàng. in Pudong [Shanghai].

Exercise 1.

a) Provide items that fit the following definitions:

1. Zhōngguó rén chīfàn de shíhou yòng de gōngjù.
2. Wèi biérén zhàoxiàng de rén.
3. Gěi bìngrén kànbìng de rén.
4. Wèi Zhōngguó rénmín gōngzuò de rén.

b) Provide Chinese definitions based on the characteristics provided:

5. nóngmín: cultivate land in the countryside
6. jìzhě: write news reports
7. fúwùyuán: serve [for the sake of] guests
8. wǎngyǒu: friends made online

9.1.2 Dialogue: Who's in the photo?

Máo Dàwéi is with the mother of one of his friends (whom he calls bómǔ ‘wife of father’s elder brother; auntie’). She is a photographer (shèyǐngshī). They are looking at photographs taken in the 30s when Máo Zédōng was in Yán’ān (in northern Shǎnxī).

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| Bómǔ | Nǐ kàn, zhè shì Máo Zédōng zài Yán’ān. | Look, here’s Mao Zedong at Yan’an. |
| Máo | Tā pángbiānr de nèi ge rén shì shéi? | Who’s that next to him? |
| Bómǔ | Yòubiānr de shì Zhū Dé; zuǒbiānr de shì Zhōu Ēnlái. Nǐ kàn, hòubiānr de nèi liǎng ge wàiguó rén shì Sīnuò hé Sīnuò fūrén. | The one on the right is Zhu De, the one on the left is Zhou Enlai. Look, those two foreigners in the back are [Edgar] Snow and Mrs. Snow. |
| Máo | Sīnuò fūfù shì Měiguó jìzhě, shì bu shì? | The Snows were American reporters, right? |
| Bómǔ | Duì, Sīnuò shì ge ‘guóji yǒurén’, xiàng Bái Qiú’ēn dàifu. | Right, [Edgar] Snow was an ‘international friend’, like Dr. Norman Bethune. |
| Máo | Zhū Dé ne? | And Zhu De? |
| Bómǔ | Zhū Dé shì jiāngjun, cānjiā le Cháng Zhēng. | Zhu De was a general, who took part in in the Long March. |
| Máo | Cháng Chéng ne? | The Great Wall? |
| Bómǔ | Bú shì Cháng Chéng, shì Cháng Zhēng; Hóngjūn cóng Jǐnggāng Shān zǒudào Yán’ān. | Not the Great Wall, the Long March, [when] the Red Army marched from Jingangshan to Yan’an. |
| Máo | O, Cháng Zhēng, wǒ tīngcuò le. Nǐ shuō de shì 1935 nián de Cháng Zhēng ba. Wǒ yǐwéi nǐ shuō de shì Cháng Chéng! | Oh, the Long March – I heard it wrong. You’re talking about the Long March of 1935. I thought you said the Great Wall. |
| Bómǔ | Jiùshi le! Zhū Dé cānjiā le Cháng Zhēng. | Exactly! Zhu De took part in the Long March. |

Notes

a) Yán’ān: a city in a remote part of northern Shǎnxī; from 1937-47, it was the capital of the communist controlled part of China.

b) Zhū Dé, 1886 – 1976; close associate of Mao, and at the inauguration of the PRC, he was the Commander-in-Chief of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

- c) Zhōu Ēnlái, 1899 – 1976, Premier under the PRC.
- d) Sīnuò: Edgar Snow (1905 – 72), an American reporter, author of *Red Star over China*, based on interviews with Mao and others conducted at Yan’an after the Long March. His first wife, Helen Foster Snow, also a journalist, accompanied him for part of his stay in Yan’an.
- e) fūfū ‘husband and wife’. Level toned fū ‘man’ appears as the first syllable of fūren ‘Mrs.’ (ie ‘man’s person’); falling toned fù ‘woman’ appears in words such as fùkē ‘gynecology (woman-section)’.
- f) Guójì yǒurén: a designation for foreigners who helped Chinese during hard times, especially in the 50s and 60s, when China was most isolated from the rest of the world.
- g) Bái Qiū’ēn: Norman Bethune (1890 – 1939), a Canadian physician who died of blood poisoning while serving as a doctor in the communist area. Mao wrote an essay on him that was once required reading in China.
- h) dàifu: ‘doctor; physician’; cf. yīsheng.
- i) jiāngjun ‘military officer; general’
- j) cānjiā: ‘to join; participate in; take part in’.
- k) Cháng Zhēng ‘The Great March’. In 1934, the Communist forces retreated from their base areas in rural Jiāngxī (known as the Jiangxi Soviet) under military pressure from the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party). They marched westwards at first, and then in a great arc northwards, ending up in Yan’an in 1935, a journey of almost 10,000 kilometers.
- l) Jīnggāng Shān: The Jinggang Mountains in Jiangxi.
- m) Hóngjūn: ‘the Red army’
- n) yǐwéi: ‘think; believe [s/t that turns out to be incorrect] (take to be)’.



9.2 Clothes

25 years ago, the predominant color of clothing in the PRC was white for shirts, and dark blue or dark grey for most everything else, though on occasion, youth wore red scarves to show their political loyalty. Men, in those days, wore Mao suits, a type of attire originally promoted by Sun Yat-sen earlier in the 20th century to provide a formal dress for civil servants that looked modern but not completely western. So-called Mao suits are still called Zhōngshānzhuāng ‘Zhongshan tunics’ or Zhōngshānfú ‘Zhongshan clothes’ in Chinese. In Mandarin, Sun Yat-sen is usually known not by the Mandarin rendition of Sun Yat-sen, Sūn Yìxiān, but by his alternate name Sūn Zhōngshān; Zhongshan, on the coast of Canton province, was his birthplace.

Beginning in the late 1980s, clothing styles started to change in the PRC, and nowadays, there is little in the way of dress to distinguish people on the street in, say, Chengdu, from their counterparts in Chicago or Hamburg. However, Chinese styled garments (actually modern versions of more traditional garments), such as the following, are still seen:

<i>traditional</i>	mián’ǎo	cotton padded jacket
	cháng páo<r>	long scholar’s robe
	mǎguà<r>	men’s short coat
	qípáo<r>	‘cheongsam’; woman’s long gown (with slit skirt)

Zhōngguó chuántǒng de yīfu yǒu mián’ǎo, chángpáo, mǎguà, qípáo dēngdēng.

Chinese traditional clothing includes padded jackets, robes, short coats, cheongsams, etc.

Ordinary types of clothing are listed below. Most types of clothing are counted by way of the M-word jiàn; shoes and boots, however, are counted with shuāng ‘pair’, or if singly, with zhī.

clothing

máoyī	sweater (wool-clothing)	chènshān	shirt (lining-shirt)
jiákè	jacket [based on the English]	qúnzi	skirt
kùzi	trousers	duǎn kùzi	shorts
nèiyī	underwear (inner-clothes)	chènku	underpants (lining-trs)
niúzǎikù	jeans (cow-boy-trousers)	wàzi	socks; stockings
xié ~ xiézi	shoes	xuēzi	boots

T xù<shān> T-shirt [from English ‘T-shirt’, by way of Cantonese, where xù is pronounced *xut*]

<i>formal wear</i>	[yí tào] xīfu	a suit ([a set] western-clothes)
	wǎnlǐfú	formal evening dress (f) (‘evening-ceremony-clothes’)
	yèlǐfú	formal attire; tuxedo (m) (‘night-ceremony-clothes’)

Chinese has two words corresponding to English ‘wear’: chuān, literally ‘to pass through’ is used for clothing and shoes; dài is used for accessories, such as hats, belts and glasses:

dài	màozi	hat
	yǎnjìng	glasses (‘eye-mirror’)
	tàiyángjìng	dark glasses (‘sun-mirror’)

There is a third word, jì ‘tie; fasten; do up’, which is used for things such as neckties and seatbelts that in English also get ‘worn’:

jì	lǐngdài	tie (‘neck-belt’)
	ānquándài	seatbelt (‘safety-belt’)

Note

The dài of lǐngdài, ‘belt’, is homophonous with dài meaning ‘wear’, but the two words are unrelated (and written with different characters).

9.2.1 Describing people in terms of their clothes

People can be characterized in terms of the clothes they are wearing:

Nǐ kàn, chuān niúzáikù de nèi ge rén – tǐng shímáo de!
Look at that guy in jeans--such style!

Chuān hóng máoyī de nèi ge rén shì nǐ wèi?
Who’s the person in the red sweater?

Chuān duǎn kùzi de nèi wèi shì shéi?
Who’s the person wearing shorts?

Dài tàiyángjìng de shì Lǐ Péng.
The one with the sunglasses is Li Peng.

Jì huáng lǐngdài de shì Zhū Róngjī.
Zhu Rongji’s the one with the yellow tie.



Méngǔ rén chuántǒng de yīfu; hòutou de yáng nǐ kàndejiàn ma?

9.3 Bargaining, the way the Chinese might do it.

Recall the earlier material (especially in Unit 8) on shopping and bargaining. Here is a more sophisticated dialogue that is envisioned as taking place between locals, so the only likely role for a foreign student is as a bystander, listening in. Because it takes place between Chinese, it is colloquial, and incorporates a number of quite idiomatic expressions, which are explicated in the notes. It is worth trying to enact the Chinese roles, but to be effective, you will need to sustain a convincing level of fluency.

Běijīng: Yī runs a shop that sells leather jackets; Jiǎ is a female customer.

Yī: Lǎobǎn, zhèi jiàn pídayī duōshao qián? Proprietor, how much is this leather coat?

Yī: Yìqiānwǔ. ¥1,500.

Jiǎ: Jiu zhèi yàng de pídayī yìqiānwǔ?! A jacket like that is ¥1,500?! That's a 'rip
Tài hēi le ba! Biéde dìfang gēn zhèi off'. At other places, coats almost exactly
jiàn chàbuduō yíyàng de, cái wǔbǎi the same as this one are only ¥500 plus!
duō kuài! Nǐ gěi yí ge gōngdao diǎnr Give [me] a more reasonable price!
de jià!

Yī: Nǐ kāi shénme guójì wánxiào! Zhè shi What sort of an 'international joke' are you
zhēn pí de! Nǐ mōmo, shǒugǎn duō pulling? This is a real leather one! Feel it,
hǎo! Nǐ zài biéde dìfang kàndào de the texture's so nice! Those you saw else-
yíding shi jiǎhuò! Nèi yàng de yīfu, where must be fakes! That sort of clothing,
nǐ chuānbuliǎo duō cháng shíjiàn jiu you can't wear it for any length of time
huài le. Wǒ zhèi jiàn, bǎo nín chuān before it's worn out. The one I have, it's
tā ge jǐshí nián méiyǒu wèntí! a sure thing that you can wear it several
decades without a problem!

Jiǎ: Lǎobǎn, nǐ jiu chuī ba! Fǎnzhèng 'Boss', you're having me on! Still,
chuīniú yě bú shàngshuì! bragging's not taxed!

Yī: Zhèiyàng ba, dàjiě, wǒ kàn nín shi How about this, sister, I see that you're
zhēnxīn yào mǎi. Wǒ jiu fàng yìdiǎnr serious about buying [it]; okay I'll take a
xiě. Nǐ gěi yìqiānsān zěnmeyàng? hit. How about you pay ¥1,300?

Jiǎ: Yìqiānsān bù xíng. Wǔbǎi, nǐ mài ¥1,300's not on. ¥500 – you selling or not?
bu mài?

Yī: Aiya, dàjiě, nín zǒngděi ràng wǒ zhuàn Gosh, sister, you have to let me earn s/t!
yìdiǎnr ba! Wǒ shànghuò jiu bābǎi. Nǐ It takes me ¥800 to buy the stock. Pay me
duō gěi yìdiǎnr. Nèi diǎnr qián, duì nín a bit more. The extra is only a couple of
lái shuō, jiùshi jǐ dùn fàn qián, dànshi meals for you, but for me, it's crucial. I need
duì wǒ lái shuō, hěn zhòngyào. Wǒ yào to earn some money to pay for my kid's
zhuàn yìdiǎnr qián gěi wǒ háizi jiāo tuition.
xuéfèi.

- Jiǎ: Bābǎi zěnmeyàng? ¥800 then?
 Yǐ: Bābǎi tài shǎo le; zài duō gěi yìdiǎnr. ¥800's too little; give a little more. ¥1,200.
 Yìqiān'èr.
 Jiǎ: Jiǔbǎi. ¥900.
 Yǐ: Yìqiānyī. Yàobu, zán qǔ ge zhōng, ¥1,100. Or else how about splitting
 zěnmeyàng? Nǐ gěi yìqiān: wǒ shǎo the difference? Pay ¥1,000. I earn a
 zhuàn yìdiǎnr, nín duō gěi diǎnr. bit less, you pay a bit more.
 Jiǎ: Bù xíng, jiǔ bǎi, nín mài bu mài? Nǐ Nope; ¥900 – take it or leave it. If you
 bú mài wǒ jiu zǒu le. don't take it, I'm leaving.
 Yǐ: Hǎo, hǎo, jiǔbǎi jiu jiǔbǎi. Ai, dài jiě, Okay, okay, ¥900 then. Gosh, sister, you
 nín kě zhēn néng tāojià-huánjià. Wǒ can really bargain! I've got to hand it to
 kě zhēn fú le nín le. Hǎo le, dài jiě, you! So, sister, that makes us friends. How
 jiu suàn zán jiāo ge péngyou. Nín gěi about introducing some friends to me [and]
 wǒ jièshào jǐ ge péngyou lai, duō buying more... Here's your coat. Hold on
 mǎi dōngxi, hǎo bu hǎo? ... Zhè shi to it!
 nín de pídayī. Náhǎo.
 Jiǎ: Zhè shi jiǔbǎi zhěng. Nǐ shǔshǔ. Here's ¥900 exactly – count it.
 Yǐ: Méi cuò, zhèng hǎo jiǔbǎi. Correct, exactly ¥900.
 Nín màn zǒu. Huānyíng nín zài lái. Take care. Please come back again.

Based on Chen Tong, 09/05

Notes:

- tài hēi le 'too black', which suggests 'extortion'; 'rip off' has the
 right level of informality, but may be too offensive.
 gōngdao SV: used regionally to mean 'friendly; affable'; so gōngdao
 (hédào in the South) diǎnr de jià 'a more reasonable price'.
 guóji wánxiào 'international joke', meaning 'out of the realm of
 possibilities; outlandish; off the wall'
 zhēn píde 'real leather one'
 mō 'to feel'
 shǒugǎn 'the feel [of it] (hand-feel)'
 jiǎhuò 'fakes (false-goods)'
 chuānbuliǎo V-bu-liǎo 'cannot V'; cf. §9.8.3 (b)
 bǎo 'keep; ensure; guarantee'; contrast bǎo 'full'
 chuān tā a case where tā refers to a thing, not a person.
 ge jǐshí nián with jǐshí nián measured by the M-word ge: 'wear it for a
 couple of decades'

chuī	‘blow’, but here, short for <u>chuīniú</u> or <u>chuī niú pí</u> ; see next entry.
chuīniú ~ niú pí	VO ‘talk big; have [one] on (blow-ox <skin>)’
fǎnzhèng	‘anyway (overturned-upright)’
zhēnxīn	‘sincere (real-heart)’
fàng xiě ~ xuè	‘bleed (put-blood)’, here in the sense of ‘make the sacrifice’; ‘blood’ is more often <u>xiě</u> in this context, s/t <u>xuè</u> .
zǒngděi	‘must; have to (always-must)’
ràng	‘let [one do s/t]’
shàngguò	VO ‘replenish stock (load-goods)’
duì nín lái shuō	‘in your case; for you (to you come say)’
zhòngyào	SV ‘important; crucial (heavy-need)’
jiāo xué fèi	VO ‘deliver tuition (deliver study-expenses)’; <u>gěi wǒ háizi jiāo xué fèi</u> ‘for my child hand-over tuition’
zài duō gěi yìdiǎnr	‘give a bit more again’; cf. §8....
yàobu	‘if not’; a reduced form of <u>yàoburán</u> ‘otherwise (if-not-so)’; also <u>bùrán</u> ‘not so’.
zán	colloquial, or regional, for <u>zánmen</u> ; cf. §2...
qǔ ge zhōng	‘split the difference (fetch the middle)’
nín kě zhēn néng ...	‘you sure really can...’; <u>kě</u> here, an adverb.
tǎojià-huánjià	VO-VO ‘bargain (ask a price-return a price)’
fú	‘to submit’
kě zhēn fú le nín le	‘got to hand it to you (sure really submit LE you LE)’
suàn	V ‘calculate; reckon’
jiāo ge péngyou	jiao ‘hand over; meet’: <u>jiāo ge péngyou</u> ‘make a friend’; <u>jiāo xué fèi</u> ‘hand over tuition’
jiǔbǎi zhěng	= <u>zhěng jiǔbǎi</u> ; <u>zhěng</u> ‘whole; entire; fully’. Cf. <u>Zhěng sān diǎn</u> or <u>sān diǎn zhěng</u> ‘3 o’clock on the dot’. To be contrasted with <u>zhèng</u> ‘exactly; precisely’ – see next entry.
zhèng hǎo jiǔbǎi	‘exactly ¥900 (precisely-good 900)’
Huānyíng nín zài lái.	In China, this phrase is often translated literally into English as ‘Welcome to come again!’.