LEARNING OBJECTIVES
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to
- Tell and speak about time and dates;
- Talk about one’s age and birthday;
- Invite someone to dinner;
- Arrange a dinner date.

RELATE AND GET READY
In your own culture/community—
1. Do people write the month before the day or the day before the month?
2. Is it appropriate to ask about people’s age and birthday?
3. What do people typically do to celebrate their birthday?
Dialogue I: Taking Someone Out to Eat on His/Her Birthday

(Gao Wenzhong is talking to Bai Ying'ai.)

白英爱，九月十二号①是星期几②？

是星期四。

那天④是我的⑤生日。

是吗？你今年多大⑥？

十八岁④。

我星期四请你吃饭③，怎么样？

太好了。谢谢，谢谢③。
你喜欢吃中国菜还是美国菜？
我是英国人，可是我喜欢吃中国菜。
好，我们吃中国菜。
星期四几点？
七点半怎么样？
好，星期四晚上见。
再见！

(Gao Wenzhong is talking to Bai Ying'ai.)

Bái Yīng'ai, jīnyuè shí’èr háo shì xīngqī jǐ? (你今年多大?)
Shì xīngqī. (是星期。)
Nà tiān shí wǒ de shēngrì. (那今天是我生日。)
Shì ma? Nǐ jīnnián duō dà? (是吗？你今年多大？)
Shíbā suì. (十八岁。)
Wǒ xīngqī shì qǐng nǐ chī fàn, zěnmeyàng? (我星期是你吃饭，怎么样？)
Tài hǎo le. Xièxié, xièxié. (太好了。谢谢，谢谢。)
Nǐ xīhuan chī Zhōngguó cài háishì Měiguó cài? (你喜欢吃中国菜还是美国菜？)
Wǒ shì Yīngguó rén, kěshì wǒ xīhuan chī Zhōngguó cài. (我是英国人，可是我喜欢吃中国菜。)
Hǎo, wǒmen chī Zhōngguó cài. (好，我们吃中国菜。)
Xīngqī jǐ diǎn? (星期几点？)
Qī diǎn bàn zěnmeyàng? (七点半怎么样？)
Hǎo, xīngqīsī wānshāng jiàn. (好，星期五晚上见。)
Zàijiàn.

To find out someone’s age, we ask, 你今年多大？(Nǐ jīnnián duō dà?). If the person is a child who appears to be under ten, ask instead, 你今年几岁？(Nǐ jīnnián jǐ suì?). To find out an older person’s age, it would be more polite to ask, 您多大年纪了？or 您多大岁数了？(Nín duō dà niánjì le? / Nín duō dà suīshù le?).

To give one’s age, it is correct to say 我十八岁 (Wǒ shíbā suì, I’m eighteen years old), and the verb 是 usually not needed. The word 岁 (suì, year of age) can often be dropped. However, if the age is ten or under, the word 岁 cannot be omitted: *我十 (Wǒ shí) or *我八 (Wǒ bā). Note that we never say, *我十八年 (Wǒ shíbā nián).

To express gratitude, one can say 谢谢 (xièxié), or 谢谢, 谢谢 (xièxié, xièxié) which is more polite and exuberant.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>九月</td>
<td>jiǔyuè</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>月</td>
<td>yuè</td>
<td>month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>十二</td>
<td>shí’èr</td>
<td>twelve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>号</td>
<td>hào</td>
<td>(measure word for number in a series; day of the month)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>星期</td>
<td>xīngqī</td>
<td>week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>星期四</td>
<td>xīngqīsì</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>天</td>
<td>tiān</td>
<td>day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>生日</td>
<td>shēngrì</td>
<td>birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>生日</td>
<td>shēng</td>
<td>to give birth to; to be born</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>日</td>
<td>rì</td>
<td>day; sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>今年</td>
<td>jīnnián</td>
<td>this year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>年</td>
<td>nián</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>多</td>
<td>duō</td>
<td>how many/much; to what extent; many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>大</td>
<td>dà</td>
<td>big; old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>十八</td>
<td>shíbā</td>
<td>eighteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>年</td>
<td>suì</td>
<td>year (of age)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>吃</td>
<td>chī</td>
<td>to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>饭</td>
<td>fàn</td>
<td>meal; (cooked) rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>怎么样</td>
<td>zěnmeyàng</td>
<td>Is it O.K.? How is that? How does that sound?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>太…了</td>
<td>tài...le</td>
<td>too; extremely</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>谢谢</td>
<td>xièxie</td>
<td>v to thank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>喜欢</td>
<td>xǐhuan</td>
<td>v to like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>菜</td>
<td>cài</td>
<td>n dishes, cuisine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>还是</td>
<td>háishi</td>
<td>conj or [See Grammar 5.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>可是</td>
<td>kěshi</td>
<td>conj but</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>我们</td>
<td>wǒmen</td>
<td>pr we</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>点</td>
<td>diǎn</td>
<td>m o’clock (lit. dot, point, thus “points on the clock”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>半</td>
<td>bàn</td>
<td>nu half; half an hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>晚上</td>
<td>wǎnshang</td>
<td>t/n evening; night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>见</td>
<td>jiàn</td>
<td>v to see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>再见</td>
<td>zàijiàn</td>
<td>v goodbye; see you again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>再</td>
<td>zài</td>
<td>adv again</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proper Noun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>英国</td>
<td>Yīngguó</td>
<td>Britain; England</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 1. Numbers (0, 1–100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>一</td>
<td>二</td>
<td>三</td>
<td>四</td>
<td>五</td>
<td>六</td>
<td>七</td>
<td>八</td>
<td>九</td>
<td>十</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>yī</td>
<td>èr</td>
<td>sān</td>
<td>sì</td>
<td>wǔ</td>
<td>liù</td>
<td>qī</td>
<td>bā</td>
<td>jiǔ</td>
<td>shí</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>十一</td>
<td>十二</td>
<td>十三</td>
<td>十四</td>
<td>十五</td>
<td>十六</td>
<td>十七</td>
<td>十八</td>
<td>十九</td>
<td>二十</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>shíyī</td>
<td>shíèr</td>
<td>shísān</td>
<td>shísì</td>
<td>shíwǔ</td>
<td>shíliù</td>
<td>shíqī</td>
<td>shíbā</td>
<td>shíjiǔ</td>
<td>èrshí</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>二十一</td>
<td>二十二</td>
<td>二十三</td>
<td>二十四</td>
<td>二十五</td>
<td>二十六</td>
<td>二十七</td>
<td>二十八</td>
<td>二十九</td>
<td>三十</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>èrshíyī</td>
<td>èrshíèr</td>
<td>èrshísān</td>
<td>èrshísì</td>
<td>èrshíwǔ</td>
<td>èrshíliù</td>
<td>èrshíqī</td>
<td>èrshíbā</td>
<td>èrshíjiǔ</td>
<td>sānshí</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>九十一</td>
<td>九十二</td>
<td>九十三</td>
<td>九十四</td>
<td>九十五</td>
<td>九十六</td>
<td>九十七</td>
<td>九十八</td>
<td>九十九</td>
<td>一百</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>jiǔshíyī</td>
<td>jiǔshíèr</td>
<td>jiǔshísān</td>
<td>jiǔshísì</td>
<td>jiǔshíwǔ</td>
<td>jiǔshíliù</td>
<td>jiǔshíqī</td>
<td>jiǔshíbā</td>
<td>jiǔshíjiǔ</td>
<td>yībāi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

200 is 二百/两百 (èrbǎi/liǎngbǎi, two hundred).

What's the emergency number in China that you can dial if your belongings are stolen? Can you say the number in Chinese?
What's the number to the fire station if you want to report a fire? Can you say it in Chinese?

2. Dates and Time

1 Days of the week:

In China the week starts on Monday. The expression 星期几 (xīngqījǐ) is used in the question to ask the day of the week. To answer this question, simply replace the word 几 (jǐ, how many) with the number indicating the day of the week, as in 星期四 (xīngqīsì, Thursday), meaning the fourth day of the week. In spoken Chinese the expression 礼拜 (lǐbài, week) is also used. It is more colloquial than 星期 (xīngqī). Therefore, 礼拜四 (lǐbàisì) also means Thursday. Both 星期日 (xīngqīrì) and 星期天 (xīngqītiān) mean Sunday. 星期日 (xīngqīrì) is used more in written Chinese whereas 星期天 (xīngqītiān) is used more in spoken Chinese.

While 星期/礼拜 (xīngqī/lǐbài, week) is commonly used in spoken Chinese, 周 (zhōu, week) is usually used in written Chinese. Monday can also be called 周一 (zhōu/yī), Tuesday 周二 (zhōu’èr), etc. Weekend is 周末 (zhōumò) in both spoken and written Chinese, and in written Chinese 周日 (zhōurì) is sometimes used to refer to Sunday, but never *周天 (zhōutiān).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>星期一</td>
<td>星期二</td>
<td>星期三</td>
<td>星期四</td>
<td>星期五</td>
<td>星期六</td>
<td>星期日</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xīngqíyī</td>
<td>xīngqí’èr</td>
<td>xīngqīsān</td>
<td>xīngqīsì</td>
<td>xīngqīwǔ</td>
<td>xīngqílù</td>
<td>xīngqírì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>礼拜一</td>
<td>礼拜二</td>
<td>礼拜三</td>
<td>礼拜四</td>
<td>礼拜五</td>
<td>礼拜六</td>
<td>礼拜天</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lǐbàiyī</td>
<td>lǐbài’èr</td>
<td>lǐbāisān</td>
<td>lǐbāisì</td>
<td>lǐbāiwǔ</td>
<td>lǐbāiliù</td>
<td>lǐbàirì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>周一</td>
<td>周二</td>
<td>周三</td>
<td>周四</td>
<td>周五</td>
<td>周六</td>
<td>周日</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zhōuyī</td>
<td>zhōu’èr</td>
<td>zhōusān</td>
<td>zhōusi</td>
<td>zhōuwǔ</td>
<td>zhōuliù</td>
<td>zhōuri</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a sign outside of a store. Can you figure out on which day the store is closed?
2 Months:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January:  一月</th>
<th>July:  七月</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February:  二月</td>
<td>August:  八月</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March:  三月</td>
<td>September:  九月</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April:  四月</td>
<td>October:  十月</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May:  五月</td>
<td>November:  十一月</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June:  六月</td>
<td>December:  十二月</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Days of the month:

In spoken Chinese 号 (hào, number) is used to refer to the days of the month. However, in written Chinese 日 (rì, day) is always used.

**EXAMPLES:**

二月五号  er yuè wǔ hào  February 5 (Spoken)

二月五日  er yuè wǔ rì  February 5 (Written)

4 Year:

年 (nián, year) always follows the numbers referring to a year.

**EXAMPLES:**

一七八六年  yī qī bā liù nián  1786

二〇一五年  èr líng yī wǔ nián  2015

Unlike in English, where the two years given above are read “seventeen eighty-six” and “twenty-fifteen” respectively, years in Chinese are pronounced one digit at a time.

5 Word order for dates:

To give a date in Chinese, observe the following order:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>month</th>
<th>day</th>
<th>day of the week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x年</td>
<td>x月</td>
<td>x号/日</td>
<td>星期x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nián</td>
<td>yuè</td>
<td>hào/ri</td>
<td>xīngqī</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

二〇一五年七月二十六号/日星期三
èr líng yī wǔ nián qìyuè èrshíliù hào/ri xīngqīsān
(Wednesday, July 26, 2015)
Telling Time:

These terms are used to tell time: 点/点钟 (diǎn/diānzhōng, o'clock), 半 (bàn, half hour), 刻 (kè, quarter hour), and 分 (fēn, minute).

A. HOUR:

```
两点 (zhōng) can be omitted from 点钟 (diānzhōng).

二点 (zhōng) is not used.
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B. MINUTE:

```
十二点四十 (fēn)  shí’èr diǎn sìshí (fēn)

两点零五 (fēn)   liǎng diǎn líng wǔ (fēn)

五点二十 (fēn)   wǔ diǎn èrshí (fēn)

八点五十 (fēn)   bā diǎn wǔshí (fēn)
```

The term 零/〇 (líng, zero) is usually added before a single-digit number of 分 (fēn, minute), e.g., 两点零五 (liǎng diǎn líng wǔ fēn). 分 (fēn) can be omitted from the end of the expression if the number for the minutes appears in two syllables. Thus one can say 一点四十 (yī diǎn sìshí) and 两点零五 (liǎng diǎn líng wǔ), but not *两点五 (liǎng diǎn wǔ) or *一点十 (yī diǎn shí). Another way of looking at this is that the section related to 分 (fēn, minutes) has to be at least two syllables.
C. QUARTER HOUR:

- 两点一刻 (liǎng diǎn yī kè) - eleven o'clock fifteen minutes
- 十一点三刻 (shí yī diǎn sān kè) - ten o'clock forty-five minutes

D. HALF HOUR:

- 两点半 (liǎng diǎn bàn) - eleven o'clock thirty minutes
- 十二点半 (shí’èr diǎn bàn) - twelve o'clock thirty minutes

*两刻 (liǎng kè, two quarters) is not used.

EVENING TIME:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>晚上七点(钟)</td>
<td>wǎnshang qī diǎn (zhōng)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:05 p.m.</td>
<td>晚上八点零五(分)</td>
<td>wǎnshang bā diǎn líng wǔ (fēn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 p.m.</td>
<td>晚上九点一刻</td>
<td>wǎnshang jiǔ diǎn yī kè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 p.m.</td>
<td>晚上十点半</td>
<td>wǎnshang shí diǎn bàn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observe the temporal progression from general to specific, and from largest unit to smallest unit.
3. Pronouns as Modifiers and the Usage of the Particle 的 (de) (II)

When the personal pronouns 我 (wǒ, I), 你 (nǐ, you), and 他 (tā, he) are followed by a term indicating a close personal relationship such as 妈妈 (māma, mother), 弟弟 (dìdì, younger brother), and 家 (jiā, family) the word 的 (de) can be omitted; e.g., 我妈妈 (wǒ māma, my mother), 你弟弟 (nǐ dìdì, your younger brother), 我们家 (wǒmen jiā, our family). Otherwise the 的 (de) is generally required; e.g., 我的生日 (wǒ de shēngrì, my birthday), 他的医生 (tā de yīshēng, his doctor).

4. The Sentence Structure of 我请你吃饭 (Wǒ qǐng nǐ chī fàn)

In the sentence 我请你吃饭 (Wǒ qǐng nǐ chī fàn, I will treat you to dinner),
你 (nǐ, you) is the object of the verb 请 (qǐng, to treat) as well as the subject of the second verb 吃 (chī, to eat).

1. 明天李先生请你吃中国菜。
Míngtiān Lǐ xiānshēng qǐng nǐ chī Zhōngguó cài.
(Mr. Li is inviting you to have Chinese food tomorrow.)

2. 今天晚上我请你和你妹妹吃美国菜，怎么样？
Jīntiān wǎnshàng wǒ qǐng nǐ hé nǐ mèimei chī Měiguó cài, zěnmeyàng?
(How about if I invite you and your younger sister to have American food tonight?)

5. Alternative Questions

The structure (是)… 还是 … (shì)… háishi…, …or…) is used to form an alternative question. If there is another verb used in the predicate, the first 是 (shì) often can be omitted.

1. 你是不是中国人，还是美国人？
Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén, háishi Měiguó rén?
(Are you Chinese or American?)
2. 你哥哥是老师，还是学生？
Nǐ gēge shì lǎoshī, háishi xuésheng?
(Is your older brother a teacher or a student?)

3. (是)你请我吃饭，还是他请我吃饭？
Shì nǐ qǐng wǒ chī fàn, háishi tā qǐng wǒ chī fàn?
(Who is taking me to dinner, you or he?)

4. A: 他(是)喜欢吃中国菜，还是喜欢吃美国菜？
Tā (shì) xǐhuān chī Zhōngguó cài, háishi xǐhuān chī Měiguó cài?
(Does he like to eat Chinese or American food?)

B: 中国菜、美国菜他都喜欢。
Zhōngguó cài, Měiguó cài tā dōu xǐhuān.
(He likes both Chinese food and American food.)
Language Practice

A. Days of the week

Provide the correct answers based on the calendar provided.

**Example**

(三月二十一号)

A: 三月二十一号是星期几？

B: 三月二十一号是星期三。

1. 三月二十二号
2. 三月二十三号
3. 三月二十四号
4. 三月十八号
5. 三月十九号
6. 三月二十号

A: Sānyuè èrshíyī hào shì xīngqījǐ?

B: Sānyuè èrshíyī hào shì xīngqīsān.

1. sānyuè èrshí’èr hào
2. sānyuè èrshísān hào
3. sānyuè èrshísì hào
4. sānyuè shíbā hào
5. sānyuè shíjiǔ hào
6. sānyuè èrshí hào
Lesson 3 • Dates and Time

B. Time

Based on the clues given, ask your partner what time you will meet.

EXAMPLE:

A: 我们几点见？
B: 我们七点半见。

A: Wǒmen jǐ diǎn jiàn?
B: Wǒmen qī diǎn bàn jiàn.

C. Birthday

Based on the text, ask and answer the following questions.

EXAMPLE:

A: 高文中的生日(是)几月几号？
B: 高文中的生日(是)九月十二号。

A: Gāo Wénzhōng de shēngrì (shì) jǐ yuè jǐ hào?
B: Gāo Wénzhōng de shēngrì (shì) jiǔyuè shí’èr hào.

HOW ABOUT:

1. 你
2. 你爸爸
3. 你妈妈
4. 你们(的)老师
Ask and answer the following questions based on Lessons 1–3 and your own preferences.

**EXAMPLE:** 高大哥有儿子 还是有女儿？
→ 高大哥有儿子。

1. 王朋是学生 相老师？
2. 高文中今年十八岁 相十九岁？
3. 白英爱的爸爸是医生 相律师？
4. 李友是美国人 相英国人？
5. 你喜欢星期五 相星期六？
6. 你喜欢吃美国菜 相中国菜？

**E. Forming a Birthday Dragon**

Let’s mobilize the entire class to ask each other’s birthdays. After a couple minutes of mingling, you will start to form a line, like a dragon, based on your birthdays. Students whose birthdays are earlier in the year will line up before people whose birthdays are later. Make sure you know how to ask and answer the question, because after the dragon is formed, the teacher will check if everyone is at the right place in the line. The teacher will ask the first student in the line: 你的生日（是）几月几号？（Nǐ de shēngrì [shì] jǐ yuè jǐ hào？）. The first student answers, and then he/she asks the second student the same question, the second student answers and asks the third, until the end of the line. Then let’s end the activity by singing the “Happy Birthday” song in Chinese.
F. Family Birthdays

Tell your partner or the class your and your family members’ birthdays. Your partner or the rest of the class will take down the information and be ready to answer the teacher’s questions:

Chris: 我的生日 (是) ______月 ______号，我爸爸的生日 (是) ______月 ______号…

Teacher: Chris 的生日 (是) 几月几号？
(When is Chris’s birthday?)

Chris 爸爸的生日 (是) 几月几号？…

Chris: Wǒ de shēngrì (shì) ____ yuè ____ hào, wǒ bàba de shēngrì (shì) ____ yuè ____hào…

Teacher: Chris de shēngrì (shì) jī yuè jī hào?

Chris bàba de shēngrì (shì) jī yuè jī hào…
G. Find out what types of cuisine your partner likes.

A: 你喜欢吃什么菜？
B: 我喜欢吃______菜。
A: 你喜欢吃______菜吗？
B: 我也喜欢吃/我不喜欢吃______菜。

A: Nǐ xǐhuan chī shénme cài?
B: Wǒ xǐhuan chī ____ cài.
A: Nǐ xǐhuan chī ____ cài ma?
B: Wǒ yě xǐhuan chī/ Wǒ bù xǐhuan chī ____ cài.

H. Dinner Invitation

Pick a day and offer to take your partner out to dinner. Your partner will accept your invitation and ask for the time when you two should meet.

A: 星期______我请你吃饭，怎么样？
B: ________。
    星期______几点？
A: ________。

A: Xīngqī____ wǒ qǐng nǐ chī fàn, zěnmeyàng?
B: ____.
    Xīngqī____ jǐ diǎn?
A: ____.
Dialogue II: Inviting Someone to Dinner

白英爱，现在几点？
五点三刻。
我六点一刻有事儿。
你今天很忙，明天忙不忙？
我很忙，可是明天不忙。有事儿吗？
明天我请你吃晚饭，怎么样？
你为什么请我吃饭？
因为明天是高文中的生日。
是吗？好。还请谁？

LANGUAGE NOTE

1 Although usually translated as “very,” the Chinese adverb 很 (hěn) is not quite as strong as its English equivalent. Therefore, the sentence 我很忙 (Wǒ hěn máng)—unless the word 很 (hěn) is stressed—is closer to “I am busy” than “I am very busy.” (See Grammar 2 in Lesson 5.)
网上请我的同学李友。
那太好了，我认识李友，她也是我的朋
友。明天几点？
明天晚上七点半。
好，明天七点半见。

Bái Yíng’ài, xiànzài jī diǎn?
Wǔ diǎn sān kè.
Wǒ liù diǎn yì kè yǒu shír.
Nǐ jǐntiān hěn máng！，míngtiān máng bu máng？
Wǒ jǐntiān hěn máng, kěshì míngtiān bù máng. Yǒu shír ma?
Míngtiān wǒ qǐng nǐ chī wǎnfàn, zěnmeyàng?
Nǐ wèishénme qǐng wǒ chī fàn?
Yǐnwei míngtiān shì Gāo Wéndōng de shēngrì.
Shì ma? Hǎo, hái qǐng shéi?
Hái qǐng wǒ de tóngxué Lǐ Yǒu.
Nà tài hǎo le! Wǒ rènshì Lǐ Yǒu, tā yě shì wǒ de péngyou. Míngtiān jǐ diǎn?
Míngtiān wǎnshàng qǐ diǎn bàn.
Hǎo, míngtiān qǐ diǎn bàn jiàn.
| 1. 现在 | xiànzài | t | now |
| 2. 刻 | kè | m | quarter (of an hour) |
| 3. 事（儿） | shì(r) | n | matter; affair; event |
| 4. 今天 | jīntiān | t | today |
| 5. 很 | hěn | adv | very |
| 6. 忙 | máng | adj | busy |
| 7. 明天 | míngtiān | t | tomorrow |
| 8. 晚饭 | wǎnfàn | n | dinner; supper |
| 9. 为什么 | wèishénme | qpr | why |
| 10. 因为 | yīnwèi | conj | because |
| 11. 还 | hái | adv | also; too; as well [See Grammar 7.] |
| 12. 同学 | tóngxué | n | classmate |
| 13. 认识 | rènshi | v | to be acquainted with; to recognize |
| 14. 朋友 | péngyou | n | friend |
Grammar

6. Affirmative + Negative (A-not-A) Questions (I)

Besides adding the question particle 吗 (ma) to a declarative sentence, another common way of forming a question in Chinese is to repeat the verb or adjective in its affirmative and negative form.

EXAMPLES:

1. A: 你今天忙不忙？
   Nǐ jīntiān máng bu máng?
   (Are you busy today?)

   B: 我今天很忙。
   Wǒ jīntiān hěn máng.
   (I am busy today.)

2. A: 你妈妈喜欢不喜欢吃中国菜？
   Nǐ māma xǐhuān bu xǐhuan chī Zhōngguó cài?
   (Does your mother like to eat Chinese food or not?)

   B: 我妈妈不喜欢吃中国菜。
   Wǒ māma bù xǐhuan chī Zhōngguó cài.
   (My mother doesn’t like to eat Chinese food.)

3. A: 请问，王律师今天有没有事儿？
   Qǐng wèn, Wáng lǜshī jīntiān yǒu méi yǒu shìr?
   (Excuse me, does Lawyer Wang have anything to do today or not?)

   B: 王律师今天没有事儿。
   Wáng lǜshī jīntiān méi yǒu shìr.
   (Lawyer Wang is free today.)
7. The adverb 还 (hái, also; in addition)

As an adverb, 还 (hái) indicates that the action or situation denoted by the verb involves someone or something else in addition to what has already been mentioned.

**EXAMPLES:**

1. 白英爱请高文中和王朋，还请李友。
   Bai Ying'ai is inviting Gao Wenzhong and Wang Peng, and Li You, too.

2. 王朋喜欢吃中国菜，还喜欢吃美国菜。
   (Wang Peng likes Chinese food, and American food, too).

**Language Practice**

**I. Affirmative + Negative (A-not-A) Questions**

Ask your partner the following questions using the appropriate verbs and the A-not-A question form.

**EXAMPLE:**

王朋 ◊ 是 ◊ 北京人

→ 王朋是不是北京人？

1. 今天 ◊ 是 ◊ 星期五

2. 高大哥 ◊ 有 ◊ 女儿

Wáng Péng ◊ shì ◊ Běijīng rén

Wáng Péng shì bu shì Běijīng rén?

Jīntiān ◊ shì ◊ xīngqīwǔ

Gāo dàgē ◊ yǒu ◊ nǚ’ér
3. 你 喜欢 高文中

3. Nǐ xǐhuan Gāo Wénzhōng

4. 王朋 认识 白英爱

4. Wáng Péng rènshi Bái Yīng'ài

J. 还 (hái, also; in addition)

EXAMPLE:  A: 李友认识谁？
（王朋，高文中）
B: 李友认识王朋，
还认识高文中。

1. A: 高文中请谁吃饭？
（王医生，白律师）
B: ____________________________

1. A: Gāo Wénzhōng qǐng shéi chī fàn?
（Wáng yīshēng, Bái lǜshī）

2. A: 王朋喜欢吃什么菜？
（美国菜，中国菜）
B: ____________________________

2. A: Wáng Péng xǐhuan chī shénme cài?
（Měiguó cài, Zhōngguó cài）

3. A: 白英爱有谁的照片？
（她爸爸的照片，
她妈妈的照片）
B: ____________________________

3. A: Bái Yīng'ài yǒu shéi de zhàopiàn?
（tā bàba de zhàopiàn,
tā māma de zhàopiàn）
K. Find out when your partner is busy and when he or she is not busy.

EXAMPLE:

Ask your partner if he or she is busy on Monday.

A: 你星期一忙不忙？
A: Nǐ xīngqīyī máng bù máng?

B: 我星期一很忙/不忙。
B: Wǒ xīngqīyī hěn máng/bù máng.

How about Tuesday?

A: 星期二呢？你忙不忙？
A: Xīngqīèr ne? Nǐ máng bù máng?

B: …
B: …

Go through the days of the week.

Report to the class when your partner is and isn't busy:

Joanne 星期一、______、
Joanne xīngqīyī, ____.
______… 很忙，星期二、
______…hěn máng, xīngqīèr,
______、______… 不忙。
______, ____…bù máng.

L. Eating out with friends

Pick a day and ask your friend out to dinner:

我星期______请你
Wǒ xīngqī____ qíng nǐ
eat dinner, how about?
chī wǎnfàn, zěnmeyàng?

Your friend happens to be busy on that day, and suggests an alternative time:

星期______，我很忙。
Xīngqī____, wǒ hěn máng.
星期______，怎么样？
Xīngqī____, zěnmeyàng?

Your response:
Your friend wants to find out who else will be there, and asks:

你还请谁？

You tell your friend:

我还请________。

**HOW ABOUT YOU?**

**What special days do you celebrate?**

1. 新年 xīnnián New Year
2. 情人节 Qíngrénjié Valentine’s Day
3. 母亲节 Mǔqīnjié Mother’s Day
4. 父亲节 Fùqīnjié Father’s Day
5. 感恩节 Gǎn’ēnjié Thanksgiving

What other special days do you celebrate? If they are not listed above, please ask your teacher and make a note here:

__________________________________________________________________________.
1. If you flip open a calendar in China, you will most likely see two different dates for any given day of the year, one date in the traditional lunar system and the other in the international solar system. Typically the date in the lunar system lags about one month or slightly more behind its corresponding date in the solar system. For most years, the Lunar New Year falls in late January or early February.

2. The traditional Chinese manner of counting age, which is still in use among many (mainly older) people on non-official occasions, is based on the number of the calendar years one has lived in, rather than the length of time in actual years that one has lived. For example, a child born in January 2008 can be said to be two years old in January 2009, since he or she has by then lived in two calendar years, 2008 and 2009. But for official purposes, for instance in the census, the child would still be considered one year old. The former is called the child’s nominal age (虚岁 xūsuì) and the latter his actual age (实岁 shísuì).
Noodles are the traditional Chinese equivalent of the birthday cake. Because noodles are long, they are considered a symbol of longevity. That is why they are called 长寿面 (chángshòu miàn, longevity noodles). Among the younger generations in urban areas, birthday cakes are also becoming quite common.
Pronunciation Exercises

1. The initial r:
   1. shēngrì 
   2. rìjì 
   3. rèqìng 
   4. rénmín 
   5. réngrán 
   6. ránhòu 
   7. ruìlì 
   8. ràngbù

2. Finals:
   1. ie 
   2. ue 
   3. uo 
   4. ou 
   5. u 
   jiè 
   xiě 
   qié 
   tiě
   jué 
   xué 
   què 
   qiē*
   duō 
   tuō 
   zuò 
   cuò 
   dōu 
   tōu 
   zōu 
   cōu
   zhū 
   chū 
   zǔ 
   cǔ

3. Two-syllable words:
   1. dāndāng 
   2. shǒuhuò 
   3. qūchú 
   4. yúnwù 
   5. jiāozhà 
   6. chūnqǐ 
   7. juébié 
   8. kuījiù

4. The neutral tone:
   1. zhè ge 
   2. nà ge 
   3. wǒmen 
   4. nǐmen 
   5. wǎnshāng 
   6. xièxie 
   7. xǐhuan 
   8. rènshì

5. Tone sandhi (See Sec. D.2 in the Introduction.):
   1. zhǎnlǎn 
   2. lūguān 
   3. yǔsān 
   4. qūshē 
   5. shǒufā 
   6. yǔnxù 
   7. xuǎnjǔ 
   8. guǎngchāng

*qiē is included here to illustrate the contrast between quē and qiē.
English Text

Dialogue I

Gao Wenzhong: Bai Ying’ai, what day is September 12?
   Bai Ying’ai: Thursday.
Gao Wenzhong: That (day) is my birthday.
   Bai Ying’ai: Really? How old are you this year?
Gao Wenzhong: Eighteen.
   Bai Ying’ai: I’ll treat you to a meal on Thursday. How’s that?
Gao Wenzhong: That would be great. Thank you very much!
   Bai Ying’ai: Do you like Chinese food or American food?
Gao Wenzhong: I’m an Englishman, but I like Chinese food.
   Bai Ying’ai: All right. We’ll have Chinese food.
Gao Wenzhong: Thursday at what time?
   Bai Ying’ai: How about seven-thirty?
Gao Wenzhong: All right. See you Thursday evening.
   Bai Ying’ai: See you.

Dialogue II

Wang Peng: Bai Ying’ai, what time is it now?
   Bai Ying’ai: A quarter to six.
Wang Peng: I have something to do at a quarter after six.
   Bai Ying’ai: You are busy today. Are you busy tomorrow?
Wang Peng: I’m busy today, but I won’t be tomorrow. Why? (lit., What is it?)
   Bai Ying’ai: I’d like to invite you to dinner tomorrow. How about it?
Wang Peng: Why are you inviting me to dinner?
   Bai Ying’ai: Because tomorrow is Gao Wenzhong’s birthday.
Wang Peng: Really? Great. Who else are you inviting?
   Bai Ying’ai: I’m also inviting my classmate Li You.
Wang Peng: That’s fantastic. I know Li You. She’s also my friend. What time tomorrow?
   Bai Ying’ai: Seven-thirty tomorrow evening.
Wang Peng: OK, I’ll see you tomorrow at seven-thirty.
PROGRESS CHECKLIST

Before proceeding to Lesson 4, be sure you can complete the following tasks in Chinese:

I am able to

✓ Say and write dates and times;
✓ Ask someone’s age and birthday;
✓ Give my age and birthday;
✓ Name my favorite cuisine;
✓ Ask about someone’s availability and set up a dinner appointment.

Please review the lesson if any of these tasks seem difficult.