

Getting a place at a language school

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[MP3 sound recording \(link\)](#)

109

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Sòng xinsheng: Shmìs xinsheng n zuò n zuò, ch shugu!

Shmìs: Sòng xinsheng n tài kèqile.

Sòng xinsheng: Nl, kiwán huì zhème lèi hái ràng n poguòlai bng w érzi jingji yngwén, zhnshì tng bùhoyisi de.

Shmìs: Xio shìqing. Néng bngdào t w y hn kixn a!

Sòng xinsheng: Nà jiù ho nà jiù ho. N zuò yihur kànkàn diànshì, huòzh zánmen liáoliaotin, yihur fàncài jiù hole, w tàitai t sùdù mán kuài de.

Shmìs: Ho de ho de. Duile, trán xingq yí jiàn shì. Knéng yào tngting Sòng xinsheng de yìjiàn.

Sòng xinsheng: Yu shénme bngdeshàng n de zh gunjing.

Shmìs: W zuótin gn jil d diànhuà de shíhou, w nér Sufi gn w shu t dui Zhngguó fícháng gn xingqu. W gnjué t tèbié hàoqí, y xing guólái kànkàn. Suy hé t shngliangle zhhòu, zhnbèi ràng t zhège shjià lái Bijing dú ge yyán xuéxiào, shùnbìan xiánxiá shíjin ky sichù guàngguang, gnshòu yíxià. Xing wénwen n dui Bijing de yyán xuéxiào yu shénme lioji ma? Rúgu néng tujiàn yíxià de huà nà jiù zài ho bú guòle.

Sòng xinsheng: Shmìs xinsheng n hái zhnshì wèn dui rén le! W zhqián jidài ho du Miguórén, tmen y xing qù yyán xuéxiào, w hái zhunmén qù diàocháguo j ge xuéxiào.

Shmìs: Sòng xinsheng nín zhnshì jìngyè a!

Sòng xinsheng: Nl nl. W jiànyì sn su xuéxiào: Bijing Yyán Dàxué shì fícháng ho de, píngcháng du yu kishè dunq péixùnbnBijing Shfàn Dàxué Hàny Wénhuà Xuéyuàn y hn búcuò, hn zhènggulingwài, Bijing Guóji Hàny Xuéyuàn y ky kol.

Shmìs: W zhè yíxiàzi jibuzhù, w ná shuj jì yíxià ba.

Sòng xinsheng: Bú yòng bú yòng, huítóu w gi n f yóujiàn, b zhèxi xuéxiào de xinx hé wngzhàn fgi n. Zhèyàng n nér y fngbiàn zuò ge bjiao.

Shmìs: Sòng xinsheng nín zhnshì tài hole, w du bù zhdào zme gnxiè n a.

Sòng xinsheng: Xiè shénme, zhèci w de rènwu, jiù shì zhodàihò nmen, ràng nmen mnyì ér gu ma! Láí lái, fàncài du zhnbèihole. wmen kifàn ba!

Shmìs: W hái méi yu dào Zhngguórén jil chguo fàn, zhè shì dì-y cì. Zhngguórén shì bu shì yìbn xhun qng biérén zài wàimian ch?

Sòng xinsheng: Shì de, zài wàimian ch wmen jiào "yingchou". Yìbn shngwù tánpàn a, gngzuò hubàn a, lshàng wnglái de knding du shì wàimian ch, zh yu gunxi fícháng ho de sjio péngyou cái huì jiào dào jil chfàn.

Shmìs: Kànlái Sòng xinsheng yjng b w dàng hn ho de péngyou le a!

Sòng xinsheng: Zhè cì w bèi npái zhunmén zhodài lái kihuì de wàiguó yurén, zhènggho rènsi Shmìs xinsheng n, y shì yuánfèn a! Shuqlái, n lái Zhngguó y yu yì ge yuè le, shíjin guòde zhn kuài.

Shmìs: Shì a, kuài huìqule, zhnshì yudin shbudé.

Sòng xinsheng: Yhòu knding hái huì zài lái de, dào shíhou jide liánxi w a.

Shmìs: Yiding yiding.

Vocab and notes

shugu 'fruit'

n tài kèqile 'you're too good/kind to me'

nl 'not at all' (when refusing thanks or a compliment; often repeated)

kiwán huì 'after (finishing) the meeting'. Wán 'finish' is a [resultative complement](#).

zhème lèi 'so tired'

hái 'still; also'

ràng 'cause, let, ask'

poguòlai 'come here'. Po on its own means 'run'. Other examples: T tèdi poguòlai kànwàng w. 'She came to see me specially.' It is sometimes abbreviated to polái, e.g. T polái zho w jié qián. 'He came here to borrow money from me.'

érzi 'son'

jingji 'explain'

zhnshì 'really'

bùhoyisi 'embarrassing, sorry'

Xio shìqing. 'It's a small thing. It doesn't matter.'

bngdào 'help'. Dào is a **resultative complement** indicating successful completion of an action.

kixn 'happy'

yìhú 'in a while'

kàn diànshì 'watch the television'

liáotín 'chat'

fàncài 'meal'

tàitai 'wife'

sùdù 'speed'

mán kuài 'quite quick'

Duile, trán xingq yí jiàn shì. 'Mm, I suddenly thought of something.' Jiàn is a **measure word** for things.

knéng 'perhaps'

tng 'listen'

yìjiàn 'opinion'

bngdeshàng 'can help'. Shàng is a **potential complement**. Other examples: Zhè jiàn shì w y bngbushàng shénme. 'I can't help you at all with this.' Rúgu bngdeshàng w zojiù bngle. 'If I could have helped you I would have done it long since.'

zhgun 'simply'

jìng 'speak'

zuótián 'yesterday'

jīl 'home, my family'

... gn ... d diànhuà 'to telephone ...'

... .. de shíhòu 'when ...'

nér 'daughter'

duì ... gn xìngq 'be interested in ...'

gnjué 'feel, think that'

tèbié hàoqí 'especially curious'

guòlai 'come over'

hé t shngliangle zhòu 'after discussing with her'

zhnbèi 'prepare'

ràng 'cause, let'

shjià 'summer holiday'

dú ge yán xuéxiào 'go to a language school'

shùnbìan 'at her etc. convenience'

xiánxiá shíjīn 'leisure time'

sichù guàngguang 'visit everywhere'

gnshòu 'get a feeling about, take a view about, experience'. Other examples: Zhī de dngtīn jíqí hánlǐng, n ky gnshòu yíxià. 'The winter here is very cold, you can feel it yourself.' Ràng wmen gnshòu yíxià Bīng de wénhuà. 'Let's experience the culture of Beijing.'

liojī 'understanding'

tūjiàn 'recommend'

zài ho bú guò 'could not be better'

N hái zhnsì wèn duì rén le! 'You're talking to the right person!'

zhqián 'previously'

jìdài 'entertain, look after'

zhunmén 'specially'

diàochá 'check out, investigate'

jīngyè 'dedicated'

su (**measure word for organizations**)

jiànyì 'suggest'

píngcháng 'usually'

kìshè 'set up'

dunq péixùnbn 'short training courses'

shfàn 'normal, teacher-training'

wénhuà xuéyuàn 'cultural institute'

búcuò 'good'

zhènggu 'official, standard'. means it is run by the official authorities, or has official permission and license. It is frequently used in China, e.g. zhènggu yuàn 'official hospital', zhènggu yàodiàn 'licensed chemist', zhènggu língtuán 'official tour group'.

língwài 'in addition'

guójì 'international'

kōl 'consider'

yíxiàzì 'all of a sudden'

jìbuzhù 'can't remember'

shuj 'mobile phone'

jì 'enter/put in (data)'

huítóu w gī n f yóujiàn 'I'll send an email to you later'

xīn xé wngzhàn 'information and websites'

fngbiàn 'convenient'

bjiào 'comparison'

gnxiè 'to thank'

rènwu 'responsibility'

zhodàihò 'receive, entertain'. Hò is a **resultative complement**.

mnyì ér gu 'go home satisfied' Cf. mnzài ér gu 'come back with fruitful results'

ma (sentence final particle adding the idea of "is it not the case that")

kífàn 'serve a meal'

jīl 'home'

dì-y cì 'the first time'

yìbn 'generally'

biérén 'other people'

wàimian 'out(side)'

yīngchou 'social niceties'

shngwù tánpàn 'business negotiations'

gngzuò hùbàn 'working partner(ship)'
 lshàng wnglái 'return politeness for politeness, reciprocity'
 knding 'certainly'
 gunxi 'relationship'
 sjio péngyou 'close personal friend'
 kànlai 'apparently, it seems that'
 dàng is short for dàngzuò 'regard/treat as. Other examples: T b w dàng t mèimei yiyàng duidài. 'He treats me like his sister.' T dàng w bù cúnzài yiyàng. 'He treats me as if I don't exist.'
 npái 'arrange, assign'
 wàiguó yurén 'foreign friends'
 zhènggho 'just in time, by chance'
 rènshi '(get to) know'
 yuánfèn 'destiny, fate, predestined affinity'
 shuqlái 'put it this way, speaking of that'
 kuài huíqule 'I'll be going home soon'. Note the use of ... kuài ... le or ... yào ... le with a future meaning.
 N lái Zhngguó y yu yí ge yuè le, shíjīn guò de zhǐn kuài. You have already been in China for a month, time flies!
 Y shows a feeling of surprise, or a sense of emotion.
 shbudé 'reluctant, begrudge'
 yhòu 'later, in the future'
 knding 'certainly'
 dào shíhou 'at that time'
 jìde 'remember'
 liánxi 'to contact'
 yíding 'certainly'

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Mr Song: Mr Smith, please take a seat and have some fruit.

Mr Smith: You're too kind to me.

Mr Song: Not at all, you are so tired after the meeting and I'm still asking you to come over and help explain English to my son, I really feel quite embarrassed.

Mr Smith: It's only a small thing. If I'm able to help him I'll be really happy!

Mr Song: That's really good. Let's sit and watch the television for a while, or we can chat and dinner will be ready in a while. My wife works quite quickly.

Mr Smith: All right. Mm, I just thought of something. Perhaps I should ask your opinion.

Mr Song: If there's something I can help you with, just say so.

Mr Smith: When I phoned home yesterday, my daughter, Sophie told me she was really interested in China. I think she's really curious about it and thinking of coming over and having a look around. So after discussing it with her I'm preparing to let her come to Beijing this summer holiday and study at a language school. In her free time she could travel around everywhere at her convenience and get experience. I wanted to ask you whether you knew about language schools in Beijing? If you could recommend some that would be the best thing.

Mr Song: Mr Smith, you're really talking to the right person! Previously I've looked after quite a few Americans, they also wanted to go to language schools and so I went specially to survey several schools.

Mr Smith: Mr Song, you are very dedicated!

Mr Song: Not really. I suggest three schools: Beijing Language [and Culture] University is very good and usually sets up short-term training courses; the College of Chinese Language & Culture, Beijing Normal University is also good and has official status; in addition, Beijing International Chinese College may also be considered.

Mr Smith: I can't remember all that at once, let me type it into my phone.

Mr Song: You don't need to; I'll send you an e-mail later with information about and the websites of the schools. That way your daughter can conveniently make a comparison.

Mr Smith: Mr Song, you're too good to me; I don't know how to thank you.

Mr Song: There's no need to thank me for that, as it is my duty to look after you and make you satisfied! Come, the meal is ready; let's eat!

Mr Smith: I've never yet had a meal in a Chinese person's home; it's my first time. Don't Chinese people generally like to eat out with other people?

Mr Song: Yes, we call eating out "yingchou (social niceties)". In general for reciprocity such as business negotiations, work partnerships etc. we certainly eat out and only close personal friends we get on with well are asked home for dinner.

Mr Smith: It looks like you already regard me as a good friend!

Mr Song: It was lucky that I was assigned specially to look after foreign friends coming for a conference and met you and it's also fate! Talking of which, you've already been in China for a month; the time is passing very quickly.

Mr Smith: Yes, I'll be going back soon; I really feel a little reluctant to go.

Mr Song: You'll certainly come again in the future and remember to contact me at that time.

Mr Smith: I certainly will.