

# Sending a parcel at the post office

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

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Shmis: N ho, w yào jì ge bogu.

Chungku: Shì dàjiàn háishi xiojiàn?

Shmis: Xiojiàn.

Chungku: Yào wngshàng chájiàn me?

Shmis: Yào de.

Chungku: Ho de, qng nín tiánxià zhè zhng bio. B zài zhèbin.

Shmis: Bùhoyisi, wèn yíxià, zhòngliàng w méi yu chngguo, znme bàn a?

Chungku: Zài dàtáng nàbin yu ge huòchèng de, nín xin qù chngle zài lái.

Shmis: Ò, ho de.

Shmis poqù chngle zhòngliàng.

Shmis: Shízài bùhoyisi, zhè yào tián tj ba? Zhège chángkun'go w y bú shì hn qngchu a, méi yu liángguo.

Chungku: Méi shì n jiù dàgài g yí ge xile ba, zhège wèntí bú dà.

Shmis: Ho de ho de, tài xièxie.

Shmis: Duile, duifng de diànhuà hàom w bù zhdào ei, yàojn ma?

Chungku: Zhège zui ho yu, bùrán hn róngyi zhobudào shujiànrén, jìdi shénme de, zhè zhng qingkuàng de huà, dào shíhou yóuzhèng shì bú fúzé de. Nín kànkàn nín néng bu néng xiànzài jiù wèn yíxià duifng hàom.

Shmis: Yuánlái rúc. Nà w mshàng wènwèn.

Shmis b tiánho de biogé jìogi chungku.

Chungku: Xìnsheng nín de bogu yjing choguo xiojiàn de zhòngliàng xiànding le, zh néng zuowéi dàjiàn ji.

Shmis : Xiojiàn zhòngliàng xiànding shì dushao?

Chungku: Ling gngjn yxià.

Shmis: Nà méi yu bànf le, hoxiàng chole tng du a?

Chungku: Shì de, nà jiù ànzhào dàjiàn lái gí nín suànle, sn dín w gngjn, yígòng èrshíw kuài.

Shmis: Gi.

Chungku b zhoqián hé piàojù yídào dihuílai.

Chungku: Zhè zhng dnzi qng nín shuho, zhège hàom shì chájiàn hào, dnglù zhège wng jiù ky chá. Wàny yu shénme wèntí, zhège dnjù ky zuowéi zhèngmíng.

Shmis: Ho de, xièxie a!

## Vocab and notes

jì 'send'  
 bogu 'parcel'  
 chungku 'window (in a post office etc.)'  
 dàjiàn 'bulky item'  
 xiǎojiàn 'small item'  
 wǎngshàng 'on the Internet, online'  
 chájiàn 'to track an item'  
 me = ma  
 yào de, ho de, yu ge huòchèng de. These de are all examples of matter-of-fact. Huòchèng 'weighing scales'  
 tiánxià 'fill in'  
 biào or biogé 'form'  
 b 'pen'  
 bùhóuyisi 'embarrassed; I'm sorry'  
 Wèn yíxià 'May I just ask'  
 zhòngliàng 'weight'; liáng 'measure' Note that it's Tone 2 when it's a verb.  
 chng 'weigh'  
 Znme bàn a? 'What shall I do?'  
 dātáng 'lobby'  
 ò 'oh' (expressing realization)  
 pǎo 'run'  
 shízài 'really'  
 Zhè yào tián tj ba. 'I need to fill in the volume here, don't I?' Note the confirmatory use of ba.  
 chángkun'go 'dimensions' (lit. 'long, wide, high')  
 qīngchū 'clear'  
 Méi shì. 'It doesn't matter.'  
 dàgài g yí ge xile ba 'have a rough guess at one and write it'. Ba is encouraging.  
 Tài xièxiè. 'I'm so grateful.' Note that xièxiè is grammatically adjectival here.  
 duìle 'all right' (buying time to think)  
 duìfng 'recipient'  
 ei This indicates that this isn't a statement; it's expecting a solution.  
 yàojǐn 'urgent, important'  
 zhège zuì hǎo yu 'it's best to have this'  
 bùrán 'otherwise'  
 hn róngyì zhobudào shuǐjiàn rén 'it's likely we can't find the recipient'  
 jīdi 'lose in the post'  
 shénme de 'or something like that'  
 qíngkuàng 'situation'  
 dào shíhou yóuzhèng shì bú fùzé de. 'and at that point the post office is not responsible, you know.'  
 Yuánlái rúc. 'I See.'  
 mǎshàng 'immediately'  
 Shmǐs b tiánho de biogé jìogì chungku. 'Smith takes the completed form and hands it to the person at the window.' Note how b is used with the objects of verbs such as jìogì.  
 choguo xiǎojiàn de zhòngliàng xiàngding 'go over the small item weight limit'  
 zhǐ néng zuòwéi 'it can only be treated as'  
 2 Ling gngjīn yxià. 'Under (and including, strictly) two kilograms.' Note that 2 must be read ling before a measure word (NOT èr).  
 Nà méi yu bànf le 'Well, there is nothing for it now.'  
 hoxiàng chole tng du a? 'It looks as if it's gone quite a lot over?'  
 ànzhào dàjiàn lái gē nín suànle 'we will calculate according to the bulky item [rules] for you'. ... Ànzhào lái 'based on, according to'  
 zhoqián 'change'  
 piàojù 'receipt'  
 yídào 'together'  
 dihuílái 'hand over in return'  
 dnzì 'receipt, list'  
 shuho 'accept' Ho is a [resultative complement](#).  
 dnglù 'login'  
 wng = wngzhàn 'website'  
 wány 'in the unlikely event, if'  
 dnjù 'receipt'  
 zhèngmíng 'proof, certification'

## Sending a parcel at the post office

Mr Smith: Hello, I'd like to send a parcel.

Person at counter: Is it a bulky item or a small item?

Mr Smith: It's a small item.

Person at counter: Do you want to be able to track it online?

Mr Smith: Yes please.

Person at counter: All right, please fill in this form. There's a pen here.

Mr Smith: Excuse me, may I ask, what should I do as I haven't weighed it?

Person at counter: There are some scales over there in the lobby, please go and weigh it and then come back.

Mr Smith: Oh, all right.

Smith runs over and weighs it.

Mr Smith: I'm really sorry, but do I need to fill in the volume here? I'm not very clear about these dimensions; I haven't measured it.

Person at counter: It doesn't matter. Just have a guess and write it down. It's not a big issue.

Mr Smith: All right, thank you very much.

Mr Smith: OK, I don't know the recipient's phone number, is it important?

Person at counter: You'd better have that, otherwise it's likely that we won't be able to find the recipient, or it will get lost in the post or something like that.

If it's that sort of a situation, the post office is not responsible at that point. Have a go and see if you can't ask for the recipient's number now.

Mr Smith: I see. In that case I'll ask right now.

Smith hands the completed form to the person at the counter.

Person at counter: Sir, your parcel has just gone over the small item weight limit, it can only be treated as a bulky item.

Mr Smith: What is the small item weight restriction?

Person at counter: Under two kilos.

Mr Smith: In that case there's nothing for it; it looks as if it's gone over by quite a lot?

Person at counter: Yes, we will calculate according to the bulky item [rules]. 3.5 kilos, Y25 in all.

Mr Smith: Here you are.

The Person at the counter hands over the change and the receipt together.

Person at counter: Please keep this receipt. This is the number for tracking it online. You login to this site and then you can track it. If there is some problem, this receipt can be used as proof (of dispatch).

Mr Smith: All right. Thank you.