

Taking the subway to the Summer Palace

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Shmis zài Bijing Huchzhàn mǐ qū Tíjīn kǐhuì de piào, mǐho piào hòu t fxiàn shíjīn hái zo, yúshì fà qíxíng, juéding qù Yíhéyuán guàngguāng. Zuch chzhàn guòle mlù ránhòu xià dìti.

Shmis: N ho, w gngngng zài nàbin shòupiào q mi piào, dànshì t hoxiàng yòngbulio, bù néng shíbié w de zhbi, ránhòu w yíngbi yòu bú gòu. Ky zài zhèbin mǐ piào ma?

Chungku: Méi wéntí, nín qù nǐ?

Shmis: Qù Yíhéyuán.

Chungku: Dnchéng háishi wngfn?

Shmis: Wngfn ba.

Chungku: Piào gi nín, sì kuài.

Shmis: Ho de. Duile, cóng zhèbin dào Yíhéyuán sìh méi yu zhídá, èr hàoxiàn bú dào de. W kàn bú dà míngbai dìti xiànlùtú, néng bu néng wèn xià, ynggi yào znme zu?

Chungku: N zuò dào Xzhímén ránhòu huànch, huàn sì hàoxiàn dào Bìngméménzhàn jiù kyle.

Shmis: Ò, xièxie.

Bon: Wèi, zhè wèi xīnsheng! Zhè wèi xīnsheng!

Shmis: Nín shì zài jiào w ma?

Bon: Dui de. Nín tngdedng zhngwén de ba? Nín de bo yào fàngxiàlái jinchá yíxià de a! Méi jngguò jinchá bù néng dàijinqù de!

Shmis: Zhèyàng a? W kàn qiánmian de rén y méi jngguò jinchá jiù guòqùle a?

Bon: Tmen de bo hn xio, hái bú dào jinchá gúgé. Dànshì nín zhège gngwùbo de dàxio, shì yào jinchá de.

Shmis: W bo lmiàn yu yì píng shu, zhège ky dài ma?

Bon: Ky de. Nín xīn fàngshàngqù zài shu ba, yu wéntí wmen huì gn nín jing de.

Shmis: Ho de. Shmis tngguò X gung somiáo, náhuí bo, chéngzuò èr hàoxiàn dàoole Dngzhímén, ránhòu huànchéng sì hàoxiàn dàoole Bìngmémén. Dànshì chzhàn hòu t biàn yòu míshle fngxiànggn, wánquán bù zhdào gi znme zu.

Shmis: N ho, qng wèn qù Yíhéyuán shì znme zu?

Lùrén: Yíhéyuán hn jìnle a! Xiàmian nàge lùku, jiù qiánmian nàge, nàge hn kun de dà mlùku, zuzhun, ránhòu zu ge w fnzhng jiù dàoole. N zuzhun yhòu jiù kàndedào de la!

Shmis: Ho de. Duxiè!

Lùrén: Bú yòng xiè.

Shmis: N ho, mǐ zhng piào.

Shòupiào chù: Yì zhng ma? Xyào yuèpiào huòzh niánpiào ma?

Shmis: Yì zhng. Bú xyào de.

Shòupiào chù: Ho de, snshí yuán.

Shmis: Gi.

Shòupiào yuán: B dīn yào gunmén, xiànzài yjng bù zole, nín gnjn jinqù ba!

Shmis: Míngbaile, xièxie xièxie!



Vocab and notes

huchzhàn '(railway) station'
 kihui 'have a meeting'
 miho 'buy'. Ho is a [resultative complement](#).
 ... hòu 'after ...'
 fxiàn 'find out, discover'
 shijin 'time'
 yúshì 'thereupon, as a result, thus'
 tf qíxíng 'suddenly have a thought/be inspired to do something'
 juéding 'decide'
 guàng 'stroll, visit'. Note that when verbs are repeated, the second time they lose their tone: guàngguang. This rare character is also used in guàngji 'go shopping'.
 zuch 'to leave, go out'
 diti 'underground, subway'
 gnggng 'just now'
 shòupiào 'ticket machine'
 hoxiàng 'apparently'
 yòngbulio 'cannot use'. Lio is a [potential complement](#).
 shíbié 'recognize'
 zhǐ 'paper money'
 Ránhòu w yǐngbì yǒu bú gòu. 'Moreover I didn't have enough coins.' Note the position of yòu 'moreover'. gòu 'enough'
 Dnchéng háishi wngfn? 'Single or return?'
 Wngfn ba. 'Return, please.'
 sih 'apparently'
 zhídá 'a direct route'
 2 èr hàoxiàn 'line 2'
 W kàn bú dà míngbai diti xiànlùtú. 'I think I don't understand the subway map well.'
 Xià is short for yíxià 'just (do something)'
 Ynggi yào znme zu? 'How should I go?'
 huànch 'change train, transfer'
 bon 'security (man)'
 Wèi, zhè wèi xīnsheng! 'Excuse me, sir!' Wèi used to attract attention. It is also used for 'hello' on the phone, in which case it changes tone: wéi. Wèi is used in formal situations instead of ge as a [measure word](#) for people. Too many weis here!
 Nín shì zài jiào w ma? 'Are you calling me?' This is an emphatic use of shì, similar to that sometimes found before adjectives.
 tngdedng 'understand (by hearing)'. This is a [potential complement](#).
 Nín de bo yào fàngxiàlái jinchá yíxià de a! 'You need to put your bag down and get it checked.' De adds an assertive note.
 Méi jngguò jinchá bù néng dàijìnqù de! 'If you don't pass the control, you can't take it in!'
 Zhèyàng a? 'Is that so? Really?'
 qiánmian de rén 'the people in front'
 jinchá gùgé 'rules/standards of the control'
 gngwùbo 'brief case'
 dàxió 'size'. Chinese can form abstract nouns by putting adjectives of opposite meaning together.
 yí píng shu 'a bottle of water'. [Píng](#)
 Nín xīn fàngshàngqù zài shu ba. 'Please put it on first and we'll have another word about it.'
 jīng 'speak, talk'
 X Shmīs tngguò X gung somiáo. 'Mr Smith goes through the X-ray scan.'
 nánhui 'get back'
 chéngzuò 'get on (a train)'
 Dànshì chzhàn hòu t biàn yòu míshle fngxiànggn, wánquán bù zhǎo gi znme zu. 'But after he left the station, he then lost his sense of direction again and absolutely didn't know how to get there.'
 Yíhéyuán hn jìnlè a! 'The Summer Palace is already very close!'
 lùku = mlùku 'crossing, intersection'
 kun 'wide'
 zuzhun 'turn left'
 zu ge w fnzhng 'walk for five minutes'. Note the interesting use of ge.
 kàndedào 'be able to see'. This is a [potential complement](#).
 yuèpiào 'monthly ticket'
 niánpào 'annual ticket'
 gunmén '(something) closes'
 gnjn jìnqù 'hurry and enter'
 Míngbaile. 'I understand.'

Taking the subway to the Summer Palace

Mr Smith buys a ticket at Beijing Station to go to Tianjin for a meeting. After buying the ticket he finds he is early and so he suddenly has the idea to go to visit the Summer Palace. He leaves the station, crosses the road and then goes down in to the subway.

Mr Smith: Hello, I've just tried to buy a ticket at that ticket machine, but apparently I can't use it, as it doesn't recognize my paper money and then I didn't have enough change. Can I buy a ticket here?

Person at window: No problem, where are you going to?

Mr Smith: To the Summer Palace.

Person at window: Single or return?

Mr Smith: Return, please.

Person at window: Here are the tickets, ¥4.

Mr Smith: All right. Mm, there doesn't seem to be a direct route from here to the Summer Palace, Line 2 doesn't go there. I don't think I understand the subway map very well, may I ask you how I should go?

Person at window: You take it as far as Xizhimen and then change. If you change on to Line 4 and go to Beigongmen Station, it'll be fine.

Mr Smith: Oh, thank you.

Security: Hello, Sir! Sir!

Mr Smith: Are you calling me?

Security: Yes. Do you understand Chinese? You need to put your bag down for the control! If it doesn't pass through the control, you can't take it in!

Mr Smith: I see. I think the people before didn't have to pass the control and just went through?

Security: Their bags were small and didn't meet the control criteria. But with the size of your brief case, it needs to be checked.

Mr Smith: There's a bottle of water in there, can I take that?

Security: Yes. If you first put it on, we'll see. If there's a problem, we can talk to you about it.

Mr Smith: All right.

Mr Smith goes through the X-ray scan, gets his bag back, gets on Line 2 for Dongzhimen and then changes on to Line 4 and goes to Beigongmen.

However, after he leaves the station, he loses his sense of direction and has no idea how to get there.

Mr Smith: Hello, excuse me, how do I get to the Summer Palace?

Passer-by: You're already very close to the Summer Palace! The intersection down there, the one in front, turn left at the wide intersection and then walk for five minutes and you're there. After you turn left, you'll be able to see it.

Mr Smith: All right. Many thanks!

Passer-by: That's all right.

Mr Smith: Hello, I'd like to buy a ticket.

Person in ticket booth: One ticket? Do you need a monthly ticket or an annual ticket?

Mr Smith: One (ordinary) ticket, please. I don't need one of those.

Person in ticket booth: All right. ¥30.

Mr Smith: Here it is.

Person in ticket booth: It will close at 8:00, and it's not early now. Hurry in!

Mr Smith: Got it. Many thanks!