

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



Yóuzhèngjú - Post Office

W: Wáng Mínglǐ
J: Jones
C: clerk

Frame 1

1	J: Wángxiānsheng, yóujú lí zhèr yuǎn ma?	Mr. Wang, how far (is it) from here to the post office?
2	W: Bùyǎn. Zǒu shífēnzhōng jiù dào le. Rúguǒ nǐ yào jìxīn búbì qù yóujú. Qiánbiān lùkǒu(r) nàr jiù yǒu yíge yóutǒng.	Not far. It's ten minutes' walk. If you want to mail a letter, you don't have to go to the post office. There is a mailbox right at the next intersection.
3	J: Wǒ děi qù yóujú. Yīnwei wǒ yào jì bāoguǒ, mǎi yóupiào, hái yào jì yīfēng guàhào xìn.	I have to go to the post office because I want to mail parcels, buy stamps, and also mail one registered letter.
4	W: Nàme nǐ děi kuàiyìdiǎn qù le. Yóujú wǔdiǎn guānmén, xiànzài yíjīng sìdiǎnbàn le.	Then you'd better hurry up. The post office closes at five o'clock and it's already four-thirty now.
5	J: Wǒ lìkè jiù qù. (Taking up several parcels)	I'll go right away.
6	W: Zhème duō bāoguǒ nǐ dōu yào nǎqu ma? Ràng wǒ bāng nǐ ná jǐjiàn ba.	Are you going to carry all these parcels? Let me help you carry a few.
7	J: Xièxie. Mǎfan nǐ le. wǒmen zǒu ba. (Dashing out)	Thanks for your help. Let's go.
8	W: Nǐ búbì pǎo, hái láidejí.	Don't run. There is enough time.

Notes:

2 Yóutǒng, means, literally "post/mail (a thick, tube-shaped object)." Although yóutǒng, xìntǒng, yóuxiāng and xìnxīang all mean mailbox, yóutǒng/xìntǒng is generally a large container, and yóuxiāng/xìnxīang a small box.

6 Bāng, "to help" You already learned bāng as a verb and bāng-máng as a verb object in Lesson 18. In this Lesson bāngzhù is introduced both as a verb and as a noun. See the following examples:

As a Verb:

Qǐng nǐ bāng/bāngzhù wǒ. Please help me.

As a Verb Object:

Qǐng nǐ bāng wǒde máng. Please help me.

As a Noun:

Xièxie nǐ gěi wǒde bāngzhù. Thank you for the help you have given me.

8 Láidejǐ means "there is enough time (to do something)" and láibujǐ means "there is not enough time (to do it)."

Frame 2

On the Way to the Post Office

9	J: Wáng Xiānsheng, zhèli yóudiyuàn měitiān lái jǐcì? Dōu shì shénme shíhou lái?	Mr. Wang, how many times does the postman come here every day? When does he come?
10	W: Yìtiān liǎngcì. Dào wǒmen zhèli chàbuduō shì shàngwǔ shídiǎn, xiàwǔ sān-diǎn.	Twice a day. About ten o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon.
11	J: Zài yóujú zǔ yóuzhèng-xīnxiāng de rén duō ma?	Do many people rent post office boxes?
12	W: hěn duō.	There are many.

Frame 3

At the Post Office (1)

13	J: Qǐngwèn, jǐdao Měiguó gùde hángkōngxìn yóufèi duōshǎo qián?	Excuse me, how much postage is needed to send an airmail letter to America?
14	C: Bāmáo.	Eighty cents.

Frame 3 (Continued)

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| 15 | J: Guàhào gēn píngxìn ne? | How about registered mail and ordinary mail? |
| 16 | C: Hángkōng guàhào shì yīkuài liù(máo). Píngxìn shì liùmáo. Búguò píngxìn zǒude hěn màn, yīnwei děi yòng chuán yùn. | Registered airmail is one dollar and sixty cents. Ordinary mail is sixty cents. But ordinary mail is very slow because it is shipped by boat. |
| 17 | J: Qǐng nǐ gěi wǒ sānzhāng hángkōng xīn yóupiào. Shízhāng yóujiǎn. Zhèfēng guàhào xīn shì wǎng Sānfānshì jīde. Yīgòng yào duōshǎo qián? | Please give me three airmail stamps and ten aerograms. And this registered letter is to San Francisco. How much is it altogether? |
| 18 | C: Nǐ yào huítíáo bùyào? | Do you want a receipt? |
| 19 | J: yào | Yes. |
| 20 | C: Yīgòng shì sīkuài liǎng(máo). | Altogether it's four dollars and twenty cents. |

16 Máo: The measure -máo "dime" was introduced in Lesson 7. In addition to máo, another word for "dime," also used today, is jiǎo. The following are some units of money:

yuán/kuài	dollar
máo/jiǎo	dime
fēn	cent

Frame 4

At the post office (2)

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| 21 | J: Zhè jǐge bāoguǒ dōu shì wǎng Měiguó jīde, kéyǐ bǎo jià ma? | These parcels are all go to America; can I insure them? |
| 22 | C: Kéyǐ. Nǐ děi xiān bǎ dānzi tián hǎo. Ránhòu dào nàge chuāngkǒu(r) jī. Bié wǎngle tiánbào zhí duōshǎo qián. | You can. You have to fill out the form first. Then go to that window. Don't forget to fill in the value. |

Frame 4 (Continued)

23	J: Zhè sānběn dōu shì xiē bù zhíqián de jiù <u>jiàokēshū</u> .	These three are used textbooks, all worth little (monetarily).
24	C: <u>Jírán</u> bù zhí shénme qián, nà jiù búbì bǎojià le. Nàge bāoguǒ ne?	Since they are not worth much, you don't have to insure them. How about that parcel?
25	J: Shì yige <u>huāpíng</u> , zhí yìbǎi duō kuài.	That is a vase. It is worth more than one hundred dollars.
26	C: Nàge děi bǎojià, <u>bīngqiě</u> hái děi tián yìzhang <u>bàoquān biǎo</u> . Bāoguǒ dào le Měiguó yǐhòu, shǒu bāoguǒ de rén yěxǔ děi <u>fùshuì</u> . <u>Hǎiquān</u> yěxǔ huì jiǎnchá.	You have to insure it and also have to fill out a customs declaration form. After the parcels arrive in America, the person who receives the parcels may have to pay the tax. The custom house probably will inspect it.
27	J: Mǎfan nǐ kànkàn zhèfēng hángkōng xìn chāozhòng ma?	Please check to see if this airmail letter is overweight.
28	C: (Putting letter on scale) Chāozhòng le. Nǐ yòng de <u>xīnfēng xīnzhǐ</u> dōu tài hòu, yàoshi yòng bǎo de hángkōng xīnfēng xīnzhǐ jiù búhuì chāozhòng le.	It's overweight. The envelope and letter paper are too thick; if you use thin envelope and letter paper, then it won't be overweight.
29	J: Wǒ děi duō fù duōshǎo yóufèi ne?	How much extra do I have to pay?
30	C: Duō fù qí máo.	Seventy cents more.

21 Bǎojià, means, literally, "insure value" and bǎoxiǎn means, literally, "insure against peril/risk." Of these two terms, bǎoxiǎn is more versatile.

24 Jírán, "since," "now that": Although jírán, "since," is translated as an adverb it can only be used to signify "since that's the case," "since it is so."