

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



Tīng Xīnwén Guǎngbō (Listening to News Broadcasts)

David (D) and a German friend, Hans (H), converse in Chinese, which is their only common language. They then listen to a Chinese news broadcast.

Frame 1

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| 1 H: Qǐng jìnlái. Nǐ shuō shí diǎn jiù guòlái, zěnmé shí-diǎnbàn cái dào? Wǒ zhèng yào guòqu zhǎo nǐ ne. | Please come in. You said you would come over at ten o'clock. How come you didn't arrive until after ten thirty? I was just about to go to look for you. |
| 2 D: Wǒ gāng(gang) yào chūqu, tīngjiàn sòngbàode zài lóu-shang shōu qián. Wǒ shànggu gěi tā qián, suóyǐ lái wǎn le. | I was just about to go out (when) I heard the newsboy collecting money upstairs. I went up to give him money, so I came late (was delayed). |
| 3 H: Nǐ tiāntiān shàng liùge zhōngtóu de kè, wǎnshang hái shàngbān. Zěnmé nǐde Zhōngwén yǒu zhème hǎo? | You go to six hours of class every day and also go to work in the evening. How is it that your Chinese is still so good? |
| 4 D: Guòjiǎng, guòjiǎng. Wǒ měitiān dōu tīng xīnwén guǎngbō. Jīntiān wǒ shàngbān yīqián tingle yíké zhōng. Xiàbān yǐhòu yòu tingle bàngē zhōngtóu. | You flatter me. I listen to news broadcasts every day. Today I listened for a quarter of an hour before going to work. After leaving work, I again listened for half an hour. |

Notes:

1 Comparison of the two adverbs jiù and cái. In the Time When pattern jiù is sooner than expected and cái is later than expected. Examples:

Tā yīngdāng liùdiǎn lái,
kěshì tā wǔdiǎn jiù
lái le.

He ought to have come at six
o'clock, but he came at five.

Tā yīngdāng liùdiǎn lái,
kěshì tā qīdiǎn cái lái.

He should have come at six
o'clock, but he didn't show
up until seven.

1&2 More verbs with -lái and -qù. In lesson 13, huílái "to come back" and húiqu "to go back" were introduced. In this lesson the following compounds appear:

<u>guòlái</u>	come over (toward the speaker)
<u>guòqu</u>	go over (there)
<u>chūlái</u>	come out (toward the speaker)
<u>chūqu</u>	go out
<u>shànglái</u>	come up (toward the speaker)
<u>shàngqu</u>	go up
<u>xiàlái</u>	come down (toward the speaker)
<u>xiàqu</u>	go down

This group of lái and qù compounds is characterized by the following:

- (1) They show motion and direction relative to the speaker.
- (2) Zhèr or zhèli "here" is not needed with the lái compound.

EX:

Qǐng nín guòlái. Please come over (here).

- (3) Nèr or nàli "there" is not needed with the qù compound.

EX:

Wǒ zhèng yào guòqu I was just about to go over
zhǎo nǐ ne. (there) to look for you.

- (4) Either lái or qù can be further compounded with another verb, such as:

<u>zǒuchūqu</u>	walk out (away from the speaker)
<u>zǒujìnlái</u>	walk in (toward the speaker)
<u>zǒuchūlái</u>	walk out (toward the speaker)

- (5) If needed, a Place Word can be inserted in the compound just before lái or qù.

EX:

Qǐng nín cóng zhège Please walk out of this room.
fángjiān zǒuchūlái

Qǐng nín cóng zhège Please walk out of this build-
lóu zǒuchūqu. ing.

2 Time When Gāng(gang) "just this minute, just about," as a Movable Adverb. Examples:

Wǒ gāng(gang) yào chūqu ... I was just about to go out ...
Tā gāng(gang) zǒu. He left just a minute ago.

3&4 Time Spent with Clock Time follows the same principles as the Time Spent patterns:

- (1) current or future event or action, without le

Nǐ tiāntiān shàng liùge zhōngtóu de kè. You go to class six hours each day.

- (2) completed event or action, with single le

Jīntiān wǒ shàngbān yǐ- Today, before going to work, I
qián tīnglè yíkè zhōng- listened to news for a quarter
de xīnwén. of an hour.

Xiàbān yǐhòu, yòu tīng- After leaving work, I again
le bàngè zhōngtóu de listened to news for half an
xīnwén. hour.

Amount of time by the clock:

shíèrfēn zhōng	12 minutes
yíkè zhōng	a quarter of an hour
bàngè zhōngtóu	half an hour
bàndiǎn zhōng	half an hour
yíge zhōngtóu	one hour
yídiǎn zhōng	one hour/one o'clock (The text or situation will clarify which one is meant. One hour is a Time Spent situation and one o'clock is a Time When situation.)

3 Adverb yòu "still" indicating "beyond comprehension."
Example:

Nǐ tiāntiān shàng liùge zhōngtóu de kè, wǎn- You go to class six hours every
shàng hái shàngbān ... day and also go to work in
the evening ...

Under such circumstances, no one can expect more from such a busy person; however, he continues, Zěnmē nǐde Zhōngwén yòu zhème hǎo? "How come (with all that you are doing) your Chinese is still so good?" The adverb yòu "still" indicates that it is beyond anyone's comprehension that so much could be achieved under these circumstances.

Frame 2

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| 5 | H: Yǒu yíci wǒ tīng guǎngbō,
guǎngbōyuán jiǎngde tài kuài,
wǒ zhǐ tīngdǒngle yídiǎnr. | Once when I was listening to a
broadcast, the announcer spoke
too fast [and] I only under-
stood a small part of it. |
| 6 | D: Wǒ tóuyì-liǎnghuì yě yǒu
wèntí, hòulái jiù méi shénme
wèntí le. | The first one or two times I
also had problems. Later I
had no problems. |
| 7 | H: Láodòngjié kuài dào le.
Zhèiliǎngtiān yíding yǒu
Láodòngjié de xīnwén. | Labor Day will soon be here.
During these few days there
will surely be news about Labor
Day. |
| 8 | D: Kuài kāikai shōuyīnjī.
Qīdiǎnbàn de nèiwèi guǎngbōyuán
jiǎngde zuì hǎo. Nǐ tīng, tā
zài bàogào yìxiē xiǎo chéng
rénmín yìwù láodòng de xiǎoxi
ne. | Turn on the radio right away.
The 7:30 announcer is the very
best speaker. Listen, he is
reporting news right now of
voluntary labor by the people
in several small towns. |

Notes:

5&6 Specific Measures for the number of times or occasions with cì or huì. Examples:

yǒu yí <u>cì</u> ...	there was one occasion ... (one time, once upon a time)
yǒu yī <u>huì</u> ...	there was one occasion ... (one time)

6 The Specifier tóu "the first" in connection with cì or huì.
Examples:

<u>tóuyì</u> -liǎnghuì	the first one or two times
<u>tóuyì</u> -liǎngcì	the first one or two times
<u>tóujī</u> cì/huì	the first few (several) times

Time When patterns with cì or huì.

Dìyí <u>cì</u> /huì wǒ gěi tā wǔshíkuài qián.	The first time I gave him \$50.
Dìèr <u>cì</u> /huì wǒ gěi tā liùshíkuài qián.	The second time I gave him \$60.

Dì sāncì/huī wǒ gěi tā
qīshíkuài qián.

The third time I gave him \$70.

Zhèicì/huī wǒ gěi tā
bāshíkuài qián.

This time I gave (will give)
him \$80.

Xiàcì/huī wǒ gěi tā
jiǔshíkuài qián.

Next time I'll give him \$90.

Tóu liǎngcì(huī) wǒ
yígòng gěi tā yībǎi-
yīshíkuài qián.

The first two times I gave him
\$110 altogether.

Time Spent pattern with cì or huī. Examples:

- (1) current or future event or action without le

Nèiběn shū wǒ yào kàn
sāncì.

I am going to read that book
three times.

- (2) completed action with a single le

Shàngxīngqīwǔ wǒ kànle
yíci/huī.

Last Friday I read it once.

- (3) Continuing action with double le

Nèiběn shū wǒ kànle
liǎnghuī le.

I've read that book twice (so
far).

6 Question Word shénme "any" as an indefinite. Example:

Hòulái (wǒ) jiù méi
shénme wèntí le.

Later on, I didn't have any
(particular) problems at all.

The Question Word shénme may mean "any, anything" or "any particular" problem. However, the speaker is not ruling out the fact that there might be "some problems." Compare the following:

- (1) Wǒ méiyǒu qián.

I don't have money. (Specific)

- (2) Wǒ méiyǒu shénme qián.

I don't have any money to speak
of (i.e. I have some, but not
much money).

Watch for this indefinite aspect of shénme in a given sentence.

Frame 3

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|---|---|
| 9 H: Shuōdao xiāoxi, nǐ yǒu Bǎoluóde xiāoxi ma? | Speaking of news, do you have any news from Paul? |
| 10 D: Tā zài Xīnhuá Xīnwénshè gōngzuò, nǐ tīng, shéi zài diàntáishang jiǎnghuà ne? | He's working at the New China News Agency (NCNA). Listen, who is that speaking at the radio station (on the radio)? |
| 11 H: Gāngcái guǎngbōyuán shuō tā shì Zhōngwén Yǔyán Xuéyuàn de Yuànzhang. | Just a moment ago the announcer said that he was the director of the Chinese Language Institute. |
| 12 D: Nǐ tīngdǒngle, hěn hǎo. Wǒmen tīng le kuài yígebàn zhōngtóu de xīnwén le. Guānshàng shōuyīnjī, zǎo diǎnr shuǐjiào ba. | It is very good you understood it. We've been listening to the news for almost an hour and a half. Turn off the radio and go to sleep a little earlier. |
| 13 H: Hǎo. Mǎn diǎnr zǒu. | Ok. Take it easy. |
| 14 D: Zàijiàn. | Good-bye. (See you again.) |

Notes:

9 Another usage of the Verbal Suffix -dao in shuōdao "speaking of." Examples:

shuōdao xiāoxi ...	speaking of the news ...
shuōdao tīng guǎngbō	speaking of listening to broadcasts ...

Transliteration of names in The Bible

Paul	(Bǎoluó)	John	(Yuēhàn)
Joseph	(Yuēsè)	Mark	(Mǎkě)

10 New China News Agency (NCNA). This is the official news agency of the PRC. Its abbreviated name is "Xīnhuáshè."

11 Time When gāngcái "just a moment ago, just now" as a Movable Adverb. Examples:

gāngcái guǎngbōyuán shuō tā ...	just a moment ago the announcer said he ...
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guǎngbōyuán gāngcái
shuō tā ...

just a moment ago the announcer
said he ...

Gāng(gang) "just this minute, just now" and gāngcái "just now, a short while ago." In comparison, as far as timing is concerned, these two terms are virtually interchangeable. Both refer to the immediate past, but gāng(gang) is a little more immediate or more recent. In addition, gāng(gang) means "just, exactly, just right." Note the examples in the glossary.

13 (Nín) màn diǎnr zǒu. "Take it easy. (Lit. Walk Slowly.)" This idiomatic expression is commonly used when a guest is departing or about to depart and carries the meanings "What's your hurry," "What's the rush," "Take your time," "Take it easy," "Go carefully," "Don't go yet," "Stay a while," "Take care," "Watch your step," etc.