

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



Zŭ Jiājù - Renting Furniture

FRAME 1

Two DLI CM students are looking for furniture. B's wife is arriving soon.

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| 1 B: Wǒ tàitai xiàgeyuè lái.
Wǒ zū de gōngyù méiyǒu jiājù,
děi mǎi. | My wife is coming next month.
The apartment I have rented
is unfurnished, (so) I must
buy some furniture. |
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Notes:

1. "Time When"(MA). Xiàgeyuè, "next month," zhèigeyuè, "this month," and shànggeyuè, "last month" show either a point of time or a given period of time. It comes before the main verb, and either before or after the subject.

Wǒ tàitai xiàgeyuè lái. My wife is coming next month.

Shànggeyuè tā búzài Shànghǎi. Last month he wasn't in Shanghai.

Tā zhèigeyuè zài Shànghǎi. He is in Shanghai this month.

Verbs of Motion and Direction. Lái, "to come," a verb of motion and direction, indicates motion towards the speaker. Lái is the opposite of another verb of motion and direction: qù, "to go."

-----> lái (motion toward the speaker)
(motion away from the speaker) qù ----->

Modifying Clause with -de. Here wǒ zū de, "I rented," is a clause (Subject Verb-de) modifying the noun gōngyù, "apartment." The result is wǒ zū de gōngyù, "the apartment that I rented."

FRAME 2

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| 2 A. Zhèijia jiājùdiàn hěn dà.
Tāmen mǎi de jiājù yǒu xīnde,
yě yǒu jiùde. | This furniture store is very
large. They have both new
and used furniture for sale. |
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FRAME 2 (Continued)

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| 3 | B: <u>Chuáng</u> , (wǒ) mǎi xīnde.
<u>Zhuōzi</u> , <u>yǐzi</u> , kéyǐ mǎi jiùde. | I want to buy a new bed. As to tables and chairs, I may buy used ones. |
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Notes:

2&3 A Stative Verb Modifying a Noun. There are three possibilities: (1) without -de; (2) with -de; (3) with -de and the modified noun understood. Examples:

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| (1) xīn jiājù | new furniture |
| (2) hěn xīn de jiājù | very new furniture |
| (3) Nèi liǎngzhāng shū
zhuō, xīnde piányi,
jiùde guì. | Of those two desks, the new one is inexpensive, and the used one is expensive. |

Frame 3

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| 4 | A: Nǐ kàn, tāmen yě chūzū jiājù. Sānge fángjiān de jiājù, yíge yuè de zūqián cái wúshíwǔkuài; zhēn piányi. | Look, they also rent furniture. The furniture for three rooms rents for only \$55 a month. It's really inexpensive. |
| 5 | B: Cái wúshíwǔkuài, búsuàn guì. Dōu yǒu xiē shénme jiājù? | Only fifty five dollars can't be considered expensive. What furniture do they have? |
| 6 | A: Yǒu kètīngde, fàntīngde, hé wòfángde. | They have living room, dining room, and bedroom furniture. |
| 7 | B: Wǒ xiǎng kànkàn tāmen chūzū de jiājù. | I would like to see the furniture they have for rent. |
| 8 | A: Hǎo a. Nǐ kàn (pointing at the furniture display) tāmen de chuáng, zhuōzi, yǐzi dōu shì xīnde. | Good. Look! (pointing at the furniture display) All of their beds, tables, and chairs are new. |

Notes:

4. Sānge fángjiān de jiājù, "furniture for three rooms." The phrase sānge fángjiān, "three rooms," is a noun phrase modifier

serving as a measure. Furniture is usually measured by pieces (jiàn) or sets (tào). Here it is measured by rooms. Other examples of noun-phrases serving as measures:

Wǔkuài qián de cài.

Five-dollars' worth of vegetables.

yīnián de zūqián

Rental for a year

6 A Noun Modifying Another Noun. There are three possibilities: (1) with -de; (2) without -de; and (3) with -de and the modified noun understood. Examples:

(1) jiějie de zìdiǎn

older sister's dictionary

lǎoshī de fěnbǐ

the teacher's chalk

(2) Zhōngguó zì

Chinese characters

tāngsháo

soup spoon

(3) Nèitào jiājù shì

That set of furniture is for

kètīngde.

the living room.

Zhèitào jiājù shì

This set of furniture is for

fàntīngde.

the dining room.

When a noun phrase shows possession, as in example (1), the particle -de is usually used. When an adjective or noun that functions attributively and when it modifies a noun in a noun phrase, as in example (2), the particle -de is not used.

8 Hǎo a, "good," is a very common reply showing agreement or approval of a proposal.

FRAME 4

9 B: Wǒmen hái xūyào yíge shūjiàzi hé yìzhāng shūzhuō.

In addition, we need a bookshelf and a desk.

10 A: Shūjiàzi hé shūzhuō tāmen dōu yǒu. Nǐ yào zū, hái shì yào mǎi ne?

They have both bookshelves and desks. Do you want to rent or buy?

11 B: Chuáng, zhuōzi, yǐzi, zhèixiē jiājù wǒ dōu yào zū. Shūzhuō shàngtōu hái xūyào ge dēng, tāmen yǒu ma?

I want to rent all these things: bed, tables, and chairs. I still need a lamp on the desk. Do they have any?

12 A: Tāmen yǒu. Cái liùkuài-bàn yíge.

They have. They are only \$6.50 apiece.

Notes:

11 Ge, is the short form of yíge, "unit." The same situation occurs with zhèige, "this one," nèige, "that one," and něige, "which one," the short forms of zhèi yíge, nèi yíge and něi yíge respectively.

FRAME 5

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|----|--|---|
| 13 | B: <u>Hǎojíle</u> . <u>Shǒuqiándé</u> zài nǎr? | Excellent. Where is the cashier? |
| 14 | A: Zài qiántou <u>shǒu</u> qián ne. | The cashier is now in the front (part of the store) collecting money. |

Notes:

13 Hǎojíle, "excellent." This compliment is an idiomatic expression. In Chinese the suffix -jíle, "extremely," follows the stative verb. Other examples:

hǎokànjíle
máifánjíle

extremely pretty/handsome
extremely troublesome

Modifying Clause with -de as a Noun. In the second sentence, No. 13, the noun rén is understood. Thus, shǒuqiándé, "the one who collects money," becomes a noun: "the cashier."

14 Qiántou, "front of." In Chinese this expression can be used for either (1) the front part inside a place or (2) in front and outside of a place. In this lesson, the cashier is still in the store, but in the front part.