

# COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



Dǎ diànhuà yǐhòu qù fànguǎnr chīfàn

(A Phone Call and a Dinner later in a Restaurant)

Oū Zhēnmíng (O), a Chinese girl, takes her talkative Little Sister Xiǎomèi (X) to meet her American friend Anderson (A) in a Chinese restaurant.

## Frame 1

(On the telephone)

1	O: Wèi, shì xuésheng sùshè ma?	Hello! Is this the students' dormitory?
2	Chuándá: Shì a. Nín zhǎo shéi?	Yes, it is. Whom are you looking for? (Whom do you wish to speak with?)
3	O: Wǒ zhǎo An Dèshēng, qǐng tā jiē diànhuà.	I'm looking for (Mr.) Anderson. Please ask him to take the phone.
4	Chuándá: Hǎo. Qǐng dēngyī-dēng.	OK. Please wait a moment.
5	A: Wèi, wǒ shì An Dèshēng. Nǐ shì Zhēnmíng ba?	Hello! I'm Anderson. You're Zhenming I take it?
6	O: Duìle. Wǒ búfāngxīn ràng Xiǎomèi yíge rén zài jiā. Wǒ dài zhe tā dào fànguǎnr qū, hǎo ma?	That's right. I'm uneasy about leaving Little Sister alone at home. Will it be all right if I take her to the restaurant with me?
7	A: Méi wèntí. Wǒ qù jiē nǐ-men.	No problem. I'll come and fetch you.

### Notes:

1&5 Wèi, "Hello." A very common way of answering the telephone or initiating a conversation on the telephone.

2&4 Chuándá. The desk clerk or building custodian, a person usually in the building to take messages, etc.

6 Particle -zhe. In this instance -zhe does not indicate the present progressive situation. If it were omitted, the sentence would mean the same.

Frame 2

(At the restaurant)

8	A: Nǐ yào hē huāchá, háishi hóngchá?	Do you want to drink scented tea or black tea?
9	O: Huāchá huòshi hóngchá dōu kényi. Èi, zhèr yǒu kāfēi ma?	Scented tea or black tea are both OK. I say! Do they have coffee here?
10	X: Yíding yǒu. Qíguài! Zhèr méi càidān. An gēge, qǐng nǐ bǎ nèizhang zhuōzi-shangde càidān náilai. Wǒ yào yībēi jǔzishuǐ.	Of course they do. How strange! They've no menus here. Brother An, would you please bring the menu from that table over there. I want a cup (glass) of orange juice.
11	A: Hǎo. Wǒ tì nǐ jiào yībēi. Bǎ càidān gěi jiějie. Ràng tā diǎn cài.	Good. I'll order a glass for you. Give the menu to Older Sister. Let her order some dishes.

Notes:

8 Hóngchá "black tea" (Lit. red tea) and lǜchá "green tea" are two major categories of Chinese tea. Huāchá, "scented tea," is a general term for specially treated teas, such as mòlichá, "Jasmine tea."

10 The bǎ construction is another Co-verb pattern. Let's compare the bǎ pattern with the ordinary subject-verb-object pattern:

	Subject	CV-Object	V	Object
Ordinary Pattern:	Tā		màile	wǒde qìchē.
Bǎ-construction:	Tā	bǎ	wǒde qìchē	màile.

Note: Not every Subject-Verb-Object sentence can be converted to a bǎ-pattern sentence.

10&11 yào, jiào and diǎn "to order" food or drink in an eating place (coffee shop or restaurant). These three Chinese terms are almost identical; however, the term diǎn is used when ordering food from the menu.

## Frame 3

(The waiter comes)

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 12 | X: <u>Fúwūyuán</u> lái le.                            | Here comes the waiter.  |
| 13 | A: Yībēi júzishuǐ. Yībēi kāfēi. Yìpíng Qīngdǎo píjiǔ. | A glass of orange juice, a cup of coffee, and a bottle of Qingdao beer. |
| 14 | O: Qīng dàshifu suǐbiàn pèi jǐge cài ba.              | Ask the chef to select a few dishes.                                    |
| 15 | Fúwūyuán: Hǎo.  | Good (All right).   |
| 16 | X: Eī! Nǐ zěnméi bǎ cài dān fàngzài zhèr?             | I say! Why didn't you put a menu here?                                  |
| 17 | F: Ō! Duìbuqǐ. Wǒ jiù bǎ cài dān gěi nǐ sònglái.      | Oh! I'm sorry. I'll bring a menu right away.                            |

Notes:16 Negate the bǎ pattern with méibǎ or bùbǎ. Examples:

Tā méibǎ cài dān fàngzài zhèr. He didn't put the menu here.  
 (NOT Tā bǎ cài dān méi-fàngzài zhèr.)

Wèi shénme nǐ bùbǎ nǐ de qìchē kāichūqu? Why don't you drive your car out of here?  
 (NOT Wèi shénme nǐ bǎ qìchē bùkāichūqu?)

## Frame 4

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 18 | O: Xiǎomèi! Nǐ bǎ māmade huà dōu wàngle ma? Tā shuō: "Duō shuō duō cuò, shǎo shuō shǎo cuò ..." | Little Sister! Have you forgotten everything Mama said? She said, "The more you say, the more mistakes you make; the less you say, the fewer mistakes ..." |
| 19 | X: Wǒ jìde, wǒ jìde. Tā hái shuō: "Búshuō búcuò." Wǒ yǐjīng bǎ zhèxiē huà dōu xiěxiàlaile.      | I remember, I remember. She also said, "If you don't say anything, you won't make any mistakes." I have already written all of this down.                  |

## Frame 4 (Continued)

20 A: <u>Zuìhǎo yòng lùyīnjī bǎ zhèisānjù huà dōu lùxiàlai.</u> <u>Yì yǒu péngyou lái jiù bǎ lùyīnjī kāikāi.</u> Bǎ sānjù tīngwánle cái kényī guānshàng.	It would be best if you used a tape recorder and recorded these three sentences. (Then) as soon as friends come, turn on the recorder. When you have listened to all three sentences, then you can turn it off.
21 O: Cǎi láiile. Wǒmen chīfàn ba.	Here comes the food. Let's eat.

Notes:

19 Xiěxiàlaile "written down," is a Resultative Verb compound indicating actual-positive case. Xiàlai "down" or "come down" and other verbs compounded with motion and direction -lái and -qù can be used two ways in Resultative Verb compounds:

(1) By itself, it is a Resultative Verb compound:

shànglaile	has come up
méishànglai	hasn't come up
xiàlaile	has come down
méixiàlai	hasn't come down
chūlaile	has come out
méichūlai	hasn't come out

(2) It is used as a Resultative Verb ending:

xiěxiàlaile	has been written down
méixiěxiàlai	hasn't been written down
chīxiàqule	has been eaten
méichīxiàqu	hasn't been eaten (swallowed)
náhuīlaile	has been brought back
méináhuīlai	hasn't been brought back

20 Yì ... jiù "as soon as ..." pattern. Examples:

<u>Yì yǒu péngyou lái jiù bǎ lùyīnjī kāikāi.</u>	As soon as friends come, then turn on the tape recorder.
<u>Tā yì lái wǒ jiù xiě Zhōngguó zì.</u>	As soon as he comes, I'll write Chinese characters.

20 Adverb cái "then, and only then; and not until then." Cái precisely stresses the "time when" here. Examples:

Bǎ zhè sānjù tīngwánle . When all three sentences have  
cái keyi guānshang. been heard (listened to) then  
you can turn it off.

Tā shuō xíng cái xíng. Only when he says it is OK  
will it be OK./When he says  
it is OK, only then will it  
be OK.

Xiàxīngqīsān cái zǒu ne. Will not leave until next  
Wednesday.

20 Tīngwánle is a Resultative Verb compound of the actual-positive case, "heard it all," or "listened to the whole thing." Méitingwán is the actual-negative case, "didn't hear it completely" or "didn't finish listening to it."