

Post Office and Telephone Module, Unit 1

PART I

1. Qǐngwèn, zhèr fùjìn yǒu yóuzhèngjú ma?	May I ask, is there a post office in the area?
2. Wǒ yào jì yìfēng xìn.	I want to mail a letter.
3. Zhèicéng lóu yǒu meiyǒu yóutǒng?	Is there a mailbox on this floor?
4. Nǐmen zhèige fúwùtái mǎi bu mǎi yóupiào?	Does your service desk here sell stamps?
5. Wǒ yào jì yìfēng guàhào xìn.	I want to send a registered letter.
6. Lóuxià xiǎomàibù mǎi bu mai xìnzhǐ, xìnfēng?	Does the variety store down- stairs also sell letter paper and envelopes?

NOTES AFTER PART I

yìfēng xìn: -Fēng is the counter for letters and other things with envelopes.

-céng: Counter for floors of buildings.

guàhào xìn: Guàhào is the verb 'to register'. It is used here as a modifier. It precedes the noun it modifies.

PST/TEL, Unit 1

Peking:

On his way out to mail some things, an American asks the service attendant for the floor of his hotel for some information.

M: Nǐ yǒu shì ma?

Can I help you?

F: Duì, Fàndiǎnlǐ yǒu yóuzhèngjú ma?

Yes, is there a post office in the hotel?

M: Yǒu, zài yīlóu, xiàle diànti wǎng yǒu zǒu. Guòle mǎishūde jiù shì yóujú. Kěshì xiānzài yóujú yǐjīng guān mén le. Rúguo nín jiù yào mǎi yóupiào, wǒmen zhèr yě mài.

Yes, it's on the first floor. When you get off the elevator go to the right. When you've passed the bookshop there's the post office. But they have already closed. If you only want to buy stamps, we sell them here.

F: Wǒ yào yóupiào, hái yǒu liǎngfēng xìn yào guàhào.

I need some stamps, there are also two letters that I need to register.

M: Ou, jì guàhàoxìn nín děi dào yóujú qù jì.

Oh, if you want to mail registered letters you'll have to go to the post office.

F: Yóujú jǐdiǎn zhōng kāi mén?

What time does the post office open?

M: Qīdiǎnbàn kāi mén, xiǎowu liùdiǎnbàn guān mén.

It opens at seven-thirty, and closes at six-thirty in the afternoon.

F: Zhèicéng lóu yǒu méiyǒu yóutǒng?

Is there a mailbox on this floor?

M: Méiyǒu, yóutǒng zài yóujú ménkǒu.

No, the mailbox is by the door to the post office.

F: Nǐmen zhèr yě mài xìnzhǐ, xīnfēng ma?

Do you also sell stationery and envelopes here.

M: Wǒmen bù mài, jiù yǒu fàndiǎnde xìnzhǐ xīnfēng. Lóuxiàde xiǎomǎibù mài.

No we don't, we just have the hotel stationery and envelopes. The variety shop downstairs sells them.

PART II

7. Lǎojià, wàng Shànghǎi jīde <u>hángkōng</u> xìn yào <u>tiē</u> duōshao qiándē yóupiào.	Excuse me, how much postage do you need to put on an air mail letter to Shanghai?
8. Wàng Měiguó jīde hángkōng <u>yóujiǎn</u> yào tiē duōshao qiándē yóupiào?	How much postage do you have to put on an aerogram to America?
9. Dào Guǎngzhōu qùde <u>píngxìn</u> shì duōshao qián?	How much postage do you have to put on a postcard to Hong Kong?
10. Jì dào Xiānggǎng qùde <u>míngxìn- piàn</u> shì duōshao qián?	How much postage do you have to put on a postcard to Hong Kong?
11. <u>Guónèide</u> hángkōng xìn dōu shì <u>yīmáo</u> .	<i>All air mail within the country is ten cents.</i>
12. Jì dào <u>guówài</u> qùde hángkōng xìn shì <u>qīmáo</u> .	<i>Air mail letters going out of the country are seventy cents.</i>
13. <u>Běnnshìde</u> píngxìn sìfēnqián.	<i>Regular mail within the city is four cents.</i>
14. <u>Wàidìde</u> píngxìn bāfēnqián.	<i>Regular mail outside the city is eight cents.</i>

NOTES AFTER PART II:

tiē: This is the verb 'to stick something on or to something else'.

Běnnshìde píngxìn/wàidìde píngxìn: In the PRC mail rates differ depending on whether something is going to someplace in the city, out of the city, or out of the country. For the last two categories air mail service is available.

běnnshì: 'This city'.

wàidì: 'Foreign place', 'outside this city'.

Peking:

A conversation at the Post Office.

- M: Lǎojià, wàng Shànghǎi jǐde hángkōng xìn yào tiē duōshao qiándē yóupiào? Excuse me, how much postage do you need to put on an air mail letter to Shanghai?
- F: Yímao. Guónèide hángkōng xìn dōu shì yímao. Ten cents. All air mail within the country is ten cents.
- M: Guówài hángkōng xìn ne? And if you send outside the country?
- F: Jǐ dào guówài qùde hángkōng xìn shì qímao. Hángkōng yóujiǎn shì sānmǎowǔ. Air mail letters going out of the country are seventy cents; aerograms are thirty-five cents.
- M: Jǐ dào guówài qùde míngxìn-piàn ne? And post cards mailed out of the country?
- F: Hángkōngde liǎngmǎoèr. Air mail ones are twenty-two cents.
- M: Guónèide píngxìn shì duōshao? How much is regular mail within the country?
- F: Běnnhìde sìfēn. Wàidìde bāfēn. Within the city, it's four cents. Outside the area (city), it's eight cents.
- M: Qǐng nǐ gěi wǒ shízhāng yímaode yóupiào, wǔzhāng hángkōng yóujiǎn, hái yào shízhāng qímaode hángkōng yóupiào. Please give me ten ten-cent stamps, five aerograms, and ten seventy-cent stamps.
- F: Hǎo. Yígòng jiǔkuài qímaowǔ. Okay. Altogether it's nine dollars and seventy-five cents.
- M: Zhèi shì shíkuài qián. Here's ten dollars.
- F: Zhǎo nǐ liǎngmǎowǔ. Here's twenty-five cents change.

NOTES AFTER DIALOGUE IN PART II:

shízhāng yóupiào, wǔge hángkōng yóujiǎn: Notice how both the counter -zhāng and the counter -gè are used here to talk about flat objects. Although the counter -zhāng would be correct for both nouns, the speaker feels free to use -gè also.

PART III

15. Wǒ yào wǎng Měiguó jì yige bāoguǒ.	I want to mail a package to the United States.
16. Wǒ yào hǎiyùn.	I want to send it by sea mail.
17. Wǒ zhèige bāoguǒ yào bǎoxiǎn.	I want this package insured.
18. Wǒ bú huì xiě Zhōngguó zì. Qǐng nǐ tì wǒ xiě, hǎo bu hao?	I can't write Chinese characters. Please write it for me, all right?
19. Xiāngzi shàngtōu xiězhe shénme ne?	What is written on top of the box?
20. Wǒmen yào jiǎnchá nǐ yào jìde dōngxi.	We want to inspect the things that you want to mail.
21. XIAOXIN, QINGFANG.	CAREFUL, FRAGILE.
22. Nǐ zuìhǎo zài xiāngzi wàimian xiěshàng XIAOXIN, QINGFANG.	It would be best if you write on the outside CAREFUL, FRAGILE.

NOTES AFTER PART III:

tì: This is the prepositional verb meaning 'in place of, for'.

Mèimei tì wǒ qù mǎi cǎi.

Little sister is going to go buy food for me (instead of me).

shàngtōu: -Tōu is a syllable like -biar. When added to a direction word, it changes it into a place name. The syllable -tōu, however, cannot be added to as many different direction words as -biar can. (See also final reference notes Directions Unit Five.)

Xiǎomàibù zài fàndiàn lǐtōu.

The variety shop is in the hotel.

Fàndiàn wàitōu yǒu yige yóutǒng.

Outside the hotel is a mailbox.

xiǎoxīn: 'To be careful'.

qīngfàng: 'Fragile', or more literally 'to put lightly'.

zuǐhǎo: This word acts as an adverb, coming after the subject nǐ and before the verb phrase. The word zuǐhǎo is used in politely offering advice to someone, not in warning them what they'd better do.

PST/TEL, Unit 1

Taipei:

A conversation at the Post Office.

F: Wǒ yào wǎng Měiguó jì yige
bāoguo.

I want to mail a package to
the United States.

M: Nǐ yào jì hángkōng háishi
hǎiyùn?

Do you want to send it by
airmail or by sea mail?

F: Hǎiyùn.

Send it by sea mail.

M: Zhèi shì nǐ yào jì de dōngxī ma?
Wǒmen yào jiǎnchá.

Are these the things you
want to mail? We want to
inspect them.

F: Hǎo. Qǐng nǐ jiǎnchá ba.

Okay. Please inspect them.

M: Ōu, yítào pánziwǎn.

Oh, a set of dishes.

F: Zhège keyi bǎoxiǎn ma?

Can this be insured?

M: Keyi.

Yes.

M: Nǐ zuìhǎo zài xiāngzi wàimian
xiěshàng XIÀOXIN, QINGFANG.

It would be best if you
write on the outside
CAREFUL, FRAGILE.

F: Wǒ bú huì xiě Zhōngguó zì.
Qǐng nǐ tī wo xiě, hǎo bu
hao?

I can't write Chinese
characters. Please write
it for me, all right?

M: Hǎo. Wǒ tī nǐ xiě.

Okay. I'll write it for you.

PART IV

- | | |
|--|---|
| 23. Wǒ yǒu yíjiàn zhòngyào de
shì yào gāosòng wǒ fùmǔ. | I have something important
that I want to tell my
parents. |
| 24. Wǒ xiǎng dǎ yí fēng diànbào. | I think I'll send a telegram. |
| 25. Dào diànxìnjú qu zěnmē zǒu? | How do you get to the
telegraph office? |
| 26. Diànxìnjú gēn Táiběi
Yóuzhèngjú zài yìqǐ. | The Telegraph Office and
the Taipei Post Office
are located together. |
| 27. Nǐ bǎ dìzhǐ gēn yào shuō de
dōu xiě zài zhèzhāng
zhǐshàng. | Write the address and
what you want to say on
this paper. |
| 28. Diànbào Dǎlóu | The Telegraph Building (Peking) |

NOTES AFTER PART IV

bǎ dìzhǐ: In sentence No. 28 the object comes before the verb and is preceded by the marker bǎ. Although it is common for an object to come before the verb marked by bǎ, not all objects can do so. The object in a ba-phrase is the direct object of an action verb. It is a particular known thing, not a new idea about to be introduced into the conversation. The action verb in the sentence is usually more than one syllable or followed by something else, such as a place name. For more on bǎ, see Transportation Unit 3 and Meeting Unit 5.

Qǐng nǐ bǎ shū fàng zài
zhuō zì shàng.

Please put the book on the
table.

Tā bǎ tā de chē mài le.

He sold his car.

diànxìnjú: 'Telegraph Office.' In the PRC the word used
is diànxùnjú.

PST/TEL, Unit 1

Taipei:

Mr. White, an American, is talking to a Chinese friend.

- M: Wǒ yǒu yíjiàn zhòngyàode
shì yào wǎng Měiguó
dǎ yìfēng diànbào.
Dào nǎlǐ qù dǎ? I have something important
I want to send by telegram
to America. Where do I
go to send it?
- F: Dào Diànxīnjú qù dǎ. You go to the Telegraph
Office to send it.
- M: Zài nǎlǐ? Where is it?
- F: Zài Buóài Lù. Gēn
Táiběi Yóuzhèngjú zài
yìqǐ. It's on Boai Lu. Together
with the Taipei Post Office.
- M: Hǎo. Xièxie nǐ. Wǒ xiànzài
jiù qù dǎ. Okay. Thank you. I'll go
right now to send it.

(Now he speaks to the clerk at the Telegraph Office.)

- M: Qǐngwèn, wǒ yào wǎng Měiguó
dǎ yìfēng Yīngwénde
diànbào zěnmé dǎ? May I ask, I want to send
an English telegram to
the U.S. How do I send it?
- F: Nǐ bǎ dìzhǐ gēn yào
shuōde dōu xiě zài
zhèzhāng zhǐshàng. Write the address and
what you want to say on
this paper.
- M: Yíge zì duōshao qián? How much is it per word?
- F: Yíge zì Táibì èrshíèrkuài
wǔmáo qián. Zuìshǎo
èrshíge zì. One word is 22.50 Taibi.
The minimum is twenty
words.
- M: Hǎo. Okay.

(He writes down what he wants to say and hands it to the clerk.)

- M: Yígòng èrshíyíge zì. Altogether it's twenty-one
words.
- F: Yígòng èrbǎisìshíqīkuài
wǔmáo qián. Altogether it's 247.50
- M: Hǎo. Fine.

Peking:

An American staying at the Peking Hotel asks the service attendant on her floor for some information.

F: Wǒ xiǎng dǎ yìfēng diànbào.
Zài fàndiànli keyi bu
keyi dǎ? Háishì wǒ děi
dào Diànbào Dàlóu qù dǎ?

I'd like to send a telegram.
Can I send it in the hotel?
Or do I have to go to the
Telegraph Building to send it?

M: Búbì dào Diànbào dàlóu qù
dǎ. Nǐ keyi dào fàndiànli de
yóujú qù dǎ.

You don't have to go to the
Telegraph Building to send it.
You can go to the post office
in the hotel to send it.

F: Hǎo. Xièxie nǐ. Nǐ zhīdao
duōshao qián yíge zì ma?

Good. Thank you. Do you know
how much it is a word?

M: Wǒ yě bù zhīdao. Nǐ wèn
tāmen ba.

I don't know. You ask them.

Vocabulary

bǎ	(object marker)
bāoguǎo	package
bǎoxiǎn	to protect by insurance, to insure
běnnshì	this city
-céng	counter for floors of buildings
dǎ diànhuà	to make a phone call, to telephone
diànbào	telegram
Diànbào Dàlóu	Telegraph Office
diànhuà	phone call
Diànxìnjú	Telegraph Office
-fēng	(counter for letter)
fúwùtái	service desk
guàhào	to register(something)
guàhàoxìn (yìfēng)	registered letter
guówài	outside the country, foreign
guónnèi	within the country, domestic
hǎiyùn	sea mail
hángkōng	air mail
hángkōng yóujiǎn	aerogram
-jiàn	(counter for matter, affairs)
jiǎnchá	to inspect, examine
jì	to mail, to send by mail
lóuxià	downstairs
míngxìnpìàn	post cards
píngxìn	regular mail, surface mail
qīngfàng	fragile(lit. put down lightly)
shì(yíjiàn)	matter, affair, thing
tì	in place of (someone), for
tiē	to paste on, to stick
wàidì	outside the local area

wàimian

outside

xiāngzi

box, suitcase, trunk

xiǎoxīn

to be careful

xiěshàng

to write on (something)

xìn (yìfēng)

letter

xìnfēng

envelope

xìnzhi

stationery

yìqǐ

together, together with

yóujú

post office

yóupiào(yìzhāng)

stamp

yóu tǒng

mailbox

yóuzhèngjú

post office

zhòngyào

to be important

zuìhǎo

the best; "it would be best "

zuìshǎo

at least, at the minimum