

# COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



## Chīfàn - Eating a Meal

### FRAME 1

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|---|---|
| 1 B: <u>Lǎoshi</u> shuō wǒmen xiànzài <u>chīfàn</u> qù. Nǐ zhīdao bu-zhīdao qù nǐjiā <u>fànguǎnr</u> ?    | The teacher says we will now go to eat. Do you know which restaurant we will be going to? |
| 2 A: <u>Jiùshì</u> nàijiā, jiào <u>Dōng-hǎilóu</u> . Nǐ kàn, tāmen xiànzài dōu <u>zài</u> nèr <u>ne</u> . | It's that restaurant (there), called the Dōnghǎilóu. See, they are all there now.         |

### Notes

1. Pattern of Movement for a Purpose. Chīfàn qù, "to go to eat," shows action or movement to fulfill a purpose. Qù, "to go," shows movement away from the speaker. Chīfàn, "to eat a meal," is the purpose of going. Qù nǐjiā fànguǎnr? "Which restaurant will (we) be going to?" shows movement to a destination. Fànguǎnr is the destination.

2. Emphasizing with jiù. The response Jiùshì nàijiā, "It is that restaurant," implies precision. Jiù shì (literally, "exactly/specifically is") is a very strong emphatic statement with positive and definite evidence. When the adverb jiù is followed by the verb shì, what follows is emphasized.

Tā shuō zhèi jiùshì Dōnghǎilóu.

He says this is the Dōnghǎilóu.

Wǒmen dōu shuō zhèi jiùshì nǐde shū.

All of us say this is your book.

Tāmen dōu shuō nài jiùshì Lǐ lǎoshī jiā.

All of them say that that is Mr. Lǐ's house.

Continuing with (zài) ... ne. This pattern is used to stress that the action of the verb is still going on. The particle ne is added at the end of the sentence.

Wǒmen dōu zài zhèr ne.

We are all here now.

(Now is understood.)

Tāmen dōu zài xiězì ne.

They are all writing Chinese characters now.

Tā zài chīfàn ne.

She is eating now.

## FRAME 2

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| 3 | B: Nǐ zhīdao wǒmen <u>chī</u> shénme ma? <u>Zhōngcān</u> hái <u>shì</u> <u>xīcān</u> ? | Do you know what we are going to eat? Chinese or Western food?        |
| 4 | A: Lǎoshī shuō wǒmen <u>chī</u> Zhōngcān. Sige <u>cài</u> , yige <u>tāng</u> .         | The teacher says we will eat Chinese food. Four courses and one soup. |

Notes

3. Two Questions in One. The question Nǐ zhīdao wǒmen chī shénme ma? "Do you know what we are going to eat?" is actually two questions in one: Nǐ zhīdao ma? "Do you know?" and wǒmen chī shénme? "What do we eat?" In Zhōngcān and Xīcān, cān means "food" or "meal." Zhōng is the abbreviation of Zhōngguó, and Xī that of Xīfāng, "Western world."

4. Ordinary Group Meal. The phrase sige cài, yige tāng "four courses and one soup" is a description of a group meal or a "special" meal.

## FRAME 3

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| 5 | B: Wǒ búhuì yòng <u>kuàizi</u> , nǐ huì búhuì yòng <u>kuàizi</u> ?                                       | I don't know how to use chopsticks. Do you know how to use them?                              |
| 6 | A: Wǒ yě búhuì yòng. <u>Búyào-jīn</u> , wǒmen kéyì yòng <u>dāo-zì</u> , <u>chāzì</u> , gēn <u>sháo</u> . | I don't know how to use them either. It doesn't matter; we can use knives, forks, and spoons. |

Notes

5. Measures -zhī and -shuāng. The measure for a single chopstick is -zhī, but since chopsticks are used in pairs, the measure -shuāng, "pair," is used. Yīshuāng kuàizi means "a pair of chopsticks."

6. Búyào-jīn. In this idiomatic expression, yào-jīn means "to be important" and búyào-jīn, "to be unimportant." It is used here to put someone at ease or to imply that something is not important.

## FRAME 4

7	B: Zhèicì <u>dàjiā</u> yíkuàir chīfàn, <u>zěnmē</u> <u>gěi</u> qián ne? <u>Yīnggāi</u> <u>gěi</u> duōshao qián?	This time all of us will eat together; how will we pay? How much should we pay?
8	A: Lǎoshī huì <u>gàosòng</u> wǒmen <u>měirén</u> <u>yīnggāi</u> <u>gěi</u> duōshao qián.	The teacher will tell us how much money each person should give.
9	B: Qián, <u>jiāogēi</u> lǎoshī háishì <u>jiāogēi</u> <u>bānzǎng</u> ?	Do we give the money to the teacher or to the class leader (monitor/squad)?
10	A: Dōu kéyì.	Either way is all right.

Notes

7. Measure of Occurrences: cì. The word zhèicì contains a combination of the specifier zhèi, "this," and the measure cì, "time, occasion." Other examples of cì include nèicì, "that time/occasion," měicì, "each time/every time," cí cì, "every time," and nèi sāncì, "on those three occasions."

Dàjiā, "everybody," is the combination of dà and jiā, "big family." It is often used in conjunction with a pronoun or a noun to express "all of" or "all."

Wǒmen dàjiā dōu zài yíkuàir chīfàn. All of us will eat together.

Nǐmen dàjiā dōu zhùzai nǎr? Where do all of you live?

Tāmen dàjiā dōu bùzhīdào. All of them don't know (None of them know).

8. Yīnggāi gěi duōshao qián? "How much should we pay?" has no ne because it follows a ne question. Adding a ne (although correct) would be superfluous and could imply that further details were being requested, such as "Is the tip included?" Gěi, "give," is translated here as "pay," but either translation is acceptable.

9. Verbal Suffix -gěi. In jiāogēi, "give to," -gěi is used as a verbal suffix meaning "to." Another example is màigēi, "to sell to":

Tā xiǎng màigēi wǒ yíběn zìdiǎn.

He wants to sell a dictionary to me.

Bānzhǎng, "class/section monitor." Here bān is a unit, which can be a squad or a class (group). In military usage, -zhǎng is the leader of a unit (from a squad up to an army). In civilian usage, -zhǎng is "head" or "leader." An example is Xiàozhǎng, "head of a school." Here xiào is an abbreviation of xuéxiào. Another example is yóujú-júzhǎng, "postmaster."

## FRAME 5

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| 11 | B: Ò! Wǒmen mǎi yí fèn(r)<br>Zhōngguó bào kànkàn,<br>hǎo bùhǎo? | Oh! Let's buy a copy of a<br>Chinese newspaper to read.<br>How about it? |
| 12 | A: Hǎo a! Wǒmen kànkàn<br>bàoshang yǒu shénme<br>xīnwén.        | Good! We'll see if there is<br>any news in the newspaper.                |

Notes

11. Changing Topics with Ò. Ò is not merely an exclamation marker. It can change the topic of a conversation. Some people pronounce it Ou.

The Measure fèn(r), "copy," is specifically for newspapers, magazines, and periodicals. It also carries the meaning of "a share of" or "a portion of" the divisible lot: wealth, duties, work, etc.