

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



Yíge Láodòng Mófàn - A Model Worker

Zhào, a worker eager for all kinds of knowledge, likes to tinker with machines and is always willing to lend his friends a helping hand. His friends call him Xiǎo Zhào.

Frame 1

Xiǎo Zhào zài yíjiā zìxíngchē
xiūlǐchǎng gōngzuò.

(1) Tā suīrán méiyǒu duōshao
wénhuà, (2) kěshì tā cháng
tīng diàntái guǎngbō de
gèzhǒng jiémù, (3) suǒyǐ
tāde zhīshì shífēn guǎngfàn.
(4) Tā shénme dōu dǒng yì-
diǎnr.

Xiǎo Zhào worked in a bicycle repair plant. Although he hadn't much education; (nevertheless) he often listened to various types of programs broadcast on the radio, so his knowledge was extremely broad. He knew a little about everything.

Notes:

(1-2) Suīrán ... kěshì ... "although ... but (nevertheless)." In the sentence Méiyǒu duōshao wénhuà ... kěshì ... "Although he hadn't much education, (nevertheless) ..." Both suīrán "although" and kěshì "but, nevertheless" are Movable Adverbs. Examples:

Suīrán nǐ ài wǒ, kěshì
wǒ búài nǐ.
Suīrán nǐ ài wǒ, wǒ
kěshì búài nǐ.
Nǐ suīrán ài wǒ, kěshì
wǒ búài nǐ.
Nǐ suīrán ài wǒ, wǒ
kěshì búài nǐ.

Although you love me, I don't love you.

"

"

"

Question Word as an indefinite in a negative statement. In the sentence, Tā suīrán méiyǒu duōshao wénhuà ... "Although he hadn't much education ..." the Question Word duōshao "how much" here means "some, not much (more than nothing)." Other examples with other Question Words:

QW in a question

Nǐ yǒu duōshao qián?
(How much money do you have?)

QW as indefinites in statements

Wǒ méiyǒu duōshao qián.
(I don't have much money.)

Wǒ méiyǒu shénme qián.
(I don't have any money to speak of.)

Nǐ yǒu jǐge péngyou?
(How many friends do
you have?)

Wǒ méiyǒu jǐge péngyou.
(I don't have many friends.)

Wǒ méiyǒu shénme péngyou.
(I don't have any friends to
speak of.)

Tā hēle jǐpíng jiǔ?
(How many bottles of
wine/liquor did he
drink?)

Tā méihē jǐpíng jiǔ.
(He didn't drink very many bot-
tles of wine/liquor.)

Tā méihē shénme jiǔ.
(He didn't drink any wine/liquor
to speak of.)

(1) Wénhuà "culture". When applied to an individual this refers to his/her formal education. Tā méiyǒu duōshao wénhuà. "He hasn't much education."

(3) Shífen conveys the idea of "10 out of 10." Since 10 is considered the complete number, shífēn signifies 100 percent.

(4) Inclusiveness. A Question Word followed by the adverb dōu indicates inclusiveness.

Exclusiveness. A Question Word followed by the adverb dōu bù indicates exclusiveness. Following are sample questions and their conversions to inclusive or exclusive status.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
Shéi zhīdao nèijiàn shì? (Who knows about that affair?)	Shéi <u>dōu</u> zhīdao. (inclusive) (Everyone knows.) Shéi <u>dōu</u> bùzhīdao. (exclusive) (No one knows about it.)
Nǐ dào nǎr qù? (Where do you go?)	Wǒ nǎr <u>dōu</u> qù. (inclusive) (I go everywhere.) Wǒ nǎr <u>dōu</u> búqù. (exclusive) (I don't go anywhere.)
Něitiān xíng? (Which day will be Ok?)	Něitiān <u>dōu</u> xíng. (inclusive) (Any day will be Ok.) Něitiān <u>dōu</u> bùxíng. (exclusive) (No day will be Ok.)
Nǎr yǒu mài jiǔde? (Where is wine sold?)	Nǎr <u>dōu</u> yǒu. (inclusive) (It is sold everywhere.) Nǎr <u>yě</u> * méiyǒu. (exclusive) (There is none anywhere, i.e., "dry town")

* In most cases, the negative usage yě can be substituted for dōu.

Frame 2

Zài tā nèijiā gōngchǎng, (5)
 shéi wèn tā wèntí, tā chàbùduō
 dōu néng huídá.
 Suīrán tā zhǐshì ge zìxíngchē
 xiūlǐchǎng de gōngrén, kěshì
 yīnwei tā chángcháng zìjǐ yán-
 jiū gèzhǒng jīqì, gōngchǎnglǐ
 (6) shénme jīxiè shèbèi chūle
 máobīng, tā dōu néng bāngmáng
 xiūlǐ.

In that plant of his, no matter
 who asked him a question, he
 could almost always give an
 answer. Although he was only
 a worker in a bicycle repair
 plant, because he was always
 studying various kinds of ma-
 chinery on his own, no matter
 what kind of mechanical instal-
 lation in the plant suffered a
 malfunction (broke down), he
 could always help to fix it.

Notes:

(5-6) Emphatic Function of dōu or yě. When there is a Question Word in the first clause, the adverbs dōu or yě in the second clause have an emphatic function.

Shéi wèn tā wèntí, tā
dōu néng huídá.

No matter who asked him a
 question, he could almost
 always give an answer.

Gōngchǎng shénme jīxiè
 shèbèi chūle máobīng,
 tā dōu néng bāngmáng
 xiūlǐ.

No matter what kind of mechani-
 cal equipment in the plant
 suffered a malfunction, he
 could always help fix it.

Frame 3

(7) Xiǎo Zhào zhèige rén yě
 fēicháng rèqíng. Duóme nán-
 bàn de shìqíng tā dōu yuànyì
 bāng biérénde máng. Yǒude
 shíhou (8) lián yìdiǎnr xiū-
 xī de gōngfu dōu méiyǒu.

This fellow Xiǎo Zhào was ex-
 traordinarily enthusiastic.
 No matter how difficult some-
 thing was to accomplish, he
 always wanted to help others.
 Sometimes he didn't have even
 the smallest amount of leisure
 time to rest.

Notes:

(7) Apposition. Both Xiǎo Zhào "Little Zhào" and zhèige rén "this fellow" refer to the same person in the sentence Xiǎo Zhào zhèige rén yě fēicháng rèqíng "This fellow Xiǎo Zhào was extra-ordinarily enthusiastic." Other examples:

Wǒmen Měiguó rén dōu
xǐhuan hē qīshuǐ.
Zhāng Sān nèige rén
huì zuò mǎimai.

We Americans all like to drink
soft drinks.
That fellow Zhang knows how to
do business.

(8) Intensified Exclusiveness pattern. Lián ... yě or lián ... dōu are translated as "even."

Wǒ lián yīfēn qián yě
méiyǒu.
Wǒ lián yìdiǎnr jiǔ
dōu bùhē.
Wǒ lián yìdiǎnr jiǔ
dōu méihē.
Tā lián yíge zì yě
méixiě.

I don't even have a penny.
I don't even drink a drop of
wine.
I didn't even drink a single
drop of wine.
He didn't even write one single
word.

Frame 4

Něige rén xūyào yìdiǎnr qián,
qǐng tā bāngmáng, tā dōu
yuànyì bāngmáng, kěshì tā zì jǐ
(9) lián yīfēn qián yě bùsuǐ-
biàn huā. Zài nèijiā xiūlǐ-
chǎng yǒu hǎojǐge fùzé tóngzhì
dōu shuō tā shì yíge (10)
láodòng Mófàn.

Whoever needed a little money
and asked for (his) help, he
was always willing to help, but
he himself never spent even a
single penny needlessly. In
that plant, quite a number of
responsible comrades said he
was a Model Worker.

Notes:

(9) Another example of the Intensified Exclusiveness pattern with
Lián ... yě. Tā zì jǐ lián yīfēn qián yě bùsuǐbiàn huā "He him-
self never spent even a single penny needlessly."

(10) Láodòng Mófàn "Model Worker." To be designated a Model
Worker is a great honor in the People's Republic of China which
holds big ceremonies from time to time to honor Model Workers.
It is called Láo-Mó Dàhuì (Lao is contraction of Láodòng and Mó
of Mófàn).