

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



Qīngkè - Giving a Party

F: Fang Baoshan

D: Dawson

G1: Guest No. 1

G2: Guest No. 2

G3: Guest No. 3

(Fang invites the Dawsons and others to dinner at a restaurant)

Frame 1

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| 1 | F: (Upon seeing Mr. Dawson)
Dàoshen Xiānsheng, huānyíng,
huānyíng. Zěnmē nǐn fūren
méilái? | Welcome, welcome Mr. Dawson.
How come your wife didn't
come? |
| 2 | D: Zhēn duìbuqǐ. Wǒ tàitai
běnlai yào láide. Kěshi
háizi zhè liǎngtiān bǐngle.
yě bùchī, yě bùwǎnr, yìtiān
dào wǎn lǎokū, yòu pà yíge-
ren dāizai lǚguǎn, suǒyì
wǒ tàitai zhīhǎo péizhe tā.
Zuótiān yèlǐ yíyè dōu méi
shuǐ. | I'm really sorry. My wife was
originally coming. But the
baby has been sick these (last)
two days, neither eats nor
plays, (and) all day long is
always crying. He's afraid to
stay in the hotel by himself,
so the only thing is for my
wife to stay with him. Last
night she didn't sleep all
night. |
| 3 | F: Háizimen yíbing zuò fùmǔ
de jiù mángle ... lái, lái,
lái wǒ gěi nǐ jièshào jiè-
shào zhè jǐwèi Zhōngguó
péngyou. Zhèwèi shì ...,
zhèwèi shì | As soon as the children are
sick, the parents are then
busy. Come, come I'll give
you an introduction to some
Chinese friends. This is ...,
this is.... |
| 4 | G1: (Upon hearing Dawson's
Chinese) Dàoshen Xiānsheng
shuōde pǔtōnghuà zhēn hǎo.
Tīng buchūlai shì wàiguoren
shuōde. | Mr. Dawson speaks the common
language very well. When (we)
listen, it doesn't seem like
a foreigner speaking. |
| 5 | D: Nǎli, nǎli. Wǒde fayin
hé yǔfǎ dōu bùxíng. Qǐng
gèwèi bié xiào. | Not at all, not at all. My
pronunciation and grammar are
impossible. Please, all of
you, don't laugh at me. |

Notes:

Qīngkè It is to be noted here that this term can be used only in the following ways:

As a Verb Object

Zhège xīngqī wǒ yào qīng
sāncì kè.

This week I want to give three parties.

As a Verb Phrase

Tā bùxǐhuan qīngkè.

He doesn't like to give parties.

It is incorrect to say that

*Wǒ yào gěi yíge qīngkè.

2 Yěbù ... yěbù ..., "neither ... nor" The element following each yěbù may be as simple as a verb, as in exchange 2, or as a verb phrase.

Tā yěbù chōuyān, yěbù
hējiǔ.

He neither smokes nor drinks.

Frame 2

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| 6 | F: (Seeing that everyone is seated and provided with a menu) Jīntiān shì biànfàn, suóyì méi yùxiān dīngcài. Wǒmen xiànzai diǎn ba. Dàoshēn Xiānsheng, nǐ shì yuǎnkè, nǐ xiān diǎn. | Today it's a simple meal, so I haven't ordered the dishes in advance. Let's order now. Mr. Dawson, as the guest from afar, you order first. |
| 7 | D: Wǒ bǔhuì diǎn, qīng gèwèi diǎn ba.

(after the ritual of insisting and declining) | I can't order food. I'll let all of you order. |
| 8 | F: Ràng wǒ lái diǎn ba. Báizhǎnji, hóngshāoròu, qīngzhēngyú, qīngdòu chǎoniúròu, sùshíjīn gēn yīwǎn suānlàtāng, hǎo bùhao? | Allow me to order. How about having boiled chicken with mashed ginger and garlic sauce, braised pork with brown sauce, steamed fish, beef sautéed with green peas, assorted vegetables, and a bowl of hot and sour soup? |

Frame 2 (Continued)

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| 9 | G1, G2 & D: Cài tài duōle, chībùliǎo. | That's too much; we couldn't eat all of that. |
| 10 | F: Nálì, bùduō. Dōu shì pǔtōngcài. Wǒmen dàjiā dōu bǎ shàngyī tuōxiàliǎ ba. Chuānzhe chīfān bú-tài shūfu. | Not at all. It's not too much. It's all ordinary food. Let's all of us take off our jackets. Eating with your jacket on is not too comfortable. |

10 Tuō, as it is used in this Lesson, means "take off one's shoes, socks or clothes." However, for taking off one's glasses, hat or jewelry the verb zhāi is used. As a rule, tuō is the opposite of chuān, and zhāi is the opposite of dài. Note that for ceremonial usage and in certain Chinese dialects, the verb tuō is used for hats also.

Frame 3

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| 11 | G2: Wǒ tīng Lǎo Fāng shuō nǐ dào Zhōngguó lái jiēqiǎ shāngwù, jìnxíngde hái hǎo ba? | I heard Old Fang say that you have come to China to arrange a business venture; you have made some progress, I suppose? |
| 12 | D: Hái keyi. Wǒ zhǔyào de rènwù shì lái gēn Hángzhōu Kēxué Yīqì Gōngsī dīng hētóng. Yǐjīng tánde chàbùduōle. Xiàxíngqǐ wǒ děi huí Měiguó qù jiàn wǒmende zǒngcái, xiàng tā bàogào. | It's OK. My main mission is to make a contract with the Hangzhou Scientific Instrument Company. We have pretty much concluded our talk. Next week, after I have returned to the United States, I will go see the chairman of my company to give him a report. |
| 13 | G2: Shénme shíhou zài huí-lai ne? | When will you be coming back again? |
| 14 | D: Liǎng-sānge yuè yǐhou zài huí-lai. Nín zài nǎlǐ fúwù? | I'll be coming back again after two or three months. Where do you work? |
| 15 | GS: (Gesturing towards G3) Wǒ gen tā dōu zài Diànbào jú gōngzuò. | We work in the telegraph bureau. |

Frame 3 (Continued)

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| 16 F: (Seeing an opportunity to chat with Dawson) Dào-shēn Xiānsheng, zánmen liǎngge lǐbài méijiàn, nǐ hǎoxiàng <u>shòule</u> . | Mr. Dawson, in the past two weeks we haven't seen you; you seem (a bit) thinner. |
| 17 D: Shì ma? Nà wǒ tài gāoxingle. Wǒ děi gàosong wǒ tàitai. Tā cháng shuō wǒ dàole Zhōngguó yǐhòu, yìtiān bǐ yìtiān <u>pàng</u> . | Really? I'm very happy about that. I'll have to tell my wife. She often tells me that, after I get to China, day by day I get fatter. |

17 Wǒ yìtiān bǐ yìtiān pàng means, literally, "I one day compare one day fat." This sentence actually means that "I'm getting fatter day by day."

Frame 4

(Dinner is over; it's time for the guests to leave.)

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| 18 G2: Lǎo Fāng, duōxiè, duōxiè
Wǒ děi xiān zǒu <u>yíbù</u> . | Old Fang, many thanks, many thanks. I have to take off first. |
| 19 F: Xièxie nǐ jīntiān lái <u>shǎngguāng</u> . | Thank you for the pleasure of your company today. |