

Customs Surrounding
Marriage, Birth, and Death: Unit 5

PART I

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|---|---|
| 1. Wǒ zuìjìn chūchāi qu le, méi néng cānjiā zhège huì. | I've been out of town on business lately, so I wasn't able to participate in this meeting. |
| 2. Wǒ zài shàng Xīngqièr jiù tīngdao tā zǔmǔ qùshìde xiāoxi. | Last Tuesday I heard the news that his grandmother had passed away. |
| 3. Míngtiān wǒ yào qù diàosāng. | Tomorrow I'm going to present my condolences at the funeral. |
| 4. Míngtiān wǒ yào bāng tāmen bàn sānglǐ. | Tomorrow I'm going to help them take care of the funeral. |
| 5. Wǒ fùqin yíxiàng xǐhuan hē jiǔ, shàngge yuè hūrán juédìng zài yě bù hē le. | My father always liked to drink, but last month he decided all of a sudden that he would never drink again. |
| 6. Wǒ fùqin fànle xīnzàngbìng. | My father had a heart attack. |
| 7. Wǒmen gǎnjǐn bǎ tā lǎorénjiā sòngdao Táidà Yīyuàn qu. | We rushed him to Taiwan University Hospital. |
| 8. Yīshēng shuō jīngguo jíjiù, yǐjīng jiùguolai le. | The doctor said that she had been saved through emergency treatment. |
| 9. Nǐ zǔmǔ yíxiàng hěn bǎozhòng shēntǐ. | Your grandmother always took good care of herself. |
| 10. Tā guòqude shíhou, niánji yíding hěn dà le ba? | She must have been quite old when she passed away. |
| 11. Wǒ tīngwánle yǐhòu xīnli hěn jiǔ bù néng píngjìngxiàlai. | After I listened to it I couldn't calm down for quite a while. |
| 12. Hěn bàoqiàn, wǒ méi néng gǎnhuī-lai diàosāng. | I'm sorry I couldn't rush back in time for the funeral. |

NOTES ON PART I

Notes on No. 1

zuìjìn: 'lately, recently; in the near future'. This word can either refer to the near past or the near future.

A: Tā zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?

How has she been lately?

B: Zuìjìn tā hěn hǎo.

Lately she's been very well.

Wǒ zuìjìn zài nián shū.

I've been studying lately.

Wǒ zuìjìn yào dào Jiāzhōu qù.

I'm going to be going to California
in the near future.

chūchāi: 'to go away on official business'.

Míngtiān chūchāi, jīntiān hěn
máng.

Tomorrow I'm going away on business,
so today is a busy day.

Zhècì chūchāi, qù shénme
dìfang?

Where are you going on this business
trip?

Zhèjiàn shì, děng wǒ chūle
chāi yǐhòu zài bàn.

I'll get to this matter after my
business trip.

Zhècì chūchāi huílai, kéyǐ dài
diǎn dōngxi gěi nǐ.

When I come back from this business
trip, I'll be able to bring you
back a little something.

cānjiā: 'to participate in; to attend; to go to (a meeting, gathering, performance, etc.); to join'.

Wǒ jìhua xià Xīngqīyī yào dào
Niǔ Yūē qu wǎr. Nǐ xiǎng
bù xiǎng cānjiā?

I'm planning to go to New York next
week to relax. Do you want to
join in?

Wǒ yào cānjiā míngtiān xiàwude
huì.

I'm going to attend the meeting
tomorrow afternoon.

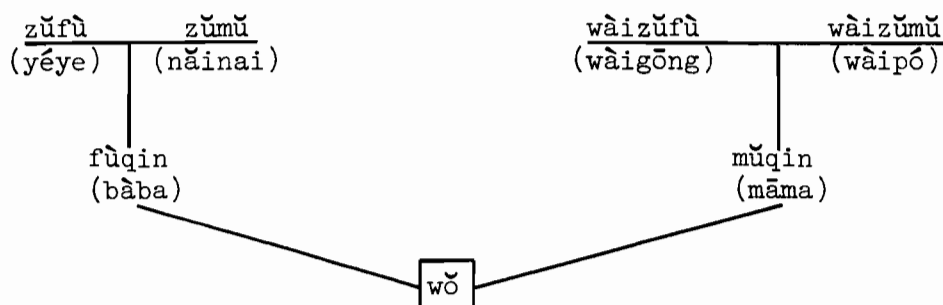
Zuótiān wǒmen gěi Zhāng Tàitai
sòngxíng, nǐ yě cānjiā le
ma?

Yesterday when we gave the going-away
party for Mrs. Zhang, did you come
too?

zài shàng Xīngqīèr: 'on last Tuesday'. Notice that zài is used here with an expression stating a time when something occurs. In this sentence, zài is optional. Here are some more examples:

Zhègè huì zài xiàgè yuè kāi.	This meeting will be held next month.
Zhègè hái'zi zài qùnián qiūtiān kāishǐ zài jiā niàn shū le.	This child began studying at home last fall.
Wǒ zài shànggè lǐbài mǎile yíjiàn jiéhūn lǐfú.	Last week I bought a wedding gown.
Zài Yījiǔliùsānnián wǒ rènshi- le ta.	I met him in 1963.
Zài Yījiǔwǔlíngnián wǒ jiù kànguo zhèběn shū.	I read this book back in 1950.

zǔmǔ: '(paternal) grandmother'. Remember that this refers exclusively to the father's mother. The mother's mother is wàizǔmǔ. [A grandmother is usually addressed by her son's children as nǎinai.] Here is a chart showing these terms:



qùshì: 'to pass away'. Literally, this means 'to go (from this) world'. It is a euphemism for sǐ 'to die', which is introduced in Unit 6.

Xiǎo Wángde fùqin qùshì yǐjīng liǎngnián le.	It's been two years since Xiǎo Wáng's father died.
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xiāoxi: 'news, information, tidings'.

Zhèiliǎngtiān bàozhǐshàng yǒu hěn duō guānyu Zhōngguode xiāoxi.	The past couple of days there's been a lot of news about China in the newspaper.
Jīntiān bàozhǐshàng yǒu shénme xīn xiāoxi?	What news is there in the newspaper today?

Wǒmen jiā liǎngge yuè méiyǒu
xìn le, shénme xiāoxi dōu
méiyǒu.

Our family hasn't sent a letter in
two months, there's no news at all.
(Said by one family member who is
separated from the rest.)

Xiāoxi can be used with the counter -ge to mean 'a piece of news, an item of news':

Wǒ yǒu yíge hǎo xiāoxi.

I have a piece of good news.

Note on No. 3

diàosāng: 'to present one's condolences at a funeral, to attend a funeral'. At a traditional funeral, the guests, by groups, present their condolences to the family of the deceased in a brief formal ceremony.

Jīntiān wǒ qù diàosāng, jiàndào
nín jiā lǎotàitai.

Today when I was at the funeral I
saw your grandmother.

Note on No. 4

sānglǐ: 'the funeral ceremony'. [Sāng- in some combinations means 'funeral', for example, sāngfú 'funeral clothing', or sāngshì 'funeral'.] On a volunteer basis, family, friends, and villagers help with funeral preparations. Members of the immediate family stay with the coffin to guard it during the day and sleep with it at night.

Notes on No. 5

yíxiàng: 'always (up to now)'. This adverb indicates that something has been so all along up until now (and may either continue the same way or else change).

Wǒ yíxiàng ài chī tián diǎnxin.

I've always like to eat sweet snacks.

Tā yíxiàng niàn shū niānde
hěn hǎo.

He has always done very well in his
studies.

Wú Lǎoshī yíxiàng xǐhuan háizi.

Teacher Wú has always liked children.

Xià Xiānsheng yíxiàng hěn kèqì.

Mr. Xià has always been very polite.

hūrán: 'suddenly'. This is a time word. It may go before the verb, or at the front of the sentence.

Wǒ hūrán xiǎngqilai, wǒde xìn
hái méiyǒu jì.

I suddenly remembered that I hadn't
mailed my letter yet.

Hūrán, tā pǎolai le, hǎoxiàng
yǒu shénme shì.

Suddenly, he came running in, as if
there were something wrong.

Hūrán tiān xià yǔ le, xiàde
hǎo dà.

Suddenly it started raining, raining
very hard.

Tā jìnlai zuòle yìhuìr, hūrán
jiù zǒu le.

He came in and sat down for a while,
and then left all of a sudden.

zài yě bù hē le: 'will never drink again'. Sometimes people ask what is the word for 'never' in Chinese. The answer is that 'never' is not expressed by one word, but rather by a combination of adverbs and negative. Not only is 'never' rendered into Chinese by several words, but the word patterns are different for sentences expressing completed action, habitual action, or planned action. For these examples you need to know that yǒngyuǎn is the word for 'forever'.

Wǒ cónglái méi chīguo Zhōngguó
cài.

I've never eaten Chinese food.

Wǒ cónglái bú kàn nèiyangde
shū.

I've never read those kinds of books.

Tāde wèntí yǒngyuǎn bù néng
jiějué.

His problems can never be solved.

Wǒ zài yě bú qù nàlǐ le.

I'll never go there again.

The adverb zài and a negative, such as méiyǒu, can be used to express the idea of not doing something anymore.

Bìng hǎole yǐhòu, tā méiyǒu
zài hē jiǔ.

After he got well, he didn't drink
anymore.

Yǐhòu wǒ bú zài zuò le.

In the future I won't do it again.

Bú yào zài dǎ ta le.

Don't hit him any more.

If zài is placed in front of the negative, the meaning of the phrase is more emphatic.

Wǒ zài bù huílai le!

I'm never coming back here again!

If yě is added between zài and the negative, the meaning is approximately the same.

Wǒ zài yě bù chī táng le.

I'm never going to eat candy again.

Nèitiáo lù bù hǎo zǒu, nǐ zài
yě bié zǒu nèitiáo lù le.

That road is hard to go on, don't
ever take it again.

Nǐ zài yě bié kàn zhèzhǒng
shū le.

Don't ever read this kind of book
again.

Nàge fàndiànde cài tài guǐ,
wǒ zhǐ qùle yíci, jiù zài
yě méi qùguo le.

That restaurant is too expensive;
I only went there once and then
I never went back again.

Wǒmen shì tóngxué, kěshì líkāi
xuéxiào yǐhòu, wǒ jiù zài
yě méi kànjian ta le.

We were schoolmates, but after we
left the school, I never saw him
again.

Sānge yuè yǐqián xiàguo yìchǎng
yǔ, yǐhòu jiù zài yě méi
xiàguo le.

Three months ago it rained once, and
since then it hasn't rained again.

More on 'Again': Up until now you've seen zài 'again' used in sentences which did not express a completed event and yòu used in sentences which did.

Míngtiān zài lái ba.

Come again tomorrow!

Òu, nǐ yòu lái le.

Oh, you've come again!

But there are further qualifications on the use of 'again' in Chinese. While zài always refers to activities which have not yet occurred, that is future activities or events, yòu is not totally limited to activities or events which are completed or past. Yòu may be used in present or future situations if the thing being talked about is so certain that it may be treated like something which has actually happened.

Míngtiān yòu shì Xīngqīyī le.

And tomorrow is Monday again.

Zhè yòu yào duōshao qián a?

And how much money is needed again
for this?

Zhèi yìtiān yòu yào wán le.

And this day is about to end too.
(Said at the end of a long busy
day with many things left to do.)

Xiànzài wǒ yòu yǒu gōngzuò le.

Now I have a job again.

Notes on No. 6

fàn: 'to have an attack (of a disease), to have a recurrence of, to revert to (an old habit)'.

Tā yòu fàn lǎo máobìng le,
zhèjǐtiān hěn bù shūfu.

That old problem of his is acting
up again. He hasn't been feeling
well the last few days.

Shàngge yuè tā fàn bìng le,
xuěyā hǎo gāo!

Last month he had a recurrence; and
his blood pressure was really
high!

Bié fàn nǐde lǎo máobìng le,
kuài qù shàng xué qu ba!

Don't fall back into your old habit
(of skipping school), get yourself
to school.

xīnzàngbìng: 'heart disease'. Xīnzàng is 'heart'.

Notes on No. 7

gǎnjǐn: 'in a hurry'. This adverb means that someone decided to hurry up and start doing something. It can often be translated as 'to hurry up and', or 'to rush to (do something)'. Here are some examples:

Nàbiān chū chēhuò le, nǐ gǎn-
jǐn qù kànkàn!

There's been a car accident over
there, hurry up and go look!

Jīntiān xiàwǔ, tā zǒu le,
zhōngwǔ wǒ gǎnjǐn péi ta qù
chī wǔfàn.

He was leaving this afternoon, so at
noontime I hurried to go out to
lunch with him.

Kuài jiǔdiǎn le, wǒ yào gǎnjǐn
zǒu le.

It's almost nine o'clock. I have to
hurry up and leave.

Gǎnjǐn means only that someone hurries to start the action. It does not mean that the action is finished quickly. For example, to say 'He made dinner in a hurry, so it didn't come out well', meaning that he finished cooking it in a very short time, you cannot use gǎnjǐn; you could say Yīnwei tā zuò fàn zuòde tài kuài, suǒyǐ zuòde bù hǎo.

tā lǎorénjiā: Lǎorénjiā is a respectful way of referring to or addressing old people. When addressing someone directly, it is almost always preceded by nǐ or nín, as in

Qǐngwèn nín lǎorénjia, dào
Zhōngshān Lù zěnmē zǒu?

Excuse me, sir, how do I get to
Zhongshan Road?

Nǐ lǎorénjia, zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?
Shēntǐ hǎo ba?

How have you been lately? Have you
been in good health, I hope?

A third party can be referred to as tā lǎorénjia:

Tā lǎorénjia shuō le, zhèjiàn
shì búbì jízhē bān.

He said that we don't need to be in
a rush to do this.

Wǒ gěi tā lǎorénjia sòng
yidiǎn diǎnxīn lái.

I've come to give him some pastries.

Wǒ wènguo wǒ zǔfù le, tā lǎo-rénjia shuō míngnián zánmen quǎnjiā qù Shànghǎi.

I asked my grandfather, and he said our whole family is going to Shanghai next year.

Here are two examples of lǎorénjia being used as a respectful word for 'old people':

Jīntiān, liǎngwèi lǎorénjia tánde hěn gāoxìng.

Today those two (old people) had a very pleasant conversation.

Lǎorénjiamen dōu xǐhuan chī ruǎnde dōngxi.

Older people like to eat soft foods.

In Peking, the syllable lǎo in lǎorénjia receives the heaviest stress of the three syllables, and jia is in the neutral tone.

sòng: 'to take (someone somewhere), to escort (someone somewhere), to see someone off or out'. The basic meaning of this word is to accompany someone who is leaving, but as you can see from the various translations given, sòng can be used in a wide variety of circumstances. Here are some examples:

Wǒ qù bǎ kèren sòngdao dāmén wàitou.

I'm going to show the guests out the front door.

Nǐ sòng ta huí jiā.

Escort her home. or Walk her home.
or Take her home.

Tā míngtiān zǒu, wǒmen dào jīchǎng qu sòng ta.

She's leaving tomorrow and we're going to the airport to see her off.

Wǒ sòng ta dào xuéxiào qu.

I took him to school. (E.g., I drove him there or I walked there with him.)

To specify that you are taking someone in a car, you can phrase your sentence this way:

Wǒ kāi chē sòng ta dào xuéxiào qu.

I drove her to school.

Notes on No. 8

jīngguò: You have seen jīngguo meaning 'to go thru'. Here it is used to mean 'though' in the sense of 'by means of'. It can also be translated 'as a result of', 'after', 'through', or 'via'.

Tā shēntǐ yìzhí bù hǎo, dànshì
wǒ xiǎng jīngguò yíduàn shí-
jiānde bǎoyǎng, kěnéng huì
hǎo yìdiǎn.

His health has been bad all along,
but I think after a short period
of taking care of himself, he
might get a little better.

Jīngguò sāntiānde kǎolǚ, wǒ
juédìng hé tā jiēhūn.

After three days of consideration,
I've decided to marry him.

Jīngguò dàjiāde nǚlì, zhèjiàn
shìqíng chénggōng le.

As a result of everyone's hard work,
this matter has succeeded.

Zhège jìhuà bìxū jīngguò tāo-
lùn.

This plan must go through discussion.

jíjiù: 'emergency treatment; to administer emergency treatment, to receive emergency treatment'. Notice that jíjiù can mean to give or get emergency treatment.

Jīntiān yǐjīng shì jíjiùde
dìsāntiān le, bù zhīdào yǒu
méiyǒu xīwàng.

Today is already the third day of
emergency (intensive care) treat-
ment. I don't know if there's
any hope.

Tāde chēzi yǐjīng wánle, rén
zài jíjiù.

His car is finished (totalled), and
he himself is undergoing emergency
treatment.

Gāngcái chū chēhuò, yǒu jǐge
rén shòushāng le, yīshēng
zhèngzài jíjiù.

There's just been a car accident, and
several people were injured. The
doctor is administering first-aid.

Jíjiù refers only to aid given in incidents of a relatively serious nature, usually those where life is in danger; for example, cases of severe injury or acute attacks of an illness.

jiùguolai: 'to save', literally 'to save over'. The directional verb ending guolai 'over' sometimes shows the recovery of an original desirable or normal state. For example, in jiùguolai it implies the change from a condition in which death is imminent to one in which the patient can be expected to live.

Dàren qíngkuàng hái hǎo, hái-
zi jiùbuguolai le.

The adult's condition is all right,
but the child cannot be saved.

Zhège jùzi xiěcuò le, wǒ yào
bǎ ta gǎiguolai.

This sentence is wrong, I have to
correct it.

Zhège dìzhǐ xiěde bú duì, nín
děi gǎiguolai.

This address is wrong, you have to
correct it.

Zuò huǒchē zuòle sāntiān lèi-
huài le, yào shuì yí dà jiǎo
cái néng xiūxiuguolai.

After three days on the train, I'm
exhausted. I'll have to have a
good long sleep before I can be
well rested.

Shàngwǔ máng le sìwǔ ge zhōngtōu
zhōngwǔ shuì ge wǔjiǎo, rén
jiù xiūxiuguolai le.

In the morning I ran around for four
or five hours, but then after a
nap at noon, I felt very rested.

Tiān tài lěng, hē kǒu jiǔ jiù
nuǎnhuogulāi le.

The weather is too cold, a sip of
wine will warm you up.

Wǒ hǎoxiàng bìng le, chuān
zhènme duō yīfú dōu méi
bǎnfǎ nuǎnhuogulāi.

I seem to be sick, I've got on all
these clothes and I still can't
get warm.

Note on No. 9

bǎozhòng: 'to take care of oneself, to take care of (one's health)'.

Hǎohǎo bǎozhòng shēntǐ, bié
lèihuài le.

Take good care of your health, don't
wear yourself out.

In telling someone to be sure to take care of himself, bǎozhòng is usually
preceded by duō or duōduō 'more (than usual)'.

Yílù píng'ān, duō bǎozhòng.

Have a good trip, and take good care
of yourself.

Nǐde bìng gāng hǎo, duōduō
bǎozhòng.

You just got over your illness, take
real good care of yourself.

Notes on No. 10

guòqu: 'to pass away'. Like English 'pass away', this is a euphemism
for 'to die'.

Tāde zǔfù zuótiān wǎnshàng
guòqu le.

His grandfather passed away last
night.

Nǐ mǔqin shì shénme shíhòu
guòqude?

When did your mother pass away?

Wǒ mǔqin guòqude shíhòu, wǒ
hái hěn xiǎo.

I was still very young when my
mother passed away.

niánjì: '(a person's) age'. Here are some frequently used patterns
you should learn by heart:

Nín duō dà niǎnji le?

How old are you? (polite way of asking an adult's age)

Tā niǎnji bù xiǎo le.

She's not young any more.

Tā niǎnji dà le. or Tā shàngle niǎnji le.

He's getting on in years.

[Although the adjectival verb dà 'to be big' is used after niǎnji to mean 'to be old', when you want to say 'to be young', you should use the adjectival verb qīng 'to be light' rather than xiǎo 'to be small'; for example, Tā niǎnji hái qīng, bù yīnggāi ràng ta qù gōngzuò, 'He's still young, you shouldn't make him go get a job.']

Note on No. 11

píngjìng: 'to be calm'. Píngjìngxiàlai, 'to calm down'.

Shuǐshàng yìzhǐ chuán dōu méi-
you, yě méiyou fēng, hěn
píngjìng.

There wasn't a single boat on the water, and there was no wind. It was very calm.

Kànjian jiāli rén dōu hěn hǎo,
xīnli píngjìngdeduō le.

When I saw that everyone in the family was all right, I felt much calmer.

As in the last example above, píngjìng is often used with xīnli 'in the heart' to describe one's emotional state.

Jīntiān tā hěn shēngqì, wǒ méi
bànfǎ ràng ta píngjìngxiàlai.

He got very angry today and there was no way I could get him to calm down.

Notes on No. 12

méi néng: 'was not able to'. Here you see the auxiliary verb néng used with the negative méi. You have learned that state verbs (auxiliary verbs are one type of state verbs) are negated with bù, (bù hǎo, bù zhīdao) not with méi. Here, however, you see méi néng instead of bù néng. This is an exception to the rule that all state verbs are always negated with bù. Actually, either bù néng or méi néng would be acceptable in this sentence. Some speakers, however, feel that there is a subtle difference between bù néng and méi néng when referring to an event in the past. For example, one can say Wǒ zuótiān méi néng qù as well as Wǒ zuótiān bù néng qù. Wǒ zuótiān méi néng qù hints at the fact that there was a failure to attain the state of being able to go, whereas Wǒ zuótiān bù néng qù merely describes the state of being unable to go, without making any implications about failure (to attain the state of being able to go). Such a subtle difference

in implication may make very little difference in the actual import of a sentence in some contexts, although in other contexts it may be of some significance. (For the first example sentence, you need to know that mìmi means 'secret'.)

Zuótiān nǐ wèn wo, wǒ bù néng
gàosu ni, yīnwei zhè shì
mìmi.

Yesterday when you asked me, I
couldn't tell you, because it's a
secret.

Zuótiān, nǐ wèn wo, wǒ méi néng
gàosu ni, yīnwei Zhāng Sān
zhàn zai pángbiān, wǒ bù
xiǎng ràng ta zhīdao.

Yesterday when you asked me, I
couldn't tell you, because Zhāng
Sān was standing there, and I
didn't want to let him know about
it.

gǎnhuīlai: 'to rush back'.

Dōu liùdiǎn zhōng le, wǒ xiǎng
tā dàgài gǎnbu huīlai le.

It's six o'clock already, I think
she probably won't make it back
in time.

Xiàwǔ wǔdiǎn zhōng, wǒmen yǒu
ge huì, nǐ gǎndehuīlai gǎn-
buhuīlai?

At five in the afternoon we have a
meeting. Can you make it back in

Taipei:

A woman goes to visit her friend after hearing of her father's death:

A: Wǒ zuìjìn chūchāi qu le,
jīngguò Tàinándè shíhou tīngdao
nǐ fùqin qùshìde xiāoxi. Zhēn
bàoqiǎn, wǒ méi néng gǎnhuilai
diàosāng.

I went away on business lately and
I heard the news of your father's
death when I was passing through
Tainan. I'm so sorry I couldn't make
it back in time to go to the funeral.

B: Wǒ fùqin déle bīng, hěn kuài
jiù guòqu le. Wǒmen yǒu xiē
zài wàidìde qīnqī dōu méi néng
lái de jǐ cānjiā sānglǐ.

My father passed away very soon after
he became ill. We even have relatives
outside the area who couldn't make
it to the funeral.

A: Wǒ jìde nǐ fùqin shēntǐ
yíxiàng bú cuò, zhècì déle
shénme bīng?

As I recall your father's health was
always pretty good, what illness did
he get this time?

B: Ò, wǒ fùqin shēntǐ shì bú cuò,
jiùshì xīnzàng bú tài hǎo,
zhècì hūrán fānle xīnzàngbīng,
wǒmen gǎnjīn bǎ tā lǎorénjia
sòngdao Táidà Yīyuàn qu. Kěshi
jīngguo jíjiù, háishi méi
jiùguolai.

Well, my father's health was pretty
good, only his heart wasn't so good.
This time he had a sudden heart attack,
and we rushed him to Taiwan University
Hospital. But even the emergency
treatment didn't save him.

A: Wǒ zǔmǔ yě shì xīnzàngbīng
qùshìde. Hǎoxiàng niánji dàlede
rén déle xīnzàngbīng yǐhòu, hěn
nán zhìhǎo. Lǎo xiānsheng
guòqude shíhou bú tài tòngkǔ
ba?

My grandmother also died of heart
disease. Older people seem to be
very hard to cure after they get
heart disease. When your father
passed away he wasn't in much pain,
I hope?

B: Shìde. Tā guòqude shíhou
bǐjiào píngjìng, hǎoxiàng bú
tài tòngkǔ.

No. He was rather calm when he
passed away. He didn't seem to be
in too much pain.

A: Nǐ zhèxiē tiān yídìng mángde
hěn lèi le. Nǐ yào bǎozhòng
shēntǐ. Guò xiē shíhou wǒ
zài lái kàn nǐ.

You must be very tired from being
so busy these past few days. You
have to take good care of yourself.
I'll be back to see you again soon.

B: Xièxie nǐ. Yǐhòu yǒu gōngfu
zài guòlai zuòzuò.

Thanks. When you have time come
over again and sit awhile.

A: Hǎo. Zàijiàn!

Okay. Good-bye!

B: Zàijiàn!

Good-bye!

PART II

13. Wǒ dǎ chángtú diànhuà gāosu ta. I called him long distance to tell him.
14. Tā lǎo péngyoude mǔqīn shàngge xīngqī guòshì le. His old friend's mother passed away last week.
15. Tā shāngxīnjí le. He was terribly broken up.
16. Nǐ fùqīn yǐjīng qīshíwǔsuì, kěyī shuō shì chángshòu le. Your father was already 75 years old. That's quite a long life, actually.
17. Zài shuō ta guòshìde shíhou yě bú tài tòngkǔ. Besides that, he wasn't in too much pain when he died.
18. Nǐ bú bì tài nánguò le. You don't have to feel too sad.
19. Wǒ mǔqīn běnlái xīwàng érnǚmen yíběizi dōu zài tā shēnbiān. Originally my mother hoped that her children would stay with her all her life.
20. Wǒ dàgē jīnnián qùbuliǎo Xiāng-gǎng le. My oldest brother can't go to Hong Kong this year any more.
21. Jiānglái yǒu jīhuì zài qù ba! Go sometime in the future if you get the chance.
22. Wǒ mǔqīn cháng shuō tā bú yuànyì jiānglái zàngzai guówài. My mother often said that when the time came she didn't want to be buried abroad.
23. Ràng ta zài jiā ānxīn xiūxi. Let her rest without worry in her home.
24. A: Tā shuō tā qùshì yǐhòu yào huǒzàng. He says that after he passes away he wants to be cremated.
- B: Bíngqiě xīwàng tāde hái zimen néng bǎ tāde gǔhuī sòng huí guó nèi. Moreover he hopes his children will be able to take his ashes back to his home country.

Note on No. 13

dǎ chángtú diànhuà: 'to make a long-distance telephone call'.

Qǐng nǐmen shēngyīn xiǎo
yìdiǎn, wǒ zài dǎ chángtú
diànhuà ne!

Would you all be a little quieter,
please? I'm making a long-distance
call!

You saw in the Post Office-Telephone Module that diànhuà can also be used with the meaning 'a telephone call' as in Yǒu nǐde diànhuà, 'There's a telephone call for you'. Chángtú diànhuà can be used in the same way:

Wèi! Xiǎo Sānr! Yǒu nǐde
chángtú diànhuà!

Xiǎo Sānr! There's a long-distance
phone call for you!

In the Meeting Module you saw the expression lái diànhuà 'a telephone call is received' or 'make a telephone call here'. Here is chángtú diànhuà used in the same pattern:

Jīntiān zǎoshàng yǒu rén gěi
nǐ lái chángtú diànhuà le,
nǐ bú zài.

This morning someone called long-
distance for you, but you weren't
here.

Note on No. 14

guòshì: 'to pass away, to die'. You have now seen 'to die' expressed three different ways: guòqu, qùshì, and guòshì. All may be used in conversation, although guòqu is probably the most common.

Note on No. 15

shāngxīn: Literally, 'to wound the heart'. 'To be grieved, to be hurt, to be sad, to be broken-hearted'.

A: Tā zhènmē shāngxīn, wèi-
shénme?

Why is he so broken-hearted?

B: Tā nǚpéngyou zǒu le, zěnmē
néng bù shāngxīn?

His girlfriend left, how can he not
be broken-hearted?

Wǒmen jiāde gǒu sǐle, wǒ
shāngxīnle hǎo cháng shíjiān.

After the family dog died, I was
broken-hearted for a real long time.

Nàme hǎode yíge hái'zi sǐle,
zhēn ràng rén shāngxīn.

It really grieves one for such a
good child to die.

Note on No. 16

chángshòu: 'long life, longevity; to live a long life'.

Yào xiǎng chángshòu, jiù bù
yīnggāi dūo hē jiǔ.

If you want to live a long life,
you shouldn't drink excessively.

Běifāng chángshòude rén bǐ
Nánfāng duō.

There are more people who live long
in the North than in the South.

Note on No. 17

zài shuō: 'furthermore, moreover, in addition, besides'. Often following a clause with zài shuō, one of the adverbs yě 'also' or yòu 'also' is used.

A: Zěnmeyàng? Jīntiān nǐ
néng lái ma?

How about it? Can you come today?

B: Zhèiliǎngtiān xià xuě, wǒ
gǎnmào le, tiānqì yòu
zhènme bù hǎo, zài shuō
háizi tài xiǎo, bǎ tā yíge
rén fàngzai jiāli, wǒ
bù fàngxīn. Gǎitiān, wǒ
yídìng lái, hǎo bu hǎo?

It's snowed these two days, and I
caught a cold, and the weather is
so bad. Moreover the child is too
small to leave alone at home. I
would worry. I'll come for sure
another day, okay?

Tā hěn nénggàn, zài shuō yòu
nàme piàoliang, nǐ jiù tóngyì
le ba?

She's very capable, and what's more,
she's so beautiful too. So you
will agree (to marry her), won't
you? (said by a matchmaker to a
young man)

A: Wǒ děng nǐ bàntiān le, wǒ
yào hé nǐ tán yíxià.

I've been waiting for you for ages.
I want to have a talk with you.

B: Wǒ gāng xià kè. Zài shuō
wǒ hái méi chī fàn ne!
Gǎitiān zài shuō ba!

I just got out of class. And further-
more I haven't eaten yet! Let's
talk some other day!

Note on No. 18

nánguò: 'to be sad, to be distressed, to feel bad'. This adjectival verb can be used to refer to either physical or emotional distress.

Yīshēng shuō tā mǔqinde bìng
hěn lìhai, wǒmen dōu hěn
nánguò.

The doctor said his mother's illness
was very serious, and we were all
very sad.

Jīntiān tā chīle hǎo duō
shēngcài, xiànzài dùzili
nánguò le.

He ate a lot of raw vegetables today,
so now his stomach hurts (he feels
bad).

Bié nánguò le, rén yǐjīng sǐle
nánguò yě méiyǒu yòng le.

Don't be sad, he's already dead, and
it's no use being sad.

Jīntiān Sòng Lǎoshī hěn nánguò.

Teacher Sòng is very sad today.

Xiǎo Wángde jiāli yǒu nàme duō
máfan. Zhēn ràng rén nánguò.

There's so much trouble in Xiǎo
Wáng's family, it really makes a
person sad.

Notes on No. 19

běnlái: 'originally, at first, in the first place'.

Běnlái wǒ xiǎng jīntiān xiàwǔ
qù kàn diànyǐng. Hòulái
tīngshuō kāi huì. Suànle,
wǒ yǐhòu zài qù ba.

Originally I wanted to go see a movie
this afternoon. Later I heard
there was a meeting. So I'll
forget it and go another time.

Běnlái wǒ jīntiān qù Guǎngzhōu,
tiānqì bù hǎo, dàgài děi
míngtiān cái néng zǒu le.

Originally I was going to Canton
today, but the weather is bad
so I'll probably have to wait
until tomorrow before I can leave.

yíběizi: 'all one's life, in one's (whole) life, throughout one's
life, as long as one lives, a lifetime'.

Zhèngfǔ bāng tā bǎ zài wàiguó-
de qián zhǎohuila le. Tā
yíběizi yě méiyǒu jiànguó
zhènme duō qián, hǎo gāoxìng.

The government helped her get back
money she had outside the country.
She had never seen so much money
in her whole life. She was really
happy.

Tā yǒu sānge érzi, wèi zhèi
sānge érzi mángle yíběizi.
Xiànzài lǎole, gāi xiūxi
xiūxi le.

She has three sons and for these
three sons she was busy her whole
life. Now she is old and should
take it easy.

shēnbiān: 'at/by one's side; (have something) on one, with one'.

Wǒ yǒu yíge háizi zài nóngcūn,
yíge háizi zài shēnbiān.

I have one child out in the country
and one child here with me.

Rúguo tā shēnbiān yǒu hǎo jǐge
háizi jiù méiyǒu bànfǎ chū-
lai gōngzuò.

If she has several children at her
feet, then she just can't go out
and work.

dàgē: 'oldest brother'. Remember that 'older brother' is gēge, but the oldest of several children is dàgē. In addition dàgē can be used between men to show a friendly relationship of unequal status.

qùbuliǎo: 'cannot go'. This is a compound verb or result, like kanbujian 'cannot see' or chībubǎo 'cannot eat one's fill'. The ending -liǎo is in compounds of potential result (those with -de- or -bu- between the main verb and the resultative ending) with the meaning of 'be able to'. You may be thinking (and rightly so) that this is just the meaning added by the use of -de- or -bu-. This has led some people to label -liǎo as a 'dummy' resultative ending since it does not seem to add any additional information like other more specific endings do (e.g. wán 'finish').

Wàimian shēngyīn hǎo dà.
Shízài shuǐbuliǎo jiào.

It's so noisy outside. I really
can't sleep at all.

Jīntiān tíng diàn, kànbuliǎo
diǎnyǐng.

Today they're turning off the
electricity, so we can't watch the
movie.

Wǒ zuìjìn dùzi bù shūfu, chī-
buliǎo shēngcài.

My stomach has been uncomfortable
lately, I can't eat lettuce.

Zhènmě duō cài, chībuliǎo le!

So many dishes, we won't be able to
eat them!

Xiàwǔ wǒ yǒu shì, qùbuliǎo
túshūguǎnle, míngtiān zài
shuō ba.

This afternoon I'm busy, I can't go
to the library, let's talk about
it tomorrow.

Nǐ jiùdiǎn zhōng xià bān,
jīntiān wǎnhuì nǐ qùdeliǎo
qùbuliǎo?

You get off work at 9:00, can you go
to the evening meeting?

Nǐ bú yào dǎo jǐchǎng lái sòng
wǒ, nǐ yì kǔ wǒ jiù zǒubul-
liǎo le.

Don't come to the airport to see me
off; as soon as you start to cry,
I won't be able to leave.

Note on No. 21

jiānglái: 'in the future'. Like other time words, jiānglái can be used between the subject and the verb, or at the front of the sentence before the subject.

Jiānglái ZhōngMěi guānxi yuè
lái yuè hǎo, wǒmen zài Měiguó
jiù bǐjiào róngyì mǎidào
Zhōngguó de dōngxi.

In the future as Sino-American
relations get better and better,
it will be easier for us to buy
Chinese goods in America.

Wǒ jiānglái yào dào Shànghǎi
lǐngshìguǎn qù gōngzuò.

In the future I want to work in the
consulate in Shanghai.

Note on No. 23

ānxīn: 'to feel at ease, to set one's mind at ease, to be at peace;
to keep one's mind (on something)'.

Tā xiānshēng nǚlì zuò shì, tā
kéyǐ ānxīn dú shū.

With her husband working hard at
his job, she could keep her mind
on her studying.

Wǒde hái'zi gōngzuòde hěn hǎo,
wǒ yě jiù ānxīn le.

My child is doing well at work, and
I can now feel at ease.

Note on No. 24

bìngqiě: 'furthermore, moreover, and, besides'.

Wǒ yào bǎ gōngzuò zuò hǎo,
bìngqiě yào bǎ Zhōngwén
xuéhǎo.

I want to do a good job at work and
and do a good job studying Chinese.

Zhèige hái'zi hěn nǚlì bìngqiě
hěn cōngmǐng.

This child is very industrious and
intelligent too.

Wǒ jìhuà zhèige xīngqī bǎ
zhèipiān wénzhāng xiěwán,
bìngqiě fānyìchéng Zhōngwén.

I plan to finish writing this essay
this week and furthermore translate
it into Chinese.

Taipei:

After the funeral of an elderly man who came to Taiwan from the mainland, a friend comes to visit the family:

A: Wo zuìjìn chūchāi qu le,
zuótiān huílai cái zhīdao
lǎo xiānsheng guòshìde xiāoxi,
érqiě tīngshuō sānglǐ yě
bànguo le, wǒ méi néng gǎn-
huilai diàosāng, zhēn shì
bàoqiān.

I've been away on business lately,
and I didn't find out until I got
back yesterday that your father had
passed away. And I hear that the
funeral has already been held. I'm
really sorry I didn't make it back
in time to attend the funeral.

B: Wo fùqin xīnzàng yíxiàng
bú tài hǎo, zuìjìn liǎngnián,
yīshēng jiào ta tiāntiān chī
yào, jiéguǒ wèntí hǎoxiàng
shǎole yìdiǎn, kěshi liǎngge
xīngqī yǐqián hūrán fànle lǎo
bīng, wǒ dàgē jiù gǎnjīn bǎ
tā lǎorénjia sòngdao Táidà
Yīyuàn jíjiù, bìngqiě dǎ
chángtú diànhuà bǎ wo jiào-
huilai. Tā niánji dà le,
suīrán jīngguo jǐtiān jíjiù
háishi méi jiùguolai, zài shàng
Xīngqīèr qùshì le; búguò tā
qùshìde shíhou bǐjiǎo píngjìng,
hǎoxiàng bú tài tòngkǔ.

My father's heart was never too
good. The past two years, the doctor
told him to take medicine every day,
and there didn't seem to be so much
of a problem any more, but two weeks
ago he had a sudden attack of his old
illness. My oldest brother rushed him
to Taiwan University Hospital for
emergency treatment. He also called
me long distance to get me to come
back. He was quite old, and even
after several days of emergency
treatment they still weren't able to
save him. He passed away last Tuesday,
but at the time he was rather calm,
and he didn't seem to be in too much
pain.

A: Fùqin qùshì, érnǚ yídìng
hěn shāngxīn. Búguò lǎo
xiānsheng qīshíduōsuì qùshì
yě suàn shì chángshòu le. Zài
shuō tā guòqude shíhou bú tài
tòngkǔ, nǐmen xiōngdì jiěmèi
yě dōu zài tā shēnbiān, tā
yě jiù ānxīn le, nǐ yě bú yào
tài nánguò. Lǎo xiānsheng
zàngzai nǎlǐ?

When a father passes away, the
children always feel very grieved. But
for your father to pass away at over
seventy is really quite a long life.
Besides, he wasn't in too much pain
when he passed away, and all you
brothers and sisters were at his side,
so he could set his mind at ease; so
don't be too sad. Where will he be
buried?

B: Wǒ fùqin shuōguo, yào huǒ-
zàng. Tā shuō tā zhèyíběizi
kǒngpà huíbuliǎo lǎojiā le,
jiào women jiānglái bǎ gǔhuī
sònghuí lǎojiā qu, suǒyǐ wǒmen
jiù zhǔnbèi zhào tā shuōde
bàn.

My father had said he wanted to be
cremated. He said that he probably
wouldn't be able to return to his home-
town in his lifetime, and he told us
to take his ashes back to his hometown
someday. So we're planning to do as
he asked.

Vocabulary

ānxīn	to be without worry, to feel at ease, to feel relieved
bǎozhòng	to take good care (of oneself)
běnlái	originally
bìngqiě	moreover, and
cānjiā	to take part in; to attend
chángshòu	long life, longevity; to live a long time
chūchāi	to be out of town on business
dǎ chángtú diànhuà	to make a long-distance phone call
dàgē	oldest brother
diàosāng	to present one's condolences at a funeral, to attend a funeral
érnǚ	children
fàn	to have an attack (of an old disease)
gǎndeshàng	to be able to catch up, to be able to make it in time
gǎnhuilai	to rush back
gǎnjīn	quickly
gǔhuī	bone ashes
guòqu	to pass away, to die
guòshì	to pass away, to die
huǒzàng	to cremate; cremation
hūrán	suddenly
jiānglái	the future, someday
jíjiù	first aid; to administer emergency treatment
jiùguolai	to save
lǎorénjia	polite way of addressing or referring to an old person (<u>nǚ lǎorénjia</u> , <u>tā lǎorénjia</u>)
-liǎo	can, to be able to
nánguò	to be sad
niánji (niánjì)	age
píngjìng	to be calm

qùbuliǎo
qùshì

sānglǐ
shāngxīn

shēnbiān

sòng

xiāoxi
xīnzàng
xīnzàngbìng

yíběizi
yíxiàng

zài shuō
zàng
zuījīn
zǔmǔ

cannot go
to pass away, to die

funeral
to be grieved, to be sorrowful,
to be heartbroken
one's vicinity, one's immediate
surroundings
to escort, to take (someone to a
place)

news
heart
heart disease

all one's life
(have) always, (had) always,
consistently, all along

furthermore, besides
to bury
recently; soon
grandmother (on the father's side)