

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



LESSON 25

Lǚguǎn - Hotel

M: Martin
DC: Desk Clerk
BB: Bellboy

Frame 1

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|---|---|
| 1 M: Wǒ shì Bǎoluó Mǎdīng.
Zhèwèi shì Bǐdé Bèiěr Xiān-
sheng Wǒmen shì cóng Měiguó
lái de. Qiánjítian wǒ gěi
nimen dǎle yíge diànbào dīng
yíge sìtàojiān, nimen shōu-
dao ma? | I'm Paul Martin. This is
Peter Bayer. We are from
America. Several days ago,
I sent you a telegram to
reserve a four-room suite; did
you receive it? |
| 2 DC: Mǎdīng Xiānsheng, nǐde
diànbào wǒmen shōudao le.
Kěshì suǒyǒude sìtàojiān dōu
yǒu rén dīng le. | Mr. Martin, we've received
your telegram, but all the
four-room suites are full. |
| 3 M: Dōu mǎn le? Nǐ néng bu-
néng gěi wǒmen xiǎngge fázi? | All full? Can you think of
a way for us? |
| 4 DC: Kǒngpà méi fázi. Wǒmen
yǒu shuāngrénfáng. Nimen
yào buyào? | I'm afraid that there is no
way. We have a room with a
double bed. Do you want it? |
| 5 M: Shuāngrénfáng butài hǎo.
Nimen yǒu dānrénfáng méiyǒu?
Dānrénfáng bǐ shuāngrénfáng
hǎo duō le. | A double bed is not very
good. Do you have a room with
a single bed? A room with a
single bed is much better than
a double bed. |

Notes:

1. Qiánjítian. As it is used in this lesson, Qián means "previous/previously" and jítian means "a few days" or "several days." Hence, qiánjítian means "a few days ago."

Sìtàojiān. Sì is the number four (4). A tàojiān means "a room opening off another, or inner, room." A sìtàojiān, therefore, refers to a four-room suite.

2. Suóyǒude. You already know how to use the adverb dōu, "all/both." (If you have any doubt, see the notes in lesson 6.) Since dōu is an adverb, it must be placed after the subject and before the verbs in the sentence, whereas the noun suóyǒude, "all" can be placed before the subject of a sentence. Compare the placement of the adverb and the noun in the following sentence:

Shìqing wǒ dōu zhīdào.

I know what's going on.

Suóyǒude shìqing wǒ dōu
zhīdào.

I know everything that's going
on.

Note that the adverb dōu may appear with the noun suóyǒude in the same sentence.

3. Dōu mǎnle means "all filled" or "packed." As it's used in this lesson, mǎn means "full, filled," and "packed."

Zhèliǎngge chōuti dōu mǎnle. Both drawers are full.

Wūzili zuò mǎnle rén.

The room was packed with
people.

4. Kǒngpà means "to be afraid that (something is/is not the case)." It sometimes means "probably," as in Zhèliàng qìchē kǒngpà shì tāde, "This car is probably his."

Shuāngrénfáng means "a room for two," or "a pair." Shuāng, as it is used in this lesson, means "two, twin, both, dual," and "pair."

5. Búdà means "not too." It literally means "not big" and is interchangeable with bútài.

Dānrénfáng means "a room for one," or "a single." Dān, as it is used in this lesson, also means "alone."

Dānrénfáng bǐ shuāngrénfáng hǎoduōle, "A room for one is much better than a room for two": The pattern...bǐ...SV¹ is used to make comparisons.

1. SV/(Stative Verbs) include the following types:

- (1) adjectival verbs (hǎo)
- (2) auxiliary verbs (huì)
- (3) verbs describing attitudes/situations (zhīdao; xīhuan, etc.)

(1) X bǐ Y SV.

Zhège bǐ nàge hǎo.

(2) X NEG bǐ Y SV.

Zhège bù bǐ nàge hǎo.

(not) *Zhège bǐ nàge bù hǎo.

To indicate how much more, add -duō le/-de duō, "a lot," to an adjectival verb.

Zhège bǐ nàge hǎoduōle.

This is much better than that.

Zhège bǐ nàge hǎokànde duō.

This is much better looking than that.

Although the verb phrase (VP) begins with a stative verb (SV), that may not be the only word in the comparison. The VP may be expanded to include other verbs (any type) and objects.

The things being compared may also be expanded. Entire sentences may be placed in the slots for things compared:

Zuò qìchē bǐ zǒulù
kuàide duō.

Going by car is much faster than walking.

Nǐ xué Zhōngwén bǐ wǒ
xué Yīngwén róngyi.

It's easier for you to study Chinese than it is for me to study English.

Tā bǐ wǒ néng chī.

He can eat more than I can.

Frame 2

6 DC: Wǒmen yǒu dānrénfáng.
Wǒ kéyǐ gěi nǐmen liǎngjiān,
wǔyāoqī gēn wǔyāojiǔ hào.
Dōu shì cháo dōng de, hěn
liàng.

We have rooms with single beds. I can give you two, Numbers 517 and 519. Both are facing the east and are very bright.

7 M: Nà kě hǎo. Wuzi tài
hēi wǒ jiǔ juéde bù shūfu.
Nà liǎngjiān wūzi yíyàng
dà ma?

That's indeed good. I feel uncomfortable if the room is too dark. Are those two rooms the same size?

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| 8 | DC: Bù yíyàng dà. Wǔyāojiǔ měiyóu wǔyāoqī nàme dà, bǐ wǔyāoqī xiǎo yīdiǎnr. | They're not the same. 519 is not as big as 517; it's a little smaller than 517. |
| 9 | M: Duōshao qián yìjiān? | How much for one room? |
| 10 | DC: Wǔyāoqī yìbǎisānshíkuài qián yìtiān, wǔyāojiǔ yìbǎishíwǔkuài yìtiān. | 517 is \$130 per day. 519 is \$115 per day. |
| 11 | M: Zěnmē nàme guì a? | How come they are so expensive? |
| 12 | DC: Wǒmen zhèr shèbèi hǎo, fúwù hǎo. Yìbǎisānshíkuài búsuàn guì. Nǐ yào zhǎo bǐ wǒmen gèng gōngdào de lǚguǎn, hái bú tài róngyì ne. Wǒmen zhèr shì zuì gōngdào de le. | Our facilities and services are good; \$130 is not considered expensive. It's not easy to find a hotel fairer than ours. Our hotel is the most reasonable. |

Notes:

6. Cháo: The co-verb cháo, literally meaning "facing towards" or "in the direction of," is commonly used in Beijing. Some examples of its usage:

Qǐng nǐ cháo nán zǒu.

Please go southward.

Zhège mén cháo lǐ kāi
háishi cháo wài kāi?

Does this door open inwards
or outwards?

Wǒ bù xǐhuan zuò dōng cháo
xī de fángzi.

I don't like a house that's
facing west/with a western
exposure.

Cháo zhe mǐnzhǔ zhǔyì
qiángjìn.

Advance towards the goal of
democracy.

7. (Gēn...)yíyàng: Yíyàng is a stative verb meaning "to be the same." When a sentence tells you in what respect the compared items are alike, yíyàng acts as an adverb and may be translated as "equally." It's one of the most commonly used patterns for comparing things.

(1) X gēn Y yíyàng.

Zhèliàng qìchē gēn nà-
liàng (qìchē) yíyàng.

These two cars are alike.

(2) X gēn Y yíyàng SV.

Zhèliàng qìchē gēn nà-
liàng (qìchē) yíyàng
guì.

These two cars are equally
expensive.

(3) Tāmen liǎngge rén dōu
yíyàng yǒuqián.

The two of them are equally
wealthy.

8. 509 méiyóu 517 nàme dà, "509 is not as large/big as 517."
The pattern...méiyóu...nàme SV/VP is used to make a comparison
when one thing is LESS than another.

(1) X méiyóu Y nàme/zhème SV.

Wǒde qìchē máiyóu tāde
nàme dà.

My car is not as big as his.

(2) X méiyóu Y nàme/zhème VP.

Tā méiyóu wǒ zhème xī-
huan kàn diànshì.

He doesn't like to watch TV as
much as I do.

Like the bǐ pattern described in Note No.5, the things being
compared may also be expanded. Entire sentences may be placed in
the slots for things compared:

Zuò fēijī méiyóu zuò chuán
nàme shūfu

Going by plane is not as com-
fortable as going by boat/
ship.

Yāo. An alternate reading for the number "one," is fre-
quently used in room numbers and telephone numbers.

12. Gèng, "more," "even more," "still more": When indicating
degrees of comparison, the adverbs gèng and zuì (Lesson 17) are
used.

Mìxīfēi Hé (2470 m) hěn
cháng.

The Mississippi River is
very long.

Mìsūlī Hé (2700 m) gèng
cháng.

The Missouri River is even
longer.

Níluó Hé (4037 m) zuì cháng
bǐ nà liǎngtiáo dōu cháng.

The Nile is the longest, longer
than the other two.

Frame 3

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| 13 M: Hǎo ba! Wǒmen jiù yào nà liǎngjiān ba. Wūzili yǒu měiyǒu kōngtiáo de shèbèi? | OK. We'll take those two rooms. Is there any air conditioner in the room? |
| 14 DC: Yǒu. Qǐng nǐmen liǎng-wei xiān dēngjì. Máfan nǐmen bǎ hùzhào ná chūlai gěi wǒ kànkàn. (after checking the passports and copying down the necessary information) Nǐmen dǎsuàn zhù jǐtiān? | Yes, there is. Would you two register please. May I see your passports? How many days do you plan to stay? |
| 15 M: Dàgài sì-wǔtiān.. Nǐmen kèren jiézhàng tuì fángjiān de shíjiān shì jǐdiǎnzhōng? | About four-five days. When is the check-out time? |
| 16 DC: Zhōngwǔ shìèrdiǎn yī-qián. Guò le shìèrdiǎn jiù yào duō suàn yītiān de qián le. Wǒ jiào fùwùyuán bǎ nǐmende xíngli nádao fángjiān qù. | Before 12 o'clock noon. After 12 o'clock noon we'll charge for one more day. Let me call a bellboy to carry your baggage to your room. |
| 17 M: Hǎo. Xièxie. | OK. Thanks. |
| 18 DC: Búxiè. | Don't mention it. |

Note:

13. Kōngtiáo is an abbreviation of "kōngqì-tiáojiégì," "air conditioner."

14. Máfan nǐmen bǎ hùzhào ná chūlai gěi wǒ kànkàn illustrates some of the rules concerning the use of the object marker bǎ. (Read Notes No.10 and 16, Lesson 22 on bǎ.)

Bǎ is an object marker used to bring the direct object of a sentence to a position preceding the main verb; doing so affects the meaning of a sentence. There are reasons why bǎ must be used, why it may not be used, and why it is optional in different kinds of sentences.

a. What conditions are necessary for using bǎ?

(1) The object of bǎ must be acted on or be disposed of.

In other words, the action must be performed on the direct object of bǎ. In the third sentence of exchange 14, hùzhào undergoes the action náchūlai. Other examples are:

Tā bǎ tāde qìchē mài le.

He sold his car.
(Car undergoes the action of being sold.)

Wǒ bǎ nàpíng píjiǔ hē le.

I drank that bottle of beer.
(Beer undergoes the action of having been drunk.)

(2) The verb must be an action verb (such as ná in exchange 13). Bǎ is not used with stative and process verbs. For example, you may not use bǎ with yǒu, zhīdao, xǐhuan, ài, xiǎng, huì, dǒng, etc.

(3) The object of bǎ must refer to something specific or definite (such as nímende hùzhào in exchange 14 and nímende xíngli in exchange 16). Often the object of bǎ must be translated into English with the definite article "the":

Wǒ bǎ liǎngzhang huǒche piào
gěi ta le.

I gave him the two train
tickets (not any two train
tickets).

(4) The verb phrase must be complex. Here are examples of the ways in which a verb phrase can be made complex so that bǎ may be used:

(ASPECT MARKER)

Tā bǎ tāde qìchē mài le.

He sold his car.

(REDUPLICATED VERB)

Qǐng nǐ bǎ huǒchē piào
huànhuan.

Please exchange the train
tickets.

(COMPOUND VERB)

Tā bǎ wǒde dìzhǐ xiěxiá-
lai le

He wrote down my address.

Nǐ bǎ xíngli náshang chē
qu ba.

Take the baggage into the
car.

Wǒmen zuótiān yǐjīng bǎ
zhèijiàn shì shuohǎo le.

We agreed on this matter
yesterday.

Wǒ xiān bǎ zhèige xiěwán
zài zǒu.

I will finish writing this
first and then leave.

Nǐ bǎ wǒde míngzi xiěcuò
le.

You wrote my name wrong.

(MANNER EXPRESSION AFTER THE VERB)

Nǐ bǎ zhèige zì xiěde tài
dà le

You wrote this character too
large.

Tā bǎ zhèijiàn shì shuōde
hěn qīngchū.

He talked very clearly about
this.

(PREPOSITIONAL VERB PHRASE AFTER THE VERB)

Bǎ píjiǔ fàng zài zhuōzi-
shàng.

Put the beer on the table.

Wǒ bǎ chē tíng zài nèibian
děng nín.

I will park the car over there
and wait for you.

(INDIRECT OBJECT AFTER THE VERB)

Lǐ Xiānsheng bǎ zìdiǎn
gěi xuésheng le.

Mr. Lǐ has given the dic-
tionaries to the students.

(NUMBER PLUS MEASURE AFTER THE VERB)

Qǐng nǐ zài bǎ tāde diàn-
huà hàomǎr niàn yíci.

Please read his telephone
number aloud once more.

Qǐng nǐ bǎ zhèige kàn
yíxià.

Please take a look at this.
OR
Please read this over.

b. When must bǎ be used?

The examples above which require the use of bǎ are those with a prepositional verb phrase after the verb, those with a manner expression after the verb, and most of the sentences under the heading "Compound Verb." In these examples, the object may not be placed between the verb and the element which follows.

c. When can't bǎ be used?

Bǎ cannot normally be used in a sentence if the verb is stative and not an action and process verb or an action verb, if the verb describes perception (like kànjian and tīngjian), if the object does not undergo action, if the object is indefinite, or if the verb is a simple verb. Here are some examples of sentences in which bǎ cannot be used:

Wǒ mǎile yíge shōuyīnjī.

I bought a radio.
(indefinite object)

Wǒ kànjian tā le.

I saw him.
(perception verb kànjian;
object does not undergo
action.)

Wǒ xiǎng kàn zhèiběn shū.

I would like to read this book. (simple verb)

Wǒ yǒu hěn duō Měiguó péngyou.

I have a lot of American friends.
(yǒu is not an action verb)

Wǒ zhīdao zhèijiàn shì.

I know of this matter.
(zhīdao is not an action verb)

d. What is the motivation for using bǎ?

Bǎ is used when the verb phrase gives more new important information than the object does. The Chinese prefer to place that important verb phrase in the final position in a sentence, where the phrase will be prominent. Bǎ moves the object out of the way (to the beginning of a sentence), allowing the verb phrase to have its full impact.

e. To make a bǎ sentence negative, place the negative adverb in front of bǎ, not in front of the main verb.

Tā méi bǎ zhuōzi bānchūqu.

He did not move the table out.

Nǐ bù bǎ xíngli fàng zài wūzili zěnméi xíng?

How can it do for you not to put the baggage in the room?
(How can you not put the baggage in the room?)

Frame 4

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| 19 | M: Qǐng nǐ bǎ nàge lán de shǒutíxiāng fàng zài zhèlǐ; huáng de fàng zài nàzhāng zhuōzi dīxià. | Please put that blue suitcase here and the yellow one under that desk. |
| 20 | BB: Shì. Jīntiān rè de lǐhai. Nǐ yào buyao wǒ dǎkāi lěngqì? | Yes. It's very hot today. Would you like me to turn on the air conditioner for you? |
| 21 | M: Hǎo. Xiànzài kuài shíyuè le, zěnméi hái zhème rè? | Yes. It's almost October; why it still so hot? |
| 22 | BB: Jiùshi báitiān rè. Yèli hái yǒu yìdiǎnr lěng ne. Yǒude rén děi kāi nuǎnqì. | It's hot during the day. At night it's a little bit cold. Some people have to turn on heaters. |

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| 23 | M: (handing tip to BB)
Zhè shì gěi nǐ de. | This is for you. |
| 24 | BB: Xièxie xiānsheng. Wǒmen
bùshǒu xiǎofèi. | Thank you, Sir. We don't
accept tips. |

Note:

19. Lán de: Stative verbs of color (yánsè) behave somewhat differently than other stative verbs, such as guī and dà. To say in Chinese that something is a certain color, such as blue in exchange 19, you say that it is "a blue one."

Zhège shǒutíxiāng shì lán de. This suitcase is blue.

Nàge shǒutíxiāng shì huáng de. That suitcase is yellow.

20. Jīntiān rède lǐhai, "Today is terribly hot." To describe a particular state, the particle -de is added to the stative verb describing the condition, and that stative verb is followed by an adjectival verb which expresses the degree of the condition. Other examples are:

Qùnián nàlǐ lěng de lǐhai. Last year it was terribly cold there.

Wǒde yá téng de lǐhai. I have a terrible toothache.