

# COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



## Wèn Fāngxiàng - Asking for Directions

### Frame 1

1	M: Qǐngwèn, <u>xiǎomàibù</u> zài nǎli?	Excuse me, where is the snack counter?
2	DC: Nǐ wàng lǐ(bian) yízhí zǒu, kànjiàn lóuti jiù xià-lóu. <u>Xiǎomàibù</u> jiùzài lóuti gen diànti <u>dāngzhōng</u> . Nǐ yào mǎi shénme?	Walk straight ahead inside. When you see the stairway, you walk downstairs. The snack counter is right in between the stairway and elevator. What do you want to buy?
3	M: <u>Yīguode qiǎokèlì táng</u> .	Italian chocolate.
4	DC: Wǒmende xiǎomàibù búdà, huò búduo, jiùshì yǒu qiǎokèlì táng, yě bù yíding yǒu yīguode. Wǒ xiǎng nǐ zuì hǎo dào Yǒuyì Shāngdiàn qù kànkan.	Our snack counter isn't big. The goods aren't many; even if we have chocolate, it isn't necessary that we have Italian chocolate. I think you'd better check Friendship Store.
5	M: Yǒuyì Shāngdiàn zài nǎr?	Where is Friendship Store?
6	DC: Zài Nánjīng Dōnglù, lǐ zhèr bù tài jìn.	On Nanjing East Road. It is very far from here.

### Notes:

1 Xiǎomàibù, "snack counter," or "variety shop," is a small shop inside a building. In a museum the shop sells cigarettes, sweet buns, and soda. In a hotel, socks, fruit, bread, and wine.

2 Wàng/wǎng, "to," or "towards." The Co-Verbs dào and wàng/wǎng may both be translated as "to." Wàng/wǎng, however, means simply "towards" or "in the direction of," while dào implies eventual arrival at a destination. Wàng lǐ(bian) means, literally, "towards the inside."

3 Dāngzhōng, "in the middle of," or "in the center of." It is sometimes used as a Place Word:

Nǐ zhànzai zuǒbianr,  
ta zhànzai yòubianr,  
wǒ zhànzai dāngzhōng.

You stand at the left, he/she stands at the right, and I'll stand in the middle.

And sometimes used to indicate "among":

Zài nimen dāngzhōng  
shéi zuì xiǎo?

Who is the youngest among you?

4 Jiùshì ... yě, "even if ... nevertheless." You already learned jiù shì, "that is precisely," in Lesson 8, as an Emphatic Adverb/Equative Verb. The Movable-Adverb jiùshì ... yě is used here as an example of the many pairing adverbial elements for linking. Other examples:

búdàn ... yě	not only ... but also
[rúguǒ ... jiù	if ... then
[yàoshi ... yě	if ... also
[yīnwei ... jiù	because ... then
[yīnwei ... suóyī	because ... therefore
[suīrán ... kěshì	although ... (but)
[suīrán ... hái(shì)	although ... still

Yǒuyì Shāngdiàn, "Friendship Store". The Friendship Store was established by the People's Republic of China (PRC) for the convenience of the tourists and resident foreigners throughout the major cities of China (and also to obtain foreign exchange). To make a purchase in these stores, one first must buy a special script in a bank. The local currency, Rénmínbì, "people's currency," is not accepted in these stores.

6 Nánjīng Dōnglù: In Guǎngzhōu, Shànghǎi, Táiběi and many other cities, the street direction is given after the street name.

Nánjīng Dōnglù

Nanking East Road

In Běijīng the street direction is given before the street name.

Dōng Chángān Jiē

East Changan Street

Lí: The Co-verb lí means "from," as in "to be apart from." Like other Co-verb phrases, a phrase containing lí precedes the main verb--in this case, the Stative Verb jìn, "to be near."

## Frame 2

7	M: <u>Dào nàr qù zěnmē zǒu?</u>	How do I get there?
8	DC: Nǐ chūle fàndiànde <u>dàmén wàng dōng zǒu, dào le dì sāngē lùkǒu(r) wàng yòu guǎi, rán-hòu yìzhí wàng qián(biān) zǒu liǎng sān lǐ jiù dào le.</u>	You go out the front gate of the restaurant and walk towards the east, turn right as you reach the third intersection, then walk straight ahead for two or three miles.
9	M: Nàme yuǎn a! Nánjīng Dōnglù búshì lí zhèr hěn jìn ma?	That far! Isn't Nanjing East Road very near here?
10	DC: Nánjīng Dōnglù hěn cháng. Dàgài yǒu wǔliùlǐ. (Pointing at a city map) Nǐ kàn, zánmende fàndiàn zài xībiān, Yǒuyì Shāngdiàn zài dōngbiān.	Nanjing East Road is very long. Here you see our restaurant is on the west side; Friendship Store is on the east side.
11	M: Wǒ yǒu yìdiǎnr <u>lǎn</u> , zǒuzhe qù tài <u>lèilè</u> . Zuò <u>gōnggòng qìchē</u> dào <u>dèliǎo</u> ma?	I'm a little lazy; I'll be too tired walking there. Can I get there by bus?
12	DC: Dào <u>dèliǎo</u> . Nǐ zuò Shìèrlù <u>gōnggòng qìchē</u> , dào <u>Huáihǎi Lù zhuǎnchē</u> . Zuò <u>Liùlù chē</u> ; dào <u>Yǒngānlù xiàchē wàng běi zǒu, guò sāntiáo jiē jiù dào le</u> . Nàr yǒu <u>yíge zhǎnlǎnguǎn</u> , Yǒuyì Shāngdiàn jiù zài <u>zhǎnlǎnguǎn pángbiān</u> .	You can. You take No. 12 bus to Huaihai Road and transfer to No. 6 bus. Get off on Yong'an Road, then walk towards the north about three blocks. There's an exhibition building, and Friendship Store is right next to it.

7 Dào nàr qù, zěnmē zǒu? This sentence consists of a topic, dào nàr qù, "to go to that place," followed by a question about that topic, Zěnmē zǒu? "How do I go?" Qù, translated as "to go," focuses on the destination, while zǒu focuses on the route taken to get there.

8 Dàmén: Mén in addition to meaning "door," means "gate." The word dàmén may also be used to refer to a main gate as well as a main door.

Dōng, as a direction word The conventional Chinese order for the points of the compass is dōng, nán, xī, běi, "east, south, west, north." Direction names are a part of many Chinese provinces and cities. Here are some examples:

Héběi  
Hénán

north of the (Yellow) River  
south of the (Yellow) River

Húběi	north of the (Dòngtíng) Lake
Húnán	south of the (Dòngtíng) Lake
Shāndōng	east of the (Tàiháng) Mountains
Shānxī	west of the (Tàiháng) Mountains
Nánjīng	southern capital
Běijīng	northern capital
Táiběi	Taiwan north
Táinán	Taiwan south

Lùkǒu(r), "intersection" Literally, this word means "road opening."

Guǎi, "to turn": The verb guǎi usually refers to a 90-degree turn, but it may also refer to a 180-degree turn. In Chinese, if the building you are leaving is on a corner, going along one side and then turning the corner may be thought of as a single step.

11 Gōnggòng qìchē, "public bus (local)" Gōnggòng literally means "public" and qìchē means "automobile."

-liǎo This is one of the common endings to Resultative Compound Verbs. It shows capacity for doing and/or carrying something through to completion. In this case Dàodeliǎo ma? means "Am I able to arrive there?"

12 Zuò 12 lù, "takes the number 12 (bus)": Lù is the word for "route." Zuò means "to ride/to go by/to take (a conveyance)."

Huáihǎi Literally, the "Huai Sea." This term is abbreviated from the Huái-Hǎi Zhàngyì, Huai Sea Campaign, (Nov. 6, 1948-Jan. 10, 1949) considered by the PRC as the third decisive campaign in the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949). Huái is abbreviated from Huáihé the "Huái River," and Hǎi refers to the coast in East China. Huáihé is in the Anhuí and Jiāngsū Provinces.

Zhuǎnchē, "transfer to another train or bus" Zhuǎn is used here the same way as huàn (See Lesson 13) to mean changing from one bus to another at Huáihǎi road.

Pángbiān(r), "beside," "next to," "alongside of," "the side."  
Wǒ zhùzài tāmen jiā pángbiān(r). I live right next to their place.

Tā pángbiān(r) nàge rén shì Lǎo Wáng. The man beside him is Old Wang.

## Frame 3

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|----|--|---|
| 13 | M: Yǒu chūzū qìchē méiyǒu?   | Is there any taxicab?   |
| 14 | DC: Yǒu. Nǐ kéyǐ dào nàge fúwùtái qù qǐng tāmen tī nǐ dǎn diànhuà jiào yǐliàng chūzū qìchē.                                      | Yes. You can ask that service desk for assistance to call a taxicab.  |
| 15 | M: Bùnéng zài jiēshàng jiào ma?  | Can't I call (hail) one in the street?  |
| 16 | DC: Bùxíng. Jiēshàng bù cháng yǒu.   | No. There are few in the street.  |
| 17 | M: Wǒ shì cóng Měiguó Xībù yíge xiǎochéng lái de. Měiguóde xiǎochéng yě méiyǒu hěn duō chūzū qìchē, yě bùnéng zài jiēshàng jiào. | I came from a small town in the west of America. The small towns in America don't have many taxicabs, nor can we hail (them) in the street. |

13 Chūzū qìchē, "taxi" In PRC, "taxi" is often referred to as chūzūchē, whereas in Taiwan it is called jìchéngchē.

## Frame 4

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|----|---|--|
| 18 | M: Zài gēn nǐ dǎtīng yíjiàn shì. Yǒuyǐ Shāngdiàn lí Měiguó Lǐngshiguǎn bǐ wǒmen zhège fàndiàn jìn ma? | Let me ask you about one more thing. Is Friendship Store nearer to the American Consulate than our restaurant? |
| 19 | DC: Jìn duōle. Nǐ hái xiǎng dào Lǐngshiguǎn qù ma?  | Much nearer. Are you still thinking of going to the consulate?   |
| 20 | M: Wǒ sīdiǎnzhong zài Lǐngshiguǎn yǒu yíge yuēhuì. Wǒ qùle Yǒuyǐ Shāngdiàn yǐhòu zài dào nàr qu.      | I have an appointment at the consulate at four o'clock. After going to Friendship Store I'll go there.         |
| 21 | DC: Lǐngshiguǎn fùjìn yǒu yíge túshūguǎn, nǐ yǒu gōngfu bùfang dào nàr qù kànkàn.                     | There's a library near the consulate; if you have time, go take a look.  |
| 22 | M: Nà liǎngge dìfāngde jùli yǒu duōyuǎn?  | How far is it between the two places?  |

Frame 4 (Continued)

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|----|--|--|
| 23 | DC: Hěnjìn. Nǐ búshì cháng-cháng dào zhège fàndiàn fùjīnde xiǎochīdiàn chī diǎnxīn ma? Lǐngshìguǎn lí túshūguǎn gēn wǒmen zhèr lí nàge xiǎochīdiàn yíyàng jìn. | Very near. Don't you often go to eat at that snack bar in the restaurant? From the consulate to the library is as near as from our place to the snack bar. |
| 24 | M: Xiànzài wǒ míngbáile. Duō xiè, duōxiè.  | Now I understand. Thanks a lot.  |
| 25 | DC: Búxiè, búxiè.  | Don't mention it.  |

17 Bù, "part," "section"

Wǒ hěn xǐhuan Měiguó Nánbù.

I like the southern part of the United States very much.

(Bù was used in Lesson 13 as a measure word for machines, instruments, automobiles, etc., and it was used as a noun, ministry/department (DOD) in Lesson 15.)

18 Lǐngshìguǎn The word guǎn means "building" or "establishment," as in fànguǎn, an establishment where food is served. The examples below illustrate the use of guǎn.

dàshǐ (Les. 21)	ambassador
dàshìguǎn	embassy
lǐngshǐ	consul
lǐngshìguǎn	consulate
zhǎnlǎn (Les. 12)	exhibit
zhǎnlǎnguǎn	exhibition hall

Notice that the shǐ/shì in dàshìguǎn/lǐngshìguǎn lose their tones.

19 Jīnduōle, "very much nearer," When making a two-place comparison, one may choose any of the following phrases. Example:

X lǐ Y (Neg) PH

Wǒ jiā lí Guófángbù Yǔyán Xuéyuàn (bù) hěnjìn.

My home is (not) quite near to the Defense Language Institute.

hěnjìn/hěnyuǎn  
jīnde hěn/yuǎnde hěn  
fēicháng jìn/fēicháng yuǎn  
tìbiéjìn/tèbié yuǎn

quite near/quite far  
very near/very far  
unusually near/unusually far  
especially near/especially far

zhēnjìn/zhēn yuǎn  
jìnjīle/yuǎnjīle  
tài jìn/tàiyuǎn

really near/really far  
extremely near/extremely far  
too near/too far

When making a three or four-place comparison, one of the following phrases may be used. Examples:

1. X lí Y bǐ Z lí Y PH

Wǒ jiā lí (Guófángbù  
Yǔyán Xuéyuàn) bǐ nǐ  
jiā (lí Guófángbù Yǔ-  
yán Xuéyuàn) jìn yì-  
diǎnr.

My home is a little nearer to  
DLI than your home.

2. X lí Y bǐ A lí B PH

Wǒ jiā lí Jiùjīnshān/  
Sānfānshì bǐ nǐ jiā lí  
Niūyuē yuǎn yidiǎnr.

My home is a little farther  
from San Francisco than your  
home is from New York.

jìn yidiǎnr/yuǎn yidiǎnr  
jìn hǎoxiē/yuǎn hǎoxiē

a little nearer/a little farther  
a good deal nearer/a good deal  
farther

jìnde duō/yuǎnde duō  
jìnde duōle/yuǎnde duōle

much nearer/much farther  
very much nearer/very much far-  
ther