

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 10 [Traditional]

Hosts: Adam Menon / Kirin Yang

Adam: Hello and welcome to Lesson 10 of ChineseLearnOnline.com. I'm your host Adam.

Kirin: 大家好. 我是 Kirin.

Adam: We will begin today's lesson by listening to a dialogue that reviews vocabulary that we've learned up till now. There will be some new words there too that we'll break down and explain to you in a moment. If you need to, you can follow along with the entire transcript available to premium subscribers on our website. Let's begin by listening to today's dialogue.

Cindy: 你要買什麼?

Yann: 你有沒有英文書?

Cindy: 有. 那裡有. 這裡也有.

Yann: 這個多少錢?

Cindy: 這個五百五十九元.

Yann: 太貴了! 可以便宜一點嗎?

Cindy: 五百元好不好?

Yann: 好. 我要買兩個.

給你一千塊.

Cindy: 好, 謝謝你. 再見.

Adam: Great. Lets now go through each statement and break it down for you starting with the first one. Try to repeat the lines as you hear them to practice your pronunciation.

Kirin: 你要買什麼?

Adam: So let's see if you can figure out what that means. There's one new word in there – 買 to which is a third tone. And that's the verb "to buy" something. So what do you think...

Kirin: 你要買什麼?

Adam: ...means? Do you remember what “要” means? We saw that in our last lesson. It's the verb... “to want.” What does “什麼?” mean? That's a question word and means –

“what.” So putting them together gives us “you want buy what,” or “What do you want to buy?”

Kirin: 你要買什麼?

Adam: So let’s listen to the next line of the dialogue.

Kirin: 你有沒有英文書?

Adam: So this sentence needs to be broken down. First, there is a new verb here that needs to be introduced. 有 is a third tone and is the verb “to have” and is of course used quite often. Now here we have 有沒有. 沒 is a second tone and is the same usage as 不 meaning the negation of what follows. Some verbs like 有 require 沒 rather than 不. So by asking 有沒有 you are literally asking “have not have.”

Kirin: 你有沒有?

Adam: We’ve seen before that one way to ask a question is to add a 嗎 at the end of the statement to turn it into a question. Another way, as seen here is by giving two alternatives – one of which needs to be chosen by the listener. So here the person is asking “have” or “not have?” This is a quite common way of asking questions and you’ll see more examples of this later as well as in the Premium notes for this lesson. It is also equivalent to asking “有嗎?” or “Do you have?”

Kirin: 你有沒有英文書?

Adam: So This is followed by 英文書. Now hopefully we remember what 英文 means. It means.... “English.” The last word is a first tone 書 meaning “book.” One nice thing you’ll notice is that you don’t have to specifically distinguish between singular and plural in Chinese as you do in English – it’s all derived by context. So by asking “You have not have English book,” you are asking “Do you have any English books?”

Kirin: 你有沒有英文書?

Adam: Now let’s see if you remember how questions of this form are answered. The person is being given two choices 有 and 沒有– as in she either has some or doesn’t have any. So if she had some she’d say:

Kirin: 有.

Adam: And if she didn’t have any, she’d say:

Kirin: 沒有.

Adam: So let's look at her answer in this dialogue.

Kirin: 有. 那裡有. 這裡也有.

Adam: So we know the answer is “yes”, she does have some English books. She then says:

Kirin: 那裡有.

Adam: We've seen the 那 before with 那個 meaning “that one.” The second part 裡 is a third tone. Together, 那裡 means “there.” That's followed by 有 which means “has.” So she is saying “there has” meaning “There are some over there.”

Kirin: 那裡有.

Adam: When you translate many sentences and phrases literally from Chinese they end up with very simple meanings in English but overtime you'll find that Chinese is a very efficient language with many words omitted if they are obvious in context. So the result is many sentences are much shorter in Chinese than their English counterparts. She then says 這裡 which is the opposite of 那裡. It means “here.” Now in some parts of China, especially in northern parts like Beijing you may hear them say 那兒 and 這兒 instead of 那裡 and 這裡. They mean the same thing and are just differences in dialect. So in Beijing you may hear them say:

Kirin: 那兒有. 這兒也有.

Adam: Now you'll notice that in 這裡也有, there's an extra character in there 也 which is a third tone. 也 means “also.” So that gives us “There are also some over here.”

Kirin: 這裡也有.

Adam: The next line of the dialogue is.

Kirin: 這個多少錢?

Adam: So hopefully you understand that. “How much is this one?”

Kirin: 這個多少錢?

Adam: We then have:

Kirin: 這個五百五十九元.

Adam: “This one is 559 dollars.”

Kirin: 這個五百五十九元.

Adam: Notice here that she is using 元 rather than 塊. You will find that these two words are used interchangeably.

Kirin: 這個五百五十九元.

Adam: The next line of the dialogue was:

Kirin: 太貴了! 可以便宜一點嗎?

Adam: That’s too expensive. Can you make it a little cheaper?

Kirin: 太貴了! 可以便宜一點嗎?

Adam: Hopefully you recognize all that from our last lesson. We then have:

Kirin: 五百元好不好?

Adam: So here we have vocabulary that we’ve seen before, but here it’s being used in our new question format.

Kirin: 五百元好不好?

Adam: 500 dollars then 好不好 which literally translates to “ok not ok” or “Is that ok?” So in other words “Is 500 dollars ok for you?”

Kirin: 五百元好不好?

Adam: Alright. And then the next line of the dialogue was:

Kirin: 好. 我要買兩個.

Adam: So there’s our new verb in there 買, meaning “to buy.” So this means “Ok, I want to buy two of them.”

Kirin: 好. 我要買兩個.

Adam: We then have:

Kirin: 給你一千塊.

Adam: I hope you remember this from our last lesson. It means “I’m giving you 1000 dollars.” We can also say:

Kirin: 給你一千元.

Adam: Alright so let’s listen to the dialogue one more time before we wrap up. Please try and repeat along.

Cindy: 你要買什麼?

Yann: 你有沒有英文書?

Cindy: 有. 那裡有. 這裡也有.

Yann: 這個多少錢?

Cindy: 這個五百五十九元.

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Cindy: 五百元好不好?

Yann: 好. 我要買兩個.

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Cindy: 好, 謝謝你. 再見.

Adam: Great, so that brings us to the end of lesson 10. Again, take a look at the extra notes available to premium subscribers on our website which will break down all the dialogue in this lesson into meaningful bits. As well you can take a look at the Chinese characters there that make up this lesson.

In these past ten lessons we’ve taught you a lot of things. We’ve taught you how to identify the different tones in Chinese, how to introduce yourself and to greet someone. You’ve also learned how to count up to ten thousand. You should also know the months of the year and how to read dates and announce birthdays. And after today’s lesson, you now have the tools to walk into a store and do some shopping and maybe even get a discount along the way. So good luck with that! We’ll continue on with our program in our next lesson so please join us for that.

Kirin: 再見.