

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 20 [Traditional]

Hosts: Adam Menon / Kirin Yang

Adam: Hello and welcome to Lesson 20 of the ChineseLearnOnline.com podcast series teaching Mandarin Chinese. I'm your host, Adam.

Kirin: 大家好. 我是 Kirin.

Adam: We will begin today's lesson by listening to a first half of the conversation that makes use of the vocabulary we've learned up till now while adding a few new words and expressions along the way. Please follow along by viewing the included summary on your MP3 player if you can, or by accessing it directly from our website. We'll first listen to the dialogue twice – first at normal speed, and then at a slow-down speed to allow you to repeat along. So the first time you listen to it, try and pick out what words you do know and see if you can figure out the meaning from that.

Yann: 你是哪裡人?

Cindy: 我是日本人.

Yann: 你在這裡多久了?

Cindy: 我在這裡兩個星期了.

Adam: Ok, so let's listen to it one more time – this time try and repeat each line after Kirin.

Kirin: 你是哪裡人?

我是日本人.

你在這裡多久了?

我在這裡兩個星期了.

Adam: Let's now break down this dialogue for you starting with the first line.

Kirin: 你是哪裡人?

Adam: We've seen all these words before. What does “哪裡” mean? It means... “where.” So we know that this is a question. What does 人 mean? It means... “person.” So putting that together gives us “you are where person.” So can you guess what “You are where person” is asking? It's the same as asking “What's your nationality?” or “Where do you come from?”

Kirin: 你是哪裡人?

Adam: The lady then replies:

Kirin: 我是日本人.

Adam: So here we have a new country added to the mix. 日本 is a fourth tone and a third tone. Do you remember what “日” means? It has two meanings – it can mean “day” or “sun.” 本 in this context can mean “the source” or the “origin.” So we have “the origin of the sun” or how about... “the land of the second sun” – what country is that? It’s of course Japan. 人 of course means “person” so 日本人 is a “Japanese person.” So...

Kirin: 我是日本人.

Adam: ...means “I am Japanese.” The man then asks.

Kirin: 你在這裡多久了?

Adam: So, some new characters here. 你在這裡. We know 你 is you. What does “這裡” mean? It means... “here.” 在 is a fourth tone and means “to be located.” So putting that together “你在這裡” gives “you are located here.” The next two characters “多久” we’ve actually seen before in different contexts. There’s 多 from “多少錢?” What does “多少錢?” mean? It’s asking “how much money?” So the “多” here translates to “how much?” We then have 久 from 好久不見. Do you remember what “好久不見” means? It means... “long time no see.” 久 there refers to... “time” – 好久 – “long time.” So what do you think the question:

Kirin: 你在這裡多久了?

Adam: ...means? It is asking “How long have you been here?” Now we know this question is talking about the past, because of the 了 particle at the end, which you may remember indicates a change in situation. So up to this point, how long have you been here? From hereon, that answer may change because you may choose to stay longer.

Kirin: 你在這裡多久了?

Adam: The lady then replies:

Kirin: 我在這裡兩個星期了.

Adam: So let’s look at this: 我在這裡. “I am here.” 兩個 – what does “兩個” mean? It means... “two of something.” So what is the “something” – there’s a new word 星期 which is two first tones and is the word for “week.” So 兩個星期 is “two weeks.” Again,

notice the 了 at the end of the sentence, which indicates up to now, “I have been here two weeks.”

Kirin: 我在這裡兩個星期了.

Adam: So let’s listen to the dialogue again – a couple of times. During the first time, please repeat each line after Kirin.

Kirin: 你是哪裡人?

我是日本人.

你在這裡多久了?

我在這裡兩個星期了.

Adam: Ok, and let’s listen to the dialogue again at normal speed.

Yann: 你是哪裡人?

Cindy: 我是日本人.

Yann: 你在這裡多久了?

Cindy: 我在這裡兩個星期了.

Adam: Ok, we’re going to take some time to look at some related vocabulary here. We taught the word for “week” which is:

Kirin: 星期.

Adam: The days of the week, Monday to Sunday actually use that same word in them. The Chinese week starts with Monday which is:

Kirin: 星期一.

Adam: So the literal translation “week 1” becomes Monday.

Kirin: 星期一.

Adam: Let’s look at the rest of the days of the week. Tuesday is:

Kirin: 星期二.

Adam: Wednesday:

Kirin: 星期三.

Adam: Thursday:

Kirin: 星期四.

Adam: Friday:

Kirin: 星期五.

Adam: Saturday:

Kirin: 星期六.

Adam: Now Sunday is slightly different. It is:

Kirin: 星期日.

Adam: Or:

Kirin: 星期天.

Adam: You may remember from Lesson 6 that 天 and 日 are sometimes used interchangeably to mean “day.” Now since 日 also means “sun” it’s interesting to see it also associated with Sunday here, isn’t that interesting? Well...I thought so anyway.

So there you have it the days of the week from Monday to Sunday. Pretty easy to remember and you’ll need to know them if you’re going to attempt the questions found in the lesson notes for this lesson, so take a look at them on our website, ChineseLearnOnline.com. Then join us again for lesson 21 where we’ll listen to the second half of the dialogue.

Kirin: 再見.