

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 22 [Traditional]

Hosts: Adam Menon / Kirin Yang

Adam: Hello and welcome to Lesson 22 of the ChineseLearnOnline.com podcast series teaching Mandarin Chinese. I'm your host, Adam.

Kirin: 大家好. 我是 Kirin.

Adam: We will start today's lesson with a short dialogue that uses vocabulary that has been previously taught while adding a few new words to the mix. If you find yourself fourth behind at any time, we recommend you review our previous lessons. This can be found on our website.

Let's get started then with today's lesson. It takes place in a restaurant. We'll first listen to the dialogue in its entirety and then break it down for you line by line. Try and follow along with the included lesson summary. You can either viewing directly on your MP3 screen if its capable of doing so, or you can downloading the accompanying PDFs from our website. So here we go.

Yann: 你肚子餓嗎?

Cindy: 對. 我肚子餓.

Yann: 你想要吃什麼?

Cindy: 我想要吃雞肉.

Yann: 你會用筷子嗎?

Cindy: 會用, 但是用得不太好.

Adam: Alright, Kirin will now read each line of the dialogue for us. Please repeat after her.

Kirin: 你肚子餓嗎?

對. 我肚子餓.

你想要吃什麼?

我想要吃雞肉.

你會用筷子嗎?

會用, 但是用得不太好.

Adam: Ok, so let's break this down for you line by line, starting with the first line.

Kirin: 你肚子餓嗎?

Adam: So there's a couple of new words there. 肚子 is a fourth tone and a neutral tone and refers to your "stomach." 子 you may remember is a neutral particle that is often added to the end of nouns. 餓 is a fourth tone and is the verb "to be hungry." Now while you wouldn't normally say "My stomach is hungry" in English, it's common to express hunger this way in Chinese.

Kirin: 你肚子餓嗎?

Adam: So here he is asking her if she is hungry. To which she replies.

Kirin: 對.

Adam: 對 is a fourth tone and is very commonly used for agreement. It can mean "right" or "correct." Since there's no word for "yes" in Chinese, 對 is a close substitute. She then says:

Kirin: 我肚子餓.

Adam: So here she's saying "My stomach hungry" which means "I am hungry."

Kirin: 我肚子餓.

Adam: He then asks:

Kirin: 你想要吃什麼?

Adam: So there's a new verb in there - 想. That's a third tone. On its own, it means "to think" or "to consider." That's followed by 要. What does "要" mean? It's the verb "to want." So "to consider to want." Together, gives up the meaning of "would like." We've seen the next verb 吃 before in 吃飯. What does "吃" mean? It means "to eat." And what does "什麼?" mean? That means "what." So putting all of this together gives us "You would like eat what?" or "What would you like to eat?"

Kirin: 你想要吃什麼?

Adam: The woman then replies.

Kirin: 我想要吃雞肉.

Adam: So you can see that the answer there is "I would like to eat 雞肉." That's a first tone 雞 and a fourth tone 肉. 雞 on its own refers to a "chicken" and 肉 means "meat."

So together 雞肉 refers to “chicken” that can be eaten, and not what you may have running around in your backyard. So again, “I would like to eat chicken.”

Kirin: 我想要吃雞肉.

Adam: The man then asks her:

Kirin: 你會用筷子嗎?

Adam: Ok, so a couple of new words there. We know this is a question because of the 嗎 at the end. We’ve seen the verb 會 before. What does “會” mean? It means “to be able to do something.” So here he is being asked “Are you able to 用筷子?” Now 用 is a fourth tone and is the verb “to use.” So together 會用 means “to be able to use something.” Which brings us to the last word of the sentence 筷子. That’s a fourth tone 筷 and a neutral tone 子 which represents what most Chinese people use when they eat... “chopsticks.” So “Can you use chopsticks?”

Kirin: 你會用筷子嗎?

Adam: To which the woman responds...

Kirin: 會用，但是用得不太好.

Adam: So you may be able to figure it out, as we’ve seen all these words before.

Kirin: 會用，但是用得不太好.

Adam: What does “但是” mean? It means... “but.” So that gives us “I can use but 用得不太好.” What does “太” mean? That means “too” as in “too much of something.” So the literal translation of all of this is “Able to use but use not too good.” Or... “I can use them, but I can’t use them very well.”

Kirin: 會用，但是用得不太好.

Adam: Note, how the objects “I” and “them” are left out since they are obvious by context. Similarly, the 是 in 但是 is sometimes also left out, giving us:

Kirin: 會用，但用得不太好.

Adam: So there you have it. You’ve learned the word for “chopsticks” and lots of new verbs to go with that. This was a big problem for me the first time I was in Taiwan as I

didn't know how to use chopsticks. So I would always use a fork. Actually, what's the word for "fork" in Chinese, Kirin?

Kirin: 叉子.

Adam: So that's a first tone 叉 followed by the neutral tone 子.

Kirin: 叉子.

Adam: So I'll ask our listeners, how would you ask "Excuse me. Do you have a fork?"

Kirin: 請問, 有沒有叉子?

Adam: There are many ways to ask this of course, and this is one of them.

Kirin: 請問, 有沒有叉子?

Adam: Alright, so Kirin will now read each line of the dialogue again. Please repeat after her.

Kirin: 你肚子餓嗎?

對. 我肚子餓.

你想要吃什麼?

我想要吃雞肉.

你會用筷子嗎?

會用, 但是用得不太好.

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

Yann: 你肚子餓嗎?

Cindy: 對. 我肚子餓.

Yann: 你想要吃什麼?

Cindy: 我想要吃雞肉.

Yann: 你會用筷子嗎?

Cindy: 會用, 但是用得不太好.

Adam: Ok, now before we wrap up in the dialogue we saw the word 雞肉 which refers to "chicken." Let's briefly look at some other types of 肉 or "meat." So Kirin, please help me out here.

Kirin: 牛肉.

Adam: So that's a second tone 牛, which means "cow" followed by 肉 which we now know means "meat." So that gives us "cow meat" or... "beef."

Kirin: 牛肉.

Adam: Alright, let's do another one.

Kirin: 豬肉.

Adam: Ah, now you might even remember this all the way back from lesson one when we were first looking at tones. 豬 is a first tone and means "pig" so 豬肉 is... "pork."

Kirin: 豬肉.

Adam: Let's try another one.

Kirin: 羊肉.

Adam: 羊 is a second tone and refers to "sheep" so 羊肉 is... "mutton"

Kirin: 羊肉.

Adam: And let's do one last one.

Kirin: 魚肉.

Adam: This is also a second tone and means "fish."

Kirin: 魚肉.

Adam: As in the type that you eat.

Kirin: 魚肉.

Adam: As you may guess, the vocabulary page for this lesson on our site summarizes all this vocabulary as well as introduces the names of some other common foods in Chinese. As well, you will also get to see the Chinese characters you need to look for when ordering from a Chinese menu, so be sure to visit our website: ChineseLearnOnline.com. Thank you for joining us today and we'll see you next time.

Kirin: 再見.