

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 24 [Traditional]

Hosts: Adam Menon / Kirin Yang

Adam: Hello, and welcome to Lesson 24 of the ChineseLearnOnline.com podcast series teaching Mandarin Chinese. I'm your host, Adam.

Kirin: 大家好. 我是 Kirin.

Adam: Each lesson here builds upon vocabulary taught in previous lessons, so if you are a beginner, we recommend you go through our earlier lessons or look at the course outline found on our website.

Now in our last lesson, we introduced a dialogue that we're going to finish up today. So let's first listen to the entire conversation - last time's and today's together.

Yann: 你是德國人嗎?

Cindy: 對, 我是.

Yann: 這是你第一次來中國嗎?

Cindy: 不是. 這是我第二次.

Yann: 你什麼時候要回去德國?

Cindy: 五天後.

Yann: 你在這裡喜歡做什麼?

Cindy: 我喜歡跟朋友去茶館.

Adam: Ok, Kirin will now read each line for us. Please repeat after her.

Kirin: 你是德國人嗎?

對, 我是.

這是你第一次來中國嗎?

不是. 這是我第二次.

你什麼時候要回去德國?

五天後.

你在這裡喜歡做什麼?

我喜歡跟朋友去茶館.

Adam: Ok, thank you Kirin. We'll now go through each line of the dialogue for you and break down the meanings. The first few lines will be a review from our last lesson.

Kirin: 你是德國人嗎?

Adam: Are you German?

Kirin: 對，我是。

Adam: Yes, I am.

Kirin: 這是你第一次來中國嗎?

Adam: Is this your first time coming to China?

Kirin: 不是。這是我第二次。

Adam: No, it's my second time.

So that was the conversation from last time. Let's continue on with the new lines from today's dialogue.

Kirin: 你什麼時候要回去德國?

Adam: So let's see if we can figure out what this means. 你 of course means you. What does “什麼?” mean? That means... “what?.” 時候 is a second and a fourth tone meaning... “time.” Together “what time” in Chinese is the same meaning as question word “when.” We then have the verb 要. What does “要” mean? It means “to want.” We then have 回 which is a second tone and means “return.” Next we have the verb 去. What does “去” mean? It means “to go.” And lastly we have 德國 which of course is... “Germany.” So looking at the literal definitions of all these individual characters we get “You what time want return go Germany?”

Kirin: 你什麼時候要回去德國?

Adam: So you may be able to figure that out as meaning... “When are you going back to Germany?”

Kirin: 你什麼時候要回去德國?

Adam: The verb 要 means “want,” but it is also commonly used to describe an action in the future. So, 我要去 has the dual meaning of “I want to go” as well as “I am going to go.” So in our example, the meaning could either be “When do you want to return to Germany?” or “When are you returning to Germany?”

Kirin: 你什麼時候要回去德國?

Adam: As I've said before, Chinese is very context sensitive, so the same sentences can have different meanings in different contexts. The word 回 is commonly used with 去 to mean "go back." 回去. Similarly, you could say 回來 to mean "come back." Let's see what the woman responds.

Kirin: 五天後.

Adam: So what does “五” mean? It's the number “five.” And what does “天” mean? It's the character for “day.” So that gives us “five days.”

Kirin: 五天後.

Adam; The last character is 後 is a fourth tone and means “after.” So that gives us “five days after” or “after five days.”

Kirin: 五天後.

Adam: The man then asks her:

Kirin: 你在這裡喜歡做什麼?

Adam: We've seen all these words before, so let's try and figure out the meaning. What does “在這裡” mean? That means “located here.” What does the verb “喜歡” mean? It means “to like.” Next we have the verb 做. We saw it before in 工作. What does “工作” mean? It means “work” or “the work you do.” So 做 is the verb “to do.” And the last word was 什麼 meaning “what.” So putting all that together gives us “You located here like do what?”

Kirin: 你在這裡喜歡做什麼?

Adam: In other words, “What do you like to do here?”

Kirin: 你在這裡喜歡做什麼?

Adam: She then answers

Kirin: 我喜歡跟朋友去茶館.

Adam: Hmmn... let's look at this. 我喜歡- “I like” – 跟朋友. What does “朋友” mean? It means “friend.” And what does “跟” mean? That means “with.” We know 去 means “to go.” What does “茶” mean? That means “tea.” And the last character 館 is a third

tone and means “establishment.” So “tea establishment” or “tea shop.” So together we have “I like with friend go tea shop.”

Kirin: 我喜歡跟朋友去茶館.

Adam: In other words, “I like to go with friends to tea-shops.”

Kirin: 我喜歡跟朋友去茶館.

Adam: Again, notice that we don’t distinguish between singular and plural here. We don’t know if it’s one friend or if it’s many tea-shops. It’s all derived from context. By going through these literal translations we hope to give you a better idea of how these sentences are constructed. Word order is very important in Chinese; so hopefully with more examples you’ll get a better idea of this structure and will be able to come up with your own sentences.

Premium subscribers can visit the exercise section of this website to have their own chance to come up with their own sentences and check to see if they’re right.

So let’s listen to Kirin read each line of the dialogue for us one more time. Please repeat after her.

Kirin: 你是德國人嗎?
對，我是。
這是你第一次來中國嗎?
不是. 這是我第二次。
你什麼時候要回去德國?
五天後。
你在這裡喜歡做什麼?
我喜歡跟朋友去茶館.

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

Yann: 你是德國人嗎?
Cindy: 對，我是。
Yann: 這是你第一次來中國嗎?
Cindy: 不是. 這是我第二次。
Yann: 你什麼時候要回去德國?
Cindy: 五天後。
Yann: 你在這裡喜歡做什麼?
Cindy: 我喜歡跟朋友去茶館.



Adam: Great. And that ends another lesson for us. Be sure to visit our website and go through all the review tools available there. You can also try completing some of the exercises, such as answering a question related to this topic using the Chinese you know. One of our teachers will go through your answers and send you a reply. This and other tools are available to premium subscribers on our website ChineseLearnOnline.com. So try those out, then join us again for our next lesson.

Kirin: 再見.