

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 26 [Traditional]

Hosts: Adam Menon / Kirin Yang

Adam: Hello and welcome to Lesson 26 of the ChineseLearnOnline.com podcast series teaching Mandarin Chinese. I'm your host, Adam.

Kirin: 你好. 我是 Kirin.

Adam: This is a structured course. So each lesson builds upon previous ones. For a list of lessons and what vocabulary was taught in each one, please visit the course outline page on our website.

Today's lesson is part of a two-part dialogue and takes place at the front desk of a hotel. It introduces a couple of new measure words. Measure words you may remember were first introduced in lesson nine. They are the words used between a number and a noun. Now back in lesson nine, we looked at 個 and 塊. 個 is a generic measure word while 塊 is the measure word used for pieces or for money. Now listen to the following dialogue and see if you can spot the two new measure words that are used here.

Cindy: 先生，你們有房間嗎？

Yann: 有. 請問你們有幾位？

Cindy: 我們有兩個人，要住一間房間.

Adam: Ok, so a short dialogue but lots of new words in there. Don't worry we'll translate them all for you in a moment. But first, try and repeat each line of the dialogue after Kirin.

Kirin: 先生，你們有房間嗎？

有. 請問你們有幾位？

我們有兩個人，要住一間房間.

Adam: Alright, we'll now break down this dialogue for you line by line, starting with the first line.

Kirin: 先生.

Adam: What does “先生” mean? It means... “Mister.” It is also used to mean “Sir” and is quite commonly used to address men whose names you don't know. Now let's look at the rest of the sentence.

Kirin: 你們有房間嗎？

Adam: What does “你們” mean? It means “you” in plural. And what does the verb “有” mean? It’s the verb “to have.” We then have a new word 房間. That’s a second tone 房 and a first tone 間. 房 comes from the word for “house,” 房子. 間 refers to a “room.” Because monosyllabic words are so hard to confuse, extra characters are usually added to distinguish meaning. So here she is asking if the hotel has any rooms available.

Kirin: 你們有房間嗎?

Adam: The man then replies:

Kirin: 有. 請問你們有幾位?

Adam: So, here we have 有 meaning “have” as in “Yes, the hotel has rooms.” He then asks “You have 幾位? What does “幾?” mean? It’s a question word asking “how many?” The next character 位 is a fourth tone and is our first measure word used for people.

Kirin: 請問你們有幾位?

Adam: Since we are using 位, we don’t need to specify 人 or people, since 位 here is a measure word limited to people. Earlier we saw “幾個人?” There we needed to specify 人 since “幾個?” is a generic “how many?” and could refer to anything. Using 位 also conveys more respect than “幾個人?”.

Kirin: 請問你們有幾位?

Adam: The woman then replies:

Kirin: 我們有兩個人，要住一間房間.

Adam: Let’s look at the first part, she replies “我們有兩個人.” What does “兩個” mean? It means “two of something.” Note that the woman replying can choose to say 兩個人 or 兩位. So she’s saying we have two people, as in “there are two people in our party.”

Kirin: 我們有兩個人，要住一間房間.

Adam: Ok, so “The two of us 要. What does the verb “要” mean? It means “to want.” So we want to 住. 住 is a fourth tone and we saw it all the way back in lesson one. It is the verb “to live.” In Chinese though, it is also used to mean “to stay for a short time.”

Kirin: 我們有兩個人，要住一間房間.

Adam: We then have 一間房間. 間 is a first tone and is the same 間 from 房間. By itself, it functions as a measure word for rooms. So 一間房間 means “one room.”

Kirin: 我們有兩個人，要住一間房間.

Adam: The two of us would like one room.

Kirin: 我們有兩個人，要住一間房間.

Adam: As mentioned earlier, this is part one of a two part dialogue, so we will listen to the rest of the dialogue in our next lesson. For now though, Kirin will read each line of the dialogue for you again. Please repeat after her.

Kirin: 先生，你們有房間嗎?
有. 請問你們有幾位?
我們有兩個人，要住一間房間.

Adam: Alright, and let's listen to the dialogue one more time at normal speed.

Cindy: 先生，你們有房間嗎?
Yann: 有. 請問你們有幾位?
Cindy: 我們有兩個人，要住一間房間.

Adam: Great. The Premium notes for this lesson found on our website recap the vocabulary used in this lesson and shows how it can be combined with other words we've already learned to form new vocabulary so be sure to take a look at that, and test yourself by doing the review questions.

Then join us again next time for Lesson 27.

Kirin: 謝謝大家.