

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 29 [Traditional]

Hosts: Adam Menon / Kirin Yang

Adam: Hello and welcome to Lesson 29 of ChineseLearnOnline.com. I'm your host, Adam.

Kirin: 大家好. 我是 Kirin.

Raphael: 你們好. 我是 Raphael.

Adam: This is a progressive course in learning Mandarin Chinese. Each lesson builds upon previous ones. For a list of all our lessons so far and what was taught in each one, please visit our website. Today's lesson finishes up a dialogue that we introduced and studied in our last lesson. We'll first listen to the dialogue in its entirety before breaking it down for you line by line. Please follow along with the dialogue transcript included with this podcast. You can either view it on your MP3 player screen if it supports the viewing of lyrics, or you can find it on our website.

Cindy: 你知道她是誰嗎?

Yann: 我不知道. 她是誰?

Cindy: 她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Yann: 我為什麼不認識她?

Cindy: 你當然不認識她. 因為你是外國人.

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

Kirin: 你知道她是誰嗎?

我不知道. 她是誰?

她在這裡是個很有名的人.

我為什麼不認識她?

你當然不認識她. 因為你是外國人.

Adam: Alright, so let's break this down line by line starting with the first few lines from our last lesson.

Kirin: 你知道她是誰嗎?

Adam: Do you know who she is?

Kirin: 我不知道. 她是誰?

Adam: I don't know. Who is she?

Kirin: 她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Adam: "She's a very famous person here." Now let's continue with the new lines from today's lesson.

Kirin: 我為什麼不認識她?

Adam: So here we have a new question word. First, what does “什麼” mean? It means “what.” Here we have 為什麼. The 爲 is a fourth tone and together 為什麼 is the question word asking “why?” We then have the verb 認識. What does 認識 mean? In this context, it's the verb “to recognize” or “to know someone.” So the literal translation of this sentence is “I why don't recognize her?”

Kirin: 我為什麼不認識她?

Adam: Or, “Why don't I recognize her?”

Kirin: 我為什麼不認識她?

Adam: The lady then replies:

Kirin: 你當然不認識她.

Adam: What does 當然 mean? It means “Of course.” So that gives us “You of course don't recognize her.”

Kirin: 你當然不認識她.

Adam: Or “Of course you don't recognize her.”

Kirin: 你當然不認識她.

Adam: She then says:

Kirin: 因為你是外國人.

Adam: So the first word is a very useful one to know.

Kirin: 因為.

Adam: That's a first tone and a fourth tone and is the word for "because."

Kirin: 因為.

Adam: She then says:

Kirin: 你是外國人.

Adam: Hmmn... what do we know from that sentence? You are 外 country person. What country is that? Well, 外 is a fourth tone and means "outside" so that gives us "You are an outside country person."

Kirin: 你是外國人.

Adam: Or "You are a foreigner."

Kirin: 你是外國人.

Adam: In other parts of China, foreigners are referred to by a different term.

Raphael: 老外.

Adam: We've seen 老 before in 老師. What does 老 mean? It means "old." However, it is also an endearing term so 老外 is a respectable term for foreigners.

Raphael: 老外.

Adam: So you can see the construction here, someone asks 爲什麼 or "why" and you reply with 因為 "because."

Kirin: 我爲什麼不認識她? 因為你是外國人.

Adam: Let's listen to Kirin repeat each line of the dialogue for us again. Please repeat after her.

Kirin: 你知道她是誰嗎?
我不知道. 她是誰?
她在這裡是個很有名的人.
我爲什麼不認識她?
你當然不認識她. 因為你是外國人.

Adam: Great, and we'll wrap up by listening to the dialogue again at normal speed.

Cindy: 你知道她是誰嗎?

Yann: 我不知道. 她是誰?

Cindy: 她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Yann: 我為什麼不認識她?

Cindy: 你當然不認識她. 因為你是外國人.

Adam: Great, as we mentioned in our last lesson, we are now approaching the half way point of the Level 1 of the first 60 ChineseLearnOnline.com. You will see us use a slightly different approach from our next lesson on. Now let's take some time now though to review some sentences and phrases from our earlier lessons. Listen to the following sentences and translate them into English.

Kirin: 北京怎麼樣?

Adam: How is Beijing?

Kirin: 我喜歡吃雞肉.

Adam: I like to eat chicken.

Kirin: 我也很好. 謝謝.

Adam: I'm also very good. Thank you.

Kirin: 你弟弟要什麼?

Adam: What does your younger brother want?

Kirin: 他們要去哪裡?

Adam: "Where do they want to go?" or "Where are they going?"

Ok, now we'll give you some sentences in English – let's see if you can say them in Chinese.

Today is February 15th.

Kirin: 今天是二月十五號.

Adam: I want to buy four of them.

Kirin: 我要買四個.

Adam: This is my friend.

Kirin: 這是我的朋友.

Adam: He is very happy.

Kirin: 他很高興.

Adam: When will you come back?

Kirin: 你什麼時候回來?

Adam: Alright, hope you were able to get those. If not, you can find similar review material available to Premium subscribers on our website, ChineseLearnOnline.com so be sure to go through there every now and then to make sure you're up to date. In any case, please join us again for Lesson 30 real soon.

Kirin: 謝謝大家. 再見.