

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 88 [Traditional]

Adam: ChineseLearnOnline.com Lesson 88: How long is he staying?

Hello there, I'm Adam, and welcome to our progressive course teaching Mandarin Chinese.

Kirin: 讓我們來學習第八十八課.

Adam: Today's lesson builds upon lesson 27 of our course and continues a dialogue we started in our last lesson. A woman was telling a man that her friend was coming to town and needed a hotel room. Let's listen to the rest of the conversation, then break it down for you.

Raphael: 讓我們先聽一次今天的對話.

Yann: 他這次要待多久?

Cindy: 就幾天.

Yann: 告訴他不要忘了帶護照和信用卡. 他們不收現金.

Raphael: 讓我們再重復一遍今天的對話.

Kirin: 他這次要待多久?

就幾天.

告訴他不要忘了帶護照和信用卡.

他們不收現金.

Raphael: 讓我們來翻譯今天的對話.

Adam: Let's begin with the first line.

Kirin: 他這次要待多久?

Adam: So there's a new word here.

Raphael: 待. 第一聲.

Adam: And that's the verb "to stay." So that gives us "he wants to stay" 多久? Do you remember what that means? We saw this question in lesson 20, asking "How long?"

Kirin: 他這次要待多久?

Adam: So he is literally asking “He this time want stay how long?” or “How long will he stay this time?”

Kirin: 他這次要待多久?

Adam: To which the woman replies.

Kirin: 就幾天.

Adam: We saw the 就 particle recently in lesson 83 meaning “only.” That’s followed by

Kirin: 幾天.

Adam: This is an interesting construction. Normally, “幾?” is a question word asking “How many?” So this could be a question asking “how many days?” However, in this case, it’s not a question, it’s an answer. So in this case, 幾 changes from meaning “how many” to meaning “some” or “a few.”

Kirin: 就幾天.

Adam: So in this context, she’s actually saying “only a few days”

Kirin: 就幾天.

Adam: Compare the difference in tones between the 久 in “多久?” and the 就 in “就幾天.” Using the wrong tone can give the wrong meaning. Back to our dialogue, the man then offers some advice.

Kirin: 告訴他不要忘了帶護照和信用卡.

Adam: We saw the verb 告訴 a couple of lessons ago. Do you remember what it means? It’s the verb “to tell.” So that gives us “tell him”, followed by

Kirin: 不要忘了.

Adam: There’s a new word in there.

Raphael: 忘. 第四聲.

Adam: And that's the verb "to forget." Now 不要, on its own, means "don't want" but when combined with another verb like we have here the meaning changes to "don't" followed by the verb so in this case that gives us "Don't forget".

Kirin: 告訴他不要忘了帶護照和信用卡.

Adam: We then have another new verb. 帶, which uses a fourth tone. And that means "to carry" or "to bring." So you can see another difference in tones between the 待 we saw earlier meaning "to stay" and the 帶 that we have here.

Kirin: 告訴他不要忘了帶護照和信用卡.

Adam: "Tell him don't forget to bring"

Kirin: 護照和信用卡.

Adam: So, hopefully, you remember that from lesson 27 "passport and credit card"

Kirin: 護照和信用卡.

Adam: So together that gives us "Tell him not to forget to bring his passport and credit card."

Kirin: 告訴他不要忘了帶護照和信用卡.

Adam: He then adds.

Kirin: 他們不收現金.

Adam: So there are a couple more new words in there. First the verb "to receive."

Raphael: 收. 第一聲.

Adam: followed by the word for "cash."

Raphael: 現金. 第四聲和第一聲.

Adam: So together that gives us "They don't accept cash."

Kirin: 他們不收現金.

Raphael: 讓我們再重復一遍今天的對話.

Kirin: 他這次要待多久?

就幾天.

告訴他不要忘了帶護照和信用卡.

他們不收現金.

Adam: And let's listen to the entire dialogue including our last lesson together.

Cindy: 我的朋友下個星期要到這個城市來. 你能幫我給他在旅館訂一個房間嗎?

Yann: 沒問題. 這附近就有一家新旅館. 我聽說很便宜. 他這次要待多久?

Cindy: 就幾天.

Yann: 告訴他不要忘了帶護照和信用卡. 他們不收現金.

Adam: For more examples, listen to the podcast review for these lessons available to Premium subscribers at Chinesearnonline.com.

Kirin: 我們下次再見.