

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 107 [Traditional]

Kirin: 上網學中文第一百〇七課.

Adam: Hello, I'm Adam and welcome to our progressive course teaching Mandarin Chinese. With me today are our native Chinese speakers Raphael and Kirin.

Raphael: 讓我們先聽一次今天正常語速的對話.

Cindy: 你還記得我兒子嗎? 這是他的近照.

Yann: 真的嗎? 我真不敢相信這就是他. 和上次我看到他相比, 他長大了不少. 他現在很高. 而且好像也瘦了很多.

Cindy: 是的. 他小時候比現在胖多了.

Raphael: 讓我們再聽一次今天慢語速的對話. 請跟著老師重複一遍.

Kirin: 你還記得我兒子嗎? 這是他的近照.

真的嗎? 我真不敢相信這就是他. 和上次我看到他相比, 他長大了不少. 他現在很高. 而且好像也瘦了很多.

是的. 他小時候比現在胖多了.

Raphael: 讓我們來翻譯今天的對話. 第一句是...

Kirin: 你還記得我兒子嗎?

Raphael: 這些單詞我們已經都學過了. 你覺得是什麼意思?

兒子 是什麼意思?

Adam: That means “son.” You may remember that the 還 character means “still” or “additionally” so that gives us a literal translation of “You still remember I son?”

Kirin: 你還記得我兒子嗎?

Adam: As in “Do you still remember my son?”

Kirin: 你還記得我兒子嗎?

Adam: Notice how she's saying 我兒子 and not 我的兒子 since the 的 particle is often left out when describing something very close to the speaker so usually family members are referred to in this way.

Raphael: 然後她繼續說.

Kirin: 這是他的近照.

Adam: So we have a new word here.

Raphael: 近照. 兩個第四聲.

Adam: This word is made up of two characters we've seen before. The 近 comes from 最近 which means "recently." And the 照 comes from 照片 which means "photograph." So together that gives us "recent photograph."

Kirin: 這是他的近照.

Adam: This is a recent photograph of him.

Kirin: 這是他的近照.

Raphael: 然後這個男人問.

Kirin: 真的嗎?

Adam: Easy enough. "Really?"

Kirin: 真的嗎?

Raphael: 然後他繼續說.

Kirin: 我真不敢相信這就是他.

Adam: So we have a couple more new words here for you.

Raphael: 敢. 第三聲.

Adam: This character means "to dare." That's then followed by another new word.

Raphael: 相信. 第一聲和第四聲.

Adam: The 就 particle in the sentence adds precision – think of it as meaning “none other” here. So that gives us a literal translation of “I really don’t dare to believe that this is none other than him.” Or simply “I can’t believe that’s really him”.

Kirin: 我真不敢相信這就是他.

Adam: So you can see how the 敢 adds more emphasis to the not believing.

Raphael: 然後他繼續說.

Kirin: 和上次我看到他相比.

Adam: So we actually know most of these words from before. The first character 和 we’ve learned before as meaning “and.” It is also used in the context of “with.” Similarly we’ve also taught you 跟 which also has both meanings of “and” as well as “with.” So here we have “With last time I met he.” That’s followed by a new term 相比 which is a first tone and a third tone and that means “to compare to.”

Kirin: 和上次我看到他相比.

Raphael: 然後他繼續說.

Kirin: 他長大了不少.

Adam: “He has really grown up.” So the meaning here is “He has really grown up since the last time I saw him.”

Kirin: 和上次我看到他相比. 他長大了不少.

Adam: We’ll be giving you more practice later with the 比 compared to character.

Kirin: 和上次我看到他相比. 他長大了不少.

Raphael: 然後他繼續說.

Kirin: 他現在很高.

Raphael: 現在是什麼意思?

Adam: That means “right now.” There is another new character at the end.

Raphael: 高. 第一聲.

Adam: And that means “tall.” So that gives us “He is very tall now.”

Kirin: 他現在很高.

Raphael: 然後他繼續說.

Kirin: 而且好像也瘦了很多.

Adam: So there are a few new words in there starting with.

Raphael: 而且. 第二聲和第三聲.

Adam: That means “Also.” We then have 好像. The 像 is a fourth tone and together this term means “seems to be” or “appears to be.” The last new character of this sentence is

Raphael: 瘦. 第四聲.

Adam: And that means “thin.”

Kirin: 而且好像也瘦了很多.

Raphael: 很多 是什麼意思?

Adam: That means “many” or in this case “a lot.” So the literal translation of this sentence is “As well appears to be also thin a lot.” In other words, “As well, he also seems to be much thinner.”

Kirin: 而且好像也瘦了很多.

Raphael: 然後這個女人回答.

Kirin: 是的. 他小時候比現在胖多了.

Adam: So there’s another new term here made up of characters we already know. 小時候. That literally means “small time” but here refers to “when he was small.” We then have our comparison term again.

Raphael: 比. 第三聲.

Adam: Followed by another new character towards the end.

Raphael: 胖. 第四聲.

Adam: This means “fat.”

Kirin: 是的. 他小時候比現在胖多了.

Adam: So this sentence is saying “He was fatter as a child than he is now.” The 比 construction requires some explanation. It’s A compared to B followed by what you’re comparing. So in this case it’s “When he was a child compared to now fatter.”

Kirin: 他小時候比現在胖多了.

Adam: For more examples of this construction, listen to the podcast review available to premium subscribers on our website.

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Raphael: 讓我們再聽一次今天正常語速的對話.

Cindy: 你還記得我兒子嗎? 這是他的近照.
Yann: 真的嗎? 我真不敢相信這就是他. 和上次我看到他相比, 他長大了不少. 他現在很高. 而且好像也瘦了很多.
Cindy: 是的. 他小時候比現在胖多了.

Adam: So lots of new material there. Take your time with it and understand it. If you’re a premium subscriber, take advantage of the sentence breakdowns and other tools available to help you understand this material. You’ll need it for upcoming lessons which will build upon these concepts.

Raphael: 你們繼續加油!