

## Lesson Thirteen Asking Directions

### 第十三課 問 路

Dì Shí sān Kè Wèn Lù

#### GRAMMAR

##### 1. Direction and Location Words

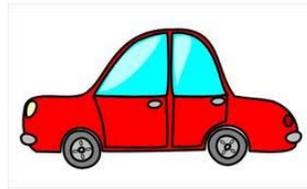
Direction Words: 上/下/前/後/左/右/東/南/西/北/裏/外/旁

(shàng/xià/qián/hòu/zuǒ/yòu/dōng/nán/xī/běi/lǐ/wài/páng)

Direction words are often used in conjunction with suffixes like 邊、面、頭 (lǐ, biān, tóu). Together they form a place word, e.g.:

上邊/面/頭 (shàngbian/mian/tou)

top



前邊/面/頭 (qiánbian/mian/tou)

front

後邊/面/頭 (hòubian/mian/tou)

back

下邊/面/頭 (xiàbian/mian/tou)

bottom

裏邊/面/頭 (lǐbian/mian/tou)

inside



外邊/面/頭 (wàibian/mian/tou)

outside



中間 (zhōngjiān)

middle



左邊/面 (zǒubian/mian)

left

右邊/面 (yòubian/mian)

right

旁邊 (pángbian)

side

北邊/面 (běibian/mian)

north



西邊/面 (xībian/mian)

west

東邊/面 (dōngbian/mian)

east

南邊/面 (nánbian/mian)

south

**Note:** The combination of a noun with 上 (shàng; on) or 裏 (lǐ; in) often occurs in location words, e.g., 桌子上 (zhuōzi shang, on the table)、黑板上 (hēibǎn shang, on the balckbord)、牆上 (qiáng shang, on the wall)、書上 (shū shang, in/on the book); 學校裏 (xuéxiào li, in the school)、辦公室裏 (bàngōngshì li, in the office)、教室裏 (jiàoshì li, in the classroom)、電視裏 (diànshì li, on TV). The word 裏 (lǐ) cannot be used after some proper nouns such as the name of a country or a city.

\*中國裏                    \*(Zhōngguóli)

\*上海裏                    \*(Shànghǎili)

A direction word + 邊/面/頭 (biān/miàn/tóu) combination can follow a noun to indicate a location, e.g., 圖書館(的)旁邊 túshūguǎn [de] pángbian (near the library); 學校(的)裏面 xuéxiào [de] lǐmian (inside the school); 桌子(的)上頭 zhuōzi [de] shàngtou (on the table); 教室(的)外面 jiàoshì [de] wàimian (outside the classroom); 城市(的)北邊 (north of the city). In these expressions the particle 的 (de) following the noun is optional.

## 2. Comparative Sentences with 沒有 (méiyǒu)

We can also use 沒有 (méiyǒu) to make comparisons. In a comparative sentence with 沒有 (méiyǒu), the pronoun 那麼 (nàme) is sometimes added to the sentence. [See more on 那麼 (nàme) below.]

- (1) 我弟弟沒有我高。

Wǒ dìdì méiyǒu wǒ gāo.

(My younger brother is not as tall as I am. = I am taller than my brother.)

- (2) 上海沒有台北熱。

Shānghǎi méiyǒu Táiběi rè.

(It is not as hot in Shanghai as in Taipei.)

- (3) 他姐姐沒有他妹妹那麼喜歡買衣服。

Tā jiějie méiyǒu tā mèimei nàme xǐhuan mǎi yīfu.

(His older sister does not like to buy clothes as much as his younger sister does. = His older sister might like to buy clothes also, but not as much as his younger sister.)

- (4) 我沒有她那麼喜歡看電影。

Wǒ méiyǒu tā nàme xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng.

(I'm not as fond of movies as she is. = I don't dislike movies, but she certainly likes movies more than I do.)

沒有 (méiyǒu) and 不比 (bù bǐ)

Both 沒有 (méiyǒu) and 不比 (bù bǐ) can be used to show that one thing is of a lesser degree than the other. While 沒有 (méiyǒu) means “less than,” 不比 (bù bǐ) means “no more than” Compare the following sentences.

(5) A: 你弟弟比你高嗎？

Nǐ dìdì bǐ nǐ gāo ma?

(Is your younger brother taller than you?)

B: 我弟弟**不**比我高。

Wǒ dìdì bù bǐ wǒ gāo.

(My younger brother is not taller than I am. = My brother could be shorter than I am or could be as tall as I am.)

C: 我弟弟**沒**有我高。

Wǒ dìdì méiyǒu wǒ gāo.

(My younger brother is not as tall as I am. = My brother is shorter than I am.)

(6) A: 今天比昨天熱嗎？

Jīntiān bǐ zuǒtiān rè ma?

(Is today hotter than yesterday?)

B: 今天**不**比昨天熱。

Jīntiān bù bǐ zuǒtiān rè.

(Today is not [that much] hotter than yesterday. = It's about the same.)

C: 今天**沒**有昨天熱。

Jīntiān méiyǒu zuǒtiān rè.

(Today is not as hot as yesterday. = Today is cooler.)

#### A Quick Summary of Comparative Sentences

A 比 (bǐ) B 大 (dà)  $A > B$

A 不 比 (bǐ) B 大 (dà)  $A < B$  or  $A = B$

A 沒 有 (bǐ) B 大 (dà)  $A < B$

### 3. 那麼 (nàme) Indicating Degree

那麼 (nàme) is an intensifier. It is often placed before adjectives or verbs such as 想, 喜歡, 會, 能 and 希望, to denote a high degree.

- (1) 你那麼不喜歡寫日記，就別寫了吧。

Nǐ nàme bú xǐhuān xiě rìjì, jiù bié xiě le ba.

(Since you dislike writing journals so much, why don't you quit doing so?)

沒有那麼 (méiyǒu nàme) means “not reaching the point of.”

- (2) 弟弟沒有哥哥那麼帥，那麼酷。

Dìdì méiyǒu gēge nàme shuài , nàme kù.

(The younger brother is not as handsome and cool as the older brother.)

- (3) 坐地鐵沒有坐公共汽車那麼麻煩。

Zuò dìtiě méiyǒu zuò gōnggòng qìchē nàme máfán.

(Riding the subway is not as much of a hassle as riding the bus.)

- (4) 這個樣子沒有你說的那麼合適。

Zhè gè yàngzǐ méiyǒu nǐ shuō de nà me héshì.

(This style is not as suitable as you said.)

- (5) 這張地圖沒有那張地圖那麼新。

Zhè zhāng dìtú méiyǒu nàzhāng dìtú nàme xīn.

(This map is not as new as that one.)

By using 那麼 (nàme) the speaker affirms the certain attributes of something or somebody in question.

4. 到 (dào) + Place + 去 (qù) + Action

In this structure, the combination of “到 (dào) + Place + 去 (qù) + Action” denotes the purpose of going somewhere.

(1) 我要到中國去學中文。

Wǒ yàodào Zhōngguó qù xué Zhōngwén.

(I want go to China to learn Chinese.)

(2) 他到圖書館去借書了。

Tā dào túshūguǎn qù jièshū le.

(He went to the library to check out some books.)

(3) 我們到飛機場去送李小姐。

Wǒmen dào fēijīchǎng qù sòng Lǐ xiǎojie.

(We went to the airport to see Miss Li off.)

## 5. The Dynamic Particle 過 (guo)

The dynamic particle 過 (guo) is used to denote a past experience or occurrence which did not continue to the present but, typically, had an impact on the present.

- (1) 我在中國城工作過一年，所以我知道怎麼走。

Wǒ zài zhōngguóchéng gōngzuò guò yīnián, suǒyǐ wǒ zhīdào zěnmē zǒu.

(I worked in Chinatown for a year, so I know how to get there.)

[The fact that the speaker worked in Chinatown for a year is the reason why he/she knows how to get there.]

- (2) 我見過李友，(所以知道)她很高。

Wǒ jiànguò Lǐyǒu, (suǒ yǐ zhī dào) tā hěn gāo.

(I've met Li You before, [so I know] she is very tall.)

- (3) A: 運動場遠不遠，你知道嗎？

Yùndòng chǎng yuǎn bú yuǎn, nǐ zhīdào ma?

(Do you know if the sports field is far from here?)

- B: 運動場我去過，(所以我知道)不遠。

Yùndòngchǎng wǒ qù guò, (suǒyǐ wǒ zhīdào) bú yuǎn.

(I've been to the sports field, [so I know] it is not far away.)

In this kind of sentence temporal expressions are often either unspecified or completely absent. If the latter is the case, the implied time for the action or event is 以前. Sometimes 以前 can appear in the sentence as well.

- (4) 我以前去過中國城，知道怎麼走。

Wǒ yǐ qián qù guò zhōng guó chéng, zhī dào zěnmē zǒu.

(I've been to Chinatown before. I still remember how to get there.)

- (5) 以前我們見過面，可是沒說過話。

Yǐqián wǒmen jiànguò miàn, kěshì méi shuōguo huà.

(We've met before, but we've never spoken to each other.)

An expression indicating a specific time can also occasionally appear in a sentence with 過 (guo).

(6) A: 你見過李小姐嗎？

Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu jiànguo Lǐ Xiǎojie?  
(Have you ever met Miss Li?)

B: 見過，上個月還見過她。

Jiànguo, shàngge yuè hái jiànguo tā.  
(Yes. I even saw her as recently as last month.)

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## 6. Reduplication of Verbs

Like adjectives, verbs can also be reduplicated. Reduplication of a verb in this lesson refers to an anticipated or requested action, and it makes the tone of the sentence milder.

(1) 老師，您再說說什麼時候用“了”，好嗎？

Lǎoshī, nín zài shuōshuo shíme shíhòu yòng “le”, hǎo ma?

(Teacher, would you say a bit more about when to use “le”, please?)

(2) 媽，您看看，我這樣寫對不對？

Mā, nín kànkàn, wǒ zhèyàng xiě duì bú duì?

(Mom, take a look—did I write this correctly or not?)

(3) 我用用你的電腦可以嗎？

Wǒ yòngyong nǐ de diànnǎo kěyǐ ma?

(May I use your computer for a minute?)

(4) 你幫我找找我的筆，好嗎？

Nǐ bāng wǒ zhǎozhao wǒ de bǐ, hǎo ma?

(Could you help me look for my pen for a second?)

(5) 你考完試，我們一起去公園走走，聊聊天兒。

Nǐ kǎo wán shì, w men yī qǐ qù gōngyuán zǒuzou, liáoliao tiān ér.

(Let's take a walk in the park and have a chat after your exam.)

(6) 她想看看我的新手機。

Tā xiǎng kànkàn wǒ de xīn shǒujī.

(She wants to take a look at my new cell phone.)

## 7. Resultative Complements (II)

The following are resultative complements that we have come across so far:

### a. 完 (wán)

看完 (kàn wán)	(finish reading)
吃完 (chī wán)	(finish eating)
喝完 (hē wán)	(finish drinking)
考完 (kǎo wán)	(finish an exam)
買完 (mǎi wán)	(finish buying)

### b. 到 (dào)

找到 (zhǎo dào)	(find something successfully)
看到 (kàn dào)	(see [something/someone] successfully)
聽到 (tīng dào)	(hear [something/someone])
買到 (mǎi dào)	(buy [something] successfully)

### c. 見 (jiàn)

看見 (kàn jiàn)	(see) = 看到 (kàn dào)
聽見 (tīng jiàn)	(hear) = 聽到 (tīng dào)

### d. 好 (hǎo)

做好 (zuò hǎo)	(do something successfully)
買好 (mǎi hǎo)	(buy something successfully)
準備好	(prepare something, which is ready)

### e. 錯 (cuò)

買錯 (mǎi cuò)	(buy the wrong thing)
找錯 (zhǎo cuò)	(give the wrong change; find the wrong person or thing)

寫錯 (xiě cuò)	(write incorrectly)
說錯 (shuō cuò)	(say [something] wrong)
走錯 (zǒu cuò)	(go the wrong way)

f. 懂 (dǒng)

聽懂 (tīng dǒng)	(comprehend something by listening)
看懂 (kàn dǒng)	(comprehend what one reads or sees)

g. 清楚 (qīngchu)

看清楚 (kàn qīngchu)	(see [something] clearly)
聽清楚 (tīng qīngchu)	(hear [something] clearly)

f. 會 (huì)

學會 (xué huì)	(acquire the skills [for doing something that one was previously unable to do])
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The collocation of a verb with its resultative complement is not random; one has to memorize a verb together with its resultative complement. Some resultative complement is semantically related to the object. In the sentence 我寫錯了字 (Wǒ xiě cuòle zì; I wrote the character wrong), for instance, it is the object “the character” 字(zì) that is “wrong” 錯(cuò). Sometimes, however, a resultative complement is related to the subject, e.g., in the sentence 我學會了 (Wǒ xué huì le; I have learned it), the complement 會(huì) is semantically related to 我(wǒ), the subject of the sentence.

## 8. 一...就... (yī...jiù..., as soon as...then...)

This structure connects two actions. It can be used to combine actions in two different types of situations: habitual situations or one-time situations.

### a. Habitual situations: whenever the first action occurs, the second action immediately follows.

- (1) 他 一上課 就想睡覺。

Tā yí shàng kè jiù xiǎng shuǐjiào.

(He feels sleepy as soon as classes start.)

- (2) 我姐姐 一高興 就唱歌。

Wǒ jiějie yì gāoxìng jiù chàng gē.

(My older sister sings whenever she is happy.)

- (3) 小張 一喝酸辣湯 就不舒服。

Xiǎo Zhāng yì hē suānlà tāng jiù bù shūfu.

(Little Zhang feels funny as soon as he has hot-and-sour soup.)

### b. In a one-time situation, the second action takes place as soon as the first is completed.

- (4) 那個中國飯館不遠，到第二個路口，往右 一拐 就到了。

Nà ge Zhōngguó fànguǎn bù yuǎn, dào dì-èr ge lùkǒu, wàng yòu yì guǎi jiù dào le.

(That Chinese restaurant is not far. Turn right at the second intersection, and you are right there.)

- (5) 這課的語法很容易，我 一看 就懂。

Zhè kè de yǔfǎ hěn róngyì, wǒ yí kàn jiù dǒng.

(The grammar in this lesson is very easy. I understood it the moment I read it.)