

Preface

Paint Feet on a Snake is intended for students of Mandarin with a command of about 850 characters and 1000-1200 vocabulary items: Chinese Studies majors, China-focused students in other fields, heritage learners, and professionals. It will help improve vocabulary and grammar competence, and foster reading strategies and writing and translation skills, for use in academic and professional settings. Our attention to reading and writing is motivated by the considerable differences between spoken and written registers in Mandarin, but the material is presented in more dynamic fashion than is the case in traditional grammar-and-translation approaches.

We have drawn on scholarship on teaching Chinese as a foreign language (TCFL), and on grammar outlines and other benchmarks; and on a systematic survey of internationally available TCFL material conducted at Leiden University since 2000. *Paint Feet on a Snake* can be used in reading and translation courses that build on Yao Tao-Chung et al's widely used *Integrated Chinese: Level 1, part 1-2* or comparable material (1997 and later editions). It leads up to the level required for Irene Liu & Li Xiaoqi's *A New Text for a Modern China* or comparable material (1998 and later). By using English as our interface language, and offering both full-form (繁體) and simplified (简体) character editions, we hope to reach a broad, international audience. The material has been tested and optimized through several years of piloting in the Chinese Studies program at Leiden University, incorporating feedback from students and teachers.

Paint Feet on a Snake contains twelve lessons, each named after an idiomatic proverb (成语). As reflected in several textbooks from the preceding decades (Wang Yu-chuan 1967, NICT 1977, Lin 1982, BLCU 1989, Zhu Jian 1998, Ma Sheng Jing-heng 2002), proverbs and popular tales are inspiring points of entry for language learning. Proverbs occur frequently in written and spoken discourse, convey cultural information, and are suitable for multi-purpose language acquisition. The popular stories associated with each proverb will acquaint learners with important aspects of Chinese culture in the original language.

Vocabulary, syntactic structures, and sentence patterns are introduced with systematic reference to TCFL grammar outlines, especially NOCFL 2001. The exercises foster skills in writing, collocation, reading comprehension, and translation, with due regard for the need to consolidate knowledge acquired to date. More information is found in the user's guide.

In light of growing interest in learning Chinese worldwide, it is ever more important that new material be developed to ensure that TCFL continues to cater for levels of language acquisition that go beyond the China hype. There is a crucial role for university educators here, especially at the intermediate level. This prompted us to start the project that has now come to fruition.

We are grateful to the many individuals and institutions that have contributed to the making of this book. Over the years, we've been the happy recipients of feedback from students and teachers at Leiden University who worked with earlier, pilot editions. Anne Sytske Keijser, Jeroen Wiedenhof, Rint Sybesma, and Henning Klöter kindly shared their ideas on issues ranging from overall aims and composition to terminology and sentence-level words and phrasings. Lloyd Haft, Mathilda Banfield, and Anna Yeadell helped check the English-language parts of the material. We benefited a great deal from the many valuable comments made by the two scholars who peer-reviewed the manuscript. The illustrations for each of the proverbs, the first of which also features on the front cover, are by Chen Ting-yun, and the book's cover design and lay-out are by Pao Choi. Generous financial support was provided by the Foundation for the Study of China at Leiden University, the LUF Rombouts Fund for Chinese Studies, and the Leiden University Chinese Studies Program.

Lin Chin-hui and Maghiel van Crevel

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User's guide

Each lesson has the following components:

Warm-up

This will strengthen students' ability to link their character knowledge with new words and expressions. In class, teachers can help students reflect on guessing strategies, while reviewing previously studied characters.

Proverb and main text

Literal translations, extended meanings, and example sentences are provided for each proverb, to indicate the context in which it is used. The main text presents the popular story behind the proverb. To familiarize students with stylistic conventions of written Mandarin, the texts gradually grow longer, and move from a colloquial to a more formal style. Words listed to the right of the main text present background information. They need not be memorized, and are not included in the vocabulary list that follows the text.

Vocabulary

In addition to transcription, word class, and translation, each word or expression comes with one or more example sentences.

Transcription is in Hanyu pinyin, without tone sandhi, and including 'mld'= mainland-Chinese and 'Tw'= Taiwanese variants.

This component organically includes a fill-in-the-blanks exercise, with the blanks occurring in both languages, to be done as homework and/or reviewed in class. In translating example sentences, here and elsewhere, we have tried to avoid overly literal renditions where there is no direct equivalence in terms of idiom, phrasing, punctuation, and so on. We encourage teachers to help their students to negotiate this issue – and to enjoy it.

Grammar

This component offers explanations of grammar points that are systematically positioned in the main text. In addition to syntactic function and notes on usage, bilingual example sentences are provided.

Writing

These exercises are suitable for in-class oral Q & A, followed by after-class writing practice.

Collocation

Depending on course structure and learning objectives, collocation exercises can be used in various ways, e.g. distinguishing homonyms and (near-)synonyms, familiarization with measure words, sentence completion, and association with other vocabulary items.

Reading

Reading comprehension exercises are offered at the sentence level (close reading) and the discourse level (extensive reading). In class, for extensive reading, students should engage with the questions that precede the narrative before reading the story itself, in a guided discussion that also involves guessing what the story is about. Next, they speed-read the story a first time, bearing in mind the questions they have discussed. At this point, they do not write out the answers, but only mark places in the text where the answers can be found. This will help the teacher assess their actual reading speed. A second read-through can involve answering the questions and discussing the answers, and will equip the students to guess the meaning of the words and expressions listed after the story.

Translation

Each lesson ends with an English-Chinese translation exercise, with key vocabulary provided, but without assuming that there are single correct translations for any or all of the passages in question. Teachers and students are encouraged to explore multiple translations where possible, and to explicitly compare them. This exercise may be put to many uses, including discussion of the notion of translation in various contexts: aims, strategies, evaluations, etc.

Originals

These are the Classical Chinese source texts associated with each of the proverbs. Students and teachers can engage with these as they see fit, depending on the local curriculum and individual interest.

Appendices

The book concludes with a Chinese-English vocabulary index and a grammar index. In this edition, the vocabulary index includes conversion to full-form characters. In the full-form character edition, it includes conversion to simplified characters.

Abbreviations of grammatical terms

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| ADJ | adjective |
| ADV | adverb |
| ATTR | attributive |
| AUX | auxiliary verb |
| CONJ | conjunction |
| DET | determiner |
| M | measure word |
| N | noun |
| NEG | negation |
| NUM | numeral |
| O | object |
| PH | phrase |
| PN | proper noun |
| PREP | preposition |
| PRO | pronoun |
| QW | question word |
| SUF | suffix |
| V | verb |
| VC | verb-complement |
| VO | verb-object |
| VP | verb phrase |



画蛇添足

Paint feet on a snake

1

1

画蛇添足 | Paint feet on a snake

课前准备：根据汉字猜测词意 | Warm-up: decoding new words

Below are five new vocabulary items that appear in this lesson's text. Using your knowledge of the individual characters, match each item with the right translation. Do not use a dictionary. Check your answers against the vocabulary list.

| | 生詞 new words | 拼音 transcription | 翻译 translation |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| () | 同时 | tóngshí | 1 cannot think of anything to say, have nothing to say, be at a loss for words |
| () | 客人 | kèren, kèrén | 2 laugh heartily, burst into hearty laughter |
| () | 无话可说 | wú huà kě shuō | 3 force a smile, laugh bitterly |
| () | 哈哈大笑 | hāhā dà xiào | 4 visitor, guest |
| () | 苦笑 | kǔxiào | 5 at the same time, concurrently, meanwhile |

本课成语 | Proverb

画蛇添足 huà shé tiān zú

画 V draw, paint | 蛇 N snake | 添 V add | 足 N foot

Translation: paint feet on a snake

Literally: add feet to the painting of a snake

Meaning: gild the lily

老师刚才要我们写一个“几”字。小李本来已经写对了。可是他写完以后，又在“几”字的左边加了一个“木”字，成了“机”字。真是画蛇添足啊！

Just now the teacher asked us to write the character *jǐ*. Little Lǐ originally wrote it correctly, but after he finished, he added a *mù* component to the left, turning it into *jī*. Now, that's really painting feet on a snake.

战国时代¹，楚国²有个人请几位客人喝一壶酒。这些客人看了这壶酒，想：“壶里的酒这么少，怎么够我们大家喝呢？”其中有一人，叫李大，他这个人有点儿自大，但是很聪明。他马上就想到了一个主意。他对其他人说：“我们来比赛吧。只要赢了就能得到这壶酒，怎么样？”有人说：“你的主意好是好，不过我们该比什么呢？”李大说：“就比画蛇吧。谁先画完，谁就可以把酒喝掉。”其他的人商量了一下，觉得这个办法大概还不错，就同意了他的办法，决定这么做。

于是他们每个人各自选好一块地方，同时开始画蛇。李大画得又快又好，一下子就把蛇画好了。他看看其他人，有的还在画蛇头，有的还在画蛇身，没有人比他画得快。他哈哈大笑，拿起酒说：“现在这壶酒是我的了！”他心里非常得意，一只手拿着酒壶，又给蛇画上了四只脚。这时候，另外一个人也画完了，看到李大的画，马上把他手里的酒壶抢过去，然后一口就把壶里的酒全都喝光了。李大很不高兴，对那个人说：“大家不是明明商量好，谁先画好谁就能喝酒吗？你这个人怎么不守信用呢？”那个人笑着说：“本来的确是你先画好的，但是你看看，现在你的画根本不像一条蛇了，蛇怎么可能长出脚来呢？”

李大看了看自己画的蛇，不得不承认是自己太不小心了。尽管心里后悔，一时也无话可说，只好苦笑。

现在，要是一个人已经把一件事情做好，但是后来又多做了其他本来没有必要做的事，使一件可能成功的事情失败。这个时候，我们就可以说他“画蛇添足”。

1 战国时代

Zhànguó shídài | PN
Warring States Era
(403-221 BCE)

时代

shídài | N
era

2 楚国

Chǔguó | PN
the State of Chǔ

生词 | Vocabulary

1.

| | | | |
|----|---|-------|----------------|
| 客人 | N | kèrén | visitor, guest |
|----|---|-------|----------------|

爸爸五十岁生日那一天，请了不少客人到家里来庆祝。
My father invited quite a few guests to celebrate at our house on the day he turned fifty.

2.

| | | | |
|---|---|----|-----|
| 壶 | M | hú | pot |
|---|---|----|-----|

在中国饭馆吃饭，服务员会先上一壶茶。
When you eat in a Chinese restaurant, the waiters will first bring you a pot of tea.

这个茶壶真特别，你是在哪儿买的？
_____. Where did you buy it?

3.

| | | | |
|----|---|---------|-------------------------|
| 其中 | N | qízhōng | among them; one of them |
|----|---|---------|-------------------------|

Note: always refers back to a noun that has just been mentioned.

我们班一共有三十多个人。其中三个是日本人。
In all, there are over thirty people in our class. Three of them are Japanese.

我的法文老师有很多书，_____ 是法文书，一半是中文书。
My grammar teacher has a lot of books. Half of them are in French, the other half are in Chinese.

这本书我已经看过，不过其中几个地方我还不不懂。
I've already read this book, but there are a few parts I still don't understand.

4.

| | | | |
|----|-----|------|---------------------------|
| 自大 | ADJ | zìdà | full of oneself, arrogant |
|----|-----|------|---------------------------|

那个男孩子又帅又聪明，不过他_____。
That boy is both handsome and clever, but not arrogant at all.

5.

| | | | |
|----|---|-------|------|
| 主意 | N | zhǔyi | idea |
|----|---|-------|------|

白先生常想出一些很有意思的主意。
Mr. Bái often thinks up very interesting ideas.

6.

| | | | |
|----|----|---------|------------------|
| 喝掉 | VC | hē diào | drink up, finish |
|----|----|---------|------------------|

see Grammar

| | | | | |
|----|----|---|------------|------------------|
| 7. | 商量 | V | shāngliáng | consult; discuss |
|----|----|---|------------|------------------|

这件事很重要,你应该先跟我商量一下。

This matter is very important. You should have consulted me first.

我准备参加网球比赛,可是不知道应该_____。

I am planning to join a tennis competition, but I don't know who to discuss this with.

| | | | | |
|----|----|-----|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 8. | 大概 | ADV | dàgài | probably, most likely; approximately |
|----|----|-----|-------|--------------------------------------|

小金今天没来上课,他大概生病了吧?

Little Jin did not turn up to class today. He's probably ill, right?

教室里大概有八十个人,有的坐着,有的站着。

There were about eighty people in the lecture room. Some were sitting, some were standing.

| | | | | |
|----|----|---|--------|-------|
| 9. | 同意 | V | tóngyì | agree |
|----|----|---|--------|-------|

妈妈同意暑假的时候让我一个人去中国旅行。

My mother has agreed to allow us to go traveling in China in the summer vacation.

你的办法好是好,但我不同意。

Your way of doing things may be OK, but I don't agree.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-------|---------|------------------|
| 10. | 决定 | V / N | juéding | decide; decision |
|-----|----|-------|---------|------------------|

我们决定明年夏天回台湾探亲。

We've decided to visit our relatives in the summer next year.

大家都同意爸爸_____。

Everyone agrees with the decision father just made.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 11. | 于是 | CONJ | yúshì | then, thereupon, hence, consequently |
|-----|----|------|-------|--------------------------------------|

see Grammar

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|------|------------------|
| 12. | 各自 | ADV | gèzì | each, by oneself |
|-----|----|-----|------|------------------|

我跟我的女朋友一起听完音乐会以后,就各自回家了。

After my girlfriend and I had listened to the concert together, _____.

下午小李和我在图书馆各自准备考试，然后一起去吃晚饭。

In the afternoon little Lǐ and I both prepared for the test by ourselves.

Later, we went to eat dinner together.

13.

选

V

xuǎn

choose, select

这两门课都在星期一上午，你只能选一门。

These two classes are both on Monday morning, so I can only pick one.

这些点心好像都很好吃，我不知道该选哪一种。

These snacks all look very nice. _____

14.

块

M

kuài

piece, lump, chunk

那块地是王先生的。

That piece of land belongs to Mr. Wáng.

你昨天买的那块豆腐已经过期了。最好别吃。

That piece of tofu you bought yesterday is past its expiration date. You'd better not eat it.

15.

同时

ADV

tóngshí

at the same time, concurrently, meanwhile

你们俩别 _____！我一个字也听不清楚。

Stop talking at the same time, you two! I can't understand a word of what you're saying.

你昨天看到的那个人是我的好朋友，同时也是我的老师。

The person you saw yesterday is a good friend of mine. At the same time, she is also my teacher.

16.

一下子

ADV

yíxiàzi

a short while; all at once

哥哥吃饭吃得很快，一下子就把碗里的饭吃光了。

My brother eats very quickly. He ate all the rice in the bowl in an instant.

他们俩刚认识，一下子就成了好朋友。

Those two have just met, but they have instantly become good friends.

17.

哈哈大笑

V

hā hā dà xiào

laugh heartily, burst into hearty laughter

表弟说的笑话真有意思！大家听了都哈哈大笑。

The joke my cousin told was so funny! Everyone burst out laughing after they heard it.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|------|--|
| 18. | 得意 | ADJ | déyì | proud of oneself, pleased with oneself |
|-----|----|-----|------|--|

这次考试小钱考得最好，他心里很得意。

Little Qián had the best results for this test, so he felt very pleased with himself.

| | | | | |
|-----|---|---|-----|---|
| 19. | 只 | M | zhī | measure word for small animals (鸟 niǎo 'bird', 羊 yáng 'goat'), and things that are one of a pair (手 shǒu 'hand', 脚 jiǎo 'foot') |
|-----|---|---|-----|---|

表妹养了两只狗。一只是白的，一只是黑的。

My cousin has two dogs. One is white and one is black.

老李一只手拿着杯子，另一只手拿着酒瓶。

Old Lǐ was holding a glass in one hand, and a wine bottle in the other.

| | | | | |
|-----|---|---|-------|----------------------------------|
| 20. | 抢 | V | qiǎng | snatch, grab; rob, loot; vie for |
|-----|---|---|-------|----------------------------------|

那个小男孩老是喜欢把别人正在看的书抢走。

That child likes to snatch books from people right when they're reading.

我听说昨天那家银行被抢了三百万，有没有人受伤？

I heard that bank _____. Was anyone wounded?

| | | | | |
|-----|---|---|-----|----------------|
| 21. | 口 | M | kǒu | mouthful, bite |
|-----|---|---|-----|----------------|

你点的糖醋鱼看起来好吃得很，让我吃一口好不好？

The sweet and sour fish that you ordered looks delicious. Will you let me have a bite?

弟弟吃饭的时候，喜欢先喝一口汤，再吃一口米饭。

When my little brother is eating, he'll first have a mouthful of soup and then a bite of rice.

| | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|------|---------------|
| 22. | 全 | ADV | quán | all, entirely |
|-----|---|-----|------|---------------|

这些汉字我全都不懂。

I don't understand any of these Chinese characters.

他写的小说我_____，我很喜欢。

I've read all the novels he has written. I really like them.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----------|------------------|
| 23. | 喝光 | VC | hē guāng | drink up, finish |
|-----|----|----|----------|------------------|

see Grammar

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|-----------------|--------------------|
| 24. | 明明 | ADV | <i>míngmíng</i> | obviously, plainly |
|-----|----|-----|-----------------|--------------------|

see Grammar

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 25. | 守信用 | VO | <i>shǒu xìnyòng</i> | keep one's word, be trustworthy |
|-----|-----|----|---------------------|---------------------------------|

黄先生明明说今天早上要来帮我搬东西,可是没来。真不守信用。

Mr. Huáng clearly said he would come and help me move my things this morning, but he didn't come. He really doesn't keep his word.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|---------------|----------------------|
| 26. | 本来 | ADV | <i>běnlái</i> | originally, at first |
|-----|----|-----|---------------|----------------------|

本来小李对足球一点儿兴趣也没有。看了世界杯足球赛以后,他现在一有球赛,就连饭也不吃了。

Originally, little Lǐ had no interest in football at all. But ever since watching the World Cup, he won't even eat dinner when there is a match.

王老师本来住在英国,去年搬到日本来。

Teacher Wáng _____, and came to live in Japan last year.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|--------------|---------------------------|
| 27. | 的确 | ADV | <i>díquè</i> | indeed, really, certainly |
|-----|----|-----|--------------|---------------------------|

多学几种语言的确非常有用,可以认识不同的文化。

Learning some other languages is certainly very useful. You can get to know different cultures.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|---------------|---|
| 28. | 根本 | ADV | <i>gēnběn</i> | utterly, completely, entirely (often used before negations, meaning 'not at all') |
|-----|----|-----|---------------|---|

这一课的生词太多了,我根本记不得啊!

There are too many new words in this lesson. _____!

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|--|
| 29. | 不得不 | ADV | <i>bù dé bù</i> | cannot but, can't help but, simply have to |
|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|--|

see Grammar

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---|-----------------|------------------|
| 30. | 承认 | V | <i>chéngrèn</i> | admit, recognize |
|-----|----|---|-----------------|------------------|

我承认这次考试我没有好好儿准备,所以考得不够好。

I admit that I didn't prepare very well for this test, so I didn't do well at all.

没有人愿意承认这件事是自己的错。

Nobody is willing to admit that this matter is their fault.

31.

| | | | |
|----|----------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 小心 | ADJ / PH | <i>xiǎoxīn</i> | careful; 'Watch out!' |
|----|----------|----------------|-----------------------|

老王做事_____, 让人担心。
Old Wáng is very careless. This makes people worry.

图书馆员把书小心地放回书架上。
The librarian carefully put the books on the shelves.

小心! 前面有位老先生正在过马路, 别开得太快。
Watch out! There's an old man crossing the road up ahead. Don't drive too fast.
32.

| | | | |
|----|------|----------------|----------------------|
| 尽管 | CONJ | <i>jǐnguǎn</i> | even though; despite |
|----|------|----------------|----------------------|

see Grammar
33.

| | | | |
|----|---|---------------|--------|
| 后悔 | V | <i>hòuhuǐ</i> | regret |
|----|---|---------------|--------|

爸爸告诉我他很后悔以前没把法文学好。
My dad told me he regrets that he never learnt French.

你已经做错了事, 现在才后悔有什么用?
So you've done something wrong. What's the use of regretting it now?
34.

| | | | |
|----|-----|--------------|---|
| 一时 | ADV | <i>yīshí</i> | temporarily, momentarily, for a short while |
|----|-----|--------------|---|

这个人我很久没见了, 他的名字一时想不起来。
I hadn't seen this person for a long time, and _____.

表哥昨天打网球的时候一时不小心, 受了伤。
My cousin wasn't careful for a moment when he was playing tennis yesterday, and hurt himself.

那个汉字我一时忘了怎么写, 你能告诉我吗?
Right now, I can't recall how to write that Chinese character. Can you tell me?
35.

| | | | |
|------|----|-----------------------|--|
| 无话可说 | PH | <i>wú huà kě shuō</i> | cannot think of anything to say, have nothing to say, be at a loss for words |
|------|----|-----------------------|--|

小高忘了把书还给图书馆, 尽管得罚钱也无话可说。
Little Gāo forgot to bring the book back to the library. So even if he has to pay a fine there's nothing he can say.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 36. | 只好 | ADV | zhǐhǎo | can only, have no alternative but |
|-----|----|-----|--------|-----------------------------------|

我昨天到了教室才想到忘了带书，只好跑回宿舍拿。

Yesterday I didn't think of bringing my books until I got to the classroom. So I had no choice but to run back to the dorm and get them.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---|--------|-------------------------------|
| 37. | 苦笑 | V | kǔxiào | force a smile, laugh bitterly |
|-----|----|---|--------|-------------------------------|

我问爸爸为什么最近老是很晚才回家。他苦笑着说：“没办法，工作太多了！”

I asked my dad why he's been getting back so late recently. He forced a smile and said: 'That's just how it is. Too much work!'

| | | | | |
|-----|---|---|------|---|
| 38. | 件 | M | jiàn | measure word for articles and items such as 衣服 yīfu 'clothes', 事情 shìqíng 'event, matter' |
|-----|---|---|------|---|

我有件事想请你帮忙，不知道你有没有空？

I want to ask you to help me with something. I wonder if you have a minute?

你看看，这两件衣服哪一件适合我？

Look, _____?

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 39. | 事情 | N | shìqíng (mld), shìqíng (Tw) | event, matter |
|-----|----|---|--------------------------------|---------------|

你怎么可能连这么简单的事情都做不好？

How can it be that you can't even do such a simple thing right?

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|--------|----------------------------|
| 40. | 后来 | ADV | hòulái | then, afterwards, later on |
|-----|----|-----|--------|----------------------------|

Note: links a sequence of actions in the past.

去年我本来要去法国旅行，后来我妈妈生了病，我就决定不去了。

Originally, I was going to go to France to travel. Then my mother became ill, so I decided not to go.

我姐姐先在美国学了两年中文，_____。

My older sister first studied Chinese in America for two years. Afterwards she went to Beijing to study for another year.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---|--------------|-----------------|
| 41. | 必要 | N | <i>bìyào</i> | need, necessity |
|-----|----|---|--------------|-----------------|

寒假的时候机票不好买，有必要先把票订好。

Plane tickets are difficult to buy in the winter vacation. It's necessary to order them ahead of time.

| | | | | |
|-----|---|---|------------|-----------|
| 42. | 使 | V | <i>shǐ</i> | make, let |
|-----|---|---|------------|-----------|

你得说得大声一点儿才能使每个人都听清楚你说的话。

You have to speak up a bit. Only then can everyone hear what you are saying.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---------|------------------|---------------------|
| 43. | 成功 | V / ADJ | <i>chénggōng</i> | succeed; successful |
|-----|----|---------|------------------|---------------------|

你的计划真棒，一定能成功。

Your plan is very good, and it will surely succeed.

昨天的晚会非常成功，大家玩得高兴极了。

_____. Everyone had lots of fun.

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---------|---------------|-------------------|
| 44. | 失败 | V / ADJ | <i>shībài</i> | fail; be defeated |
|-----|----|---------|---------------|-------------------|

小金做事从来没失败过，所以他越来越自大。

Little Jin has never failed at anything, so he is getting more and more arrogant.

那是一个失败的计划，别再谈了。

That plan fell through. Don't bring it up again.

语法 | Grammar

1. 只要 X, 就 Y

as long as X then Y, if (only) X then Y

| X is a minimal condition. Y is the result.

只要你喜欢那件衣服, 我就给你买。

If you like those clothes, I will buy them for you.

只要每天练习, 就能把日语学好。

If only you practice every day, you will be able to learn Japanese.

2. VERB + 掉

finish by VERB-ing

| Signals that an action has led to the disappearance of its object. (See note 4.)

小李: 我上星期在书店看到一本中文字典, 我想去买。

小高: 来不及了, 我刚才去了书店, 已经卖掉了。

Little Lǐ: I saw a Chinese dictionary in the bookshop last week. I want to go and buy it.

Little Gāo: You're too late. I just went to the bookshop, and it's already been sold.

虽然他已经喝掉了一大瓶可乐, 但是他还是觉得渴。

Even though he had already finished a big bottle of coke, he still felt thirsty.

3. 于是

then, thereupon; so, hence, consequently

Marks both causality and consecutiveness. Different from 所以, which marks only causality. So: 所以 in 天气很好, 所以我们到公园去走走 cannot be replaced by 于是. It is not as if first, the weather was nice, and then, we went to the park; rather, the weather was nice, so we went to the park. Conversely, 于是 can usually be replaced with 所以, as in the first example sentence:

我昨天想到学校旁边的那家餐厅吃饭, 可是他们没开门, 于是我就回家了。

Yesterday I wanted to eat at the restaurant next to the school. But it was closed, so I went home.

考完了试, 大家想庆祝庆祝, 于是我们把昨天买的啤酒都喝光了。

After we finished the exam everyone wanted to celebrate, so we drank all the beers we bought yesterday.

4. VERB + 光

finish by VERB-ing

Signals that an action has led to the disappearance of its object. Compared with VERB + 掉 (note 2), VERB + 光 puts more emphasis on the fact that the object has been physically exhausted or used up.

小李：我上星期在书店看到一些新的中文字典，我想去买。

小高：来不及了，我刚才去了书店，已经都卖光了。

Little Lǐ: I saw some Chinese dictionaries in the bookshop last week. I want to go and buy one.

Little Gāo: You're too late. I just went to the bookshop, and they're already sold out.

我昨天买的汽水弟弟已经喝光了，今天得再去买。

My little brother has finished the soda I bought yesterday. I have to go and buy some more.

5. 又…又

both... and

Links two adjectives, or two verbs, without modifiers such as 很, 真, or a 得 -phrase.

So: *又很便宜又很好吃 and *又唱得好又跳得高 are incorrect.

现在的水果又便宜又好吃，你多吃点。

Right now, the fruit is cheap and delicious. You should have lots of it.

上星期我跟朋友去德国玩，在火车上大家又说又笑，非常快乐。

Last week I went to Germany with my friends. On the train everyone was talking and laughing.

We were very happy.

那个小孩刚才又唱又跳，可爱极了。

Just now that child was singing and jumping up and down. Very cute.

6. 明明

obviously, plainly

Presents information as self-evident or plain for all to see, even if it seems unlikely or its accuracy has been questioned. Often comes with a contrary statement, explicit or implied.

你明明知道爸爸不喜欢动物，为什么要把这只狗带回家呢？

You obviously know that dad doesn't like animals. Why do you still want to take this dog home?

张老师：你说小王来了，我怎么没看到他？

白老师：我刚才明明看见他站在教室外面啊！

Teacher Zhāng: You said that little Wáng showed up. So why didn't I see him?

Teacher Bái: Just now, I clearly saw him standing outside the classroom!

7. 不得不 + VERB

cannot but, can't help but

The double 'no' constitutes an emphatic 'yes'. Points to compelling circumstances or inevitable developments.

他很不喜欢去医院。但是今天他肚子疼极了，不得不去看医生。

He really doesn't like going to hospital. But today his stomach hurts a lot, so he cannot but go to the doctor.

因为女朋友要来，所以小王不得不打扫房间。

His girlfriend is coming, so little Wáng simply has to clean his room.

8. 尽管

even though; despite

Occurs in sentence-initial position or after the subject. The clause containing 尽管 is often followed by one containing 可是/但是/不过 'but', 也 'yet', or 还是 'still'.

尽管小李没有请我去参加他的生日会，我还是要去。

Even though little Lǐ didn't invite me to his birthday party, I went anyway.

尽管已经下起雨来了，我还是得出门。

Even though it has started raining, I still have to go out.

他尽管很早就知道这件事了，但是不愿意告诉我。

Even though he had known about this thing for a long time, he didn't want to tell me.

Also occurs as an adverb meaning 'by all means'. Translates well as 'feel free to'.

你想吃什么尽管点。今天我请客。

If you want to eat something, feel free to order. Today it's on me.

要是你想找人商量，尽管给我打电话。别客气。

If you want to find someone to talk things through, feel free to phone me. Don't hesitate.

你尽管笑吧！虽然我这次的计划失败了，下次一定会成功。

Laugh all you want! Even though my plan failed this time, I will succeed next time.

短句写作练习 | Writing

Answer the questions below. Use the parenthesized words where these are provided.

1. 这是什么时候的事? (时代)
2. 这壶酒为什么不够大家喝?
3. 这些客人怎么决定谁能喝这壶酒? (画)
4. 谁画蛇画得最快? 他画得怎么样?
5. 李大把蛇画完以后, 又做了什么?
6. 为什么另外一个人把李大的酒壶抢走, 还一口把酒喝光? (根本)
7. 你同意那个人说的话吗? 为什么?

词汇搭配练习 | Collocation

Fill in the blanks with the vocabulary provided. Use each item only once.

1. 清楚 | 的确 | 明明 | 只好
小李: 你昨天_____告诉过我, 你不喜欢喝啤酒。为什么你把我买的那些啤酒都喝光了?
小王: 我_____不喜欢喝啤酒。但是我刚才太渴了, 找不到别的东西喝。所以_____把你的啤酒喝掉。真不好意思! 我再给你买一些吧。
2. 同意 | 商量 | 承认
要是你先跟我_____一下, 我就可以帮你忙。现在已经来不及了。
3. 必要 | 根本 | 只好
那个男人说他认识我, 可是我_____不认识他啊!

4. 画蛇添足 | 自大 | 无话可说

他明明做错了事，还说自己一点儿也不后悔。我对他已经_____了。

5. 各自 | 其中 | 其他

那些字典_____几本是我的，还有几本是小王的。

6. 一时 | 各自 | 后悔

弟弟考试以前没好好准备，现在考得不好，很_____。

7. 一下子 | 本来 | 各自

小王跟我打算下午先_____回家做功课，晚上再一起去听音乐会。

8. 守信用 | 无话可说 | 画蛇添足

他做的那些事根本没有必要，只是_____。

Pick A, B, C, or D to replace the highlighted words.

1. 那本小说妹妹**一下子**就看完了。

A. 花了很长时间 B. 一个钟头 C. 只花了很短的时间 D. 一天

2. 这些衣服我**全都**喜欢。

A. 沒有一件 B. 每一件都 C. 不得不 D. 其中一件

3. 旅行的**的确**是一种认识世界的好方法。

A. 可能是 B. 真的是 C. 大概是 D. 必须是

4. 那个人的名字我**一时想不起来**。

A. 能马上想起来 B. 根本想不起来 C. 没办法马上想起来 D. 大概想不起来

5. 这件事情**有必要**让你知道。

A. 一定 B. 于是 C. 只好 D. 必须

阅读理解 | Reading

Sentence level: of A, B, and C, which is closest in meaning to the example sentence?

1. 小李：“小张明明不喜欢吃鱼，为什么刚才他把那盘鱼吃掉了？”
 - A. 小李以为小张喜欢吃鱼。
 - B. 小李觉得小张不喜欢吃鱼。
 - C. 小李知道小张喜欢吃鱼。

2. 妈妈不得不让弟弟一个人到中国去旅行。
 - A. 妈妈不愿意让弟弟一个人到中国去旅行。
 - B. 妈妈没办法让弟弟一个人到中国去旅行。
 - C. 妈妈本来不想让弟弟一个人去中国，可是后来没办法不同意。

3. 尽管你不会跳舞，你也应该参加那个舞会。
 - A. 要是你不会跳舞，你就不应该参加那个舞会。
 - B. 只要你会跳舞，你就应该参加那个舞会。
 - C. 虽然你不会跳舞，但是你还是应该参加那个舞会。

4. 那些女孩子其中三个是我的同班同学。
 - A. 那些女孩子都是我的同班同学。
 - B. 只有三个女孩子不是我的同班同学。
 - C. 那些女孩子们有三个是我的同班同学。

5. 杯子里的可乐已经被他喝光了。
 - A. 现在杯子里还有一点可乐。
 - B. 现在杯子里已经没有可乐了。
 - C. 现在杯子里还有不少可乐。

Narrative level:

1. Read the questions first, before moving on to the story.
2. Read the story. Guess the meaning of new words and expressions from context.
3. Go back and answer the questions.
4. Match the words provided after the story with the right translation.
5. Discuss the results.

Questions

1. 这个人养的羊为什么少了？
2. 他的朋友听说了这件事以后，有什么主意？
3. 这个人觉得朋友的主意怎么样？你怎么知道？
4. 后来，他为什么还是找人来把门修 *xiū* 'repair' 好？
5. 把门修好有没有用？你怎么知道？
6. “亡羊补牢” *wáng yáng bǔ láo* 的意思是什么？

Story

在一个小镇上，有个人养了十多只羊。他把羊养在他家后边的院子里，每天早上都去看看他的羊。有一天，他的羊少了一只。他找了很久，没找到他的羊。不过，他看到院子的门上有个洞，他想，一定是前一天晚上有只狼从这个洞进他的院子来，把羊吃掉了。

他的朋友知道了这件事，就跟他说：“你已经知道门上有个洞，就应该快把门修理好啊！要不然，羊一定会被狼吃光。”他苦笑着说：“现在我的羊已经被狼吃了，把门修理好有什么用呢？这件事没有必要吧？”

第二天早上，他的羊又被吃了一只。他很后悔，才赶快请人来把门修好。后来，他的羊就没再被狼吃掉过了。

今天中国人常说“亡羊补牢”，意思是：出问题的时候，只要马上想办法，就还不晚。

Match each word with the right translation.

| | | | | |
|-----|------|----|-------------------------|---|
| () | 院子 | N | <i>yuànzi</i> | 1 hole |
| () | 洞 | N | <i>dòng</i> | 2 repair, mend, fix |
| () | 狼 | N | <i>láng</i> | 3 courtyard |
| () | 修理 | V | <i>xiūlǐ</i> | 4 mend the pen after the sheep have been lost |
| () | 亡羊补牢 | PH | <i>wáng yáng bǔ láo</i> | 5 wolf |

翻译练习 | Translation

Translate the following sentences into Chinese. Use the vocabulary provided.

Translation is not a mechanical, word-to-word literal transfer from one language to another. Where English needs personal pronouns and conjunctions, for instance, Chinese often does not. There are also differences in punctuation. English sentences separated by full stops can often be rendered in Chinese as successive clauses separated by commas. On a general note: especially as you move on to richer and more complicated texts, several different translations may be valid, on the word level, the sentence level, and the discourse level. Discussing various translations of one original will improve your Chinese.

1. 口、VERB + 掉

Mr. Tián: If you can down this big glass of beer all in one go, I will buy you another.
Mr. Wáng: Okay, but you must keep your word. It's a deal!

2. VERB + 光、只好

I've already spent all the money my mom gave me last week. Now I don't even have a single dollar. All I can do is borrow from the student sitting next to me.

3. 又…又、尽管…也

Just now that five-year-old child was singing and dancing. Even though there were a lot of people, he wasn't the slightest bit afraid.

4. 明明、承认

My little sister obviously regrets what she's done, but she still isn't willing to admit she was wrong. [*Literally*: My little sister obviously already regrets...]

5. 一下子、政治

Every official hopes to improve their [own] position in government within a short period of time.

6. 只要…就

As long as you have discussed it with your parents, I will allow you to take part in this tennis competition.

7. 根本、一时

Mr. Jin wants me to return the book I borrowed from him three years ago right away. But right now I just can't find it.

8. 本来、于是

Those boys were playing football earlier. Just now one of them was injured, and sent to the hospital.

9. 不得不、主意

Although I don't agree with Mr. Lin's idea, I can't help but admit that there is no better way of doing it.

10. 哈哈大笑、得意

That tall girl is really very arrogant. As soon as she had finished the exam, she let out a big laugh and said, very complacently: 'It was too easy!'

其酒。饮其酒。为蛇足者，终亡足，子安能为之足。成，夺其卮曰：「蛇固无之足。」未成，一人之蛇右手画蛇，曰：「吾能为酒且饮之，乃左手持卮，饮酒。」一人蛇先成，引余。请画地为蛇，先成者人饮之不足，一人饮之有卮酒。舍人相谓曰：「数楚有祠者，赐其舍人《战国策·齐策二》」



Original