

A Visit to Singapore Zoo



Max Nuland, an American college graduate with a double major in Economics and Chinese, arrived recently in Singapore to begin an internship at a local bank. Jasmine Lim, a native Singaporean who speaks Mandarin at home, is a colleague in Max's department at the bank. This being Sunday, she has offered to take Max to visit Singapore Zoo.



Basic Conversation 24-2

(in front of the lion enclosure)

1. AMERICAN

Jasmine, nà shì bu shì lǎohǔ?

Jasmine, is that a tiger?

2. SINGAPOREAN

Bú shì lǎohǔ, shì shīzi. Shīzi zhèng shì Xīnjiāpōde xiàngzhēng.

It's not a tiger, it's a lion. And the lion is precisely the symbol of Singapore.

3. AMERICAN

Ò.

Oh.

(at the orangutan habitat)

Nǐ kàn nèizhī hóuzi! Wǒ cóng xiǎo jiù xǐhuan hóuzi.

Look at that monkey! I've liked monkeys since I was a kid.

4. SINGAPOREAN

Nà bú shì hóuzi, shì hóng xīngxing. Tāmende zhìshāng hěn gāo. Yíqián zài Mǎláixīyà hé Yīnní shífēn chángjiàn, kěxī yóuyú zìrán huánjīng búduānde bèi pòhuài, xiànzài hóng xīngxing dào le miànlín juézhōngde dìbù.

That's not a monkey; it's an orangutan. They're highly intelligent. They used to be very common in Malaysia and Indonesia. Unfortunately, due to the constant destruction of their natural environment, orangutans have now reached the point where they're facing extinction.

5. AMERICAN

Shízài hěn kěxī. Wǒmen yīnggāi bǎohù dàzìrán! Yǒu shíhou wǒ yě juéde bǎ zhèixiē kě'àide dòngwù guānzai dòngwùyuánde lóngzili yǒu yìdiǎn cánrěn.

That's really a shame. We ought to protect nature! Sometimes I also feel that locking these cute animals up in zoo cages is a little cruel.

6. SINGAPOREAN

Méi cuò! Búguò, dòngwùyuán rúguǒ guǎnlǐde hǎo, yě kéyǐ qǐdào xiāngdāng dàde jiàoyù zuòyong, bú shì ma?

That's right! However, if zoos are managed well, they can also have a pretty big educational function, wouldn't you say?

7. AMERICAN

Nà dào shì. Duìle, Xīnjiāpō Dòngwùyuán yǒu méiyǒu dà xióngmāo?

That's for sure. Oh, yeah, does Singapore Zoo have any giant pandas?

8. SINGAPOREAN

Mùqián hái méiyǒu. Dànshì wǒ zuótiān zài bàoshang kàndào, zuijìn Xīnjiāpō zhèngfǔ hé Zhōngguó zhèngfǔ qiānle yíxiàng xiédìng, Zhōngguó zhèngfǔ jiāng zèngsòng yíduì dà xióngmāo gěi Xīnjiāpō. Búguò, qìzhōng yìzhī hái méi duànnǎi, suóyǐ dàhòunián cái huì dào.

Currently we don't yet have any. But I read in the paper yesterday that the Singapore government recently signed an agreement with the Chinese government that the Chinese government would give a pair of giant pandas to Singapore. But one of them hasn't been weaned yet, so it won't arrive here until the year after next.



Build Up

1. American

lǎohǔ

Jasmine, nà shì bu shì lǎohǔ?

tiger [N] (M: zhī)

Jasmine, is that a tiger?

2. Singaporean

shīzi

xiàngzhēng

Bú shì lǎohǔ, shì shīzi. Shīzi zhèng shì Xīnjiāpōde xiàngzhēng.

lion [N] (M: zhī)

symbol, emblem [N]

It's not a tiger, it's a lion. And the lion is precisely the symbol of Singapore.

3. American

Ò.

hóuzi

Nǐ kàn nèizhī hóuzi! Wǒ cóng xiǎo jiù xǐhuan hóuzi.

Oh.

monkey [N] (M: zhī)

Look at that monkey! I've liked monkeys since I was a kid.

4. Singaporean

hóng xīngxīng

zhìshāng

tāmende zhìshāng hěn gāo

Yinní

chángjiàn

shífēn chángjiàn

kěxī (B)

yóuyú...

zìrán

huánjìng

zìrán huánjìng

pòhuài

bèi pòhuài

zìrán huánjìng búduànde bèi pòhuài

miànlín

juézhōng

miànlín juézhōng

dìbù

dàoole...dìbù

dàoole miànlín juézhōngde dìbù

Nà bú shì hóuzi, shì hóng xīngxīng. Tāmende zhìshāng hěn gāo. Yíqián zài Mǎláixīyà hé Yinní shífēn chángjiàn, kěxī yóuyú zìrán huánjìng

orangutan [PH] (M: zhī)

intelligence, IQ [N]

their intelligence is very high

Indonesia [PW]

be commonly seen, common [SV]

be extremely common

be a shame, be a pity, regrettable [SV]

because of..., due to... [PT]

be natural [SV]

environment, surroundings [N]

natural environment [PH]

destroy, damage [V]

be destroyed

natural environment is continuously destroyed

face, be faced with [V]

become extinct, die out [V]

face extinction

point, situation, condition [N]

reach the point that/where... [PT]

have reached the point where they're facing extinction

That's not a monkey; it's an orangutan. They're highly intelligent. They used to be very common in Malaysia and Indonesia. Unfortunately, due to

búduànde bèi pòhuài, xiànzài hóng xīngxing
dào le miànlín juézhōngde dìbù.

the constant destruction of their natural environment,
orangutans have now reached the point where they're
facing extinction.

5. American

bǎohù
dàzìrán
bǎohù dàzìrán
zhèixiē kě'ài de dòngwù
lóngzi
guānzai dòngwùyuán de lóngzili
cánrěn
yǒu yìdiǎn cánrěn

protect [V]
nature [N]
protect nature
these cute animals
cage [N]
lock up in zoo cages
be cruel [SV]
be a little cruel

Shízài hěn kěxī. Wǒmen yīnggāi bǎohù
dàzìrán! Yǒu shíhou wǒ yě juéde bǎ zhèixiē
kě'ài de dòngwù guānzai dòngwùyuán de
lóngzili yǒu yìdiǎn cánrěn.

That's really a shame. We ought to protect nature!
Sometimes I also feel that locking these cute
animals up in zoo cages is a little cruel.

6. Singaporean

guǎnlǐ
rúguǒ guǎnlǐ de hǎo
zuòyong
qǐdào...zuòyong
xiāngdāng
xiāngdāng dà
qǐdào xiāngdāng dà de jiàoyù zuòyong
bú shì ma

manage, administer, control [V]
if managed well
function, effect [N]
have a...function or effect [PT]
quite, rather, pretty [A]
pretty big
have a pretty big educational function
"isn't it?", "isn't that so?" [IE]

Méi cuò! Búguò, dòngwùyuán rúguǒ guǎnlǐ de
hǎo, yě kényī qǐdào xiāngdāng dà de jiàoyù
zuòyong, bú shì ma?

That's right! However, if zoos are managed
well, they can also have a pretty big educational
function, wouldn't you say?

7. American

nà dào shì
dà xióngmāo

Nà dào shì. Duìle, Xīnjiāpō Dòngwùyuán yǒu
méiyǒu dà xióngmāo?

that on the contrary is true
giant panda [PH] (M: zhī)
That's for sure. Oh, yeah, does Singapore Zoo
have any giant pandas?

8. Singaporean

mùqián
qiān
xiàng
xiédìng
qiānle yíxiàng xiédìng
jiāng
zèngsòng
duì
jiāng zèngsòng yíduì dà xióngmāo
duànnǎi
qízōng yìzhī hái méi duànnǎi
dàhòunián

at present, currently [TW]
sign [V]
(for documents, clauses, items) [M]
agreement [N]
signed an agreement
will, would (formal style) [AV]
present as a gift [V]
(used for pairs) [M]
will gift a pair of giant pandas
wean [VO]
of which one hasn't yet been weaned
year after next [TW]

Mùqián hái méiyǒu. Dànshi wǒ zuótiān zài
bàoshang kàndào, zuìjìn Xīnjiāpō zhèngfǔ hé
Zhōngguó zhèngfǔ qiānle yíxiàng xiédìng,
Zhōngguó zhèngfǔ jiāng zèngsòng yíduì dà
xióngmāo gěi Xīnjiāpō. Búguò, qízōng yìzhī hái
méi duànnǎi, suóyì dàhòunián cái huì dào.

Currently we don't yet have any. But I read in the
paper yesterday that the Singapore government
recently signed an agreement with the Chinese
government that the Chinese government would give
a pair of giant pandas to Singapore. But one of them
hasn't been weaned yet, so it won't arrive here until
the year after next.



Additional Vocabulary: The Animal Kingdom

1. èyú	alligator [N] (M: tiáo)	21. é	goose [N] (M: zhī)
2. xióng	bear [N] (M: zhī)	22. dà xīngxing	gorilla [PH] (M: zhī)
3. biānfú	bat [N] (M: zhī)	23. dàishù	kangaroo [N] (M: zhī)
4. mífēng	bee [N] (M: zhī)	24. bihǔ	lizard, gecko [N] (M: zhī)
5. húdié	butterfly [N] (M: zhī)	25. lóngxiā	lobster [N] (M: zhī)
6. luòtuo	camel [N] (M: zhī)	26. wénzi	mosquito [N] (M: zhī)
7. máomáochóng	caterpillar [N] (M: zhī)	27. lǎoshǔ	mouse, rat [N] (M: zhī)
8. hēi xīngxing	chimpanzee [PH] (M: zhī)	28. māotóuyīng	owl [N] (M: zhī)
9. zhāngláng	cockroach [N] (M: zhī)	29. qǐ'è	penguin [N] (M: zhī)
10. pángxiè	crab [N] (M: zhī)	30. tùzi	rabbit [N] (M: zhī)
11. wūyā	crow [N] (M: zhī)	31. xīniú	rhinoceros [N] (M: zhī)
12. lù	deer [N] (M: zhī)	32. shāyú	shark [N] (M: tiáo)
13. lúzi	donkey [N] (M: tóu, zhī)	33. wōniú	snail [N] (M: zhī)
14. gēzi	dove, pigeon [N] (M: zhī)	34. zhīzhū	spider [N] (M: zhī)
15. lǎoyīng	eagle, hawk [N] (M: zhī)	35. sōngshǔ	squirrel [N] (M: zhī)
16. dàxiàng	elephant [N] (M: zhī)	36. wūguī	turtle [N] (M: zhī)
17. cāngying	fly [N] (M: zhī)	37. jīngyú	whale [N] (M: tiáo)
18. húli	fox [N] (M: zhī)	38. láng	wolf [N] (M: zhī)
19. qīngwā	frog [N] (M: zhī)	39. qiūyǐn	earthworm [N] (M: tiáo)
20. chángjīnglù	giraffe [N] (M: zhī)	40. bānmǎ	zebra [N] (M: zhī)

Grammatical and Cultural Notes

2. In the sentence **Shīzi zhèng shi Xīnjiāpōde xiàngzhēng**, the adverb **zhèng** means “just exactly” or “precisely.” You’ve encountered **zhèng** before in 10-2, in the sentence **wǒ láide zhèng shi shíhou le** “I’ve come at just the right time,” and in 17-2 in the sentence **Hé Zhiwén zhèng zài kāihuì ne** “He Zhiwen is just in a meeting right now.”
- 4A. Singapore Zoo is famous for its free-ranging orangutan habitat. The zoo’s orangutan breeding program has successfully produced over 40 orangutans, a world record.
- 4B. **DÀOLE...DÌBÙ.** The pattern **dào...dìbù** means “arrive at the condition that...” or “reach the point where...” It often refers to a negative, undesirable state of affairs. The basic pattern is:

SUBJECT	DÀOLE	ATTRIBUTIVE PHRASE WITH -DE	DÌBÙ
Hóng xīngxing	dào	miànlín juézhōngde	dìbù.
“Orangutans have reached the point where they’re facing extinction.”			

Some more examples with the pattern **dào...dìbù**:

Shìqing dào wánquán bù kě shōushide dìbù.

“Matters have reached a point where they have gotten completely out of hand.”

Nǐmen liǎngge zěmmē huì nàodao zhèizhōng dìbù?

“How could the two of you get into such a mess?”

Fēizhōude dà xīngxing yě dào miànlín juézhōngde dìbù.

“Africa’s gorillas have also reached the point where they’re facing extinction.”

- 4C. **YÓUYÚ....** **Yóuyú** is a moveable adverb that means “because (of)...,” “due to...,” or “since....” The clause with **yóuyú** usually comes at the beginning of the sentence, where it introduces the reason for something; the result is then given in the last part of the sentence. The basic pattern is:

YÓUYÚ

Yóuyú

REASONzírán huánjìng
búduànde bèi pòhuài,**RESULT**xiànzài hóng xīngxíng
dàole miànlín juézhōngde dìbù.

“Due to the constant destruction of the natural environment, orangutans have now reached the point where they're facing extinction.”

Here is another example with **yóuyú**:

Yóuyú zhèjǐtiān tiānqì biànhuà tài dàle, hěn duō rén dōu zháoliángle.

“Because these last few days the change in the weather has been too great, many people have caught cold.”

Sometimes, the part of the sentence with the result can come first, followed by the verb **shi** and a clause with **yóuyú**.... Examples:

Tā nèici luòxuǎn shi yóuyú jīngjì bù jǐngqìde yuányīn.

“He lost the election that time due to the sluggish economy.”

Tā zhīsuóyì huì shībài shi yóuyú tā tài gùzhì, bú yuànyì jiēshòu biérénde yìjiàn.

“The reason why he will fail is due to his being too stubborn and unwilling to accept the opinions of others.”

4D. The stative verb **kěxǐ** “to be a pity” is pronounced by some Chinese speakers, including those from Taiwan, as **kěxí**.

6A. Qǐ(DÀO)...ZUÒYONG. The pattern **qǐdào...zuòyong** means “have a...function” or “have a...effect.” This pattern also occurs without the **-dào** as **qǐ...zuòyong**, which has the same meaning as **qǐdào...zuòyong**. The basic pattern is:

SUBJECT

Dòngwùyuán

Qǐ(DÀO)

kéyǐ qǐdào

ATTRIBUTIVE PHRASE WITH -DE

xiāngdāng dàde

ZUÒYONG

jiàoyù zuòyong.

“Zoos can have a pretty big educational function.”

More examples with the pattern **qǐ(dào)...zuòyong**:

Féizào yíding yào yǒu shuǐ cái néng qǐdào qīngjiéde zuòyong.

“Only when there is water can soap have a cleansing effect.”

Zhèxiē huàxuépǐn kāishǐ qǐ zuòyong le.

“These chemicals have started taking effect.”

Tāde huà qǐbuliǎo shémme zuòyong, nǐ fāngxīn.

“What he said won't have any effect, don't worry.”

6B. Some speakers frequently attach the idiomatic expression **bú shì ma** “isn't it?”, “isn't that so?” or “wouldn't you say?” to the ends of sentences. The overall effect is to draw the listener more closely into the conversation and to appeal to him or her for agreement.

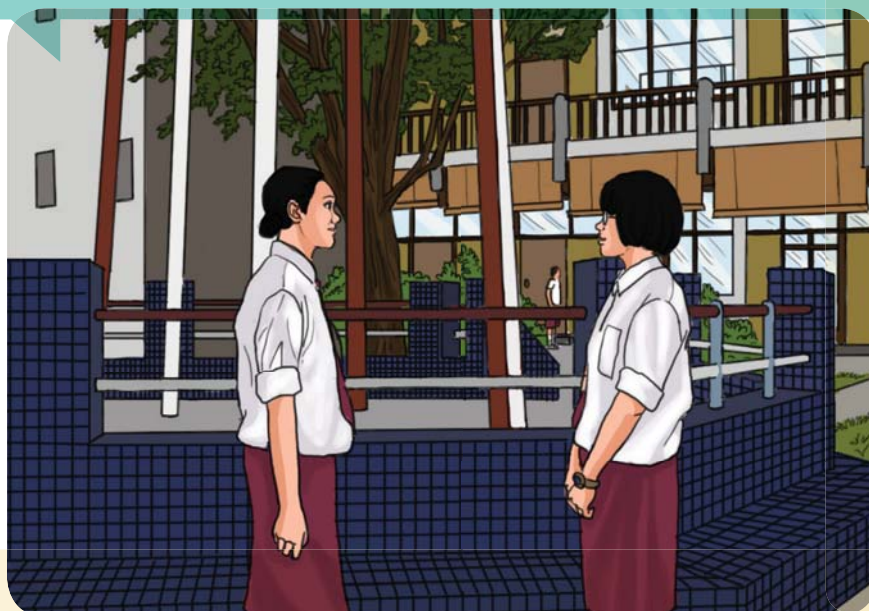
7A. Nà dào shì “That's for sure” (lit. “That on the contrary is so”). You learned **dào** “on the contrary” in 22-4, in the sentence **Wǒ dào méi shémme dà shì** “I, on the contrary, am pretty much all right.”

7B. Remember that **Duile**, ... “Oh, yes, that's right, ...” can serve to introduce into the discourse a new topic that one has just thought of (or that one conveniently “pretends” to have just thought of).

- 8A.** **Wǒ zuótiān zài bàoshang kàndào, ...** “Yesterday I read in the newspaper,” Note that Chinese speakers say read “on” the newspaper, while in English we say read “in” the newspaper.
- 8B.** Examine the following sentence, paying special attention to the auxiliary verb **jiāng**: **Zhōngguó zhèngfǔ jiāng zèngsòng yíduì dà xióngmāo gěi Xīnjiāpō** “The Chinese government will give a pair of giant pandas to Singapore.” The auxiliary verb **jiāng**, which means “will” or “would,” is frequently used in formal-style Chinese in place of colloquial **huì** or **yào**. It’s particularly common in newspaper-style Chinese. The reason the speaker here uses a formal term like **jiāng** is because she is repeating what she read in the newspaper.
- AV1–40.** **ANIMAL NAMES.** These names for various animals are listed in alphabetical order of the English translations. The measure for all of these animals is **zhī**, with the exception of alligators, sharks, whales, and worms, which use the measure **tiáo**. Those animal names that occur in the Basic Conversation for this or previous lessons have not been repeated here.



A Day at a Penang High School



Theresa Khoo is a Chinese-American high school student from California whose family emigrated to the U.S. from Penang, Malaysia. On a family vacation, she travels to Penang and spends a day with her Penangite cousin, Yayun Cheah, attending classes at Penang Chinese Girls' Private High School. In the morning, before class, the two young women talk in the school courtyard.



Basic Conversation 24-3

1. AMERICAN **Yāyún, wǒ hái shì bú tài míngbai, nǐmen zhèisuǒ xuéxiào dàodī shì gōnglǐde háishi dúlǐde?**
Yayun, I still don't really understand. So is this school of yours public or independent?
2. MALAYSIAN **Wǒmen shì yìsuǒ dúlǐ zhōngxué, zhǔyào shì yóu Huáshè zànzhùde.**
We're an independent middle school mainly supported by the Chinese community.
3. AMERICAN **Nǐmen měitiān dōu shàng xiē shémme kè? Dōu shì yòng nǎxiē yǔyán jiāode?**
What classes do you have every day? What languages are they taught in?
4. MALAYSIAN **Yǐ yǔwén kē wéi zhǔ, dāngrán yě yǒu shùxué, dìlǐ, lìshǐ děng. Wǒmendé méijièyǔ shì Huáwén.**
Mainly language and literature; of course, also math, geography, history and so forth. Our language of instruction is Chinese.
5. AMERICAN **Nǐmen xuéxiào zhǐ shōu nǚshēng, bù shōu nánshēng, nándào méiyǒu tóngxué juéde tài kūzào wúqù, quēshǎo biànhuà ma?**
Your school accepts only female students and doesn't accept male students; aren't there classmates of yours who feel that it's too dry and uninteresting and lacking in variety?
6. MALAYSIAN **Suīrán méiyǒu nánǚ tóngxiào yǒuqù, dànshi nǚxiào jìlǜ bǐjiào hǎo.**
Though it's not as much fun as coeducation would be, discipline at girls' schools is better.
7. AMERICAN **Bīngchéng zhèige dìfang tài yǒu yìsi le! Nǐ néng bu néng jiǎndānde jièshào yíxià tāde lìshǐ hé wénhuà tèsè?**
Penang is so interesting! Could you briefly introduce its history and distinctive cultural features?
8. MALAYSIAN **Bīngchéng yǐqián shì Yīngguode zhímíndì, jūmín dà duōshù shì cóng Zhōngguo nánfāng hé Yìndù láide yímín, yě yǒu dǎoshàngde Mǎlái yuánzhùmín, suǒyǐ**

Bīngchéngde wénhuà shì duōyuán, duōmínzúde.

Penang used to be a British colony; the great majority of the inhabitants are immigrants who came from southern China and India, and there are also the island's Malay native peoples, so Penang's culture is diverse and multi-ethnic.

**Build Up**

1. American

suǒ

nǐmen zhèisuǒ xuéxiào

dúlì

gōnglǐde háishi dúlide

Yāyún, wǒ hái shì bú tài míngbai, nǐmen**zhèisuǒ xuéxiào dàodì shì gōnglǐde háishi dúlide?**

(for schools, hospitals, houses) [M]

this school of yours

be independent [SV]

public one or independent one

Yayun, I still don't really understand. So is

this school of yours public or independent?

2. Malaysian

Huáshè

zànzhù

yóu Huáshè zànzhù

Wǒmen shì yìsuǒ dúli zhōngxué, zhǔyào shì**yóu Huáshè zànzhùde.**

Chinese community [N]

support, sponsor [V]

be supported by the Chinese community

We're an independent middle school mainly

supported by the Chinese community.

3. American

Nǐmen měitiān dōu shàng xiē shémmè kè?**Dōu shì yòng nǎxiē yǔyán jiāode?**

What classes do you have every day? What

languages are they taught in?

4. Malaysian

yǔwén

kē

yǔwén kē

yǐ yǔwén kē wéi zhǔ

shùxué

děng

shùxué, dìlǐ, lìshǐ děng

méijièyǔ

Huáwén

Yǐ yǔwén kē wéi zhǔ, dāngrán yě yǒu shùxué,**dìlǐ, lìshǐ děng. Wǒmende méijièyǔ shì Huáwén.**

language and literature [N]

school subject, branch of study [N]

take language and literature as the main thing

mainly language and literature

mathematics [N]

and so on, et cetera [BF]

math, geography, history and so on

language or medium of instruction [N]

Chinese language [N]

Mainly language and literature; of course, also

math, geography, history and so forth. Our language of

instruction is Chinese.

5. American

zhǐ shōu nǚshēng

bù shōu nánshēng

kūzào

wúqù

tài kūzào wúqù

quēshǎo

quēshǎo biànhuà

Nǐmen xuéxiào zhǐ shōu nǚshēng, bù shōu**nánshēng, nándào méiyǒu tóngxué juéde tài****kūzào wúqù, quēshǎo biànhuà ma?**

only accept female students

not accept male students

be dull, dry, uninteresting [SV]

be uninteresting, dull [SV]

be too dry and uninteresting

lack, be short of [V]

lack change, lack variety

Your school accepts only female students and

doesn't accept male students; aren't there class-

mates of yours who feel that it's too dry and uninter-

esting and lacking in variety?

<p>6. Malaysian</p> <p>nánnǚ tóngxiào méiyou nánnǚ tóngxiào yǒuqù nǚxiào jilǜ nǚxiào jilǜ bǐjiào hǎo</p> <p>Suīrán méiyou nánnǚ tóngxiào yǒuqù, dànshì nǚxiào jilǜ bǐjiào hǎo.</p>	<p>coeducation [PH] not as much fun as coeducation girls' school [N] discipline [N] discipline at girls' schools is better Though it's not as much fun as coeducation would be, discipline at girls' schools is better.</p>
<p>7. American</p> <p>Bīngchéng</p> <p>Bīngchéng zhèige dìfāng tài yǒu yìsi le! Nǐ néng bu néng jiǎndānde jièshào yíxià tāde lìshǐ hé wénhuà tèsè?</p>	<p>Penang [PW] Penang is so interesting! Could you briefly introduce its history and distinctive cultural features?</p>
<p>8. Malaysian</p> <p>duōshù dà duōshù yímín cóng Zhōngguó nánfāng lái de yímín Mǎlái yuánzhùmín dǎoshangde Mǎlái yuánzhùmín duōyuán duōmínzú</p> <p>Bīngchéng yǐqián shì Yīngguóde zhímíndì, jūmín dà duōshù shì cóng Zhōngguó nánfāng hé Yìndù lái de yímín, yě yǒu dǎoshangde Mǎlái yuánzhùmín, suǒyǐ Bīngchéngde wénhuà shì duōyuán, duōmínzúde.</p>	<p>majority [N] the great majority [PH] immigrant, migrant [N] immigrants who came from southern China Malay [AT] native people [N] the Malay native people on the island diverse [AT] multi-ethnic [AT] Penang used to be a British colony; the great majority of the inhabitants are immigrants who came from southern China and India, and there are also the island's Malay native peoples, so Penang's culture is diverse and multi-ethnic.</p>

Grammatical and Cultural Notes

1. **PENANG.** Penang or **Bīngchéng** is a large island off the northwest coast of Malaysia by the Strait of Malacca. It's also the name of a state in Malaysia that includes Penang Island as well as part of the Malaysian peninsula across from Penang Island. Penang was a British colony from 1786 until 1957, for most of that time forming—along with Malacca and Singapore—part of the so-called British Straits Settlements. Today Penang is a highly urbanized and industrialized manufacturing center that produces many laptops and other electronic goods. The approximately 1.5 million residents of Penang, known as Penangites, include a large concentration of Malaysians of Chinese ethnic origin, most of whom speak Hokkien and Mandarin as their native languages. The capital of Penang is George Town. Additional information about Penang is contained in the Basic Conversation for this lesson.
- 2A. **Huáshè** “Chinese community” is an abbreviation of **Huárén shèqū**, which has the same meaning.
- 2B. The coverb **yóu**, as was explained in 14-4: 1D, means “by” or “from.” Thus, **yóu Huáshè zànzhù** means “supported by the Chinese community.”
4. **DĚNG.** **Děng** is a bound form that means “and so on,” “and so forth,” or “et cetera.” It's always bound or attached to the end of a series of two or more nouns (or occasionally other word classes) when you wish to indicate that there exist more members of the same series but don't want to list them all. **Děng** is a more formal equivalent of colloquial **...shemmede** that you learned in 13-2, except that **...shemmede** can be used only to refer to things while **děng** can be used to stand for people or things. **Děng** is especially common in writing, but can be used in formal speech. Some speakers prefer the reduplicated form **děngděng**, which has the same meaning as **děng**. The pattern with **děng** is:

SERIES OF NOUNS

DĚNG

shùxué, dìlǐ, lìshǐ dēng

“math, geography, history and so forth”

Here are some more examples with **dēng** and **dēngdēng**:

Jīn, yín, tóng, tiě dēng.

“Gold, silver, copper, iron, and so forth.”

Bǐjìběn diànnǎo, yìngyòng ruǎnjiàn dēngdēng. “Laptop computers, software applications, etc.”

8. The phrase **dà duōshù** means “the great majority.” This is a synonym for **dà bùfēn**, which you learned in 20-4. **Dà duōshù** and **dà bùfēn** can either follow the noun in question, like this:

Jūmín dà duōshù shì cóng Zhōngguó nánfāng hé Yìndù láide yímín.

Jūmín dà bùfēn shì cóng Zhōngguó nánfāng hé Yìndù láide yímín.

“The majority of the inhabitants are immigrants who came from southern China and India.”

Or a **-de** can be attached to these phrases and then the phrases can precede the noun in question, like this:

Dà duōshùde jūmín shì cóng Zhōngguó nánfāng hé Yìndù láide yímín.

Dà bùfēnde jūmín shì cóng Zhōngguó nánfāng hé Yìndù láide yímín.

“The majority of the inhabitants are immigrants who came from southern China and India.”

- 8B. **PENANG HOKKIEN.** The Chinese inhabitants of Penang have a particular fondness for their native dialect, which they call “Penang Hokkien.” Unlike in mainland China, Taiwan, or Singapore, where the governments have vigorously promoted Mandarin, the Malaysian government has no particular policy toward Mandarin or the other Chinese dialects. Therefore, many highly educated Malaysian Chinese speak their native dialects, as well as Malay and English. Knowledge of Hokkien and other Chinese dialects is much higher among Malaysian Chinese than in Singapore. Different varieties of Hokkien, which is also known as Amoy, Southern Min, Taiwanese, Hokklo, and Fukienese, are spoken by over 50 million people in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Taiwan, and southern Fujian. Hokkien, which is the most divergent of all the major Chinese so-called “dialects,” is of special linguistic interest because it has preserved a number of features of Old Chi-

nese. The outstanding features of Hokkien include initial voiced consonants **b-**, **j-**, and **g-**; nasalized vowels such as **-ĩ**, **-ã**, and **-õ**; final **-p**, **-t**, **-k**, and glottal stop (the sound made between the two syllables of English “uh-uh”); and 7 to 8 tones, that have a basic form that occurs in isolation or at the end of a sentence or phrase, and a changed form that occurs immediately before any other tonal syllable. This can be compared to the situation in Mandarin where a Tone 3 syllable changes to Tone 2 before another Tone 3 syllable—except that in Hokkien, every tone changes to another tone before any other syllable! One other characteristic of Hokkien is that the majority of characters have two different pronunciations, the so-called “colloquial” and “literary” readings. Hokkien also has a set of dialect characters that, in conjunction with the regular Chinese characters, can be used to write the colloquial language. As for the degree of closeness between Hokkien and Mandarin, a native Mandarin speaker who had never before heard Hokkien would understand almost nothing. Hokkien and Mandarin differ most in pronunciation, less in



A Malaysian temple



vocabulary, and least in grammar. If you should ever decide to learn Hokkien, you'll find your knowledge of Mandarin to be most helpful. We could say that by learning as much Mandarin as you have by this point, you've already made about 25% of the necessary "investment" for learning Hokkien!

- 8C. HOKKIEN-INFLUENCED MANDARIN.** The native language of one of the speakers in this Basic Conversation, Ms. Cheah, is Hokkien, so even though she speaks Mandarin rather fluently, the Mandarin she speaks has been influenced by her native language, Hokkien. Below are examples of some of the more common pronunciation mistakes made by Hokkien speakers when speaking Mandarin (similar types of mistakes are made by many speakers from Singapore, Taiwan, and Fujian):

zh-	→	z- (so that zhū "pig" sounds like zū "to rent")
ch-	→	c- (so that chū "out" sounds like cū "be course")
sh-	→	s- (so that shān "mountain" sounds like sān "three")
f-	→	h- (so that zhèngfǔ "government" sounds like * zhènhǔ)
-ing	→	-in (so that jīngyú "whale" sounds like jīnyú "goldfish")
-eng	→	-en (so that děng yíxià "wait a sec" sounds like * dēn yíxià)
-eng	→	-ong (after b- p- m- f- or w- , so that fēng "wind" sounds like * hōng)

Also, the **-r** suffix is very rare, and the neutral tone occurs much less frequently than in Beijing Mandarin. Common grammar mistakes made by Hokkien speakers when speaking Mandarin include:

- (1) **Yǒu** "to have" is often used as an auxiliary before the main verb of a sentence to indicate completed action, replacing standard Mandarin **-le** and **-guo**. Example: ***Nǐ yǒu méiyóu qù?** –**Yǒu, wǒ yǒu qù** "Did you go? –Yes, I did."



A view of George Town from the Penang Strait

- (2) Use of **yòng** “use” before another verb nominalized with **-de**. For example, **yòng pǎode** “run,” **yòng cāide** “guess,” **yòng tīngde** “listen.”
- (3) Use of ***láiqù** for “go” instead of standard Mandarin **qù**. Example: ***Wǒ míngtiān yào láiqù Gǔjīn** “I’m going to Kuching tomorrow.”

Even though the above may sound very complicated and difficult to you, be assured that once you have the opportunity to live in a Hokkien-speaking area and hear this type of Mandarin for a few weeks, your brain will begin gradually making the necessary adjustments and you’ll understand more and more of the Mandarin that you hear spoken around you. Some familiarity with the “rules” of Hokkien-influenced Mandarin as described above will make your adjustment that much faster and easier.

Purchasing a Laptop in a Penang Mall



Rosy Huang, a Chinese-American woman living in Penang with her American husband, is interested in possibly purchasing a new laptop at a computer store in Gurney Plaza, a large shopping mall in Penang.



Basic Conversation 24-4

1. HUANG **Xiānsheng, nǐ hǎo! Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yítái zuì xīnxíngde bǐjībēn diànnǎo. Nimen dōu yǒu nǎxiē xíng hào de?**
Hello, sir! I'd like to buy the newest model of laptop computer. Which models do you have?
2. SALESMAN **Shì yào zuò shémmé yòng de?**
What's it going to be used for?
3. HUANG **Lǚxíngde shíhou yòng. Zhèitái yǒu nǎxiē gōngnéng?**
It'll be used for traveling. What features does this one have?
4. SALESMAN **Zhèitái diànnǎode duōméitǐ yúlè gōngnéng hěn qiángdà, hái kényì wúxiàn shàngwǎng.**
This computer's multimedia entertainment functions are very powerful, and it can connect to the Internet via Wi-Fi.
5. HUANG **Shì bu shì yǐjīng zhuāngle Zhōngyīngwénde ruǎnjiàn?**
Has Chinese and English language software already been installed?
6. SALESMAN **Duì, yǐjīng ān zhuāngle Yīngwénde cāozuò xìtǒng hé yìxiē yìngyòng ruǎnjiàn.**
Yes, an English language operating system and some applications have already been installed.
7. HUANG **Zhè shì zài nǎlǐ zhìzào de?**
Where was this manufactured?
8. SALESMAN **Zài Mǎláixīyà.**
In Malaysia.
9. HUANG **Mài duōshǎo qián?**
How much does it sell for?

10. SALESMAN **Liǎngqiān sānbǎi jiùshíjiǔ Línjǐ.**
2,399 Ringgit.
11. HUANG **Yǒu méiyǒu bǎoxiǔqī?**
Is there a warranty?
12. SALESMAN **Yǒu, bǎoxiǔqī shì yínián.**
Yes, the warranty is for one year.
13. HUANG **Kě bù kéyǐ fēnqī fùkuǎn?**
Can you pay by installments?
14. SALESMAN **Zànshí hái méiyǒu.**
Right now we don't have that yet.
15. HUANG **Hǎo, méi guānxi, wǒ jiù mǎi zhèitái.**
O.K., never mind. I'll just buy this one.



Build Up

1. Huang
xīnxíng
bǐjìběn diànnǎo
zuì xīnxíngde bǐjìběn diànnǎo
xíng hào
nǎxiē xíng hào de
Xiānsheng, nǐ hǎo! Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yítái zuì xīnxíngde bǐjìběn diànnǎo. Nǐmen dōu yǒu nǎxiē xíng hào de?
- new type of, new model of [AT]
notebook computer [PH]
newest model of notebook computer
model, model number [N]
which models
Hello, sir! I'd like to buy the newest model of laptop computer. Which models do you have?
2. Salesman
Shì yào zuò shémmé yòngde?
- What's it going to be used for?
3. Huang
gōngnéng
Lǚxíngde shíhòu yòng. Zhèitái yǒu nǎxiē gōngnéng?
- function, feature [N]
It'll be used for traveling. What features does this one have?
4. Salesman
duōméitǐ
yúlè
duōméitǐ yúlè gōngnéng
qiángdà
wúxiàn
shàngwǎng
wúxiàn shàngwǎng
Zhèitái diànnǎode duōméitǐ yúlè gōngnéng hěn qiángdà, hái kéyǐ wúxiàn shàngwǎng.
- multimedia [N]
entertainment, recreation [N]
multimedia entertainment function
be powerful [SV]
wireless, Wi-Fi [AT]
go online, get on the Internet [VO]
connect to the Internet via Wi-Fi
This computer's multimedia entertainment functions are very powerful, and it can connect to the Internet via Wi-Fi.
5. Huang
zhuāng
ruǎnjiàn (B)
yǐjīng zhuāngle ruǎnjiàn
Shì bu shì yǐjīng zhuāngle Zhōngyīngwén de ruǎnjiàn?
- install [V]
software [N]
software has already been installed
Has Chinese and English language software already been installed?

6. Salesman ānzhuāng cāozuò xìtǒng cāozuò xìtǒng yǐjīng ānzhuāngle cāozuò xìtǒng yīngyòng yīngyòng ruǎnjiàn Dù, yǐjīng ānzhuāngle Yīngwénde cāozuò xìtǒng hé yìxiē yīngyòng ruǎnjiàn.	install [V] operate, manipulate [V] system [N] operating system [PH] an operating system has already been installed apply [V] software application, app [PH] Yes, an English language operating system and some applications have already been installed.
7. Huang zhìzào Zhè shì zài nǎlǐ zhìzàode?	manufacture [V] Where was this manufactured?
8. Salesman Zài Mǎláixīyà.	In Malaysia.
9. Huang Mài duōshǎo qián?	How much does it sell for?
10. Salesman Línjǐ Liǎngqiān sānbǎi jiǔshíjiǔ Línjǐ.	Ringgit (Malaysian currency) [M] 2,399 Ringgit.
11. Huang bǎoxiūqī Yǒu méiyǒu bǎoxiūqī?	warranty period [N] Is there a warranty?
12. Salesman Yǒu, bǎoxiūqī shì yìnián.	Yes, the warranty is for one year.
13. Huang fùkuǎn fēnqī fùkuǎn Kě bù kěyǐ fēnqī fùkuǎn?	pay a sum of money, pay [VO] pay by installments [PH] Can you pay by installments?
14. Salesman zànshí (B) Zànshí hái méiyǒu.	temporarily, for the time being [A] Right now we don't have that yet.
15. Huang Hǎo, méi guānxi, wǒ jiù mǎi zhètái.	O.K., never mind. I'll just buy this one.



Supplementary Vocabulary

1. nìngyuàn dìnggòu Wǒ nìngyuàn zài wǎngshàng dìnggòu.	would rather, prefer to [AV] order [V] I'd rather order online.
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Grammatical and Cultural Notes

- Look at the first sentence in utterance 1: **Xiānsheng, nǐ hǎo!** “Hello, Sir!” In Beijing, this would not be considered sufficiently polite for a salesperson to say to a customer. Instead, a salesperson in Beijing would say **Xiānsheng, nín hǎo!** However, the polite pronoun **nín** isn't often used in Penang, Singapore, and Taiwan.



A food stall area in Penang

5. The word for “(computer) software” is **ruǎnjiàn** in mainland China and **ruǎntǐ** in Taiwan. In the rest of the Chinese-speaking world, both terms can be heard.
 6. Note **yingyòng** “apply” as in **yingyòng ruǎnjiàn** “software application” (lit. “applied software”). The word **yingyòng** can be placed before various nouns to indicate “applied,” for example, **yingyòng shùxué** “applied mathematics” or **yingyòng yǔyánxué** “applied linguistics.”
 7. Learn the verb **zhìzào** “manufacture.” The Chinese for the expression “made in China” is **Zhōngguó zhìzào**.
 8. Penang is an important center for the manufacture of laptop computers.
 10. The Ringgit or **Línjǐ** is the Malaysian unit of currency. It’s also sometimes called **Línjìtè**.
 11. **Bǎoxiūqī** is one expression for “warranty period.” Other ways to say this include **bǎoxiūqí**, **bǎogùqī/bǎogùqí** and **bǎozhèngqī/bǎozhèngqí**.
 14. The adverb **zànshí** “temporarily” or “for the time being” is pronounced **zhànshí** by some speakers.
- SV1.** The auxiliary verb **nìngyuàn** “would rather” or “prefer to” is pronounced as **níngyuàn** by some speakers. There is a common pattern **nìngyuàn...yě bù...** that means “would rather...than...” Examples:

Wǒ nìngyuàn sǐ yě bú gào su tāmen. “I’d rather die than tell them.”

Wǒ nìngyuàn zǒulù yě bú zuò nǐde chē! “I’d rather walk than go in your car!”

Tā nìngyuàn fángzi kōngzhe yě bú yuànyì bǎ fángzi zūgěi rén.

“She’d rather have the house be empty than to rent it out.”

Wǒ nìngyuàn bāndao xiāngxia qù, měitiān zuò huǒchē shàngbān, yě bú yào fù zhèmmè guide fángzū.

“I’d rather move to the countryside and take a train to work every day than to pay such expensive rent.”