

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



Yóuzhèngjú - Post Office

W: Wáng Mínglǐ

J: Jones

C: clerk

Frame 1

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| 1 J: Wángxiānsheng, yóujú lí zhèr yuǎn ma? | Mr. Wang, how far (is it) from here to the post office? |
| 2 W: Bùyuǎn. Zǒu shífēnzhōng jiù dào le. Rúguǒ nǐ yào jìxìn búbì qù yóujú. Qiánbiān lùkǒu(r) nàr jiù yǒu yíge yóutǒng. | Not far. It's ten minutes' walk. If you want to mail a letter, you don't have to go to the post office. There is a mailbox right at the next intersection. |
| 3 J: Wǒ děi qù yóujú. Yīnwèi wǒ yào jì bāoquǒ, mǎi yóupiào, hái yào jì yīfēng guàhào xìn. | I have to go to the post office because I want to mail parcels, buy stamps, and also mail one registered letter. |
| 4 W: Nàme nǐ děi kuàiyídiǎn qù le. Yóujú wǔdiǎn guānmén, xiànzài yǐjīng sìdiǎnbàn le. | Then you'd better hurry up. The post office closes at five o'clock and it's already four-thirty now. |
| 5 J: Wǒ lìkè jiù qù. (Taking up several parcels) | I'll go right away. |
| 6 W: Zhème duō bāoquǒ nǐ dōu yào náqu ma? Ràng wǒ bāng nǐ ná jǐjiàn ba. | Are you going to carry all these parcels? Let me help you carry a few. |
| 7 J: Xièxie. Mafan nǐ le. wǒmen zǒu ba. (Dashing out) | Thanks for your help. Let's go. |
| 8 W: Nǐ búbì pǎo, hái láidejí. | Don't run. There is enough time. |

Notes:

2 Yóutǒng, means, literally "post/mail (a thick, tube-shaped object)." Although yóutǒng, xìntǒng, yóuxiāng and xìnxīang all mean mailbox, yóutǒng/xìntǒng is generally a large container, and yóuxiāng/xìnxīang a small box.

6 Bāng, "to help" You already learned bāng as a verb and bāng-máng as a verb object in Lesson 18. In this Lesson bāngzhù is introduced both as a verb and as a noun. See the following examples:

As a Verb:

Qǐng nǐ bāng/bāngzhù wǒ. Please help me.

As a Verb Object:

Qǐng nǐ bāng wǒde máng. Please help me.

As a Noun:

Xièxie nǐ gěi wǒde bāngzhù. Thank you for the help you have given me.

8 Láidejǐ means "there is enough time (to do something)" and lái bujǐ means "there is not enough time (to do it)."

Frame 2

On the Way to the Post Office

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| 9 | J: Wáng Xiānsheng, zhèli yóudiyuàn měitiān lái jǐcì? Dōu shì shénme shíhou lái? | Mr. Wang, how many times does the postman come here every day? When does he come? |
| 10 | W: Yìtiān liǎngcì. Dào wǒmen zhèli chàbùduō shì shàngwǔ shídiǎn, xiàwǔ sāndiǎn. | Twice a day. About ten o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon. |
| 11 | J: Zài yóujú zǔ yóuzhèng-xīnxiāng de rén duō ma? | Do many people rent post office boxes? |
| 12 | W: hěn duō. | There are many. |

Frame 3

At the Post Office (1)

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| 13 | J: Qǐngwèn, jǐdao Měiguó gùde hángkōngxìn yóufèi duōshǎo qián? | Excuse me, how much postage is needed to send an airmail letter to America? |
| 14 | C: Bāmáo. | Eighty cents. |

Frame 3 (Continued)

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| 15 | J: Guàhào gēn píngxìn ne? | How about registered mail and ordinary mail? |
| 16 | C: Hángkōng guàhào shì yīkuài liù(máo). Píngxìn shì liùmáo. Búguò píngxìn zǒude hěn màn, yīnwei děi yòng chuán yùn. | Registered airmail is one dollar and sixty cents. Ordinary mail is sixty cents. But ordinary mail is very slow because it is shipped by boat. |
| 17 | J: Qǐng nǐ gěi wǒ sānzhāng hángkōng xīn yóupiào. Shízhāng yóujiǎn. Zhèfēng guàhào xīn shì wàng Sānfānshì jīde. Yígòng yào duōshǎo qián? | Please give me three airmail stamps and ten aerograms. And this registered letter is to San Francisco. How much is it altogether? |
| 18 | C: Nǐ yào huítiao búyào? | Do you want a receipt? |
| 19 | J: yào | Yes. |
| 20 | C: Yígòng shì sīkuài liǎng-(máo). | Altogether it's four dollars and twenty cents. |

16 Máo: The measure -máo "dime" was introduced in Lesson 7. In addition to máo, another word for "dime," also used today, is jiǎo. The following are some units of money:

yuán/kuài	dollar
máo/jiǎo	dime
fēn	cent

Frame 4

At the post office (2)

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| 21 | J: Zhè jǐge bāoguǒ dōu shì wàng Měiguó jīde, kéyì <u>bǎo jià</u> ma? | These parcels are all go to America; can I insure them? |
| 22 | C: Kéyì. Nǐ děi xiān bǎ <u>dānzi tián hǎo</u> . Ránhòu dào nàge chuāngkǒu(r) jì. Bié wàngle <u>tiánbào zhí duōshǎo qián</u> . | You can. You have to fill out the form first. Then go to that window. Don't forget to fill in the value. |

Frame 4 (Continued)

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| 23 | J: Zhè sānběn dōu shì xiē bù zhíqiándē jiù <u>jiàokēshū</u> . | These three are used textbooks, all worth little (monetarily). |
| 24 | C: <u>Jírán</u> bù zhí shénme qián, nà jiù búbì bǎojià le. Nàge bāoguǒ ne? | Since they are not worth much, you don't have to insure them. How about that parcel? |
| 25 | J: Shì yíge <u>huāpíng</u> , zhí yìbǎi duō kuài. | That is a vase. It is worth more than one hundred dollars. |
| 26 | C: Nàge děi bǎojià, <u>bīngqiě</u> hái děi tián yìzhang <u>bàoquān biǎo</u> . Bāoguǒ dào le Měiguó yǐhòu, shǒu bāoguǒ de rén yěxǔ děi <u>fùshuì</u> . <u>Hǎiquān</u> yěxǔ huì <u>jiǎnchá</u> . | You have to insure it and also have to fill out a customs declaration form. After the parcels arrive in America, the person who receives the parcels may have to pay the tax. The custom house probably will inspect it. |
| 27 | J: Máfan nǐ kànkàn zhèfēng hángkōng xìn chāozhòng ma? | Please check to see if this airmail letter is overweight. |
| 28 | C: (Putting letter on scale) Chāozhòngle. Nǐ yòngde <u>xīnfēng xīnzhǐ</u> dōu tài hòu, yàoshì yòng báode hángkōng xīnfēng xīnzhǐ jiù búhuì chāozhòng le. | It's overweight. The envelope and letter paper are too thick; if you use thin envelope and letter paper, then it won't be overweight. |
| 29 | J: Wǒ děi duō fù duōshǎo yóufèi ne? | How much extra do I have to pay? |
| 30 | C: Duō fù qí máo. | Seventy cents more. |

21 Bǎojià, means, literally, "insure value" and bǎoxiǎn means, literally, "insure against peril/risk." Of these two terms, bǎoxiǎn is more versatile.

24 Jírán, "since," "now that": Although jírán, "since," is translated as an adverb it can only be used to signify "since that's the case," "since it is so."