

COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



Tán Lǎoshī (Instructor Tan)

Some American students studying in Beijing visit the home of one of their Chinese instructors. They discuss study experiences and Chinese culture.

Frame 1

Xuésheng dōu xǐhuan Tán Lǎoshī.
Tán Lǎoshī búdàn báitiān cháng
gēn xuésheng yìqǐ yánjiū, wǎn-
shàng yě cháng qǐng xuésheng
dào tā jiā qù, gěi tāmen jiē-
shào Zhōngguó wénhuà.

All the students like Instruc-
tor Tan. Instructor Tan not
only often studies with stu-
dents in the daytime, but also
invites the students to his
home in the evening and intro-
duces them to Chinese culture.

Notes:

Búdàn ... yě, "not only ... but also." This is a new pattern used to connect two related ideas.

Tā búdàn yǒu qìchē, yě
yǒu fēijī.

He has not only cars, but also
airplanes.

Tā búdàn huì xiě jiǎntǐzì,
yě huì xiě fántǐzì.

He not only knows how to write
simplified characters, but
also to write full-form
characters.

Frame 2

Yī tiān wǎnshàng, Tán Lǎoshī
gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà. Tā shuō,
"Nǐ xiànzài zuò shénme ne? Xiě
xìn ne ma?" Wǒ shuō, "Méi xiě
xìn, wǒ kàn Běijīng Zhōubào
ne."

One evening, Instructor Tan
telephoned me. He said, "What
are you doing now? Are you
writing letters?" I said, "No,
I'm not writing letters. I'm
reading the Beijing Review."

Notes:

The particle ne indicates the present progressive situation -ing both in the questions and answers.

Nǐ xiànzài zuò shénme ne?

What are you doing now?

Xiě xìn ne ma?

Are you writing letters?

Wǒ kàn Běijīng Zhōubào ne.

I'm reading the Beijing Review.

Frame 3

Tā shuō, "Zuótiān nǐ shuō
zhōumò yùbèi xiě jǐfēng xìn,
suǒyǐ wǒ xiǎng nǐ yěxǔ zhèng-
zài xiězhe xìn ne. Nǐ zhīdao
wǒmen zhùde dìfāng zài nǎr.
Rúguǒ nǐ méishì, qǐng lái wǒ
jiā tántan."

He said, "Yesterday you said
that on the weekend you were
planning to write some letters,
so I thought that perhaps you
were in the middle of writing
them. You know where we live.
If you are not doing anything,
come over for a chat."

Notes:

The adverbs zhèngzài, zhèng or zài, "in the midst of/middle of," the verbal suffix zhe "-ing," and the particle ne "-ing," are the major elements in the present progressive situation. There are many ways of saying the same sentence, such as:

- Nǐ yěxǔ zhèngzài xiězhe xìn ne.
- (1) Nǐ yěxǔ zhèng xiězhe xìn ne.
 - (2) Nǐ yěxǔ zài xiězhe xìn ne.
 - (3) Nǐ yěxǔ zhèngzài xiěxìn ne.
 - (4) Nǐ yěxǔ zhèng xiěxìn ne.
 - (5) Nǐ yěxǔ zài xiěxìn ne.
 - (6) Nǐ yěxǔ zhèngzài xiěxìn.
 - (7) Nǐ yěxǔ zài xiěxìn.

Frame 4

Zhèi shì wǒ dìyí cì dào Tán
Lǎoshī jiā qū. Wǒ kànjiàn
mén shì kāizhede, wǒ jiù
jìngquē. Tāmen kètīnglǐ de
shūjiàzishang fàngzhe hěnduō
shū. Qiángshang guàzhe
Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó de
guóqí.

This was my first visit to In-
structor Tan's home. Seeing
that the door was open, I went
in. I saw that there were
many books on the shelves,
and the national flag of the
People's Republic of China
was hanging on the wall.

Notes:

The particle -zhe, "-ing," is used as a verbal suffix indicating existence. In this frame, there are three examples:

- (1) Tā kànjiàn mén shì
kāizhede. He saw that the door was open.
- (2) Shūjiàzishang fàngzhe
hěnduō shū. There are many books on the
shelves.
- (3) Qiángshang guàzhe de
shì guóqí. Hanging on the wall is the
national flag.

Frame 5

Tán Lǎoshī zhǐzhe guóqí zài gēn kèrén jiǎnghuà ne. Nǎxiē kèrén, yǒude zuòzhe tīng, yǒude zhànzhe tīng.	Instructor Tan, pointing at the flag, was lecturing to the guests. Some of the guests were sitting, listening, while others were standing.
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Notes:

The particle -zhe, "-ing," is used as a verbal suffix with an adverbial function. The adverbial function shows the manner in which the action is carried out, that is, showing the body position, zuòzhe, "sitting," while they listened to the lecture.

yǒude zuòzhe tīng Some listened while sitting down

yǒude zhànzhe tīng Some were listening standing up.

Additionally, the adverbial function can apply to Verb-Object compounds as well. Examples:

Zhāng Xiānsheng kǎnzhe bàochǎn.
(Kàn bào is a VO compound.) Mr. Zhang eats while reading the newspaper.

Lǐ Tóngzhì hēzhe jiǔ xiě zì.
(Hē jiù is a VO compound.) Comrade LI writes characters while drinking.

Frame 6

Tán Lǎoshī kànjiàn wǒ lái, jiù gěi wǒmen jièshào. Jièshào wánle, wǒ yào jiànjiàn tā àirén; tā shuō tā àirén zhèngzài lǐtou zuò diǎnxīn, jiù yào chūlái.	Seeing that I had come, Instructor Tan introduced us. Having been introduced, I wanted to meet his spouse; he said his spouse was inside making refreshments and that she would be right out.
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Notes:

Cultural note. Since this was his first visit to his teacher's house, it was common courtesy to want to meet Tan's wife.

Frame 7

<p>Nàtiān wǎnshàngde kèrén duōbàn shì Měiguó xuésheng. Tāmen xuéxide zhuānyè dōu shì Zhōngwén. Tāmen dōu yǒu juéxīn yào xuéhǎo Zhōngwén. Nàtiān wǎnshàng wǒmen bùdàn jiāoliúle xuéxī jīngyàn, yě liáojiěle bùshǎo Zhōngguó wénhuà.</p>	<p>That evening, most of the guests were American students. Their specialized field of study was Chinese. All of them were resolved to learn Chinese well. That evening we not only exchanged learning experiences, but also became aware of quite a bit about Chinese culture.</p>
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Notes:

Duōbàn(r), "the greater part, majority, most of, probably, most likely, mainly," has several usages:

(1) As a moveable adverb:

Tā duōbàn(r) bùlái. Most likely he will not come.

Duōbàn(r) tā bùlái. Most likely he will not come.

Wǒ kàn, duōbàn(r) nèige rén shì Déguó rén. In my opinion, that person is most likely a German.

Wǒ kàn, nèige rén duōbàn(r) shì Déguó rén. In my opinion, that person is most likely a German.

(2) As a noun (numbers):

Nèrde rén, duōbàn(r) shì Měiguó rén. The majority of those people over there are Americans.

Zhèrde xuésheng, duōbàn(r) shì nánde. Of the students here, the majority are male.