

# COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



## Lái kāihuì - Coming to a Meeting

### Frame 1

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|---|---|
| 1 B: Nǐ shuō nǐ fùmǔ yào cóng<br>Guǎngzhōu lái kàn nǐ. Tāmen<br>láile ma?                                     | You said your parents were<br>coming from Guǎngzhōu to see<br>you. Have they come?  |
| 2 H: Wǒ fùqīn láile. Wǒ mǔqīn<br>méilái. Wǒ fùqīn shì lái<br>Běijīng kāihuì de, bù zhǐshì<br>láile kàn wǒ de. | My father came. My mother<br>didn't come. My father came<br>to Beijing to attend a meet-<br>ing; he didn't just come to<br>see me.                                    |
| 3 B: Nǐ méidào fēijīchǎng qù<br>jiē tā ma?  | Didn't you go to the airport<br>to meet and pick him up?  |
| 4 H: Nèitiān wǒ yǒushì. Shì<br>wǒ àiren qù jiē tā de. Lái<br>kāihuìde hái yǒu wǒ fùqīnde<br>jīwèi péngyou.    | On that day I was busy. It<br>was my wife who went to meet<br>him. (Among) those who came<br>to attend the meeting, there<br>were also a few friends of my<br>father. |

### Notes:

1 Completed action with le. When the particle le follows verbs of action, it indicates a completion of the action.

Tā láile.  
Tā qùle.

He has come. OR He came.  
He has gone. OR He went.

Sometimes an adverb makes the completed action more evident (See exchange #10).

Tā yǐjīng láile.  
Tā yǐjīng qùle.

He has already come.  
He has already gone.

Pattern for asking questions in completed action. Listed below are the various ways of asking questions about actions already completed.

Tā láile ma? (simple ma)  
Tā láile méilái?  
(choice-type)  
Tā láile méiyǒu?  
(choice-type)  
Tā méilái ma?  
(negative question)

Did/Has he come?  
Did/Has he come?  
Did/Has he come?  
Didn't/Hasn't he come?

## Frame 2

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|---|---|---|
| 5 | B: Nǐmen nàitiān qǐng tāmen chīfànle méiyǒu?  | Did you invite them to eat that day?  |
| 6 | H: Méiyǒu. Nàitiān wǒ gēn wǒ àiren dōu hěn máng, suǒyǐ méiqǐng tāmen. Búguò, dìèr-tiān wǒmen qǐng tāmen le. | No, we didn't. On that day, my wife and I were very busy; therefore, we didn't invite them. However, the next day we did invite them. |
| 7 | B: Nǐ fùqin zhùde nàijiā fàndiàn zài nǎitiáo jiē? Wǒ xiǎng qù kànkàn tā.                                    | On what street is the hotel where your father is staying? I want to go to see him.  |
| 8 | H: Búbì kèqǐ. Hòutiān nǐ gēn wǒmen yíkuàr qù Běihǎi Gōngyuán chī wǔfàn, hǎo ma?                             | [You] need not be polite. Go with us to the North Sea Park the day after tomorrow, and we'll have lunch together, okay?               |

## Notes:

5 Qǐng introduces a sentence. Some verbs in Chinese introduce sentences the same way that other verbs precede objects. Qǐng, "please, to request, invite," is one of these important verbs.

Qǐng tāmen dào Shànghǎi lái.	Invite them to come to Shanghai.
Qǐng tā mǎi zhège yǐzi.	Request/ask him to buy this chair.

More completed action questions. As with the directional verbs lái, "to come," and qù, "to go," questions can be phrased in four different ways when using other verbs.

Nǐmen nàitiān qǐng tāmen chīfàn le méiyǒu?	On that day did you invite them to eat?
Nǐmen nàitiān qǐng tāmen chīfàn le ma?	"
Nǐmen nàitiān qǐng tāmen chīfàn le méiqǐng?	"
Nǐmen nàitiān méiqǐng tāmen chīfàn ma?	On that day, didn't you invite them to eat?

The first example is the most common.

6 Another polite refusal. Another way of refusing an invitation or request for yourself or others is by saying, Wǒmen dōu hěn máng, "We're all busy."

2 Negation of completed action with méi. When the negative particle méi (or méiyou) is prefixed to the verb, it negates the action of the verb.

Tā méilái.

He didn't/hasn't come.

Tā méiqù.

He didn't go./He hasn't gone.

Subordinate sentence introduced by bùzhǐ shì. The sentence Wǒ fùqin shì lái kǎihuì de, bùzhǐ shì lái kàn wǒ de shows how to link a secondary reason to the primary reason in a sentence stating an action.

Tā shì lái mǎi shū de,  
bùzhǐ shì lái jiē tā de  
nǚpéngyou de.

He came to buy a book, not  
just to meet and pick up his  
girl friend.

Wǒ mǔqin shì dào chéng-  
wàitōu qù mǎi cài de,  
bùzhǐ shì qù jiē wǒ  
fùqin de.

My mother went out of town to  
buy vegetables/food; she  
didn't just go to meet my  
father.

3 Negative méi- with CV. It is common practice to use the negative méi- (as previously with the negative bù-) as a prefix to CVs in questions and negative statements.

Tā méidào Shànghǎi qù ma? Didn't he go to Shanghai?

Tāmen méigěi wǒ dài shū lái. They didn't bring me the books.

4 A polite refusal. To avoid participating in some activity, it is an acceptable practice to say Wǒ yǒushì, "I am busy."

Shì...de as the focus construction. The shì...de pattern in Shì wǒ àiren qù jiē tā de, "It was my wife who went to meet him," is used in this instance to focus attention on "who" is doing something.

(place) Wǒ shì cóng Táiwān lái de. I came from Táiwān.

(conveyance) Tā shì zuò huǒchē qù de. He went by train.

(purpose) Tā shì lái shàngxué de ma? Did he come to attend school?

Where and when circumstances were discussed in Lesson 6, Note 4.

Introduce alternate choice(s). After stating a position, an alternate position or course can be given after saying búguò, "but, however."

Wǒ yǐjīng chīfàn le, búguò I have already eaten, but I  
wǒ gēn nǐ yìkuàir dào shall go together with you  
fānguǎnr qù. to the restaurant.

7 Clause of a specific nature. A clause of a specific nature is a clause in which the noun is specified.

Nǐ fùqīn zhù de nàijiā On what street is the hotel  
fāndiàn zài nàitiáo where your father is  
jiē? staying?

8 Time words. With the timewords in this lesson, it is possible to go three days on either side of jīntiān, "today," as shown below:

dàhòutiān	two days after tomorrow
hòutiān	day after tomorrow
míngtiān	tomorrow
jīntiān	today
zuótiān	yesterday
qiántiān	day before yesterday
dàqiántiān	two days before yesterday

It is possible to break jīntiān, "today," down into parts also.

zǎoshang morning	shàngwǔ forenoon
zhōngwǔ noon	zhōngwǔ noon
wǎnshang night/evening	xiàwǔ afternoon

Mealtimes. The three meals in Chinese are zǎofàn, "breakfast," wǔfàn/zhōngfàn, "lunch," and wǎnfàn, "dinner."

## Frame 3

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| 9  | B: Hǎo. Nǐ yào dài tāmen dào diànlì zhǎnlǎnhuì qù kànkān ma? | Fine. Are you going to take them to see the electrical equipment exhibition? |
| 10 | H: Zhǎnlǎnhuì yǐjīng kāishǐle ma?                            | Has the exhibition already started?  |
| 11 | B: Hái méikāishǐ ne. Bào-shang shuō xià xīngqīwǔ kāishǐ.     | Not yet. The paper says that it will start next Friday.                      |
| 12 | H: Nàitiān nǐ yào búyào gēn wǒmen yìkuàir qù kànkān.         | On that day do you want to go with us to look around?                        |

Notes:

9 Use of CV dài. The CV dài, "to take along, to guide," is used to convey the meaning of guiding someone or of bringing something.

Wǒ dài nǐ dào nàr qù.

I'll take you there.

Wǒ dài nèixiē dōngxi dào  
nǐ jiāli qù.

I'll take those things to your  
house.

11 Action still not completed. The pattern hái méi-... ne is used to indicate that the action has not yet been completed.

hái méikàn ne

still hasn't been looked at/  
read yet.

More time words. By using xià, "next," and shàng, "last," in combination with xīngqī, "week," or one of the weekdays listed below, it is possible to indicate whether an action happened this week, last week or will happen next week.

	<u>weekday</u>	<u>Next week</u>	<u>Last week</u>
Sunday	xīngqīrì	xià xīngqīrì	shàng xīngqīrì
Monday	xīngqīyī	xià xīngqīyī	shàng xīngqīyī
Tuesday	xīngqīèr	xià xīngqīèr	shàng xīngqīèr
Wednesday	xīngqīsān	xià xīngqīsān	shàng xīngqīsān
Thursday	xīngqīsì	xià xīngqīsì	shàng xīngqīsì
Friday	xīngqīwǔ	xià xīngqīwǔ	shàng xīngqīwǔ
Saturday	xīngqīliù	xià xīngqīliù	shàng xīngqīliù

12 Use of CV gēn. The CV gēn has been used previously as the conjunction "and," but here it is used alone as a CV to mean "with," or in a pattern gēn...yíkuàir, "together with."

Qǐng nǐ gēn tāmen qù  
Běijīng.

Please go with them to Beijing.

Wǒ gēn tāmen yíkuàir qù  
chīfàn.

I am going together with them  
to eat.

## Frame 4

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|----|---|--|
| 13 | B: Duìbuqǐ, xià xīngqīwǔ wǒ yǒu jǐjiàn bìděi bàn de shì-qing bùnéng qù. Wǒmen hòu-tiān jiàn ba. | I'm sorry; next Friday I have a few things that I must do, so I can't go. We'll meet the day after tomorrow, okay? |
| 14 | H: Hǎo, hòutiān jiàn.   | O.K. See you the day after tomorrow.   |

Notes:

13 Comparison of bǐděi, "must," and búbì, "no need to." Bì is a component of both these words, and by itself it carries the meaning of "certainly, surely, necessarily." Děi standing alone means "must, have to, need to," and is frequently used alone. Bǐděi appears redundant, but at the same time is an emphatic word implying "It is definitely necessary to...." Búbì is the opposite and means "It is not necessary to ...." The phrase above, bǐděi bànde shìqíng, could also appear as děi bànde shìqíng, but it would be less emphatic.

See you... When jiàn, "to see," follows a future time word, it is used to set up a later meeting.

Xiàwǔ jiàn

See you in the afternoon.

Míngtiān jiàn, "See you tomorrow," is probably the most frequent.

Comparison between kàn and kànjiàn. The difference between kàn and kànjiàn is that while kàn means "to look, to look at, to read," kànjiàn means "to see, to perceive."