
我的邻居小夏

My Neighbor Little Xia

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我第一次见到我邻居小夏是在一个很热的夏天，那时候虽然楼道有很多人，但是我还是注意到了他，因为他又高又瘦。

那天是周末，朋友们要来我家吃饭，所以我也请他一起到我家吃饭。那时小夏刚搬到这里，他很高兴我请他吃饭。他说这是他第一次在中国朋友家吃饭。我们一边吃一边聊天儿。他告诉我，他是美国人。他在大学就开始学习中文了，但是他觉得他的中文还不够好，所以就来中国留学了。

他很喜欢住在这儿。他觉得这儿很安静，附近有很多树，经常能听到鸟叫的声音。住在这儿除了方便以外，还可以认识很多中国朋友，对提高中文有很大的帮助。他也说了他的爱好，他喜欢爬山，所以他选择了来桂林。

我们吃饭吃了两个多小时，把菜都吃完了，吃得很饱，也很开心。从那天以后，小夏是我的邻居也是我的朋友，我们经常一起玩，周末只要有时间就一起去爬山。

小夏是一个又聪明又努力的学生，来中国留学了两年，变化很大，中文越来越好了，说话跟中国人一样，一见面就问，你吃了吗？

最近他在美国找到了一份很适合他的工作，他很快会离开桂林。但是没关系，我想我们会一直是朋友。

生词 Vocabulary

Proper Nouns

小夏	Xiǎoxià	Little Xia, a character's name
桂林	Guīlín	a picturesque city in Guangxi, China

Nouns

另据	língjū	neighbor
楼	lóu	building
附近	fùjìn	nearby
爱好	àihào	hobby

Verbs

注意	zhùyì	to take notice of
搬	bān	to move; to carry
聊天儿	liáotiānr	to chat
留学	liúxué	to study abroad
提高	tígāo	to improve
变化	biànhuà	to change

Adjectives

瘦	shòu	thin
安静	ānjìng	quiet
聪明	cōngmíng	clever
努力	nǔlì	hard-working

Adverbs

经常	jīngcháng	often
最近	zuìjìn	recently
一直	yīzhí	all along; continuously
又	yòu	and; again; repeatedly
越。。。越。。。yuè... yuè...		more and more

语法点 Grammar Points

1. 除了 (chúle)... 以外 (yǐ wài), 还 (hái)...

conj. in addition to, besides

除了 (chúle)... 以外 (yǐ wài), 还 (hái) is a common Chinese grammar construction used to indicate that there is something else besides what was first mentioned. It functions similarly to the English conjunctions “in addition to,” “besides,” and “as well as.”

除了 (chúle) ... 以外 (yǐ wài), 还 (hái) typically follow the below pattern:

除了 (chúle) + Background Phrase + 以外 (yǐ wài), + 还 (hái) Additional Phrase

Note that the subject can be placed either at the beginning of the sentence or right before 还 (hái).

Let's look at an example:

住在这儿除了很方便以外, 还可以认识很多中国朋友。

Zhù zài zhèr chúle hěn fāngbiàn yǐwài, hái kěyǐ rènshi hěnduō Zhōngguó péngyou.

In addition to being really convenient, living here also allows you to meet a lot of Chinese friends.

In the Chinese sentence, the subject, “living here,” (住在这儿; zhù zài zhèr) is introduced before the first part of the grammar construction (除了; chúle). The background phrase, situated between 除了 (chúle) and 以外 (yǐ wài) indicates that the subject is not only “really convenient” (很方便; hěn

fāngbiàn) and causes the reader to anticipate the mention of some other positive aspect of living in China later in the sentence.

The additional phrase, “also allows you to meet a lot of Chinese friends” (可以认识很多中国朋友; kěyǐ rènshi hěnduō Zhōngguó péngyou) positioned after 还 (hái) suggests that where the speaker lives is also a good place to meet Chinese friends.

Here, the speaker uses the 除了 (chúle)... 以外 (yǐ wài) 还 (hái) grammar structure to convey that there is not only one, but two good things about the place he/she lives.

还 hái is also interchangeable with 也 (yě) when used within this grammar structure, as can be seen in the following pair of sentences:

除了桂林米粉以外, 我还喜欢吃北京烤鸭。

Chúle guìlín mǐfěn yǐwài, wǒ hái yě xǐhuan chī Běijīng kǎoyā.

Besides Guilin rice noodles, I also like eating Peking duck.

除了桂林米粉以外, 我也喜欢吃北京烤鸭。

Chúle Guìlín mǐfěn yǐwài, wǒ yě xǐhuan chī Běijīng kǎoyā.

Besides Guilin rice noodles, I also like eating Peking duck.

In both example sentences above, the speaker uses the 除了 (chúle)... 以外 (yǐwài), 还 (hái) / 也 (yě) pattern to convey that in addition to eating Guilin rice noodles, he/she is also a fan of Peking duck.

2. 只要 (zhǐ yào) ... 就 (jiù)

conj. as long as ... then

只要 (zhǐ yào) ... 就 (jiù) is Chinese grammar pattern that means “as long as... then.” This construction is frequently used to express the idea that as long as the necessary condition occurs, the result of the condition will also occur.

When used in a sentence, it typically follows this pattern:

只要 (zhǐ yào) + Condition + 就 (jiù) + Result

只要你努力，就可以提高你的中文。

Zhǐyào nǐ nǔlì, jiù kěyǐ tígāo nǐ de Zhōngwén.

As long as you work hard, you'll be able to improve your Chinese.

In this sentence, “as long as” (只要; zhǐ yào), is followed by the necessary condition “you work hard” (你努力; nǐ nǔlì). After “the (就; jiù) comes the result, “you’ll be able to improve your Chinese” (可以提高你的中文; kěyǐ tígāo nǐ de zhōngwén). Here, the speaker implies that working hard is an effective and essential way to improve your Chinese.

Let's look at another example:

我们经常一起玩，周末只要有时间就一起去爬山。

Wǒmen jīngcháng yīqǐ wán, zhōumò zhǐyào yǒu shíjiān jiù yīqǐ qù páshān.

We hang out often and go hiking together whenever we have time.

In this sentence, the speaker uses 只要 (zhǐ yào) ... 就 (jiù) to state that as long as we have the time, we always go hiking together.

3. 一边 (yībiān) ... 一边 (yībiān)

conj. at the same time, occurring simultaneously

一边 (yībiān) ... 一边 (yībiān) is a Chinese grammatical construction used to demonstrate that two active, ongoing actions are happening at the same time.

When used in a sentence, it typically follows this pattern:

Subject + 一边 (yībiān) + Verb Phrase 1 + 一边 (yībiān) + Verb Phrase 2

Note that the subject of both of the verb phrases must be consistent when using this construction.

Let's look at an example:

我们一边吃一边聊天儿。

Wǒmen yībiān chī yībiān liáotiānr.

We chatted while we ate.

In this sentence, the subject, “we” (我们; wǒ men), clarifies who is doing the actions represented by the verbs that follow. The subject is followed by two verb phrases, “ate” (吃; chī) and “chatted” (聊天儿; liáotiānr), positioned within the grammatical construction 一边.....一边. This conveys that the speaker and his/her companions were eating and chatting at the same time.

Note that the order of the two actions may differ between the English and Chinese translations although the meaning remains the same. This is because in English, the second verb listed after “while” in a statement usually provides context for the first verb, whereas this is not necessarily the case in Chinese.

Let's look at another example:

爷爷喜欢一边喝红茶一边看报纸。

Yéye xǐhuan yībiān hē hóngchá yībiān kàn bàozhǐ.

Grandpa likes drinking black tea while he reads the newspaper.

In this sentence, the speaker uses the 一边 (yībiān) ... 一边 (yībiān) grammar pattern to emphasize that the subject, Grandpa, likes drinking black tea at the same time as he reads the newspaper.

Sometimes in spoken Chinese, speakers shorten 一边 (yībiān)... 一边 (yībiān)... to just 边 (biān)... 边 (biān)... to give the expression a more conversational tone. For example:

学生们不能边上课边玩手机。

Xuéshēngmen bù néng biān shàngkè biān wán shǒujī.

Students are not allowed to play on their phones while in class.

测试 Quiz

1. 小夏是什么样的人？
 - a. 搬到中国以后
 - b. 读大学的时候
 - c. 读中学的时候
 - d. 读小学的时候

2. 小夏为什么喜欢住在这儿？
 - a. 这儿很热闹
 - b. 这儿离学校很近
 - c. 在这儿可以认识很多中国朋友
 - d. 住这儿的外国朋友很多

3. 只要有时间，我跟小夏就会一起做什么？
 - a. 吃饭
 - b. 看电影
 - c. 打篮球
 - d. 爬山

4. 小夏为什么要回美国？
 - a. 他想念爸爸妈妈
 - b. 他大学毕业了
 - c. 他找到了一份很适合他的工作
 - d. 他不喜欢住这儿了

5. 小夏是什么样的人？
 - a. 聪明的
 - b. 年轻的
 - c. 奇怪的
 - d. 热情的

Answer key on final page of PDF.

拼音 Pinyin

Wǒ de Línjū Xiǎoxià

Wǒ dì-yī cì jiàndào wǒ línjū Xiǎoxià shì zài yī gè hěnrè de xiàtiān, nà shíhou suīrán lóudào yǒu hěnduō rén, dànshì wǒ háishì zhùyì dào le tā, yīnwèi tā yòu gāo yòu shòu.

Nà tiān shì zhōumò, péngyoumen yào lái wǒjiā chīfàn, suǒyǐ wǒ yě qǐng tā yīqǐ dào wǒjiā chīfàn. Nàshí Xiǎoxià gāng bāndào zhèlǐ, tā hěn gāoxìng wǒ qǐng tā chīfàn. Tā shuō zhè shì tā dì-yī cì zài Zhōngguó péngyou jiā chīfàn. Wǒmen yībiān chī yībiān liáotiānr. Tā gàosu wǒ, tā shì Měiguórén. Tā zài dàxué jiù kāishǐ xuéxí Zhōngwén le, dànshì tā juéde tāde Zhōngwén hái bùgòu hǎo, suǒyǐ jiù lái Zhōngguó liúxué le.

Tā hěn xǐhuan zhù zài zhèr. Tā juéde zhèr hěn ānjìng, fùjìn yǒu hěn duō shù, jīngcháng néng tīngdào niǎo jiào de shēngyīn. Zhù zài zhèr chule fāngbiàn yǐwài, hái kěyǐ rènshi hěnduō Zhōngguó péngyou, duì tígāo Zhōngwén yǒu hěn dà de bāngzhù. Tā yě shuōle tā de àihào, tā xǐhuan páshān, suǒyǐ tā xuǎnzé le lái Guìlín.

Wǒmen chīfàn chīle liǎng gè duō xiǎoshí, bǎ cài dōu chīwán le, chī de hěn bǎo, yě hěn kāixīn. Cóng nàtiān yǐhòu, Xiǎoxià shì wǒ de línjū yě shì wǒ de péngyou, wǒmen jīngcháng yīqǐ wán, zhōumò zhǐyào yǒu shíjiān jiù yīqǐ qù páshān.

Xiǎoxià shì yī gè yòu cōngmíng yòu nǚlì de xuésheng, lái Zhōngguó liúxué le liǎng nián, biànhuà hěn dà, Zhōngwén yuèlái yuè hǎo le, shuōhuà gēn Zhōngguórén yīyàng, yī jiànmiàn jiù wèn, nǐ chī le ma?

Zuìjìn tā zài Měiguó zhǎodào le yī fèn hěn shìhé tā de gōngzuò, tā hěn kuài huì líkāi Guìlín. Dànshì méiguānxi, wǒ xiǎng wǒmen huì yīzhí shì péngyou.

My Neighbor Little Xia

The first time I ever saw my neighbor, Little Xia, was on a hot summer day. Although the hallway of our apartment building was full of people, I noticed him because he was so tall and skinny.

It was a weekend and some friends were heading over to my place to eat, so I invited Little Xia to join us. He had just moved into our apartment building and was happy I'd invited him. It was his first time having a meal at a Chinese friend's home. We chatted while we ate and he told me that he's from America. He started studying Chinese in college but didn't think his Chinese was good enough yet, so he decided to study abroad in China.

He really enjoys living here. He thinks it's peaceful and nice to be in a place with so many trees where you can often hear the birds chirping. In addition to being really convenient, living here also allows him to meet a lot of Chinese friends and improve his Mandarin. He also told me about his hobbies and that he likes to hike, which is why he chose to move to Guilin.

We kept eating for over two hours and finished everything, so we were very full and happy. Ever since that day, my neighbor Little Xia and I have been good friends. We hang out often and go hiking together whenever we have time.

Little Xia is smart and hardworking. He's been studying in China for two years and has changed a lot. His Chinese has gotten much better and now he speaks just like a Chinese person. The first thing he says when he sees someone is, "Have you eaten yet?"

Little Xia recently found a good job in America, so he'll be leaving Guilin soon. It's okay though, because I'm sure we'll always be good friends.

Quiz Answer Key:

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. c 5. a



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