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# 从南方到北方的故事

## Moving from Southern to Northern China

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那是一个周五的晚上，王佳丽心里感觉很不舒服，也很担心。因为她最近刚搬到北京工作，她的同事就请她去参加一个聚会。可是她一个人都不认识！

一个很高的男人笑着向她走过来，说：“你好，我叫王河，很高兴认识你。”

“我叫王佳丽，我也很高兴认识你。你是哪里人？”

“你没听出来吗？我是北京的，北方人，你呢？”

“北方人！所以你长这么高。”她笑着说，“我是广州的，南方人。”

“哈哈！南方人，所以你长这么矮。”他开玩笑地说，“你觉得北京怎么样？”

“我还在慢慢习惯北方的天气。跟暖和又湿润的广州比，这儿很冷也很干！我搬到这儿都没用过伞！”

“那吃的呢？你还没喜欢上我们那些好吃的面和馒头吗？”

“面非常好吃，我都吃不够。可是说实话，我很想念点心，海鲜……而且你们北方人太能喝了！我喝不了那么多白酒。我们南方人，喝啤酒比较多。”

“嗯.....北京也有一些好吃的南方菜饭馆，你以后可以试试。另外北京毕竟是首都，历史悠久，文化丰富，你应该走一走，看一看。”

“你说得对，我应该多走走多看看，这样才能更好地了解北京。”

“好，欢迎你来到北京！”

## 生词 Vocabulary

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### Proper Nouns

广州 Guǎngzhōu a city in Guangdong province, China

### Nouns

同事 tóngshì colleague  
北方 běifāng the northern part of a country; northern China  
伞 sǎn umbrella  
点心 diǎnxīn dim sum, a range of small southern Chinese brunch dishes generally served with tea  
白酒 báijiǔ Chinese rice liquor  
啤酒 píjiǔ beer  
历史 lìshǐ history  
文化 wénhuà culture

### Verbs

搬 bān to move  
参加 cānjiā to take part in, to attend  
习惯 xíguàn to get used to  
应该 yīngāi should, ought to

### Adjectives

舒服 shūfu comfortable  
担心 dānxīn worried  
矮 ǎi short

### Adverbs

最近 zuìjìn recently; soon  
比较 bǐjiào relatively

## 语法点 Grammar Points

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### 1. 一 (yī) ... (也 yě / 都 dōu) ... 不/没 (bù / méi)

**grammatical pattern.** *used to indicate “not even one”*

一 (yī) ... (也 yě / 都 dōu) ... 不/没 (bù / méi) is a negative sentence pattern common in everyday Chinese. It expresses that the subject has nothing or not even a single one of something.

This grammar construction typically follows the below pattern:

Subject + 一 (yī) + Measure Word + Noun + (也 yě / 都 dōu) + (不 bù / 没 méi) + Verb

Let's look at an example:

她一个人都不认识。

Tā yī gè rén dōu bù rènshí.

She doesn't know anyone.

In this sentence, the subject 她 (tā), or “she,” is followed by 一 (yī), then the generic measure word 个 (gè), which precedes the following noun, 人 (rén), meaning “one person.” This clause is followed by the fixed particles 都 (dōu) and 不 (bù), which together mean “none.” The verb 认识 (rènshí), or “to know,” completes the sentence predicate.

Because the 一 (yī) ... (也 yě / 都 dōu) ... 不/没 (bù / méi) grammar pattern is used here, we know that the speaker wishes to emphasize that the subject doesn't even know a single person. In other words, she doesn't know anyone.

When used in this way, 都 (dōu) and 也 (yě) are usually interchangeable. For example, if the sentence above became “她一个人也不认识” (Tā yī gè rén yě bù rènshí), the meaning would still be “She doesn’t know anyone.”

Let’s look at another example of how this grammar construction can be used to further emphasize a negative fact or idea:

我一句英文也不会说。

Wǒ yī jù Yīngwén yě bù huì shuō.

I can’t even speak a word of English.

In the sentence above, this grammar structure emphasizes that the speaker cannot speak any English at all. Rather than having elementary or lousy English proficiency, they can’t even speak one word of the language.

When the sentence includes a verb that takes the negative prefix 没 (méi) instead of 不 (bù), replace 不 (bù) with 没 (méi) and keep the rest of the sentence structure the same. For example:

那个男人一块钱都没有。

Nàgè nánrén yī kuài qián dōu méiyǒu.

That guy doesn’t even have a dollar.

Because the verb in this sentence is 有 (yǒu), it is correct to use the negative prefix 没 (méi) instead of 不 (bù). Here, this structure emphasizes

that the subject doesn't have any money at all. In other words, he's not just poor, but he doesn't have even a buck to his name.

## 2. 刚 (gāng) vs 刚才 (gāngcái)

**刚 (gāng) adverb.** *just, recently*

**刚才 (gāngcái) time noun.** *just now, a moment ago*

刚 (gāng) and 刚才 (gāngcái) are common grammatical terms both used to express that something just happened or happened recently. These words usually appear in the structure below:

Subject + 刚 (gāng) / 刚才 (gāngcái) + Verb/Adjective Phrase

While they may appear similar, these two words have important, nuanced differences.

Similar to “just” in English, 刚 (gāng) is an adverb used to modify the timing of a verb. It typically indicates that something happened recently, though the exact time frame depends on how the speaker views the event being discussed. Whether the situation unfolded moments or even months ago, 刚 (gāng) signifies that the event in question feels recent to the speaker.

Let's take a look at an example:

因为她最近**刚**搬到北京工作，她的同事就请她去参加一个聚会。

Yīnwei tā zuìjìn **gāng** bān dào Běijīng gōngzuò, tā de tóngshì jiù qǐng tā qù cānjiā yī gè jùhuì.

She had recently moved to Beijing for work and her colleagues had invited her to a party.

In the above sentence, the subject 她 (tā) is followed by the adverb 刚 (gāng), and the verb phrase 搬到北京工作 (bān dào Běijīng gōngzuò). Because 刚 (gāng) is used, we know that the speaker's move to Beijing happened not too long ago, though we aren't exactly sure when. Regardless of whether it happened days or weeks ago, the move feels recent to the speaker.

Note that (gāng) can also be followed by a specific time to clarify the length of time between a recent event and the time when the discussion of that event is taking place. For example:

老师的电脑刚买了一个星期。

Lǎoshī de diànnǎo gāng mǎi le yīgè xīngqī.

The teacher just bought their computer a week ago.

In this sentence, 刚 (gāng) is used before the verb 买 (mǎi) which is followed by the time phrase 一个星期 (yīgè xīngqī). This helps emphasize that the teacher's computer was bought recently — specifically, one week ago.

刚才 (gāngcái) cannot be used this way, and it would be incorrect to use 刚才 (gāngcái) in the sentence above.

Let's find out why.

Unlike 刚 (gāng), 刚才 (gāngcái) is a time noun that means “just now,” “moments ago,” or usually within the past 30 minutes. This is the right word to use if you want to specify that something (literally) just happened. For example:

我们**刚才**吃完晚餐了。

Wǒmen **gāngcái** chī wán wǎncān le.

We just now finished eating dinner.

In this sentence, **刚才** (gāngcái) is placed between the subject 我们 (wǒmen) and the verb phrase 吃完晚餐了 (chī wán wǎncān le). This clarifies that the act of eating dinner just happened, likely minutes before the speaker uttered this sentence.

In another usage, **刚才** (gāngcái) can be placed directly before the possessive particle 的 (de) to modify the following noun and indicate that whatever is being discussed occurred just now.

Here's an example:

**刚才**的情况我不太了解。

**Gāngcái** de qíngkuàng wǒ bù tài liǎojiě.

I don't know much about what just happened.

Here, **刚才** (gāngcái) is used to modify the noun 情况 (qíngkuàng), meaning "situation," to clarify that it appeared or occurred just now. Note that **刚** (gāng), however, has no such use, and it would be incorrect to use **刚** (gāng) in the sentence above.



### 3. Potential complements with 得 (dé) and 不 (bù)

**grammatical structure.** *used to describe the potential result of a verb*

In Chinese, verbs take complements to indicate whether or not a certain result can be achieved.

Remember, a verb complement is a word, phrase, or clause that follows a verb to modify it and add more information about the action.

Before reading on, first note that potential complements work similarly to the result complements that you learned about in HSK 2. 见 (jiàn), 到 (dào) and 完 (wán) are common result complements that appear directly after a verb to indicate its completion or incompleteness, for example 看见 (kànjiàn; to see) or 听到 (tīngdào; to hear).

More advanced than result complements, Chinese potential complements utilize the particles 得 (dé) and 不 (bù) to further modify a verb. They typically follow this general structure:

Subj. + Verb + 得/不 + Potential Complement

Note that the potential complement can be either an adjective or verb that further modifies the preceding verb.

Let's look at a simple example (and also one of the first phrases that beginner Mandarin students learn):

我听不懂。

Wǒ tīng bù dǒng.

I don't understand (what I am hearing).

In this sentence, the subject 我 (wǒ; I) is followed by the verb 听 (tīng; to hear/listen). The negative particle 不 (bù; no, not, don't) connects the verb with its result complement, the modifying verb 懂 (dǒng; to understand).

Here, 不懂 (bù dǒng) forms a negative result complement that describes the preceding verb, 听 (tīng), therefore expressing that the subject doesn't understand what they are hearing.

In order to switch this negative sentence to an affirmative sentence, replace 不 (bù) with 得 (dé):

我听得懂。

Wǒ tīng dé dǒng.

I understand (what I am hearing).

Potential complements can also be formed by placing 得 (dé) or 不 (bù) between a verb and an adjective. Here's an example:

你说得对。

Nǐ shuō dé duì.

You're right.

In this affirmative sentence, the subject 你 (nǐ) is followed by the verb 说 (shuō). Because the verb is followed by 得 (dé), the adjective at the end of the sentence, 对 (duì; right), functions as a complement modifying the verb.

We therefore know that the speaker wishes to state that what the other person said is correct.

Let's take a look at an example with the negative prefix 不 (bù), followed by an adjective:

我听不清楚。

Wǒ tīng bù qīngchǔ.

I cannot hear clearly.

Potential complements also work in sentences with objects. Sometimes the object appears after the verb complement, like in the following example:

我妹妹看不懂中文的书。

Wǒ mèimei kàn bù dǒng Zhōngwén de shū.

My little sister can't understand (read) Chinese books.

In this sentence, the potential complement phrase 看不懂 (kàn bù dǒng) is followed by the object 中文的书 (Zhōngwén de shū).

In other instances, the object can appear before the verb complement, such as in the following sentence:

这份工作王先生会做得好。

Zhè fèn gōngzuò Wáng Xiānshēng huì zuò dé hǎo.

Mr. Wang will do this job well.

While they may seem daunting at first, complements are extremely common in everyday Chinese and, with a little practice, will start to come naturally the more often you use the language.

Work on integrating potential complements into your Chinese repertoire and impress your native-speaking friends!

## 测试 Quiz

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1. 王佳丽的同事们请她做什么?
  - a. 去吃晚餐
  - b. 搬到北京
  - c. 去参加聚会
  - d. 去看电影
  
2. 北京的天气怎么样?
  - a. 比较热
  - b. 比较冷
  - c. 比较舒服
  - d. 比较潮湿
  
3. 王佳丽想念南方的什么?
  - a. 面条
  - b. 暖和的天气
  - c. 家人
  - d. 点心和海鲜
  
4. 一般来说, 北方人比南方人更喜欢做什么?
  - a. 参加聚会
  - b. 用伞
  - c. 工作
  - d. 喝白酒
  
5. 下面的句子哪个是对的?
  - a. 王佳丽不喜欢吃面
  - b. 北京也有好吃的南方菜饭馆
  - c. 王佳丽很了解北京
  - d. 北京人不喜欢喝白酒

*Answer key on final page of PDF.*

## 拼音 Pinyin

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### Cóng Nánfāng Dào Běifāng de Gùshi

Nàshì yī gè zhōuwǔ de wǎnshang, Wáng Jiāli xīnli gǎnjué hěn bù shūfu, yě hěn dānxīn. Yīnwei tā zuìjìn gāng bān dào Běijīng gōngzuò, tā de tóngshì jiù qǐng tā qù cānjiā yī gè jùhuì. Kěshì tā yī gè rén dōu bù rènshi!

Yī gè hěn gāo de nánren xiàozhe xiàng tā zǒu guòlái, shuō: “Nǐhǎo, wǒ jiào Wánghé, hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ.”

“Wǒ jiào Wáng Jiāli, wǒ yě hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ. Nǐ shì nǎli rén?”

“Nǐ méi tīng chūlái ma? Wǒ shì Běijīng de, běifāngrén, nǐ ne?”

“Běifāngrén! Suǒyǐ nǐ zhǎng zhème gāo.” Tā xiàozhe shuō, “ Wǒ shì Guǎngzhōu de, nánfāngrén.”

“Hāha! Nánfāngrén, suǒyǐ nǐ zhǎng zhème ǎi.” Tā kāiwánxiào de shuō, “Nǐ juéde Běijīng zěnmeyàng?”

“Wǒ hái zài màn màn xíguàn běifāng de tiānqì. Gēn nuǎnhuo yòu shīrùn de Guǎngzhōu bǐ, zhèr hěn lěng yě hěn gān! Wǒ bān dào zhèr dōu méi yòng guo sǎn!”

“Nà chīde ne? Nǐ hái méi xǐhuan shàng wǒmén nàxiē hǎochī de miàn hé mántou ma?”

“Miàn fēicháng hǎochī, wǒ dōu chī bù gòu. Kěshì shuō shíhuà, wǒ hěn xiǎngniàn diǎnxin, hǎixiān ..... érqǐě nǐmen běifāngrén tài néng hē le! Wǒ hē bù liǎo nàme duō báijiǔ. Wǒmen nánfāngrén, hē píjiǔ bǐjiào duō.”

“En ..... Běijīng yě yǒu yī xiē hǎochī de nánfāng cài fànguǎn, nǐ yǐhòu kěyǐ shìshi. Lìngwài Běijīng bìjìng shì shǒudōu, lìshǐ yōujiǔ, wénhuà fēngfù, nǐ yīnggāi zǒu yī zǒu, kàn yī kàn.”

“Nǐ shuō de duì, wǒ yīnggāi duō zǒuzou duō kànkàn, zhèyàng cái néng gēng hǎo de liǎojiě Běijīng.”

“Hǎo, huānyíng nǐ lái dào Běijīng!”

### **Moving from Southern to Northern China**

It was a Friday night and Wang Jia Li was feeling uncomfortable and anxious. She had recently moved to Beijing for work and her colleagues had invited her to a party. But she didn't know anyone!

A tall man came up to her and smiled, "Hi, I'm Wang He, nice to meet you."

"My name's Wang Jia Li, nice to meet you too. Where are you from?"

"Can't you tell from my accent? I'm a Beijinger, a northerner. And you?"

"A northerner! Yeah, that's why you're so tall." She laughed, "I'm from Guangzhou. Southerner, through and through."

"Ahah! A southerner, that's why you're so short." He joked, "How are you liking Beijing so far?"

"I'm still getting used to the northern weather. Compared to warm, wet Guangzhou, it's cold and dry here! I haven't used my umbrella once since moving here!"

"How about the food? Aren't you enjoying all our yummy noodles and steamed bread?"

"The noodles are super delicious, I can't get enough. But, to be honest, I miss dim sum... and seafood...and you northerners drink so much liquor! I can't keep up. Down south, we drink more beer."

"Hmm, you can definitely find some good southern-style restaurants in Beijing. Besides, it's the capital after all. Beijing has so much history and culture, you should definitely take time to explore it all."

"You know, you're right! That sounds great, I really do want to get to know Beijing."



“Well, welcome to Beijing!”

Quiz Answer Key:  
1. c 2. b 3. d 4. d 5. b



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