
我跟中国出租车司机交朋友的故事

How I Made Friends with a Chinese Taxi Driver

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“你要去哪儿？”这是出租车司机说的第一句话。我不知道怎么回答。因为这是我第一次坐中国的出租车，所以我很害怕。

“呃...我想去中国银行。”我说。

“嗯，你带钱了吗？我不会免费送你去哦。”司机说。

我不知道要说什么，所以我就回答：“我带钱了！”

“开玩笑，哥们儿。”他笑着说，“好，我们走吧！”

过了一会儿，我问他：“你是哪里人？”

“我是从北京来的，我是北方人。你呢？”他问，“你看起来不像是这儿的人。”他对我笑了笑。

“哦，我是加拿大人，我想我也是北方人。”

“哈哈，好，很高兴认识另一个北方人。你叫我老王吧。”

老王一边开车，一边跟我聊他的事儿。他告诉我他以前在北京也是出租车司机，他还告诉我，差不多十年以前他是怎么开他的出租车一路往南到南京的。

“北京很多东西都跟这儿不一样，比如天气。冬天的时候，在那里骑自行车、散步都很难！我更喜欢这儿的天气。”

老王说现在很多客人在网上叫出租车，大家都方便多了。

他说中国发展得很快，现在路上的车也比以前多了。

“在城市里开车你得小心一点儿、聪明一点儿，要不然可能会出问题。”

“我很爱我的车！每天早上我都会好好儿检查一下车子，看看它是不是“健康”的。每天晚上回到家也会认真地把车子打扫干净。我知道这样做会让我的客人感到安全、开心。”

我们在车上又聊了几分钟之后，他说：“我们到了，右边就是中国银行！”

我回答：“谢谢你送我，老王！”

老王跟我交换了电话和微信联系方式。

在去银行的路上，时间很短，但我练习了很多中文，更重要的是我交了一个新的朋友。

生词 Vocabulary

Proper Nouns

加拿大	Jiānádà	Canada
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Nouns

司机	sījī	driver
银行	yínháng	bank
北方	běifāng	the northern region of a country; in China, north of the Yellow River
南	nán	south
城市	chéngshì	city
自行车	zìxíngchē	bicycle
地方	dìfang	place

Verbs

上网	shàngwǎng	to go online
检查	jiǎnchá	to examine; inspection
关心	guānxīn	to care about
认真	rènzhēn	to take seriously; earnest
打扫	dǎsǎo	to clean
小心	xiǎoxīn	to be careful; to take care
回答	huídá	to reply; answer

Adjectives

害怕	hàipà	scared
方便	fāngbiàn	convenient
干净	gānjìng	clean; neat
聪明	cōngmíng	clever; intelligent
健康	jiànkāng	health; healthy

语法点 Grammar Points

1. 一样 (yīyàng)

adj. same, equal to, just like

一样 (yīyàng) is an adjective commonly used in Chinese to make basic comparisons by expressing that two things are the same. When directly comparing two nouns, 一样 (yīyàng) commonly appears in the following sentence structure:

Noun Phrase 1 + 跟 (gēn) / 和 (hé) + Noun Phrase 2 + 一样 (yīyàng)

In this structure, the conjunctions 跟 (gēn; and, with) or 和 (hé; and), are placed between the two nouns being compared. Then, 一样 (yīyàng) concludes the sentence by declaring that these two things are the same. Let's look at an example:

你的爱好跟我的爱好一样。

Nǐ de àihào gēn wǒ de àihào yīyàng.

Your hobbies and my hobbies are the same.

Here, the two noun phrases being compared are “your hobbies” (你的爱好 nǐ de àihào) and “my hobbies” (我的爱好 wǒ de àihào). 一样 (yīyàng) is used to declare that these two things are the same. Note that in this context, 跟 (gēn) and 和 (hé) are interchangeable; in other words, either 跟 (gēn) or 和 (hé) can be used in the above sentence without changing the meaning.

In addition to directly comparing two nouns by stating that they are the same, 一样 (yīyàng) can also be used to compare a particular quality shared by two nouns. This can be done by simply tacking on an adjective to the end of the sentence as follows:

Noun 1 + 跟 (gēn) / 和 (hé) + Noun 2 + 一样 (yīyàng) + Adjective

Let's look at an example:

我妹妹觉得小狗和小猫一样可爱。

Wǒ mèimei juéde xiǎo gǒu hé xiǎo māo yīyàng kě'ài.

My little sister thinks that puppies and kittens are equally adorable.

In this sentence, the two nouns being compared are puppies (小狗 xiǎo gǒu) and kittens (小猫 xiǎo māo). Understandably, the speaker's little sister thinks that both animals are adorable. Because 一样 (yīyàng) is followed by an adjective, in this case adorable/cute (可爱 kě'ài), we know that the speaker is not claiming that her sister thinks these two animals are the same. Instead, she's saying that she finds them equally cute.

While 一样 (yīyàng) indicates sameness and equality when used on its own, its meaning becomes "not the same" or "not equal to" if paired with the negative prefix 不 (bù). Let's look at an example:

北京很多东西都跟这儿不一样。

Běijīng hěnduō dōngxi dōu gēn zhèr bù yīyàng.

In Beijing, things are a lot different than here.

Here, the addition of 不 (bù) before 一样 (yīyàng) changes the sentence's meaning to negate the similarity of the nouns being compared. This

grammar pattern indicates that things in Beijing are not like things here, and in fact they are quite different.

2. 地 (de)

***structural particle.** links a modifier to a verb or adjective*

地 (de) is a structural particle that connects adverbial modifiers to verbs or adjectives in Chinese. Remember, a structural particle demonstrates a grammatical relationship between several words in a sentence.

In Chinese, 地 (de) is one of three common structural particles, 的 (de), 得 (de) and 地 (de), all of which are pronounced as “de” using the neutral fifth tone.

地 (de) is most commonly used to turn adjectives into adverbs, functioning similarly to the adverbial suffix “-ly” in English. When used in this way, it is placed after adjectives and before verbs to modify the verbs:

Adjective Phrase + 地 (de) + Verb Phrase

Let's look at an example:

她很聪明地解决了这个问题。

Tā hěn cōngmíng de jiějué le zhège wèntí.

She cleverly solved this problem.

In this example, 地 (de) is used to link the adjective 聪明 (cōngmíng; clever) to the verb 解决 jiějué; to solve), therefore transforming the adjective into an adverb that modifies the verb. Because 地 (de) is used, we know that not only did the subject solve this problem, but that she did so in a clever way.

Let's look at another example:

每天晚上回到家也会认真地把车子打扫干净。

Měitiān wǎnshang huí dào jiā yě huì rènzhēn de bǎ chēzi dǎsǎo gānjìng.

Every night when I get home I make sure to thoroughly clean my car so that it's spotless.

In this sentence, 地 (de) is placed after the adjective 认真 (rènzhēn; thorough) and before the verb phrase, 把车子打扫干净 (bǎ chēzi dǎsǎo gānjìng; clean my car so that it's spotless), to convey that the car is cleaned thoroughly every night.

Keep in mind that when pronounced using the falling fourth tone, the character 地 (dì) is a noun meaning Earth. In this form, it frequently appears as a component of other nouns, such as 地方 (dìfāng) or 地图 (dìtú).

As you continue studying Chinese, you will notice this versatile particle appearing in a variety of other advanced usages. Mastering 地 (de) and the other common structural particles, 的 (de) and 得 (de), is an essential way to build a strong grammatical foundation in Chinese.

3. 更 (gèng)

adv. more; even more

更 (gèng) is an adverb that expresses “even more” in Chinese. It comes before an adjective or verb to demonstrate that said adjective or verb is “even more so” than something previously stated or acknowledged. In its simplest usage, 更 (gèng) follows the pattern below:

Subject + 更 (gèng) + Verb or Adjective Phrase

The structure above often comes after another clause that provides background context in order to create a comparison. For example:

小明很努力，但是小李更努力。

Xiǎo Míng hěn nǔlì, dànshì Xiǎo Lǐ gèng nǔlì.

Xiao Ming works pretty hard, but Xiao Li works even harder.

In this sentence, the first clause, “Xiao Ming works pretty hard” provides background information in order to create a contrast with the second clause, which says that Xiao Li works even harder. Because “更 (gèng)” is used, we know that although they are both hardworking, Xiao Li is, in fact, more of a hard-worker than Xiao Ming.

It is also possible for 更 (gèng) to be used independently in a sentence that doesn't include a comparative clause. For example:

我更喜欢这儿的天气。

Wǒ gèng xǐhuan zhèr de tiānqì.

I like the weather here more.

The sentence above could be a response to a question asking if someone likes the weather here or there more, or part of a larger discussion about the weather where one previously lived.

更 (gèng) also frequently accompanies the common comparison word 比 (bǐ) to emphasize that one of two things is “even more” of the adjective that follows. Here’s an example:

他妈妈比他更热情。

Tā māma bǐ tā gèng rèqíng.

His mom is even more warm-hearted than him.

In the sentence above, 比 (bǐ) is used to compare the two subjects, “him” and “his mom.” If 更 (gèng) were omitted and the sentence simply read, “他妈妈比他更热情” (Tā māma bǐ tā rèqíng), it would mean that his mom is more warm-hearted than he is, which could indicate that he isn’t warm-hearted at all. However, because 更 (gèng) is used, we know that while both the subject and his mom are warm-hearted, the subject’s mom is even more warm-hearted than he is.

Note that 更 (gèng) can also be followed by negative prefixes like 不 (bù) and 没 (méi) to indicate that something is “even less” of the following verb or adjective. For example:

我周一到周五很忙，周末更没有时间。

Wǒ zhōuyī dào zhōuwǔ dōu hěn máng, zhōumò gèng méiyǒu shíjiān.

I’m really busy from Monday through Friday, and I have even less time on the weekends.

测试 Quiz

1. “我”为什么害怕?
 - a. 因为我不会说中文
 - b. 因为我很不喜欢坐出租车
 - c. 因为我忘记带钱
 - d. 因为这是我第一次坐中国的出租车

2. “我”是哪里人?
 - a. 北京人
 - b. 北方人
 - c. 北极人
 - d. 中国人

3. 老王差不多十年以前做了什么?
 - a. 开车到南京
 - b. 去加拿大
 - c. 学习开车
 - d. 在中国银行工作

4. 在城市里开车，为什么得小心?
 - a. 自行车很多
 - b. 开车很难
 - c. 可能会出问题
 - d. 路太小了

5. 老王每天都：
 - a. 检查他的车
 - b. 去银行
 - c. 打扫家里
 - d. 在网上叫出租车

Answer key on final page of PDF.

拼音 Pinyin

Wǒ Gēn Zhōngguó Sījī Jiāo Péngyǒu de Gùshi

“Nǐ yào qù nǎr?” Zhè shì chūzūchē sījī shuō de dì-yī jù huà. Wǒ bù zhīdao zěnmē huídá. Yīnwèi zhè shì wǒ dì-yī cì zuò Zhōngguó de chūzūchē, suǒyǐ wǒ hěn hài pà.

“È... Wǒ xiǎng qù Zhōngguó Yínháng.” Wǒ shuō.

“En, nǐ dài qián le ma? Wǒ bù huì miǎnfèi sòng nǐ qù o.” Sījī shuō.

Wǒ bù zhīdao yào shuō shénme, suǒyǐ wǒ jiù huídá: “Wǒ dài qián le!”

“Kāiwánxiào, gēmenr.” Tā xiàozhe shuō, “Hǎo, wǒmen zǒu ba!”

Guòle yīhuǐr, wǒ wèn tā: “Nǐ shì nǎli rén?”

“Wǒ shì cóng Běijīng lái de, wǒ shì běifāngrén. Nǐ ne?” Tā wèn, “Nǐ kàn qǐlai bù xiàng shì zhèr de rén.” Tā duì wǒ xiào le xiào.

“Ó, wǒ shì Jiānádàrén, wǒ xiǎng wǒ yě shì běifāngrén.”

“Hāha, hǎo, hěn gāoxìng rènshi lìng yī gè běifāngrén. Nǐ jiào wǒ Lǎo Wáng ba.”

Lǎo Wáng yībiān kāichē, yībiān gēn wǒ liáo tā de shìr. Tā gàosu wǒ tā yǐqián zài Běijīng yě shì chūzūchē sījī, tā hái gàosu wǒ, chàbùduō shí nián yǐqián tā shì zěnmē kāi tā de chūzūchē yīlù wǎng nán dào Nánjīng de.

“Běijīng hěnduō dōngxi dōu gēn zhèr bù yīyàng, bǐrú tiānqì. Dōngtiān de shíhou, zài nàlǐ qí zìxíngchē, sànbù hěn nán! Wǒ gèng xǐhuan zhèr de tiānqì.”

Lǎo wáng shuō xiànzài hěnduō kèren zài wǎngshàng jiào chūzūchē, dàjiā dōu fāngbiàn duō le.

Tā shuō Zhōngguó fāzhǎn de hěn kuài, xiànzài lùshang de chē yě bǐ yǐqián duō le.

“Zài chéngshì lǐ kāichē nǐ děi xiǎoxīn yīdiǎnr, cōngming yīdiǎnr, yàoburán kěnéng huì chū wèntí.”

“Wǒ hěn ài wǒ de chē! Měitiān zǎoshang wǒ dōu huì hǎohāor jiǎnchá yīxià chēzi, kànkàn tā shìbùshì “jiànkāng” de. Měitiān wǎnshang huí dào jiā yě huì rènzhēn de bǎ chēzi dǎsǎo gānjìng. Wǒ zhīdao zhèyàng zuò huì ràng wǒ de kèren gǎndào ānquán, kāixīn.”

Wǒmen zài chē shàng yòu liáole jǐ fēnzhōng zhǐhòu, tā shuō: “Wǒmen dào le, yòubian jiùshì Zhōngguó Yínháng!”

Wǒ huídá: “Xièxie nǐ sòng wǒ, Lǎo Wáng!”

Lǎo Wáng gēn wǒ jiāohuànle diànhuà hé Wēixìn liánxì fāngshì.

Zài qù yínháng de lùshang, shíjiān hěn duǎn, dàn wǒ liànxiéle hěnduō Zhōngwén, gèng zhòngyào de shì wǒ jiāole yī gè xīn de péngyou.

How I Made Friends with a Chinese Taxi Driver

“Where are you going?” These were the first words the taxi driver said. I wasn’t sure what to say. This was my first experience in a Chinese taxi and I was scared.

“Uhhh, I want to go to the Bank of China...” I said.

“Well, I hope you have money! I’m not going to drive you there for free.”

I didn’t know what to say. “I’ve got money!”

“Just kidding, buddy,” he laughed, “come on, let’s go!”

After a while, I asked him, “So, where are you from originally?”

“Originally, Beijing. I’m a northerner. How about you?” He asked. “You don’t look like you’re from around here,” he added with a smile.

“Oh, I’m from Canada. I guess I’m also from the north.”

“Haha, well, nice to meet another northerner. Call me Wang.”

As we drove, Wang told me about his life. He told me about how he had also once been a taxi driver up in Beijing. He had come down south to Nanjing almost 10 years ago, driving his taxi all the way through the country.

“In Beijing, things are a lot different. Take the weather for example, in the winter, that place gets so cold that it’s hard to even ride a bike or go for a walk! I prefer the climate down here.”

Wang said that these days, a lot of his clients order their taxis on the Internet using their phones. It’s more convenient that way.

He said that thanks to China’s rapid pace of development, there are now many more cars on the roads than before.

“Driving in the city you’ve got to be careful. You have to be smart or else something bad might happen.”

“I care a lot about my car! I check it every morning to make sure everything’s in order. And every night when I get home, I make sure to thoroughly clean it so that it’s spotless. That way I know that my customers will be safe and happy.”

After driving and talking for another couple of minutes, he said “Here we are, on the right is the Bank of China!”

I replied, “Thank you for the drive, Wang!”

We exchanged phone numbers and WeChat contact information.

On this quick journey to the bank, I had gotten in a lot of Chinese practice and—more importantly—had made a new friend!

Quiz Answer Key:

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

