Lesson 6

张娜：王丽，现在几点？

王丽：四点一刻，你有事儿吗？

张娜：我今天很忙。

王丽：你明天忙不忙？

张娜：明天不忙。

王丽：我明天请你吃晚饭，怎么样？

张娜：你为什么请我吃饭？

王丽：因为明天是我的生日。

张娜：是吗？生日快乐！明天几点？

王丽：明天晚上六点半。

张娜：好，明天晚上六点半见！

Zhāng nà: Wáng lì, xiànzài jǐ diǎn?  
Wáng lì: Sì diǎn yī kè, nǐ yǒushì er ma?   
Zhāng nà: Wǒ jīntiān hěn máng.  
Wáng lì: Nǐ míngtiān máng bù máng?   
Zhāng nà: Míngtiān bù máng.   
Wáng lì: Wǒ míngtiān qǐng nǐ chī wǎnfàn, zěnme yàng?  
Zhāng nà: Nǐ wèishéme qǐng wǒ chīfàn?   
Wáng lì: Yīn wéi míngtiān shì wǒ de shēngrì.   
Zhāng nà: Shì ma? Shēngrì kuàilè! Míngtiān jǐ diǎn?   
Wáng lì: Míngtiān wǎnshàng liù diǎn bàn.   
Zhāng nà: Hǎo, míngtiān wǎnshàng liù diǎn bàn jiàn!

Zhang Na：Wang Li, what’s the time now?

Wang Li： 4:15, do you have time?

Zhang Na：I’m busy today.

Wang Li： Are you busy tomorrow?

Zhang Na：Tomorrow is fine.

Wang Li： I’d like to invite you to dinner, how about it?

Zhang Na：Why are you inviting me to dinner?

Wang Li： Because tomorrow is my birthday.

Zhang Na：Really? Happy birthday! What time is it?

Wang Li： Half past six tomorrow evening.

Zhang Na：Ok, I’ll see you tomorrow at six-thirty.

Vocabulary

现在 t

刻 m

很 adv

事 n

今天 t

明天 t

忙 adj

晚饭 n

岁 m

为什么 qpr

快乐 adj

因为 conj

now

quarter of an hour

very

something to do

today

tomorrow

busy

dinner

year of age

why

happy

because

Grammar

1. Affirmative-negative question

Another common way of forming yes-no question in Chinese is to repeat the verb or adjective in its affirmative and negative form.

你今天忙吗？

Nǐ jīntiān máng ma?

Are you busy today?

你今天忙不忙？

Nǐ jīntiān máng bù máng?

Are you busy today?

你姓王吗？

Nǐ xìng wáng ma?

Is your surname Wang?

你姓不姓王？

Nǐ xìng bù xìng wáng?

Is your surname Wang?

1. The usage of很

Unlike English, adjectives and verbs can’t be linked to nouns directly. When nouns is linked to adjectives “很”is always needed. Although “很”means “very” , because of this reason, it doesn’t always have the meaning as strong as that in English.

我今天很忙。

Wǒ jīntiān hěn máng.

I’m very busy today.

我家很大。

Wǒjiā hěn dà.

My house is very big.

1. Conjunction 因为

Use 因为alone to explain causes. This is equivalent to “because or because of” in English. It often answers to the question of “为什么”.

你为什么请我吃饭？

Nǐ wèishéme qǐng wǒ chīfàn?

因为明天是我的生日。

Yīn wéi míngtiān shì wǒ de shēngrì.

1. Time expressions

昨天

Zuótiān

yesterday

今天

jīntiān

today

前天

qiántiān

the day before yesterday

明天

míngtiān

tomorrow

上个星期

shàng gè xīngqí

last week

下个星期

xià gè xīngqí

next week

Exercise

1. Answer the question based on the text.

现在几点？

张娜明天忙吗？

王丽明天为什么请张娜吃饭？

明天几点吃饭？

Xiànzài jǐ diǎn?  
Zhāng nà míngtiān máng ma?  
Wáng lì míngtiān wèishéme qǐng zhāng nà chīfàn?  
Míngtiān jǐ diǎn chīfàn?

1. Change the questions below to the Affirmative- negative question.

你是中国人吗？

你姓Andrews吗？

你叫王丽吗？

张娜有哥哥吗？

Nǐ shì zhōngguó rén ma?  
Nǐ xìng Andrews ma?  
Nǐ jiào wáng lì ma?  
Zhāng nà yǒu gēgē ma?

1. Correct the mistakes.

我请你吃饭明天。

现在几点吗？

明天我的生日。

见你明天晚上六点。

Nǐ shì zhōngguó rén ma?  
Nǐ xìng Andrews ma?  
Nǐ jiào wáng lì ma?  
Zhāng nà yǒu gēgē ma?

1. Put the word in the order to make sentences.

吗 你 事儿 有 ？

吃 我 你 请 明天 晚饭 。

请 我 为什么 晚饭 你 吃 ？

一刻 现在 点 四 。

Ma nǐ shì er yǒu ?  
Chī wǒ nǐ qǐng míngtiān wǎnfàn .  
Qǐng wǒ wèishéme wǎnfàn nǐ chī ?  
Yīkè xiànzài diǎn sì .