

## Chinese Grammar: 想(xiǎng) VS 要(yào) Day 31: What Would You Like to Eat?

<https://youtu.be/ZTzEraZpYl4>

### Dialogue

(1)

Xiǎoyù, nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?

A: 小玉, 你 想 吃 什么?

*Xiaoyu, what would you like to eat?*

Wǒ xiǎng chī niúròu hé tǔdòu.

B: 我 想 吃 牛肉 和 土豆。

*I'd like to eat beef and potatoes.*

(2)

Ānnà, nǐ xiǎng hē shénme?

A: 安娜, 你 想 喝 什么?

*Anna, what would you like to drink?*

Wǒ xiǎng hē guǒzhī. Nǐ ne?

B: 我 想 喝 果汁。你 呢?

*I'd like to drink juice. And you?*

Wǒ xiǎng hē kělè.

A: 我 想 喝 可乐。

*I'd like to drink coke.*

(3)

Dàwěi, nǐ xiǎng chī Fǎguó cài ma?

A: 大伟, 你 想 吃 法国 菜 吗?

*Dawei, would you like to eat French food?*

Wǒ bù xiǎng chī. Wǒ xiǎng chī Riběn cài.

B: 我 不 想 吃。我 想 吃 日本 菜。

*I don't want to eat. I'd like to eat Japanese food.*

## Explanation

xiǎng

### 1. 想

would like to

xiǎng

subject + 想 + verb.

auxiliary verb

① I'd like to drink XXX.



Wǒ xiǎng hē shuǐ.

Eg: 我 想 喝 水。

water

Wǒ xiǎng hē guǒzhī.

我 想 喝 果汁。

juice

Wǒ xiǎng hē kělè.

我 想 喝 可乐。

coke

② I'd like to eat XXX.



Wǒ xiǎng chī tǔdòu.

Eg: 我 想 吃 土豆。

potato

Wǒ xiǎng chī niúròu.

我 想 吃 牛肉。

beef

ròu

\* 肉

n. meat

niúròu      niú      ròu

牛肉 = 牛 + 肉

beef      cow      n. meat

zhūròu      zhū      ròu

猪肉 = 猪 + 肉

pork      pig      n. meat

jīròu      jī      ròu

鸡肉 = 鸡 + 肉

chicken      chicken      n. meat

yáng ròu      yáng      ròu

羊肉 = 羊 + 肉

mutton      sheep      n. meat

yúròu      yú      ròu

鱼肉 = 鱼 + 肉

fish      fish      n. meat

hé

## 2. 和

conj. and/with

hé

(1) N.1 和 N.2

bàba hé māma

Eg: 爸爸 和 妈妈

dad and mum

nǐ hé wǒ

你 和 我

you and I

hé

(2) N.1 N.2 和 N.3

Wǒ xiǎng chī niúròu, jīròu hé yúròu.

Eg: 我 想 吃 牛肉、鸡肉 和 鱼肉。

I'd like to eat beef, chicken and fish.

## Different

wǒ xiǎng

1. 我 想 + verb VS.

I'd like to do sth.

wǒ yào

我 要 + verb

I want to do sth.

① To senior, elderly person/stranger:

Wǒ xiǎng chī zhè ge.

Eg: 我 想 吃 这个。

I'd like to eat this.

To your close friends/family:

Wǒ yào chī zhè ge.

Eg: 我 要 吃 这个。

I want to eat this.

② Simply a thought, you may or may not take action:

Wǒ xiǎng hē kāfēi.

Eg: 我 想 喝 咖啡。

I'd like to drink coffee.

Strong intention & going to take action:

Wǒ yào hē kāfēi.

Eg: 我 要 喝 咖啡。

I want to drink coffee.

wǒ xiǎng

2. 我 想 + noun

v. to miss

Wǒ xiǎng nǐ.

Eg: 我 想 你。

I miss you.

Wǒ xiǎng māma.

我 想 妈妈。

I miss mum.

Nǐ xiǎng wǒ ma?

你 想 我 吗?

Do you miss me?

wǒ xiǎng yào

3. 我 想 要 + noun

v. would like (polite)

Wǒ xiǎng yì bēi kāfēi.

Eg: 我 想 一 杯 咖啡。 ✘

Wǒ xiǎng yào yì bēi kāfēi.

我 想 要 一 杯 咖啡。 ✔

I'd like a cup of coffee.

Wǒ yào yì bēi kāfēi.

我 要 一 杯 咖啡。 ✔

I want a cup of coffee.

wǒ yào

我 要 + noun

I want

VS.

shūcài

\* 蔬菜 vegetable

cài

菜 n. dish, food

Fǎguó cài

法国 菜

French food

Yìdàlì cài

意大利 菜

Italian food

Xībānyà cài

西班牙 菜

Spanish food

Yìndù cài

印度 菜

Indian food

Rìběn cài

日本 菜

Japanese food

Hánguó cài

韩国 菜

Korean food

Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme cài?

Eg: Q: 你 想 吃 什么 菜?

What food would you like to eat?

Wǒ xiǎng chī Fǎguó cài.

A: 我 想 吃 法国 菜。

I'd like to eat French food.

Nǐ xiǎng chī Rìběn cài ma?

Q: 你 想 吃 日本 菜 吗?

Would you like to eat Japanese food?

Wǒ bù xiǎng chī.

A: 我 不 想 吃。

I don't want to eat.

Wǒ xiǎng chī Hánguó cài.

我 想 吃 韩国 菜。

I'd like to eat Korean food.

## Conclusion

| Character | Pinyin    | Meaning                 | Structure |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 想         | xiǎng     | aux. verb would like to | + V.      |
| 要         | yào       | aux. verb want          | + N./V.   |
| 想要        | xiǎng yào | aux. verb would like    | + N./V.   |