

Subtitles

Yéye nà shíhou zhuàn bu dào qián, dàn měitiān háishì hěn kāixīn.

爷爷那时候赚不到钱，但每天还是很开心。

Grandpa could make very little money at that time, but I was happy every day.

Yóuqí shì měitiān huíjiā, hěn yuǎn hěn yuǎn jiù kěyǐ wéndào nǐ nǎinai zuòfàn de wèidào.

尤其是每天回家，很远很远就可以闻到你奶奶做饭的味道。

Especially on my way home every day, I could smell your grandma's cooking from far away.

Qíshí nǐ nǎinai zhēn bú huì zuòfàn, jiù huì zhǔ cōnghuā miàn.

其实你奶奶真不会做饭，就会煮葱花面。

Actually, she could barely cook, except for scallion noodles.

Wǒ gēn nǐmen shuō, tā nà wǎn cōnghuā miàn xián de shì bù dé liǎo.

我跟你们说，她那碗葱花面咸得是不得了，

I tell you, her scallion noodles are incredibly salty.

kě wǒ yì kǒu dōu bù gǎn shèng, měi cì dōu děi chīguāng.

可我一口都不敢剩，每次都得吃光。

But I slurped it all up. My bowl was licked clean every time.

Expound

Yéye nà shíhou zhuàn bu dào qián, dàn měitiān háishì hěn kāixīn.

1. 爷爷那时候赚不到钱，但每天还是很开心。

Grandpa could make very little money at that time, but I was happy every day.

yéye

1) 爷爷 n. grandfather

Sometimes, when the elders talk to the young generation, to show kindness, they would use the way how the young generation addresses them to call themselves. For examples:

Hǎo guānnǚ, hǎohǎo tīng māma huà, guò jǐ tiān bàba jiù huíqu le.

① 好闺女，好好听妈妈话，过几天爸爸就回去了。

Good girl. Listen to your mom. Dad will go back in a few days.

Bàba, nǐ zhè ge dōngxi shì shénme?

② A: 爸爸，你这个东西是什么？

Daddy. What is it?

Zhè nǐ bù néng dòng a! Zhè ge shì bàba de wǔqì.

B: 这你不能动啊！这个是爸爸的武器。

You can't touch this. This is dad's weapon.

Nǐ kànkàn nǐ zhè méi chūxi de yàngzi. Nǎinǎi yào lí jiā jǐ tiān, wǒ zhǎo nǐ diē qù.

③ 你看看你这没出息的样子。奶奶要离家几天，我找你爹去。

You look like a basket case. Grandma will be away for a few days. I'm going to find your dad.

zhuàn

2) 赚 v. to earn, make a profit

zhuànqián

赚钱 v. to make money

zhuàn bu dào qián

赚不到钱 couldn't make much money

Wǒmen wèishénme yào gōngzuò?

Eg: Q: 我们为什么要工作?

Why do we have to work?

Yīnwèi wǒmen yào zhuànqián.

A: 因为我们要赚钱。

Because we need to make money.

dàn dànshi

3) 但 = 但是 conj. but

但 is short for 但是. In spoken Chinese, we usually use short forms to make our words brief and natural.

Yóuqí shì měitiān huíjiā, hěn yuǎn hěn yuǎn jiù kěyǐ wéndào nǐ nǎinai zuòfàn de wèidào.

2. 尤其是每天回家，很远很远就可以闻到你奶奶做饭的味道。

Especially on my way home every day, I could smell your grandma's cooking from far away.

yóuqí

1) 尤其 adv. Especially

It's usually used to emphasize something. For example:

Tā hěn xǐhuan yùndòng, yóuqí xǐhuan dǎ lánqiú.

① 他很喜欢运动，尤其喜欢打篮球。

He likes sports very much, especially basketball.

Tā de jǐ ge hái zǐ dōu hěn cōngmíng, yóuqí shì tā de xiǎo érzi, shíwǔ suì jiù kǎoshàng dàxué le.

② 他的几个孩子都很聪明，尤其是他的小儿子，十五岁就考上大学了。

All his children are very clever, especially his youngest son who went to college at the age of 15.

* In Chinese, “特别” has the same meaning.

wén

2) 闻 v. to smell

dào

到 v. to arrive, reach

Here, “到” is used as a result complement of “闻”.

The result complement

In Chinese, most adjectives as well as some verbs can be used after a verb to say the result of an action. For example:

tīng

tīngjiàn

① 听 听见

to listen

to hear

Wǒ tīngjiàn tā zài dǎ diànhuà.

Eg: 我听见他在打电话。

I heard he was making a phone call.

tīng

tīngdǒng

② 听 听懂

to listen

to understand

Wǒ tīngdǒng zhè ge jùzi le

Eg: 我听懂这个句子了。

I understood this sentence.

xué

xuéhuì

③ 学

学会

to learn

learned

Wǒ xuéhuì kāichē le.

Eg: 我学会开车了。

I learned how to drive.

The result complement is a bit difficult for Chinese learners. To make it easier, you can divide it into two parts. For example:

Wǒ tīng zhè ge jùzi.

(1) The action: 我听这个句子。

I listen to this sentence.

Wǒ dǒng zhè ge jùzi le.

The result: 我懂这个句子了。

I understand this sentence.

Wǒ tīngdǒng zhè ge jùzi le.

The sentence: 我听懂这个句子了。

I understood this sentence.

Wǒ xué kāichē le.

(2) The action: 我学开车。

I am learning how to drive.

Wǒ huì kāichē le.

The result: 我会开车了。

I can drive now.

Wǒ xuéhuì kāichē le.

The sentence: 我学会开车了。

I learned how to drive.

Wǒ xǐ yīfu le.

(3) The action: 我洗衣服。

I wash my clothes.

Yīfu gānjìng le.

The result: 衣服干净了。

The clothes are clean.

Wǒ xǐ gānjìng yīfu le.

The sentence: 我洗干净衣服了。

I washed my clothes.

Māma zuòfàn.

(4) The action: 妈妈做饭。

Mom is cooking.

Fàn hǎole.

The result: 饭好了。

The dinner is ready.

Māma zuòhǎo fàn le.

The sentence: 妈妈做好饭了。

Mom finished cooking.

Here are some tips for you:

1) “Verb+好” usually indicates an action is completed.

xiǎng hǎo

想好 well-considered

zhǔnbèi hǎo

准备好 well-prepared

mǎi hǎo

买好 bought

2) “Verb+到” usually indicates an action gets the result that you want.

zhǎodào

找到 found

nádào

拿到 took

wéndào

闻到 smelled

Qíshí nǐ nǎinai zhēn bú huì zuòfàn, jiù huì zhǔ cōnghuā miàn.

3. 其实你奶奶真不会做饭，就会煮葱花面。

Actually, she could barely cook, except for scallion noodles.

qíshí

1) 其实 adv. actually

It means what the speaker says next is true. It has the same meaning as “事实上” or “实际上”.

jiù

2) 就 adv. only

You can also use another word “只” instead.

Wǒ gēn nǐmen shuō, tā nà wǎn cōnghuā miàn xiánde shì bùdéliǎo.

4. 我跟你们说，她那碗葱花面咸得是不得了。

I tell you, her scallion noodles are incredibly salty.

wǒ gēn nǐmen shuō

1) 我跟你们说 I'm telling you

It's a very common phrase used in our daily conversations. We usually say it first when we are going to tell the truth or say something important or serious. You can also say “我跟你(们)讲”. For example:

Wǒ gēn nǐ jiǎng, wǒ sūnzi shá dìfāng dōu bú qù a.

① 我跟你讲，我孙子啥地方都不去啊。

I am telling you. My grandson is not going anywhere.

Wǒ gēn nǐ jiǎng, nǐ yì fèn qián dōu bié xiǎng ná huíqu.

② 我跟你讲，你一份钱都别想拿回去。

I am telling you. You'll never get your money back.

Wǒ gēn nǐ jiǎng, wǒ xiànzài liǎng yǎn mào jīnxīng, nǐ de jiǎo zài shàng, tóu zài xià, nǐ shuō nǐ néng piàoliang dào nǎ qù.

③ 我跟你讲，我现在两眼冒金星，你的脚在上，头在下，你说你能漂亮到哪去。

I'm telling you. My vision is very blurry now. You look upside down to me now. How pretty can you be?

xián

2) 咸 adj. salty

“是” here is used to emphasize “咸” and can be omitted.

de bùdéliǎo

Adj.+ 得 + 不得了

“不得了” is usually used in spoken Chinese to indicate a high degree. For example:

Jīntiān rè de bùdéliǎo.

① 今天热得不得了。

It's awfully hot today.

Tā shōudào lǐwù yǐhòu gāoxìng de bùdéliǎo.

② 她收到礼物以后高兴得不得了。

She was filled with joy when got the present.

Wǒ zuìjìn mángde bùdéliǎo.

③ 我最近忙得不得了。

I have been super busy these days.

Kě wǒ yì kǒu dōu bù gǎn shèng, měi cì dōu děi chīguāng.

5. 可我一口都不敢剩，每次都得吃光。

But I slurped it all up. My bowl was licked clean every time.

děi

1) 得 v. have to

“得” is also often used in spoken Chinese. For example:

Wǒ děi qù shàngbān le.

① 我得去上班了。

I have to go to work.

Wǒ děi huíjiā le.

② 我得回家了。

I have to go home.

guāng

2) 光 adj. not even a bit left

chīguāng

吃光 eat up, finish all the food

It's also usually used as the result complement of an action in spoken Chinese. For examples:

hēguāng

① 喝光 drink up

Tā hēguāng le píngzi li de jiǔ.

Eg: 他喝光了瓶子里的酒。

He drank up the liquor in the bottle.

yòngguāng

② 用光 run out

Wǒ de yùnqì yǐjīng yòngguāng le.

Eg: 我的运气已经用光了。

My luck has run out.

shūguāng

③ 输光 lost all

Bàba bǎ qián dōu shūguāng le.

Eg: 爸爸把钱都输光了。

My father lost all his money.