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wǒ de lǎoshī shì zhōngguó de míng rén tā de shūfǎ hěn hǎo shì wénzì xué dà shī
我的老师是中国的名人。 他的书法很好，是文字学大师。
My teacher is a famous person in China. His calligraphy is good; he is a master in philology.

tā de lǎo dà shì dà xué shēng xué wén xué shūfǎ yě hěn hǎo
他的老大是大学生，学文学，书法也很好。
His eldest child is a university student, studying literature; he is also good in calligraphy.

tā de lǎo èr shì zhōng xué shēng shūfǎ bù zěn me yàng
他的老二是中学生，书法不怎么样。
His second child is a secondary school student, his calligraphy is not great.

méi rén shuō tā hàn zì xiě de hǎo kàn bù guò tā de yǔ wén hěn hǎo
没人说他汉字写得好看。 不过，他的语文很好。
No one says he does calligraphy well. But he is good in languages.

tā hǎo kàn xiǎo rén shū xiǎo shuō hàn yǔ yě shuō de hěn hǎo
他好看小人书，小说，汉语也说得很好。
He loves to read comic strips, novels, and he also speaks Chinese well.

zài zhōngguó xiǎo xué shēng rén rén dōu xué shūfǎ
在中国，小学生人人都学书法。
In China, all primary students learn calligraphy.

wǒ de kàn fǎ shì zhōngguó shūfǎ hǎo kàn bù hǎo xué
我的看法是：中国书法好看，不好学。
My opinion is: Chinese calligraphy is beautiful, not easy to learn.

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yǒu yī tiān wǒ qù rì běn dōng jīng kàn yí gè hěn yǒu míng de zuò jiā nà ge zuò jiā kǎn yàng zǐ shì xī
有一天，我去日本东京看一个很有名的作家。 那个作家，看样子是西
fāng rén
方人。

One day, I went to Tokyo, Japan to see a famous writer. That writer looks like a Westerner.
tā shuō tā men guó jiā shì yí gè wáng guó zài dì zhōng hǎi guó wáng shì hēi rén
他说他们国家是一个王国， 在地中海，国王是黑人。

He says that their country is a kingdom, it is in the Mediterranean, the king is a black man.
tā men guó jiā rén kǒu bù duō yǒu bù shǎo huǒ shān
他们国家人口不多，有不少火山。

Their country has a small population, has many volcanoes.
nán rén de xiǎng fǎ zuò fǎ hé nǚ rén bù yí yàng
男人的想法，作法和女人不一样。

The thoughts and deeds of men are different from women's
shēng rì de shí hòu nán de xǐ huan mǎi jiǔ bēi nǚ de xǐ huan mài chá huā
生日的时候，男的喜欢买酒杯，女的喜欢卖茶花。

When there is a birthday, the men like to buy wine glasses, the women like to buy camellia flower.
nán de qù tú shū guǎn kàn shū nǚ de zài jiā kàn shū
男的去图书馆看书，女的在家看书。

The men go read in a library, the women read at home.
nǚ rén shēng hái zǐ de shí hòu nán rén qù mài huā shēng dà rén xiǎo hái ér dōu lái hē xǐ jiǔ
女人生孩子的时候，男人去卖花生，大人，小孩儿都来喝喜酒。

When a woman is giving birth, the man go buy peanuts, adults and children all come to a feast.
tā men guó jiā tiān shàng méi yǒu fēi jī dì shàng méi yǒu huǒ chē
他们国家天上没有飞机，地上没有火车，

In their country, there is no plane in the sky and no train on the ground.
gōng rén men dōng tiān bù gōng zuò lǎo rén dōu xiǎng qù zhōng guó
工人们冬天不工作，老人都想去中国。

The workers do not work in winter, all old folks want to go to China.
tā men nà r wài guó dōng xī bù guì
他们那儿外国东西不贵，

In their country, foreign goods are not expensive,
kě shì rén men bù xǐ huan mǎi wài guó dōng xī xǐ huan mǎi běn guó de dà jiā dōu hěn ài guó
可是人们不喜欢买外国东西， 喜欢买本国的。 大家都 很爱国。
but the people do not like to buy foreign goods, they like to buy local goods. They are all very patriotic.

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wǒ de péngyǒu shì huàjiā
我的朋友是画家。

My friend is a painter.

tā hé wǒ yíyàng dà dōu shì hǔnián shēng de
他和我一样大，都是虎年生的。

He is the same age as I, we are both born in the year of the tiger.

tā huà r huà de hěn hǎo yě hěn yǒu xuéwèn
他画儿画得很好，也很有学问。

He paints very well, and also very well educated.

tā huì zhōngwén hàn zì yě rènshi bù shǎo
他会中文，汉字也认识不少。

He knows Chinese, and also knows quite a lot of characters.

tā de zhōngwén shì zì xué de
他的中文是自学的。

He learned Chinese on his own.

yǒu yī tiān wǒ zài xī hú kàn jiàn tā zhèng zài huà huà r
有一天，我在西湖看见他正在画画儿。

Once, I saw him painting at the Westlake.

tā yī biān huà huà r yī biān hái shuō zhōngwén
他一边画画儿，一边还说中文。

He was speaking Chinese while painting.

xíng rén kàn le dōu shuō tā huà de guó huà hěn hǎo kàn
行人看了都说，他画的国画很好看。

The passers-by looked and all said that the traditional Chinese paintings he painted were very beautiful.

wǒ péngyǒu tīng le shuō nǎ lǐ nǎ lǐ
我朋友听了说：“哪里，哪里”。

After hearing that he replied: “not at all, not at all”

wǒ xiǎng yí gè xī fāng rén zhōng guó huà r huà de zhè me hǎo shì bù duō de
我想，一个西方人中国画儿画得这么好是不多的。

I think it's rare that a Westerner can paint traditional Chinese painting that well.

wǒ bù zhī dào zhōng guó huà hé xī fāng huà yǒu shén me bù tóng
我不知道中国画和西方画有什么不同，

I don't know the different between Chinese and Western paintings.

zhī zhī dào zài huà fǎ shàng bù yí yàng
只知道在画法上不一样。

I only know that the techniques are different.

zhōng guó huà r hěn hǎo kàn
中国画儿很好看。

Chinese paintings are beautiful.

jǐ nián yǐ qián wǒ zài xué bào shàng kàn jiàn guò jǐ zhāng tā de huà r
几年以前，我在学报上看见过几张他的画儿。

A couple of years ago, I saw his paintings in a school journal.

yī zhāng huà de shì huáng hé yī zhāng huà de shì lǎo hǔ hé shān
一张画的是黄河，一张画的是老虎和山。

One had the Yellow River as the subject, the other was a tiger and a mountain.

huà r shàng yǒu tā de míng zì dào jiā liǎng gè zì
画儿上有他的名字“道家”两个字。

On the painting was his name in two characters 'Dao jia'. (the Taoist school)

wǒ tīng shuō tā yòng dào jiā zuò tā de zhōng guó míng zì
我听说他用“道家”作他的中国名字。

I heard that he uses 'the Taoist school' as his Chinese name.

zhè yī diǎn tā hé wǒ yí yàng wǒ men dōu xǐ huān dào jiā
这一点，他和我一样，我们都喜欢道家。

Regarding this, he is the same as I; we both like the Taoist school.

kě néng wǒ men dōu xiǎng zuò yǒu xué wèn yǒu zhī shì de rén ba
可能我们都想做有学问，有知识的人吧？

Probably we both like to be well educated and knowledgeable?

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zuótiān wǒ de yí gè tóngshì gāng cóng guówài dé liǎo xuéwèi huílái
昨天我的一个同事刚从国外得了学位回来。

Yesterday, one of my colleagues just returned from abroad after having received an academic degree.

jīntiān tā qǐng wǒ hé wǒ ài rén hái yǒu jǐ wèi yǒu dì wèi de péngyǒu qù yí jiā fàn guǎn chī fàn
今天他请我和我爱人，还有几位有地位的朋友去一家饭馆吃饭。

Today, he invites my spouse and I, and a few friends of status to dine in a restaurant.

tīng shuō zhè jiā fàn guǎn bú cuò yǒu bù shǎo míng cài
听说这家饭馆不错，有不少名菜。

I heard this restaurant is pretty good and has many famous dishes.

fàn guǎn lí huǒ chē zhàn bú yuǎn zài yí gè shí zì lù kǒu dōng biān
饭馆离火车站不远，在一个十字路口东边。

The restaurant is not far from the train station, next to a junction to the Eastern side.

wǒ men dào de shí hòu wǒ kàn jiàn wǒ men xué yuàn de yuǎn zhǎng fǎ yuàn de yuǎn zhǎng yuǎn zhǎng tài tài dōu lái le
我们到的时候，我看见我们学院的院长，法院的院长，院长太太都来了。

When we arrived, we saw the head of our institute, the head of the law institute and his wife.

yǒu liǎng wèi xiān shēng hé yí wèi nǚ shì wǒ bú rèn shi
有两位先生和一位女士我不认识。

We do not know two men and a woman.

wǒ péng yǒu shuō yí wèi shì tā de fáng dōng yí wèi shì xué diàn zǐ de nà wèi nǚ shì shì fáng dōng tài tài tā shì yī shēng
我朋友说，一位是他的房东，一位是学电子的，那位女士是房东太太，她是医生。

My friend tells that one is his landlord and one is studying electronic, the woman is the wife of his landlord, she is a doctor.

jīntiān shì xǐ shì wǒ men xiān hē le diǎn er jiǔ hé qì shuǐ
今天是喜事，我们先喝了点儿酒和汽水。

Today is a happy event, we had alcohol and soft drinks.

hē jiǔ de shí hòu dà jiā dōu hé wǒ péng yǒu gān bēi
喝酒的时候，大家都和我朋友干杯。

When drinking, everyone toasts to my friend.

hòu lái wǒ men diǎn cài
后来，我们点菜。

Afterwards, we ordered the dishes.

wǒ diǎn le yí fèn er huǒ jī dà cài wǒ ài rén diǎn le yí fèn er yú zǐ hé yí fèn er tián jī
我点了一份儿火鸡大菜，我爱人点了一份儿鱼子和一份儿田鸡。

I ordered a Western style (or main course) turkey dish; my spouse ordered a dish of fish roe and a dish of frog.

yuǎn zhǎng diǎn de shì shuǐ niú ròu tā tài tài diǎn de shì shuǐ jiǎo
院长点的是水牛肉，他太太点的是水饺。

It is water buffalo meat that the head of the institute ordered, his wife order dumplings.

yī shēng bú xǐ huān chī ròu diǎn de shì mǐ fàn hé shēng cài
医生不喜欢吃肉，点的是米饭和生菜。

The doctor doesn't like to eat meat, she ordered rice and lettuce.

zhī shì fēn zǐ zài yí kuài er chī fàn xǐ huān shuō huà yí biān chī yí biān shuō chī de hěn màn
知识分子在一块儿吃饭喜欢说话，一边吃，一边说，吃得很慢。

Intellectuals like to chat when they eat, they talk while they eat, eating very slowly.

chī wán fàn yǐ hòu wǒ men dào tā jiā zuò le zuò tā zhù de bú shì lóu fáng shì yí gè yuàn zi
吃完饭以后，我们到他家坐了坐。他住的不是楼房，是一个院子。

After the meal, we went to his place for a visit. He doesn't live in an apartment building but a courtyard.

tā de shū fáng hěn dà cóng tā de shū fáng kě yǐ kàn dào dà hǎi hé rì chū tā zhù de fáng zi bú cuò
他的书房很大。从他的书房可以看到大海和日出。他住的房子不错。

His study is big. From his study one could see the sea and sunrise. His house is pretty nice.

kàn lái wǒ de zhè wèi tóng shì zài guó wài hěn néng gàn
看来，我的这位同事在国外很能干。

From the look of things, this colleague of mine was very capable while abroad.

wǒ rènwéi yīnyuèjiā hé yǔyánxuéjiā yǒu zhèyàng jǐ diǎn qūbié
我认为音乐家和语言学家有这样几点区别：

In my opinion musicians and linguists are different in the following ways:

- 一, yīnyuèjiā de fù mǔ duō shì shāng rén yǔyánxuéjiā de fù mǔ duō shì zhī shī fèn zǐ
音乐家的父母多是商人，语言学家的父母多是知识分子。
The parents of musicians are mostly business, those of linguists are intellectuals.
- 二, yīnyuèjiā méi yǒu zhī xīn péng yǒu yǔyánxuéjiā péng yǒu hěn duō
音乐家没有知心朋友，语言学家朋友很多。
Musicians have no intimate friends, linguists have many friends.
- 三, yīnyuèjiā cháng dé hǎo kàn de duō yǔyánxuéjiā cháng dé hǎo kàn de shǎo
音乐家长得好看的多，语言学家长得好看的少。
Musicians look much better, linguists are rarely good looking.
- 四, yīnyuèjiā xiū xi de shí hòu xǐ huān qù gōng yuán
音乐家休息的时候喜欢去公园，
yǔyánxuéjiā xǐ huān qù shì chǎng hé shū diàn
语言学家喜欢去市场和书店。
When resting, musicians like to go to a park, linguists like to go to markets and bookstores.
- 五, yīnyuèjiā xǐ huān shēng wù yǔyánxuéjiā ài wén wù
音乐家喜欢生物，语言学家爱文物。
Musicians like living things, linguist like artifacts.
- 六, yīnyuèjiā bú yòng bǐ míng yǔyánxuéjiā bǐ míng hěn duō
音乐家不用笔名，语言学家笔名很多。
Musicians do not use pseudonyms, linguists have many pseudonyms.
- 七, yīnyuèjiā xǐ huān chī gōng jī yǔyánxuéjiā xǐ huān chī mǔ jī
音乐家喜欢吃公鸡，语言学家喜欢吃母鸡。
Musicians like to eat roosters, linguists like to eat hens.
- 八, yīnyuèjiā dōu shì tiān cái yǔyánxuéjiā kǒu cái (eloquence) hěn hǎo
音乐家都是天才，语言学家口才很好。
All musicians are genius, linguist are good speakers.
- 九, yīnyuèjiā wǎn shàng ài chī shuǐ guǒ yǔyánxuéjiā ài chī diǎn xīn
音乐家晚上爱吃水果，语言学家爱吃点心。
Musicians love to eat fruits in the evenings, linguists love to eat dim sum.
- 十, yīnyuèjiā kāi huì shí fā yán bù cháng yǔyánxuéjiā cháng cháng ài yòng wén yán
音乐家开会时发言不长，语言学家常常爱用文言。
Musicians give short speeches during a meeting, linguists often use classical Chinese.
- 十一, yīnyuèjiā ài zài jiā lǐ dǎ diàn huà
音乐家爱在家里打电话，
yǔyánxuéjiā xǐ huān yòng gōng yòng diàn huà
语言学家喜欢用公用电话。
Musicians love to call from home, linguists like to use public phone.
- 十二, yīnyuèjiā shuō huà hěn hé qì yǔyánxuéjiā shuō huà yào kàn duì xiàng
音乐家说话很和气，语言学家说话要看对象。
Musicians speak politely, linguists choose his audience when they speak.
- 十三, yīnyuèjiā xiǎo qì de duō yǔyánxuéjiā dà fāng de duō
音乐家小气的多，语言学家大方的多。
Most musicians are stingy, most linguists are generous.
- 十四, yīnyuèjiā bù xǐ huān tīng jī jiào yǔyánxuéjiā jué de jī jiào shì yīn yuè wǒ de
音乐家不喜欢听鸡叫，语言学家觉得鸡叫是音乐。我的
kàn fǎ nǐ tóng yì ma
看法，你同意吗？
Musicians do not like the crow of a chicken, musicians think that is music. My opinion, do you agree?

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gěinán péngyǒude xìn
给男朋友的信 letter to my boy friend,

qīnài de wénpíng
亲爱的文平： Dear wén píng

nǐhǎo hǎojiǔ méiyǒushōudào nǐ dexìn le nǐ zuì jìn zěnmeyàng
你好！好久没有收到你的信了。你最近怎么样？
Hello! I have not received your mail for a long time. How are you getting on?

shēntǐ hǎoma wǒ xiànzài tiāntiān zài xiǎngnǐ nǐ xiǎng wǒ ma
身体好吗？我现在天天在想你。你想我吗？
How's your health? I miss you everyday now. Do you miss me?

nǐ kuàibǎ wǒ wàngle ba wèishénme búgěi wǒ láixìn ne
你快把我忘了吧？为什么不给我来信呢？
You have almost forgotten me, haven't you! Why don't you write?

nándào shì shēngbìngle ma
难道是生病了吗？
Could you have fallen sick?

sānnián yǐqián wǒ rènshinǐ deshíhòu nǐ hěnniánqīng gāngāng chūguóhuílái
三年以前，我认识你的时候，你很年轻，刚刚出国回来。
3 years ago, when I got to know you, you were very young and just returned from abroad.

wǒ zàixiàoyuánménkǒu wènle nǐ yìxiēxìnxī xué fāngmiàn de wèntí yīnwéi wǒ tīngguò
我在校园门口问了你一些信息学方面的问题，因为我听过
nǐ de kè
你的课。

At the school gate I asked you some questions about information science, because I attended your lessons before.

suīrán nǐ jiǎngkè deshíhòu yǒudiǎner hēilóngjiāngkǒuyīn kěshì wǒ juéde nǐ jiǎngde
虽然你讲课的时候有点儿黑龙江口音，可是我觉得你讲得
hěnyǒushuǐpíng hěnrènzhēn
很有水平，很认真。

Though you carry a Heilongjiang accent when you spoke, (but) I found that the lecture was of high standard, and very serious.

nàtiān nǐ kāishǐ gēnwǒ shuōhuàdeshíhòu hái yǒudiǎner bùhǎoyì si ne
那天，你开始跟我说话的时候还有点儿不好意思呢。
That day, you were even a little shy when you started to talk to me!

dāngrán guòle yíhuìr jiù zìrán duōle hòulái shì nǐ zhǔdòng zhǎole wǒ jǐ cì
当然，过了一会儿就自然多了。后来，是你主动找了我几次。

Of course, after a while it became much more natural. Afterwards, it was you who took the initiative and visited me several times.

yí cì shì gěi wǒ jiǎng diànnǎo dāngshí wǒ juéde nǐ de nǎo zǐ jiù gēn diànnǎo yí yàng
一次是给我讲电脑。当时，我觉得你的脑子就跟电脑一样。

Once you gave me a talk about computer. Then, I thought your brain was just like a computer.

yí cì shì gěi wǒ jiǎng chéngyǔ nǐ jiǎngde liǎng gè chéngyǔ shì yì xīn yí yì hé sān xīn liǎng yì
一次是给我讲成语。你讲的两个成语是“一心一意”和“三心两意”。

Once you gave me a talk about Chinese idioms. The two idioms you talked about were 'whole heartedly' and 'in two minds'

nǐ shuō zuòshì yào yì xīnyí yì bùnéng sānxīnliǎngyì
你说做事要一心一意，不能三心两意。

You said one must do things whole heartedly and cannot be in two minds.

búzhīzěnde xiànzài wǒ yī tīngdào zhè liǎng gè chéngyǔ jiù xiǎngqǐ nǐ
不知怎的，现在我一听到这两个成语，就想起你。

I have no idea why I immediately think of you whenever I hear of these two idioms.

yí cì shì jiǎng lǐbái nǐ shuō nǐ zuì xǐhuan lǐbái
一次是讲李白，你说你最喜欢李白。

Once you talked about the poet Libai. You said you like him the most.

háiyǒu yí cì shì nǐ gěi wǒ chàng míngē nǐ chàng de míngē zhēndòng rén zhēnhǎo tīng
还有一次是你给我唱民歌。你唱的民歌真动人，真好听。

Yet another time you sang for me folk songs, the folk songs you sang were very moving, and sounded really good.

kàn lái nǐ hái shì yí gè gē chàng jiā ne cóng nà yǐ hòu wǒ jiù ài shàng le nǐ
看来，你还是一个歌唱家呢。从那以后，我就爱上了你。

It seems that, beside all other talents, you are a great vocalist! From then on, I fell in love with you.

zhēn de dāng shí wǒ shí kè xiǎng gēn nǐ zài yì qǐ zuò zài nǐ shēn páng tīng nǐ jiǎng zhī xīn huà
真的，当时我时刻想跟你在一起，坐在你身旁，听你讲知心话。

Honestly, I wanted to be with you every moment then, to sit beside you, and to listen to your heart-to-heart talk.

zuì ràng wǒ nán wàng de shì qián nián qiū tiān
最让我难忘的是前年秋天。

What is most unforgettable for me is the autumn two years ago.

yǒu yì tiān wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn yí gè wàiguó dòng huà piān
有一天，我们一起去看看一个外国动画片。

One day, we went together to see a foreign animation film.

huí lái de shí hòu xià yǔ le wǒ wàng le dài yǔ yī zháo liǎng le
回来的时候，下雨了。我忘了带雨衣，着凉了。

On the way home, it rained. I forgot to bring my raincoat and caught a cold.

nǐ gēn wǒ yì qǐ qù yī yuàn kàn bìng qù yào fáng mǎi yào
你跟我一起去医院看病，去药房买药。

You went with me to the hospital and to buy medicine from a pharmacy.

wǒ méi yǒu dài qián bāo shì nǐ ná qián mǎi de yào
我没有带钱包，是你拿钱买的药。

I didn't bring my wallet; it was you who paid for the medicine. The

wǒ shēng bìng de nà jǐ tiān nǐ tiān tiān jì zì xíng chē lái kàn wǒ
我生病的那几天，你天天骑自行车来看我。

couple of days when I was sick, you came to visit me everyday by bicycle.

yǒu shí zài wǒ zhè er chī diǎn er biàn fàn hěn wǎn cái huí jiā
有时在我这儿吃点儿便饭，很晚才回家。

Sometimes you ate a simple meal at my place and returned home very late.

dāng shí wǒ zhēn yǒu diǎn er xīn téng nǐ
当时，我真有点儿心疼你。

Then, I really felt a little sorry for you.

qù nián xīn nián de shí hòu wǒ shōu dào le nǐ de míng xìn piàn hé yí zhāng chàng piàn
去年新年的时候，我收到了你的明信片 and 一张唱片。

Last year during the New Year, I received a postcard and a record from you.

míng xìn piàn shàng xiě zhe gěi wǒ de yì zhōng rén
明信片上写着：“给我的意中人”。

On the postcard was written 'to my beloved'.

kàndào zhè jǐ gè zì wǒ gāoxìngdé búzhīzěnmehǎo
看到这几个字，我高兴得不知怎么好。

After reading these words, I was so happy that I was at a loss what do.

qīnàide wǒmen zài jīchǎng fēnshǒude shíhòu
亲爱的，我们在机场分手的时候，

My dear, when we were saying goodbye at the airport,

nǐ shuō wǒ shì jiǎngxìnyòngde nǐ yídìngděngzhe wǒ
你说：“我是讲信用的，你一定等着我。

You said: 'I am trustworthy, you must wait for me.

wǒ déliǎo xuéwèi jiù mǎshàng huílái
我得了学位，就马上回来。”

Once I get my degree, I will return immediately'

wǒ méiwàng nǐ de huà
我没忘你的话。

I have not forgotten your words.

wǒ zài děng nǐ shíkè zàiděngzhe nǐ děngzhenǐ zǎoyìtiān huílái
我在等你，时刻在等着你，等着你早一天回来。

I am waiting for you, waiting for you every moment, waiting for you to return soon.

zhù nǐ wànshì rúyì
祝你万事如意！

May all your wishes come true!

nǐ de xīnshàng rén yuányuán
你的心上人 园园

Your sweetheart Yuan Yuan

nián sān rì yúběidà
1996 年 9 月 3 日 于北大 in Beijing University