Dialogue 1: Shopping for Clothes

(李友在一个商店买东西,售货员问她…)

小姐，您要买什么衣服？

我想买一件衬衫。

您喜欢什么颜色的，黄的还是红的？

我喜欢穿红的。我还想买一条裤子。

多大的？大号的、中号的、还是小号的？

中号的。不要太贵的，也

LANGUAGE NOTES

1) Note that the verb 穿 (chuān) can mean both "to wear" and "to put on." However, for most accessories, especially those for the upper part of the body, 戴 (dài) is used instead of 穿 (chuān).

2) In Chinese, a pair of pants is just one single piece of clothing. Hence 一条裤子 (yī tiáo kùzi, literally, a trouser) instead of "two trousers" (yī shuāng kùzi, literally, a pair of trousers).
不要太便宜的。
这条裤子怎么样？
颜色很好。如果长短合适的
话，我就买。
您试一下。

[Li You checks the size on the label and measures the pants against her legs.]
不用试。可以。
这件衬衫呢？
也不错。一共多少钱？
衬衫二十一块五，裤子三十
二块九毛九，一共是五十四
块四毛九分。
好，这是一百块钱。
找您四十五块五毛一。
谢谢。

(Li You zai yi ge shangdiàn mǎi dōngxi, shòu huò yuán wén tā. . .)

Xiaoqiè, nín yào mǎi shénme yífù?
Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yī jiàn chènshān.
Nín xǐhuan shēnme yǎnsè de? huáng de hái shì hóng de?
Wǒ xǐhuan chuān hóng de. Wǒ hái xiǎng mǎi yì tiáo kúzi.
Duō dài de? Dà hǎo de, zhòng hǎo de, háishí xiǎo hǎo de?
Zhōng hǎo de. Bú yào tài gui de, yě bù yào tài piányí de.
Dialogue: Shopping for Clothes

Zhè tiáo kūzi zênmênyâng?
Yânsè hên hâo, rûguǒ chângduân hêshi de huà, wô jiû mài.
Nín shì yì xià.

[Li: You checks the size on the label and measures the pants against her legs.]

Bûyûng shì, kãyî.
Zhè jián chênshân ne?
Yê bûcuô. Yígông duûshào qián?
Chênshân érshìyí kuài wù, kûzi sânshe’èr kuài jiû máo jiû, yígông shì wûshì kuài sì máo jiû fên°.
Hâo, zhê shì yibái kuài qián.
Zhâo nín sîshìwû kuài wû máo yì. Xiêxie.
1. 商店  shāngdiàn  n  store; shop
2. 买  mái  v  to buy
3. 东西  dōngxi  n  things; objects
4. 售货员  shòuhuòyuán  n  shop assistant; salesclerk
5. 衣服  yīfu  n  clothes
6. 件  jiàn  m  (measure word for shirts, dresses, jackets, coats, etc.)
7. 衬衫  chènshān  n  shirt
8. 颜色  yánse  n  color
9. 黄  huáng  adj  yellow
10. 红  hóng  adj  red
11. 穿  chuān  v  to wear; to put on
12. 条  tiáo  m  (measure word for pants and long, thin objects)
13. 裤子  kùzi  n  pants
14. 号  hào  n  size
15. 中  zhōng  adj  medium; middle
16. 便宜  piányi  adj  cheap; inexpensive
17. 如果…的话  rúguǒ…de huà  conj  if
18. 长短  
   chángduān n  length  
   cháng  adj  long  
   duān  adj  short  

19. 合适  
   heshi  adj  suitable  

20. 试  
   shì  v  to try  

21. 不用  
   búyòng  need not  

22. 一共  
   yígōng  adv  altogether  

23. 多少  
   duōshǎo  qpr  how much/many  

24. 钱  
   qián  n  money  

25. 块  
   kuài  m  (measure word for the basic Chinese monetary unit)  

26. 毛  
   máo  m  (measure word for 1/10 of a kuai, dime [in US money])  

27. 分  
   fēn  m  (measure word for 1/100 of a kuai, cent)  

28. 百  
   bǎi  nu  hundred  

29. 找 (钱)  
   zhǎo (qián)  v(o)  to give change
1. The Modal Verb 要 (yào) (II)

[See also Lesson 6 Grammar 2.]

One of the meanings of 要 (yào) is “to desire to do something.”

1. 明天是周末，你要做什么？
   Mingtiān shì zōumò, nǐ yào zuò shénme?
   (Tomorrow is the weekend. What do you want to do?)

2. 我要去图书馆看书，你去不去？
   Wǒ yào qù túshūguǎn kàn shū, nǐ qù bù qù?
   (I want to go to the library to read. Are you going?)

3. 我要喝可乐，他要喝茶。
   Wǒ yào hē kělè, tā yào hē chá.
   (I want to drink cola. He wants to drink tea.)

To negate it, use 不想 (bù xiǎng).

4. 我不想去图书馆。
   Wǒ bù xiǎng qù túshūguǎn.
   (I don’t feel like going to the library.)

5. 今天我不想做功课。
   Jīntiān wǒ bù xiǎng zuò gōngkè.
   (I don’t feel like doing my homework today.)

For (4), however, some Chinese speakers, particularly in the South, would say:

我不要去图书馆。
Wǒ bù yào qù túshūguǎn.

Both modal verbs 想 (xiǎng) and 要 (yào) can express a desire or an intention, but 要 (yào) carries a stronger tone.
2. Measure Words (II)

[See also Lesson 2 Grammar 2.]

The following are the “measure word + noun” combinations that we have covered so far. You have come across these measure words along with the nouns associated with them.

- 一个人
  - yi ge ren
  - a person

- 一位先生
  - yi wei xiansheng
  - a gentleman

- 一杯茶
  - yi bei cha
  - a cup of tea

- 一瓶可乐
  - yi ping kele
  - a bottle of cola

- 一支笔
  - yi zhi bi
  - a pen

- 一张纸
  - yi zhang zhi
  - a piece of paper

- 一节课
  - yi jie ke
  - a class period

- 一篇日记
  - yi pian riji
  - a diary entry

- 一封信
  - yi fen xin
  - a letter

- 一件衬衫
  - yi jian chenshan
  - a shirt

- 一条裤子
  - yi tiao kuzu
  - a pair of pants

- 一双鞋
  - yi shuang xie
  - a pair of shoes

- 一块钱
  - yi kuai qian
  - one yuan

- 一毛钱
  - yi mao qian
  - 1/10 of a yuan

- 一分钱
  - yi fen qian
  - 1/100 of a yuan, one cent
3. The 的 (de) Structure (II)

We have a 的 (de) structure when a noun, a pronoun, or an adjective is followed by the structural particle 的 (de). Grammatically, a 的 (de) structure is equivalent to a noun, e.g., 老师的 (lǎoshī de, the teacher's), 我的 (wǒ de, mine), 大的 (dà de, the big one), etc. See also Grammar 8 in Lesson 7.

4. 多 (duō) Used Interrogatively

The adverb 多 (duō) is often used in a question asking about degree or extent, e.g.,

1. 你今年多大？ [See Lesson 3.]
   Nǐ jīnnián duō dà?
   (How old are you this year?)

2. 你穿多大的衣服？
   Nǐ chuān duō dà de yīfu?
   (What size clothes do you wear?)

3. 你弟弟多高？
   Nǐ dìdì duō gāo?
   (How tall is your younger brother?)

The adjectives that follow 多 (duō) are typically those suggesting large extents such as 大 (dà, big), 高 (gāo, tall; high) and 远 (yuǎn, far), rather than those denoting small degrees such as 小 (xiǎo, small; little), 矮 (ài, short), and 近 (jìn, near).

5. Amounts of Money

Chinese monetary units are 元 (yuán), 角 (jiǎo, 1/10 of a yuan), and 分 (fēn, one cent or 1/100 of a yuan). In colloquial speech, alternative terms 块 (kuài) and 毛 (máo) are usually used instead of 元 (yuán) and 角 (jiǎo), but price markings in stores are likely to be in 元 (yuán) and 角 (jiǎo), and many store clerks also use 元 (yuán) in their speech. Using the colloquial terms, ¥ 5.99
is 五块九毛九分钱 (wǔ kuài jiǔ mào jiǔ fēn qián). However, in casual conversation abbreviated forms are often used.

The rules for abbreviation of monetary terms are as follows: begin by omitting the last element 钱 (qián) in the expression and then the second to last element: 五块九毛九分 (wǔ kuài jiǔ mào jiǔ fēn) omitting 钱 (qián), or 五块九毛九 (wǔ kuài jiǔ mào jiǔ) omitting both 钱 (qián) and 分 (fēn). Note that if 钱 is included, the preceding measure (e.g., 分) must also be included; one doesn't say *五块九毛九钱 (wǔ kuài jiǔ mào jiǔ qián). One or more zeros occurring internally in a complex number are read as 零/0 (líng, zero).

Rénmínbi: from top to bottom

五元, 二角, 一元
wǔ yuán, èr jiǎo, yī yuán

Xíntái bi

五十元
wǔshí yuán

1  $8.55

八块五毛五(分)(钱)
bā kuài wǔ mào wǔ (fēn) (qián)

2 $15.30

十五块三(毛)(钱)
shíwǔ kuài sān (máo) (qián)

3 $103

一百零三块(钱)
yī bǎi líng sān kuài (qián)

4 $100.30

一百块零三毛(钱)
yī bǎi kuài líng sān mào (qián)

5 $100.03

一百块零三分(钱)
yī bǎi kuài líng sān fēn (qián)

To avoid ambiguity, 毛 (máo) and 分 (fēn) cannot be omitted in (4) or (5).
Language Practice

A. 要 (yào, to want to; to have a desire to)

Practice with a partner how to ask and answer what Little Wang wishes to do next week based on the following chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXAMPLE: 星期一

→ A: 小王下个星期一要做什么？
   B: 小王下个星期一要去上课。

1. 星期二
2. 星期三
3. 星期四
4. 星期五
5. 星期六
B. 想 (xiǎng, to feel like; would like to)

Little Li likes window shopping, and always dreams about what she would like to buy. Say what's on her wish list based on the pictures.

EXAMPLE

→ 小李想买一件新衣服。 Xiǎo Lǐ xiǎng mǎi yī jiàn xīn yīfu.

1. 2. 3. 4.

C. 的 (de) Structure

Practice how to ask and answer the following using the words given.

C1: Lost and Found: Identify to whom the objects belong.

EXAMPLE:

A:

→ 这瓶可乐是谁的？ Zhè píng kělè shì shéi de?

B: 这瓶可乐是 高文中的。 Zhè píng kělè shì Gāo Wénzhòng de.

1. 2. 3.
C2: Identify the colors of Little Wang's belongings.

EXAMPLE:

→ A: 小王的笔是什么颜色的？
B: 小王的笔是黄色的。

→ A: Xiǎo Wáng de bǐ shì shénme yánsè de?
B: Xiǎo Wáng de bǐ shì huángsè de.

D. 多 (duō)

Practice how to ask about age, height, and how expensive things are.

How do you find out the following:
1. your friend's sibling's age
2. the price of your friend's pants
3. your teacher's height

E. Pair Activity

Is your partner a shopaholic? Find out your partner's shopping habits.

你喜欢买东西吗？
你常常去买东西吗？
你喜欢买什么东西？
你喜欢买衣服吗？
你常常去哪儿买东西？
你常常跟谁一起去买东西？

Nǐ xǐhuān mǎi dōngxi ma?
Nǐ chéngcháng qù mǎi dōngxi ma?
Nǐ xǐhuān mǎi shénme dōngxi?
Nǐ xǐhuān mǎi yīfu ma?
Nǐ chéngcháng qù nǎr mǎi dōngxi?
Nǐ chéngcháng gèn shéi yǐqǐ qù mǎi dōngxi?
你有几件衬衫？
Nǐ yǒu jǐ jiàn chēnshān?

你有几条裤子？
Nǐ yǒu jǐ tiáo kùzī?

F. Pair Activity

Be a fashion commentator. Bring in a photo, or a clipping from a magazine, of your favorite celebrity. Work with a partner to ask and answer the following questions. Then report back to the class the information gathered regarding your partner’s celebrity.

Celebrity’s name 喜欢什么颜色？
Celebrity’s name xǐhuan shénme yán sè?

她喜欢穿什么颜色的衣服？
Tā xǐhuan chuān shénme yán sè de yīfu?

她今天的衣服是什么颜色的？
Tā jīntiān de yīfu shì shénme yán sè de?

你觉得她今天的衣服长短合适不合适？
Nǐ juédé tā jīntiān de yīfu chángduān hēshì bù hēshì?

她的衣服多吗？
Tā de yīfu duō ma?
对不起，这双鞋太小了。能不能换一双？
没问题。您看，这双怎么样？
也不行，这双跟那双一样大。
那这双黑的呢？
这双鞋虽然大小合适，可是颜色不好。有没有咖啡色的？
对不起，这种鞋只有黑的。
这双鞋样子挺好的，就是它吧。你们这儿可以刷卡吗？
对不起，我们不收信用卡。不过，这双的钱跟那双一样，您不用再付钱了。

LANGUAGE NOTES
① 挺+adj+的 (tīng+adj+dé) means “it's rather adj.” The 的 (de) is optional.
② 就是它吧 (jiù shì tā ba) is an expression one often uses when making a decision at the end of a process of selection. It roughly means “This is it” or “I'll take it.” [See That's How the Chinese Say It! after Lesson 10.]
Duibuqì, zhè shuāng xié tài xiāo le. Néng bu néng huān yī shuang?

Měi wèntí. Nín kàn, zhè shuāng zěnmeyàng?

Yē bu xíng, zhè shuāng gěn nà shuāng yǐyàng duō dà.

Nà zhè shuāng hēi de ne?

Zhè shuāng xié suīrán dàxiǎo hēshí, kēshì yán sè bù hǎo. Yōu méiyǒu kǎféisè de?

Duibuqì, zhè zhǒng xié zhī yǒu hēi de.

Zhè shuāng xié yàng zì tíng hào de...jiù shì tā bā. Nǐmen zhèr kěyǐ shuā kǎ ma?

Duibuqì, wǒmen bù shǒu xìnyóngkǎ. Búguò, zhè shuāng de qián gěn nà shuāng yǐyàng, nǐn bùyōng zài fú qián le.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>双</td>
<td>shuāng</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>measure word for a pair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>鞋</td>
<td>xié</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>换</td>
<td>huàn</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>to exchange; to change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>一样</td>
<td>yìyáng</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td>same; alike [See Grammar 6.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>虽然</td>
<td>suīrán</td>
<td>conj</td>
<td>although [See Grammar 7.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>大小</td>
<td>dàxiǎo</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>咖啡色</td>
<td>kāfēisè</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>brown; coffee color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>种</td>
<td>zhǒng</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>(measure word for kinds, sorts, types)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>黑</td>
<td>hēi</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td>black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>样子</td>
<td>yàngzi</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>挺</td>
<td>tīng</td>
<td>adv</td>
<td>very; rather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>它</td>
<td>tā</td>
<td>pr</td>
<td>it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>这儿</td>
<td>zhèr</td>
<td>pr</td>
<td>here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>刷卡</td>
<td>shuākǎ</td>
<td>vo</td>
<td>to pay with a credit card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>刷</td>
<td>shuā</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>to brush; to swipe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>卡</td>
<td>kǎ</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>收</td>
<td>shōu</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>to receive; to accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>信用卡</td>
<td>xīnyòngkǎ</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>credit card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>不过</td>
<td>bùguò</td>
<td>conj</td>
<td>however; but</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>再</td>
<td>zài</td>
<td>adv</td>
<td>again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>付钱</td>
<td>fùqián</td>
<td>vo</td>
<td>to pay money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>付</td>
<td>fù</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>to pay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grammar

6. 跟/和…(不)一样 (gēn/hé…{bù} yíyàng, {not} the same as...)

To express similarity or dissimilarity between objects, persons, or actions, we use the structure 跟/和…(不)一样 (gēn/hé...{bù} yíyàng).

1. 你的衬衫跟我的一样。
   Nǐ de chēnshān gěn wǒ de yíyàng.
   (Your shirt is the same as mine.)

2. 贵的衣服和便宜的衣服不一样。
   Guì de yīfu hé piányi de yīfu bù yíyàng.
   (Expensive clothes are different from cheap ones.)

Following 一样 (yíyàng), an adjective can be used:

3. 弟弟跟哥哥一样高。
   Dìdì gèn gēge yíyàng gāo.
   (The younger brother is as tall as the older one.)
4. 这个电脑跟那个电脑一样新。
Zhè ge diànnǎo gèn nà ge diànnǎo yíyàng xīn.
(This computer is as new as that one.)

5. 常老师写汉字写得跟王老师（写汉字写得）一样漂亮。
Cháng Lǎoshi xiě Hánzì xiě de gèn Wáng Lǎoshi (xiě Hánzì xiě de) yíyàng piào liàng.
Teacher Chang writes Chinese characters as nicely as Teacher Wang does.

7. 虽然…，可是/但是…(suīrán..., kěshì/dànshì..., although...yet...)
This pair of conjunctions links the two clauses in a complex sentence. Note, however, that 虽然 (suīrán) is often optional.

1. 虽然这双鞋很便宜，可是大小不合适。
Suīrán zhè shuāng xié hěn piányí, kěshì dàxiǎo bù hēshì.
(Although this pair of shoes is inexpensive, it's not the right size.)

2. 这本书很有意思，可是太贵了。
Zhè běn shū hěn yóu yìsī, kěshì tài guì le.
(This book is very interesting, but it's too expensive.)

中国布鞋
Zhōngguó bùxiē
(Chinese cloth shoes)
中文不容易，但是很有意思。

Zhōngwén bù róngyì, dànshì hěn yǒu yìsi.

(Chinese is not easy, but it’s very interesting.)

Whether or not 虽然 (suīrán) is used in the first clause, 可是/但是 (kěshì/dànshì) cannot be omitted in the second. The following sentence is, therefore, incorrect:

(2a) *虽然这本书很有意思，太贵了。

*Suírán zhè běn shū hěn yǒu yìsi, tài guì le.

Language Practice

G. 跟…一样 (gèn…yīyàng, the same as...)

Example: 这件衣服跟那件衣服一样漂亮。

Zhè jiàn yīfu gèn nà jiàn yīfu yíyàng piào liàng.

1. 这枝笔 跟 那枝笔 跟便宜
   Zhè zhī bǐ gèn nà zhī bǐ gèn piányi

2. 这条裤子 跟 那条裤子 跟贵
   Zhè tiáo kùzi gèn nà tiáo kùzi gèn guì

3. 这双鞋 跟 那双鞋 跟合适
   Zhè shuāng xié gèn nà shuāng xié gèn hESHí

4. 这件衬衫 跟 那件衬衫 跟大
   Zhè jiàn chénshān gèn nà jiàn chénshān gèn dà

5. 第九课的语法 跟 第八课的语法 跟难
   Dī jiǔ kè de yǔfǎ gèn dī bā kè de yǔfǎ gèn nán
H. 虽然…可是/但是 (suīrán…kǎishì/dànsì, although…yet)

**Example:** 虽然中文很难，可是很有意思。

1. 她的新衣服很多。
   她都不穿
   Suīrán Zhòngwén hěn nán,  
   kěshì hěn yǒu yìsi.  
   1. tā de xīn yīfu hěn duō  
   tā dōu bù chuān

2. 这条裤子很便宜。
   长短不合适
   zhè tiáo kùzi hěn piányí  
   chángduān bù hésì  
   2. zhè tiáo kùzi hěn piányí  
   chángduān bù hésì

3. 这件衬衫的颜色很好看。
   有一点儿小
   zhè jiàn chènshān de yánse hěn  
   yǒu yīdiǎnr xiǎo  
   3. zhè jiàn chènshān de yánse hěn  
   yǒu yīdiǎnr xiǎo

4. 这双鞋样子挺不错的。
   太贵了
   zhè shuāng xié yàngzi tīng búcuò de  
   tài guì le  
   4. zhè shuāng xié yàngzi tīng búcuò de  
   tài guì le

5. 这个商店不小。
   不能刷卡
   zhè ge shāngdiàn bù xiǎo  
   bù néng shuā kǎ  
   5. zhè ge shāngdiàn bù xiǎo  
   bù néng shuā kǎ

I. Identical Twins

Here's some information about two sisters who are identical twins. Describe the similarities between the two.

**Example:** age: 14  14

→ 姐姐跟妹妹一样大。

1. height: 5'5"  5'5"
2. shirts: size 6  size 6
3. pants: 30" inseam  30" inseam
J. Clothing Store

You own a small clothing store, and you want to plan your inventory. Survey your clients/everyone in the class about their color preferences and sizes and then decide how many pairs of shirts, pants, shoes, etc. you need to stock, and in what colors and sizes.

你喜欢穿什么颜色的鞋/衬衫/裤子？

Ni xihuan chuān shénme yánsè de xié/chènshān/kùzi?

你穿多大的鞋/衬衫/裤子？

Ni chuān duō dà de xié/chènshān/kùzi?

Write down your findings:

• shoes

• shirts

• pants
What is your favorite color?

1. 蓝色  lán sè  n  blue
2. 绿色  lǜ sè  n  green
3. 紫色  zǐ sè  n  purple
4. 粉红色  fěn hóng sè  n  pink
5. 橘红色  jú hóng sè  n  orange
6. 灰色  huī sè  n  gray

If your most favorite and least favorite colors are not listed above, ask your teacher and make a note here:

我最喜欢____________色。  Wǒ zuì xiǎnghuàn ______________ śè.
我最不喜欢____________色。  Wǒ zuì bù xiǎnghuàn ______________ śè.

What's in your wardrobe?

1. 上衣  shāng yī  n  upper garment
2. 大衣  dà yī  n  overcoat
3. 毛衣  máo yī  n  woolen sweater
4. 裙子  qún zǐ  n  skirt
5. 夹克  jiá kè  n  jacket
6. 外套  wài tào  n  outer garment; coat; jacket
7. 西装  xī zhuāng  n  (western-style) suit
8. T恤衫  T-xū shān  n  T-shirt
9. 帽子  mào zǐ  n  hat; cap
10. 袜子  wà zǐ  n  socks

If there are items in your wardrobe that are not mentioned above, ask your teacher and make a note here: ____________________
1. In mainland China a salesperson in a department store is usually addressed as 售货员 (shòuhuòyuán), and a server in a restaurant is usually addressed as 服务 生 (fúwùyùán, “Service Person”). In speaking to bus drivers or taxi drivers, as well as to ticket sellers, the most common form of address (for women as well as men) is 师傅 (shīfu, an old term of respect for a master craftsman or skilled worker). However, these forms of address vary according to age and preference of the speaker as well as the status or function of the person spoken to, and usage is very much in flux in the early twenty-first century. As in so many matters of language usage, students should carefully observe actual usage and follow suit. In Taiwan, the terms 小姐 (xiǎojǐa, Miss) and 先生 (xiānshēng, Mr.) have very broad usage, including the contexts mentioned above.

2. In mainland China prices are usually non-negotiable in supermarkets and large department stores, but bargaining is routine in street-side stalls and small shops. There is no sales tax in mainland China. It is also not customary to tip in a restaurant, although upscale restaurants often charge a service fee.

3. The traditional formal attire for Chinese men was a long robe called 长袍 (chángpáo, long gown) and a short jacket called 马褂 (mǎguà, Mandarin jacket), while women (in the cities) wore a modified Manchu-style dress called 旗袍 (qípáo, close-fitting woman’s dress with a high neck and a slit skirt) until 1949 in mainland China and into the 1960s and 70s in Taiwan. Through the early decades of the People’s Republic, men wore the 中山装 (Zhōngshānzhāng, “Sun Yat-sen suit”), the top part of which came to be called in the West the “Mao jacket.” Nowadays Chinese men and women dress in about the same way as Westerners, wearing suits and ties or dresses on formal occasions, and jeans and T-shirts for more casual purposes.
Dialogue I

(Shopping for clothes at a store)
Salesperson: Miss, what are you looking for?
Li You: I’d like to buy a shirt.
Salesperson: What color [shirt] do you like? Yellow or red?
Li You: I like red. I’d also like to get a pair of pants.
Salesperson: What size? Large, medium or small?
Li You: Medium. Something not too expensive, but not too cheap, either.
Salesperson: How about these pants?
Li You: The color is nice. If the size is right, I’ll take them.
Salesperson: Please try them on.
[Li You checks the size on the label, and measures the pants against her legs.]
Li You: No need to try them. They’ll do.
Salesperson: And how about this shirt?
Li You: It’s not bad either. How much altogether?
Salesperson: Twenty one dollars and fifty cents for the shirt, and thirty-two ninety-nine for the pants. Fifty-four dollars and forty-nine cents altogether.
Li You: OK. Here’s one hundred.
Salesperson: Forty-five fifty-one is your change. Thank you.

Dialogue II

Wang Peng: Excuse me, this pair of shoes is too small. Can I exchange them for another pair?
Salesperson: No problem. How about this pair?
Wang Peng: No, they won’t do either. This pair is the same size as the other one.
Salesperson: What about this pair in black?
Wang Peng: This pair is the right size, but it’s not a good color. Do you have any in brown?
Salesperson: I’m sorry. We only have black ones for this kind of shoes.
Wang Peng: The style of the pair is pretty nice. This is it. Can I use my credit card here?
Salesperson: I’m sorry, we don’t take credit cards. But this pair is the same price as the other one. You don’t need to pay again.