

- wán* 'to be able to finish eating'; *dǔngdelyǎu*, *kéyi-dǔng* 'to be able to understand.'
- e. The potential forms with *de* and *bu* are sometimes preceded by auxiliary verbs meaning 'to be able': *néng-sywédewán* 'to be able to finish studying.' The forms with or without the auxiliary verbs mean the same thing.
 - f. Resultative verbs are rarely preceded by the negative prefix *bu*. In situations where English use a phrase like 'I don't see it' Chinese says *Wǒ-kànbujyàn* 'I can't see it.'
 - g. The basic form of resultative verbs is often preceded by the negative prefix *méi* or *méiyǒu* or followed by the particles *le* and *gwo*: *Wǒ-méi-kànjyan* 'I didn't see it,' *Wǒ-kànjyanle* 'I saw it,' *Wǒ-méi-kànjyangwo* 'I have never seen it.'
2. By a change in meaning from 'want' to 'need' and then to 'be necessary' the verb *yào* is used in such sentences as *Tsúng-jèr dàu-nèr yào-dzǒu-yíge-jǔngtóu* 'From here to there it is necessary to walk one hour, It will take an hour to get from here to there.'
 3. The verb *shì* 'to be' is used where one might expect the verb 'to have' in the sentence *Tā-shr-'shémma-bìng?* 'What sickness is he? What sickness does he have?'
 4. The auxiliary verb *děi* or *bìděi* 'have to' has an irregular negative form *bubì* 'don't have to.' While *děi* or *bìděi* can be translated as either 'have to' or 'must,' *bubì* can only be translated as 'don't have to' or 'need not' and cannot be thought of an equivalent to English 'must not.' 'I have to do this' and 'I must do this' may be the same thing in English, but 'I don't have to do this' and 'I must not do this' are quite different ideas.
 5. The measure *fēn* sometimes means 'a tenth' when preceded by a number from one to ten: *Sz̄fēn shr-Měigwo-rén*, *lyòufēn shr-Yínggwo-rén* 'Four-tenths are Americans, six-tenths are English.'

LESSON 26

DISTANCE AND SEPARATION

Conversation: Martin tells of talking to people on the street

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| <p>M: Gāngtsái nǐ-shwō wǒmen-hái-děi-dzǒu èrshífēn-jǔngde-lù tsái-kéyi-dàu-Jūng-Měi-Fàngwǎn. Syǎng-budàu Jūng-Měi-Fàngwǎn lí-shūpù nèmma-ywǎn.</p> | <p>Just now you said we would still have to walk twenty minutes before we could reach the Chinese-American Restaurant. I didn't know the Chinese-American Restaurant was so far from the bookstore.</p> |
| <p>W: Chyán-Jǎnggwèide shwōgwole. Nǐ-méi-tīngjyan-ma?</p> | <p>Manager Chyán mentioned it. Didn't you hear?</p> |
| <p>M: Méi-tīngjyan.</p> | <p>No.</p> |
| <p>W: Yésyǔ-nèige-shfhou nǐ-búdzai-pù-dzli. Òu, dwèile, dwèile. Nèige-shfhou nǐ-hái-dzài-wàitou-ne.</p> | <p>Perhaps at that time you weren't inside the store. Oh, that's right. At that time you were still outside.</p> |

- M: Tā-shwō fàngwǎr lí-tāde-pùdz yǒu-
'jǐlǐ-lù?
How many *li* did he say the restaurant was from his store?
- W: Chyán-Jǎnggwèide-shwō Jūng-Měi-Fàngwǎn lí-tāde-pùdz yǒu-wǔlǐ-dwō-lù.
Manager Chyán said the Chinese-American Restaurant was more than five *li* from his store.
- M: Nèmma Jūng-Měi-Fàngwǎn lí-tāde-pùdz bujìn.
In that case the Chinese-American Restaurant isn't near his store.
- W: Dwèile. Wōmen-yě-méi-fádz dzwò-chìchē, yīnwei-syàndzài yíge-chyán-yě-méiyǒule.
That's right. And we don't have any way to ride a car either, as we don't have a cent left now.
- M: Buyàujǐn. Wǒ-hěn-síhwan-dzǒu-lù, kàn-lùshang dzǒulái-dzǒuchyùderén, tīng-tāmen shwō-hwà. Dzwò-chède-shíhou bunéng.
That doesn't matter. I very much like to walk along and look at the people walking back and forth on the streets and listen to them talk. When one rides in a car one can't.
- W: Nǐ-yě-gēn-lùshangde-rén tán-hwà-ma?
Do you also speak with people on the streets?
- M: Yǒude-shíhou yě-gēn-tāmen-tán-hwà.
Sometimes I also speak with them.
- W: Tāmen-shwōde-hwà nǐ-dōu-dǔng-ma?
Do you understand everything they say?
- M: Budōu-dǔng. Yǒude-hwà wǒ-tīng-dedǔng, yǒude tīngbudǔng. Yésyǔ-yǒu-rén tīngbudǔng-wǒ-shwōde-hwà. Wàigwo-rén yì-shwō-Jūnggwo hwà, lùshangde-rén jyòu-dōu-syǎng-'tīngyitīng.
I don't understand everything. Some things I can understand, some I can't. Perhaps there are some people who can't understand what I say. As soon as a foreigner talks Chinese, everyone on the street wants to listen.
- W: Tāmen-cháng-wèn-nǐ-Měigwode-shrching-ma?
Do they often ask you things about America?
- M: Dwèile. Tāmen-chángcháng-wèn: Měigwo-rén dōu-yǒu-chyán-ma? Měigwo-dzài-nǎr? Měigwode-chéng-'dà-budà? Měigwo-yě-yǒu-chìchē-ma?
That's right. They often ask: Are all Americans rich? Where is America? Are American cities big? Are there also automobiles in America?
- W: Tāmen-wèn-nǐde-shrching bushǎu.
They ask you lots of things.
- M: Hái-yǒu-rén-wèn: Měigwo lí-Jūnggwo dwó-ywǎn? Tāmen-méi-syǎng-dàu Měigwo-lí-Jūnggwo yíwàn-dwōlǐ.
Other people ask me how far America is from China. They hadn't thought that America is more than 10,000 *li* from China.
- W: Yòu-yǒu-rén-shwō Měigwo-láide-fēiji jìshr-chī-bātyān jyòu-kéyi-dàu Jūnggwo, nèmma Měigwo lí-Jūnggwo jǐ-yǒu-yì-lyǎngchyānlǐ-lù. Hái-yǒu-rén-shwō Měigwo-lí-Jūnggwo jǐ-yǒu-lyòu-chíbǎilǐ.
Other people think that since it is possible for planes coming from America to reach China in seven or eight days, hence America is only one or two thousand *li* from China. There are also some people who say America is only six or seven hundred *li* from China.