

Unit 11: What Day and What Date Is It Today?

Part I: Listen and Learn

1.

Jīntiān shì yī jiǔ jiǔ liù nián qī yuè èrshí sān hào, xīngqī èr.

It is July 23, 1996, Tuesday.

今天是一九九六年七月二十三號，星期二。

Míngtiān shì xīngqī sān, èrshí sì hào.

Tomorrow will be Wednesday, 24th.

明天是星期三，二十四號。

Zuótiān shì èrshí èr hào, xīngqī yī.

Yesterday was 22nd, Monday.

昨天是二十二號，星期一。

Zhè ge yuè shì qī yuè.

This month is July.

這個月是七月。

Xiàge yuè shì bā yuè.

Next month will be August.

下個月是八月。

Shàng ge yuè shì liù yuè.

Last month was June.

上個月是六月。

Jīnnián shì yī jiǔ jiǔ liù nián.

This year is 1996.

今年是一九九六年。

Míngnián jiù shì yī jiǔ jiǔ qī nián.

Next year will be 1997.

明年是一九九七年。

Qùnián shì yī jiǔ jiǔ wǔ nián.

Last year was 1995.

去年是一九九五年。

2.

Yì nián yǒu sān bǎi liù shí wǔ tiān.

There are 365 days in a year.

一年有三百六十五天。

Yí ge yuè yǒu sānshí tiān huòzhě sānshí yī tiān.

There are thirty or thirty one days in a month.

一個月有三十天或者三十一天。

Kěshì èr yuè zhǐ yǒu èrshí bā tiān huòzhě èrshí jiǔ tiān.

But there are only 28 or 29 days in February.

可是二月只有二十八天或者二十九天。

Yí ge yuè yǒu sì ge xīngqī huòzhě wǔ ge xīngqī.

There are four or five weeks in a month.

一個月有四個星期或者五個星期。

Yí ge xīngqī yǒu qī tiān.

There are seven days in a week.

一個星期有七天。

Xīngqī yī dào xīngqī wǔ shì gōngzuò rì.

Monday through Friday are work days.

星期一到星期五是工作日。

Xīngqī liù shì zhōumò.

Saturday is the weekend.

星期六是週末。

Xīngqī tiān yě jiào lǐbài tiān, yīnwèi hěn duō rén dào jiàotáng qù zuò lǐbài.

Sunday is also called worship day, because many people go to church to worship.

星期天也叫禮拜天，因為很多人到教堂去作禮拜。

3.

A: Nǐ shì nǎ yì nián chūshēng de?

A: In which year were you born?

A: 你是哪一年出生的？

B: Wǒ shì yī jiǔ sì liù nián chūshēng de, nǐ ne?

B: I was born in 1949, and you?

B: 我是一九四九年出生的，你呢？

A: Wǒ shì sì jiǔ nián chūshēng de.

A: I was born in 1949.

A: 我是四九年出生的。

B: Nà, nǐ jīnnián yīnggāi wǔshí suì le.

B: Then, you should be 50 years old this year.

B: 那，你今年應該五十歲了。

A: Kě búshì ma? Nǐ shì shǔ ní? de ba?

A: Isn't it so? Is your astrological sign an ox?

A: 可不是嗎？你是屬牛的吧？

B: Duì, wǒ yī jiǔ sì jiǔ nián shēng, shǔ ní? Nǐ shǔ gǒu, duì bu duì?

B: Correct, I was born in 1949, so my astrological sign is the ox. Is your sign a dog, correct?

B: 對，我一九四九年生，屬牛。你屬狗，對不對？

A: Duì. Wǒ de shēngrì shì jiǔ yuè yī hào.

A: Yes, my birthday is September the first.

A: 對。我的生日是九月一號。

B: Wǒ de shēngrì shì sì yuè shí jiǔ hào. Nǐ de shēngrì kuài dào le. Zhù nǐ shēngrì kuàile.

B: My birthday is April 19. You will have your birthday soon. Happy Birthday!

B: 我的生日是四月十九號。你的生日快到了。祝你生日快樂！

A: Xièxie.

A: Thank you.

A: 謝謝。

4.

A: John, nǐ měitiān dōu dào xuéxiào qù ma?

A: Do you go to school every day, John?

A: John, 你每天都到學校去嗎？

B: Bù yíding. Wǒ xīngqī yī sān wǔ yǒu kè. Xīngqī èr sì méiyǒu kè

B: Not really. I have class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I don't have class on Tuesday and Thursday.

B: 不一定。我星期一三五有課。星期二四沒有課。

A: Nǐ xīngqī yī yǒu shénme kè ne?

A: What class do you have on Monday, then?

A: 你星期一有什麼課呢？

B: Xīngqī yī yǒu lìshǐ kè, shèhuìxué kè.

B: I have history and sociology class on Monday.

B: 星期一有歷史課，社會學課。

A: Xīngqī sān ne?

A: What about Wednesday?

A: 星期三呢？

B: Xīngqī sān yǒu wénxué kè hé jīngjì kè. Xīngqī wǔ shì zhèngzhìxué kè.

B: On Wednesday I have literature and economics class. On Friday (it) is political science.

B: 星期三有文學課和經濟課。星期五是政治學課。

A: Nǐ yībān jǐ diǎn dào xuéxiào qù?

A: What time do you usually go to school?

A: 你一般幾點到學校去？

B: Yībān jiǔ diǎn bàn qù, xiàwǔ sān sì diǎnzhōng huí jiā.

B: (I) go to school at 9:30 usually, (and) come back home at three or four in the afternoon.

B: 一般九點半去，下午三四點鐘回家。

A: Xīngqī èr hé xīngqī sì zuò shénme ne?

A: What do you do on Tuesday and Thursday?

A: 星期二和星期四作什麼呢？

B: Zài jiā xuéxí, huòzhě dào túshūguǎn qù kàn shū.

B: I study at home, or go to the library to read books.

B: 在家學習，或者到圖書館去看書。

5.

A: Nǐ xīngqī liù xīngqī tiān zuò shénme?

A: What do you do on Saturday and Sunday?

A: 你星期六星期天作什麼？

B: Wǒ yībān zài jiā xiūxi xiūxi. Jiālǐ de shì hěn duō, zuò bu wán.

B: I usually stay at home and take a rest. There are so many household chores, (you) never finish them.

B: 我一般在家休息休息。家裡的事很多，作不完。

A: Bù chūqù kàn diànyǐng ma?

A: Don't you go out and see movies?

A: 不出去去看電影嗎？

B: Yǒude shíhòu qù kàn diànyǐng.

B: Sometimes I go to see movie.

B: 有的時候去看電影。

B: Duì bu qǐ, xiànzài jǐ diǎn le?

B: Excuse me, what time is it now?

B: 對不起，現在幾點了？

A: Xiànzài chà liǎng fēn jiǔ diǎn, zénme le?

A: It is two to nine, what's up?

A: 現在差兩分九點，怎麼了？

B: Wǒ gāi zǒu le. Wǒ gēn yí ge péngyou jiǔ diǎn yǒu yuē.

B: I got to go. I have an appointment at 9 o'clock with a friend.

B: 我該走了。我跟一個朋友九點有約。

A: Zàijiàn.

A: Goodbye.

A: 再見。

Part II. Utterances and Notes

- Pay attention to the following time expression with "this, last and next":

	last	this	next
day	yesterday zuótiān	today jīntiān	tomorrow míngtiān
week	shàng ge xīngqī	zhè ge xīngqī	xià ge xīngqī
month	shàng ge yuè	zhè ge yuè	xià ge yuè
year	qù nián	jīn nián	míng nián

Also note that there is no measure word 'ge' before 'nián' and 'tiān'.

- 'huòzhe' (or) is used in affirmative sentence only. It is not used in a question. In a question, 'háishi' should be used.
- 'shǔ' means 'to belong to'. 'shǔ gǒu' means 'belong to the astrological category of the dog'. There are twelve astrological signs. Each Chinese person has his/her astrological sign based on which year he/she was born. The following is the table.

shǔ	niú	hǔ	tù	lóng	shé	mǎ	yáng	hóu	jī	gǒu	zhū
mouse	ox	tiger	rabbit	dragon	snake	horse	sheep	monkey	cock	dog	pig
1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
1948	1949	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

- 'kuài dào le' in 'Nǐ de shēng rì kuài dào le' means 'it will be soon...'. For example: 'shí èr yuè kuài dào le' ǐ It will soon be December. '
- 'bù yīdìng' means 'not definitely' serving as an adverb, e.g. 'Tā bù yīdìng lái.' - He may or may not come.
- 'xiūxi xiūxi' is the reduplicated version of 'xiūxi' (to rest). Reduplication of a verb carries the meaning of 'have a ...', e.g. 'kàn kàn' ǐ to take a look, '
- 'zuò bu wán' ǐ not be able to finish. This pattern 'V+ de (bu) + wán' indicates if an event can or cannot be completed. More examples: 'zuò de wán' (can finish it), 'kàn bu wán' (cannot finish reading it), 'xué de wán 14 kè' (can finish studying 14 lessons).
- 'zénme le?' is an expression to ask what is happening after finding that something is happening. It cannot be used in the same way as English greeting 'what's up?' among intimate friends.
- 'gāi' is a short form of 'yīnggāi'

Part III: New Sentence Modules

1. *What is the date (day) today? Today is ... Please note that shì4 is optional in this pattern*

Jīntiān Zuótiān Míngtiān	(shì)	jǐ yuè jǐ hào? qī yuè liù hào xīngqī jǐ? xīngqī sān yījiǔ jiǔqī nián sì yuè bā hào
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2. *This month is ... This year is...*

Zhè ge yuè Shàng ge yuè Xià ge yuè Jīnnián Míngnián Qùnián	shì	jǐ yuè? sān yuè èr yuè sì yuè yī jiǔ jiǔ qī nián ma? yī jiǔ jiǔ qī nián yī jiǔ jiǔ bā nián yī jiǔ jiǔ liù nián
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3. *In which year were you born? I was born in ...*

Nǐ Wǒ Tā	shì	nǎ yì nián chūshēng de? yī jiǔ sì liù nián chūshēng de sì jiǔ nián chūshēng de
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4. *What is your astrological sign? My astrological sign is...*

Ní Wǒ Tā	shǔ	shénme? gǒu niú
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Part IV: Practice Makes Perfect*Tell the following expressions of time in Chinese:*

today	this month
tomorrow	next month
yesterday	last month
this week	this year
next week	next year
last week	last year

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
 January February March ... December

How do you say the following expressions in Chinese?

March 26, 1948	to go and see a movie
May 1, 1976	should be seventy years old
Sunday afternoon	to be born in 1949
Wednesday morning	my astrological sign is...
Friday night	my birthday is...
next Tuesday	Happy Birthday!
last Saturday	history
weekend	economics
work days	political science
to worship	literature
to go to the church	excuse me
to go to the library	got to go
to go to school	to have an appointment
to go to the church to worship	to have an appointment with my teacher
to go to the library to read books	to have an appointment at lí with my
to go to school to have class	friend
to stay at home	
to stay at home to rest	

Answer the following questions in Chinese:

Jīntiān xīngqī jǐ? (xīngqī jǐ - what day of the week)

Míngtiān jǐ yuè jǐ hào?

Zhè ge yuè shì jǐ yuè?

Jīnnián shì 1996 nián ma?

Nǐ shì nǎ yì nián chūshēng de?
 Nǐ shǔ shénme?
 Nǐ de shēngri shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?
 Nǐ de shēngri kuài dào le ma?
 Nǐ xīngqī tiān dào jiàotáng qù ma?
 Nǐ zhōumò yìbān zuò shénme?
 Nǐ měitiān dào xuéxiào qù shàngkè ma?
 Nǐ jǐ diǎnzhōng qù shàngkè (shàngbān)?
 Nǐ jǐ diǎnzhōng huí jī?
 Yì nián yǒu duōshǎo¹ tiān? (duōshǎo - how many)
 Yì nián yǒu jǐ ge yuè?
 Yí ge yuè yǒu duōshǎo tiān?
 Yí ge xīngqī yǒu jǐ tiān?

Tell the following in Chinese:

My name is ... I was born in ... (year). My astrological sign is ... My birthday is ... Today is ... (date and day of the week). I go to work (or school) every day. I usually leave home at ... (o'clock) in the morning and come home at ... (o'clock) in the afternoon. In the evening, I usually ... At weekend, I On Sundays I usually...

It is ... today. It will soon be my daughter's birthday. She was born in ... (year). Her astrological sign is... This year she is ... (years old). She is working ... (where). She is doing ... (what job). She lives in ... (where).
 (Note: you can replace the word 'daughter' with 'son', 'my friend' or anybody's name.)

What would you say in the following situations?

When you know that somebody's birthday is approaching.
 You want to know when a person was born.
 Ask somebody what he/she usually does during the weekdays and weekend.
 You want to leave. Say something politely (or find an excuse to leave).

¹ duōshǎo vs. jǐ: 'duōshǎo' is used when the number is relatively great while jǐ implies 'a few', e.g. 'Shànghǎi yǒu duōshǎo rén?', not 'Shànghǎi yǒu jǐ ge rén?'