

Unit 12: What's the Weather Like Here?

Part I: Listen and Learn

1.

Wǒ zhù zài Bīn Zhōu Pittsburgh.
I live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
我住在賓州 Pittsburgh.

Zhèlǐ tiānqì hěn hǎo.
The weather is very nice here.
這裡天氣很好。

Yì nián yǒu sì ge jìjié: chūntiān, xiàtiān, qiūtiān hé dōngtiān.
There are four seasons in a year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.
一年有四個季節：春天、夏天、秋天和冬天。

Chūntiān tiānqì hěn shūfu, bù lěng yě bú rè.
The weather in spring is very comfortable. It is neither cold nor hot.
春天天氣很舒服，不冷也不熱。

Xiàtiān bǐjiào rè, yìbān shì bāshí dù dào jiǔshí dù.
It is fairly hot in Summer. It is usually 80 to 90 degrees.
夏天比較熱，一般是八十度到九十度。

Yǒude shíhòu jiǔshí duō dù.
Sometimes, it is more than 90 degrees.
有的時候九十多度。

Qiūtiān shì zuì hǎo de jìjié.
Fall is the best season.
秋天是最好的季節。

Bù cháng xià yǔ.
It does not rain very often.
不常下雨。

Dōngtiān bǐjiào lěng, yǒu shíhòu xià xuě.
It is fairly cold in winter. It snows sometimes.
冬天比較冷，有時候下雪。

Kěshì xuě bú tài dà.
But snow is not too heavy.
可是雪不太大。

Zhù zài Pittsburgh búcuò.
It is not bad to live in Pittsburgh.
住在 Pittsburgh 不錯。

2.

Xiè lǎoshī shì Shànghǎi rén.
Prof. Xie is from Shanghai.
謝老師是上海人。

Tā yǐqián zhù zài Shànghǎi.
He used to live in Shanghai.
他以前住在上海。

Chūntiān de tiānqì bǐjiào hǎo, kěshì dào le sì wǔ yuè jiù chángcháng xià yǔ.
The weather in Spring is fairly good. But when April and May come, it rains often.
春天的天氣比較好，可是到了四五月就常常下雨。

Yǒude shíhòu hěn mēn.
Sometimes it is very stuffy.
有的時候很悶。

Xiàtiān hěn rè. Yībān shì sānshí dù zuǒyòu.
It is very hot in Summer. It is generally around 30 degrees.
夏天很熱。一般是三十度左右。

Xiàwǔ chángcháng xià léizhènyǔ. Yǒude shíhòu yǔ hěn dà.
There are often thunderstorms in the afternoon. Sometimes the rain is very heavy.
下午常常下雷陣雨。有的時候雨很大。

Qiūtiān hěn shūfu, bù lěng yě bú rè.
It is very comfortable in Fall. It is neither cold nor hot.
秋天很舒服，不冷也不熱。

Dōngtiān suīrán bù cháng xià xuě, kěshì hěn lěng.
Although it does not snow often, it is very cold.
冬天雖然不下雪，可是很冷。

Yībān rén jiālǐ dōu méiyǒu nuǎnqì.
 Ordinary people do not have heating at home.
 一般人家裡都沒有暖氣。

3.

A: John, nǐmen nàr tiānqì zěnmeyàng?
 A: What's the weather like in your area, John?
 A: John, 你們那兒天氣怎麼樣？

B: Hái búcuò.
 B: Not bad.
 B: 還不錯。

A: Xiàtiān rè bu rè?
 A: Is it very hot in summer?
 A: 夏天熱不熱？

B: Háihǎo, bú tài rè. Yībān bāshí dù zuǒyòu.
 B: It's OK, not too hot. It is generally around 80 degrees.
 B: 還好，不太熱。一般八十度左右。

A: Dōngtiān lěng bu lěng ne?
 A: Is it cold in winter?
 A: 冬天冷不冷呢？

B: Dōngtiān bǐjiào lěng, cháng xià xuě, kěshì bú tài dà.
 B: It is fairly cold in Winter. It snows often, but snow is not heavy.
 B: 冬天比較冷，常下？，可是不太大。

A: Nǐmen nàr shénme shíhòu zuì shūfu?
 A: What is the most comfortable time in your area?
 A: 你們那兒什麼時候最舒服？

B: Qiūtiān zuì hǎo, bù lěng yě bú rè. Kěshì yǒude shíhòu xià yǔ.
 B: Fall is the best. It is neither cold nor hot. However, it rains sometimes.
 B: 秋天最好，不冷也不熱。可是有的時候下雨。

A: Chángcháng xià yǔ ma?
 A: Does it often rain?
 A: 常常下雨嗎？

B: Bù cháng xià yǔ.

B: Not very often.

B: 不常下雨。

A: Nà nǐmen nàr tiānqì hái búcuò.

A: Well, your weather is not bad.

A: 那，你們那兒天氣還不錯。

4.

A: Nǐ zhīdào bu zhīdào Běijīng xiàtiān rè bu rè?

A: Do you know if Summer in Beijing hot?

A: 你知道不知道北京夏天熱不熱？

B: Wǒ bú tài qīngchǔ. Wǒ méiyǒu zài Běijīng zhù guò.

B: I am not very clear. I did not live in Beijing.

B: 我不太清楚。我沒有在北京住過。

A: Wǒ tīngshuō xiàtiān bú tài rè.

A: I heard that Summer is not too hot.

A: 我聽說夏天不太熱。

B: Yībān shì duōshǎo dù?

B: What's the general temperature?

B: 一般是多少度？

A: Yībān shì sānshí dù zuǒyòu.

A: It is generally around 30 degrees.

A: 一般是三十度左右。

B: Shì shèshì sānshí dù, duì bu duì?

B: It is by Centigrade, is it correct?

B: 是攝氏三十度，對不對？

A: Duì. Huáshì jiǔ shí dù zuǒyòu.

A: Correct. It is around 90 degrees by Fahrenheit.

A: 對。華氏九十度左右。

B: Dōngtiān yíding hěn lěng ba?

B: I suppose it must be very cold in winter, right?

B: 冬天一定很冷吧？

A: Shìde, dōngtiān jīngcháng xià xuě. Yǒu de shíhòu xuě hěn dà.

A: Yes, it often snows in winter. Sometimes snow is very heavy.

A: 是的，冬天經常下。有的時候雪很大。

B: Běijīng rén jiālǐ yǒu méiyǒu nuǎnqì?

B: Do people in Beijing have heating at home?

B: 北京人家裡有沒有暖氣？

A: Yǒu.

A: Yes, they have.

A: 有。

5.

A: Nǐ yǐqián zhù zài nǎlǐ

A: Where did you live before?

A: 你以前住在哪裡？

B: Wǒ yǐqián zhù zài Táiběi.

B: I used to live in Taipei.

B: 我以前住在台北。

A: Wǒ tīngshuō nàlǐ xiàtiān hěn rè, shì bu shì?

A: I heard that it is very hot over there in summer, is it so?

A: 我聽說那裡夏天很熱，是不是？

B: Shì, bú dàn hěn rè, érqiě hěn mēn. Chángcháng xià yǔ.

B: Yes, not only very hot, but also very stuffy. It rains often.

B: 是，不但很熱，而且很悶。常常下雨。

A: Xiàtiān shì bu shì hái yǒu táifēng?

A: Do you often have typhoons in summer?

A: 夏天是不是還有颱風？

B: Duìle, xiàtiān jīngcháng guā táifēng.

B: Right, we often have typhoons in summer.

B: 對了，夏天經常颶颶風。

A: Táiwān yìbān rén jiālǐ dōu yǒu lěngqì ba?

A: Do ordinary people in Taiwan have air-conditioning?

A: 台灣一般人家裡都有冷氣吧？

B: Shìde, dà duōshū rén jiālǐ dōu yǒu lěngqì. Yé yǒu de rén zhǐ yǒu diànfēngshàn.

B: Yes, majority of people have air-conditioning at home. But there are also some people who have only electric fans.

B: 是的，大多數人家裡都有冷氣。也有的人只有電風扇。

A: Nà xiàtiān búshì hěn nánshòu ma?

A: Then, isn't it very unbearable in summer?

A: 那夏天不是很難受嗎？

B: Hái hǎo. Wǒmen dōu xíguàn le.

B: It's OK. We all were used to it.

B: 還好。我們都習慣了。

Part II. Utterances and Notes

- 'bù lěng yě bú rè' means 'neither cold nor hot'. The construction of 'bù...yě bù...' is a commonly used one. More examples are: 'bú kuài yě bú màn' (neither fast nor slow), 'bù nán yě bù róngyì' (neither difficult nor easy).
- 'dào' in 'bāshí dù dào jiǔshí dù' indicates a range 'èi degrees to tí degrees'. More examples: 'yī tiān dào liǎng tiān' (one to two days), 'yí nián dào liǎng nián' (one year to two years).
- 'zuì hǎo de jìjié' means 'the best season'. 'zuì' is used before an adjective to denote a superlative, e.g. zuì hǎo (best), zuì lěng (coldest).
- 'yǐqián' is an adverb of time. It means 'before', 'in the past'. No particular time is mentioned here.
- 'suīrán...kěshì...' is parallel to the English 'Although..., ...' or '..., but...'. In Chinese both 'suīrán' and 'kěshì' should be included.
- 'nǐmen nàr' (you there) sounds awkward in English, while it is a frequently used expression in Chinese. It refers to the place where you are. 'wǒmen zhèr' means 'the place where we are'.
- 'hái' in 'hái búcuò', 'hái hǎo' carries the meaning of 'possibly' or 'fairly'.
- 'méiyǒu ...guò' in 'méiyǒu zài Běijīng zhù guò' is an important construction in Chinese. It means somebody does not have the experience of doing something. This construction will be explained in detail later.
- 'guā táifēng' literally means 'to blow typhoon'. There are a category of sentences in Chinese called subjectless sentences. They are usually used to describe natural phenomena. For example, 'xià yǔ' (it rains), 'xià xuě' (it snows), 'guā fēng' (wind blows) and etc.
- 'jīngcháng' and 'chángchang' can be used alternatively.
- 'xíguàn le' means 'got used to it'.

Part III. New Sentence Modules

1. *How's the weather today? How's the weather in Spring? How's the weather in your area in Spring? It is ...*

Nǐmen nàr Běijīng Wǒmen zhèr	Jīntiān Chūngtiān Xiàtiān Qiūtiān Dōngtiān	tiānqì	zénmeyàng? hěn lěng hěn shūfu hěn mēn hěn nánshòu bǐjiào lěng bù lěng yě bú rè hái búcuò
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2. *Is it hot in summer in...?*

Nǐmen nàr Wǒmen zhèr Běijīng Shànghǎi Pittsburgh	xiàtiān dōngtiān	rè bu rè? lěng bu lěng? hěn rè hěn lěng bú rè bù lěng bú tài rè bú tài lěng
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3. *It is raining (snowing...) often in ...?*

Nǐmen nàr Zhèlǐ Běijīng Shànghǎi	chūntiān xiàtiān qiūtiān dōngtiān	chángcháng bù cháng bù	xià yǔ xià dàyǔ xià xuě (ma?) guā fēng
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4. What's the temperature in Summer?

Xiàtiān
Dōngtiān

yìbān (shì)

duōshǎo dù?

34 dù
huáshì 90 dù
shèshì 30 dù zuǒyòu

5. Do you have air conditioning at home?

Nǐmen jiālǐ
Yìbān rén jiālǐ
Wǒmen jiālǐ
Běijīng rén jiālǐ
Táiwān rén jiālǐ
Dàduōshù rén jiālǐ
Shànghǎi dàduōshù rén jiālǐ

dōu yǒu
méiyǒu

lěngqì
nuǎnqì
lěngqì hé nuǎnqì (ma?)
diànfēngshàn

6. Isn't it very unbearable in summer?

Xiàtiān
dōngtiān

bú shì

hěn nánshòu
hěn lěng
hěn lěng

ma?

Shìde, hěn nánshòu
Shìde, hěn rè
Shìde, hěn lěng
Háihǎo, wǒmen xíguàn le.

Part IV. Practice Makes Perfect

Tell the following expressions in Chinese:

spring, summer, fall, winter, four seasons

fairly hot, very cold, comfortable, stuffy, neither hot nor cold, most comfortable, unbearable

to rain, to snow, to have strong wind, to have typhoon (note: the verb is 'guā')

80 degrees, more than 90 degrees, around 30 degrees, 30 degree by Centigrade, 90

degrees by Fahrenheit

heating, air conditioning,

How do you say the following sentences in Chinese?

How's the weather in summer in your area?

The weather is not bad in our area.

Is winter in Shanghai very cold?

It is very cold, but it does not snow often.

What is the temperature in May there?

It is neither hot nor cold in fall in Shanghai.

It often rains in summer in.

The rain is very heavy sometimes.

It is usually very stuffy in the summer in Shanghai.

It is generally around 30 degrees by Centigrade in the summer here.

We are used to it.

The people of Shanghai do not have heating and air conditioning at home.

Answer the following questions in Chinese:

Nǐ zhù zài nǎlǐ?

Nǐmen nàlǐ tiānqì zénme yàng?

Xiàtiān rè bu rè?

Dōngtiān lěng bù lěng?

Chūntiān chángcháng xià yǔ ma?

Xiàtiān jīngcháng guā fēng ma?

Dōngtiān chángcháng xià xuě ma?

Xiàtiān yībān duōshǎo dù?

Shèshì hái shì huáshì?

Dōngtiān yībān jǐ dù?

Nǐmen jiālǐ dōu yǒu lěngqì hé nuǎnqì ma?

Nǐ xǐhuān bù xǐhuān nǐmen nàr de tiānqì?

Tell the following in Chinese:

Please describe the typical weather in your area around the year. Is it hot or cold? How many degrees? Does it often rain or snow? Is the rain or snow heavy or not? Which season is the best, the most comfortable? Do you like the weather? Are you used to it if you don't like it?