

Chapter 4

Time – Time Of Day - Dates – Years – Months – Weeks – Days – Hours – Minutes

General Words and Adverbial Modifiers Of Time:

always	=	zǒngshì	总是	
We	should	always	give money and help to	poor people.
We	should	<u>always</u>	give money and help to	poor people.
Wǒmen	gāi	<u>zǒngshì</u>	zhōujì	qióng rén.
我们	该	总是	周济	穷人。

before, previously	=	yǐqián	以前	
What high school did you go to before?				
You,	<u>previously,</u>	have gone to	what	highschool?
Nǐ,	<u>yǐqián,</u>	shàngguo	shénme	gāozhōng?
你,	以前,	上过	什么	高中?

begin, start	=	kāishǐ	开始	
We begin class next week.				
We	next	week	<u>begin</u>	to attend class.
Wǒmen	xià	gè	<u>kāishǐ</u>	shàngkè.
我们	下	个	星期	开始
				上课。

date (such as: "June 7th") /	=	hào	号		
number (such as: "no. 5") /	=		
size (such as: "size 6")	=		
Mary came here on the date of June 7th.					
Mary	June	7 th	(the) <u>date of</u>	came	here.
Mary	Liùyuè	qī	<u>hào</u>	lái	zhè(r).
_____	六月	七	号	来	这。

early = zǎo 早
I must go. Early test tomorrow.
 I must go. Tomorrow early morning have test paper.
 Wǒ yīnggāi zǒu le. Míngtiān zǎoshang yǒu kǎoshì.
 我 应该 走了。 明天 早上 有 考试。

how long a time = duōjiǔ 多久
How long do you plan on staying in SouthEast Asia?
 You plan in SouthEast Asia staying how long a time?
 Nǐ dǎsuàn zài Dōngnányà dāi duōjiǔ?
 你 打算 在 东南亚 待 多久？

last = shàng 上
Last semester I was sick a long time.
 I last semester sick quite a long time.
 Wǒ shàng gè xuéqī bìng le hěn jiǔ.
 我 上 个 学期 病了 很 久。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

lately, recently = zuìjìn 最近
 late / sunset, evening, night = wǎn 晚
Recently my husband comes back very late.
Recently my husband very late just now comes back.
Zuìjìn wǒ zhàngfu hěn wǎn cái huílai.
 最近 我 丈夫 很 晚 才 回来。

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

next = xià 下
We will have the final exam next Friday.
 We next Friday (will) have (the) final exam.
 Wǒmen xià gè Xīngqīwǔ yǒu dàkǎo.
 我们 下 个 星 期 五 有 大 考 。

now = xiànzài 现在
He is now in Europe.
 He now (is) in Europe.
 Tā xiànzài zài Ōuzhōu.
 他 现 在 在 欧 洲 。

often = chángcháng 常常
It rains often.
Often (it) rains.
Chángcháng xiàyǔ.
 常 常 下 雨 。

often = jīngcháng 经常
It snows often.
Often (it) snows.
Jīngcháng xiàxuě.
 经 常 下 雪 。

once = cōngqián 从前
Once we were lovers.
Once we were lovers.
Cōngqián wǒmen shì qíngrén.
 从 前 我 们 是 情 人 。

quickly = kuài 快

Please come quickly!

Please quickly come!

Qǐng kuài lái!

请 快 来!

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

soon, quickly = kuài 快

I hope his reply soon comes back.

I hope his reply be soon coming back.

Wǒ xīwàng tāde huídá shì kuài huílai.

我 希望 他的 回答 是 快 回来。

as soon as possible = yuè kuài yuè hǎo 越快越好

I hope his reply comes back as soon as possible.

I hope his reply be coming back as soon as possible.

Wǒ xīwàng tāde huídá shì huílai de yuè kuài yuè hǎo.

我 希望 他的 回答 是 回来 得 越快越好。

(Chinese Hanzi Note: *The normal “de” 的 is used when something belongs to someone.
The above “de” 得 is used when getting something).*

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

spare time, leisure time / = kòng 空

Tonight do you have spare time?

You today's evening have spare time yes / no?

Nǐ jīntian wǎnshang yǒu kòng ma?

你 今天晚上 有 空 吗?

time, hour, moment = shíhou 时 候

When I was young things were better.

I	young		<u>time</u>	conditions	comparatively	better.
Wǒ	xiǎo	de	<u>shíhou</u>	jìngkuàng	bǐjiào	hǎo.
我	小	的	时 候	境 况	比 较	好 。

time (*noun*) = shíjiān 时 间

How long does it take to put on your makeup?

Your	makeup	takes	how	long	<u>time?</u>
Nǐ	huàzhuāng	yào	duō	cháng	<u>shíjiān?</u>
你	化 妆	要	多	长	时 间 ？

usually = jīngcháng 经 常

I	usually	have	spare time.
I	<u>usually</u>	have	spare time.
Wǒ	<u>jīngcháng</u>	yǒu	kòng.
我	经 常	有	空 。

usually = tōngcháng 通 常

I	usually	have	spare time.
I	<u>usually</u>	have	spare time.
Wǒ	<u>tōngcháng</u>	yǒu	kòng.
我	通 常	有	空 。

wait = děng 等

Please	wait	a moment.
Please	<u>wait</u>	a moment.
Qǐng	<u>děng</u>	yīxià.
请	等	一 下 。

wait just a minute = děng yī děng 等 一 等

Please wait a minute.

Please wait a minute.

Qǐng děng yī děng.

请 等 一 等 。

what day = xīngqī jǐ? 星 期 几 ?

What day is today?

Today is weekday which?

Jīntiān shì xīngqī jǐ?

今 天 是 星 期 几 ?

which date = jǐ hào? 几 号 ?

What's the date today?

Today is which date?

Jīntiān shì jǐ hào?

今 天 是 几 号 ?

Years:

every year = měinián 每 年

We go on trips every year.

We every year also go on trips.

Wǒmen měinián dōu qù lǚxíng.

我 们 每 年 都 去 旅 行 。

last year = qùnián 去 年

We visited New York City last year.

We last year visited New York City.

Wǒmen qùnián qùguo Niūyuē Chéng.

我 们 去 年 去 过 纽 约 城 。

next year = míngnián 明年

We next year are going to San Francisco.

We next year will go to San Francisco.
 Wǒmen míngnián yào qù Jiùjīnshān.
 我 们 明 年 要 去 旧 金 山 。

several years = jǐnián 几年

In several years you may date.

Several years afterwards you may date.
Jǐnián yǐhòu nǐ huì yuēhuì.
 几 年 以 后 你 会 约 会 。

this year = jīnnián 今年

This year he is a student studying abroad in America.

He this year in America to work (as) student studying abroad.
 Tā jīnnián zài Měiguó zuò liúxuéshēng.
 他 今 年 在 美 国 做 留 学 生 。

throughout the year, whole year = zhōngnián 终年

Hawaii year round is like spring!
 Hawaii throughout the year is springtime!
 Xiàwēiyí zhōngnián shì chūntiān!
 夏 威 夷 终 年 是 春 天 ！

year = nián 年

I was born in 1957.

I 1 9 5 7 year born.
 Wǒ yī jiǔ wǔ qī nián shēng.
 我 一 九 五 七 年 生 。

year after next	=	hòunián	後年
We	year after next	are going to	Singapore.
We	<u>year after next</u>	go to	Singapore.
Wǒmen	<u>hòunián</u>	qù	Xīnjiāpō.
我们	後年	去	新加坡。

year before last	=	qiánnián	前年
We visited Tokyo the year before last.			
We	<u>year before last</u>	visited	Tokyo.
Wǒmen	<u>qiánnián</u>	qùguo	Dōngjīng.
我们	前年	去过	东京。

Months:

。 。 。 NEXT 12 。 。 。

January / one month	=	Yīyuè	一月
February	=	Èryuè	二月
March	=	Sānyuè	三月
April	=	Sìyuè	四月
May	=	Wǔyuè	五月
June	=	Liùyuè	六月
July	=	Qīyuè	七月
August	=	Bāyuè	八月
September	=	Jiǔyuè	九月
October	=	Shíyuè	十月
November	=	Shíyīyuè	十一月
December	=	Shí'èryuè	十二月

。 。 。 END OF 12 。 。 。

last month = shàng gè yuè 上个月

Peter last month was especially busy.
 Peter last month (was) especially busy.
 Peter shàng gè yuè tèbié máng.
 上 个 月 特 别 忙。

month / moon = yuè 月

What month is this?

This month is what month?
 Zhèi gè yuè shì jǐ yuè?
 这 个 月 是 几 月 ?

monthly = ànyuè 按月

We of course have monthly bills.
 We of course have monthly bills.
 Wǒmen dāngrán yǒu ànyuè zhàngdān.
 我 们 当 然 有 按 月 帐 单 。

next month = xià gè yuè 下个月

We next month are going to Italy.

We next month will go to Italy.
 Wǒmen xià gè yuè yào qù Yìdàlì.
 我 们 下 个 月 要 去 意 大 利 。

this month = zhè gè yuè 这个月

This month my grandfather died.

My grandfather this month died.
 Wǒ zǔfù zhè gè yuè sǐ le.
 我 祖 父 这 个 月 死 了 。

this month = běnyuè 本月

This month my grandmother died.

My grandmother this month died.
Wǒ nǎinai běnyuè qùshì le.

我 奶奶 本月 去世 了。

Weeks:

last week = shàng gè xīngqī 上个星期

Last week there were no classes.
Last week there were no classes.
Shàng gè xīngqī méiyǒu kè.

上 个 星期 没有 课。

next week = xià gè xīngqī 下个星期

I cannot come next week.

I next week cannot come.
Wǒ xià gè xīngqī búhuì lái.

我 下 个 星期 不会 来。

next week = xiàzhōu 下周

How about next week?

Next week good yes / no?
Xiàzhōu hǎo ma?

下 周 好 吗 ?

this week = zhè gè xīngqī 这个星期

How about this week?

This week good yes / no?
Zhè gè xīngqī hǎo ma?

这 个 星期 好 吗 ?

this week = běnzhōu 本周

How about this week?

<u>This week</u>	good	yes / no?
<u>Běnzhōu</u>	hǎo	ma?
本周	好	吗?

。。。 NEXT 2 。。。

week = xīngqī 星期

I graduate in one week.

I	one	<u>week</u>	afterwards	graduate.
Wǒ	yī [gè]	<u>xīngqī</u>	yǐhòu	biyè.
我	一 个	星期	以後	毕业。

(**Chinese Grammar Note:** “xīngqī” is a word you can use a measure word, or not use one!)

which week = xīngqī jǐ 星期几

Which	week?
<u>Week</u>	<u>which?</u>
<u>Xīngqī</u>	jǐ?
星期	几?

。。。 END OF 2 。。。

weekend = zhōumò 周末

This weekend I cannot come.

I	this	<u>weekend</u>	cannot	come.
Wǒ	zhè	<u>zhōumò</u>	búhuì	lái.
我	这	周末	不会	来。

weekly = měizhōu 每周

We play weekly.

We weekly also play.
 Wōmen měizhōu dōu wán(r).
 我们 每周 都 玩儿。

weekly meeting = zhōuhuì 周会

We have weekly meetings.
 We have weekly meetings.
 Wōmen yǒu zhōuhuì.
 我们 有 周会。

Days:

。。。 NEXT 7 。。。

Sunday	=	Xīngqītiān	星期天
Monday	=	Xīngqīyī	星期一
Tuesday	=	Xīngqīèr	星期二
Wednesday	=	Xīngqīsān	星期三
Thursday	=	Xīngqīsì	星期四
Friday	=	Xīngqīwǔ	星期五
Saturday	=	Xīngqīliù	星期六

。。。 END OF 7 。。。

。。。 NEXT 2 。。。

afternoon = xiàwǔ 下午

Is there an afternoon train?

Have / have not (an) afternoon train?
 Yǒu méiyǒu xiàwǔ de huǒchē?
 有 没有 下午 的 火车？

this afternoon = jīntiān xiàwǔ 今天下午
This afternoon I bought 5 paperback books.
Today's afternoon I bought 5 paperback books.
Jīntiān xiàwǔ wǒ mǎi le wǔ běn pǔjíběn.
 今天 下午 我 买了 五 本 普及本。

。。。 END OF 2 。。。

day = yītiān 一天
What day is your birthday?
 Your birthday is what one day?
 Nǐ shēngrì shì nǎ yītiān?
 你 生日 是 哪 一天？

daily, everyday = měitiān 每天
I take daily vitamins.
 I daily already eat vitamins.
 Wǒ měitiān dōu chī wéitāmìng.
 我 每天 都 吃 维他命。

。。。 NEXT 2 。。。

some other day = gǎitiān 改天
We can play some other day.
 We some other day can play.
 Wǒmen gǎitiān kěyǐ wán(r).
 我们 改天 可以 玩儿。

。。。 END OF 2 。。。

half (*with measure word*) = bàn gè 半个

Half the bread for you, half for me.

<u>Half</u>	(the)	bread	is	mine,	one	<u>half</u>	is	yours.
<u>Bàn</u>	gè	miànbāo	shì	wǒde,	yī	<u>bàn(r)</u>	shì	nǐde.
半	个	面 包	是	我 的,	一	半	是	你 的。

half a day = bàntiān 半天

My wife only works half a day.

My	wife	only	works	half a day.
My	wife	only	works	<u>half a day.</u>
Wǒ	tàitai	zhǐ	gōngzuò	<u>bàntiān.</u>
我	太太	只	工 作	半 天。

midday = shǎngwū 晌午

Midday or so I need to go to the library to look for books.

<u>Midday</u>	need	go to	(the)	library	to look for	books.
<u>Shǎngwū</u>	yào	qù		túshūguǎn	zhǎo	shū.
晌 午	要	去		图 书 馆	找	书。

。。。 NEXT 7 。。。

midnight = bànyè 半夜

Where did you go at midnight?

You	<u>midnight</u>	go	where?
Nǐ	<u>bànyè</u>	qù	nǎr?
你	半 夜	去	哪 儿 ?

before midnight = shàngbànyè 上半夜

He left before midnight.

He	<u>before midnight</u>	left.	
Tā	<u>shàngbànyè</u>	líkāi	le.
他	上 半 夜	离 开	了。

(**American Usage Note:** “Left” used here is not the direction “left,” but rather the past tense of “to leave,” or “leaving”. “He left,” means, “He departed.”)

last night = zuóyè 昨夜

I couldn't sleep last night.

I last night could not sleep.
Wǒ zuóyè bù néng shuìjiào le.

我 昨夜 不能 睡觉 了。

last night = zuówǎn 昨晚

Where did you go last night?

You last night go where?
Nǐ zuówǎn qù nǎr?

你 昨晚 去 哪儿 ?

night = yèwǎn 夜晚

That night we have no spare time.

That night we have no spare time.
Nè gè yèwǎn wǒmen méiyǒu kòng.

那 个 夜晚 我们 没有 空 。

tonight = jīntian wǎnshang 今天晚上

Tonight do you have spare time?

You today's evening have spare time yes / no?
Nǐ jīntian wǎnshang yǒu kòng ma?

你 今天 晚上 有 空 吗 ?

tonight = jīnwǎn 今晚

Let's go to a dance tonight?

We tonight dance how about it?
Wǒmen jīnwǎn tiàowǔ zěnmeyàng?

我们 今晚 跳舞 怎么样 ?

。 。 。 END OF 7 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

morning (before 9AM) = jīntiān zǎoshang 今天早上

I woke up this morning very tired.

I	<u>today's</u>	<u>morning</u>	woke up	very	tired.
Wǒ	<u>jīntiān</u>	<u>zǎoshang</u>	xǐng lái	hěn	lèi.
我	今天	早上	醒来	很	累。

(American Grammar Note: *Although the above sentence is commonly spoken and written as such, it is incorrect grammar! A dangling modifier! “This morning” is not what is feeling “very tired!” You are! To show that you are the one who is tired it is better to write and speak the sentence as : “I woke up very tired this morning.” or “This morning I woke up very tired.”*)

morning (from 9AM till noon) = shàngwǔ 上午

We play tennis every morning at 10 A.M.

We	every	<u>morning</u>	10 A.M.	play	tennis.
Wǒmen	měigè	<u>shàngwǔ</u>	shí diǎn	dǎ	wàng qiú.
我们	每个	上午	十点	打	网球。

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

today = jīntiān 今天

What day is it today?

<u>Today</u>	is	weekday	which?
<u>Jīntiān</u>	shì	xīngqī	jǐ?
今天	是	星期	几 ?

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

tomorrow = míngtiān 明天

I must go. Early test tomorrow.

I	must	go.	<u>Tomorrow</u>	early morning	have	test paper.
Wǒ	yīnggāi	zǒu le.	<u>Míngtiān</u>	zǎoshang	yǒu	kǎoshì.
我	应该	走了。	明天	早上	有	考试。

(Chinese Usage Note: Neither “tiān” or “nián” require measure words!)

day after tomorrow = hòutiān 後天

I will come back the day after tomorrow.

I day after tomorrow come back.

Wǒ hòutiān huílai.

我 後天 回来。

。。。 END OF 2 。。。

yesterday = zuótiān 昨天

Why didn't you go yesterday?

Yesterday you why not go?

Zuótiān nǐ wèishénme méiyǒu qù?

昨天 你 为什么 没有 去？

day before yesterday = qiántián 前天

It was the day before yesterday I had my first kiss!

I (the) day before yesterday kissed my first kiss!

Wǒ qiántián qīn wǒde dìyī cì qīnwěn!

我 前天 亲 我的 第一 次 亲 吻！

yesterday morning = zuótiān zǎoshang 昨天早上

No. Since yesterday morning, I have not eaten.

Not eaten. Since yesterday morning, I have not eaten a meal.

Méi chī. Zìcóng zuótiān zǎoshang, wǒ méiyǒu chīfàn.

没吃。 自从 昨天早上， 我 没有 吃饭。

Minutes:

fifteen minutes clock time = yīkè zhōng 一刻钟

Still have fifteen minutes.

Still have fifteen minutes clock time.

Hái yǒu yīkè zhōng.

还 有 一刻钟。

minute = fēn 分

It is 8:10.

8 hour 10 minutes.

Bā diǎn shí fēn.

八 点 十 分 。

(Chinese Grammar Note: *The minute word, “fēn”, is eliminated after 10 minutes. Also, it is not necessary to write anything about “It is” in telling the time*).

minute = fēnzhōng 分钟

I	only	have	thirty	minutes	to eat	lunch.
I	only	have	thirty	<u>minutes</u>	to eat	lunch.
Wǒ	zhǐ	yǒu	sānshí	<u>fēnzhōng</u>	chī	wǔfàn.
我	只	有	三十	分钟	吃	午饭。

Clock:

1	o'clock	=	yī diǎn	一 点
2	o'clock	=	liáng diǎn	两 点
3	o'clock	=	sān diǎn	三 点
4	o'clock	=	sì diǎn	四 点
5	o'clock	=	wǔ diǎn	五 点
6	o'clock	=	liù diǎn	六 点
7	o'clock	=	qī diǎn	七 点
8	o'clock	=	bā diǎn	八 点
9	o'clock	=	jiù diǎn	九 点
10	o'clock	=	shí diǎn	十 点
11	o'clock	=	shíyī diǎn	十 一 点
12	12 o'clock	=	shíèr diǎn	十 二 点

hour, o'clock = diǎn 点

The restaurant opens at 10 o'clock.

(The) Restaurant 10 o'clock opens.
Fàndiàn shí diǎn kāimén.

饭店 十点 开门。

What time is it? = Jǐ diǎn le? 几点 了?

What time is it?

How many hours?
Jǐ diǎn le?

几 点 了?

NOTES