5

Zhù nǐ shēngrì kuàilè

祝你生日快乐

Happy birthday to you

In this lesson you will learn how the Chinese celebrate their birthdays as well as ask about the age of others. In addition, you will learn how to express the year, month, day, and the day of the week. You will also learn about the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac.

一、热身 *WARM-UP*

1 思考 Think

Think about the following questions:

(1) In your country, how do people usually celebrate their birthdays?

(2) On their birthday, what kind of greeting would you give to children, people of your age and people older than you? Do you greet each person the same way?

(3) Do you know how are the seven days of the week described in Chinese?

2 活动 Activity

First look at the picture. Then fill in each blank with the most suitable number. Finally listen to the teacher read the numbers and check your answer.

_____年_____月_____日，星期_____

How do you say the year, month, and day in your language? Is the word order the same as in Chinese?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

二、课文 *TEXT*

（一） 2-05-01

王小云：林娜，星期日你有时间吗？
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Lín Nà, Xīngqīrì nǐ yǒu shíjiān ma?

林娜：什么事儿？
Lín Nà: Shénme shìr?

王小云：这个星期日是我朋友的生日。我们有一个生日聚会，大家一起唱歌、跳舞，你参加不参加？
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Zhège Xīngqīrì shì wǒ péngyou de shēngrì. Wǒmen yǒu yí ge shēngrì jùhuì, dàjiā yìqǐ chàng gē、tiàowǔ, nǐ cānjiā bu cānjiā?

林娜：这个星期日几号？
Lín Nà: Zhège Xīngqīrì jǐ hào?

王小云：十月二十七号。
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Shí yuè èrshíqī hào.

说日期
Talking about the date

LIVEWORKSHEETS

林娜：真不好意思。①
Lín Nà: Zhēn bù hǎoyìsi.

表歉意
Expressing an apology

这一天也是我哥哥的生日，他也有个生日聚会。
Zhè yì tiān yě shì wǒ gēge de shēngrì, tā yě yǒu ge shēngrì jùhuì.

王小云：真可惜！
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Zhēn kěxī!

表遗憾
Expressing regret

你送你哥哥什么礼物？
Nǐ sòng nǐ gēge shénme lǐwù?

林娜：我送他一个生日蛋糕。你送朋友什么礼物？
Lín Nà: Wǒ sòng tā yí ge shēngrì dàngāo. Nǐ sòng péngyou shénme lǐwù?

王小云：两盒巧克力。你哥哥今年多大？②
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Liǎng hé qiǎokèlì. Nǐ gēge jīnnián duō dà?

问年龄（2）
Asking about one's age (2)

林娜：他一九八八年出生，今年二十七岁。
Lín Nà: Tā yī jiǔ bā bā nián chūshēng, jīnnián èrshíqī suì.

王小云：真的？我朋友也二十七岁，属龙。③ 他也是英国人。
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Zhēn de? Wǒ péngyou yě èrshíqī suì, shǔ lóng. Tā yě shì Yīngguórén.

林娜：你朋友叫什么名字？
Lín Nà: Nǐ péngyou jiào shénme míngzi?

王小云：他的中文名字叫林强。④
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Tā de Zhōngwén míngzi jiào Lín Qiáng.

林娜：他就是我哥哥！
Lín Nà: Tā jiù shì wǒ gēge!

生词 New Words

2-05-02

1. 星期日	Xīngqīrì	N	Sunday
星期	xīngqī	N	week 星期一 星期几 一个星期
2. 事儿	shìr	N	matter; thing 什么事儿 有事儿吗 好事儿

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. 生日	shēngrì	N	birthday　他的生日 二十岁生日
日	rì	N	day　一月一日
4. 聚会	jùhuì	N	get-together; party　生日聚会 有一个聚会
5. 大家	dàjiā	Pr	everyone　大家好 我们大家 大家一起去
6. 唱歌	chàng gē	V O	to sing (a song)　喜欢唱歌
唱	chàng	V	to sing　唱中国歌 唱生日歌
歌	gē	N	song
7. 跳舞	tiàowǔ	VO	to dance　不喜欢跳舞 跳个舞
跳	tiào	V	to jump
舞	wǔ	N	dance
8. 参加	cānjiā	V	to participate; to attend　参加生日聚会 参加活动
9. 号	hào	N	day of the month; date; size　15 号 325 号 小号 大号
10. 月	yuè	N	month　十二个月 十二月 二月四日 八月二十二号
11. 不好意思	bù hǎoyìsi	IE	(to be) sorry; to feel embarrassed
12. 可惜	kěxī	A	it's a pity　很可惜
13. 送	sòng	V	to give (as a gift); to deliver　送饺子 送照片
14. 礼物	lǐwù	N	gift; present　生日礼物 送礼物
15. 蛋糕	dàngāo	N	cake　一个蛋糕 吃蛋糕 送蛋糕 生日蛋糕
16. 盒	hé	N	box　一盒点心 一盒咖啡 一盒茶
17. 巧克力	qiǎokèlì	N	chocolate　送一盒巧克力 吃巧克力
18. 多大	duō dà	IE	how old　他今年多大
19. 出生	chūshēng	V	to be born　1988 年出生
20. 属	shǔ	V	to be born in the year of (one of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac)　属狗 属什么
21. 龙	lóng	N	dragon　属龙 龙年
22. 中文	Zhōngwén	N	Chinese (language)　说中文 学中文 中文名字
23. 就	jiù	Adv	exactly　就是他 就是我哥哥 就在今天
24. 英国	Yīngguó	PN	United Kingdom; England
25. 林强	Lín Qiáng	PN	Lin Qiang, name of a British student, Lin Na's elder brother

LIVEWORKSHEETS

注释 Notes

① 真不好意思。

I'm really sorry.

"bù hǎoyìsi 不好意思" originally means "to feel embarrassed" or "to feel bad". It could also mean "to find it embarrassing to do something". For example, "bù hǎoyìsi shuō 不好意思说" (to feel embarrassed to say something) and "bù hǎoyìsi wèn 不好意思问" (to feel embarrassed to ask). In colloquial Chinese, it can be used as a light apology. For a relatively serious apology, people often say "duìbuqǐ 对不起" (sorry).

② 你哥哥今年多大?

How old is your elder brother?

Here "duō 多" is an adverb, followed by an adjective, which is used to raise a question. "dà 大" here refers to one's age. To ask about an adult's age in Chinese, one should use "duō dà 多大" (how old) or "duō dà suìshu 多大岁数" (how old is one's age). The question "jǐ suì 几岁" can only be used to ask the age of a child.

③ 我朋友也二十七岁，属龙。

My friend is also 27 years old, born in the year of the Dragon.

The Chinese use dragon, horse, dog and altogether 12 animals to indicate one's year of birth. These 12 animals make up the 12-year cycle of the Chinese lunar calendar. For example, the years 1988, 2000, and 2012 are the years of the Dragon. Generally speaking, people born in these years all belong to the Dragon. The years 1990, 2002, and 2014 are the years of the Horse. In general, people born in these years all belong to the Horse.

④ 他的中文名字叫林强。

His Chinese name is Lin Qiang.

Western names may be translated into two or three Chinese characters according to the sound or the meaning of the name. For example, the Chinese name for David March could be "Mǎ Dàwéi 马大为", and Natalie Lynn could be translated as "Lín Nà 林娜". A person with the surname of "White" could be translated as "Bái 白", and a girl with the given name of "Amy" could be translated as "Àiměi 爱美" (love beauty).

Both "Hànyǔ 汉语" and "Zhōngwén 中文" refer to the Chinese language. In general, they may be used interchangeably. "中文" refers to the Chinese language and script, the Han language in particular. "汉语" refers to the spoken language of the Han nationality in China.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

（二） 2-05-03

(At Lin Qiang's birthday party at his residence)

林强：你们好，欢迎，欢迎！
Lín Qiáng: Nǐmen hǎo, huānyíng, huānyíng!

王小云：生日快乐！这是你的生日礼物。
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Shēngrì kuàilè! Zhè shì nǐ de shēngrì lǐwù.

林强：谢谢你们，小云、宋华。
Lín Qiáng: Xièxie nǐmen, Xiǎoyún、Sòng Huá.

王小云：不客气。①
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Bú kèqi.

林强：你们来，我特别高兴。
Lín Qiáng: Nǐmen lái, wǒ tèbié gāoxìng.

(Lin Qiang goes to open the door on hearing the sound of knocking.)

林娜：哥哥，祝你生日快乐！②
Lín Nà: Gēge, zhù nǐ shēngrì kuàilè!

祝贺生日
Congratulating someone on his/her birthday

LIVEWORKSHEETS

林强：谢谢！我来介绍一下，③这是……
Lín Qiáng: Xièxie! Wǒ lái jièshào yíxià, zhè shì……

王小云：你好，林娜！
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Nǐ hǎo, Lín Nà!

林强：小云，你认识我妹妹？
Lín Qiáng: Xiǎoyún, nǐ rènshi wǒ mèimei?

王小云：是啊，林娜是我和宋华的好朋友。她常常教我们英语。
Wáng Xiǎoyún: Shì a, Lín Nà shì wǒ hé Sòng Huá de hǎo péngyou. Tā chángcháng jiāo wǒmen Yīngyǔ.

林娜：小云和宋华教我说汉语、写汉字，小云昨天还教我做寿面④。一会儿大家吃寿面。
Lín Nà: Xiǎoyún hé Sòng Huá jiāo wǒ shuō Hànyǔ, xiě Hànzì, Xiǎoyún zuótiān hái jiāo wǒ zuò shòumiàn. Yíhuìr dàjiā chī shòumiàn.

宋华：来，咱们⑤干杯！
Sòng Huá: Lái, zánmen gānbēi!

大家：干杯！祝林强生日快乐！
Dàjiā: Gānbēi! Zhù Lín Qiáng shēngrì kuàilè!

生词 New Words

2-05-04

1. 欢迎	huānyíng	V	to welcome 欢迎你 欢迎大家
2. 快乐	kuàilè	A	happy 生日快乐 很快乐
3. 不客气	bú kèqi	IE	you are welcome
客气	kèqi	A	polite 很客气
4. 祝	zhù	V	to wish 祝你生日快乐
5. 介绍	jièshào	V	to introduce 介绍朋友 介绍老师
6. 一下	yíxià	Nu-M	*used after a verb to indicate a short or informal action* 认识一下 看一下 问一下
7. 常常	chángcháng	Adv	often 常常说中文

LIVEWORKSHEETS

常	cháng	Adv	often
8. 教	jiāo	V	to teach　教汉语 教钢琴 教我
9. 写	xiě	V	to write　写汉字 写名字
10. 昨天	zuótiān	N	yesterday　昨天下午 昨天晚上八点
11. 寿面	shòumiàn	N	(birthday) longevity noodles　吃寿面 做寿面
12. 一会儿	yíhuìr	Nu-M	in a little while
13. 咱们	zánmen	Pr	we; us
14. 干杯	gānbēi	VO	to drink a toast; cheers; bottoms up　咱们干杯

注释 Notes

① 不客气。

You are welcome.

This expression is used in response to someone's gratitude or appreciation. You may also respond with "bú xiè 不谢" (Don't mention it).

② 祝你生日快乐！

Happy Birthday to you!

This is a common way to wish others a happy birthday. "Zhù nǐ 祝你……" (Wish you…) is an expression used for a holiday or just to send the best wishes to the other person before the event happens. For example, "Zhù nǐ xīnnián kuàilè! 祝你新年快乐！" (Happy New Year to you!) and "Zhù nǐ gōngzuò shùnlì! 祝你工作顺利！" (Wish you success at work!) On the other hand, the expression "zhùhè 祝贺" is used for something congratulatory that has already happened. For example, if a person has graduated or gotten married, etc., the expression "zhùhè nǐ 祝贺你" (congratulations (to you)) is often used.

③ 我来介绍一下。

Let me introduce.

When "yíxià 一下" is used after a verb, it often indicates a brief action or an attempt. It can soften the tone of the expression so that it sounds less formal. For example, "rènshi yíxià 认识一下" (to get to know someone or something) and "nǐ kàn yíxià 你看一下" (to take a quick look).

④ 寿面

(birthday) longevity noodles

LIVEWORKSHEETS

It is a Chinese custom to eat "chángshòumiàn 长寿面" (longevity noodles) to celebrate one's birthday. The length of the noodles symbolizes longevity. "shòutáo 寿桃" (peach-shaped birthday pastry) is also used to celebrate the birthday of the elderly. Nowadays people often eat cake for a birthday celebration.

⑤ 咱们

we; us

When the speaker uses "zánmen 咱们", the listener is definitely included; "wǒmen 我们" may or may not include the listener.

三、语言点 *LANGUAGE POINTS*

1 核心句 Key Sentences

2-05-05

1. 这个星期日几号？
2. 一九八八年十月二十七号。
3. 你哥哥今年多大？
4. 他一九八八年出生，今年二十七岁。
5. 我送他一个生日蛋糕。
6. 他们教我说汉语、写汉字。
7. 祝你生日快乐！
8. 我来介绍一下。
9. 他就是我哥哥！

2 语法 Grammar

1. 年、月、日和星期的读法 Expressing the date and days of the week

In Chinese, the four figures making up the name of a year are read out as four separate digits, with "nián 年" at the end. For example, "一九九八年" is read out as "yī jiǔ jiǔ bā nián" (1998).

一九八八年	yī jiǔ bā bā nián	(1988)
二〇〇〇年	èr líng líng líng nián	(2000)
二〇〇二年	èr líng líng èr nián	(2002)
二〇二〇年	èr líng èr líng nián	(2020)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The numbers making up the name of a month are read out with "yuè 月" at the end. For example,

一月 Yī yuè	January	七月 Qī yuè	July
二月 Èr yuè	February	八月 Bā yuè	August
三月 Sān yuè	March	九月 Jiǔ yuè	September
四月 Sì yuè	April	十月 Shí yuè	October
五月 Wǔ yuè	May	十一月 Shíyī yuè	November
六月 Liù yuè	June	十二月 Shí'èr yuè	December

The way to express a date, from the first to the thirty-first day of the month, is to say a number and then add "hào 号" in the spoken form or "rì 日" in the written form. For example,

(二月) 六号	(Èr yuè) liù hào	(February) 6th
(十月) 十二号	(Shí yuè) shí'èr hào	(October) 12th
(十一月) 二十二日	(Shíyī yuè) èrshí'èr rì	(November) 22nd
(十二月) 三十一日	(Shí'èr yuè) sānshíyī rì	(December) 31st

If it is a date in the current month, one can simply say "号" without "月" (month). For example, "Zhège Xīngqīrì jǐ hào? 这个星期日几号?" (What's the date this Sunday?)

The names for the days of the week begin with the word "xīngqī 星期" followed by the numbers one through six, meaning Monday to Saturday. In China, the week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday, which is called "Xīngqīrì 星期日" or "Xīngqītiān 星期天". Saturday and Sunday are days off and are called "zhōumò 周末" (weekend).

星期一 Xīngqīyī	Monday	星期五 Xīngqīwǔ	Friday
星期二 Xīngqī'èr	Tuesday	星期六 Xīngqīliù	Saturday
星期三 Xīngqīsān	Wednesday	星期日 Xīngqīrì	Sunday
星期四 Xīngqīsì	Thursday	星期天 Xīngqītiān	Sunday

The order of the date and the time are expressed as follows:

年 + 月 + 日 + 星期 + 上午/下午/晚上 + 钟点

(year + month + day + day of the week + morning/afternoon/evening + hour)

二〇一五年	十二月	二十五日	星期五	晚上	八点二十五
2015 年	12 月	25 日	星期五	晚上	8:25

(8:25 p.m., Friday, December 25, 2015)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise I Substitute the underlined parts and complete the dialogue.

A：今天（几月）几号？

B：今天<u>五月八号</u>。

A：明天星期几？

B：明天<u>星期六</u>。

Exercise II Complete the dialogue based on the information given.

A：这个星期_____几号？

B：_____月_____号。

A：这一天他们做什么？

B：他们_____。

2. 名词谓语句 A sentence with a nominal predicate

Nouns, noun phrases and numeral-measure-word compounds can act as the predicate of a sentence without the verb "shì 是" (to be). This kind of sentence is specially used in spoken language to express age, time, and so on. It is also used to express price or birthplace.

Subject + Numeral-Measure-Word

Subject	Predicate	
	Adverbial	Numeral-Measure-Word
你女儿	今年	几岁？
林强	今年	多大？
他	今年	二十岁。
现在		几点？
现在		差五分十点。
今天		几号？
这个星期日		十月二十七号。

The negative form of a sentence with a nominal predicate uses "bú shì 不是".

Example 今天 不是五号。 (Jīntiān bú shì wǔ hào.) Today is not the 5th day (of the month).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Tā bú shì sānshí'èr suì.
她不 是 三十二 岁。She is not 32 years old.

Exercise I　Substitute the underlined parts and complete the dialogue.

A：你哥哥今年多大？

B：_____。

A：他 / 她的生日是哪天？

B：_____。

姐姐
弟弟
妹妹
朋友

Exercise II　Ask a question based on the answer given.

A：_____？　B：我今年 19 岁。

A：_____？　B：明天星期四。

A：_____？　B：11 月 5 号。

3. 双宾语动词谓语句（1）：送、教　A sentence with a two-object verbal predicate (1): "sòng 送" (to give as a gift) or "jiāo 教" (to teach)

Verbs like "sòng 送" (to give as a gift), "jiāo 教" (to teach) and so on can take two objects. The first object refers to people and the second object refers to things.

送 / 教 + Pronoun/Noun (Person) + Noun / Noun Phrase (Thing)

Subject	Predicate		
	Verb	$Object_1$	$Object_2$
林娜	送	她哥哥	一个大蛋糕。
她	教	我	英语。
他们	教	林娜	说汉语。

Notes:

1. A verb or a verb phrase may act as the object of a verb, such as "Lǎoshī jiāo wǒ xiě. 老师教我写。" (The teacher taught me how to write), "Xiǎoyún jiāo wǒ zuò shòumiàn. 小云教我做寿面。" (Xiaoyun taught me how to make longevity noodles), and "Tā xǐhuan chī miàntiáo. 她喜欢吃面条。" (She likes to eat noodles).
2. In Chinese, not all verbs can take two objects.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise I Substitute the underlined parts and complete the dialogues.

（1）A：她送朋友什么？

B：她送朋友一个大蛋糕。

（2）A：王老师教他们什么？

B：王老师教他们汉字。

两盒巧克力
五张照片
一盒好吃的点心

唱歌　跳舞　钢琴

Exercise II Complete the sentences with the words given.

（1）她是我的中文老师，_____。（中文　我　教　她）

（2）我喜欢吃点心，_____。（做点心　我的中国朋友　我　教）

（3）明天是王小云的生日，_____？（送　马大为　礼物　她　什么）

4. "就"（1）：表示强调　The adverb "jiù 就" (1): Expressing emphasis

The adverb "就" placed before a verb emphasizes what follows. For example, "Tā jiù shì wǒ gēge. 他就是我哥哥。" (He is my elder brother), "Zhè jiù shì shòumiàn. 这就是寿面。" (These are longevity noodles).

Exercise I Put "就" in the right positions.

（1）我____来介绍____一下，这____是陈老师。

（2）A：那是谁？

B：____那____是____马大为。

Exercise II Answer the questions using "就".

（1）A：请问，马大为在吗？

B：我_____。

（2）A：你有你女儿的照片吗？

B：这_____。

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. 疑问语调句　A sentence with a rising tone

A statement with a rising tone, without a "ma 吗" ending, may also form a question. In writing, a question mark must be added at the end of the sentence. This type of question often expresses uncertainty or disbelief.

Example

Nǐ rènshi wǒ mèimei?
你 认识 我 妹妹？ You know my younger sister?

Nǐ lái wǒmen bān?
你来 我们 班？ You are coming to our class?

Nǐ xuéxí Yīngyǔ?
你学习 英语？ You are studying English?

6. 语法小结（1）：主语、谓语、宾语、定语和状语　Summary of grammar (1): Subject, predicate, object, modifier, and adverbial

A Chinese sentence can generally be divided into a subject and a predicate.

The main component of a subject is often a noun or a pronoun. The main component of a predicate is often a verb or an adjective. The subject is usually placed before the predicate. For example,

Subject	Predicate
我	是学生。
林娜	不看电影。
饺子	很好吃。

In a conversation, the subject is often omitted.

Example

Nǐ míngtiān wǎnshang yǒu méi yǒu shíjiān?
A：你 明天 晚上 有 没 有 时间？ Do you have time tomorrow evening?

(Wǒ) yǒu shíjiān.
B：（我）有 时间。 Yes, I do.

If the context is clear, the predicate may also be omitted.

Example

Nǐ zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?
A：你最近 怎么样？ How have you been lately?

Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne?
B：我 很 好。你呢？ Pretty good. What about you?

The object is part of the predicate and is usually placed after the verb. In general, the object is a noun or a pronoun, and could also be a verb or a verb phrase. Some verbs may take two objects. For example,

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