

# COMMUNICATIVE EXCHANGES



## LESSON 27

Mǎi Huǒchē Piào hé Fēijī Piào

(Buying Train Tickets and Airline Tickets)

M: Martin  
DC: Desk Clerk  
TW: Ticket Window

Frame 1

1 M: Jīntiān shídiǎn bàn wǒ  
Yào jiézhàng. Wǒ yǐjīng bǎ  
xínglǐ shōushi hǎole.  
Xiànzài jiù qīng fúwùyuán  
bǎ xínglǐ fàngzài zhège  
méntīnglǐ xíngbùxíng?

I want to check out at ten-  
thirty today. I have already  
packed my baggage. Is it OK  
to ask the attendant to put  
my baggage in the lobby?

2 DC: Nà bú tài hǎo. Nǐde  
xínglǐ huì bèi rén ná zǎode.  
Háishì liú zài fángjiān lǐ  
hǎo yídiǎnr. Shídiǎnzhōng  
wǒ jiào fúwùyuán gěi nǐ bǎ  
xínglǐ bān xià lai.

That's not good. Your bag-  
gage might be taken away by  
somebody else. It's better  
to leave it in the room. I  
will tell the attendant to  
bring it down at ten o'clock.

3 M: Xièxie.

Thanks

### Notes:

1. Méntīng, "entrance hall/lobby": This term generally refers to the entrance hall or lobby of a building, rather than the entrance way of a private residence for the average family.

Bèi, the agent marker: When bèi is used as a Co-Verb in a passive sentence, it simply cannot be directly translated into English. This co-verb generally appears in sentences containing the following linear sequence:

NP1 - bèi - NP2 - VP

For example:

Lǎozhāng bèi tàitai màle  
yí dùn<sup>1</sup>.

Old Zhāng was scolded by his  
wife.

1. yí dùn means, literally, once.

NP1 Lǎozhāng is the direct object of the sentence, bèi introduces the agent of the action, NP2 is the agent Zhāng Tàitai, and VP describes how the direct object, Lǎozhāng, is affected by the action of the verb mà, "scold," and its complements -le yídùn.

The above linear sequence, however, is not the only form in which the bèi construction can occur. There are a number of variations. For example:

NP1 - bèi - VP

(1) Wǒ bèi qiǎngle. I was robbed.  
NP2, the agent, is absent.

(2) The agent marker, bèi, can be substituted by verbs jiào and ràng.

NP1 -  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{bèi} \\ \text{jiào} \\ \text{ràng} \end{array} \right]$  - NP2 - VP

Wǒde qián dōu  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{bèi} \\ \text{jiào} \\ \text{ràng} \end{array} \right]$  - háizimen yòngle.

(My money has been all spent by my children.)

(3) The verb gěi may be added after NP2 optionally for emphasis.

NP1 -  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{bèi} \\ \text{jiào} \\ \text{ràng} \end{array} \right]$  - NP2 - (gěi) - VP

Wǒde qián dōu  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{bèi} \\ \text{jiào} \\ \text{ràng} \end{array} \right]$  háizimen (gěi) yòngle.

However, there is one important exception to the above substitution: When NP2, the agent is absent, as in example 1, the Co-Verb bèi must be present in the sentence. The following sentences are illustrations of this principle:

(correct) Wǒ bèi qiǎngle. I was robbed.

(incorrect) \*Wǒ jiào qiǎngle.

(incorrect) \*Wǒ ràng qiǎngle.

---

\* Stands for ungrammatical sentence.

The agent marker bèi is used mainly (but not exclusively) for two important reasons:

- a. To express an adverse/pejorative situation (something unfortunate has happened)
- b. To express disposition of the object in the same way the bǎ construction does (see Lesson 25)

Bèi is used under the following conditions:

- a. The direct object (NP1) must be acted on or be disposed of. In other words, the action must be performed by the agent (NP2) on the direct object.
- b. The verb must be of the following types:
  - (1) action verb (such as ná, "take," in exchange 2)
  - (2) action and process verb (such as dǎsǐ, "beat to death")
  - (2) Verb of perception or cognition (such as kànjiàn, "see," zhīdào "to know," fāxiàn "discover," etc.)
- c. The verb phrase, like the bǎ verb phrase, must be complex. Here are some examples of the types of complement in which a verb phrase may be used:

<u>le</u>	Aspect Marker
<u>xiàlai</u> , <u>shàngqu</u> , etc.	Compound Verb
verb- <u>de</u> <u>tàidà</u> , <u>tàixiǎo</u> , etc.	Manner Expression (after the verb)
<u>zài qiángshang</u> , <u>zài dìshang</u> , etc.	Co-Verb <u>zài</u> Phrase (after the verb)
verb- <u>fángzi</u> , verb- <u>xuésheng</u> , etc.	Indirect Object (after the verb)
<u>yíci</u> , <u>yíxià</u> , <u>yídùn</u> , etc.	Number plus measure (after the verb)

To make a bèi sentence negative, place the negative adverb in front of bèi, not in front of the main verb.

NP1 - NEG - bèi - NP2 - VP

Remember that the English passive often does not correspond to the bèi construction in standard Chinese. Therefore, an English passive sentence can not be automatically translated to a bèi sentence in Chinese.

For example:

That painting was painted by Picasso.

The standard Chinese counterpart of the above sentence will be

Nàzhāng huà shì Picasso huàde.

but not

\*Nàzhāng huà bèi Picasso huàle.

### Frame 2

(M and DC are chatting.)

- |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 DC: Nǐ dào le Shànghǎi jiù zuò fēijī huíguó ma?                                                                                      | Are you going back to your country by airplane after you arrive in Shanghai?                                                                                |
| 5 M: Búshì. Wǒ hái yào dào Nánjīng, Hángzhōu qù kànkàn.                                                                                | No. I still want to go to Nanjing and Hanzhou to look around.                                                                                               |
| 6 DC: Nǐ wèishénme búzuò fēijī dào Shànghǎi qù ne? Zuò huǒchē yǒu màn yǒu bushūfu. Fēijī búdàn kuài yě bùtài guì.                      | Why don't you go to Shanghai by plane? The train is slow and also uncomfortable. The plane is not only fast, but also not too expensive.                    |
| 7 M: Wǒ juéde huǒchē bǐ fēijī hǎo. Suīrán màn yídiǎnr, dànshì kěyǐ zài huǒchēshàng kànkàn fēngjǐng, yǒu kěyǐ zài cānchēshàng chīfàn... | I feel that the train is better than the plane. Although it is a bit slower, one can look at the scenery from the train and also can eat in the dining car. |

### Notes:

5. Hángzhōu: This city is famous for its scenic beauty. Its well-known lake, the West Lake, is often described as beautiful as a painting. The city is situated to the southwest of Shanghai.

6. ...yòu...yòu..., "both...and": The element following each yòu can be as simple as a stative verb or as complex as a full verb phrase.

Nǐ yǒu huì shuō Yīnwén,  
yǒu huì shuō Pútōnghuà.

You can speak both English and Chinese.

\* Denotes an ungrammatical sentence.

7. Cānchē means "a dining car" (on the train). Whereas cāntīng is the word for the dining room of a hotel, club, dormitory, etc. A dining room in a house is a fàntīng.

## Frame 3

(It's time for Mr. Martin to go to the RR station)

- |   |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 | DC: Nǐde chē láile, xíngli yě dōu fàng hǎo le. Xīwàng yǐhòu zài lái. Yílùpíngān. (shaking hands with Mr. Martin.) | Your car is here. The baggage is already loaded (in the car). Hope you will come again. Bon Voyage! |
| 9 | M: Xièxie, zàijiàn.                                                                                               | Thank you. Good-bye.                                                                                |

Note:

8. Yílù Píngān, means, literally, "all the way safe and sound."

## Frame 4

(at RR station)

- |    |                                                              |                                                                             |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | M: Qù Shànghǎi de dīliùshí-èrcǐ kuàichē wòpǔ duōshao qián?   | How much is a sleeping berth ticket on the No.62 express train to Shanghai? |
| 11 | TW: Dānchéngpiào háishi láihuípào?                           | One way or round trip?                                                      |
| 12 | M: Dānchéngpiào.                                             | One way.                                                                    |
| 13 | TW: Shíwǔkuàiqīmáowǔfēn qián.                                | Fifteen dollars and seventy-five cents.                                     |
| 14 | M: Zhèr shì yìzhang èrshíkuài de. Wǒ méiyǒu língqián.        | Here is a twenty-dollar bill. I don't have small change.                    |
| 15 | TW: (Taking the \$20 bill) Hǎo, zhǎo nǐ sīkuàiliǎngmáowǔfēn. | Good. Here is four dollars twenty-five cents in change.                     |
| 16 | M: Dì liùshíèrcǐ kuàichē zài jǐhào yuètái? Jǐdiǎn-zhōng kāi? | On which platform is the No.62 express train? What time is it leaving?      |

- |    |                                                   |                                            |
|----|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 17 | TW: Zài sìhào yuètái. Shí-sāndiǎn érshiwǔfēn kāi. | On No.4 platform. It leaves at 1325 hours. |
| 18 | M: Fèixīn, fèixīn.                                | Sorry for bothering.                       |

Notes:

14. Língqián, "small change": The word líng can be used in the following ways.

- a. As a zero sign: Wǔlíngliùhào (No.506)
- b. As a plus sign: Yínián líng sāntiān (One year plus three days)
- c. As a score sign: líng-bī-líng (no score)  
wǔ-bī-líng (five-nothing)

15. Zhǎo: As it is used in this lesson, it means "to give change." Zhǎo nǐ sìkuài liǎngmáowǔfēn means "I am giving you four dollars and twenty-five cents in change."

18. Fèixīn is an expression used when asking a person to do something or giving thanks to a person for something he/she has done.

## Frame 5

W: Wáng Mínglǐ

A: Agent

Běiměi: a fictitious airline

- |    |                                                                           |                                                                                  |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19 | W: Mǎdīng Xiānsheng, nǐ hòutiān zuò Zhōngguó Mínhángde bānjī huí guó ma?  | Mr. Martin, are you going back on a CAAC flight?                                 |
| 20 | M: Búshì, wǒ zuò *Běiměi de bānjī.                                        | No. I am taking North American.                                                  |
| 21 | W: Jīpiào yǐjīng yùdìng-hǎole méiyǒu?                                     | Have you reserved your ticket?                                                   |
| 22 | M: Wǒ mǎi de shì láihuí-piào. Líkāi Měiguóde shíhou, jiù yǐjīng bànhǎole. | I bought a round-trip ticket. It was all arranged when I left the United States. |



- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23 W: Wǒ kàn nǐ jīntiān zuǐ-hǎo gěi tāmen dǎ diànhuà luòshí yíxià: Yàoburán hòutiān nǐ shàng fēijī de shíhou, wànyǐ tāmen méiyǒu gěi nǐ liú zuòwèi, nǐ zěnmē bàn?                                                         | I think you'd better phone them for confirmation. Otherwise, when you board the plane the day after tomorrow, what are you going to do if they have not reserved a seat for you?                                                                      |
| 24 M: Nǐ shuō de duì, guò yǐhuìr wǒ gěi tāmen dǎ yíge diànhuà.                                                                                                                                                            | You are right. I'll call them in a little while.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 25 W: Qùnián wǒ zuò Běiměi de fēijī dào Dōngjīng qù. Yàobushi wǒde péngyou quàn wǒ zài shàng fēijī de qián yítiān dǎ diànhuà luòshí, wǒ jiù méiyǒu zuòwèi le. Yuánlái Běiměi de shòupiao-chū wàngle gěi wǒ liú zuòwèi le. | Last year, I was going to Tokyo by a North American Airliner; had it not been for my friend's advice to call for confirmation the day before the flight, I wouldn't have had a seat. As it turned out, North America forgot to reserve a seat for me. |
| 26 W: Nǐde bānjī jǐdiǎn qī-fēi?                                                                                                                                                                                           | What's the departure time of your flight?                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 27 M: Shàngwǔ shíyǐdiǎnbàn.                                                                                                                                                                                               | Eleven-thirty in the morning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 28 W: Nàme nǐ shénme shíhou qù bàn shǒuxù?                                                                                                                                                                                | When are going to check in?                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 29 M: Shídiǎnbàn zuǒyòu.                                                                                                                                                                                                  | About ten o'clock.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 30 W: Nǐ nàge bānjī zhífēi Měiguó ma?                                                                                                                                                                                     | Is your flight going directly to America?                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 31 M: Búshì. Lùshang děi zài Dōngjīng gēn Ālāsījiā tíng yíxià.                                                                                                                                                            | No. It stops in Tokyo and Alaska.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Notes:

21. Yùdìng means, literally, "book," or "place on order beforehand." Yù is abbreviated from yùxiān, "beforehand" or "in advance." Dìng is the verb "to subscribe" (a newspaper, etc.); "to book" (seats, tickets, etc.).

23. Luòshí means "to ascertain, to make sure," "to carry out", Luò, as it is used this lesson, means to "fall onto," or "rest with" and shí means "solid, reality," or "fact."

29. Zuǒyòu means, literally, "left right": When this term is used as an adverb, it can only be placed in the sentence-final position. For example:

Nàge chéngshì yǒu liǎngwàn  
rén zuǒyòu.

That city has about twenty  
thousand people.

## Frame 6

(Check in at the airport.)

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 32 | A: Mǎdīng Xiānsheng, nǐ yǒu jǐjiàn xínglǐ yào tuōyùn?                                                                                                                                          | Mr. Martin, how many pieces of luggage do you want to check?                                                                                                                             |
| 33 | M: Zhè liǎngjiàn dàde tuōyùn. Zhèjiàn xiǎode wǒ zìjǐ suǐshēn dài.                                                                                                                              | I'll check these two large pieces; I'll take the small ones with me.                                                                                                                     |
| 34 | A: Zhè liǎngjiàn dàde děi xiān guòbàng. Yàoshi chāozhòng, jiù yào bǔ yīdiǎnr yùnfèi. (after weighing) Bùchāozhòng. (handing over baggage checks to Martin) Zhè liǎngzhāng shì nǐde xínglǐpiào. | The two large pieces have to be weighed. If they are overweight, there will be additional freight charges. Not over. Here are your luggage checks.                                       |
| 35 | A: Nǐ yào kào chuāng(hu)de zuòwèi hái shì kào guòdào de zuòwèi?                                                                                                                                | Do you want a window seat or an aisle seat?                                                                                                                                              |
| 36 | M: Gěi wǒ kào guòdào de ba, fāngbiàn yīdiǎnr.                                                                                                                                                  | Give me an aisle seat. It's more convenient                                                                                                                                              |
| 37 | A: Gěi nǐ érshiwūhào C, kào guòdào. Nǐ kěyǐ zài hòujīshì zuòzuò. Shíyīdiǎnzhōng lǚkè kěyǐ kāishì shàng fēijī. Tóudēngzuò de xiān shàng. Jīngjìzuò de hòu shàng.                                | I'll give you 25C. It's next to the aisle. Take a seat in the waiting room. Passengers can board the plane at eleven. First-class passengers board first, then economy-class passengers. |
| 38 | M: Fèixīn.                                                                                                                                                                                     | I have put you to much trouble.                                                                                                                                                          |