

Restaurant Module, Unit 1PART I

1. Nǐ xiǎng <u>chī</u> shénme?	What do you want to eat?
2. <u>Suíbiàn</u> . Nǐ <u>diǎn</u> ba.	As you like. You order.
3. Wǒmen yào èrshíge <u>guōtiē</u> .	We want twenty fried dumplings.
4. Wǒmen yào sìge <u>bāozi</u> .	We want four bāozi.
5. Wǒmen yào liǎngwǎn <u>suān là tāng</u> .	We want two bowls of sour and hot soup.

NOTES ON PART I

chī: 'to eat'. The verb 'to eat' is often expressed using a general object compound, chī fàn, instead of the simple verb chī.

Nǐ chī fàn le ma?

Have you eaten?

Wǒ hái méi chī fàn.

I haven't eaten yet.

suíbiàn: This word meaning 'as you please', or more literally 'following convenience', has a variety of uses.

Nǐ suíbiàn mǎi ba.

Buy what you want.

Nǐ qù bu qu? Suí nǐde  
biàn ba.

Are you going? Do what you  
like.

guōtiē: This has been translated here as 'fried dumpling', but actually a guōtiē differs from a dumpling in several respects. We usually think of a dumpling as a solid lump of leavened dough dropped in soup to cook. A guōtiē, however, is made of thin, unleavened dough, which serves as a wrapper for a filling. This filling may be Chinese cabbage, port, beef, lamb, or any combination thereof. Secondly, a guōtiē is not dropped in soup, but is steamed and fried, so that the bottom is crisp and the top is soft.

bāozi: This is a round of steamed bread filled with salty stuffing (cabbage, pork, beef, shrimp, etc.) or sweet stuffing (red bean puree, walnuts, almonds, etc.). The steamed bread is made from a raised dough and forms a thick bun, somewhat similar in concept to a hamburger.

suān là tāng: A thick spicy soup made of pork, white bean curd, "red bean curd" (actually dried chicken or pork blood), dried tiger lily flowers, mushrooms, bamboo shoots and egg.

liǎngwǎn...: The word for 'bowl', wǎn, is used as a counter here.

Taipei:

A conversation in a small restaurant.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| M: Yùzhēn, nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?                      | Yùzhēn, what do you want to eat?                              |
| F: Suíbiàn. Nǐ diǎn ba.                              | As you like. You order.                                       |
| M: Wǒmen diǎn diǎn guōtiē, suān là tāng, hǎo bu hǎo? | We'll order some fried dumplings and sour and hot soup, Okay? |
| F: Hǎo a.  | Okay.   |
| M: Hái yào jǐge bāozi, zěnmeyàng?                    | How about a few bāozi, too?                                   |
| F: Hǎo a. Bú yào diǎn tài duō le.                    | Okay. Don't order too much.                                   |

(Now the man talks with the waitress.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| F2: Nǐmen diǎn dian shénme?                                     | What will you order?  |
| M: Wǒmen yào èrshíge guōtiē, sìge bāozi, liǎngwǎn suān là tāng. | We want twenty fried dumplings, four bāozi, two bowls of sour and hot soup. |
| F2: Hǎo. Jiù lái.   | Okay, it'll be here right away.   |

NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

Hái yào jige bāozi, zěnmeyàng?: The toneless syllable jí- means 'a few' or 'several'. It may be difficult to distinguish between jige, 'a few', from jǐge, 'how many' in rapid speech. Usually there will be other clues such as intonation and context to help you distinguish them. This is discussed again in Unit 3 of the Directions Module.

Bú yào diǎn tài duō le.: The phrase bú yào is used to mean 'don't' in sentences expressing a command. You'll learn more about this in the Transportation Module. The marker le for new situation is used here to reinforce the idea of 'excessive'. Whenever a speaker says something is excessive, he is actually saying that it has BECOME excessive.

Nǐmen diǎn dian shénme?: The first word diǎn is the verb 'to order'. The second word dian (from yìdiǎn, 'a little') means 'some'.

Èrshige guōtiē, sìge bāozi: You can tell from the amount ordered that the guōtiē are more or less bite-sized, while the bāozi are larger.

6. xiǎochīdiàn

*little eatery*

Taipei:

A conversation between an American student and a Chinese friend in front of a small restaurant.

M: Wǒmen chī dian dōngxī,  
hǎo bu hao?

Let's eat something, okay?

F: Hǎo a. Nǐ xiǎng chī  
shénme?

Okay. What do you want to eat?

M: Chī dian diǎnxīn.

Some snacks.

F: Nǐ chīguo guōtiē ma?

Have you ever eaten fried dumplings?

M: Měi chīguo.

No.

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- F: Wǒmen kěyǐ zài zhège  
xiǎochīdiàn chī diǎn  
diǎnzǐn, hǎo bu hǎo? We can eat some snacks in  
this little eatery. Okay?
- M: Hǎo. Tāmen dōu yǒu shénme? Okay. What do they have?
- F: Hěn duō dōngxi. Yǒu guōtiē,  
bāozi, suān là tāng. Many things. Fried  
dumplings, bāozi, sour  
and hot soup.
- M: Hěn hǎo, hěn hǎo. Good, good.

NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

xiǎochīdiàn: This is a small place where you can grab something to eat. (Xiǎochī means 'snack'.) If you are in a city in China, you are probably not far from one. A xiǎochīdiàn is often run by one or two people. It may be arranged so that the cooking area faces the street, in which case you'll probably walk through the kitchen as you head for a table. Putting the kitchen at the front, facing the street, makes for better ventilation and allows people on the street to see and smell what is being cooked. Inside you are likely to find small tables without tablecloths, and stools. There is generally no menu, but some of the dishes may be written on a blackboard or on red pieces of paper which are hung on the wall. Since the xiǎochīdiàn is often a small operation, it may only offer a few things or it may specialize in serving one type of food, such as noodles or dumplings. The word xiǎo in xiǎochīdiàn, refers not to the size of the establishment, but to the types of food offered.

Tāmen dōu yǒu shénme?: The word dōu in this sentence refers to the object, not the subject. In other words, the sentence is translated as 'What all do they have?' in this context. In another conversation the same sentence might mean 'What do they all have?'

This type of question with dōu expects an answer with more than one item mentioned. The dōu may be thought to refer to the object in the answer.

- Nǐ dōu mǎi shénme le? What all did you buy?
- Wǒ mǎile shíge bāozi, sānjīn  
píngguo, liùpíng qīshuǐ. I bought ten baozi, thr-  
catties of apples, six  
bottles of soda.

But notice that in the answer dōu is NOT used even though the object is plural in number or a series of items.

PART II

7. Qǐng nǐ gěi wǒ kànkàn nǐmende <u>càidānzi</u> .	Please give me your menu to look at.
8. Nǐmen mài <u>zhēng jiǎo</u> ma?	Do you sell steamed dumplings?
9. Gěi wǒ lái <u>yìlóng</u> zhēng jiǎo.	Bring me a basket of steamed dumplings.
10. Nǐmen mài <u>tāng miàn</u> bu mai?	Do you sell soup-noodles?
11. Nǐmen mài <u>chǎo</u> miàn bu mai?	Do you sell fried noodles?
12. Yǒu shénme <u>yàngde</u> tāng miàn?	What kinds of soup-noodles are there?
13. Gěi wǒ lái yìwǎn <u>niúròu</u> miàn.	Bring me a bowl of soup- noodles with beef.
14. <i>jiǎoxi</i>	<i>boiled dumplings</i>
15. <i>ròusī miàn</i>	<i>soup-noodles with shreds of pork</i>
16. <i>páigǔ miàn</i>	<i>soup-noodles with a pork chop</i>
17. ... <i>shěnméide</i>	<i>... and so on. (after a series of items)</i>

NOTES ON PART II

zhēng jiǎo: These are crescent-shaped dumplings filled with cabbage and meat which are steam cooked. The steaming is done by placing the dumplings in a bamboo basket, which is one layer in a stack of bamboo baskets called a zhēng lóng, and then placing the whole stack over a container of boiling water.

gěi wǒ lái ...: The verb lái here means not 'to come' but 'to bring' since it is followed by a noun. The word gěi is the prepositional verb 'for'.

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yīlóng zhēng jiǎo: Steamed dumplings are sold by the basket and served in the basket that they are steamed in. The word for one tier of such baskets is used as a counter, -lóng (yīlóng, liǎnglóng, etc.).

tāng miàn: This is the name for a class of dishes made of noodles and soup. Unlike the Western idea of soup with some noodles, tāng miàn is basically noodles with some soup added. Because Northern China is a wheat growing area, noodles are a staple in the diet of that region. A bowl of noodles can be used to make a side dish for a large meal, or, with a little soup and meat added, can be a meal in itself. Noodles are commonly made in six-to-ten-foot lengths in China, and are regarded as a symbol of longevity.

chǎo miàn: One of the verbs translated 'to fry' is chǎo. It is also sometimes translated as 'stir fry'. The Chinese language has several verbs meaning 'to fry'. Chǎo means to fry in a little oil, stirring rapidly and constantly, not unlike sautéing.

niúròu miàn: This dish consists of noodles in soup with pieces of beef. The word for 'beef' is niúròu, literally 'cow', niú, and 'meat', ròu. In the names of Chinese dishes, the thing the dish is primarily composed of, in this case noodles, is at the end of the phrase. Those words coming before describe the additional foods with which the dish is prepared or the style in which it is prepared.

jiǎozi: A crescent-shaped dumpling, made of white dough and stuffed with a mixture of meat and scallions or mixed vegetables. Jiǎozi may be served steamed, zhēng jiǎo or boiled, shuǐ jiǎo. It is said that Marco Polo took the idea of these dumplings back to Italy inspiring the creation of ravioli.

ròusī miàn: This is noodles in soup with shreds of pork and vegetables. Actually, the word ròu means simply 'meat', not 'pork'. But the basic meat of China has always been pork, and therefore ròu on a menu refers to pork unless otherwise specified.

shénmede: This word, used after a series of nouns, means 'and so on' or 'etcetera'.

Qīshuǐ, píjiǔ, shénmede  
dōu děi mǎi.

We need to buy soda, beer,  
and so on.

Taipei:

A conversation between a waiter and a customer at a small eatery.

M: Nín yào chī diǎn shénme?

What do you want to eat?

F: Qǐng nǐ gěi wǒ kànkàn  
nǐmende cāidānzi.

Please give me your menu to  
look at.

M: Ōu, duìbuqǐ, wǒmen zhèlǐ  
méiyǒu cāidānzi. Wǒmen  
zhèlǐ jiù mài zhēng jiǎo,  
tāng miàn, chǎo miàn,  
shénmede.

Oh, I'm sorry. We don't  
have a menu. We only sell  
steamed dumplings, soup-  
noodles, fried noodles,  
and so on.

F: Yǒu shénme yàngde tāng miàn?

What kinds of soup noodles  
are there?

M: Yǒu niúròu miàn a, yǒu  
ròusī miàn a, hái yǒu  
páigǔ miàn.

There's soup-noodles with  
beef, soup-noodles with  
shreds of pork, and soup-  
noodles with a pork chop.

F: Gěi wǒ lái yíwǎn niúròu  
miàn.

I'll have a bowl of soup-  
noodles with beef.

M: Hǎo. Nín yào bù yào zhēng  
jiǎo?

Good. Do you want some  
steamed dumplings?

F: Hǎo. Zěnmē mǎi?

Okay. How are they sold?

M: Yílóng zhēng jiǎo  
èrshikuài qián.

A basket of steamed  
dumplings is twenty  
dollars.

F: Yílóng yǒu duōshǎoge?

How many in a basket?

M: Yílóng yǒu bāge.

There's eight in a basket.

F: Hǎo, gěi wǒ lái  
yílóng zhēng jiǎo, lái  
yíwǎn niúròu miàn.

Okay, bring me a basket of  
steamed dumplings, a  
bowl of soup-noodles with  
beef.

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NOTE ON THE DIALOGUE

duōshaoge: The word duōshao may be used either with or without a counter.

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|-----------------------|---|
| 18. ròusī chǎo miàn   | <i>fried noodles with pork<br/>shreds</i> |
| 19. sānxiān chǎo miàn | <i>three-delicious fried<br/>noodles</i>  |

sānxiān: This word occurs in the names of rice dishes, noodle dishes and soups. It can be roughly translated as 'three delicacies', more literally, 'three fresh'. It means that the dish is made with two different meats, such as chicken and pork, and a seafood, such as shrimp, in addition to the vegetables.

Taipei:

A conversation at another small eatery.

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|---|--|
| F: Nǐ xiǎng chī diǎn shénme?  | What do you want to eat?   |
| M: Nǐmen zhèlǐ mài guōtiē<br>bù mài?  | Do you sell fried dumplings<br>here?   |
| F: Guōtiē, jiǎozi, wǒmen<br>zhèlǐ dōu bù mài. Wǒmen<br>zhèlǐ jiù mài miàn. Tāng<br>miàn, chǎo miàn dōu yǒu. | We don't sell fried dumplings<br>or boiled dumplings at all.<br>We only sell noodles. We<br>have both soup-noodles and<br>fried noodles. |
| M: Yǒu shénme yàngde chǎo<br>miàn?  | What kinds of fried noodles<br>are there?  |
| F: Yǒu ròusī chǎo miàn,<br>yǒu sānxiān chǎo miàn.   | There's fried noodles with<br>strips of pork; and there's<br>fried noodles with three<br>delicious things.                               |
| M: Wǒ yào sānxiān chǎo miàn.  | I want fried noodles with<br>three delicious things.   |
| F: Hǎo.   | Fine.  |



## PART III

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 20. Wǒ yào chī chǎo <u>jīdàn</u> gēn <u>huǒtuǐ</u> .      | I want to eat scrambled eggs and ham.         |
| 21. Wǒ <u>hē</u> <u>kāfēi</u> .                           | I'll drink coffee.                            |
| 22. Wǒ hái yào <u>kǎo</u> <u>miànbāo</u> .                | I also want some toast.                       |
| 23. <u>Qǐng zài lái yíbēi</u> <u>kāfēi</u> .              | Please bring another cup of coffee.           |
| 24. Nǐ yǒu <u>shāobing</u> ma?                            | Do you have sesame rolls?                     |
| 25. Wǒ yào liǎnggēn <u>yóutiáo</u> .                      | I want two deep-fried twists.                 |
| 26. Nǐ hē bu he <u>dòujiāng</u> ?                         | Do you drink dòujiāng?                        |
| 27. Nǐ xǐhuan <u>tiānde</u> <u>hāishi</u> <u>xiānde</u> ? | Do you like the sweet kind or the salty kind? |
| 28. Míngtiān zǎoshang <u>gěi nín</u> <u>yùbei</u> .       | We'll prepare it for you tomorrow morning.    |

## NOTES ON PART III

chǎo jīdàn: This is literally translated as 'fried eggs'. Since chǎo means 'to stir fry', however, it actually refers to scrambled eggs.

kǎo miànbāo: 'Toast'. This phrase is the verb kǎo 'to roast' and the word for 'bread', miànbāo.

Qǐng zài lái yíbēi...: Here again you see the verb lái used to mean 'bring'. The word zài is the adverb 'again'. Literally translated, this phrase means something like 'Please again bring...'. This is the standard way to ask someone to bring more of something.

shāobing: This is a baked roll with layers of dough and covered with sesame seeds. It comes in two shapes, one oblong and the other round like an English muffin, only not as thick. It is usually eaten at breakfast.

liǎnggēn yóutiáo: This is a long, twisted, puffy roll which is deep-fried. It resembles a cruller, but it is not sweet. Literally, the name means 'oil stick'. It is usually eaten at breakfast, along with dòujiāng and perhaps a shāobing. The counter for long, thin objects, like yóutiáo is -gēn.

dòujiāng: This is a liquid produced when beancurd, dòufu, is made from soybeans. It is white, resembling milk, and high in protein. It may be flavored so that it is sweet or salty. It is sometimes called soybean milk.

tiānde/xiānde: Many foods in China such as bāozi and dòujiāng come in two sorts: tiānde and xiānde. Although the Chinese categorize foods as either salty or sweet, this does not mean that food which is labeled 'salty' is terribly salty. Sometimes the label 'salty' simply means 'not sweet'.

Peking:

A conversation at the Peking Hotel.

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|--|--|
| M: Zǎo!  | Good morning!  |
| F: Nín hǎo! Nín xiǎng chī diār shénme?                                       | How are you? What would you like to eat?   |
| M: Nǐmen yǒu shāobing, yóutiáo ma?   | Do you have sesame rolls, and deep-fried twists?   |
| F: Shāobing, yóutiáo, jīntian méiyǒu. Míngtian chī ba! Nǐ hē bu he dòujiāng? | Today there aren't any crisp sesame rolls or deep-fried twists. How about having them tomorrow? Do you drink doujiang? |
| F: Chī shāobing, yóutiáo, děi hē dòujiāng.                                   | When you eat crisp sesame rolls or deep-fried twists you should drink doujiang.  |
| F: Nǐ xǐhuan tiānde háishi xiānde?   | Do you like the sweet kind or the salty kind?  |
| M: Wǒ xǐhuan tiānde.   | I like the sweet kind.   |
| F: Hǎo, míngtian zǎoshang gěi nín yùbei. Jīntian nín chī shénme?             | All right, we'll prepare it for you tomorrow morning. What will you eat today?   |

- M: Wǒ chī chǎo jīdàn, huǒtuǐ,  
kǎo miànbāo. I'll have scrambled eggs,  
ham and toast.
- F: Hē shénme? What will you drink?
- M: Kāfēi. Coffee.
- F: Hǎo. Good.
- (Later.)
- M: Qǐng zài lái yībēi kāfēi. Please bring another cup of  
coffee.
- F: Hǎo. All right.

NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

Breakfast at the Peking Hotel: The Peking Hotel is said to have the best Western style food in the city. While they serve both Western and Chinese style lunches and dinners, they are not always prepared to serve certain kinds of Chinese breakfast foods, such as shāobing and yóutiáo. If you would like to eat these typical Chinese breakfast foods you should ask in advance.

29. xīfàn	a gruel of rice and water usually eaten for breakfast
30. mǎntou	steamed bread
31. xīhóngshìzhī	tomato juice
32. júzi shuǐ	orangeade, orange juice
33. shuǐguǒ	fruit
34. xiāngjiāo	banana

xīfàn: This is another breakfast food. It is a white porridge made of rice and water. In the northern parts of China it is eaten along with salted pickles, ham, salted vegetables, salted eggs or peanuts.

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mántou: 'Steamed bread'. While the word miànbāo refers to Western style bread, mántou refers to a Chinese version of bread, a large steamed roll made of white dough. It is heavy and moist with no crust.

Vocabulary

bāozi	steamed rolls made of bread dough with a filling of meat and/or vegetables, or sweet bean paste.
càidānzi (yǐzhāng)	menu
chǎo	fried, to fry, sauté
chǎo miàn	fried noodles
chī	to eat
diǎn	to order
dòujiāng	soy bean milk, soy milk
gěi nín yùbei	to prepare for you
gěi wǒ lái (noun)	bring me (something)
guōtiē	steam-fried dumplings
hē	to drink
huǒtuǐ	ham
-jiǎo	dumpling
jiǎoxi	boiled dumpling
jīdān	(chicken) egg
júxī shuǐ	orangeade, orange juice
kāfēi	coffee
kǎo	roasted, toasted
là	peppery-hot
mántou	steamed bread
miàn	noodles
miànbāo	bread
niúròu	beef
niúròu miàn	soup-noodles with beef
páigǔ miàn	soup-noodles with a pork chop
Qǐng zài lái...	Please bring another...
ròusī chǎo miàn	fried noodles with shreds of pork
ròusī miàn	soup-noodles with shreds of pork

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*sānxiān chǎo miàn*

*shāobīng*

*...shěrmade*

*shuǐguǒ*

*suān*

*suíbiàn*

*tāng*

*tāng miàn*

*tián*

*xiān*

*xiāngjiǎo*

*xi fàn*

*xihónggehǎi*

*yàngzi*

*yīlóng*

*yóutiáo*

*zhēng*

*noodles fried with three  
fresh things*

*sesame rolls*

*...and so on*

*fruit*

*to be sour*

*as you like*

*soup*

*soup-noodles*

*to be sweet*

*to be salty*

*banana*

*gruel of rice and water*

*tomato juice*

*kind, variety*

*a tier of a steamer*

*deep-fried twist*

*to cook something by  
steaming*