

Restaurant Module, Unit 2PART I

1. Shénme shì <u>kèfàn</u> ?	What is a fixed meal?
2. Kèfàn jiù shì yíge tāng, yíge <u>cài</u> , hái yǒu fàn.	A 'fixed meal' is a soup, a main dish, and rice.
3. Kèfàn jiù yǒu <u>yízhǒng</u> ma?	Is there only one kind of 'fixed meal'?
4. Nǐ shuō nǎge cài <u>hǎochī</u> ?	Which dish did you say is tasty?
5. Wǒ huì <u>yòng kuàizi</u> .	I can use chopsticks.
6. Wǒ yòng kuàizi chī fàn.	I eat with chopsticks.
7. Nǐ xǐhuan chī niúròu háishi chī <u>jī</u> .	Do you like to eat beef or chicken?
8. Wǒ xiǎng chī diǎn <u>jiǎndānde</u> .	I want to eat something simple.
9. <u>Xiàcì</u> sài chī <u>biéde</u> .	Next time eat something else.
10. <u>qīngjiāo</u> niúròu	beef with green pepper
11. <u>báicài</u> ròusī	shreds of pork with cabbage
12. <u>xuědòu</u> jīpiàn	chicken slices with snow peas

NOTES ON PART I

kèfàn: This refers to a type of meal in which soup, a main dish, rice and tea are all served for one price. Much of the meal is prepared ahead of time, which makes it quick, convenient and inexpensive for the customer. It is referred to here as a 'fixed meal'. Other translations are 'fixed dinner', 'blue plate special' and 'combination plate'.

Kèfàn jiù yǒu yìzhǒng ma?: When you ask this question, the person you are speaking to might think you are asking about the different price categories that kèfàn is available in. Restaurants which offer kèfàn often have an inexpensive, a moderate and a top-of-the-line kèfàn each day.

cái: This is the word for any dish which is not soup, rice or noodles.

yòng: Like the word gěi, 'to give', the word yòng can act as either a full verb or a prepositional verb. As a full verb, it means 'to use'. As a prepositional verb, it means 'with'. Here are some examples of both usages.

Nǐ kěyǐ yòng wǒde diànshàn. You can use my electric fàn.

Tā yòng kuàizi chī fàn. He eats with chopsticks.

jī: While often the word for a type of meat, such as 'beef', niúròu, contains the syllable ròu, 'meat', the word for chicken does not.

xiàcì: The words for 'last time', 'this time' and 'next time' are formed according to the same principle as you've learned for other time words, like 'last week' and 'last month'.

shàngcì	last time
shàngge xīngqī	last week
shàngge yuè	last month
zhècì	this time
zhège xīngqī	this week
zhège yuè	this month
xiàcì	next time
xiàge xīngqī	next week
xiàge yuè	next month

Taipei:

A conversation between an American woman and a Chinese friend, who are out to eat on their lunch hour.

- | | |
|---|---|
| M: Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme? | What do you want to eat? |
| F: Wǒ xiǎng chī diǎn jiǎndānde. | I want to eat something simple. |
| M: Nà, chī kěfàn zěnmeyàng? | Then how about eating a 'fixed meal'? |
| F: Shénme shì kěfàn? | What is a 'fixed meal'? |
| M: Kěfàn jiù shì yíge tāng, yíge cài, hái yǒu fàn. | A 'fixed meal' is a soup, a main dish, and rice. |
| F: Kěfàn jiù yǒu yízhǒng ma? | Is there only one kind of 'fixed meal'? |
| M: Bù. Yǒu sān-sìzhǒng. Yǒu sìshikuàide, yǒu wǔshikuàide, yǒu liùshikuàide. | No. There are three or four kinds. There's the forty dollar kind, the fifty dollar kind, and the sixty dollar kind. |
| F: Dōu yǒu shénme cài? | What main dishes do they have? |
| M: Jīntian yǒu báicāi ròusī, qīngjiāo niúròu, xuědōu jīpiàn. | Today there's shreds of pork with cabbage, beef with green peppers, and chicken slices with snow peas. |
| F: Nǐ shuō nǎge cài hǎochī? | Which dish do you say is more tasty? |
| M: Dōu hěn hǎo. Jīntian nǐ kěyǐ chī qīngjiāo niúròu. Xiācí zài chī biéde. | They are all good. Today you might eat beef with green peppers. Next time eat something else. |
| F: Hǎo. | Okay. |
| M: Hǎo. Nǐ yào yíge qīngjiāo niúròu. Wǒ lái yíge xuědōu jīpiàn. | Okay. You take the beef with green peppers. I'll have the chicken slices with snow peas. |

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M: Nǐ huì yòng kuàizi ba?

You can use chopsticks, I suppose?

F: Wǒ zài Měiguó yǐjīng xuéguo.

I learned in America.

NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

Nà: At the beginning of the sentence, nà means 'then' or 'well then'.

Yǒu sān-sìzhǒng: 'three or four kinds'. Two consecutive numbers may be used together to give the idea of an approximate figure. The exception to this rule is that 10 and multiples of 10 can not combine with the number coming immediately before or after them. You will learn this in more detail in the Transportation Module.

Hǎo. Nǐ yào yíge qīngjiǎo niúròu. ...: While at an informal meal each person at the table may choose one of the dishes, everyone at a Chinese meal eats from all the dishes, which are put in the center of the table.

Taipei:

A conversation in a small restaurant.

M: Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?

What would you like to eat?

F: Wǒ xiǎng chī diǎn jiǎndānde.

I would like to eat something simple.

M: Nà wǒmen chī kěfàn ba.

Then let's eat the 'fixed meal'.

F: Hǎo a. Nǐ chīguo tāmen zhèlǐde kěfàn ma?

Okay. Have you eaten any of their 'fixed meals' here?

M: Chīguo.

Yes.

F: Hǎo bu hǎochī?

Are they tasty?

M: Dōu hěn hǎochī.

All were very tasty.

F: Kèfàn dōu yǒu shénme
yàngde cài?

What kinds of main dishes
are there in the 'fixed
dinners'?

M: Yǒu sānzhǒng. Yìzhǒng
shì qīngjiāo niúròu,
yìzhǒng shì báicài ròusī,
yìzhǒng shì xuědòu jīpiàn.

There are three kinds.
One kind is beef with
green peppers, one kind
is pork shreds with cabbage,
one kind is chicken slices
with snow peas.

F: Wǒ yào qīngjiāo niúròu.

I'll have the beef with
green peppers.

M: Wǒ yào xuědòu jīpiàn.

I'll have the chicken slices
with snow peas.

NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

Hǎo bu hǎochī?: The compound hǎochī, 'to be tasty', can be broken apart to form a question.

Kèfàn dōu yǒu shénme yàngde cài?: The adverb dōu in this sentence refers to the plural subject kèfàn, 'fixed dinners'.

PART II

13. Wǒ yào <u>xiārén</u> chǎo miàn.	I want fried noodles with shrimp.
14. Wǒmen hái yào yíge báicài <u>dòufu</u> tāng.	We also want a cabbage and bean curd soup.
15. Huǒtuǐ chǎo fàn <u>bú cuò</u> .	The fried rice with ham is not bad.
16. Liǎngge cài yíge tāng <u>gǒu</u> le.	Two main dishes and one soup is enough.
17. <u>Bié kèqì</u> .	Don't be formal. (Don't stand on ceremony.)
18. Wǒ yǐjīng <u>bǎo</u> le.	I've already had my fill.
19. Qǐng nǐ gěi wǒ <u>zhàngānzi</u> .	Please give me the check.
20. <i>Jiù zhèyàng</i> le.	<i>That'll be it.</i>
21. <i>Nǐ duō chī yídiǎn</i> .	<i>Eat a little more.</i>
22. Wǒ zài chī.	<i>I am eating.</i>

NOTES ON PART II

xiārén: This word refers to small shrimp without shells.

dòufu: 'Bean curd'. This is a soft white substance made from soybeans, with the consistency of jello or custard. It has only a faint taste, but is rich in protein and minerals. It is a staple found all over the Orient and may be found in everyday food as well as festive foods.

bú cuò: This phrase is used for 'not bad', in the sense of 'pretty good', 'pretty well', 'all right'.

Bié kèqì: Because this phrase is one of the most basic phrases in the system of Chinese customs and manner, it is difficult to translate. Here, it may be translated as 'Don't be formal.' or 'Don't stand on ceremony.' But it should be viewed in context to determine its full meaning.

bǎo: This is an adjectival verb meaning 'to be satisfied', literally 'to be full'.

Nǐ duō chí yídiǎn: Notice the word order of this sentence. The word duō is used as an adverb, and therefore precedes the verb chí. The word yídiǎn is used as the object of the action and therefore follows the verb.

Wǒ zài chí: The word zài can be used as a marker of ongoing action. You'll learn more about this in the Meeting Module.

Taipei:

A conversation between two friends in a small restaurant at lunchtime.

M: Zhèlǐde chǎo miàn, chǎo fàn
gēn tāng miàn dōu bú cuò.

The fried noodles, fried
rice and soup-noodles are
all good here.

F: Dēng wǒ kànkan cǎidānzi.
... Wǒmen yào yíge xiārén
chǎo miàn, hǎo bu hao?
Nǐ zài diǎn yíge ba.

Wait while I have a look
at the menu. ... We'll
have a fried noodles with
shrimp. Okay? You order
something else.

M: Wǒmen yào yíge huǒtuǐ chǎo
fàn, hǎo bu hao? Zài
yào yíge cài gēn yíge
báicài dòufu tāng.

We'll have a ham fried rice,
all right? And another
main dish and a cabbage
and bean curd soup.

F: Wǒ xiǎng tài duō le. Bú
yào cài le.

I think that's too much.
Let's not have the main
dish.

F: Jiù yào yíge chǎo fàn, yíge
miàn, yíge tāng, jiù gòu le.

If we just have one fried
rice, one noodle dish,
and one soup, then that'll
be enough.

(Now the man speaks to the waiter.)

M: Wǒmen yào yíge xiārén chǎo
miàn, yíge huǒtuǐ chǎo fàn,
hái yào yíge báicài dòufu
tāng. Jiù zhèyàng le.

We want a fried noodles
with shrimp, a ham fried
rice, a cabbage and bean
curd soup. That'll be
it.

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(Later while they are eating.)

F: Zhègè xiārén chǎo miàn
hěn hǎo chī. Huǒtuǐ
chǎo fàn yě bú cuò.
Nǐ duō chī yídiǎn.
Bié kèqì.

The fried noodles with shrimp
is very good. The ham
fried rice isn't bad
either. Eat a little more.
Don't be formal. (Please
help yourself.)

M: Wǒ zài chī. Nǐ yě bié
kèqì. Duō chī yídiǎn.

I am eating. Don't you be
formal either. Eat a
little more.

(After they have finished eating.)

M: Nǐ yào bu yao chī dian
tián diǎnxīn?

Do you want to eat some
dessert?

F: Bú yào le. Wǒ yǐjīng
bǎo le.

I don't want any more.
I've already had my
fill.

(He speaks with the waiter.)

M: Qǐng nǐ gěi wǒ zhāngdānzi.

Please give me the check.

NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

Nǐ zài diǎn yíge ba.: The word zài here means 'additionally'
or 'more'.

Wǒ xiǎng tài duō le. Bú yào cài le ba.: Here are two
examples of the marker le for new situations. In the first
sentence it is necessary to use le to indicate that the food order
has now become too much. In the second sentence, it is necessary
to use the marker le to indicate that the meat and vegetable is not
wanted anymore.

23. Wǒ chīde hěn bǎo le.

I've had plenty.

Taipei:

At another small restaurant:

M: Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?

What do you want to eat?

F: Wǒmen diǎn yíge chǎo miàn,
yíge chǎo fàn. Zài lái
yíge tāng, zěnmeyàng?

We'll order a fried
noodles, and a fried rice,
and also have them bring
soup, all right?

M: Hǎo a. Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme
chǎo miàn, chǎo fàn a?

Okay. What kind of fried
noodles and fried rice
do you want to eat?

F: Suíbiàn. Nǐ diǎn ba.

As you like. You order.

M: Wǒmen diǎn yíge xiārén
chǎo miàn, yíge huǒtuǐ
jīdàn chǎo fàn. Hái lái
yíge báicài dòufu tāng,
hǎo bu hao?

We'll order a fried noodles
with shrimp, a fried rice
with ham and eggs, and
have them bring a cabbage
and bean curd soup, all
right?

F: Hǎo.

Good.

(After they have finished eating.)

M: Nǐ xiǎng bu xiǎng chī diǎn
tiánde dōngxi?

Do you want to eat something
sweet?

F: Bú yào le. Wǒ bǎo le.

I don't want anything else.
I've had enough.

M: Nǐ bié kèqi a!

Have some more!

F: Wǒ bú shì kèqi. Wǒ
chīde hěn bǎo le.

Thanks. I've had plenty.

NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

Zài lái yíge tāng, zěnmeyàng?: Here you see another example
of the word zài, meaning 'additionally' or 'more'.

RST, Unit 2

Nǐ xiǎng bu xiāng chí diǎn tián de dōngxi?: The Chinese are not accustomed to eating desserts as are some other cultures. While they have invented some rather delicious desserts, these are usually served only at more formal dinners. At a modest meal or in a xiǎochīdiàn, the only dessert available is probably fruit.

PART III

24. Wǒ <u>zhīdao</u> nǐ xǐhuan chī lǎde.	I know you like to eat peppery-hot things.
25. <u>Dāngrán</u> hái yào yíge tāng.	Of course, we'll also want a soup.
26. Nǐ <u>jiàode</u> tài duō le.	You've ordered too much.
27. <u>Mápó dòufu</u>	a spicy Szechwan dish made with bean curd
28. <u>yúxiāng qiézi</u>	aromatic fish-style eggplant (A Szechwan dish)
29. <u>gōngbǎo jīdīng</u>	diced chicken, bamboo shoots, onions, and red peppers (a Szechwan dish)
30. <u>xiārén guōba tāng</u>	shrimp and sizzling rice soup
31. <u>bāsī píngguo</u>	spun taffy apples

NOTES ON PART III

zhīdao: The verb 'to know', zhīdao is a state verb and therefore can be negated only with the syllable bù.

Wǒ zuótiān bù zhīdao tā zài nǎr.

Yesterday I didn't know where he was.

Notice also that the verb 'to know', zhīdao, has a neutral tone on the last syllable. But when it is negated, the verb 'to know' has tones on all syllables, bù zhīdao.

Nǐ jiàode tài duō le.: 'You've ordered too much.' A more literal translation might be 'What you've ordered is too much.' The phrase Nǐ jiàode is a modifying phrase with the modified noun (perhaps 'food' or 'dishes') deleted.

Mápó dòufu: This is a peppery hot dish made of bean curd, finely chopped beef or pork and hot bean paste. This dish is typical of the Szechwan style of cooking, which is noted for hot spicy dishes.

yúxiāng qiézi: This name literally means 'fragrant-fish eggplant'. However, there is no fish used in the preparation of the dish. It is made with scallions, ginger, garlic, hot bean paste, vinegar and soy sauce. Yúxiāng refers to a famous Szechwan manner of preparation which was originally used to make fish dishes, but was later applied to other foods, such as pork, beef, and eggplant.

jīdīng: Earlier you saw the word jīpiàn, 'chicken slices', now you see the word jīdīng, which means 'chicken cubes' or 'diced chicken'. Both are commonly used in the names of dishes.

gōngbǎo jīdīng: This is a famous dish which originated in Szechwan. It is made with diced chicken, bamboo shoots, scallions, red peppers, soy sauce, and garlic.

xiārén guōba tāng: This is a shrimp and tomato soup into which squares of dried crispy rice are dropped. These squares of rice bear some resemblance to 'rice crispies'. They are the crisp browned part of the rice left at the bottom of the pot. As the crispy rice squares are poured into the hot soup, a sizzling, crackling sound is given off.

bāi píngguo: This is a dessert made of apple slices which are covered with a light batter and deep fried. The fried apples are then dipped in a hot mixture of sugar-syrup and sesame seeds. The apples are coated much in the same way taffy apples are. These hot sugar-coated apples are then dropped into a bowl of ice water, which hardens the sugar syrup covering into a crisp candy coating. The result is a dessert which combines a number of textures and tastes. The name for this dessert is translated many ways: 'spun taffy apples', 'caramel apple fritters', 'pulled silk apples'. Bananas can also be prepared in this way.

Taipei:

A conversation between two Chinese friends who are out to dinner in a Szechwan restaurant.

- | | |
|---|---|
| M: Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme cài? | What would you like to eat? |
| F: Suíbiàn. Nǐ diǎn ba. | As you like. You order. |
| M: Wǒ zhīdao nǐ xǐhuan chī
lāde. Wǒmen diǎn yíge
Máopó dòufu, yíge yúxiāng
qiézi, yíge gōngbǎo
jīdīng, zěnmeyàng?
Dāngrán hái yào yíge tāng. | I know you like to eat
peppery-hot things. How
about if we order Máopó
bean curd, yúxiāng egg-
plant and chicken cubes
with red peppers? Of
course we'll also want a
soup. |
| F: Ei, nǐ jiàode tài duō le.
Wǒmen liǎngge rén jiào
liǎngge cài, yíge tāng
jiù gòu le. | Hey, you've ordered too much.
If the two of us order two
dishes and one soup, that
will be enough. |
| M: Hǎo. Nàme nǐ shuō wǒmen
jiào nǐ liǎngge cài. | Okay. Then which two dishes
do you say we should order? |
| F: Yíge Máopó dòufu, yíge
gōngbǎo jīdīng, hái yào
yíge xiārén guōba tāng,
hǎo bu hao? | Máopó bean curd, chicken cubes
with red peppers, and
shrimp and sizzling rice
soup, okay? |
| M: Hǎo. Zài yào yíge bāsf
píngguo. | Okay. And spun taffy apples. |
| F: Hǎo. | Okay. |

NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

Dinner in a Szechwan Restaurant: China has a rich and varied tradition of cooking, due to the size of the country, the many different foods available, and the long history of its culture. The numerous styles of cooking may be grouped into the following schools: The Northern School (Jīng cài), The Sichuan School (Chuān Cài), The Húnán School (Xiāng Cài), The Shànghǎi School (Hù Cài), The Fújiàn School (Mǐn Cài), The Canton School (Yuè Cài), each with its own distinct style and famous dishes. It is common to find restaurants representing most of these schools of cooking in many cities in China.

Dāngrán hái yào yíge tāng: The speaker says 'Naturally we'll also want a soup.' because soup is a part of every Chinese meal, from the simplest lunch to the most elaborate dinner. The reason for this is that, unless toasts are being drunk, the Chinese do not drink beverages along with their meal. The soup, which is served at the end of the meal, is the main liquid of the meal.

32. <i>xīhóngshǐ</i> (Northern China)	<i>tomato</i>
33. <i>fānqié</i> (Southern China)	<i>tomato</i>
34. <i>chāzi</i>	<i>fork</i>
35. <i>dāoxi</i>	<i>knife</i>
36. <i>shǎor</i> (<i>shǎozi</i>)	<i>spoon</i>
37. <i>tiǎogēng</i>	<i>spoon</i>

shǎor (shǎozi)/tiǎogēng: The word shǎor is used more in Peking, while tiǎogēng is used in other parts of the country, too.

Vocabulary

báioài
bǎo
biéde
bié kèqī

bú cuò

cǎi
chǎxi

dāngrán
dāoxi
dòufu

fānqié

hǎochī

jī
jiǎndānde
jiào
jīdīng
jīpiàn

kèfàn

qiézi
qīngjiāo

shǎor

tiáogēng

xiàoi
xiārén
xīhóngshì
xuědōu

cabbage
to be satisfied
other, different
don't be formal; don't stand
on ceremony
'not bad', in the sense of
'pretty good', 'pretty
well'

main dishes, food
fork

naturally, of course
knife
soy bean curd

tomato

to be tasty, good to eat

chicken
something simple
to order
diced chicken
chicken slices

'fixed meal', a type of meal
in which soup, a main dish,
rice and tea are all served
for one price.

eggplant
green pepper

spoon

spoon

next time
shrimp
tomato
snow peas

RST, Unit 2

yìzhǒng
yòng
yòng kuàizi

zhāngdānzi
zhīdao

a kind, one kind
to use; with
to use chopsticks; with
chopsticks

check
to know