

Unit 9: Where Do You Study (Work)?

Part I: Listen and Learn

1.

Wǒ xìng Lǐ, jiào Lǐ Guóhuá,
My last name is Li. My full name is Li Guohua.
我姓李，叫李国华。

shì xuésheng, zài Jiā Zhōu Dàxué niàn shū.
(I) am a student and study at the Univ. of California.
是学生，在加州大学念书。

Wǒ zài Jiā Dà niàn diànnǎo gōngchéng shuòshì.
I study Computer Engineering at UC – I'm getting a Master's degree.
我在加大念计算机工程硕士。

Wǒ shì Běijīng rén, 1995 nián lái Měiguó de.
I am from Beijing and came to the U.S. in 1995.
我是北京人，1995年来美国的。

Xiànzài wǒ de Yīngyǔ hái bú tài hǎo.
Now, my English is not very good yet.
现在我的英语还不太好。

Kàn méi wèntí, kěshì tīng hé shuō hái bú tài xíng.
Reading is not a problem, but my listening and speaking are not good yet.
看没有问题，可是听和说还不太行。

2.

Wǒ jiào John, shì Měiguó rén.
My name is John. I am an American.
我叫 John，是美国人。

Wǒ shì Bīn Zhōu yī jiā diànzǐ gōngsī de zǒng jīnglǐ.
I am general manager of an electronics company in Pennsylvania.
我是宾州一家电子公司的总经理。

Wǒmen gōngsī gēn Zhōngguó zuò shēngyì.
My company is doing business with China.
我们公司跟中国作生意。

Wǒ cháng dào Zhōngguó qù.
I often go to China.
我常到中国去。

Zhōngguó yě cháng yǒu rén dào wǒmen gōngsī lái.
Often some people from China are coming to our company.
中国也常有人到我们公司来。

Wǒ xiànzài zài xué Zhōngwén.
I study Chinese now.
我现在在学中文。

Shuō de hái bù liúli.
(I) don't speak it fluently yet.
说得还不流利。

Yǒu de huà hái tīng bu dǒng.
(I) still don't understand some words.
有的话还听不懂。

3.

A: Qǐngwèn, nǐ shì bu shì cóng Zhōngguó lái de?
A: May I ask, are you from China?
A: 请问，你是不是从中国来的？

B: Shìde, wǒ shì cóng Běijīng lái de.
B: Yes, I am from Beijing.
B: 是的，我是从北京来的。

A: Nǐ zài zhèlǐ niàn shū ba?
A: Do you study here?
A: 你在这里念书吧？

B: Duì, wǒ zài Jiā Zhōu Dàxué niàn shū.
B: Right, I study at UC.
B: 对，我在加州大学念书。

A: Nǐ shì nǎ yì nián lái de?
A: In which year did you come?
A: 你是哪一年来的？

B: Wǒ shì 1995 nián lái de.

B: I came in 1995.

B: 我是 1995 年来的。

A: Zài zhèlǐ niàn shénme ne?

A: What do you study here then?

A: 在这里念什么呢？

B: Wǒ xiànzài niàn shēngwù huàxué bóshì.

B: I study bio-chemistry for my Ph.D. now.

B: 我现在念生物化学博士。

A: Hěnhǎo. Shēngwù huàxué hěn yǒuyòng.

A: Very good. Bio-chemistry is very useful.

A: 很好。生物化学很有用。

4.

A: Nǐ shì zuò shénme de?

A: What (job) do you do?

A: 你是作什么的？

B: Wǒ shì zuò shēngyì de, zài yì jiā gōngsī zuò tuīxiāo.

B: I am doing business. (I) am a salesperson in a company.

B: 我是作生意的，在一家公司作推销。

A: Shénme gōngsī?

A: Which company?

A: 什么公司？

B: Qìchē língjiàn gōngsī. Wǒmen mài qìchē língjiàn.

B: A company for auto parts. We sell auto parts.

B: 汽车零件公司。我们卖汽车零件。

A: Nǐmen gōngsī dà bu dà? Yǒu duōshǎo rén?

A: Is your company big? How many people are there?

A: 你们公司大不大？有多少人？

B: Bú tài dà, zhǐ yǒu shí jǐ ge rén.

B: Not very big, just more than ten people.

B: 不太大，只有十几个人。

B: Kěshì wǒmen cháng gēn Zhōngguó zuò shēngyì.
 B: But we often do business with China.
 B: 可是我们常跟中国作生意。

A: Nà hěn bu cuò.
 A: That's not bad.
 A: 那很不错。

5.

A: Lǐ xiānsheng, wǒ xiànzài zài xué Zhōngwén.
 A: Mr. Li, I am studying Chinese.
 A: 李先生，我现在在学中文。

A: Nǐ néng bu néng bāng wǒ xué Zhōngwén?
 A: Can you help me study Chinese?
 A: 你能不能帮我学中文？

B: Hǎo a, méiyǒu wèntí.
 B: Great! No problem.
 B: 好啊，没有问题。

B: Wǒ de Yīngyǔ yě bù hǎo. Nǐ jiāo wǒ Yīngyǔ, zénmeyàng?
 B: My English is not good either. You teach me English, how's that?
 B: 我的英语也不好。你教我英语，怎么样？

A: Xíng! Nǐ jiāo wǒ Zhōngwén. Wǒ bāng nǐ xué Yīngwén.
 A: OK! You teach me Chinese. I help you learn English.
 A: 行！你教我中文。我帮你学英文。

A: Nà, nǐ jiù shì wǒ de lǎoshī le.
 A: Then, you are my teacher.
 A: 那，你就是我的老师了。
 B: Bù gǎndāng, bù gǎndāng. Nǐ yě shì wǒ de lǎoshī.
 B: No, don't say that. You are also my teacher.
 B: 不敢当，不敢当。你也是我的老师。

A: Nǎlǐ nǎlǐ. Wǒmen shénme shíhòu kāishǐ?
 A: Oh, don't say that either. When are we going to start?
 A: 哪里哪里。我们什么时候开始？

B: Míngtiān xíng bu xíng?

B: How about tomorrow? OK?

B: 明天行不行？

A: Xíng. Zhè shì wǒ de diànhuà: 389-5620. Wǒ zhù zài Powell jiē 39 hào.

A: Fine. This is my telephone number: 389-5620. I live at 39 Powell Street.

A: 行。这是我的电话：389-5620。我住在 Powell 街 39 号。

B: Zhè shì wǒ de diànhuà: 674-1193. Wǒmen míngtiān jiàn.

B: This is my phone number 674-1193. See you tomorrow.

B: 这是我的电话：674-1193。我们明天见。

A: Hǎo, míngtiān jiàn.

A: Good, see you tomorrow.

A: 好，明天见。

Part II: Utterances and Notes

- bóshì, shuòshì, xuéshì: doctor, master, bachelor

diànnǎo bóshì	computer science at the doctoral level
huàxué bóshì	chemistry at the doctoral level
wùlǐ shuòshì	physics at the Master's level
wénxué shuòshì	literature at the Master's level
zhéxué bóshì	philosophy at the doctoral level

The phrases above are acceptable. But *diànnǎo xuéshì* is not often said.

- 'kàn' in 'kàn méi wèntí' originally means 'reading'. In Chinese 'kàn' is often used as 'to read', e.g. 'kàn shū' (to read books), 'kàn bào' (to read newspapers)
- 'niàn' originally means 'to read aloud' as in 'niàn shū' which means 'to read aloud'. It is also used to refer to 'study' as in 'wǒ zài zhèlǐ niàn shū' (study here).
- 'gēn ...' means 'with ...' It is always placed before the verb as a prepositional phrase in Chinese. Note that the prepositional phrase is usually placed after the verb, e.g. We do business with China. This is an important feature of the Chinese language.
- 'Zhōngguó yě cháng yǒu rén dào wǒmen gōngsī lái.' The direct translation would be: China also often has somebody to come to our company. It actually means: Somebody from China often comes to our company.
- 'Yǒu de huà hái tīng bu dǒng.' There is no subject here in this sentence. The subject is understood: 'I', I still don't understand some words. This is a typical Chinese sentence construction. Some people call it 'object fronting construction' and some people consider that 'yǒu de huà' is a topic. Subject dropping is very common in Chinese, particularly in a discourse.
- 'ne' in 'Zài zhèlǐ niàn shénme ne?' is just a particle to soften the mood. More examples are: Nǐ shì zuò shénme de ne? Nǐ shì cóng nǎlǐ lái de ne? Compared to Nǐ shì zuò shénme de? and Nǐ shì cóng nǎlǐ lái de?, the questions with 'ne' are softer, not that direct and categorical.
- 'shí jǐ ge rén' is a vague number or an approximate number. It means more than ten, but fewer than twenty.
- 'bù gǎndāng' is a routine expression to respond to somebody's compliment. It literally means: I don't dare to deserve it. Please note that there is a social etiquette in Chinese which changes in different situations.

Part III: New Sentence Modules

1. What do you study here...? I study... at...

Nǐ zài

zhèlǐ Jiāzhōu Dàxué Jiùjīnshān Dàxué
--

 niàn shénme?

Wǒ zài

zhèlǐ Jiāzhōu Dàxué Jiùjīnshān Dàxué ¹

 niàn

diànnǎo shēngwù huàxué gōngchén shuòshì bóshì
--

2. When did you come? I came in...

Nǐ shì

nǎ yì nián shénme shíhòu

 lái de?

Wǒ shì

1995 nián jīnnián qùnián bā yuè
--

 lái de

3. What (job) do you do? I do ...

Nǐ shì zuò shénme de?

Wǒ shì

zuò shēngyì zuò tuīxiāo

 de.

Wǒ zài

yì jiā gōngsī qìchē gōngsī

 zuò tuīxiāo.

¹ Jiùjīnshān Dàxué – the University of San Francisco.

4. What do you sell? We sell...

Nǐmen mài shénme?

Wǒmen mài

qìchē língjiàn

5. With whom do you do business? We do business with...

Nǐmen gēn shéi zuò shēngyì?

Wǒmen gēn

Zhōngguó Zhōngguórén Rìběn hěn duō guójiā
--

zuò shēngyì.

6. Can you ... ? Is it OK to...? Fine...

Nǐ néng bu néng

jiāo wǒ Yīngyǔ bāng wǒ xué Zhōngwén
--

?

Nǐ

jiāo wǒ Yīngyǔ bāng wǒ xué Zhōngwén
--

xíng bu xíng hǎo bu hǎo zénmeyàng

?

Hǎo Xíng Kěyǐ Méiyǒu wèntí Bù gǎndāng

Part IV: Practice Makes Perfect

How do you say the following phrases? Please speak out! Also study some more words for subject matters and business. If you need any words to fit your own situation, please email the instructor.

wénxué	literature
lìshǐ	history
zhèngzhìxué	political science
dìlǐ	geography
jīxiè	mechanics
fúzhuāng	clothing
wánjù	toys
wǔjīn	hardware
zhūbǎo	jewelry

to study at a college, to study in a middle school (zhōngxué), to study in China

to study literature, to study chemistry, to study bio-chemistry, to study geography, to study mechanics, to study history, to study Chinese history, to study political science

to work in a company, to work in an electronics company, to work in a clothing company

to work as a salesperson in a company, to work as a salesperson in a hardware company

to do business with China, to do business with Chinese people, to do business with many countries (hěn duō guójiā)

auto company, clothing company, hardware company, toy company, (at this point you may need the word 'store': shāngdiàn.) Now replace the word 'company' with 'store' and say them again.

to help, to help me, to help me study, to help me study Chinese
to help him do business, to help him do business with China

to teach, to learn, to teach in a university, to study in a university, to teach chemistry, to teach history in a university, to teach American history in a university in China

to start, to start to study, to start to do business, to start to do business with China

Answer the following questions based on your own situation. Please be sure to give real answers.

Nǐ zuò shénme gōngzuò?
 Nǐ zài nǎlǐ gōngzuò?
 Nǐmen de gōngsī dà bu dà?
 Yǒu duōshǎo rén?
 Nǐmen zuò shénme shēngyì? Mài shénme?
 Nǐmen gēn Zhōngguó zuò shēngyì ma?
 Zhōngguó cháng yǒu rén lái ma?
 Nǐ yǐqián (in the past) shì xué shénme de?

Nǐ néng bu néng bāng wǒ xué Yīngyǔ?
 Nǐ jiāo wǒ xué Yīngyǔ, hǎo bu hǎo.
 Nǐ shì wǒ de lǎoshī.

Nǐ jiéhūn le ma?
 Nǐ yǒu měiyǒu hái zi?
 Nǐ hái zi zài nǎlǐ niàn shū?
 Tā niàn shénme?
 Tā niàn shuòshì hái shì bóshì?

Now try to say something more about your business or your study. Start with 'My name is...'

My name is...
 I am ... (from where)
 I do ... work.
 My company...
 We do business...
 ...

My name is...
 I am ... (from where)
 I study ... (where)... (what) now.
 I also learn Chinese now.
 My Chinese is ... yet.
 ... (who) is teaching me Chinese now.
 I want to go to China to ...