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# Chapter 1. Car

## *A Modular Approach*

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## Objectives of the Car Module

### General

The purpose of the Car Module is to provide you with the linguistic skills you need to use and take care of your car in everyday situations as well as emergencies.

**Before starting the Car Module, you should have at least completed the Transportation Module.**

### Specific

When you have finished this module, you should be able to:

1. Buy gasoline using the metric system to indicate quantity and ration coupons if necessary. Understand if the attendant offers you high-test or regular gas.
2. Tell an attendant that there isn't enough air in the tires. Ask for air to be put in the tires.
3. Tell an attendant the car windows need cleaning.
4. Explain to a garage attendant where your car has developed problems lately: brakes, headlights, automatic transmission, gear shift, fan belt, exhaust pipe, and so on.
5. Ask for a regular maintenance check up for the car.
6. Tell someone you have a flat tire and whether or not you have a spare tire and tools.
7. Tell someone that you got a traffic ticket and why.
8. State whether or not you have your driver's license and car registration with you.
9. Ask in a collision situation if someone is injured.
10. Understand someone describe in simple terms the damage to their car resulting from an accident.
11. Ask a garage repairman to fix a car which has been in an accident. Find out how long it will take to fix it. Ask for an estimate on cost repairs.

**Unit 1**

**Part 1**

**Reference List**

## Reference Notes

### Notes on Part 1

**qìyóu piào**: “Gasoline Coupons”. In the PRC, many commodities, such as cloth, food items, watches, bicycles, must be bought with money and ration coupons.

**zú**: “to be enough, to be sufficient.” **Lúntāide qì bù zú le**. is translated here as “the air in the tires isn't enough.” A more literal translation might be “The air in the tires isn't enough anymore.” The negative **bù** used with a marker **le** for new situation expresses a negative condition that has recently come about.

**bōli**: This word literally means “glass”, but is used here to refer to the windows of the car.

**man**: This is the adjectival verb “to be full”.

**Wǒ xiǎng cāyicā**: “I think I'll wipe it a bit.” In the PRC gas stations sell gas only. Any minor servicing that may be needed, such as cleaning windows and getting air for tires, may be done by the driver himself. Any major servicing must be done at a repair garage.

**Dialogue Peking**

**Dialogue Taipei**

### Notes after Dialogues in Part 1

**Jīyóu jiāhǎo le.**：“The oil is added.” In the phrase **jiāhǎo le**, the word **hǎo** is used as the final, element of a compound verb of result. It indicates that the action of the verb has been brought to a successful conclusion. This is discussed in Transportation, Unit 7.

**Part 2**

**Reference List**

## Reference Notes

### Notes on Part 2

**máobing**: This word is translated here as “something wrong.” Other translations might be: “defect”, “flaw”, “trouble”, or “problem”.

Tāde diànshì chū máobing le.

His television developed a problem.

A second meaning for **máobing** is “medical problem”, “illness”.

Wǒ shénme máobing yě méiyǒu.

There is nothing wrong with me.

A third meaning is “bad habit”, “odd habit”.

Tā máobing hen dà.

He is very “picky” (odd).

**líng**: This is the adjectival verb “to be sharp, keen”. It can be used to describe people that are intelligent. It can also be used to describe machinery that works well.

Lǎo Wángde érzi hěn líng.

Lǎo Wáng’s son is sharp.

Zhèige jīqì hái líng bu líng?

Does this machine still work well?

**liàng**: “To be bright”. A more literal translation of **You yíge dēng bú**

**liàng le** might be “There is one lamp that does not light up anymore.”

**bǎoyǎng**: “To maintain”. This verb can be used to talk about taking care of a person's body, as well as maintaining machinery.

Nǐ yíding děi bǎoyǎng zìjǐ.

You have to take care of yourself.

Tā gāng shēngle háizi, dàifu gàosu tā hǎohāorde bǎoyǎng.

After she had just given birth to a child, the doctor told her to take good care of herself.

**língjiàn**: “spare parts” or simply “parts”. **Huàn língjiàn** is “to exchange (something) for a spare part”.

**Dialogue Peking**

**Dialogue Taipei**

## Notes after Dialogues in Part 2

**Yǒu shíhòu hái huì xihuǒ.**: You've seen that the auxiliary verb **huì** can mean “know how to, can”, as in **Nǐ huì shuō Yíngwén ma?**. Here you see a different meaning: “likely to happen, possible to happen, liable to happen”. Here is another example.

**Jīntiān huì xià yǔ ma?**

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Is it likely to rain today?

**Part 3**

**Reference List**

## Reference Notes

### Notes after Part 3

**bào**: “To explode”, “to burst”. This is the verb to use when talking about a “blow out”. If a tire has slowly gone flat, the verb to use is **biě**, “to be flat, sunken, not full”. **Lúntāi biě le**.D

**fādòngbùqǐlái**: “not be able to start up”. **Fādòng** is the verb “to set in motion”, “to start”. **-Qǐlái** is the verb “to rise up” used as the final element in a compound verb of result.

**tuídào**: Compound verbs with **-dao** as the second syllable must be followed by a location of some sort and often are also followed by **lái** or **qù**.

**Bǎ xíngli nádao lóushang qù.**

Take the bags upstairs.

**Bǎ chē kāidào lùbiarshang qù.**

Drive the car to the side of the road.

**Dialogue Peking**

**Dialogue Taipei**

## Unit Vocabulary List

bǎo	爆	to explode
bǎoyǎng	保养	to have a maintenance checkup
bèitāi	备胎	spare tire
bōli	原理	glass
cā	擦	to wipe
chángchang	常常	often
dǎ	打	to hit
dǎ qì	打气	to add air
dǎqìtǒng	打气筒	air pump
dēng	灯	light lamp
dìng	订	to order
gāojí	高级	high grade
gōngjù	工具	tool
gōngshēng	公升	liter
fādòng	动机	to start, to mobilize
jiǎnchá	检察	to inspect, to examine, to check
jiǎndàn	简单	to be simple
jǐshù gōngren	技术工人	mechanic
jīyóu	机油	machine oil
-liàng	量	counter for vehicles
liàng	亮	to light up
líng	灵	to be sharp, to be keen
língjiàn	零件	parts
lúntāi	轮胎	tire
mǎn	满	to be full
máobìng	毛病	trouble, flaw, defect
piào	票	ticket, coupon
pǔtōng	普通	regular
qì	气	air
qìyóu	汽油	gasoline
shāchē	刹车	brakes

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tuī	推	to push
tuō	拖	to tow
tuōche	拖车	tow truck
xīhuǒ	熄火	to stall
xīuli	修理	to fix, to repair
xiūliháng	修理行	repair garage
yǐngqíng	引擎	engine
yóu	油	oil, gasoline, fuel
zāng	脏	to be dirty
zú	足	to be enough, to be sufficient

**Unit 2**

**Part 1**

**Reference List**

**Reference Notes**

**Notes on Part 1**

**Dialogue Peking**

## Dialogue Taipei

### Notes after Dialogues Part 1

**chāo sù**: “To speed”, more literally, “to exceed the posted speed”

**nádao le**: Here you see another compound verb with **-dao**. But the addition of **-dao** does not add the meaning of “to (someplace)”, as in **tuīdao lùbiānrshang qu**, “push it to the side of the road”, but rather adds the meaning of “to obtain, get”.

Nǐ nádao nǐde hùzhào le meiyou?

Did you get your passport?

**dài**: This is the verb “to carry with one, to take or bring with one”. It is sometimes used with the verb **lái** when the meaning is “bring with one”.

Jīntian wǒ wàngle dài wǒde lìshǐ shǔ.

I forgot to bring my history book today.

Nǐ dài hái zi qù le méiyou?

Did you take the children with you?

**fákuǎn**: This can be the verb “to issue a fine” or the noun “a fine”. **Fákuǎndān** is literally, “fine money ticket”.

**dānzi**: Here **dānzi** is used to refer to the traffic ticket, a short way of saying **fákuǎndān**. In other situations, **dānzi** often means “list of things”. Here are some examples. Notice that the phrase “to make a list” is **kāi yíge dānzi**, literally “open a list”.

Měige Xīngqīliù wǒ chūqu mǎi dōngxi yìqián dōu kāi yíge dānzi.

Every Saturday before I go out to buy things, I make a list.

Nǐ néng bu néng bǎ nǐ yào mǎide shū kāi yíge dānzi.

Can you make a list of the books you want to buy?

**Part 2**

**Reference List**

## Reference Notes

### Notes after Part 2

**chuàng:** “To bump”, often pronounced **zhuàng**. This verb often occurs with the resultative ending — **zhao**, “to meet, to touch, to come into contact with.”

Zhèr dìfāng tài xiǎo dōngxi tài duō. Zǒu lùde shíhòu,  
bù shì chuàngzhao zhuōzi, jiù shì chuàngzhao yǐzi.

It's too close in here, too many things. When you walk, if you're not bumping into tables, then you're bumping into chairs.

**chǔlǐ:** “To manage, to handle an affair, to take care of something”

Wǒ bù huì chǔlǐ zhèijian shì.

I can't take care of this matter.

Nèijian shì ta chǔlǐde hěn hǎo.

He has managed that affair very well.

**chū chēhuò:** “To have a car accident”, or more literally “to produce a car disaster”. This is more serious than the phrase **chū shì**.

Tā chū chēhuò yǐhòu, hěn jiǔ jǐngchá cái lái.

After he had the accident, it was a long time until the police came.

**lihai:** “To be severe”, “to be fierce”, “seriously”

Tā bìngde hěn lihai.

He is seriously ill.

**chū shì:** “To have an accident, to have something go wrong.” This phrase is used to describe a serious, unpleasant happening.

Tā jiā chū shì le, wǒmen qù kànkàn.

Something has happened in his home, let's go see. (e.g., a robbery, an arrest)

**Dialogue Peking**

**Dialogue Taipei**

**Part 3**

**Reference List**

## Reference Notes

### Notes after Part 3

**xiūli**: “To fix, to repair”.

**pidài**: “Fan belt”, sometimes simply called **pidài**, which is literally “leather belt”. **Pidài** is used for “belt” in machine terminology as in **sānjiǎopídài**, “V-belt”.

**xiūhào**: “To fix successfully, to repair successfully.” The syllable **-hǎo** indicates the result of the action, that is that the repairs were successfully completed.

Yào jǐtiān kékǐ xiūhǎo?

How many days will it take to fix it?

In the above sentence, the auxiliary verb **yào** means “to need, to require, to take”.

**gūji**: Originally this verb meant simply “to estimate (a figure)”. Now it also means “to guess”.

Zhèjiàn dàyì nǐ gūji dèi duōshao qián?

How much do you estimate this overcoat costs?

Wǒ gūji tā míngtiān bù huì lái.

My guess is he won’t come tomorrow.

In this sentence the auxiliary verb **huì** means “to be likely to”, “to be possible to”.

**tiáozhěng**: “To adjust, to coordinate, to regulate.”

Qǐng bǎ nàigè zhōng tiáozhěng yíxià.

Please adjust that clock a little.

**gūjià**: “To estimate a price.”

Zhèige fǎngzi kékǐ mài duōshao qián, nǐ néng gūyigū jià ma?

Can you estimate how much this house can sell for?

**Dialogue Peking**

**Dialogue Taipei**

## Unit Vocabulary List

ànzhào	按照	according to
bǎoxiǎn	保险	to insure, to be insured
bǎoxiāngàng	保险杠	bumper
biànsùqì	变速器	gear shift
biē	瘪	to be dented
chǔlǐ	处理	to handle, manage
chāo sù	超速	to exceed the speed limit
chēhuò	车祸	car accident
chēmén	车门	car door
chēshēn	车身	body of a car
chētou	车头	car hood
chuàng	疮	to bump into, to collide with
chuànguài le	疮坏了	damaged
chū shì	出事	to have an accident
dà hòutian	大后天	the third day from now
dài	带	to carry along with, to bring
dānzi	单子	ticket, note
dēngjìzhèng	登记证	car registration
dòng	动	to move
fákuǎn	罚款	to fine, to issue a fine
fákuǎndān	罚款单	ticket, a fine
fēngshàn	风扇	fan
Gōngānjú	公安局	Bureau of Public Safety
gūji	估计	to estimate
jiàoshǐ zhízhào	驾驶执照	driver's license
jǐngchá	检察	police
jīqì	机器	engine, more literally, "machine"
liǎo	僚	to be severe
páidǎng	档档	transmission
páizhào	牌照	license plates
páiqìguǎn	排气管	exhaust pipe

pēnqī	喷漆	to spray paint
pídài	皮带	belt
qī	漆	paint, lacquer
qǔ	取	to pick up, to get, to fetch
rènyuán	人员	personnel
sōng	松	to be loose
shòushāng	受伤	to be injured
shuōmíng	说明	explanation
tiáozhěng	调整	to adjust
wàijiāo	外交	diplomacy, foreign relations
wàijiaoguān	外事关	diplomat
wàishì	外事	foreign affairs
wàishì jǐngchá	外事警察	foreign affairs police
wān	弯	to bend
xiūhǎo	修好	to fix
xiūli	修理	to repair
zìdòng	自动	automatic

## Parts of the car

baoxiǎngàng	保险杠	bumper
bēitāi	备胎	spare tire
biànsùqì	变速器	gear shift
chē hòutoude chuānghu	车后头的窗户	rear windshield
chē men	车门	car door
chē qiántoude chuānghu	车前头的窗户	front windshield
chētóu	车头	hood
chēxiāng	后备箱	trunk
dāngníbǎn	挡泥板	fender
diànpíng	电瓶	battery
dēng	灯	lights
fāhuǒ kāiguān	发火开关	ignition
fēngshàn pídài	风扇皮带	fan belt
jìngzi	镜子	mirror
lǎba	喇叭	horn
lěngqì	冷气	air conditioner
lùbiāo	路表	odometer
lúnpan	轮盘	steering wheel
lúntāi	轮胎	tire
páiqìtǒng	排气孔	exhaust pipe
páiqìxiāoshēngqì	排气消声器	muffler
qiānjīndǐng	千斤顶	jack
shāchē	刹车	brakes
shǒu shāchē	手刹	parking brake
shōuyīnjī	收音机	radio
shuǐxiāng	水箱	radiator
sùdùbiǎo	速度表	speedometer
yǐnqíng	引擎	engine
yóumén	油门	accelerator
yóuxiāng	油箱	gas tank
yǔshuāzi	雨刷子	windshield wiper

zìdòng páidāng	自动档	automatic transmission
zuò	坐	seat