

Unit 3, Review Dialogue

On the flight from Washington to Hong Kong (via New York and Anchorage), Lǐ Píng (B) and Tom (A) are chatting.

- A: Zài fēijīshang zuòle zhème yìtiān, gǎnjué zěnmeyàng? How do you feel after being on a plane all day like this?
- B: Zhēn bu shūfu, měicì zuò fēijī dōu xiàng shēng bìng yíyàng. Tèbié shì zài fēijīshang huànle shíjiān, báitiān biànchēnglè hēiyè, hēiyè biànchēnglè báitiān, tài nánshòu le! I don't feel well at all. Every time I take a plane it's like getting ill. Especially with the time change on the plane, daylight turning into night and night turning back into daylight, how uncomfortable!
- A: Duì le, bù shūfude shíhou yīnggāi hē diǎnr bīngshuǐr. Wǒ qù gěi nǐ nòng diǎnr bīngshuǐr lai, hǎo bu hǎo? Right: You should have some ice water when you don't feel well. I'll go get you some ice water, okay?
- B: Hǎo shì hǎo, kěshì wǒ shízài hēbuxiàqù le. . . . Suàn le ba, wǒmen liáoliao tiānr, yěxǔ huì hǎo yìdiǎnr. Well, okay, but I really couldn't drink any. . . . Forget it, let's just chat and maybe it'll get a little better.
- A: Zài guò jǐge zhōngtóu nǐ jiu dào jiā le, xiǎng jiā ma? Just another few hours and you'll be home. Are you homesick?
- B: Xiǎng. Zài Měiguó liǎngnián le, yìtiān máng dào wǎn, méiyóu xiǎngguo jiā, kěshì xiànzài xiǎngqǐ jiā lai le. Nǐ shuō qíguài bu qíguài? Yes. The whole two years I was in America, I was busy all day long and never got homesick, but now here I am feeling homesick. Don't you think that's strange?
- A: Nà méiyóu shénme qíguài. Rén ma, zǒng yào yǒu diǎnr jiāting guānniàn. Tèbié shì Zhōngguó rén; Zhōngguó rén shì jiāng xiàoshunde. There's nothing strange about that. People are people! They have to have a sense of attachment to their family. Especially Chinese people; the Chinese put a lot of importance on filial obedience.
- B: Wǒ juéde zuò fùmǔ shì hěn bù róngyìde, háizi yīnggāi xiàoshun fùmǔ. I think that it's very difficult to be parents, so children ought to be filial toward their parents.
- A: Zhèige xiǎngfǎ shì nǐ fùmǔ jiāo nide ma? Did your parents teach you that way of thinking?
- B: Bú shì, shì shèhuì jiāo wode. No, society taught it to me. My

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\*hǎo shì hǎo, kěshì... means literally, "as for being all right, it is all right, but..." This means "It is okay, but..." or in more idiomatic English, "Well, okay, but..."

- Wǒ mǔqīn cónglái bù hé wo tán xiàoshun.  
mother never talks to me about filial obedience.
- A: Zhēnde? Really?
- B: Zhēnde. Wǒ dìyīcì zhuàn qián-de shíhou, cái shíwūsùì. Huí dao jiāli, jiù bǎ kǒudàili suǒ-yǒude qián dōu gěi wǒ mǔqīn le, hái shuō wǒ yǐhòu yào xiàoshun māma.  
Really. The first time I made money I was only fifteen. When I got home, I gave all the money I had in my pocket to my mother, and I said that in the future I must be filial toward her.
- A: Nǐ māma zěnmē shuō? What did she say?
- B: Tā kū le. Tā shuō wǒ néng dúlì, néng zài shèhuishang zuò ge yǒu yòngde rén jiù shì zuì hǎode xiàoshun. Wǒ gěi tāde qián, tā dōu gěi wo mǎicheng shū. Yǐhòu, wǒ jiu gèng yònggōng le.  
She cried. She said that if I could be independent and be a useful person in society that would be the best way to show filial obedience. She used all the money I gave her to buy books for me. After that, I worked even harder.
- A: Zhēn shì yíwèi hǎo māma. She's really a good mother.
- B: Shì. . . . Wǒ xiě xìn gěi tā, gào su ta wǒ yào hé yíwèi Měiguó péngyou yìqǐ huílai guò shǔjià, tā hěn gāoxìng. Tā hěn huānyíng nǐ lái.  
Yes, she is. . . . She was very happy when I wrote her telling her that I was going to come back with an American friend for the summer vacation. She's very glad to have you at (welcomes you to) our house.
- C: Duìbuqǐ, liǎngwèi xiānsēn, nǐmen yào hē diǎn sēnmē? Excuse me, what would you two gentlemen like to drink?
- B: Wǒ bú dà shūfu, bú yào shenme. I'm not feeling too well, I don't want anything.
- C: Òu, bú dà sūfú, yìbēi zè cá, hǎo bu hǎo? Oh, you don't feel well? How about a cup of hot tea?
- B: Hǎode, xièxiē ni. All right, thank you.
- A: Wǒ lái yìpíng píjiǔ. Nǐmen yǒu méiyǒu Heineken? I'd like a beer. Do you have Heineken?
- C: Yǒu. Yes.
- A: Xièxiē. Thank you.
- C: Bú kèqì. Zèiwèi xiānsēn, nǐ hái yào sēnmē, qǐng gào su wǒ. You're welcome. Sir, if you want anything else, please let me know.

\*We have altered the spelling to show the stewardess's non-standard pronunciation.

- B: Hǎode, xièxie ni. All right. Thank you.
- A: Wǒmen shuō dao nǎr le? Duì le, nǐmen jiāli chule nǐ fùmǔ hé zǔmǔ yīwài hái yǒu shénme rén ma? Now, where were we? Oh yes: Is there anyone else in your family besides your parents and your grandmother?
- B: Nǐ wàngle, wǒ hái yǒu yíge mèimei, zài yínháng zuò shìde. You've forgotten that I also have a younger sister who works in a bank.
- A: Òu, duì le, nǐ gēn wo shuōguo, wǒ zěnme wàngle ne! Oh, of course. You told me before. How could I have forgotten!
- B: Shuōdao wǒ mèimei, jiù xiǎngdao wǒ mǔqīn. Nǐ zhīdao zài Zhōngguó, zhòng nán qīng nǚde guānniàn hái shì yǒude. Kěshì wǒ mèimei shì líkāi dàxué yǐhòu yòu zài Yīngguó niànle liǎngnián shū cái zuò shìde. Zhèi yě yào gǎnxiè<sup>\*</sup> wǒ mǔqīn. Mentioning my sister reminds me of my mother again. You know, in China people still have the concept that men are superior to women. But after my sister graduated from college, she studied for two more years in England before she started working. That was also thanks to my mother.
- A: Nǐ mèimei xiànzài zhǐ zuò shì, hái shì yě niàn diǎnr shū? Does your sister just work now, or does she also take some classes?
- B: Tā zhǐ zuò shì. Búguò tā hěn rèxīn yánjiū dàlùde qíngxíng, cháng kàn hěn duō guānyú dàlùde shū. Tā cháng shuō, "Wo shì Zhōngguó rén, dàlùshang yǒu shíyì Zhōngguó rén, wǒ zěnme kéyì bù zhīdào tāmen de shēnghuó, gōngzuò, hé xuéxíde qíngkuàng ne? She's just working, but she studies the mainland situation very enthusiastically. She reads a lot of books about the mainland. She often says, "I'm Chinese, and there are one billion Chinese on the mainland. How can I be ignorant of the way they live, work, and study?"
- A: Tāde huà hěn yǒu dàolǐ. What she says is quite right.
- B: Tā yǒu hěn duō dàlù lái de péngyou; nǐ hé tā tántan, yě huì juéde hěn yǒu yìsi. She has a lot of friends from the mainland; you'll find it very interesting to talk with her.
- A: Tā duì dàlùde qíngxíng zěnme rèxīn, nǐ mǔqīn yǒu shénme kànfa ma? Does your mother have anything to say about her enthusiastic interest in the situation on the mainland?
- B: Tā cháng shuō: "Háizi zhǎngdàle, tāmen yào zǒu shénme lù yīnggāi zìjǐ kǎolǜ." She often says, "When children grow up, they should decide for themselves what road they want to take."
- A: Zhēn hǎo, shízài shì tài hǎo le. That's great! That's really wonderful.

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\*gǎnxiè, "to be grateful/thankful to"

B: Děng dao nǐ jiàndao tade shihou, When you meet her I'm sure you'll  
nǐ yídìng huì xǐhuan ta, yě huì like her, and our home, too.  
xǐhuan wǒmen jiāde.

A: Yídìng! I'm sure I will, too!