Unit 8, Review Dialogue

In Lĭ Ping and Tom's room, Tom (A) is getting his things packed, when Lĭ Ping (B) comes in.

- B: Tāngmu, wo tīngshuō ni yào qù dàlù le?
- A: Shì a, shàngwu wŏ dào lǐngshiguăn qù kàn yige péngyou. Zhènghăor yŏu yige gōngsĩ dào dàlù qu
 tán shēngyì. Tāmen yào yige dă
 zì dăde kuài, yòu dŏng diănr
 Zhōngwénde rén.
- B: Nǐ yùnqi zhēn bú cuò. Yào qù duō jiǔ ne?
- A: Yào kàn qingkuảng, dàgài bànge yuè dào yige yuè.
- B: Wổ yế dào Táiwān qù bànge yuè. Wáng Chéng qǐng wổ hé Xião Wén dào tã jiã qu wánr.
- A: Ahà! Zhè yíxiàr zhēn bú cuò, wố qù dàlù, nǐ qù Táiwān, huílai yǐhòu wŏmen lái yige kǎoshì, kàn-kan shéi duì shèhui qíngkuàng yánjiūde bǐjiǎo hǎo.
- B: Hão!

(Lĭ Ping's grandmother (C) enters.)

- C: Xiǎo Píng, Tāngmu, nimen dōu zài zhèr ne!
- B: Năinai, nîn zĕnme bú shuì wŭjiào le?
- A: Lǐ Năinai, duibuqi, women bă nin chăoxing le.

Tom, I hear you're going to the mainland?

Yeah! I went to the consulate this morning to visit a friend, and there just happened to be a company going to the mainland on business. They wanted someone who could type fast and who understood a little Chinese.

You're so lucky. How long are you going for?

We'll have to see. Probably two weeks to a month.

And I'm going to Taiwan for two weeks. Wáng Chéng invited Xião Wén (Lǐ Wén) and me to his house.

That's great! You're going to Taiwan and I'm going to the mainland. When we get back we'll have to have a little contest and see who's done a better job of studying society.

Okay.

Hi, Xião Ping. Hi, Tom.

How come you're not taking your nap, grandma?

I'm sorry Grandma Lĭ, we woke you up.

Notice that grandma says literally "You are both here." This, however, is not a statement made after looking for the two and finally finding them. It's simply a common way of greeting or starting a conversation: you state the obvious.

[&]quot;More literally, "How is it you are no longer taking your nap?" (Newsituation le)

C: Méiyou, wŏ yĕ gāi qĭlai le.

Tāngmu a, nǐ dào dàlù qu, bú xiàng zài Měiguó, zài Xiānggang; yào zhīdao duō zhàogu zìjǐ. Xiǎo Píng māma chūqu gĕi ni mǎi diǎnr dōngxi dàishang.

A: Lǐ Năinai, wǒ shénme dōu yǒu, bú yòng dài le.

(Xiǎo Wén (E) comes in quietly.)

- E: Wŏ năinai, wŏ mā dōu téng ni, nĭ jiu dàishang ba!
- A: Lǐ Năinai, wŏ hui Mĕiguó yĭqián, hái xiăng zài lái yícì, xing bu xing?
- C: Zhèi háizi, zĕnme bù xíng ne? Zhèr jiù shi nĭde jiā ya!
- A: Nín yào wŏ gĕi nín dài diănr shénme dōngxi a?
- C: Duì le, zhèr yǒu yìzhāng dānzi, shi yìxiē gōngyìpĭn, qián jiù zài zhèige xìnfēngrli, nĭ kànzhe măi ba!
- E: Năinai, zánmen jiā yǒu nàme xiē gōngyìpǐn, hái mǎi <u>tā</u> gàn shénme!
- C: Sha haizi, deng dao ni jiehunde shihou jiu you yong le.
- E: Name nanting!
- C: Nà you shénme nánting, hao shìr ma!

No you didn't. It was about time I got up anyway.

Tom, when you go to the mainland, it won't be like America or Hong Kong; you'll have to know how to look after yourself. Xiao Ping's mother went out to get you some things to take with you.

I have everything, Grandma Lĭ, I don't need to take anything else.

My grandmother and mother are fond of you, go ahead and take the things!

Grandma Lĭ, I have to come back here once again before I go to America. Will that be okay?

Oh, this youngster! How could it not be all right? This is your home!

Did you want me to bring you back something?

Yes, here's a list. It's some handicrafts. The money is in this envelope. Buy what you can.

We have so many handicrafts already, why do you want to buy more of them?

Silly girl! They'll come in handy when you get married.

Ugh! That sounds awful!

What's so awful about that? That (marriage) is a happy event.

^{*}In other words, they did wake her up with their talking.

[&]quot;Grandma is referring to living conditions--it's not as comfortable on the mainland as in the U.S. or Hong Kong.

^{***}This is a natural example of how one who has freely extended favors is not shy to ask a favor in return.

Nimen zai zher, wo qu kankan, hăoxiang māma huilai le.

(Xião Wén leaves.)

- Năinai, Xião Wén zhēnde yao. A: jiëhun le?
- Shi zhème hui shì, Xiao Wén B: zai Yingguo nian shude shihou rènshile yige Riben rén, xiànzài tā hé Xiǎo Wén zài yíge yínhángli zuò shì, duì Xiǎo Wén bú cuò. Keshi . . .
- Yuánlái, wŏ hé Xiǎo Wén tā bàba dou bù tóngyì. Nǐ xiăng ma, Zhongguo rén hé Riben rén zenme yĕ méi banfar biancheng yìjiāzi ya! Keshi Xiao Wen he ta mama yuànyì, women yĕ jiu bù néng shuo shénme le.
- Xião Wén māma zenme shuō ne? Α:
- Tā quanle wo haojici. Tāde C: huà you dàoli. Tā shuō, Zhōngguo rén hé Riben rén shi daguo zhang. Keshi xianzai, shiqing yĭjīng guòqu jĭshinián le, wèishenme hái yào ràng háizimen chĩ kŭ ne?
- Bómű shuode dui. Éi, wo lái A: Xianggang zenme duo tian le, zenme hái méi kànjian ta ne?
- Tā hui Riben kan tā māma qu le, nǐ cóng dàlù huilaide shihou, tā yĕ gāi huilai le.
- Zhēn yǒu yìsi! Α:

Don't get up. I think mom is back, I'm going to go see.

Is Xiao Wén really getting married, grandma?

It's like this: When Xiao Wén was studying in England she met a Japanese guy. Now he works at the same bank as she does. He's very nice to her, but . . .

Originally, Xiao Wen's father and I were both against it. After all, there's just no way that Chinese and Japanese can become part of the same family. But Xiao Wén and her mother wanted it, so there wasn't anything we could say about it.

What did Xiao Wén's mother say about it?

She tried to persuade me many times. What she said makes sense. She said that the Chinese and the Japanese did go to war, but now that it's all been over for a few decades, why should the children still be made to suffer for it?

She's right about that. By the way, I've been here in Hong Kong for so many days now, how is it that I haven't seen him?

He went back to Japan to visit his nèi shi ge xiàoshunde háizi. Dĕng mother. He's a very filial boy. He should be back by the time you come back from the mainland.

That's so interesting!

^{*}More literally, "You people are here." Notice this simple way of leaving a group. "You're here" is the functional equivalent of "You stay here," i.e., "I'm going to leave. Please go on talking without me." Another sentence you can use when leaving a group is Nimen tantan, wo xian zou, "You go on talking, I'm going to leave."

[&]quot;yljiazi means yljia rén (one family).

C: Yǒu yìsi ba, ¹ Tāngmũ, nǐ bù zhī-dào, rén lǎo le, guānniàn yĕ lǎo le, yǒude shíhour zhēnde yào gǎi-gai le.

Oh, it's interesting all right. You don't know, Tom, when a person gets old, their ideas get old too. Sometimes one really has to change a bit.

(Xiǎo Ping's mother [F] comes in carrying some things.)

B: Mā, nǐ huilai le?

Hi mom, you're back?

F: Huilai le.

Hi, yeah, I'm back.

A: Bómű, wổ shuỗ shénme hảo ne? Nín shízài tài kèqi le. Auntie, what can I say? This is really too polite of you.

F: Zhèidiăn chīde, yòngde, dōu dàiqu, zhèliăngjiàn yīfu dĕngyixià chuānchuan kan, héshì bu héshì.

This food and these things are for you to take with you. And these two things to wear you can try on later and see if they fit you.

A: Bómŭ, nà jiu xièxie le.

Well then, thanks a lot, auntie.

F: Name yidiğindiğin döngxi xiè shenme. Lüshang haohao zhaogu ziji, shiqing wanle jiu huilai, xiuxi jitian zai hui Meiguo.

Why should you thank me for these odds and ends! You just look after yourself very carefully while you're traveling, and when the job is finished come back here and rest up for a few days before you go back to America.

A: Ng, wŏ yídìng huílai.

Okay, I'll be sure and come back.

C: Guò liăngtiān, Xião Ping, Xião Wén yĕ yão zǒu le. Xião Ping mā,² jinr³ wănshang zám⁴ bú zuò fàn le. Dĕng huĭr Xião Ping bàba huilai, yikuàir chūqu chī wănfàn, gĕi háizimen sòngsong xing, hão bu hão? In another day or two Xiao Ping and Xiao Wén will be leaving too. Mom, let's not make dinner tonight. When Xiao Ping's father gets back, we'll all go out to dinner and have a going-away party for the kids, okay?

F: Hăode, hăode.

All right.

¹Grandma's reply intimates that the experience of her granddaughter having a Japanese boyfriend put her through some difficult times and made her reflect deeply on her opinions.

²Grandma Lĭ here addresses her daughter-in-law as Xião Píng mā, "Xião Píng's mother." Compare this with the way some grandparents in English-speaking countries call their grandchildren's parents "Mom" and "Dad" even though they are their own children.

³jīnr: <u>jīntiān</u> (Bĕijīng)

 $^{^4}$ zám: The slurred pronunciation of zánmen used in conversation. (Bĕijīng)