

Chapter 2 Notes "Where are you from?" (VPC Book p.26)

7. People will naturally ask you where are you from. As this is a **yes or no question**, **ma** 嗎 is at the end.

你	是	哪	裡	人	?	美	國	人	嗎	?
nǐ	shì	nǎ	lǐ	rén		měi	guó	rén	ma	
You	are	where		people		American			ma	

If you are American, you can say:

對	,	我	是	美	國	人	.
duì		wǒ	shì	měi	guó	rén	
Right		I	am	American			

2. In the dialogue, the speaker corrects the incorrect assumption made above.

不	是	,	我	是	加	拿	大	人	.
bú	shì		wǒ	shì	jiā	ná	dà	rén	
No			I	am	Canadian				

3. **òu** 噢 is the English equivalent of "Oh!" (i.e. "I see!")

噢	!	你	是	加	拿	大	人	啊	.
òu		nǐ	shì	jiā	ná	dà	rén	a	
Oh		You	are	Canadian				a	

Here, the sound **a** 啊 sounds like **na** because when spoken it is linked to the word that precedes it. Used in this way, **òu** 噢 (I see!) is fourth tone, and usually coupled with **a** 啊 at the end.

A second tone **óu** 噢 (Oh?) however, has a slightly different meaning, one of slight surprise.

óu 噢 (Oh?) is always be paired with **ma** 嗎 at the end, like so:

噢	!	你	是	加	拿	大	人	嗎	?
óu		nǐ	shì	jiā	ná	dà	rén	ma	
Oh?		You	are	Canadian				ma	

4. Here **a** 啊 sounds like "**ya**" because it is linked to **duì** 對, i.e. **duìya**!

對	啊	!
duì	a	
Right	a	

Some people, mostly younger women, tend to overuse **a** 啊 and **la** 啦, however as **a** 啊 and **la** 啦 are used to soften the tone or a statement and also as encouragement, men will of course still use these particles, but not as readily as women, and in general in a lower, more clipped voice.

5. Taiwanese people will often graciously compliment a visitor's homeland.

聽 說	加 拿 大	非 常	漂 亮	.
tīng shuō	jiā nà dà	fēi cháng	piào liàng	
I've heard	Canada	very	beautiful	

6. Note the position of **yě** 也 (also) in the sentence below. In addition, **yě** 也 always precedes the verb in a sentence, i.e. **Wǒ yě xǐhuān tā.** 我也喜歡它. (I also like it.)

對 啊	,	不 過	台 灣	也	很	漂 亮	.
duì a		bú guò	tái wān	yě	hěn	piào liàng	
Yes		however	Taiwan	also	very	beautiful	

On the other hand, the position of **búguò** 不過 (however) is much more flexible. It can be at the beginning of a statement, or can link two thoughts, like it does here:

喜 歡	台 灣	,	不 過	我	覺 得	很	熱	!
xǐ huān	tái wān		bú guò	wǒ	jué de	hěn	rè	
Like	Taiwan		however	I	feel	very	hot	

X 台灣熱 (Taiwan hot) is incorrect, as is X 台灣是熱 (Taiwan is hot) unless the **shì** 是 is being used to emphasize the contradiction of something just said. (See Ch.19 Notes p.95 no.3)

Here are some more modifiers, all of which will appear many times in the coming chapters.

Táiwān <u>tài</u> rè.	台灣太熱.	Taiwan is too hot.
Táiwān <u>chāo</u> rè.	台灣超熱.	Taiwan is super hot.
Táiwān <u>bú tài</u> rè.	台灣不太熱.	Taiwan is not very hot.
Táiwān <u>yǒu yídiǎn</u> rè.	台灣有一點熱.	Taiwan is a little hot.
Táiwān <u>méi nàme</u> rè.	台灣沒那麼熱.	Taiwan isn't that hot.

hěn 很 (very) is the most common and therefore the default modifier. Therefore, as seen below, **Tā hěn gāo** 他很高 can mean "He is tall" or "He is very tall" depending on the context and if the **hěn** 很 is emphasized or not.

Tā <u>hěn</u> gāo.	他很高.	He is tall. / He's very tall.
Tā <u>fēicháng</u> gāo.	他非常高.	He's very tall.
Tā <u>bú tài</u> gāo.	他不太高.	He's not very tall.
Tā <u>chāo</u> gāo.	他超高.	He's super tall.
Tā <u>xiāngdāng</u> gāo.	他相當高.	He's rather hot.

7. The person you are speaking will be so happy he/she might ask you again!

你	喜 歡	台 灣	嗎	?
nǐ	xǐ huān	tái wān	ma	
You	like	Taiwan	ma	

8. To be polite, you should say something like:

當 然	喜 歡	!	台 灣	很	好	.
dāng rán	xǐ huān		tái wān	hěn	hǎo	
Of course	like		Taiwan	very	good	

dāngrán 當然 (of course), when paired with **xǐhuān** 喜歡 (like) makes for a stronger statement than just with **xǐhuān** 喜歡 on it's own. It means "Of course I like it" and to a certain extent may imply "Why would I not?" depending on the situation.

Adverbs such as **dāngrán** 當然 (of course) come after the subject (I) and before the verb (want)

End particles such as **a** 啊 also influence the tone of a statement.

我	當 然	要	去	啊	.
wǒ	dāng rán	yào	qù	a	
I	of course	want	go	a	

Above, the **a** 啊 gives the answer a light, straightforward, enthusiastic, and excited tone.

However, with the substitution of **luō** 囉 the feeling – and meaning – of this statement changes completely.

我	當 然	要	去	囉	.
wǒ	dāng rán	yào	qù	luō	
I	of course	want	go	luo	

With the substitution of **luō** 囉 the implied meaning changes to:

"Of course I want to go; haven't we already discussed this, and agreed that I'll be coming?"

9. Most Taiwanese are delighted if you express appreciation of their homeland, and will say so.

很	高 興	你	喜 歡	台 灣	.
hěn	gāo xìng	nǐ	xǐ huān	tái wān	
Very	happy	you	like	Taiwan	

10. It never hurts to emphasize how much you the place you are visiting or living in.

我	真 的	很	喜 歡	!
wǒ	zhēn de	hěn	xǐ huān	
I	really	very	like	

11. The equivalent of "Have a pleasant stay!"

祝	你	在	台 灣	愉 快	!
zhù	nǐ	zài	tái wān	yú kuài	
Wish	you	in	Taiwan	joyful	

Here are some other ways to use **zhù** 祝 (wish)

Zhù nǐ jiànkāng kuàilè.	祝你健康快樂.	May you be healthy and happy!
Zhù nǐ shēngrì kuàilè.	祝你生日快樂.	Happy Birthday to you!
Zhù nǐ xiàokǒu chángkāi.	祝你笑口常開.	May you be happy always.
<i>(Lit: Wish you laughing mouth always open.)</i>		
Zhù nǐ wànshì rúyì.	祝你萬事如意.	May everything always go your way.
<i>(Lit: Ten thousand matters as you would wish.)</i>		

12. **cóng** 從 is used in Chinese to indicate a starting point. **cóng** 從 can be used to indicate a specific starting point from a specific place.

我	從	歐 洲	來	.
wǒ	cóng	ōu zhōu	lái	
I	from	Europe	come	

In this sentence, **cóng** 從... **jiù** 就... means ever since... i.e. from this point in time

我	從	小	就	不	喜 歡	狗	.
wǒ	cóng	xiǎo	jiù	bù	xǐ huān	gǒu	
I	from	childhood	really	not	like	dogs	

cóng 從 can be used to mark a definite point in time:

我 們	從	五	點	開 始	.
wǒ men	cóng	wǔ	diǎn	kāi shǐ	
We	from	five	o'clock	start	

The above sentence could equally be talking about a past event or about future intentions; which one is made clear by the question that precedes it.

If this is the question:

我 們	什 麼 時 候	開 始	?
wǒ men	shén me shí hòu	kāi shǐ	
We	when	start	

Wǒmen cóng wǔdiǎn kāishǐ 我們從五點開始 is talking about the future, i.e. "We'll start at five."

However, if the question were as follows:

你 們 nǐ men You	昨 天 zuó tiān yesterday	什 麼 時 候 shén me shí hòu when	開 始 kāi shǐ start	的 de de	?
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The answer **Wǒmen cóng wǔdiǎn kāishǐ** 我們從五點開始 is talking about something that happened in the past, i.e. "We started at five."

The above question uses the **shi**是... **de**的 construction, (where **shi**是 is omitted), seen often in this book and explained in Ch.4 Notes p.26 no.6

My notes:

What it means!

	國	A region (或) that is encompassed (口) =
	guó	country
<p>Riddle:</p> <p>Q: Shénme guójiā de rén dōu bú yòng diàn de? 什麼國家的人都不用電的? <i>What country's people never need electricity?</i></p> <p>A: Miǎndiàn 緬甸 <i>Myanmar</i></p> <p>Reason: sounds like miǎn diàn 免電 <i>free electricity</i></p>		
<p>Use slang!</p> <p>A: Hèi! Nǐ shì zuǒpiězi! 嘿! 你是左撇子. Hey! You're <u>left-handed</u>.</p> <p>B: Duì a! 對啊! That's right!</p> <p>A: Wǒ tīngshuō zuǒpiězi de rén bǐjiào cōngmíng. 我聽說左撇子的人比較聰明. I've heard left-handed people are smarter.</p>		