

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

Mandarin Corner

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Dàxué nánshēng sùshè lǐ,

大学男生宿舍里,

In the male university dormitory,

大学	dàxué	university
男生	nánshēng	guy
宿舍	sùshè	dormitory
里	lǐ	inside

2

Xiǎo Míng de shìyǒu xīngfèn de hǎn zhe:

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小明的室友兴奋地喊着：

Ming's roommate shouted with excitement:

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
室友	shìyǒu	roommate
兴奋地	xīngfèn de	excitedly
喊	hǎn	to shout
着	zhe	(indicating action in progress)

3

"Kàn! Wǒ zhè shuāng AJ zhōngyú dào le!"

“看！我这对AJ终于到了！”

"Look! My AJ (Air Jordan) shoes finally arrived!"

看	kàn	to look at
我	wǒ	my
这	zhè	this
双	shuāng	pair
终于	zhōngyú	finally
到	dào	to arrive
了	le	(completed action marker)

4

Yī qún shìyǒu jīdòng de chōng guoqu,

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一群室友激动地冲过去,

Everybody in the room excitedly rushed

一群	yīqún	a group of
室友	shìyǒu	roommate
激动地	jīdòng de	excitely
冲	chōng	to rush
过去	guoqu	(indicating motion away from the speaker)

5

qiǎng zhe shì zhè shuāng xié.

抢着试这双鞋。

to try the new shoes on.

抢	qiǎng	to fight over
着	zhe	(indicating action in progress)
试	shì	to try
这	zhè	this
双	shuāng	pair
鞋	xié	shoe

6

Lúndào Xiǎo Míng de shíhou,

轮到小明的时候,

When it was Ming's turn,

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轮到	lúndào	one's turn to do sth
小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
的	de	(after an attribute)
时候	shíhou	when

7

shìyǒu tūrán bǎ xié qiǎngzǒu shuō:

室友突然把鞋抢走说：

the roommate suddenly took the shoes away and said:

室友	shìyǒu	roommate
突然	tūrán	sudden
把	bǎ	(particle marking the following noun as a direct object)
鞋	xié	shoe
抢走	qiǎngzǒu	to snatch
说	shuō	to say

8

"Nǐ jiǎo wèidao tài dà,

“你脚味道太大，

"Your feet really smell.

你	nǐ	your
脚	jiǎo	foot
味道	wèidao	smell

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太	tài	too (much)
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大	dà	very much
---	----	-----------

9

bùyào xūn chòu le wǒ de xīn AJ!"

不要熏臭了我的新AJ! "

Don't stink my new AJs!"

不要	bùyào	don't!
----	-------	--------

熏	xūn	to expose to fumes
---	-----	--------------------

臭	chòu	smelly
---	------	--------

了	le	(indicating a change of state)
---	----	--------------------------------

我的	wǒde	my
----	------	----

新	xīn	new
---	-----	-----

10

Tīngdào zhè jù huà, Xiǎo Míng shēngqì de shuō:

听到这句话，小明生气地说：

Hearing this, Ming angrily said:

听到	tīngdào	to hear
----	---------	---------

这句话	zhèjùhuà	this sentence
-----	----------	---------------

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
----	-----------	--------

生气地	shēngqì de	angrily
-----	------------	---------

说	shuō	to say
---	------	--------

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11

"Yǒu shénme liǎobuqǐ de!

“有什么了不起的！

"What's so great about it?

有	yǒu	there is
什么	shénme	what?
了不起	liǎobuqǐ	terrific
的	de	(used for emphasis)

12

Bù jiùshì yī shuāng AJ ma?!"

不就是一双AJ吗？！ ”

It's just a pair of AJs!"

不	bù	not
就是	jiùshì	just
一双	yīshuāng	a pair of
吗	ma	(question particle)

13

Bùjiǔ hòu, Xiǎo Míng dǎdiànhuà gěi tā bà shuō:

不久后，小明打电话给他爸说：

Not long afterwards, Ming called his father and said:

不久后	bùjiǔ hòu	not long afterwards
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小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
打电话	dǎdiànhuà	to make a telephone call
给	gěi	to
他爸	tābà	his father
说	shuō	to say

14

"Bà, wǒ de shēnghuófèi yòngwán le,

“爸，我的生活费用完了，

"Dad, I used up my allowance.

爸	bà	dad
我的	wǒ de	my
生活费	shēnghuófèi	allowance
用完	yòngwán	used up
了	le	(completed action marker)

15

kěyǐ zài gěi wǒ dǎ yī qiān ma?"

可以再给我打一千吗？ ”

Can you transfer another 1000 yuan to me?"

可以	kěyǐ	can
再	zài	again
给	gěi	to

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我	wǒ	me
打	dǎ	to transfer (money)
一千	yīqiān	one thousand (yuan)
吗	ma	(question particle)

16

Xiǎo Míng bà qíguài de wèn:

小明爸奇怪地问：

Ming's father asked surprisingly:

小明爸	Xiǎo Míng bà	Ming's father
奇怪地	qíguài de	surprisingly
问	wèn	to ask

17

"Wǒ bùshì cái gěi nǐ dǎ le qián ma?"

“我不是才给你打了钱吗？”

“Didn't I just give you some money?”

我	wǒ	I
不是	bùshì	is not
才	cái	just now
给	gěi	to
你	nǐ	you
打	dǎ	to transfer (money)
了	le	(completed action marker)

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钱	qián	money
吗	ma	(question particle)

18

Zěnmē jiù yòngwán le?"

怎么就用完了? ”

How could you use it up already?"

怎么	zěnmē	how?
就	jiù	already
用完	yòngwán	used up
了	le	(completed action marker)

19

Xiǎo Míng huídá shuō:

小明回答说:

Ming replied:

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
回答	huídá	to reply
说	shuō	to say

20

"Bà, xiànzài wùjià dōu shàngzhǎng le.

“爸，现在物价都上涨了。

“Dad, price of everything has gone up.

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爸	bà	dad
现在	xiànzài	now
物价	wùjià	(commodity) prices
都	dōu	all
上涨	shàngzhǎng	to go up
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

21

Wǒ tóngxué měi gè yuè de shēnghuófèi dōu shì sān qiān le,
我同学每个月的生活费都是三千了,

My schoolmates now get 3000 yuan a month for allowance

我	wǒ	my
同学	tóngxué	classmate
每个月	měigèyuè	each month
的	de	(used after an attribute)
生活费	shēnghuófèi	allowance
都	dōu	all
是	shì	is
三千	sānqiān	three thousand
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

22

wǒ cái yī qiān wǔ, zhè zěnmé gòu a!

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我才一千五，这怎么够啊！

and I only get 1500 yuan. How can that be enough?

我	wǒ	I
才	cái	only
一千五	yīqiānwǔ	1500
这	zhè	this
怎么	zěnmē	how?
够	gòu	to be enough
啊	a	(modal particle)

23

Wǒ kuài méi qián chīfàn le."

我快没钱吃饭了。”

I will soon run out of money for food."

我	wǒ	I
快	kuài	soon
没	méi	not have
钱	qián	money
吃饭	chīfàn	to eat
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

24

Xiǎo Míng bà tǎn le yīkǒuqì shuō:

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小明爸叹了一口气说：

Ming's father sighed and said:

小明爸	xiǎomíngbà	Ming's father
叹	tàn	to sigh
了	le	(completed action marker)
一口气	yīkǒuqì	one breath
说	shuō	to say

25

"Xiànzài qián zěnmē zhème bùzhíqián le?!"

“现在钱怎么这么不值钱了？！”

“Why is money so worthless now?!”

现在	xiànzài	now
钱	qián	money
怎么	zěnmē	how?
这么	zhème	this much
不值钱	bùzhíqián	of little value
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

26

Hǎo ba, wǒ xiàbān hòu gěi nǐ dǎ,

好吧，我下班后给你打，

Alright, I will transfer it to you after I finish working.

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好吧	hǎoba	alright
我	wǒ	I
下班	xiàbān	to finish work
后	hòu	after
给	gěi	to
你	nǐ	you
打	dǎ	to transfer (money)

27

bùguò nǐ yào shěng yīdiǎn!"

不过你要省一点！ ”

But don't waste it!"

不过	bùguò	but
你	nǐ	you
要	yào	to need to
省	shěng	to economize
一点	yīdiǎn	a little bit

28

Zhèshí, gōngtóu duì Xiǎo Míng bà dàhǎn dào:

这时，工头对小明爸大喊道：

At that moment, the father's supervisor shouted at him:

这时	zhèshí	at this moment
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工头	gōngtóu	foreman / supervisor
对	duì	at
小明爸	Xiǎo Míng bà	Ming's father
大喊	dàhǎn	to shout
道	dào	to say (the words quoted)

29

"Gànmá ne? Shàngbān de shíhou bùnéng jiē diànhuà!"

“干嘛呢？上班的时候不能接电话！”

"What are you doing? You can't receive phone calls at work!"

干嘛	gànmá	what are you doing?
呢	ne	(at the end of a rhetorical question)
上班	shàngbān	to be on duty
的	de	(used after an attribute)
时候	shíhou	when
不能	bùnéng	cannot
接	jiē	to answer (the phone)
电话	diànhuà	telephone

30

Shìbùshì bùxiǎng gàn le?

是不是不想干了？

Do you wanna work?!

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是不是	shìbùshì	is or isn't
不想	bùxiǎng	do not want
干	gàn	to work
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

31

Bùxiǎng gàn xiànzài jiù gěi wǒ gǔn!"

不想干现在就给我滚！ ”

If not, leave now!"

不想	bùxiǎng	do not want
干	gàn	to work
现在	xiànzài	now
就	jiù	right away
给	gěi	(introducing the recipient of an action)
我	wǒ	me
滚	gǔn	Get lost!

32

Xiǎo Míng bà cōngmáng guà diào diànhuà,

小明爸匆忙挂掉电话，

Ming's father hastily hung up the phone

小明爸	Xiǎo Míng bà	Ming's father
匆忙	cōngmáng	hasty

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挂	guà	to hang up (the phone)
掉	diào	(after certain verbs to indicate removal)
电话	diànhuà	telephone

33

duì gōngtóu shuō: "Duìbuqǐ! Xiàcì bùhuì le."

对工头说：“对不起！下次不会了。”

and said to the supervisor: "Sorry! It won't happen again!"

对	duì	at
工头	gōngtóu	foreman / supervisor
说	shuō	to say
对不起	duìbuqǐ	I'm sorry
下次	xiàcì	next time
不会	bùhuì	will not (act, happen etc)
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

34

Ránhòu tā bān qǐ le jiǎo biān de zhuān,

然后他搬起了脚边的砖，

He then picked up the bricks that were by him

然后	ránhòu	then (afterwards)
他	tā	he
搬	bān	to move (sth relatively heavy or bulky)

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起	qi	(after a verb, indicating upwards action)
了	le	(completed action marker)
脚	jiǎo	foot
边	bian	(suffix of a noun of locality)
的	de	(used after an attribute)
砖	zhuān	brick

35

jìxù gōngzuò.

继续工作。

and continued to work.

继续	jìxù	to continue
工作	gōngzuò	to work

36

Lièrì xià, tā de yīfu bèi hànshuǐ jìn shī le,

烈日下，他的衣服被汗水浸湿了，

The sun was so hot that his clothes were all wet with sweat.

烈日	lièrì	scorching sun
下	xià	(after a noun) under
他的	tāde	his
衣服	yīfu	clothes
被	bèi	by

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汗水	hànshuǐ	sweat
浸湿	jìnshī	to soak
了	le	(completed action marker)

37

tā de yāo yě yīnwèi chángqī bān zhuān ér yǐnyǐnzuòtòng.

他的腰也因为长期搬砖而隐隐作痛。

His back hurt from continuously lifting the heavy bricks.

他的	tā de	his
腰	yāo	lower back
也	yě	also
因为	yīnwèi	because
长期	chángqī	over a long period of time
搬	bān	to move (sth relatively heavy or bulky)
砖	zhuān	brick
而	ér	(indicates causal relation)
隐隐作痛	yǐnyǐnzuòtòng	to ache dully

38

Bùguò xiǎngdào érzi zài dú dàxué,

不过想到儿子在读大学,

But then, thinking that his son was in university

不过	bùguò	but
想到	xiǎngdào	to think of

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儿子	érzi	son
在	zài	(indicating action in progress)
读	dú	to study
大学	dàxué	university

39

yǐhòu bù yòng xiàng zìjǐ zhèyàng zuò kǔgōng,
以后不用像自己这样做苦工,
and wouldn't need to be a laborer like him in the future,

以后	yǐhòu	in the future
不用	bù yòng	need not
像	xiàng	to be like
自己	zìjǐ	oneself
这样	zhèyàng	this way
做	zuò	to do
苦工	kǔgōng	hard (manual) work

40

tā yòu chōngmǎn le dònglì.
他又充满了动力。
motivated the father to keep going.

他	tā	he
又	yòu	(once) again

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充满	chōngmǎn	be full of
了	le	(indicating a change of state)
动力	dònglì	motivation

41

Xiǎo Míng zé ná zhe tā bà zhuǎn guolai de qián,

小明则拿着他爸转过来的钱,

Ming took the money from his father

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
则	zé	(used to express contrast with a previous sentence) but
拿	ná	to take
着	zhe	(indicating action in progress)
他爸	tābà	his father
转	zhuǎn	to transfer (money)
过来	guolai	(indicating motion towards the speaker)
的	de	(used after an attribute)
钱	qián	money

42

kāixīn de zǒujìn yī jiā yùndòngxié diàn,

开心地走进一家运动鞋店,

and happily walked into a sports shoes store

开心地	kāixīn de	happily
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走进	zǒujìn	to enter
一	yī	one
家	jiā	classifier for business
运动鞋	yùndòngxié	sports shoes
店	diàn	store

43

háobùyóuyù de mǎi xia le yī qiān duō yuán de AJ xié.

毫不犹豫地买下了一千多元的AJ鞋。

and without any hesitation, bought a new pair of AJs that cost over 1000 yuan.

毫不犹豫	háobùyóuyù	without the slightest hesitation
地	de	-ly
买	mǎi	to buy
下	xia	(indicating the finalizing of an action)
了	le	(completed action marker)
一千	yīqiān	one thousand
多	duō	more
元	yuán	Yuan
的	de	(used after an attribute)
鞋	xié	shoe

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Suíhòu, tā chuān zhe xīn xié zǒujìn sùshè,

随后，他穿着新鞋走进宿舍，

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Soon afterwards, he walked into his dorm room with his new shoes on

随后	suíhòu	soon after
他	tā	he
穿	chuān	to wear
着	zhe	(indicating a continued action or state)
新	xīn	new
鞋	xié	shoe
走进	zǒujìn	to enter
宿舍	sùshè	dormitory

45

qīdài dédào shìyǒu men de xiànmù.

期待 得到室友们的羡慕。

hoping to get his roommates' admiration.

期待	qīdài	to expect
得到	dédào	to get
室友们	shìyǒumen	roommates
的	de	(used after an attribute)
羡慕	xiànmù	to admire

46

Qízhōng yī míng shìyǒu kàndào Xiǎo Míng dàjiào dào:

其中一名室友看到小明大叫道：

One of his roommates shouted when he saw Ming:

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其中	qízhōng	among
一	yī	one
名	míng	classifier for people
室友	shìyǒu	roommate
看到	kàndào	to see
小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
大叫	dàjiào	to shout
道	dào	to say (the words quoted)

47

"Wa! Kànkān shéi mǎi xīn xié le!"

“哇！看看谁买新鞋了！”

"Wow! Look who's got new shoes!"

哇	wa	Wow!
看看	kànkān	to take a look at
谁	shéi	who
买	mǎi	to buy
新	xīn	new
鞋	xié	shoe
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

48

Zhèshí, suǒyǒu rén dōu kàn xiàng Xiǎo Míng de xiézi.

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这时，所有人都看向小明的鞋子。

Immediately, everyone turned to look at Ming's shoes.

这时	zhèshí	at this moment
所有人	suǒyǒurén	all people
都	dōu	all
看	kàn	to look at
向	xiàng	towards
小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
鞋子	xiézi	shoe

49

Xiǎo Míng zhàn zài nàr

小明站在那儿

Ming stood there

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
站	zhàn	to stand
在	zài	at
那儿	nàr	there

50

děng zhe tāmen guòlái fèngcheng tā.

等着他们过来奉承他。

waiting for them to come over and flatter him further.

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等	děng	to wait for
着	zhe	(indicating a continued action or state)
他们	tāmen	they
过来	guòlái	to come over
奉承	fèngcheng	to flatter
他	tā	him

51

kě méixiǎngdào, nàge zuìxiān mǎi le AJ xié de shìyǒu

可没想到，那个最先买了AJ鞋的室友

But to his surprise, the roommate that had initially bought the first pair of AJs

可	kě	but
没想到	méixiǎngdào	didn't expect
那个	nàge	that one
最先	zuìxiān	(the) very first
买	mǎi	to buy
了	le	(completed action marker)
鞋	xié	shoe
的	de	(used after an attribute)
室友	shìyǒu	roommate

52

bùxiè de shuō le yījù:

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不屑地说了一句：

scornfully said:

不屑地	bùxiè de	scornfully
说	shuō	to say
了	le	(completed action marker)
一句	yījù	a sentence

53

"Yī shuāng xié yǒu shénme hǎo xuànyào de?"

“一双鞋有什么好炫耀的？”

“What's there to show off about some shoes?!”

一双	yīshuāng	a pair of
鞋	xié	shoe
有	yǒu	there is
什么	shénme	what?
好	hǎo	good to
炫耀	xuànyào	to show off
的	de	(used at the end for emphasis)

54

Zǒu, Xiōngdì men! Jīnwǎn wǒ qǐng nǐmen chī hǎixiān."

走，兄弟们！今晚我请你们吃海鲜。”

Guys, let's go! I am buying you all seafood tonight!"

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走	zǒu	to go
兄弟们	xiōngdì men	brothers
今晚	jīnwǎn	tonight
我	wǒ	I
请	qǐng	to treat (to a meal etc)
你们	nǐmen	you (plural)
吃	chī	to eat
海鲜	hǎixiān	seafood

55

Hěn kuài, shìyǒu men dōu zǒu le,

很快，室友们都走了，

Quickly, all the roommates walked out

很	hěn	very
快	kuài	quick
室友们	shìyǒu men	roommates
都	dōu	all
走	zǒu	to leave
了	le	(completed action marker)

56

liúxià Xiǎo Míng zhàn zài nàr ,

留下小明站在那儿，

and left Ming standing there.

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

留下	liúxià	to leave behind
小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
站	zhàn	to stand
在	zài	at
那儿	nàr	there

57

liǎnsè zhànghóng, jì gāngà yòu shīwàng.

脸色涨红，既尴尬又失望。

His face turned red and he felt embarrassed and disappointed.

脸色	liǎnsè	look
涨红	zhànghóng	to flush (with embarrassment)
既	jì	both... (and...)
尴尬	gāngà	embarrassed
又	yòu	both... and...
失望	shīwàng	disappointed

58

Dì'èr xuéqī, shìyǒu men jùzài yìqǐ

第二学期，室友们聚在一起

The next semester, the roommates gathered

第二	dì'èr	next
学期	xuéqī	semester

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

室友们	shìyǒu men	roommates
-----	------------	-----------

聚在一起	jùzài yìqǐ	to get together
------	------------	-----------------

59

tǎolùn zhōumò de jìhuà,

讨论周末的计划,

to talk about what they were planning to do on the weekend,

讨论	tǎolùn	to discuss
----	--------	------------

周末	zhōumò	weekend
----	--------	---------

的	de	(used after an attribute)
---	----	---------------------------

计划	jìhuà	plan
----	-------	------

60

ránhòu qízhōng yī gè shìyǒu shuō:

然后其中一个室友说:

when one of them said:

然后	ránhòu	then
----	--------	------

其中	qízhōng	among
----	---------	-------

一	yī	one
---	----	-----

个	gè	classifier for people
---	----	-----------------------

室友	shìyǒu	roommate
----	--------	----------

说	shuō	to say
---	------	--------

61

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

"Kàn! iPhone X chūlái le,

“看！iPhone X 出来了，

Hey, look! The new iPhone X just came out!

看	kàn	to look at
出来	chūlái	to come out
了	le	(completed action marker)

62

kànqilai hǎo kù a!

看起来好酷啊！

It looks so cool!

看起来	kànqilai	seem
好	hǎo	very
酷	kù	(loanword) cool
啊	a	(modal particle)

63

Yǒu le zhè kuǎn shǒujī,

有了这款手机，

Having this phone

有	yǒu	to have
了	le	(indicating a change of state)
这	zhè	this

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

款	kuǎn	classifier for models (of a product)
手机	shǒujī	cell phone

64

pàoniū kěndìng huì gèng róngyì!"

泡妞肯定会更容易！ ”

will surely make it easy to get a girl!"

泡妞	pàoniū	to pick up girls
肯定	kěndìng	to be sure
会	huì	will
更	gèng	more
容易	róngyì	easy

65

Xiǎo Míng tīngdào hòu jiù qù wǎngshàng chákàn iPhone X,

小明听到后就去网上查看iPhone X,

When Ming heard this, he went online to check on the iPhone X

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
听到	tīngdào	to hear
后	hòu	after
就	jiù	then
去	qù	to go
网上	wǎngshàng	online

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

查看	chákàn	to check up
----	--------	-------------

66

fāxiàn tā de jiàgé jiāngjìn yī wàn yuán.

发现它的价格将近一万元。

and found that the price was almost 10,000 yuan.

发现	fāxiàn	to find
它	tā	it
的	de	(after an attribute)
价格	jiàgé	price
将近	jiāngjìn	nearly
一万	yīwàn	ten thousand
元	yuán	Yuan

67

Tā jiǎnzhí bù gǎn xiāngxìn!

他简直不敢相信！

He couldn't believe it!

他	tā	he
简直	jiǎnzhí	simply
不	bù	not
敢	gǎn	to dare
相信	xiāngxìn	to believe

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

68

Dàn tā xīnxiǎng,

但他心想,

But then he thought that

但	dàn	but
---	-----	-----

他	tā	he
---	----	----

心想	xīnxiǎng	to think to oneself
----	----------	---------------------

69

rúguǒ zìjǐ mǎi xia zhè kuǎn shǒujī,

如果自己买下这款手机,

if he could buy one,

如果	rúguǒ	if
----	-------	----

自己	zìjǐ	oneself
----	------	---------

买	mǎi	to buy
---	-----	--------

下	xia	(indicating the finalizing of an action)
---	-----	--

这	zhè	this
---	-----	------

款	kuǎn	classifier for models (of a product)
---	------	--------------------------------------

手机	shǒujī	cell phone
----	--------	------------

70

shìyǒu men kěndìng huì xiànmù sǐ.

室友们肯定会羡慕死。

his roommates would surely admire him.

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

室友們	shìyǒu men	roommates
肯定	kěndìng	to be sure
會	huì	will
羨慕	xiànmù	to admire
死	sǐ	extremely

71

Yúshì, tā juéding lìjī fēnqī mǎi xia tā.

于是，他决定立即分期买下它。

Immediately, he decided to purchase one by paying in installments.

于是	yúshì	thus
他	tā	he
决定	juéding	to decide (to do something)
立即	lìjī	immediately
分期	fēnqī	in installments
买	mǎi	to buy
下	xia	(indicating the finalizing of an action)
它	tā	it

72

Kě tā xūyào liǎng qiān yuán lái fù shǒufù.

可他需要两千元来付首付。

But he needed to get 2000 yuan for the initial down payment.

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

可	kě	but
他	tā	he
需要	xūyào	to need
两千	liǎngqiān	two thousand
元	yuán	Yuan
来	lái	in order to
付	fù	to pay
首付	shǒufù	down payment

73

Suǒyǐ, Xiǎo Míng jiù dǎdiànhuà gěi tā bà shuō

所以，小明就打电话给他爸说

So, Ming called his father and told him that

所以	suǒyǐ	so
小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
就	jiù	then
打电话	dǎdiànhuà	to make a telephone call
给	gěi	to
他爸	tābà	his father
说	shuō	to to say

74

xuéxiào yāoqiú tā mǎi yī tái diànnǎo,

学校要求他买一台电脑，

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

the school required him to get a computer

学校	xuéxiào	school
要求	yāoqiú	to require
他	tā	him
买	mǎi	to buy
一	yī	one
台	tái	classifier for machines
电脑	diànnǎo	computer

75

yònglái chá zīliào, wánchéng tā de jiātíngzuòyè.

用来查资料，完成他的家庭作业。

to do research for his assignments.

用来	yònglái	to be used for
查	chá	to research
资料	zīliào	information
完成	wánchéng	to complete
他的	tā de	his
家庭作业	jiātíngzuòyè	homework

76

Tā hái shuō qítā tóngxué zǎojiù mǎi le,

他还说其他同学早就买了，

He also said that his schoolmates had already bought one

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

他	tā	he
还	hái	also
说	shuō	to say
其他	qítā	other
同学	tóngxué	classmate
早就	zǎojiù	already at an earlier time
买	mǎi	to buy
了	le	(completed action marker)

77

ér tā yě yào gǎnjīn mǎi.

而他也要赶紧买。

and he needed to buy it immediately.

而	ér	and
他	tā	he
也	yě	also
要	yào	need
赶紧	gǎnjīn	without delay
买	mǎi	to buy

78

Xiǎo Míng bà duì érzi de xuéyè yīzhí dōu hěn zhīchí,

小明爸对儿子的学业一直都很支持,

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

Ming's father had always been supportive of his son's study needs.

小明爸	Xiǎo Míng bà	Ming's father
对	duì	with regard to
儿子	érzi	son
的	de	(after an attribute)
学业	xuéyè	studies
一直	yīzhí	always
都	dōu	all
很	hěn	quite
支持	zhīchí	to support

79

suǒyǐ èrhuàbùshuō,

所以二话不说,

So, without any objection,

所以	suǒyǐ	so
二话不说	èrhuàbùshuō	not raising any objection

80

jiù bǎ qián zhuǎn gěi tā le.

就把钱转给他了。

he transferred the money.

就	jiù	right away
---	-----	------------

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

把	bǎ	(particle marking the following noun as a direct object)
钱	qián	money
转	zhuǎn	to transfer (money)
给	gěi	to
他	tā	him
了	le	(completed action marker)

81

Dì'èrtiān, Xiǎo Míng mǎi xia le shǒujī,

第二天，小明买下了手机，

The next day, Ming bought the phone

第二天	dì'èrtiān	next day
小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
买	mǎi	to buy
下	xia	(indicating the finalizing of an action)
了	le	(completed action marker)
手机	shǒujī	cell phone

82

shìyǒu men kàndào hòu dōu jí dù sǐ le.

室友们看到后都嫉妒死了。

and when his roommates saw it, they were filled with envy.

室友们	shìyǒu men	roommates
-----	------------	-----------

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

看到	kàndào	to see
后	hòu	after
都	dōu	all
嫉妒	jídù	to envy
死	sǐ	extremely
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

83

Qízhōng yī gè shìyǒu shuō:

其中一个室友说:

One of them said:

其中	qízhōng	among
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for people
室友	shìyǒu	roommate
说	shuō	to say

84

"Xiǎo Míng, nǐ hǎo yǒuqián a!

“小明，你好有钱啊！

"Ming, you're so rich!

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
你	nǐ	you

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

好	hǎo	so
有钱	yǒuqián	wealthy
啊	a	(modal particle)

85

Néng bùnéng ràng wǒ kànkàn nǐ de shǒujī?"

能不能让我看看你的手机？ ”

Can I take a look at your phone?"

能	néng	can
不能	bùnéng	cannot
让	ràng	to let sb do
我	wǒ	me
看看	kànkàn	to take a look at
你的	nǐde	your
手机	shǒujī	cell phone

86

Xiǎo Míng déyì de dì gěi tā shuō:

小明得意地递给他 说：

Ming proudly handed over the phone and said:

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
得意地	déyì de	proudly
递	dì	to hand over

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

给	gěi	to
他	tā	him
说	shuō	to say

87

"Ná qù ba! Bùguò xiǎoxīn diǎn,

“拿去吧！不过小心点，

"Go ahead! But be careful!

拿	ná	to take
去	qù	(indicating motion away from the speaker)
吧	ba	(modal particle indicating request)
不过	bùguò	but
小心	xiǎoxīn	to be careful
点	diǎn	a little

88

bié shuāihuài le!"

别摔坏了！ ”

Don't drop it!"

别	bié	do not
摔坏	shuāihuài	to drop and break
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

89

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

Nà yī kè, Xiǎo Míng juéde zìjǐ zhōngyú yíngdé le

那一刻，小明觉得自己终于赢得了

At that moment, Ming finally felt that he had achieved his goal of

那一刻	nà yī kè	at that moment
小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
觉得	juéde	to feel
自己	zìjǐ	oneself
终于	zhōngyú	finally
赢得	yíngdé	to win
了	le	(completed action marker)

90

shìyǒu men de xiànmù hé jídù.

室友们的羡慕和嫉妒。

getting his roommates' envy and admiration.

室友们	shìyǒu men	roommates
的	de	(used after an attribute)
羡慕	xiànmù	to admire
和	hé	and
嫉妒	jídù	envy

91

Kěshì tā měi gè yuè de shēnghuófèi zhǐyǒu yī qiān wǔ,

可是他每个月的生活费只有一千五，

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

But his monthly allowance was only 1500 yuan

可是	kěshì	but
他	tā	he
每个月	měigèyuè	each month
的	de	(used after an attribute)
生活费	shēnghuófèi	allowance
只有	zhǐyǒu	only
一千五	yīqiānwǔ	1500 (yuan)

92

fù wán fēnqī hòu suǒshèngwújǐ.

付完分期后所剩无几。

and after paying for the installment, he was left with very little money.

付	fù	to pay
完	wán	to finish
分期	fēnqī	in installments
后	hòu	after
所剩无几	suǒshèngwújǐ	there is not much left

93

Yǒu yī duàn shíjiān,

有一段时间,

At one point,

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

有	yǒu	there is
一	yī	one
段	duàn	classifier for periods of time
时间	shíjiān	period

94

tā qióng de lián fàn dōu chī bùqi le.

他穷得连饭都吃不起了。

he was so broke that he couldn't even afford food.

他	tā	he
穷	qióng	poor
得	de	after a verb, indicating degree)
连	lián	(used with 也, 都 etc) even
饭	fàn	food
都	dōu	(used for emphasis) even
吃不起	chībùqi	can't afford to eat
了	le	(indicating a change of situation)

95

Tā xiǎng xiàng shìyǒu men jièqián,

他想向室友们借钱,

He attempted to borrow money from his roommates

他	tā	he
---	----	----

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

想	xiǎng	to want
向	xiàng	towards
室友们	shìyǒu men	roommates
借钱	jièqián	to borrow money

96

Kě shéi dōu bù kěn jiègěi tā,

可谁都不肯借给他,

but they all refused

可	kě	but
谁	shéi	who
都	dōu	all
不	bù	not
肯	kěn	willing
借给	jiègěi	to lend to sb
他	tā	him

97

yīnwèi tāmen juéde

因为他们觉得

because they felt

因为	yīnwèi	because
他们	tāmen	they

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

觉得 juéde to feel

98

Xiǎo Míng shì gè kěbēi qiě kěxiào de rén.

小明是个可悲且可笑的人。

he was pathetic and foolish.

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
是	shì	is
个	gè	classifier for people
可悲	kěbēi	lamentable
且	qiě	and
可笑	kěxiào	foolish
的	de	(used after an attribute)
人	rén	person

99

Méibànfǎ, tā zhǐhǎo zàicì dǎdiànhuà

没办法，他只好再次打电话

So, he was left with no choice but to call his father

没办法	méibànfǎ	there is nothing to be done
他	tā	he
只好	zhǐhǎo	without any better option
再次	zàicì	once again

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

打电话 dǎdiànhuà to make a telephone call

100

wèn tā bà yào qián.

问他爸要钱。

and ask him for more money.

问 wèn to ask

他爸 tābà his father

要 yào to ask for

钱 qián money

101

Tā bō tōng le tā bà de diànhuà,

他拨通了他爸的电话，

He dialed his father's number,

他 tā he

拨 bō to dial

通 tōng through

了 le (completed action marker)

他爸 tābà his father

的 de ~'s (possessive particle)

电话 diànhuà telephone

102

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

kěshì méi rén jiē.

可是没人接。

but got no response.

可是	kěshì	but
没人	méi rén	no one
接	jiē	to answer (the phone)

103

Guò le yīhuìr, tā yòu dǎ le yīcì.

过了一会儿，他又打了一次。

A moment later, he tried again.

过	guò	to pass (time)
了	le	(completed action marker)
一会儿	yīhuìr	a moment
他	tā	he
又	yòu	(once) again
打	dǎ	to dial
了	le	(completed action marker)
一次	yīcì	once

104

Zhè cì, yī gè mòshēng nǚrén jiē le diànhuà.

这次，一个陌生女人接了电话。

This time, a woman he didn't recognize answered the phone.

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

这次	zhè cì	this time
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for people
陌生	mòshēng	unfamiliar
女人	nǚrén	woman
接	jiē	to answer (the phone)
了	le	(completed action marker)
电话	diànhuà	phone call

105

Xiǎo Míng wèn: "Nǐ shì shéi a?"

小明问：“你是谁啊？”

Ming asked: "Who are you?"

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
问	wèn	to ask
你	nǐ	you
是	shì	are
谁	shéi	who
啊	a	(modal particle)

106

Zhè bùshì wǒ bà de shǒujī ma?"

这不是我爸的手机吗？”

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

Isn't this my father's phone?

这	zhè	this
不是	bùshì	is not
我	wǒ	my
爸	bà	father
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
手机	shǒujī	cell phone
吗	ma	(question particle)

107

Nàge nǚrén shuō: "Wǒ shì yīyuàn de hùshi,

那个女人说：“我是医院的护士，

The woman said: “I am a nurse at a hospital.

那个	nàge	that one
女人	nǚrén	woman
说	shuō	to say
我	wǒ	I
是	shì	am
医院	yīyuàn	hospital
的	de	(used after an attribute)
护士	hùshi	nurse

108

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

nǐ shì zhège bìngrén de érzi ba?"

你是这个病人的儿子吧？ ”

You are this patient's son, right?"

你	nǐ	you
是	shì	are
这个	zhège	this
病人	bìngrén	patient
的	de	of
儿子	érzi	son
吧	ba	...right?

109

"Shì a, wǒ bà zěnméle?"

“是啊，我爸怎么了？ ”

"Yes, I am. What happened to my father?"

是	shì	is
啊	a	(modal particle)
我	wǒ	my
爸	bà	father
怎么了	zěnméle	What happened?

110

Xiǎo Míng zhāojí de wèndào.

小明着急地问道。

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

Ming asked anxiously.

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
着急地	zháojí de	anxiously
问道	wèndào	to ask

111

Hùshi jiěshì dào:

护士解释道:

The nurse explained:

护士	hùshi	nurse
解释	jiěshì	to explain
道	dào	to say (the words quoted)

112

"Nǐ bà shàngwǔ bèi sòng jìn yīyuàn,

“你爸上午被送进医院,

"Your father was brought to the hospital this morning

你爸	nǐbà	your father
上午	shàngwǔ	morning
被	bèi	(indicates passive-voice clauses)
送	sòng	to send
进	jìn	into
医院	yīyuàn	hospital

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

113

xiànzài zài hūnmí zhōng. Nǐ kuài guòlái ba!"

现在在昏迷中。你快过来吧！ ”

and he is in a coma. You should come soon!"

现在	xiànzài	now
在...中	zài... zhōng	in the middle of
昏迷	hūnmí	to be in a coma
你	nǐ	you
快	kuài	quick
过来	guòlái	to come over
吧	ba	(modal particle indicating suggestion)

114

Yuánlái Xiǎo Míng bà wèile duō zhèng diǎn qián,

原来小明爸为了多挣点钱,

It turned out that Ming's father needed more money,

原来	yuánlái	as it turns out
小明爸	Xiǎo Míng bà	Ming's father
为了	wèile	in order to
多	duō	more
挣	zhèng	to make (money)
点	diǎn	a little

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

钱	qián	money
---	------	-------

115

tā zhège yuè yī tiān dōu méi xiūxi.

他这个月一天都没休息。

so, he hadn't rested a day during the whole month.

他	tā	he
这个月	zhège yuè	this month
一天	yī tiān	one day
都	dōu	(used for emphasis) even
没	méi	not
休息	xiūxi	to rest

116

Zài tā bān zhe zhuān

在他搬着砖

When he was carrying bricks

在	zài	in the middle of doing sth
他	tā	he
搬	bān	to move (sth relatively heavy or bulky)
着	zhe	(indicating a continued action)
砖	zhuān	brick

117

Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

zǒu zài lóutī shàng shí,

走在楼梯上时,

up the stairs,

走	zǒu	to walk
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在...上	zài... shàng	on
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楼梯	lóutī	stair
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时	shí	when
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tā tūrán juéde tóuyūn,

他突然觉得头晕,

he suddenly felt dizzy,

他	tā	he
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突然	tūrán	sudden
----	-------	--------

觉得	juéde	to feel
----	-------	---------

头晕	tóuyūn	dizzy
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ránhòu xiànghòu dǎoxià, zhuàng dào tóubù.

然后向后倒下, 撞到头部。

fell backwards and hit his head.

然后	ránhòu	then (afterwards)
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向后	xiànghòu	backward
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倒下	dǎoxià	to collapse
撞	zhuàng	to knock against
到	dào	(verb complement)
头部	tóubù	head

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Tīngdào zhège xiāoxi,

听到这个消息,

After Ming heard about this,

听到	tīngdào	to hear
这个	zhège	this
消息	xiāoxi	news

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Xiǎo Míng lì mǎ gǎndào yīyuàn.

小明立马赶到医院。

he rushed to the hospital.

小明	Xiǎo Míng	(name)
立马	lì mǎ	immediately
赶到	gǎndào	to hurry (to some place)
医院	yīyuàn	hospital

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Kàndào fùqīn tǎng zài bìngchuáng shàng,

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看到父亲躺在病床上,

Seeing his father lying in bed

看到	kàndào	to see
父亲	fùqīn	father
躺	tǎng	to lie down
在...上 zài...	shàng	on
病床	bìngchuáng	hospital bed

123

zuǐlǐ chā zhe yǎngqì guǎn,

嘴里插着氧气管,

with a breathing tube in his mouth,

嘴里	zuǐlǐ	in the mouth
插	chā	to insert
着	zhe	(indicating a continued state)
氧气	yǎngqì	oxygen
管	guǎn	tube

124

tā xiǎngqǐ zìjǐ duì fùqīn shuō guò de huǎnghuà.

他想起自己对父亲说过的谎话。

he thought about the lies he had told his father.

他	tā	he
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Stories In Slow Chinese - Gaining Face

想起	xiǎngqǐ	to call to mind
自己	zìjǐ	oneself
对	duì	towards
父亲	fùqīn	father
说	shuō	to say
过	guò	(experienced action marker)
的	de	(used after an attribute)
谎话	huǎnghuà	lie

125

nàge shíkè, tā duōme xīwàng zìjǐ kěyǐ huídào guòqu,

那个时刻，他多么希望自己能回到过去，

At that moment, he felt an urge to go back in time

那个时刻	nàge shíkè	that moment
他	tā	he
多么	duōme	how (much etc)
希望	xīwàng	to wish for
自己	zìjǐ	oneself
可以	kěyǐ	can
回到	huídào	to return to
过去	guòqu	past

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wǎnhuí tā suǒ zuò de yīqiè cuò shì.

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挽回他所做的一切错事。

and undo everything he had done in the past,

挽回	wǎnhuí	to redeem
他	tā	he
所	suǒ	(particle introducing a relative clause or passive)
做	zuò	to do
的	de	(used after an attribute)
一切	yīqiè	every
错	cuò	wrong
事	shì	thing

127

Kě tā zhīdào zhè shì bùkěnéng de.

可他知道这是不可能的。

but this, he realized wasn't possible.

可	kě	but
他	tā	he
知道	zhīdào	to know
这	zhè	this
是	shì	is
不可能	bùkěnéng	impossible
的	de	(used at the end for emphasis)

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Xiǎngdào zhèlǐ, tā gǎndào wúbǐ tòngkǔ hé nèijiù.

想到这里，他感到无比痛苦和内疚。

Understanding this, he felt an unbearable pain and guilt in his heart.

想到	xiǎngdào	to think of
这里	zhèlǐ	here
他	tā	he
感到	gǎndào	to feel
无比	wúbǐ	incomparable
痛苦	tòngkǔ	painful
和	hé	and
内疚	nèijiù	guilty