

Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

Mandarin Corner

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1

Lín shì gè pífū yǒuhēi, gèzi bù gāo de lǎotóu.

林是个皮肤黝黑、个子不高的老头。

Lin was an old man with dark skin and not very tall.

林	Lín	surname Lin
是	shì	is
个	gè	classifier for people
皮肤	pífū	skin
黝黑	yǒuhēi	dark
个子	gèzi	height
不	bù	not
高	gāo	tall
的	de	(used after an attribute)

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老头	lǎotóu	old man
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2

Tā niánqīng de shíhou shì jiǔ hào dǔ,

他年轻的时候嗜酒好赌,

When he was young, he was addicted to drinking and gambling.

他	tā	he
年轻	niánqīng	young
的	de	(used after an attribute)
时候	shíhou	time (when)
嗜	shì	addicted to
酒	jiǔ	alcoholic beverage
好	hào	to be fond of
赌	dǔ	to gamble

3

bàiguāng le zǔshàng liúxià de jīxù.

败光了祖上留下的积蓄。

He squandered all the fortune his ancestors left him.

败光	bàiguāng	to squander one's fortune
了	le	(completed action marker)
祖上	zǔshàng	ancestor
留下	liúxià	to leave behind
的	de	(used after an attribute)
积蓄	jīxù	savings

4

Hòulái, tā jiéhūn bìng shēng le liǎng gè érzi,

后来，他结婚并生了两个儿子，

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Later, he got married and had two sons.

后来	hòulái	later
他	tā	he
结婚	jiéhūn	to get married
并	bìng	and
生	shēng	to give birth
了	le	(completed action marker)
两	liǎng	two
个	gè	classifier for people
儿子	érzi	son

5

dàn réngjiù gǎi bù diào hējiǔ hào dǔ de huài máobìng,
但仍旧改不掉喝酒好赌的坏毛病,

But he still couldn't change his bad habits of drinking and gambling.

但	dàn	but
仍旧	réngjiù	still
改不掉	gǎibùdiào	unable to change
喝酒	hējiǔ	to drink (alcohol)
好	hào	to be fond of
赌	dǔ	to gamble
的	de	(used after an attribute)
坏	huài	bad
毛病	máobìng	shortcomings

6

zhěngtiān bù zài jiā,
整天不在家,

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He was never home

整天	zhěngtiān	all day long
不	bù	not
在	zài	at
家	jiā	home

7

liǎng gè érzi yě méi kòng guǎnjiào.

两个儿子也没空管教。

and didn't have time to discipline his two sons.

两	liǎng	two
个	gè	classifier for people
儿子	érzi	son
也	yě	also
没	méi	not have
空	kòng	free time
管教	guǎnjiào	to discipline

8

Tā de dà érzi zhěngtiān zài jiētóu guǐhùn,

他的大儿子整天在街头鬼混，

His older son was always messing around on the streets.

他	tā	he
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
大儿子	dà érzi	older son
整天	zhěngtiān	all day long
在	zài	(located) at

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街头	jiētóu	street
鬼混	guǐhùn	to hang around

9

hòulái yīnwèi tuánhuǒ qiǎngjié, rùyù wǔ nián.

后来因为团伙抢劫，入狱五年。

Later, because of his involvement in a gang robbery, he was put in prison for five years.

后来	hòulái	later
因为	yīnwèi	because
团伙	tuánhuǒ	(criminal) gang
抢劫	qiǎngjié	to rob
入狱	rùyù	to be sent to prison
五	wǔ	five
年	nián	year

10

Ér tā de xiǎo érzi hào chī lǎn zuò,

而他的小儿子好吃懒做，

His younger son was lazy and always liked to search for the easy ways to do things.

而	ér	and
他	tā	he
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
小儿子	xiǎo érzi	younger son
好吃懒做	hào chī lǎn zuò	happy to partake but not prepared to do any work (idiom)

11

měitiān tǎng zài jiā lǐ zuò fācái mèng.

每天躺在家里做发财梦。

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Every day, he would lay around at home and dream about getting rich.

每天	měitiān	every day
躺	tǎng	to lie down
在	zài	(located) at
家里	jiālǐ	home
做	zuò	to do (to dream)
发财	fācái	to get rich
梦	mèng	dream

12

Lín de dà érzi rùyù wǔ nián hòu de yī gè zǎoshang,

林的大儿子入狱五年后的一个早上,

One morning, five years after Lin's older son went to prison,

林	Lín	Surname Lin
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
大儿子	dà érzi	older son
入狱	rùyù	to be sent to prison
五年	wǔnián	five years
后	hòu	after
的	de	(used after an attribute)
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier
早上	zǎoshang	early morning

13

tā zài cài shì chǎng pèng dào le Wáng hé Zhāng.

他在菜市场碰到了王和张。

he ran into Wang and Zhang at a wet market.

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他	tā	he
在	zài	at
菜市场	càishìchǎng	wet market
碰到	pèngdào	to run into
了	le	(completed action marker)
王	Wáng	Surname Wang
和	hé	and
张	Zhāng	Surname Zhang

14

Lín shuō: "lǎo Wáng a,

林说：“老王啊，

Lin said: “Lao Wang!

林	Lín	surname Lin
说	shuō	to say
老	lǎo	(prefix used before the surname of a person)
王	Wáng	surname Wang
啊	a	modal particle

15

kěyǐ jiè xià nǐ érzi de chē ma?

可以借下你儿子的车吗？

Can I borrow your son's car?

可以	kěyǐ	can
借	jiè	to borrow
下	xià	(measure word to show the frequency of an action)
你	nǐ	your

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儿子	érzi	son
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
车	chē	car
吗	ma	(question particle for "yes-no" questions)

16

Wǒ jiā dà érzi jīntiān chūyù."

我家大儿子今天出狱。”

Today is the day that my older son is getting out of prison."

我	wǒ	my
家	jiā	(polite) my (sister, uncle etc)
大儿子	dà érzi	older son
今天	jīntiān	today
出狱	chūyù	to be released from prison

17

Wáng yǒudiǎn bùqíngyuàn,

王有点不情愿,

Wang was a little reluctant (to help Lin),

王	Wáng	surname Wang
有点	yǒudiǎn	a little
不情愿	bùqíngyuàn	unwilling

18

dàn háishi tāochū shǒujī

但还是掏出手机

but he still pulled out his phone,

但	dàn	but
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还是	háishi	still
掏出	tāochū	to take out (from a pocket, bag etc)
手机	shǒujī	cell phone

19

bō tōng le érzi de diànhuà shuō:

拨通了儿子的电话说:

dialed his son's number and said:

拨	bō	to dial
通	tōng	to go through
了	le	(completed action marker)
儿子	érzi	son
的	de	(used after an attribute)
电话	diànhuà	telephone
说	shuō	to say

20

"Érzi! Nǐ Lín shū xiǎng jiè nǐ chēzi yòng yīxià,

“儿子！你林叔想借你车子用一下，

“Son, your uncle Lin wants to borrow your car.

儿子	érzi	son
你	nǐ	you
林	Lín	surname Lin
叔	shū	uncle
想	xiǎng	to want
借	jiè	to borrow
你	nǐ	your
车子	chēzi	small vehicle (car, bicycle, cart etc)

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用	yòng	to use
一下	yíxià	to do (sth for a bit to give it a try)

21

nǐ kàn fāngbiàn ma?"

你看方便吗？ ”

Is it convenient for you?"

你	nǐ	you
看	kàn	to see
方便	fāngbiàn	convenient
吗	ma	(question particle for "yes-no" questions)

22

Lín zhàn zài yībiān, bǔchōng dào:

林站在一边，补充道：

Lin stood on his side and added:

林	Lín	surname Lin
站	zhàn	to stand
在	zài	at
一边	yībiān	one side
补充	bǔchōng	to supplement
道	dào	to say (the words quoted)

23

"Duì, xiǎo Wáng! Wǒ jiù jiè yī shàngwǔ."

“对，小王！我就借一上午。”

“Right, Xiao Wang! I just need it for the morning.”

对	duì	right
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小王	xiǎoWáng	Xiao Wang
我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	just (emphasis)
借	jiè	to borrow
一	yī	one
上午	shàngwǔ	morning

24

Guò le yīhuìr, Wáng diǎndiǎn tóu duì zhe diànhuà shuō:

过了一会儿，王点点头对着电话说：

A moment later, Wang nodded and said:

过了一会儿	guò le yīhuìr	a moment later
王	Wáng	surname Wang
点点头	diǎndiǎntóu	to nod (briefly)
对	duì	towards
着	zhe	(indicating action in progress)
电话	diànhuà	telephone
说	shuō	to say

25

"O..... nǐ jīntiān yào chūchāi, jiè bùliǎo, shì ba?"

“哦..... 你今天要出差，借不了，是吧？”

“Oh... You are going for a business trip today and you can't lend it, right?”

哦	o	oh
你	nǐ	you
今天	jīntiān	today
要	yào	going to
出差	chūchāi	to go on an business trip

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借	jiè	to lend
不了	bùliǎo	unable to
是	shì	is
吧	ba	...right?

26

Wáng guà diào diànhuà,

王挂掉电话,

Wang hung up the phone,

王	Wáng	surname Wang
挂	guà	to hang up (the phone)
掉	diào	(after certain verbs to indicate removal)
电话	diànhuà	phone call

27

náo náotóu, ránhòu duì Lín shuō:

挠挠头, 然后对林说:

scratched his head and said to Lin:

挠头	náotóu	scratch one's head
然后	ránhòu	then
对	duì	towards
林	Lín	surname Lin
说	shuō	to say

28

"Bùhǎoyìsi! Wǒ érzi jīntiān yào yòng chē.

“不好意思！我儿子今天要用车。

“Sorry! My son needs to use his car today.

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不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	to be sorry
我	wǒ	my
儿子	érzi	son
今天	jīntiān	today
要	yào	to need
用	yòng	to use
车	chē	car

29

Yàobù nǐ wèn wèn biéren?"

要不你问问别人？ ”

Maybe, you should ask somebody else?"

要不	yàobù	how about...?
你	nǐ	you
问问	wèn wèn	to ask (repeating verbs makes the tone softer)
别人	biéren	other people

30

Lín dùnshí yǒudiǎn shēngqì de duì Wáng shuō:

林顿时有点生气地对王说：

Lin immediately got a little angry and said to Wang:

林	Lín	surname Lin
顿时	dùnshí	immediately
有点	yǒudiǎn	a little
生气	shēngqì	angry
地	de	-ly
对	duì	towards
王	Wáng	surname Wang

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说	shuō	to say
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31

"Bùxiǎng jiè jiù shuō bùxiǎng jiè ma! Méi bìyào zhǎojièkǒu!

“不想借就说不想借嘛！没必要找借口！”

“If you don't wanna lend it, just say it! No need to give me an excuse!

不想	bùxiǎng	do not want
借	jiè	to lend
就	jiù	just
说	shuō	to say
嘛	ma	indicating that sth is obvious
没	méi	no
必要	bìyào	necessary
找借口	zhǎojièkǒu	to look for an excuse

32

Nǐ shì pà wǒ kāi huài le péibuqǐ ma?"

你是怕我开坏了赔不起吗？”

Are you afraid that if I break it, I cannot afford to fix it?"

你	nǐ	you
是	shì	(used to stress a certain part of a sentence)
怕	pà	to be afraid
我	wǒ	I
开	kāi	to drive
坏	huài	to break down
了	le	(indicating a change of state)
赔不起	péibuqǐ	unable to make good a loss
吗	ma	(question particle for "yes-no" questions)

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33

Wáng kǔxiào de shuō: "Zhè shì wǒ érzi de chē,

王苦笑地说：“这是我儿子的车，

Wang forced a smile and said: “This is my son’s car.

王	Wáng	surname Wang
苦笑	kǔxiào	to force a smile
地	de	-ly
说	shuō	to say
这	zhè	this
是	shì	is
我	wǒ	my
儿子	érzi	son
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
车	chē	car

34

wǒ yòu bùnéng zuòzhǔ!

我又不能做主！

I can't decide for him.

我	wǒ	I
又	yòu	(used for emphasis)
不能	bùnéng	cannot
做主	zuòzhǔ	to decide

35

Zàishuō tā yào yòng chē, wǒ yǒu shénme bànfǎ ya!"

再说他要用车，我有什么办法呀！”

Also, he needs to use it. What can I do?"

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再说	zàishuō	moreover
他	tā	he
要	yào	to need
用	yòng	to use
车	chē	car
我	wǒ	I
有	yǒu	to have
什么	shénme	what?
办法	bànfǎ	way (of doing sth)
呀	ya	(modal particle)

36

Yīpáng de Zhāng jiàn Wáng wéinán, jiù duì Lín shuō:

一旁的张见王为难，就对林说：

Zhang, who was on the side, seeing that Wang was feeling awkward, then said to Lin:

一旁	yīpáng	to the side of
的	de	(used after an attribute)
张	Zhāng	surname Zhang
见	jiàn	to see
王	Wáng	surname Wang
为难	wéinán	to feel embarrassed or awkward
就	jiù	then
对	duì	towards
林	Lín	surname Lin
说	shuō	to say

37

"Wǒmen gē jǐge dōu shì lǎo jiāoqing,

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“我们哥几个都是老交情，

“We've been buddies for many years.

我们	wǒmen	we
哥几个	gējǐge	buddies
都	dōu	all
是	shì	is
老	lǎo	of long standing
交情	jiāoqing	friendship

38

Lǎo Wáng yě shì méibànfǎ,

老王也是没办法，

There is nothing Lao Wang can do.

老	lǎo	(prefix used before the surname of a person)
王	Wáng	surname Wang
也	yě	(for emphasis)
是	shì	is
没办法	méibànfǎ	one can't do anything about it

39

nǐ jiù liàngjiě xià ma."

你就谅解下嘛。”

Why don't you try to understand?"

你	nǐ	you
就	jiù	just (emphasis)
谅解	liàngjiě	to understand
下	xià	(measure word to show the frequency of an action)

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嘛 ma (indicating that sth is obvious)

40

Lín tīng wán gèng bùshuǎng le, dàshēng duì Zhāng shuō:

林听完更不爽了，大声对张说：

Upon hearing this, Lin got even more upset and started shouting at Zhang:

林	Lín	surname Lin
听	tīng	to hear
完	wán	to finish
更	gèng	even more
不爽	bùshuǎng	in a bad mood
了	le	(indicating a change of state)
大声	dàshēng	loudly
对	duì	towards
张	Zhāng	surname Zhang
说	shuō	to say

41

"Nǐ yě kànbuqǐ wǒ, shì ba?

“你也看不起我，是吧？

“You are also looking down at me, right!?

你	nǐ	you
也	yě	too
看不起	kànbuqǐ	to look down upon
我	wǒ	me
是	shì	is
吧	ba	...right?

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42

Nǐ de érzi yàoshi yǒudiǎn běnshì, mǎi de qǐ chē dehuà,

你的儿子要是有点本事，买得起车的话，

If your son was a little bit more capable and could afford a car,

你	nǐ	you
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
儿子	érzi	son
要是	yàoshi	if
有	yǒu	to have
点	diǎn	a little
本事	běnsì	ability
买得起	mǎideqǐ	can afford to buy
车	chē	car
的话	dehuà	if (coming after a conditional clause)

43

wǒ hái yòng zhǎo lǎo Wáng jiè ma?"

我还用找老王借吗？”

why would I even need to borrow it from Lao Wang?!"

我	wǒ	I
还	hái	(for emphasis)
用	yòng	to have to
找	zhǎo	to seek
老	lǎo	(prefix used before the surname of a person)
王	Wáng	surname Wang
借	jiè	to borrow
吗	ma	(question particle for "yes-no" questions)

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Zhāng tīng Lín zhème shuō,

张听林这么说,

Hearing Lin say this,

张	Zhāng	surname Zhang
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听	tīng	to hear
---	------	---------

林	Lín	surname Lin
---	-----	-------------

这么	zhème	like this
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说	shuō	to say
---	------	--------

45

jiù bù kāixīn le, tā shuōdào:

就不开心了, 他说道:

Zhang was not happy and said:

就	jiù	then
---	-----	------

不	bù	not
---	----	-----

开心	kāixīn	to feel happy
----	--------	---------------

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

他	tā	he
---	----	----

说道	shuōdào	to say (the quoted words)
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46

"lǎo Lín,

“老林,

“Lao Lin,

老	lǎo	(prefix used before the surname of a person)
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林	Lín	surname Lin
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nǐ shuō zhèzhǒng huà wǒ jiù bù ài tīng le.

你说这种话我就不爱听了。

I don't like the way you talk!

你	nǐ	you
说	shuō	to say
这种	zhèzhǒng	this kind of
话	huà	talk
我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	just (emphasis)
不	bù	not
爱	ài	to love
听	tīng	to hear
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

48

Nà nǐ de érzi lìhai dehuà,

那你的儿子厉害的话,

If your sons were so great,

那	nà	then (in that case)
你	nǐ	you
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
儿子	érzi	son
厉害	lìhai	awesome
的话	dehuà	if (coming after a conditional clause)

49

tāmen zěnmē bù zìjǐ mǎi chē a?"

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他们怎么不自己买车啊？”

why couldn't they buy a car themselves?"

他们	tāmen	they
怎么	zěnmē	how?
不	bù	not
自己	zìjǐ	oneself
买	mǎi	to buy
车	chē	car
啊	a	(modal particle)

50

Lín zhèxià gèng shēngqì le, tā zhēngbiàn dào:

林这下更生气了，他争辩道：

At this moment, Lin got angrier and shouted:

林	Lín	surname Lin
这下	zhèxià	this time
更	gèng	even more
生气	shēngqì	to get angry
了	le	(indicating a change of state)
他	tā	he
争辩	zhēngbiàn	to argue
道	dào	to say (the words quoted)

51

"Wǒ xiǎo érzi jīntiān shì méi zài jiā,

“我小儿子今天是在家，

“It's just that my younger son is not home today,

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我	wǒ	my
小儿子	xiǎo érzi	younger son
今天	jīntiān	today
是	shì	(used to stress a certain part of a sentence)
没	méi	not
在	zài	(located) at
家	jiā	home

52

bùrán wǒ cái bùhuì zhǎo nǐmen jiè chē ne!

不然我才不会找你们借车呢!

otherwise, I wouldn't need to borrow a car from you guys!

不然	bùrán	otherwise
我	wǒ	I
才	cái	(emphasizing what comes before 才, usually with 呢 at the end)
不会	bùhuì	will not (act, happen etc)
找	zhǎo	to approach
你们	nǐmen	you (plural)
借	jiè	to borrow
车	chē	car
呢	ne	(particle indicating strong affirmation)

53

Tā xiànzài zhuàndàqián le,

他现在赚大钱了,

He is now making big money

他	tā	he
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Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

现在	xiànzài	now
赚大钱	zhuàndàqián	to earn a fortune
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

54

qiántiān gāng mǎi le yītào xīn fángzi.

前天刚买了一套新房子。

and just bought a new house a couple of days ago.

前天	qiántiān	the day before yesterday
刚	gāng	just
买	mǎi	to buy
了	le	(completed action marker)
一套	yītào	a set
新	xīn	new
房子	fángzi	apartment

55

Nǐ érzi gōngzuò nàme duō nián,

你儿子工作那么多年，

But, your son has been working for so many years

你	nǐ	your
儿子	érzi	son
工作	gōngzuò	to work
那么	nàme	so
多	duō	many
年	nián	year

56

Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

hái nà diǎn sǐ gōngzī,

还那点死工资,

and still only makes a little money.

还	hái	still
那	nà	that
点	diǎn	a little
死工资	sǐgōngzī	fixed wage

57

gūjì yī gè chē gūlù yě mǎibuqǐ!"

估计一个车轱辘也买不起！ ”

I suspect he can't even afford a tire!"

估计	gūjì	(coll.) to suppose
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier
车	chē	car
轱辘	gūlù	wheel
也	yě	(for emphasis)
买不起	mǎibuqǐ	can't afford buying

58

Tīngdào zhège, Zhāng liǎn dōu qì lǜ le, tā dàshēng hǎndào:

听到这个，张脸都气绿了，他大声喊道：

Upon hearing this, Zhang's face turned red with anger and he yelled:

听到这个	tīngdào zhège	to hear this
张	Zhāng	surname Zhang
脸	liǎn	face
都	dōu	(used for emphasis) even

Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

气	qì	to get angry
绿	lǜ	green
了	le	(indicating a change of state)
他	tā	he
大声	dàshēng	loudly
喊道	hǎndào	to yell

59

"Wǒ érzi shì méiyǒu zhèng dàqián,

“我儿子是没有挣大钱,

“It's true that my son isn't making big money.

我	wǒ	my
儿子	érzi	son
是	shì	(indicating certainty / for emphasis)
没有	méiyǒu	to not have
挣	zhèng	to make (money)
大钱	dàqián	lots of money

60

dàn tā cóngláiméiyǒu ràng wǒ cāo guò xīn,

但他从来没有让我操过心,

But he never makes me worry

但	dàn	but
他	tā	he
从来没有	cóngláiméiyǒu	have never
让	ràng	to let sb do sth
我	wǒ	me
操心	cāoxīn	to worry (separable verb)

Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

过 guò (experienced action marker)

61

yě bùhuì qù zuò yīxiē fànfǎ de shì!"

也不会去做一些犯法的事！ ”

and he won't do anything illegal!"

也	yě	also
不会	bùhuì	will not (act, happen etc)
去	qù	to go in order to do sth
做	zuò	to do
一些	yīxiē	some
犯法	fànfǎ	to break the law
的	de	(used after an attribute)
事	shì	thing

62

Lín lěngxiào dào:

林冷笑道：

Lin sneered and said:

林	Lín	surname Lin
冷笑	lěngxiào	to sneer
道	dào	to say (the words quoted)

63

"Xiànzài néng zhuàn dào qián cái shì běnshì!

“现在能赚到钱才是本事！

“Nowadays, only making money is important!

现在	xiànzài	nowadays
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Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

能	néng	to be able to
赚	zhuàn	to earn
到	dào	(verb complement)
钱	qián	money
才	cái	only then
是	shì	is
本事	běnsi	skill

64

Wǒ xiǎo érzi guò liǎng nián

我小儿子过两年

My younger son is gonna

我	wǒ	my
小儿子	xiǎo érzi	younger son
过	guò	to pass (time)
两	liǎng	two
年	nián	year

65

jiù kěyǐ dài wǒ zhù yáng fáng lo,

就可以带我住洋房咯,

get me a big western-style house in a couple of years.

就	jiù	then
可以	kěyǐ	can
带	dài	to take along
我	wǒ	me
住	zhù	to live
洋房	yángfáng	Western-style house

Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

咯 lo (final particle)

66

nǐmen dàoshíhòu jiù xiànmù ba!"

你们到时候就羡慕吧！ ”

Then, you two will be jealous!"

你们 nǐmen you (plural)

到时候 dàoshíhòu when the moment comes

就 jiù just (emphasis)

羡慕 xiànmù to envy

吧 ba (modal particle)

67

Shuō wán, tā dà yáo dà bǎi de lí kāi le.

说完，他大摇大摆地离开了。

After he finished talking, he swaggered off.

说 shuō to say

完 wán to finish

他 tā he

大摇大摆 dà yáo dà bǎi swaggering

地 de -ly

离开 lí kāi to leave

了 le (completed action marker)

68

Yī gè yuè hòu, Zhāng yòu zài cài shì chǎng yù jiàn le Lín.

一个月后，张又在菜市场遇见了林。

A month later, Zhang ran into Lin at the wet market again.

Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

一个月	yīgèyuè	one month
后	hòu	later
张	Zhāng	surname Zhang
又	yòu	(once) again
在	zài	(located) at
菜市场	càishìchǎng	wet market
遇见	yùjiàn	to meet
了	le	(completed action marker)
林	Lín	surname Lin

69

Zhèng zhǔnbèi dǎzhāohu, Lín jiù cōngcōng líkāi le.

正准备打招呼，林就匆匆离开了。

Just as he was gonna say hi, Lin hastily ran off.

正	zhèng	just (right)
准备	zhǔnbèi	to be about to
打招呼	dǎzhāohu	to greet sb by word or action
林	Lín	surname Lin
就	jiù	then
匆匆	cōngcōng	hurriedly
离开	líkāi	to leave
了	le	(completed action marker)

70

Yuánlái Lín de xiǎo érzi bèi hēibāng yòuhuò qù fàndú le,

原来林的小儿子被黑帮诱惑去贩毒了，

It turned out that Lin's younger son was tempted by gangsters to sell drugs.

原来	yuánlái	as it turns out
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Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

林	Lín	surname Lin
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
小儿子	xiǎo érzi	younger son
被	bèi	by
黑帮	hēibāng	criminal gang
诱惑	yòuhuò	to induce
去	qù	to go
贩毒	fàndú	drugs trade
了	le	(completed action marker)

71

zuìhòu yě bèi zhuā jìn jiānyù,
最后也被抓进监狱,

Eventually, he was caught and put in prison

最后	zuìhòu	finally
也	yě	also
被	bèi	by
抓	zhuā	to arrest
进	jìn	(used after a verb) into
监狱	jiānyù	prison

72

bìng pàn le sānshí nián.

并判了三十年。

for 30 years.

并	bìng	and
判	pàn	to sentence
了	le	(completed action marker)

Stories In Slow Chinese - The Argument

三十	sānshí	thirty
年	nián	year