

My Life As a Factory Girl In China

Mandarin Corner
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1

Dàjiā hǎo! Huānyíng láidào Mandarin Corner! Wǒ shì Eileen.

大家好！欢迎来到 Mandarin Corner！我是 Eileen。

Hi everyone! Welcome to Mandarin Corner! I am Eileen.

大家好 dàjiā hǎo Hi, everyone!

欢迎 huānyíng to welcome

来到 láidào to come to

我 wǒ I

是 shì am

2

Zuìjìn wǒ yǒu gè xīn xiǎngfǎ.

最近我有个新想法。

Recently, I got a new idea.

最近 zuìjìn recently

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我有	wǒ yǒu	I have
个	gè	(classifier)
新	xīn	new
想法	xiǎngfǎ	idea

3

Nà jiùshì xiě yīxiē guānyú wǒ gèrén jīnglì de xiǎo gùshi,
那就是写一些关于我个人经历的小故事，

That is, to write short stories regarding my personal experiences

那就是	nà jiùshì	that is
写	xiě	to write
一些	yīxiē	some
关于	guānyú	about
我	wǒ	my
个人	gèrén	personal
经历	jīnglì	experience
的	de	(used after an attribute)
小故事	xiǎo gùshi	little story

4

ránhòu zhìzuò chéng shìpín bāngzhù nǐmen
然后制作成视频帮助你们
and make them into videos to help you guys

然后	ránhòu	then (afterwards)
制作成	zhìzuò chéng	to make into
视频	shìpín	video
帮助	bāngzhù	to help
你们	nǐmen	you (plural)

5

xuéxí gèngjiā chángyòng de Hànyǔ biǎodá fāngshì.
学习更加常用的汉语表达方式。

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learn more commonly used Chinese expressions.

学习	xuéxí	to learn
更加	gèngjiā	even more
常用	chángyòng	commonly used
的	de	(used after an attribute)
汉语	Hànyǔ	Chinese language
表达方式	biǎodá fāngshì	ways of expressions

6

Wǒ yào jiǎng de dìyī gè gùshi

我要讲的第一个故事

The first story I will tell you

我	wǒ	I
要	yào	going to
讲	jiǎng	to tell
的	de	(used after an attribute)
第一	dìyī	first
个	gè	(classifier)
故事	gùshi	story

7

shì guānyú wǒ zài gōngchǎng gōngzuò de jīnglì.

是关于我在工厂工作的经历。

is about my experience working in a factory.

是	shì	is
关于	guānyú	about
我	wǒ	I
在工厂	zài gōngchǎng	in factory
工作	gōngzuò	to work
的	de	(used after an attribute)

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经历 jīnglì experience

8

Wǒ zài xiǎoxué de shíhou chéngjì hái bùcuò,
我在小学的时候成绩还不错，

When I was in elementary school, my grades were pretty good.

我	wǒ	I
在	zài	in
小学	xiǎoxué	primary school
的	de	(used after an attribute)
时候	shíhou	time (when)
成绩	chéngjì	grades
还不错	hái bùcuò	fairly good

9

suànshì gè hǎo xuésheng, lǎoshī yě hěn xǐhuan wǒ.
算是个好学生，老师也很喜欢我。

I was considered a good student and the teachers liked me.

算是	suànshì	considered to be
个	gè	(classifier for people)
好学生	hǎo xuésheng	good student
老师	lǎoshī	teacher
也	yě	also
很喜欢	hěn xǐhuan	to like a lot
我	wǒ	me

10

Dàn dào le chūzhōng,
但到了初中，

But when I got to middle school

但	dàn	but
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到	dào	until (a time)
了	le	(completed action marker)
初中	chūzhōng	middle school

11

xīnzēng de jǐ mén kēmù wǒ de chéngjì hěn chà,
新增的几门科目我的成绩很差,
I got poor grades in the new subjects I had to take,

新增	xīnzēng	newly added
的	de	(used after an attribute)
几	jǐ	several
门	mén	(classifier for subjects)
科目	kēmù	subject
我的	wǒ de	my
成绩	chéngjì	grades
很差	hěn chà	very bad

12

yóuqíshì yīngyǔ hé wùlǐ.
尤其是英语和物理。
especially English and Physics.

尤其是	yóuqíshì	especially
英语	Yīngyǔ	English (language)
和	hé	and
物理	wùlǐ	physics

13

Suǒyǐ wǒ méiyǒu kǎoshàng gāozhōng,
所以我没有考上高中,
So I did not get into high school,

所以	suǒyǐ	so
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我没有	wǒ méiyǒu	I didn't
考上	kǎoshàng	to pass (an entrance exam)
高中	gāozhōng	senior high school

14

yě jiù méiyǒu jīhuì qù shàng dàxué le.

也就没有机会去上大学了。

thus had no chance of getting into a university.

也	yě	also
就	jiù	then
没有	méiyǒu	not have
机会	jīhuì	chance
去	qù	to go
上大学	shàng dàxué	to attend university
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

15

Chūzhōng bìyè hòu wǒ qù le yī jiā jìshù xuéxiào shàngxué,

初中毕业后我去了一家技术学校上学，

After graduating from middle school, I went to a technical school

初中	chūzhōng	middle school
毕业后	bìyè hòu	after graduation
我	wǒ	I
去了	qù le	went
一	yī	one
家	jiā	(classifier for businesses)
技术学校	jìshù xuéxiào	technical school
上学	shàngxué	to attend school

16

xuǎn de zhuānyè shì shùkòng.

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选的专业是数控。

and the major I chose was CNC machinist.

选	xuǎn	to choose
的	de	(used after an attribute)
专业	zhuānyè	major
是	shì	is
数控	shùkòng	CNC machinist

17

Qíshí wǒ yě bù zhīdào shénme shì shùkòng.

其实我也不知道什么是数控。

Actually, I didn't know what CNC meant.

其实	qíshí	in fact
我	wǒ	I
也	yě	also
不知道	bù zhīdào	not know
什么	shénme	what
是	shì	is
数控	shùkòng	CNC machinist

18

Wǒ shì suíbiàn xuǎn de.

我是随便选的。

I chose it arbitrarily.

我	wǒ	I
是	shì	is
随便	suíbiàn	at random / casually
选	xuǎn	to choose
的	de	(used for emphasis)

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19

Jīběnshàng wǒ shì làngfèi le liǎng nián de shíjiān,
基本上我是浪费了两年时间，
Basically, I wasted two years

基本上	jīběnshàng	basically
我	wǒ	I
是	shì	is
浪费	làngfèi	to waste
了	le	(completed action marker)
两年	liǎng nián	two year
的	de	(used after an attribute)
时间	shíjiān	time

20

shénme yě méi xué dào.
什么也没学到。
and didn't learn anything.

什么	shénme	anything
也	yě	(for emphasis, before a negative expression)
没	méi	not
学	xué	to learn
到	dào	(indicating result of an action)

21

Jìshù xuéxiào de bìyèshēng yībān dōu huì bèi sòngqù gōngchǎng gōngzuò.
技术学校的毕业生一般都会被送去工厂工作。
Graduates of technical schools were usually sent to work in factories.

技术学校	jìshù xuéxiào	technical school
的	de	(used after an attribute)
毕业生	bìyèshēng	graduate
一般	yībān	in general

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都	dōu	all
会	huì	will
被	bèi	(indicates passive-voice clauses)
送去	sòngqù	to send to
工厂	gōngchǎng	factory
工作	gōngzuò	to work

22

Èr líng líng bā nián bìyè hòu

2008 年毕业后

After graduating in 2008,

2008	èr líng líng bā	2008
年	nián	year
毕业后	bìyè hòu	after graduation

23

wǒ jiù qù le Jiāngsū shěng de yī jiā gōngchǎng dāng pǔgōng.

我就去了江苏省的一家工厂当普工。

I went to a factory in Jiangsu Province as a general worker.

我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	then
去了	qù le	went to
江苏省	Jiāngsū Shěng	Jiangsu Province
的	de	(used after an attribute)
一	yī	one
家	jiā	(classifier for businesses)
工厂	gōngchǎng	factory
当	dāng	to be
普工	pǔ gōng	general worker

24

Tāmen shì shēngchǎn diànnǎo diànlù bǎn de.

他们是生产电脑电路板的。

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They produced computer circuit boards.

他们	tāmen	they
是	shì	are
生产	shēngchǎn	to produce
电脑	diànnǎo	computer
电路板	diànlù bǎn	electric circuit board
的	de	(used for emphasis)

25

Nà shì jiā guīmó hěn dà de gōngchǎng,
那是家规模很大的工厂，
It was a very large factory

那是	nà shì	that is
家	jiā	(classifier for businesses)
规模	guīmó	scale
很大	hěn dà	very big
的	de	(used after an attribute)
工厂	gōngchǎng	factory

26

tāmen dāngshí yǒu bā qiān duō gè yuángōng.
他们当时有八千多个员工。
and at that time they had more than 8,000 employees.

他们	tāmen	they
当时	dāngshí	at that time
有	yǒu	to have
八千多	bā qiān duō	over 8,000
个	gè	(classifier for people)
员工	yuángōng	employee

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27

Gōngchǎng suǒzài de xiǎo zhèn

工厂所在的小镇

The small town where the factory was located

工厂	gōngchǎng	factory
所在	suǒzài	to be located
的	de	(used after an attribute)
小镇	xiǎozhèn	small town

28

yě yīnwèi zhè jiā pángdà de gōngchǎng fùyù qilai.

也因为这家庞大的工厂富裕起来。

got rich because of this huge factory.

也因为	yě yīnwèi	also because
这	zhè	this
家	jiā	(classifier for businesses)
庞大	pángdà	huge
的	de	(used after an attribute)
工厂	gōngchǎng	factory
富裕	fùyù	rich
起来	qilai	(indicating beginning and continuation of a state)

29

Wǒ de gōngzuò shì cèshì chǎnpǐn shìfǒu hégé.

我的工作 是 测试 产品 是否 合格。

My job was to test whether or not the products met our standards.

我的	wǒ de	my
工作	gōngzuò	job
是	shì	is
测试	cèshì	to test
产品	chǎnpǐn	product

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是否	shìfǒu	whether (or not)
合格	hégé	to meet the required standard

30

Wǒmen měitiān xūyào gōngzuò shí'èr gè xiǎoshí,
我们每天需要工作十二个小时，
We needed to work 12 hours a day.

我们	wǒmen	we
每天	měitiān	every day
需要	xūyào	to need
工作	gōngzuò	to work
十二	shí'èr	twelve
个	gè	(classifier)
小时	xiǎoshí	hour

31

měi gè yuè huì dǎo yī cì bān.
每个月会倒一次班。
Every month we would rotate the work shift.

每个月	měi gè yuè	each month
会	huì	will
倒	dǎo	to change (work shifts)
一次	yīcì	once
班	bān	work shift

32

Yějiùshìshuō zhègè yuè wǒ shàng bái bān,
也就是说这个月我上白班，
In other words, if I worked day shift this month,

也就是说	yějiùshìshuō	in other words
这个月	zhègè yuè	this month

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我 wǒ I
上白班 shàng báibān to work day shifts

33

shì zǎoshang bā diǎn dào wǎnshang bā diǎn,
是早上八点到晚上八点，
from 8am to 8pm

是 shì is
早上 zǎoshang morning
八点 bā diǎn 8 o'clock
到 dào until (a time)
晚上 wǎnshang evening
八点 bā diǎn 8 o'clock

34

nà xiàgèyuè wǒ jiù shàng yèbān,
那下个月我就上夜班，
the next month I would be on the night shift,

那 nà then (in that case)
下个月 xiàgèyuè next month
我 wǒ I
就 jiù then
上夜班 shàng yèbān to work night shifts

35

yèbān shì wǎnshang bā diǎn dào zǎoshang bā diǎn.
夜班是晚上八点到早上八点。
which was from 8pm to 8am.

夜班 yèbān night shift
是 shì is
晚上 wǎnshang evening

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八点	bā diǎn	8 o'clock
到	dào	until (a time)
早上	zǎoshang	morning
八点	bā diǎn	8 o'clock

36

Shàng yèbān hěn bù xíguàn,
上夜班很不习惯,
I was really not used to night shifts,

上夜班	shàng yèbān	work night shifts
很	hěn	very
不习惯	bù xíguàn	not used to

37

tèbié shì gāng kāishǐ de jǐtiān!
特别是刚开始的几天!
especially in the first few days!

特别	tèbié	especially
是	shì	is
刚开始	gāng kāishǐ	at the very beginning
的	de	(used after an attribute)
几天	jǐtiān	several days

38

Dào le língchén sān sì diǎn de shíhou jiù tèbié kùn,
到了凌晨三四点的时候就特别困,
By 3 or 4 in the morning I would get very sleepy.

到	dào	until (a time)
了	le	(indicating a presumed action)
凌晨	língchén	early morning
三四点	sān sì diǎn	3 to 4 o'clock

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的	de	(used after an attribute)
时候	shíhou	time (when)
就	jiù	then
特别困	tèbié kùn	especially sleepy

39

xiǎng shuǐjiào, yǎnjīng dōu zhēng bù kāi, yīzhí dǎ hāqian,
想睡觉，眼睛都睁不开，一直打哈欠，

I wanted to sleep and was unable to keep my eyes open, so I kept yawning.

想睡觉	xiǎng shuǐjiào	to want to sleep
眼睛	yǎnjīng	eye
都	dōu	(used for emphasis) even
睁不开	zhēng bù kāi	unable to open (eyes)
一直	yīzhí	continuously
打哈欠	dǎ hāqian	to yawn

40

zhàn zài nàr xiàng jiāngshī yīyàng, dàn yòu bùnéng shuì,
站在那儿像僵尸一样，但又不能睡，

Standing there, I was like a zombie but I could not go to sleep.

站在那儿	zhàn zài nàr	standing there
像	xiàng	to be like
僵尸	jiāngshī	zombie
一样	yīyàng	same
但	dàn	but
又	yòu	(used for emphasis)
不能睡	bùnéng shuì	cannot sleep

41

yúshì jiù tōutōu pǎo qù cèsuǒ shuì jǐ fēnzhōng.
于是就偷偷跑去厕所睡几分钟。

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Hence, I would secretly go to the toilet to sleep for a few minutes.

于是	yúshì	hence
就	jiù	then
偷偷	tōutōu	secretly
跑去	pǎo qù	to run to
厕所	cèsuǒ	toilet
睡	shuì	to sleep
几分钟	jǐ fēnzhōng	a few minutes

42

Xìngyùn de shì gōngchǎng lǐ de tóngshì dàbùfen dōu shì tónglíng rén,
幸运的是工厂里的同事大部分都是同龄人，
Fortunately, most of my colleagues at the factory were of the same age

幸运	xìngyùn	fortunate
的	de	(used after an attribute)
是	shì	is
工厂里	gōngchǎng lǐ	in the factory
的	de	(used after an attribute)
同事	tóngshì	co-worker
大部分	dàbùfen	the majority
都	dōu	all
是	shì	are
同龄人	tónglíng rén	person of the same age

43

suǒyǐ hěn héde lái.
所以很合得来。
so we all got along well.

所以	suǒyǐ	so
----	-------	----

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很	hěn	very
合得来	hédelái	to get along well

44

Měitiān shàngbān dōu yǒushuōyǒuxiào, hěn kāixīn!

每天上班都有说有笑，很开心!

Every day at work we talked and laughed. We were very happy!

每天	měitiān	every day
上班	shàngbān	to work
都	dōu	all
有说有笑	yǒushuōyǒuxiào	talking and laughing
很开心	hěn kāixīn	very happy

45

Wǒ shì zhàn zhe gōngzuò de, měitiān zhàn shí'èr gè xiǎoshí.

我是站着工作的，每天站十二个小时。

I worked standing up and every day, I stood for 12 hours.

我	wǒ	I
是	shì	am
站着	zhàn zhe	standing
工作	gōngzuò	to work
的	de	(used at the end for emphasis)
每天	měitiān	every day
站	zhàn	to stand
十二	shí'èr	twelve
个	gè	(classifier)
小时	xiǎoshí	hour

46

Yǒushíhou jiǎo huì qǐ shuǐpào, hěn tòng hěn tòng!

有时候脚会起水泡，很痛很痛!

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Sometimes my feet would develop blisters. It was very painful!

有时候	yǒushíhou	sometimes
脚	jiǎo	foot
会	huì	will
起水泡	qǐshuǐpào	to get blisters
很痛很痛	hěntòng hěntòng	very painful (repeat for emphasis)

47

Yǒude yuángōng shì zuò zhe shàngbān de,
有的员工是坐着上班的,
Some employees had to sit while working.

有的	yǒude	some
员工	yuángōng	employee
是	shì	are
坐着	zuò zhe	sitting
上班	shàngbān	to work
的	de	(used for emphasis)

48

kě měitiān zuò shí'èr gè xiǎoshí pìgu yòu huì tòng.
可每天坐 12 个小时屁股又会痛。
But sitting for 12 hours every day resulted in painful butts.

可	kě	but
每天	měitiān	every day
坐	zuò	to sit
十二	shí'èr	twelve
个	gè	(classifier)
小时	xiǎoshí	hour
屁股	pìgu	butt
又	yòu	(for emphasis)

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会	huì	will
痛	tòng	ache

49

Suǒyǐ bùguǎn shì zhàn zhe háishi zuò zhe shàngbān dōu bùshūfu.

所以不管是站着还是坐着上班都不舒服。

So it did not matter if your work involved standing or sitting, it was all uncomfortable.

所以	suǒyǐ	so
不管	bùguǎn	no matter
是	shì	is
站着	zhàn zhe	standing
还是	háishi	or
坐着	zuò zhe	sitting
上班	shàngbān	to work
都	dōu	all
不舒服	bùshūfu	uncomfortable

50

Wǒ zuì qīdài de shì chīfàn shíjiān,

我最期待的是吃饭时间，

What I looked forward the most was meal times

我	wǒ	I
最期待	zuì qīdài	look forward the most
的	de	(used after an attribute)
是	shì	is
吃饭时间	chīfàn shíjiān	meal time

51

yīnwèi zhōngyú kěyǐ zuò xiàlai

因为终于可以坐下来

because I could finally sit down,

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因为	yīnwèi	because
终于	zhōngyú	finally
可以	kěyǐ	can
坐下来	zuò xialai	to sit down

52

hǎohāo xiūxi wǒ kělián de jiǎo, ránhòu xiǎngshòu měishí.

好好休息我可怜脚，然后享受美食。

rest my poor feet and enjoy the food.

好好	hǎohāo	properly
休息	xiūxi	to rest
我	wǒ	my
可怜	kělián	poor
的	de	(used after an attribute)
脚	jiǎo	foot
然后	ránhòu	then
享受	xiǎngshòu	to enjoy
美食	měishí	fine food

53

Gōngchǎng lǐ yǒu shítáng, fàncài hái kěyǐ,

工厂里有食堂，饭菜还可以，

The factory had a canteen and the food was okay.

工厂里	gōngchǎng lǐ	in the factory
有	yǒu	there is
食堂	shítáng	dining hall
饭菜	fàncài	food
还可以	hái kěyǐ	fairly okay

54

dàn chī duō le jiù juéde bù hǎochī le.

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但吃多了就觉得不好吃了。

But after eating the same food for a while, it didn't taste good anymore.

但	dàn	but
吃	chī	to eat
多	duō	often
了	le	(indicating a presumed action)
就	jiù	then
觉得	juéde	to feel
不好吃	bù hǎochī	not tasty
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

55

Měi gè yuè jiāo sānshí yuán,

每个月交三十元，

The fee for the food was 30 yuan a month

每个月	měi gè yuè	each month
交	jiāo	to pay (money)
三十元	sānshí yuán	30 yuan

56

yějiùshì yī tiān yī kuài qián,

也就是一天一块钱，

which meant, for one yuan a day,

也就是	yějiùshì	that is
一	yī	one
天	tiān	day
一块钱	yīkuài qián	one yuan

57

jiù kěyǐ miǎnfèi zài shítáng chī sān dùn fàn.

就可以免费在食堂吃三顿饭。

we could eat three meals in the canteen (for free).

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就	jiù	then
可以	kěyǐ	can
免费	miǎnfèi	free (of charge)
在食堂	zài shítáng	in the canteen
吃	chī	to eat
三	sān	three
顿	dùn	(classifier for meals)
饭	fàn	meal

58

Hǎo piányi o!

好便宜哦!

It was so cheap!

好	hǎo	so
便宜	piányi	cheap
哦	o	(particle that conveys informality, warmth, etc.)

59

Dāngshí yīnwèi huánbǎo

当时因为环保

At that time, because of environmental protection policies,

当时	dāngshí	at that time
因为	yīnwèi	because
环保	huánbǎo	environmental protection

60

jìnzhǐ le shǐyòng yīcìxìng kuàizi,

禁止了使用一次性筷子,

the use of disposable chopsticks was prohibited.

禁止	jìnzhǐ	to ban
----	--------	--------

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了	le	(completed action marker)
使用	shǐyòng	to use
一次性	yīcìxìng	disposable (goods)
筷子	kuàizi	chopsticks

61

gōngchǎng gěi wǒmen měirén fā le yī tào cānjù,
工厂给我们每人发了一套餐具,
(So) the factory gave each one of us a set of cutlery,

工厂	gōngchǎng	factory
给	gěi	to
我们	wǒmen	us
每人	měirén	each person
发	fā	to give forth
了	le	(completed action marker)
一套	yītào	a set
餐具	cānjù	dinner set

62

yī shuāng kuàizi hé yī gè sháozi.
一双筷子和一个勺子。
that consisted of a pair of chopsticks and a spoon.

一双	yī shuāng	one pair
筷子	kuàizi	chopsticks
和	hé	and
一	yī	one
个	gè	(classifier)
勺子	sháozi	scoop

63

Ránhòu wǒmen měitiān qù shàngbān jiù dài zhe tāmen,

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然后我们每天去上班就带着它们，
We brought them every day to work.

然后	ránhòu	then (afterwards)
我们	wǒmen	we
每天	měitiān	every day
去	qù	to go
上班	shàngbān	to go to work
就	jiù	just (emphasis)
带	dài	to take along
着	zhe	(indicating action in progress)
它们	tāmen	they (for inanimate objects)

64

chīfàn de shíhou yòng yīxià,
吃饭的时候用一下，
We would use them when eating

吃饭	chīfàn	to have a meal
的	de	(used after an attribute)
时候	shíhou	time (when)
用	yòng	to use
一下	yīxià	to do (sth for a bit)

65

chī wán hòu xǐ gānjìng xiàcì zài yòng.
吃完后洗干净下次再用。
and afterwards, we would wash them clean so we could use them next time.

吃完后	chīwán hòu	after finishing eating
洗干净	xǐ gānjìng	to wash clean
下次	xiàcì	next time
再	zài	again

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用 yòng to use

66

Gōngchǎng huì gěi měi gè yuángōng fā yī zhāng kǎ,
工厂会给每个员工发一张卡，

The factory would issue a card to each employee.

工厂 gōngchǎng factory

会 huì will

给 gěi to

每 měi each

个 gè (classifier for people)

员工 yuángōng employee

发 fā to issue

一 yī one

张 zhāng (classifier for flat objects)

卡 kǎ card

67

zhè zhāng kǎ kě shì wànnéng de!
这张卡可是万能的！

这张卡可是万能的！

This was an all-purpose card.

这 zhè this

张 zhāng (classifier for flat objects)

卡 kǎ card

可是 kěshì (used for emphasis) indeed

万能 wànnéng all-purpose / universal

的 de (used for emphasis)

68

Shàngbān xiàbān dōu yào dǎkǎ,
上班下班都要打卡，

上班下班都要打卡，

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We used the card to clock in and clock out (every day).

上班	shàngbān	to go to work
下班	xiàbān	to get off work
都	dōu	all
要	yào	to need
打卡	dǎkǎ	to clock in or out (of a job)

69

cáiwù bù yě shì gēnjù dǎkǎ de jìlù gěi wǒmen fā gōngzī.

财务部也是根据打卡的记录给我们发工资。

The financial department would pay us based on the number of “check in” and “check out” recorded in the cards.

财务部	cáiwù bù	financial department
也是	yě shì	also is
根据	gēnjù	based on
打卡	dǎkǎ	to clock in or out (of a job)
的	de	(used after an attribute)
记录	jìlù	written record
给	gěi	to
我们	wǒmen	us
发工资	fā gōngzī	to pay wages

70

Érqiě chīfàn, jìn chǎng, hái yǒu jìn sùshè

而且吃饭、进厂、还有进宿舍

Also, eating, entering the factory and the dormitory

而且	érqiě	also
吃饭	chīfàn	to eat
进厂	jìn chǎng	to enter factory
还有	hái yǒu	also

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进宿舍 jìn sùshè to enter the dormitory

71

dōu shì yào yòng zhè zhāng kǎ de.

都是要用这张卡的。

all required using this same card.

都 dōu all

是 shì is

要 yào to need

用 yòng to use

这 zhè this

张 zhāng (classifier for flat objects)

卡 kǎ card

的 de (used for emphasis)

72

Suǒyǐ zhè zhāng kǎ shì juéduì bùnéng diū de.

所以这张卡是绝对不能丢的。

So we absolutely could not lose it.

所以 suǒyǐ so

这 zhè this

张 zhāng (classifier for flat objects)

卡 kǎ card

是 shì is

绝对 juéduì absolute

不能 bùnéng cannot

丢 diū to lose

的 de (used for emphasis)

73

Zài gōngchǎng lǐ shàngbān gēnběn bù xūyào mǎi yīfu,

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在工厂里上班根本不需要买衣服，

When working in the factory, we did not need to buy clothes at all

在工厂里	zài gōngchǎng lǐ	in the factory
上班	shàngbān	to work
根本	gēnběn	(not) at all
不需要	bù xūyào	no need
买衣服	mǎi yīfu	to buy clothes

74

yīnwèi měitiān yào chuān gōngzuòfú, shènzhì gōngzuò xié!

因为每天要穿工作服，甚至工作鞋！

because we had to wear work clothes and even work shoes every day!

因为	yīnwèi	because
每天	měitiān	every day
要	yào	to need
穿	chuān	to wear
工作服	gōngzuòfú	work clothes
甚至	shènzhì	even
工作鞋	gōngzuòxié	work shoes

75

Wǒmen yǒu yuángōng sùshè,

我们有员工宿舍，

We (also) had a dormitory for employees

我们	wǒmen	we
有	yǒu	to have
员工	yuángōng	employees
宿舍	sùshè	dormitory

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76

měi gè yuè de fèiyòng shì wǔshí yuán.

每个月的费用是五十元。

and the monthly fee was 50 yuan.

每个月	měi gè yuè	each month
的	de	(used after an attribute)
费用	fèiyòng	cost
是	shì	is
五十元	wǔshí yuán	50 yuan

77

Yī gè sùshè lǐ zhù bā gè rén.

一个宿舍里住八个人。

There were eight people in each dormitory.

一	yī	one
个	gè	(classifier)
宿舍里	sùshè lǐ	in the dormitory
住	zhù	to live
八个人	bā gè rén	eight people

78

Hěn duō rén yǐwéi zhǐyǒu nánshēng bù ài gānjìng.

很多人以为只有男生不爱干净。

Many people think that only boys are not clean.

很多人	hěn duō rén	many people
以为	yǐwéi	to think
只有	zhǐyǒu	only
男生	nánshēng	guys
不爱	bù ài	not like
干净	gānjìng	clean

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79

Qíshí bùshì de!

其实不是的!

Actually, this is not true!

其实	qíshí	in fact
不是	bùshì	is not
的	de	(used for emphasis)

80

Wǒmen sùshè lǐ de hěnduō nǚshēng yě shì tèbié de zāng,

我们宿舍里的很多女生也是特别地脏,

Many girls in our dormitory were also very dirty.

我们	wǒmen	our
宿舍	sùshè	dormitory
里	lǐ	inside
的	de	(used after an attribute)
很多	hěnduō	many
女生	nǚshēng	girls
也是	yě shì	also are
特别	tèbié	out of the ordinary
地	de	-ly
脏	zāng	dirty

81

yīguì lǐ de yīfu luànqībāzāo,

衣柜里的衣服乱七八糟,

The clothes in their closet were all very messy.

衣柜里	yīguì lǐ	in the wardrobe
的	de	(used after an attribute)
衣服	yīfu	clothes
乱七八糟	luànqībāzāo	everything in disorder

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82

yǒushíhòu yě bù xǐ yīfu, chòu sǐ le!

有时候也不洗衣服，臭死了！

Sometimes they didn't even wash their clothes and it really stunk!

有时候 yǒushíhòu sometimes

也 yě also

不 bù not

洗 xǐ to wash

衣服 yīfu clothes

臭死了 chòu sǐ le extremely smelly

83

Sùshè lǐ shì méiyǒu sīrén yùshì de,

宿舍里是没有私人浴室的，

There weren't private bathrooms in the dormitory.

宿舍里 sùshè lǐ in the dormitory

是 shì is

没有 méiyǒu to not have

私人浴室 sīrén yùshì private bathroom

的 de (used for emphasis)

84

suǒyǐ wǒmen bìxū zài gōnggòng yùshì lǐmiàn xǐzǎo.

所以我们在公共浴室里面洗澡。

So we had to take our showers in public bathrooms.

所以 suǒyǐ so

我们 wǒmen we

必须 bìxū have to

在 zài (to be) in

公共浴室 gōnggòng yùshì public bathroom

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里面	lǐmiàn	inside
洗澡	xǐzǎo	to take a shower

85

Gàosu nǐmen yī gè hěn hǎoxiào de shìqing.

告诉你们一个很好笑的事情。

Let me tell you something funny.

告诉你们	gàosu nǐmen	to tell you guys
一	yī	one
个	gè	(classifier)
很好笑	hěn hǎoxiào	very funny
的	de	(used after an attribute)
事情	shìqing	thing

86

Gōnggòng yùshì lǐ yǒu hěn duō gè xiǎo géjiān,

公共浴室里有很多个小隔间，

There were many (shower) compartments in the public bathrooms.

公共浴室	gōnggòng yùshì	public bathroom
里	lǐ	inside
有	yǒu	there are
很多	hěn duō	a lot of
个	gè	(classifier)
小隔间	xiǎogéjiān	small partitioned-off area

87

dàjiā dōu shì zài xiǎo géjiān lǐ xǐzǎo, dàn méiyǒu mén!

大家都是在小隔间里洗澡，但没有门！

Everyone took showers in these little compartments that had no doors!

大家	dàjiā	everyone
都	dōu	all

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是	shì	is
在	zài	(to be) in
小隔间	xiǎo géjiān	small partitioned-off area
里	lǐ	inside
洗澡	xǐzǎo	to take a shower
但	dàn	but
没有	méiyǒu	to not have
门	mén	door

88

Suǒyǐ hùxiāng néng kàndào duìfāng de luǒtǐ.

所以互相能看到对方的裸体。

So we could see each other naked!

所以	suǒyǐ	so
互相	hùxiāng	each other
能看到	néng kàndào	to be able to see
对方	duìfāng	other person involved
的	de	(used after an attribute)
裸体	luǒtǐ	naked body

89

Wǒ dìyīcì zǒu jìnqù xǐzǎo de shíhou

我第一次走进洗澡的时候

The first time I walked in to take a shower

我	wǒ	I
第一次	dìyīcì	first time
走进	zǒu jìnqù	to walk in
洗澡	xǐzǎo	to take a shower
的	de	(used after an attribute)
时候	shíhou	time (when)

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90

bèi xià dào pǎo huí sùshè le,

被吓到跑回宿舍了，

I was so scared that I ran back to the dormitory

被 bèi (indicating passive-voice clauses)

吓 xià to scare

到 dào (indicating a result of an action)

跑回 pǎohuí to run back

宿舍 sùshè dormitory

了 le (completed action marker)

91

yīnwèi cónglái méiyǒu kàn guo zhème duō luǒtǐ.

因为从来没有看过这么多裸体。

because I had never seen so many people naked!

因为 yīnwèi because

从来没有 cónglái méiyǒu have never

看过 kàn guo to have seen

这么多 zhème duō this many

裸体 luǒtǐ naked body

92

Wǒ jiǎnzhí bù gǎn xiāngxìn wǒ de yǎnjing!

我简直不敢相信我的眼睛！

I simply could not believe my eyes!

我 wǒ I

简直 jiǎnzhí simply

不敢 bùgǎn not dare

相信 xiāngxìn to believe

我的 wǒ de my

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眼睛 yǎnjīng eye

93

Ér wǒ nàshí cái shí bā suì, suǒyǐ hěn hàixiū.

而我那时才十八岁，所以很害羞。

Since I was only 18 years old, I was very shy.

而 ér and

我 wǒ I

那时 nàshí at that time

才 cái only

十八岁 shíbā suì 18 years old

所以 suǒyǐ so

很害羞 hěn hàixiū very shy

94

Měicì xǐzǎo dōu huì yàome hěn zǎo qù, yàome hěn wǎn qù,

每次洗澡都会要么很早去，要么很晚去，

Every time I went to shower, I would go either very early or very late

每次 měicì every time

洗澡 xǐzǎo to take a shower

都 dōu all

会 huì will

要么 yàome either one or the other

很早 hěn zǎo very early

去 qù to go

要么 yàome either one or the other

很晚 hěn wǎn very late

去 qù to go

95

yīnwèi bùhǎoyìsi zài nàme duō rén miànqián tuō yīfu.

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因为不好意思在那么多人面前脱衣服。

because I was embarrassed to undress in front of so many people.

因为	yīnwèi	because
不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	to feel embarrassed
在	zài	in (front of)
那么多	nàme duō	so many
人	rén	people
面前	miànqián	(in) front of
脱衣服	tuōyīfú	to undress

96

Yī duàn shíjiān zhīhòu wǒ jiù xíguàn le,

一段时间之后我就习惯了，

After a while, I got used to it

一段时间	yī duàn shíjiān	a period of time
之后	zhīhòu	after
我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	then
习惯	xíguàn	to be used to
了	le	(completed action marker)

97

yě bùhuì juéde bùhǎoyìsi le.

也不会觉得不好意思了。

and would not feel embarrassed.

也	yě	also
不会	bùhuì	will not
觉得	juéde	to feel
不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	embarrassed
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

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98

Nà shì wǒ rénshēng zhōng de dìyī fèn gōngzuò,
那是我人生中的第一份工作，

This was the first job I ever had in my life.

那是	nà shì	that is
我	wǒ	my
人生	rénshēng	life
中	zhōng	in
的	de	(used after an attribute)
第一	dìyī	first
份	fèn	(classifier for jobs)
工作	gōngzuò	job

99

yě shì wǒ dìyīcì kào zìjǐ de nénglì zhuànqián.

也是我第一次靠自己的能力赚钱。

It was also the first time I ever made money on my own.

也是	yě shì	also is
我	wǒ	my
第一次	dìyīcì	first time
靠	kào	to depend on
自己	zìjǐ	one's own
的	de	(used after an attribute)
能力	nénglì	ability
赚钱	zhuànqián	to earn money

100

Wǒ jìde dǐxīn shì qī bǎi wǔshí yuán, zài jiāshang jiābān fèi,

我记得底薪是七百五十元，再加上加班费，

I remember the basic salary was 750 yuan (USD 110). Along with overtime pay,

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我记得	wǒ jìde	I remember
底薪	dǐxīn	basic salary
是	shì	is
750	qībǎi wǔshí	750
元	yuán	yuan
再	zài	then (after sth)
加上	jiāshàng	plus
加班费	jiābān fèi	overtime pay

101

měi gè yuè de gōngzī shì jièyú yī qiān dào liǎng qiān kuài.

每个月的工资是介于一千到两千块。

my total monthly salary was between 1000 to 2000 yuan (USD 145-290).

每个月	měi gè yuè	each month
的	de	(used after an attribute)
工资	gōngzī	wages
是	shì	is
介于	jièyú	between
一千	yī qiān	1000 (yuan)
到	dào	up to
两千块	liǎng qiān kuài	2000 yuan

102

Suīrán gōngzī bù gāo, dànshì gòu huā.

虽然工资不高，但是够花。

Although the salary was not high, it was enough (for basic needs).

虽然	suīrán	even though
工资	gōngzī	pay
不高	bù gāo	not high
但是	dànshì	but

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够花 gòu huā enough (for basic spending)

103

Měicì fā le gōngzī,
每次发了工资，
Every time I got paid

每次 měicì every time

发 fā to pay (wages)

了 le (indicating a presumed action)

工资 gōngzī wage

104

wǒ dōu huì qù chāoshì mǎi hěn duō hěn duō de língshí chī,
我都会去超市买很多很多的零食吃，
I would always go to the supermarket to buy snacks

我 wǒ I

都 dōu all

会 huì will

去超市 qù chāoshì go to the supermarket

买 mǎi to buy

很多很多 hěnduō hěnduō a lot (repeat for emphasis)

的 de (used after an attribute)

零食 língshí snacks

吃 chī to eat

105

xiàng bǐnggān, là de shíwù,
像饼干、辣的食物，
like cookies and spicy food.

像 xiàng such as

饼干 bǐnggān cookies

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辣的食物 là de shíwù spicy food

106

dàbùfen shì bù jiànkāng de shípǐn.

大部分是不健康的食品。

It was mostly unhealthy food.

大部分 dàbùfen the majority

是 shì is

不健康 bù jiànkāng unhealthy

的 de (used after an attribute)

食品 shípǐn food

107

Yī nián zhīhòu, wǒ fāxiàn wǒ jìngrán pàng le wǔ gōngjīn,

一年之后，我发现我竟然胖了五公斤，

A year later, I discovered that I had unexpectedly gained 5 kg.

一年 yī nián one year

之后 zhīhòu later

我发现 wǒ fāxiàn I discover

我 wǒ I

竟然 jìngrán unexpectedly

胖 pàng fat

了 le (indicating a change of state)

五公斤 wǔ gōngjīn five kg

108

liǎn dōu yuán le hěn duō.

脸都圆了很多。

My face got very chubby.

脸 liǎn face

都 dōu (used for emphasis) even

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圆	yuán	round
了	le	(indicating a change of state)
很多	hěn duō	a lot

109

Wǒ juéde zài gōngchǎng gōngzuò de yī nián shíjiān
我觉得在工厂工作的一年时间
I think the one year I spent working at the factory

我觉得	wǒ juéde	I feel
在工厂	zài gōngchǎng	in the factory
工作	gōngzuò	to work
的	de	(used after an attribute)
一年	yī nián	one year
时间	shíjiān	period

110

hái mán yǒuyìsi de,
还蛮有意思的,
was quite interesting.

还	hái	(expressing realization or discovery)
蛮	mán	quite
有意思	yǒuyìsi	fun
的	de	(used for emphasis)

111

jiùshì tài lèi le, tèbié shòubùliǎo shàng yèbān.
就是太累了，特别受不了上夜班。
It was just that it was very tiring and I couldn't stand working the night shift.

就是	jiùshì	it's just
太累了	tài lèi le	too tiring
特别	tèbié	especially
受不了	shòubùliǎo	unable to endure

My Life As a Factory Girl In China

上夜班 shàng yèbān to work the night shift

112

Érqiě dānxīn jīngcháng áoyè huì yǐngxiǎng jiànkāng,
而且担心经常熬夜会影响健康，

Also, I was worried that often staying up all night, would affect my health.

而且	érqiě	also
担心	dānxīn	to worry
经常	jīngcháng	constantly
熬夜	áoyè	to stay up late or all night
会	huì	will
影响	yǐngxiǎng	to effect
健康	jiànkāng	health

113

suǒyǐ yī nián hòu wǒ jiù cízhí le.

所以一年后我就辞职了。

So I quit this job after a year.

所以	suǒyǐ	so
一年后	yī nián hòu	a year later
我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	as early as
辞职	cízhí	to resign
了	le	(completed action marker)

114

Nà cízhí hòu de gùshì wǒ xiàcì zài gēn nǐmen jiǎng.

那辞职后的故事我下次再跟你们讲。

My Life As a Factory Girl In China

Regarding the story of what happened after I quit, I will tell you next time.

那	nà	then (in that case)
辞职	cízhí	to resign
后	hòu	after
的	de	(used after an attribute)
故事	gùshi	story
我	wǒ	I
下次	xiàcì	next time
再	zài	then (after sth)
跟	gēn	with
你们	nǐmen	you (plural)
讲	jiǎng	to tell

115

Wǒmen xiàqī zàijiàn, báibái!

我们下期再见，拜拜！

See you next time, bye!

我们	wǒmen	we
下	xià	next
期	qī	classifier (for a show, means “episode”)
再见	zàijiàn	see you again later
拜拜	báibái	(loanword) bye-bye