

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。

Hello everyone! Welcome to Mandarin Corner, I'm Eileen.

大家好 dàijiā hǎo hi, everyone

欢迎 huānyíng welcome

来到 láidào to come

我 wǒ I

是 shì am

2

Shàngge shìpín wǒ jiǎng le zài Zhèjiāng gōngzuò de jīnglì.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

上个视频我讲了在浙江工作的经历。

In the previous video, I talked about my experience working in Zhejiang.

| | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------------------|
| 上个 | shàngge | previous |
| 视频 | shìpín | video |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 讲 | jiǎng | to speak |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 在浙江 | zài Zhèjiāng | in Zhejiang province |
| 工作 | gōngzuò | to work |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 经历 | jīnglì | experience |

3

Suīrán xīnsuān, què hěn kāixīn yǒu zhèyàng yī duàn jīnglì lái gēn dàjiā fēnxiǎng.

虽然辛酸，却很开心有这样一段经历来跟大家分享。

Although it was tough, I'm happy to have had that experience to share with all of you.

| | | |
|----|---------|--------------|
| 虽然 | suīrán | although |
| 辛酸 | xīnsuān | miserable |
| 却 | què | yet |
| 很 | hěn | very |
| 开心 | kāixīn | happy |
| 有 | yǒu | there is |
| 这样 | zhèyàng | this kind of |
| 一 | yī | one |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 段 | duàn | classifier for periods of time |
| 经历 | jīnglì | experience |
| 来 | lái | (before a verb, indicating an intended or suggested action) |
| 跟 | gēn | with |
| 大家 | dàjiā | everyone |
| 分享 | fēnxiǎng | to share |

4

Jīngcháng èdùzi shì yīzhǒng hěn nánshòu de gǎnjué,

经常饿肚子是一种很难受的感觉，

Starving all the time was a difficult feeling,

| | | |
|----|-----------|------------|
| 经常 | jīngcháng | frequently |
|----|-----------|------------|

| | | |
|-----|-------|-----------|
| 饿肚子 | èdùzi | to starve |
|-----|-------|-----------|

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 是 | shì | is |
|---|-----|----|

| | | |
|----|---------|-------------|
| 一种 | yīzhǒng | one kind of |
|----|---------|-------------|

| | | |
|---|-----|------|
| 很 | hěn | very |
|---|-----|------|

| | | |
|----|---------|----------------|
| 难受 | nánshòu | to feel unwell |
|----|---------|----------------|

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

| | | |
|----|--------|---------|
| 感觉 | gǎnjué | feeling |
|----|--------|---------|

5

suǒyǐ dāng wǒ bànmā tíchū ràng wǒ huílǎojiā de shíhou, wǒ xīnrán dāying le.

所以我爸妈提出让我回老家的时候，我欣然答应了。

so when my parents suggested that I go back to our hometown, I gladly agreed.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|-----|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 所以 | suǒyǐ | so |
| 当 | dāng | when |
| 我 | wǒ | my |
| 爸妈 | bà mā | dad and mom |
| 提出 | tíchū | to propose |
| 让 | ràng | to let sb do sth |
| 我 | wǒ | me |
| 回老家 | huílǎojiā | to return to one's native place |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 时候 | shíhou | time (when) |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 欣然 | xīnrán | gladly |
| 答应 | dāying | to agree |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |

6

Wǒ de bàba bù xiàng duōshù nóngcūn rén yīyàng, qù wàidì dǎgōng zhuànqián,

我的爸爸不像多数农村人一样，去外地打工赚钱，

Unlike most rural people who go to other places to work and earn money,

| | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------------|
| 我的 | wǒ de | my |
| 爸爸 | bàba | (informal) father |
| 不像 | bù xiàng | unlike |
| 多数 | duōshù | most |
| 农村人 | nóngcūn rén | village people |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 一样 | yīyàng | just like |
| 去 | qù | to go to (a place) |
| 外地 | wàidì | parts of the country other than where one is |
| 打工 | dǎgōng | to work a temporary or casual job |
| 赚钱 | zhuàndiàn | to earn money |

7

érshì zàijiā jīngyíng zhe zìjǐ de xiǎo shēngyì.

而是在家经营着自己的小生意。

my father runs his own small business at home.

| | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 而是 | érshì | rather |
| 在家 | zàijiā | to be at home |
| 经营 | jīngyíng | to engage in (business etc) |
| 着 | zhe | aspect particle indicating action in progress |
| 自己 | zìjǐ | oneself |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 小 | xiǎo | small |
| 生意 | shēngyì | business |

8

Suīrán xīnkǔ, dàn yě gòu yǎnghuò yījiārén,

虽然辛苦，但也够养活一家人，

Although it's hard work, it's enough to support our family.

| | | |
|----|--------|----------|
| 虽然 | suīrán | although |
|----|--------|----------|

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|-----|----------|------------------|
| 辛苦 | xīnkǔ | hard |
| 但 | dàn | but |
| 也 | yě | also |
| 够 | gòu | enough |
| 养活 | yǎnghuo | to provide for |
| 一家人 | yījiārén | the whole family |

9

kuàngqiě kěyǐ dāi zài zìjǐ de jiāxiāng shì yī jiàn hěn xìngfú de shìqing.

况且可以待在自己的家乡是一件很幸福的事情。

Plus, being able to stay in my hometown was something I felt fortunate about.

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------|
| 况且 | kuàngqiě | moreover |
| 可以 | kěyǐ | can |
| 待 | dāi | to stay |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 自己 | zìjǐ | one's own |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 家乡 | jiāxiāng | hometown |
| 是 | shì | is |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 件 | jiàn | classifier for events |
| 很 | hěn | very |
| 幸福 | xìngfú | happy |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

事情 shìqing thing

10

Píngshí māma xūyào gēn bàba yīqǐ qù sòng huò,

平时妈妈需要跟爸爸一起去送货，

Usually, my mom needed to go with my dad to make deliveries,

平时 píngshí in normal times

妈妈 māma mother

需要 xūyào to need

跟 gēn with

爸爸 bàba (informal) father

一起 yīqǐ together

去 qù to go

送货 sòng huò to deliver goods

11

suǒyǐ jīngcháng máng dào méi shíjiān zuòfàn.

所以经常忙到没时间做饭。

so often time, she didn't have time to cook.

所以 suǒyǐ so

经常 jīngcháng frequently

忙 máng busy

到 dào (verb complement denoting completion or result of an action)

没时间 méi shíjiān no time

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

做饭 zuòfàn to cook

12

Ér wǒ huíjiā zhènghǎo kěyǐ bāngmáng gàn jiāwù huó,

而我回家正好可以帮忙干家务活，

When I went home, I was able to help with the household chores

而 ér and so

我 wǒ I

回家 huíjiā to return home

正好 zhènghǎo just right

可以 kěyǐ can

帮忙 bāngmáng to help

干 gàn to do

家务活 jiāwù huó housework

13

ràng tāmen yī huíjiā jiù yǒu fàn chī.

让他们一回家就有饭吃。

and have meals ready for them when they came home.

让 ràng to allow

他们 tāmen them

一 yī as soon as

回家 huíjiā to return home

就 jiù as soon as

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

有 yǒu to have

饭 fàn meal

吃 chī to eat

14

Wǒmen zhù de fángzi yǒu liǎng céng, bànmā de wòshì hé kètīng,

我们住的房子有两层，爸妈的卧室和客厅，

Our house has two floors, with my parents' bedroom, the living room and

我们 wǒmen we

住 zhù to live

的 de (used after an attribute)

房子 fángzi house

有 yǒu there is

两 liǎng two

层 céng floor (of a building)

爸妈 bànmā parents

的 de (used after an attribute)

卧室 wòshì bedroom

和 hé and

客厅 kètīng living room

15

háiyǒu yī gè duīfàng zǎwù de xiǎo fángjiān zài lóuxià.

还有一个堆放杂物的小房间在楼下。

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

and a small room to store miscellaneous items downstairs.

| | | |
|----|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 还有 | háiyǒu | and |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 个 | gè | classifier for objects in general |
| 堆放 | duīfàng | to pile up |
| 杂物 | záwù | items of no value |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 小 | xiǎo | small |
| 房间 | fángjiān | room |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 楼下 | lóuxià | downstairs |

16

Wǒ de fángjiān zài lóushàng, cóng fángjiān lǐ de chuānghu xiàngwài kàn,

我的房间在楼上，从房间里的窗户向外看，

My room is upstairs, and from the window in my room,

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------|
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 房间 | fángjiān | room |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 楼上 | lóushàng | upstairs |
| 从 | cóng | from |
| 房间 | fángjiān | room |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

的 de (used after an attribute)

窗户 chuānghu window

向外 xiàngwài outward

看 kàn to look at

17

néng kàndào yuǎnchù de shān hé cūnmín de fángzi,

能看到远处的山和村民的房子，

I could see the distant mountains, the houses of the villagers,

能 néng can

看到 kàndào to see

远处 yuǎnchù distant place

的 de (used after an attribute)

山 shān mountain

和 hé and

村民 cūnmín villager

的 de (used after an attribute)

房子 fángzi house

18

yǐjí lái lái wǎng wǎng de mótuōchē.

以及来来往往的摩托车。

and the motorcycles coming and going.

以及 yǐjí as well as

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 来来往往 | láilái wǎngwǎng | come and go |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 摩托车 | mótuōchē | motorcycle |

19

Jiā ménkǒu yǒu gè dà yuànzi, bàba de xiǎo gōngchǎng jiù zài zhège yuànzi lǐ,

家门口有个大院子，爸爸的小工厂就在这个院子里，

There's a large courtyard outside the front door, where my dad's small factory is located.

| | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 家 | jiā | home |
| 门口 | ménkǒu | gate |
| 有 | yǒu | there is |
| 个 | gè | classifier for people or objects in general |
| 大 | dà | big |
| 院子 | yuànzi | yard |
| 爸爸 | bàba | (informal) father |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 小 | xiǎo | small |
| 工厂 | gōngchǎng | factory |
| 就 | jiù | exactly |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 这个 | zhège | this |
| 院子 | yuànzi | yard |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

20

duīfàng zhe gèzhǒng yòngláizhìzuò chǎnpǐn de jīqì hé yuáncáiliào,

堆放着各种用来制作产品的机器和原材料，

It's filled with various machines and raw materials used to make his products,

堆放 duīfàng to pile up

着 zhe aspect particle indicating action in progress

各种 gèzhǒng every kind of

用来 yòngláizhìzuò to be used for

制作 zhìzuò to make

产品 chǎnpǐn product

的 de (used after an attribute)

机器 jīqì machine

和 hé and

原材料 yuáncáiliào raw materials

21

háiyǒu bàba yòngláizhìzuò sòng huò de sānlúnchē.

还有爸爸用来送货的三轮车。

as well as my dad's tricycle for deliveries.

还有 háiyǒu furthermore

爸爸 bàba (informal) father

用来 yòngláizhìzuò to be used for

送货 sòng huò to deliver goods

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

的 de (used after an attribute)

三轮车 sānlúnchē tricycle

22

Jīqì yùnzuò de shíhou zàoyīn hěn dà, kōngqì zhōng de fēnchén yě hěn duō,

机器运作的时候噪音很大，空气中的粉尘也很多，

When the machine was running, there would be a lot of noise and dust in the air,

机器 jīqì machine

运作 yùnzuò to operate

的 de (used after an attribute)

时候 shíhou time

噪音 zàoyīn noise

很 hěn very

大 dà big

空气 kōngqì air

中 zhōng within

的 de (used after an attribute)

粉尘 fēnchén dust

也 yě also

很多 hěn duō a lot

23

suǒyǐ měicì bàba gōngzuò de shíhou, wǒ jiù bǎ mén hé chuānghu dōu guān qilai.

所以每次爸爸工作的时候，我就把门和窗户都关起来。

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

so I always closed the doors and windows whenever my dad started working.

| | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 所以 | suǒyǐ | so |
| 每次 | měicì | every time |
| 爸爸 | bàba | (informal) father |
| 工作 | gōngzuò | to work |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 时候 | shíhou | time |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 把 | bǎ | particle marking the following noun as a direct object |
| 门 | mén | door |
| 和 | hé | and |
| 窗户 | chuānghu | window |
| 都 | dōu | all |
| 关 | guān | to shut |
| 起来 | qilai | (indicating completeness) |

24

Yuànzǐ lǐ hái yǒu yī gè xiǎo cài yuán,

院子里还有一个小菜园，

There's also a small vegetable garden in the courtyard,

| | | |
|----|---------|--------|
| 院子 | yuànzǐ | yard |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |
| 还有 | hái yǒu | also |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 一 | yī | one |
| 个 | gè | classifier for objects in general |
| 小 | xiǎo | small |
| 菜园 | càiyuán | vegetable garden |

25

xīnqín de māma zài lǐmiàn zhòng mǎn le gèshìgèyàng de shūcài,

辛勤的妈妈在里面种满了各式各样的蔬菜，

where my hardworking mom grew all sorts of vegetables.

| | | |
|------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 辛勤 | xīnqín | hardworking |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 妈妈 | māma | mother |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 里面 | lǐmiàn | inside |
| 种 | zhòng | to plant / to grow |
| 满 | mǎn | full |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 各式各样 | gèshìgèyàng | all kinds |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 蔬菜 | shūcài | vegetables |

26

yǒu huángguā, qīngjiāo, húluóbo, qiézi, tǔdòu děngděng.

有黄瓜，青椒，胡萝卜，茄子，土豆等等。

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

We had cucumbers, green peppers, carrots, eggplants, potatoes, and more.

| | | |
|-----|----------|--------------|
| 有 | yǒu | there is |
| 黄瓜 | huángguā | cucumber |
| 青椒 | qīngjiāo | green pepper |
| 胡萝卜 | húluóbo | carrot |
| 茄子 | qiézi | eggplant |
| 土豆 | tǔdòu | potato |
| 等等 | děngděng | and so on |

27

Wǒmen hěn shǎo yòng nóngyào, suǒyǐ zhèxiē shūcài hěn ānquán.

我们很少用农药，所以这些蔬菜很安全。

We rarely used pesticides, so these vegetables were very safe.

| | | |
|----|----------|-------------|
| 我们 | wǒmen | we |
| 很少 | hěn shǎo | very rarely |
| 用 | yòng | to use |
| 农药 | nóngyào | pesticide |
| 所以 | suǒyǐ | so |
| 这些 | zhèxiē | these |
| 蔬菜 | shūcài | vegetables |
| 很 | hěn | very |
| 安全 | ānquán | safe |

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Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

Měitiān yīzǎo qǐchuáng wǒ jiù dūn zài càiyuán lǐ,

每天一早起床我就蹲在菜园里，

Every morning when I woke up, I would squat in the vegetable garden

每天 měitiān every day

一早 yīzǎo early in the morning

起床 qǐchuáng to get up

我 wǒ I

就 jiù as soon as

蹲 dūn to squat

在 zài (located) at

菜园 càiyuán vegetable garden

里 lǐ inside

29

guānchá zhèxiē shūcài shìfǒu zhǎngdà le,

观察这些蔬菜是否长大了，

and look at the vegetables to see if they had grown more.

观察 guānchá to observe

这些 zhèxiē these

蔬菜 shūcài vegetables

是否 shìfǒu whether (or not)

长大 zhǎngdà to grow up

了 le (indicating change of state)

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

30

shíbùshí de hái néng kàndào yī qún mǎyǐ zài dì lǐ pá lái pá qù.

时不时地还能看到一群蚂蚁在地里爬来爬去。

Sometimes, I could even see a group of ants crawling around in the soil.

| | | |
|------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 时不时 | shíbùshí | from time to time |
| 地 | de | -ly |
| 还 | hái | even |
| 能 | néng | can |
| 看到 | kàndào | to see |
| 一群 | yī qún | a group of |
| 蚂蚁 | mǎyǐ | ant |
| 在地里 | zài dì lǐ | in the field |
| 爬来爬去 | pá lái pá qù | to crawl back and forth |

31

Shùlín lǐ de xiǎoniǎo ǒu'ěr huì fēi lái tōuchī wǒmen jiā de cài,

树林里的小鸟偶尔会飞来偷吃我们家的菜，

Occasionally, birds from the nearby woods would fly over and try to steal our vegetables.

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------|
| 树林 | shùlín | woods |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 小鸟 | xiǎoniǎo | small bird |
| 偶尔 | ǒu'ěr | occasionally |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|--------|---------------------------|
| 会 | huì | will |
| 飞 | fēi | to fly |
| 来 | lái | to come |
| 偷吃 | tōuchī | to eat on the sly |
| 我们 | wǒmen | our |
| 家 | jiā | family |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 菜 | cài | vegetable |

32

māma yòng pò yīfu zhìzuò le yī gè jiǎrén,

妈妈用破衣服制作了一个假人，

My mom made a scarecrow out of old clothes

| | | |
|----|--------|---|
| 妈妈 | māma | mother |
| 用 | yòng | to use |
| 破 | pò | worn out |
| 衣服 | yīfu | clothes |
| 制作 | zhìzuò | to make |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 个 | gè | classifier for people or objects in general |
| 假人 | jiǎrén | dummy |

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Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

chā zài càiyuán zhōngyāng yòng lái xià zǒu xiǎoniǎo.

插在菜园中央用来吓走小鸟。

and placed it in the center of the garden to scare them away.

| | | |
|----|------------|--------------------------|
| 插 | chā | stick in |
| 在 | zài | (to be) in |
| 菜园 | cài yuán | vegetable garden |
| 中央 | zhōng yāng | middle |
| 用来 | yòng lái | to be used for |
| 吓 | xià | to scare |
| 走 | zǒu | away (in compound verbs) |
| 小鸟 | xiǎo niǎo | small bird |

34

Dàn zhèxiē niǎo r yě bù bèn, gēn běn bù xiāng xìn, zhào yàng tōu chī.

但这些鸟儿也不笨，根本不相信，照样偷吃。

However, these birds were clever and not easily fooled, so they still managed to steal our vegetables.

| | | |
|----|---------|--------------|
| 但 | dàn | but |
| 这些 | zhèxiē | these |
| 鸟儿 | niǎo r | bird |
| 也 | yě | also |
| 不 | bù | not |
| 笨 | bèn | stupid |
| 根本 | gēn běn | (not) at all |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|----------|-------------------|
| 不 | bù | not |
| 相信 | xiāngxìn | to believe |
| 照样 | zhàoyàng | (same) as usual |
| 偷吃 | tōuchī | to eat on the sly |

35

Wǒmen píngshí hěn shǎo xūyào mǎi cài,

我们平时很少需要买菜，

We rarely needed to buy vegetables

| | | |
|----|----------|-----------------|
| 我们 | wǒmen | we |
| 平时 | píngshí | in normal times |
| 很少 | hěn shǎo | very rarely |
| 需要 | xūyào | to need |
| 买 | mǎi | to buy |
| 菜 | cài | vegetable |

36

jīběnshàng dōu shì chī càiyuán lǐ xīnxiān de shūcài,

基本上都是吃菜园里新鲜的蔬菜，

as we mostly relied on the fresh ones from our garden.

基本上 jīběnshàng basically

| | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| 都 | dōu | all |
| 是 | shì | is |
| 吃 | chī | to eat |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|---------|------------------------------|
| 菜园 | càiyuán | vegetable garden |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |
| 新鲜 | xīnxiān | fresh (experience, food etc) |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 蔬菜 | shūcài | vegetables |

37

érqiě cài shì chǎng lí jiā yǒu diǎn yuǎn, bù shì hěn fāng biàn.

而且菜市场离家有点远，不是很方便。

Besides, the vegetable market was quite far from our home, so it wasn't convenient.

| | | |
|-----|--------------|----------------------------|
| 而且 | érqiě | moreover |
| 菜市场 | càishì chǎng | food market |
| 离 | lí | (in giving distances) from |
| 家 | jiā | home |
| 有点 | yǒu diǎn | a little |
| 远 | yuǎn | far |
| 不是 | bù shì | not |
| 很 | hěn | very |
| 方便 | fāng biàn | convenient |

38

Gé bì cūn yǒu mài zhū ròu de rén,

隔壁村有卖猪肉的人，

There was a person from our neighboring village who sold pork

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

隔壁 gébì neighbor

村 cūn village

有 yǒu there is

卖 mài to sell

猪肉 zhūròu pork

的 de (used after an attribute)

人 rén people

39

tā měitiān cóng shìchǎng yùn lái xīnxiān de zhū,

他每天从市场运来新鲜的猪，

and every day, he would bring live pigs from the market,

他 tā he

每天 měitiān every day

从 cóng from

市场 shìchǎng marketplace

运 yùn to transport

来 lái (indicating motion towards the speaker)

新鲜 xīnxiān fresh (experience, food etc)

的 de (used after an attribute)

猪 zhū pig

40

ránhòu yīdàzǎo shā le tā, dēng zhe gùkè shàngmén lái gòumǎi.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

然后一大早杀了它，等着顾客上门来购买。

slaughtered them early in the morning, and waited for customers to come by and purchase (the pork).

| | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| 然后 | ránhòu | after that |
| 一大早 | yīdàzǎo | first thing in the morning |
| 杀 | shā | to kill |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 它 | tā | it |
| 等 | děng | to wait for |
| 着 | zhe | aspect particle indicating action in progress |
| 顾客 | gùkè | customer |
| 上门 | shàngmén | to drop in |
| 来 | lái | to come |
| 购买 | gòumǎi | to buy |

41

Zhèlǐ de zhūròu jì gānjìng yòu jiànkāng,

这里的猪肉既干净又健康，

The pork was both clean and healthy.

| | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|
| 这里 | zhèlǐ | here |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 猪肉 | zhūròu | pork |
| 既 | jì | both... (and...) |
| 干净 | gānjìng | clean |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

又 yòu both... and...

健康 jiànkāng healthy

42

chī qilai hěn xiānměi, wén qilai yě hěn xiāng.

吃起来很鲜美，闻起来也很香。

It smelled good and tasted delicious.

吃起来 chī qilai tastes

很 hěn very

鲜美 xiānměi delicious

闻起来 wén qilai smells

也 yě also

很 hěn very

香 xiāng savory or appetizing

43

Wǒ de māma měinián dōu huì yǎng shíjǐ zhī jī,

我的妈妈每年都会养十几只鸡，

My mom raised around a dozen chickens every year.

我的 wǒ de my

妈妈 māma mother

每年 měinián every year

都 dōu all

会 huì will

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|-------|--------------------------------|
| 养 | yǎng | to raise (animals) |
| 十几 | shíjǐ | more than ten |
| 只 | zhī | classifier for certain animals |
| 鸡 | jī | chicken |

44

yībān dōu shì mǔjī.

一般都是母鸡。

usually hens.

| | | |
|----|-------|-----------|
| 一般 | yībān | generally |
| 都 | dōu | all |
| 是 | shì | is |
| 母鸡 | mǔjī | hen |

45

Děng tāmen zhǎngdà le zhīhòu, jiù huì xiàdàn gěi wǒmen chī.

等它们长大了之后，就会下蛋给我们吃。

Once they grew up, they laid eggs for us.

| | | |
|----|---------|------------------------------|
| 等 | děng | when |
| 它们 | tāmen | they |
| 长大 | zhǎngdà | to grow up |
| 了 | le | (indicating change of state) |
| 之后 | zhīhòu | after |
| 就 | jiù | as soon as |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|--------|-------------|
| 会 | huì | will |
| 下蛋 | xiàdàn | to lay eggs |
| 给 | gěi | for |
| 我们 | wǒmen | us |
| 吃 | chī | to eat |

46

Wǒ zuì xǐhuan bàngwǎn de shíhou qù jī juàn lǐ jiǎn jīdàn le,

我最喜欢傍晚的时候去鸡圈里捡鸡蛋了，

What I liked the most was going to the chicken coop in the evening to collect the eggs.

| | | |
|----|---------|--|
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 最 | zuì | the most |
| 喜欢 | xǐhuan | to like |
| 傍晚 | bàngwǎn | in the evening |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 时候 | shíhou | time |
| 去 | qù | to go to (a place) |
| 鸡 | jī | chicken |
| 圈 | juàn | livestock enclosure |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |
| 捡 | jiǎn | to collect |
| 鸡蛋 | jīdàn | (chicken) egg |
| 了 | le | (modal particle intensifying preceding clause) |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

47

wò zài shǒulǐ nuǎnuǎn de,

握在手里暖暖的，

They felt warm in my hands,

握 wò to hold

在 zài (located) at

手里 shǒulǐ in hand

暖暖 nuǎnuǎn warm

的 de (used after an attribute)

48

ránhòu xiǎoxīnyìyì de bǎ zhèxiē jīdàn fàng zài yī gè xié hé lǐ.

然后小心翼翼地把这些鸡蛋放在一个鞋盒里。

and I would carefully place them in a shoebox.

然后 ránhòu then (afterwards)

小心翼翼 xiǎoxīnyìyì cautious and solemn (idiom)

地 de -ly

把 bǎ marking the following noun as a direct object

这些 zhèxiē these

鸡蛋 jīdàn (chicken) egg

放 fàng to put

在 zài (located) at

一 yī one

个 gè classifier for objects in general

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

鞋盒 xié hé shoe box

里 lǐ inside

49

Zǎoshang wǒmen de zǎocān shì yòng mǐ zhǔ chéng de zhōu.

早上我们的早餐是用米煮成的粥。

For breakfast, we cooked rice porridge.

早上 zǎoshang early morning

我们 wǒmen we

的 de ~'s (possessive particle)

早餐 zǎocān breakfast

是 shì is

用 yòng to use

米 mǐ rice

煮 zhǔ to cook

成 chéng to turn into

的 de (used after an attribute)

粥 zhōu porridge

50

Māma huì zhǔ hěn duō, ránhòu jiāng shèngxià de zhōu hé mǐkāng jiǎobàn zài yīqǐ wèi jī chī.

妈妈会煮很多，然后将剩下的粥和米糠搅拌在一起喂鸡吃。

My mom would cook a lot of it and mixed the leftovers with rice bran to feed the chickens.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| 妈妈 | māma | mother |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 煮 | zhǔ | to cook |
| 很多 | hěnduō | a lot of |
| 然后 | ránhòu | then (afterwards) |
| 将 | jiāng | (introduces object of main verb, same as 把[bǎ]) |
| 剩下 | shèngxià | left over |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 粥 | zhōu | porridge |
| 和 | hé | and |
| 米糠 | mǐkāng | bran |
| 搅拌 | jiǎobàn | to stir |
| 在一起 | zàiyìqǐ | together |
| 喂 | wèi | to feed |
| 鸡 | jī | chicken |
| 吃 | chī | to eat |

51

Huíjiā hòu zhàogu jī de gōngzuò jiù chéng le wǒ de le.

回家后照顾鸡的工作就成了我的了。

Taking care of the chickens became my responsibility after I returned home.

| | | |
|----|--------|----------------|
| 回家 | huíjiā | to return home |
| 后 | hòu | after |
| 照顾 | zhàogu | to look after |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|---------|------------------------------|
| 鸡 | jī | chicken |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 工作 | gōngzuò | job |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 成 | chéng | to become |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 我的 | wǒ de | my |
| 了 | le | (indicating change of state) |

52

Měicì wǒ duān zhe yī pén jī shí zǒujìn jī juàn,

每次我端着一盆鸡食走进鸡圈，

Every time I entered the chicken coop with a bucket of chicken feed,

| | | |
|----|---------|---|
| 每次 | měicì | every time |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 端 | duān | to hold sth level with both hands |
| 着 | zhe | aspect particle indicating action in progress |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 盆 | pén | basin |
| 鸡 | jī | chicken |
| 食 | shí | food |
| 走进 | zǒujìn | to enter |
| 鸡圈 | jī juàn | chicken coop |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

53

zhèxiē jī dōu dīng zhe wǒ shǒu shàng de shíwù,

这些鸡都盯着我手上的食物，

the chickens stared at the food in my hands,

这些 zhèxiē these

鸡 jī chicken

都 dōu all

盯 dīng to stare at

着 zhe aspect particle indicating action in progress

我 wǒ my

手 shǒu hand

上 shàng on

的 de (used after an attribute)

食物 shíwù food

54

hǎoxiàng zài shuō: "Wǒ èsǐ le!"

好像在说：“我饿死了！”

as if they were saying, "I'm starving!"

好像 hǎoxiàng as if

在 zài (indicating an action in progress)

说 shuō to say

我 wǒ I

饿死 èsǐ to starve to death

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

了 le (indicating change of state)

55

Děng wǒ bǎ pénzi fàng zài dìshang, tāmen biàn kāishǐ zhēngxiānkǒnghòu de qiǎng s hǐwù.

等我把盆子放在地上，它们便开始争先恐后地抢食物。

As soon as I put the bucket down on the ground, they started eagerly fighting for the food.

| | | |
|------|------------------|--|
| 等 | děng | when |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 把 | bǎ | particle marking the following noun as a direct object |
| 盆子 | pénzi | basin |
| 放 | fàng | to put |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 地上 | dìshang | on the ground |
| 它们 | tāmen | they |
| 便 | biàn | then |
| 开始 | kāishǐ | to begin |
| 争先恐后 | zhēngxiānkǒnghòu | striving to be first and fearing to be last (idiom) |
| 地 | de | -ly |
| 抢 | qiǎng | to fight over |
| 食物 | shíwù | food |

56

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

Yǒushíhòu wǒ yě huì jiāng cóng càiyuán lǐ zhāi huilai de shūcài fēn yīxiē gěi jī chī.

有时候我也会将从菜园里摘回来的蔬菜分一些给鸡吃。

Sometimes, I also fed them with vegetables I got from the garden.

有时候 yǒushíhòu sometimes

我 wǒ I

也 yě also

会 huì will

将 jiāng (introduces object of main verb, same as 把[bǎ])

从 cóng from

菜园 càiyuán vegetable garden

里 lǐ inside

摘 zhāi to pick (flowers, fruit etc)

回来 huilai (after a verb) back

的 de (used after an attribute)

蔬菜 shūcài vegetables

分 fēn to allocate

一些 yīxiē some

给 gěi to

鸡 jī chicken

吃 chī to eat

57

Rēng jìnqu de nà yīshùnjiān, tāmen huì lìjí pū shànglai qiǎng.

扔进去的那一瞬间，它们会立即扑上来抢。

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

The moment I threw them in, the chickens immediately pounced on them.

| | | |
|-----|------------|---------------------------|
| 扔 | rēng | to throw |
| 进去 | jìnqu | (after a verb) in |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 那 | nà | that |
| 一瞬间 | yīshùnjiān | split second |
| 它们 | tāmen | they |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 立即 | lìjǐ | immediately |
| 扑 | pū | to throw oneself at |
| 上来 | shànglai | (after a verb) up |
| 抢 | qiǎng | to fight over |

58

Fēicháng hǎowán!

非常好玩!

It was so amusing!

| | | |
|----|----------|-------------|
| 非常 | fēicháng | very |
| 好玩 | hǎowán | interesting |

59

Yībān zhǐyǒu guònián de shíhou, wǒmen cái huì shā yī liǎng zhī jī chī,

一般只有过年的时候，我们才会杀一两只鸡吃，

Usually, only during the Chinese New Year, we would kill one or two chickens to eat.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 一般 | yībān | generally |
| 只有 | zhǐyǒu | only |
| 过年 | guònián | to celebrate the Chinese New Year |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 时候 | shíhou | time |
| 我们 | wǒmen | we |
| 才 | cái | then and only then |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 杀 | shā | to kill |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 两 | liǎng | two |
| 只 | zhī | classifier for certain animals |
| 鸡 | jī | chicken |
| 吃 | chī | to eat |

60

píngshí jiù liú zhe tāmen xià jīdàn.

平时就留着它们下鸡蛋。

and we kept the rest of them to lay eggs.

| | | |
|----|---------|---|
| 平时 | píngshí | in normal times |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 留 | liú | to preserve |
| 着 | zhe | aspect particle indicating action in progress |
| 它们 | tāmen | they |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

下鸡蛋 xià jīdàn to lay eggs

61

Guò chūnjié nàtiān, wǒ de māma zǒng yāoqiú wǒ bāng tā yīqǐ shā,

过春节那天，我的妈妈总要求我帮她一起杀，

During Chinese New Year, my mom would always ask me to help her with the slaughtering (of the chicken),

过 guò to celebrate (a holiday)

春节 Chūnjié Spring Festival

那天 nàtiān that day

我的 wǒ de my

妈妈 māma mother

总 zǒng always

要求 yāoqiú to request

我 wǒ me

帮 bāng to help

她 tā she

一起 yīqǐ together

杀 shā to kill

62

zhè shì wǒ zuì tǎoyàn de shìqing!

这是我最讨厌的事情！

which was something I hated to do!

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|
| 这 | zhè | this |
| 是 | shì | is |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 最 | zuì | the most |
| 讨厌 | tǎoyàn | to dislike |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 事情 | shìqing | thing |

63

Māma ná dāo shā jī de shíhou, jī huì zhēngzhá,

妈妈拿刀杀鸡的时候，鸡会挣扎，

When my mom tried to slaughter a chicken with a knife, it would struggle.

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------|
| 妈妈 | māma | mother |
| 拿 | ná | to hold |
| 刀 | dāo | knife |
| 杀 | shā | to kill |
| 鸡 | jī | chicken |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 时候 | shíhou | time |
| 鸡 | jī | chicken |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 挣扎 | zhēngzhá | to struggle |

64

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

suǒyǐ xūyào wǒ zhuāzhù jī de jiǎo, fángzhǐ tā luàndòng.

所以需要我抓住鸡的脚，防止它乱动。

So I had to hold its feet to prevent it from moving too much.

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------------|
| 所以 | suǒyǐ | so |
| 需要 | xūyào | to need |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 抓住 | zhuāzhù | to grab hold of |
| 鸡 | jī | chicken |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 脚 | jiǎo | leg (of an animal or an object) |
| 防止 | fángzhǐ | to prevent |
| 它 | tā | it |
| 乱动 | luàndòng | to move randomly |

65

Kěshì wǒ hěn hàipà, bù gǎn kàn.

可是我很害怕，不敢看。

But I was too scared to look.

| | | |
|----|-------|--------------|
| 可是 | kěshì | but |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 很 | hěn | very |
| 害怕 | hàipà | to be scared |
| 不 | bù | not |
| 敢 | gǎn | to dare |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

看 kàn to watch

66

Shǒulǐ zhuāzhù jījiǎo, yǎnjīng bì de jǐnjǐn de,

手里抓住鸡脚，眼睛闭得紧紧的，

I tightly gripped the chicken's feet with my eyes closed

手里 shǒulǐ in hand

抓住 zhuāzhù to grab hold of

鸡脚 jījiǎo chicken feet

眼睛 yǎnjīng eye

闭 bì to close

得 de structural particle: used after a verb

紧紧 jǐnjǐn tightly

的 de (used at the end for emphasis)

67

zuǐlǐ hái bùshí wèn wǒ mā: "Hǎole méi?"

嘴里还不时问我妈：“好了没？”

and kept asking my mom: "Is it done yet?"

嘴里 zuǐlǐ mouth / speech

还 hái even

不时 bùshí frequently

问 wèn to ask

我 wǒ my

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|---|-----|------------------------------|
| 妈 | mā | mother |
| 好 | hǎo | to be ready |
| 了 | le | (indicating change of state) |
| 没 | méi | not |

68

Wǒ mā zǒngshì bùnàifán de huí wǒ yījù,

我妈总是不耐烦地回我一句，

My mom would always impatiently reply:

| | | |
|-----|----------|------------|
| 我 | wǒ | my |
| 妈 | mā | mother |
| 总是 | zǒngshì | always |
| 不耐烦 | bùnàifán | impatient |
| 地 | de | -ly |
| 回 | huí | to answer |
| 我 | wǒ | me |
| 一句 | yījù | a sentence |

69

"Nǐ zhuājǐn yīdiǎn, bié ràng tā dòng!"

“你抓紧一点，别让它动！”

"Hold it tighter, don't let it move!"

| | | |
|----|---------|-----------------|
| 你 | nǐ | you |
| 抓紧 | zhuājǐn | to grasp firmly |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|--------|------------------|
| 一点 | yīdiǎn | a bit |
| 别 | bié | don't ...! |
| 让 | ràng | to let sb do sth |
| 它 | tā | it |
| 动 | dòng | to move |

70

Wǒ bàba gēn wǒ yīyàng fēicháng dǎnxiǎo, bù gǎn shāshēng.

我爸爸跟我一样非常胆小，不敢杀生。

My dad is just as timid as me and is afraid to kill animals.

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 我 | wǒ | my |
| 爸爸 | bàba | father |
| 跟 | gēn | with |
| 我 | wǒ | me |
| 一样 | yīyàng | same |
| 非常 | fēicháng | very much |
| 胆小 | dǎnxiǎo | timid |
| 不 | bù | not |
| 敢 | gǎn | to dare |
| 杀生 | shāshēng | to take the life of a living creature |

71

Yǒuyīcì, bàba zài jiā lǐ fāxiàn le yī zhī sǐ lǎoshǔ,

有一次，爸爸在家里发现了一只死老鼠，

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

Once, my dad found a dead rat in the house and he was startled.

| | | |
|-----|---------|--|
| 有一次 | yǒuyīcì | once |
| 爸爸 | bàba | (informal) father |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 家里 | jiālǐ | home |
| 发现 | fāxiàn | to find |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 只 | zhī | classifier for birds and certain animals |
| 死 | sǐ | to die |
| 老鼠 | lǎoshǔ | rat |

72

tā bèi xià le yī tiào, dàhǎndàjiào jiào wǒ mā guòlái diūdiào sǐ lǎoshǔ.

他被吓了一跳，大喊大叫让我妈过来丢掉死老鼠。

He shouted for my mom to come and throw away the dead rat.

| | | |
|------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 他 | tā | he |
| 被 | bèi | (indicates passive-voice clauses) |
| 吓了一跳 | xià le yī tiào | got a shock |
| 大喊大叫 | dàhǎndàjiào | shouting and screaming (idiom) |
| 叫 | jiào | to ask |
| 我 | wǒ | my |
| 妈 | mā | mother |
| 过来 | guòlái | to come over |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

丢掉 diūdiào to throw away

死 sǐ dead

老鼠 lǎoshǔ rat

73

Nóngcūn rén yībān jiālǐ dōu yǒu kǒu shuǐjǐng. Wǒmen dōu shì hē jǐng lǐ de shuǐ,

农村人一般家里都有口水井。我们都是喝井里的水，

In rural areas, most families had a well for drinking. We drank water from the well

农村人 nóngcūn rén village people

一般 yībān generally

家里 jiālǐ home

都 dōu all

有 yǒu to have

口 kǒu classifier for a well

水井 shuǐ jǐng a water well

我们 wǒmen we

都 dōu all

是 shì is

喝 hē to drink

井 jǐng a well

里 lǐ inside

的 de (used after an attribute)

水 shuǐ water

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

74

dàn bù yòng tā xǐ yīfu.

但不用它洗衣服。

but didn't use it for washing clothes.

| | | |
|----|--------|----------|
| 但 | dàn | but |
| 不用 | bùyòng | need not |
| 它 | tā | it |
| 洗 | xǐ | to wash |
| 衣服 | yīfu | clothes |

75

Měitiān zǎoshang wǒ huì shōují zāng de yīfu,
ránhòu yòng lánzi līn qù chítáng biān xǐ.

每天早上我会收集脏的衣服，然后用篮子拎去池塘边洗。

Every morning, I collected dirty clothes, put them in a basket, and took them to the pond to wash.

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------|
| 每天 | měitiān | every day |
| 早上 | zǎoshang | early morning |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 收集 | shōují | to gather |
| 脏 | zāng | dirty |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 衣服 | yīfu | clothes |
| 然后 | ránhòu | then (afterwards) |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|---------|--|
| 用 | yòng | to use |
| 篮子 | lánzi | basket |
| 拎 | līn | to carry in one's hand |
| 去 | qù | (indicates movement away from the speaker) |
| 池塘 | chítáng | pond |
| 边 | biān | side |
| 洗 | xǐ | to wash |

76

Xǐ yīfu de shíhou fēicháng rènao.

洗衣服的时候非常热闹。

It was very lively (around the pond) when washing clothes.

| | | |
|----|----------|------------------------------------|
| 洗 | xǐ | to wash |
| 衣服 | yīfu | clothes |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 时候 | shíhou | time |
| 非常 | fēicháng | very |
| 热闹 | rènao | bustling with noise and excitement |

77

Měitiān yī qún fùnǚ wéi zhe gānjìng de chítáng xǐ yījiārén de yīfu,

每天一群妇女围着干净的池塘洗一家人的衣服，

Every day, a group of women gathered around the clear pond to wash their family's clothes.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| 每天 | měitiān | every day |
| 一群 | yī qún | a group of |
| 妇女 | fùnǚ | woman |
| 围 | wéi | to surround |
| 着 | zhe | aspect particle indicating action in progress |
| 干净 | gānjìng | clean |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 池塘 | chítáng | pond |
| 洗 | xǐ | to wash |
| 一家人 | yījiārén | the whole family |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 衣服 | yīfu | clothes |

78

bù yīhuìr chítáng lǐ de shuǐ jiù biànde wūzhuó bùkān.

不一会儿池塘里的水就变得污浊不堪。

Before long, the water in the pond would become dirty.

| | | |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 不一会儿 | bù yīhuìr | not long |
| 池塘 | chítáng | pond |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 水 | shuǐ | water |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 变得 | biànde | to become |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

污浊 wūzhuó muddy

不堪 bùkān extremely

79

Suízhe shuǐ de liúdòng, chítáng lǐ de shuǐ yòu biànde qīngchèjiàndǐ le.

随着水的流动，池塘里的水又变得清澈见底了。

But as (new) water flew (into the pond), it became clear again.

随着 suízhe along with

水 shuǐ water

的 de (used after an attribute)

流动 liúdòng to flow

池塘 chítáng pond

里 lǐ inside

的 de (used after an attribute)

水 shuǐ water

又 yòu (once) again

变得 biànde to become

清澈见底 qīngchèjiàndǐ water so clear you can see the bottom

了 le (indicating change of state)

80

Zhèxiē fùnǚ xǐhuan wéi zàiyīqǐ dàshēng liáotiān, liáo gèzhǒng yǒuqù de bāguà.

这些妇女喜欢围在一起大声聊天，聊各种有趣的八卦。

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

These women loved gathering together, chatting loudly and discussing various interesting gossips.

| | | |
|-----|----------|---------------------------|
| 这些 | zhèxiē | these |
| 妇女 | fùnǚ | woman |
| 喜欢 | xǐhuan | to like |
| 围 | wéi | to encircle |
| 在一起 | zàiyìqǐ | together |
| 大声 | dàshēng | loudly |
| 聊天 | liáotiān | to chat |
| 聊 | liáo | to chat |
| 各种 | gèzhǒng | all kinds of |
| 有趣 | yǒuqù | interesting |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 八卦 | bāguà | gossipy |

81

Wǒ jiù ānjìng de dūn zài yībiān, biān xǐ yīfu biān tīng tāmen liáotiān.

我就安静地蹲在一边，边洗衣服边听她们聊天。

I would quietly squat on the side, washing clothes while listening to their conversations.

| | | |
|----|--------|----------|
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 安静 | ānjìng | quiet |
| 地 | de | -ly |
| 蹲 | dūn | to squat |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|----------|--------------------|
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 一边 | yībiān | one side |
| 边 | biān | simultaneously |
| 洗 | xǐ | to wash |
| 衣服 | yīfu | clothes |
| 边 | biān | simultaneously |
| 听 | tīng | to listen |
| 她们 | tāmen | them (for females) |
| 聊天 | liáotiān | to chat |

82

Xiàtiān de shíhou yīfu dānbó, hěn kuài jiù néng xǐ wán.

夏天的时候衣服单薄，很快就能洗完。

During the summer, the clothes' (fabric) was thin and I could finish washing them quickly.

| | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|
| 夏天 | xiàtiān | summer |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 时候 | shíhou | time |
| 衣服 | yīfu | clothes |
| 单薄 | dānbó | thin |
| 很 | hěn | very |
| 快 | kuài | quick |
| 就 | jiù | as early as |
| 能 | néng | can |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

洗 xǐ to wash

完 wán to finish

83

Dàn dōngtiān de yīfu hòuzhòng, měicì līn zhe yī lánzi yīfu qù chítáng,

但冬天的衣服厚重，每次拎着一篮子衣服去池塘，

But in the winter, the clothes' (fabric) was thick and heavy. Every time I carried a basket of clothes to the pond,

但 dàn but

冬天 dōngtiān winter

的 de (used after an attribute)

衣服 yīfu clothes

厚重 hòuzhòng thick and heavy

每次 měicì every time

拎 līn to carry in one's hand

着 zhe aspect particle indicating action in progress

一 yī one

篮子 lánzi basket

衣服 yīfu clothes

去 qù to go to (a place)

池塘 chítáng pond

84

dōu yào zài lùshang xiūxi hǎojǐ cì.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

都要在路上休息好几次。

I had to take several breaks along the way.

都 dōu all

要 yào must

在路上 zài lùshang along the way

休息 xiūxi to rest

好几次 hǎojǐ cì quite a few times

85

Chítáng lǐ de shuǐwēn hěn dī,

池塘里的水温很低，

The water temperature in the pond was very low,

池塘 chítáng pond

里 lǐ inside

的 de (used after an attribute)

水温 shuǐwēn water temperature

很 hěn very

低 dī low

86

jiù xiàng cóng bīngxiāng lǐ ná chulai de bīngkuài yīyàng.

就像从冰箱里拿出来的冰块一样。

(and felt like it had) ice cubes just taken out of the refrigerator.

就 jiù just (emphasis)

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|-----|-----------|---------------------------|
| 像 | xiàng | to be like |
| 从 | cóng | from |
| 冰箱 | bīngxiāng | refrigerator |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |
| 拿出来 | ná chulai | to take out |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 冰块 | bīngkuài | ice cube |
| 一样 | yīyàng | the same as |

87

Děng wǒ xǐ wán suǒyǒu de yīfu,

等我洗完所有的衣服，

By the time I finished washing all the clothes,

| | | |
|----|--------|---------------------------|
| 等 | děng | when |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 洗 | xǐ | to wash |
| 完 | wán | to finish |
| 所有 | suǒyǒu | all |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 衣服 | yīfu | clothes |

88

wǒ de shǒu jiù huì bèi dòng de hóngóng zhǒngzhǒng.

我的手就会被冻得红红肿肿。

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

my hands would be frozen and swollen.

| | | |
|------|---------------------|---|
| 我的 | wǒ de | my |
| 手 | shǒu | hand |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 被 | bèi | (indicates passive-voice clauses) |
| 冻 | dòng | to freeze |
| 得 | de | (after a verb, indicating effect, degree) |
| 红红肿肿 | hónghóng zhǒngzhǒng | red and swollen |

89

Xǐ wán yīfu hòu wǒ jiù děi huíjiā zuòfàn le.

洗完衣服后我就得回家做饭了。

After finishing the laundry, I had to go back home and cook.

| | | |
|----|--------|---|
| 洗 | xǐ | to wash |
| 完 | wán | to finish |
| 衣服 | yīfu | clothes |
| 后 | hòu | after |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 得 | děi | to have to |
| 回家 | huíjiā | to return home |
| 做饭 | zuòfàn | to cook |
| 了 | le | (indicating change of state, situation now) |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

90

Gāng kāishǐ zuò de cài hěn nánchī,

刚开始做的菜很难吃，

At first, my cooking was terrible,

刚开始 gāng kāishǐ at the beginning

做 zuò to cook

的 de (used after an attribute)

菜 cài dish (type of food)

很 hěn very

难吃 nánchī unpalatable

91

wǒ jiù shàngwǎng chá cài pǔ, xué zuò gèzhǒng měishí.

我就上网查菜谱，学做各种美食。

so I looked for recipes online and learned how to make various delicious food.

我 wǒ I

就 jiù then

上网 shàngwǎng to go online

查 chá to look up

菜谱 cài pǔ recipe

学 xué to learn

做 zuò to cook

各种 gèzhǒng all kinds of

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

美食 měishí fine food

92

Dàn měicì bùguǎn hǎochī nánchī, wǒ bànmā cónglái bùhuì bàoyuàn.

但每次不管好吃难吃，我爸妈从来不会抱怨。

But whether the food was delicious or not, my parents never complained.

但 dàn but

每次 měicì every time

不管 bùguǎn no matter

好吃 hǎochī tasty

难吃 nánchī unpalatable

我 wǒ my

爸妈 bànmā dad and mom

从来 cónglái never (if used in negative sentence)

不会 bùhuì will not (act, happen etc)

抱怨 bàoyuàn to complain

93

Zìcóng chūzhōng bìyè wǒ biàn líkāi le jiā,

自从初中毕业我便离开了家，

I had left home since graduating from junior high school.

自从 zìcóng since (a time)

初中 chūzhōng junior high school

毕业 bìyè to graduate

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|-------|---------------------------|
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 便 | biàn | then |
| 离开 | líkāi | to leave |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 家 | jiā | home |

94

zài wàimiàn chī de shíwù jì bù wèishēng yòu bù jiànkāng,

在外面吃的食物既不卫生又不健康，

The food I ate outside was neither hygienic nor healthy.

| | | |
|-------|----------|---------------------------|
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 外面 | wàimiàn | outside |
| 吃 | chī | to eat |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 食物 | shíwù | food |
| 既...又 | jì...yòu | both... and... |
| 不 | bù | not |
| 卫生 | wèishēng | hygiene |
| 既...又 | jì...yòu | both... and... |
| 不 | bù | not |
| 健康 | jiànkāng | healthy |

95

érqiě chī língshí yě bù jiézhì, dǎozhì wǒ pàng le yī dà quān.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

而且吃零食也不节制，导致我胖了一大圈。

Moreover, I lacked self-control when it came to snacking, which resulted in me gaining a lot of weight.

而且 érqiě in addition

吃 chī to eat

零食 língshí snacks

也 yě also

不 bù not

节制 jiézhì to control

导致 dǎozhì to lead to

我 wǒ I

胖 pàng fat

了 le (indicating change of state)

一 yī one

大 dà big

圈 quān circle

96

Dàbùfen de zhuìròu dōu shì zhǎng zài dùzi shang,

大部分的赘肉都是长在肚子上，

Most of the excess weight accumulated around my wrist.

大部分 dàbùfen the majority

的 de (used after an attribute)

赘肉 zhuìròu unwanted fat

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|-------|--------------|
| 都 | dōu | all |
| 是 | shì | is |
| 长 | zhǎng | to grow |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 肚子 | dùzi | belly |
| 上 | shang | on |

97

zuò zhe de shíhou, zhè yīcéng yīcéng de ròu fēicháng bùshūfu.

坐着的时候，这一层一层的肉非常不舒服。

When sitting, these layers of fat made me feel very uncomfortable.

| | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| 坐 | zuò | to sit |
| 着 | zhe | aspect particle indicating action in progress |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 时候 | shíhou | time |
| 这 | zhè | this |
| 一层 | yīcéng | layer |
| 一层 | yīcéng | layer |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 肉 | ròu | meat |
| 非常 | fēicháng | very |
| 不舒服 | bùshūfu | to feel uncomfortable |

98

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

Suǒyǐ wǒ jiù xiàdìngjuéxīn yào jiǎndiào zhè nánkàn de féiròu.

所以我就下定决心要减掉这难看的肥肉。

Therefore, I made up my mind to get rid of this ugly fat.

| | | |
|------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 所以 | suǒyǐ | so |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 下定决心 | xiàdìngjuéxīn | to make a firm resolution |
| 要 | yào | must |
| 减掉 | jiǎndiào | to lose (weight) |
| 这 | zhè | this |
| 难看 | nánkàn | ugly |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 肥肉 | féiròu | fat |

99

Wǒ jiǎnféi de mījué jiùshì bǎ shíwù fàngjìn zuǐlǐ mànman jǔjué,

我减肥的秘诀就是把食物放进嘴里慢慢咀嚼，

My secret to losing weight was to chew the food in my mouth slowly

| | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|
| 我 | wǒ | my |
| 减肥 | jiǎnféi | to lose weight |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 秘诀 | mījué | secret know-how |
| 就 | jiù | exactly |
| 是 | shì | is |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|---------|--|
| 把 | bǎ | particle marking the following noun as a direct object |
| 食物 | shíwù | food |
| 放进 | fàngjìn | to put into |
| 嘴里 | zuǐlǐ | mouth |
| 慢慢 | mànmàn | slowly |
| 咀嚼 | jǔjué | to chew |

100

shǔ sānshí xià zài wǎng xià tūn.

数三十下再往下吞。

and swallowed after the count of 30.

| | | |
|----|--------|------------|
| 数 | shǔ | to count |
| 三十 | sānshí | thirty |
| 下 | xià | times |
| 再 | zài | then |
| 往 | wǎng | towards |
| 下 | xià | down |
| 吞 | tūn | to swallow |

101

Zhèyàng bùjǐn duì wèi hǎo, érqǐ hái néng fángzhǐ yīnwèi chī duō ér zhǎng pàng.

这样不仅对胃好，而且还能防止因为吃多而长胖。

Not only is this good for the stomach, but it also helps prevent weight gain from overeating.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|---------|-------------------------|
| 这样 | zhèyàng | this way |
| 不仅 | bùjǐn | not only (this one) |
| 对 | duì | for |
| 胃 | wèi | stomach |
| 好 | hǎo | good |
| 而且 | érqiě | (not only ...) but also |
| 还 | hái | also |
| 能 | néng | can |
| 防止 | fángzhǐ | to prevent |
| 因为 | yīnwèi | because |
| 吃 | chī | to eat |
| 多 | duō | in excess |
| 而 | ér | and |
| 长 | zhǎng | to grow |
| 胖 | pàng | fat |

102

Jiāshàng wǎnfàn qián zuò sānshí fēnzhōng zuǒyòu de yùndòng.

加上晚饭前做三十分钟左右的运动。

In addition, I was doing roughly thirty minutes of exercise before dinner.

| | | |
|----|----------|--------|
| 加上 | jiāshàng | plus |
| 晚饭 | wǎnfàn | dinner |
| 前 | qián | before |
| 做 | zuò | to do |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------|
| 三十 | sānshí | thirty |
| 分钟 | fēnzhōng | minute |
| 左右 | zuǒyòu | approximately |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 运动 | yùndòng | exercise |

103

Wǒ xǐhuan tiàowǔ hé yújiā,

我喜欢跳舞和瑜伽，

I enjoyed dancing and yoga,

| | | |
|----|--------|----------|
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 喜欢 | xǐhuan | to like |
| 跳舞 | tiàowǔ | to dance |
| 和 | hé | and |
| 瑜伽 | yújiā | yoga |

104

mǎi le yīxiē dvd jiàoxué shìpín, gēnzhe liànxí.

买了一些 DVD 教学视频，跟着练习。

and I bought some instructional DVDs to practice along with.

| | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|
| 买 | mǎi | to buy |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 一些 | yīxiē | some |
| 教学 | jiàoxué | teaching |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

视频 shìpín video

跟着 gēnzhe to follow after

练习 liànxí to practice

105

Yī nián hòu, wǒ dùzi shang de ròu bùjiànle, tǐzhòng yě xiàjiàng le!

一年后，我肚子上的肉不见了，体重也下降了！

After a year, the fat on my stomach disappeared, and my weight also decreased!

一年 yī nián a year

后 hòu after

我 wǒ my

肚子 dùzi belly

上 shang on

的 de (used after an attribute)

肉 ròu meat

不见了 bùjiànle to have disappeared

体重 tǐzhòng body weight

也 yě also

下降 xiàjiàngto decrease

了 le (completed action marker)

106

Rúguǒ nǐ yǒu tóngyàng de fánnǎo, yě kěyǐ shìshì zhège fāngfǎ o!

如果你有同样的烦恼，也可以试试这个方法哦！

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

If you have the same problem, you can try this method too!

| | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 如果 | rúguǒ | if |
| 你 | nǐ | you |
| 有 | yǒu | to have |
| 同样 | tóngyàng | same |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 烦恼 | fánnǎo | worries |
| 也 | yě | also |
| 可以 | kěyǐ | can |
| 试试 | shìshì | to give it a try |
| 这个 | zhège | this |
| 方法 | fāngfǎ | method |
| 哦 | o | particle that conveys warmth, friendliness or intimacy |

107

Shàngwǔ de shíjiān wǒ dōu shì zài gàn jiāwù huó zhōng dùguò,

上午的时间我都是在干家务活中度过，

I spent my mornings doing chores around the house,

| | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|
| 上午 | shàngwǔ | morning |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 时间 | shíjiān | time |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 都 | dōu | all |
| 是 | shì | is |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|------|--------------|------------------------|
| 在 | zài | (to be) in |
| 干家务活 | gàn jiāwùhuó | to do household chores |
| 中 | zhōng | while (doing sth) |
| 度过 | dùguò | to spend (time) |

108

xiàwǔ wǒ yībān huì kàn diànshì, huò sìchù liūda.

下午我一般会看电视，或四处溜达。

and in the afternoons, I usually watched TV or wandered around (the villages).

| | | |
|------|-------------|---------------------|
| 下午 | xiàwǔ | afternoon |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 一般 | yībān | generally |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 看电视 | kàn diànshì | to watch television |
| 或 | huò | or |
| 四处溜达 | sìchù liūda | to wander around |

109

Wǒ bàba gěi wǒ mǎi le liàng diàndòng chē,

我爸爸给我买了辆电动车，

My dad bought me an electric bike,

| | | |
|-----|---------|-----------|
| 我爸爸 | wǒ bàba | my father |
| 给 | gěi | for |
| 我 | wǒ | me |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------------------|
| 买 | mǎi | to buy |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 辆 | liàng | classifier for vehicles |
| 电动车 | diàndòng chē | electric bike |

110

wǒ jīngcháng qí zhe tā qù fùjìn de chāoshì,

我经常骑着它去附近的超市，

and I often rode it to the nearby supermarket

| | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 经常 | jīngcháng | often |
| 骑 | qí | to ride (a horse, bike etc) |
| 着 | zhe | aspect particle indicating action in progress |
| 它 | tā | it |
| 去 | qù | to go to (a place) |
| 附近 | fùjìn | nearby |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 超市 | chāoshì | supermarket |

111

mǎi língshí huí lái biān chī biān kàn diànshì.

买零食回来边吃边看电视。

to buy snacks and then ate them while watching TV.

| | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| 买 | mǎi | to buy |
|---|-----|--------|

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| 零食 | língshí | snacks |
| 回来 | huílai | to come back |
| 边...边 | biān...biān | simultaneously |
| 吃 | chī | to eat |
| 看电视 | kàn diànshì | to watch television |

112

Yǒushíhòu yě huì qí qù wàipó jiā wán.

有时候也会骑去外婆家玩。

Sometimes I would also ride to my grandmother's place.

| | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 有时候 | yǒushíhòu | sometimes |
| 也 | yě | also |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 骑 | qí | to ride (a horse, bike etc) |
| 去 | qù | to go to (a place) |
| 外婆 | wàipó | maternal grandmother |
| 家 | jiā | home |
| 玩 | wán | to have fun |

113

Xiāngxià de mǎlù kēngkēngwāwā,

乡下的马路坑坑洼洼，

The roads in the countryside were uneven and bumpy,

| | | |
|----|----------|-------------|
| 乡下 | xiāngxià | countryside |
|----|----------|-------------|

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

的 de (used after an attribute)

马路 mǎlù street

坑坑洼洼 kēngkengwāwā bumpy

114

yòu yǒu hěn duō dà huòchē yùn zhe méi huò shítou lùguò.

又有很多大货车运着煤或石头路过。

and there were many heavy trucks carrying coal or stones passing by.

又 yòu also

有 yǒu there is

很多 hěn duō a lot of

大货车 dà huòchē big truck

运 yùn to transport

着 zhe aspect particle indicating action in progress

煤 méi coal

或 huò or

石头 shítou stone

路过 lùguò to pass by or through

115

Měicì zài mǎlù shàng qíchē, wǒ dōu shì yī zhī shǒu wǔ zhe zuǐ,

每次在马路上骑车，我都是一只手捂着嘴，

Every time I rode my bike on the road, I covered my mouth with one hand,

每次 měicì every time

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|-----|------------|---|
| 在 | zài | (indicating an action in progress) |
| 马路上 | mǎlù shang | on the street |
| 骑车 | qíchē | to ride a bike (motorbike or bicycle) |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 都 | dōu | all |
| 是 | shì | is |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 只 | zhī | classifier for hand |
| 手 | shǒu | hand |
| 捂 | wǔ | to cover with the hand |
| 着 | zhe | aspect particle indicating action in progress |
| 嘴 | zuǐ | mouth |

116

lìngyī zhī shǒu zhǎngwò fāngxiàngpán.

另一只手掌握方向盘。

and held the handlebar with the other.

| | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------------|
| 另一 | lìngyī | another |
| 只 | zhī | classifier for hand |
| 手 | shǒu | hand |
| 掌握 | zhǎngwò | to control |
| 方向盘 | fāngxiàngpán | steering wheel |

117

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

Yǎnjīng yě yīnwèi kōngqì zhōng de huīchén bùtíng de zhǎ.

眼睛也因为空气中的灰尘不停地眨。

I would keep blinking my eyes due to the dust in the air.

| | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|
| 眼睛 | yǎnjīng | eye |
| 也 | yě | also |
| 因为 | yīnwèi | because |
| 空气 | kōngqì | air |
| 中 | zhōng | in |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 灰尘 | huīchén | dust |
| 不停 | bùtíng | incessant |
| 地 | de | -ly |
| 眨 | zhǎ | to blink |

118

Bànmā zǒngshì hěn wǎn cái dàojiā,

爸妈总是很晚才到家，

My parents always came home late,

| | | |
|----|---------|--------------------|
| 爸妈 | bànmā | dad and mom |
| 总是 | zǒngshì | always |
| 很 | hěn | very |
| 晚 | wǎn | late |
| 才 | cái | then and only then |
| 到家 | dàojiā | to arrive home |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

119

ér wǒ jīngcháng yīgèrén zuò zài fángjiān lǐ děng tāmen huíjiā chī wǎnfàn.

而我经常一个人坐在房间里等他们回家吃晚饭。

and I often sat alone in my room waiting for them to come back for dinner.

而 ér (indicates contrast)

我 wǒ I

经常 jīngcháng often

一个人 yīgèrén alone (without company)

坐 zuò to sit

在 zài (located) at

房间 fángjiān room

里 lǐ inside

等 děng to wait for

他们 tāmen them

回家 huíjiā to return home

吃晚饭 chī wǎnfàn to have dinner

120

Yǒushíhou hěn wǎn dōu méi dàojiā, wǒ jiù kāishǐ húsīluànxiǎng,

有时候很晚都没到家，我就开始胡思乱想，

Sometimes they would come home very late, and I would start to worry and imagine all sorts of things,

有时候 yǒushíhou sometimes

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 很 | hěn | very |
| 晚 | wǎn | late |
| 都 | dōu | all |
| 没 | méi | not |
| 到家 | dàojiā | to arrive home |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 开始 | kāishǐ | to begin |
| 胡思乱想 | húsīluànxiǎng | to let one's imagination run wild |

121

dānxīn tāmen huì yǒu shénme yìwài,

担心他们会有什么意外，

such as, them having an accident.

| | | |
|----|--------|-----------|
| 担心 | dānxīn | to worry |
| 他们 | tāmen | they |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 有 | yǒu | to have |
| 什么 | shénme | something |
| 意外 | yìwài | accident |

122

zhídào tīngdào bàba chē de shēngyīn cái fàngxià xīn lái.

直到听到爸爸车的声音才放下心来。

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

I would only relax when I heard my father's vehicle.

| | | |
|------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 直到 | zhídào | until |
| 听到 | tīngdào | to hear |
| 爸爸 | bàba | (informal) father |
| 车 | chē | vehicle |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 声音 | shēngyīn | sound |
| 才 | cái | then and only then |
| 放下心来 | fàngxià xīn lái | to be at ease |

123

Yǒu duàn shíjiān, wǒ míshàng le Zhōngyī,

有段时间，我迷上了中医，

There was a period in which I got obsessed with traditional Chinese medicine,

| | | |
|------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 有段时间 | yǒu duàn shíjiān | for a period of time |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 迷上 | míshàng | to be enchanted by |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 中医 | Zhōngyī | traditional Chinese medical science |

124

mǎi le yī dà duī shū xián lái wú shì jiù kāishǐ yánjiū.

买了一大堆书闲来无事就开始研究。

and I bought a bunch of books to study when I had time.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 买 | mǎi | to buy |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 大 | dà | big |
| 堆 | duī | pile |
| 书 | shū | book |
| 闲来无事 | xiánlái wúshì | at leisure |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 开始 | kāishǐ | to begin |
| 研究 | yánjiū | to study |

125

Wǎnshang chīwán wǎncān, xǐ wán zǎo,

晚上吃完晚餐，洗完澡，

After dinner and shower at night,

晚上 wǎnshang evening

吃完 chīwán to finish eating

晚餐 wǎncān dinner

洗完澡 xǐ wán zǎo to finish taking a shower

126

wǒmen yījiārén zuò zài fángjiān lǐ liáotiān, kàn diànshì.

我们一家人坐在房间里聊天、看电视。

our whole family would sit in the room chatting and watching TV.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|-----|-------------|------------------|
| 我们 | wǒmen | we |
| 一家人 | yījiārén | the whole family |
| 坐 | zuò | to sit |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 房间 | fángjiān | room |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |
| 聊天 | liáotiān | to chat |
| 看电视 | kàn diànshì | to watch TV |

127

Wǒ zǒngshì jiāng wǒ cóng shū shang xuédào de zhīshi gěi tāmen ànmó.

我总是将我从书上学到的知识给他们按摩。

I always gave them massages using the knowledge I learned from the books.

| | | |
|----|---------|---|
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 总是 | zǒngshì | always |
| 将 | jiāng | (introduces object of main verb, same as 把[bǎ]) |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 从 | cóng | from |
| 书 | shū | book |
| 上 | shang | on |
| 学到 | xuédào | to learn |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 知识 | zhīshi | knowledge |
| 给 | gěi | for |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

他们 tāmen them

按摩 ànmó to massage

128

Zài lǎojiā péibàn fùmǔ de yī nián shíjiān shì wǒ rénshēng zhōng zuì wúyōuwúlǜ de shíguāng,

在老家陪伴父母的一年时间是我人生中最无忧无虑的时光，

The one year I spent with my parents in my hometown was the most carefree time in my life,

在 zài (located) at

老家 lǎojiā home state or region

陪伴 péibàn to accompany

父母 fùmǔ parents

的 de (used after an attribute)

一 yī one

年 nián year

时间 shíjiān time

是 shì is

我 wǒ my

人生 rénshēng life (one's time on earth)

中 zhōng in

最 zuì the most

无忧无虑 wúyōuwúlǜ carefree and without worries (idiom)

的 de (used after an attribute)

时光 shíguāng period of time

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

129

wǒ yě hěn xiǎngshòu nóngcūn shēnghuó.

我也很享受农村生活。

and I truly enjoyed the rural life.

| | | |
|----|-----------|----------|
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 也 | yě | also |
| 很 | hěn | quite |
| 享受 | xiǎngshòu | to enjoy |
| 农村 | nóngcūn | village |
| 生活 | shēnghuó | life |

130

Dàn wéidú yīdiǎn wǒ zhìjīn háishi wúfǎ xíguàn,

但唯独一点我至今还是无法习惯，

But there is one thing that I still can't get used to,

| | | |
|----|--------|---------------|
| 但 | dàn | but |
| 唯独 | wéidú | all except |
| 一点 | yīdiǎn | one point |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 至今 | zhìjīn | to this day |
| 还是 | háishi | still |
| 无法 | wúfǎ | unable |
| 习惯 | xíguàn | to be used to |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

131

nà jiùshì xiāngxia de cèsuǒ.

那就是乡下的厕所。

and that is the toilet.

那就是 nà jiùshì that is

乡下 xiāngxia countryside

的 de (used after an attribute)

厕所 cèsuǒ toilet

132

Nóngcūn de cèsuǒ bù xiàng chéngshì lǐ shì jiàn zài fáng nèi de,

农村的厕所不像城市里是建在房内的，

The toilets in the countryside were not built inside the house like in the city,

农村 nóngcūn rural area

的 de (used after an attribute)

厕所 cèsuǒ toilet

不像 bù xiàng unlike

城市 chéngshì city

里 lǐ inside

是 shì is

建 jiàn to build

在 zài (located) at

房内 fáng nèi inside the house

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

的 de (used for emphasis)

133

érshì dāndú jiàn zài wàimiàn.

而是单独建在外面。

but rather, outside.

而是 érshì rather

单独 dāndú alone

建 jiàn to build

在 zài (located) at

外面 wàimiàn outside

134

Wǒmen jiā de cèsuǒ shì zài càiyuán lǐ,

我们家的厕所是在菜园里，

Our family's toilet was in our vegetable garden.

我们 wǒmen we

家 jiā family

的 de (used after an attribute)

厕所 cèsuǒ toilet

是 shì is

在 zài (located) at

菜园 càiyuán vegetable garden

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

里 lǐ inside

135

yī gè xiǎoxiǎo de kōngjiān, lǐmiàn yī gè dòng,

一个小小的空间，里面一个洞，

It was in a small space and in it, there was a hole.

一 yī one

个 gè classifier for objects in general

小小 xiǎoxiǎo very small

的 de (used after an attribute)

空间 kōngjiān space

里面 lǐmiàn inside

一 yī one

个 gè classifier for objects in general

洞 dòng hole

136

yòu chòu yòu ǐxīn, xiàtiān wénzi hěn duō,

又臭又恶心，夏天蚊子很多，

It was smelly, disgusting, and there were a lot of mosquitoes in the summertime,

又...又 yòu...yòu both... and...

臭 chòu smelly

又...又 yòu...yòu both... and...

恶心 ǐxīn disgusting

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

夏天 xiàtiān summer

蚊子 wénzi mosquito

很多 hěnduō a lot

137

dūn zài lǐmiàn gēnběn wúfǎrěnhòu!

蹲在里面根本无法忍受!

which made it unbearable to squat in there!

蹲 dūn to squat

在 zài (located) at

里面 lǐmiàn inside

根本 gēnběn absolutely (not)

无法忍受 wúfǎrěnhòu intolerable

138

Dōngtiān yòu fēicháng lěng.

冬天又非常冷。

And in the winter, it was very cold.

冬天 dōngtiān winter

又 yòu also

非常 fēicháng very

冷 lěng cold

139

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

Tèbié shì wǎnshang bànyè xiǎng shàngcèsuǒ le,

特别是晚上半夜想上厕所了，

Especially when I needed to use the toilet in the middle of the night,

| | | |
|-----|------------|------------------------------|
| 特别 | tèbié | especially |
| 是 | shì | is |
| 晚上 | wǎnshang | night |
| 半夜 | bànyè | midnight |
| 想 | xiǎng | to want (to) |
| 上厕所 | shàngcèsuǒ | to go to the bathroom |
| 了 | le | (indicating change of state) |

140

wàimiàn yī piàn qīhēi, cèsuǒ lǐ méiyǒu dēng,

外面一片漆黑，厕所里没有灯，

and outside would be pitch black, with no light in the toilet.

| | | |
|------|---------------|-------------|
| 外面 | wàimiàn | outside |
| 一片漆黑 | yī piàn qīhēi | pitch-black |
| 厕所 | cèsuǒ | toilet |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |
| 没有 | méiyǒu | to not have |
| 灯 | dēng | light |

141

wǒ ná zhe shǒudiàntǒng yīgèrén dūn zài hēi hēi de cèsuǒ lǐ,

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

我拿着手电筒一个人蹲在黑黑的厕所里，

I would squat alone in the dark with a flashlight

| | | |
|-----|--------------|---|
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 拿 | ná | to hold |
| 着 | zhe | aspect particle indicating action in progress |
| 手电筒 | shǒudiàntǒng | flashlight |
| 一个人 | yīgèrén | alone (without company) |
| 蹲 | dūn | to squat |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 黑黑 | hēihēi de | extremely dark |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 厕所 | cèsuǒ | toilet |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |

142

nǎozi lǐ xiǎng de dōu shì kǒngbù huàmiàn.

脑子里想的都是恐怖画面。

imagining horrifying scenes.

| | | |
|----|-------|---------------------------|
| 脑子 | nǎozi | mind |
| 里 | lǐ | inside |
| 想 | xiǎng | to think (about) |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 都 | dōu | all |
| 是 | shì | is |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

恐怖 kǒngbù frightening

画面 huàmiàn scene

143

Nà nián wǒ shíjiǔ suì, sīxiǎng dānchún, méiyǒu shénme yuǎndàlǐxiǎng.

那年我十九岁，思想单纯，没有什么远大理想。

I was 19 that year. I was simple-minded and had no big dreams.

那 nà that

年 nián year

我 wǒ I

十九 shíjiǔ nineteen

岁 suì years old

思想 sīxiǎng thinking

单纯 dānchún simple

没有 méiyǒu not

什么 shénme any

远大理想 yuǎndàlǐxiǎng lofty ideal

144

Zài lǎojiā hé jiārén shēnghuó le yī nián, jiànjiàn xíguàn le zhèyàng de shēnghuó,

在老家和家人生活了一年，渐渐习惯了这样的生活，

After living with my family in my hometown for a year, I gradually got used to this kind of life,

在 zài (located) at

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------|
| 老家 | lǎojiā | home state or region |
| 和 | hé | and |
| 家人 | jiārén | (one's) family |
| 生活 | shēnghuó | to live |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 年 | nián | year |
| 渐渐 | jiànjiàn | gradually |
| 习惯 | xíguàn | to be used to |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 这样 | zhèyàng | this kind of |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 生活 | shēnghuó | life |

145

wéiyī de mèngxiǎng shì zhǎo yī gè hǎo nánrén jiéhūnshēngzǐ,

唯一的梦想是找一个好男人结婚生子，

and my only dream was to find a good man to marry, to have children

| | | |
|----|-----------|---------------------------|
| 唯一 | wéiyī | only |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 梦想 | mèngxiǎng | dream |
| 是 | shì | is |
| 找 | zhǎo | to try to find |
| 一 | yī | one |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 个 | gè | classifier for people |
| 好 | hǎo | good |
| 男人 | nánrén | a man |
| 结婚生子 | jiéhūnshēngzǐ | to get married and have kids |

146

cóngcǐ zuò yī gè kuàilè de jiā tíng zhǔ fù,

从此做一个快乐的家庭主妇，

and then become a happy housewife.

| | | |
|------|-----------------|---|
| 从此 | cóngcǐ | from now on |
| 做 | zuò | to become (husband and wife, friends etc) |
| 一 | yī | one |
| 个 | gè | classifier for people |
| 快乐 | kuàilè | happy |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 家庭主妇 | jiā tíng zhǔ fù | housewife |

147

suǒyǐ wǒ duì xiāngqīn bìngbù dǐkàng.

所以我对相亲并不抵抗。

So I wasn't against the idea of arranged blind dates.

| | | |
|----|-------|-----------|
| 所以 | suǒyǐ | so |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 对 | duì | regarding |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|----------|------------------|
| 相亲 | xiāngqīn | blind date |
| 并不 | bìngbù | emphatically not |
| 抵抗 | dǐkàng | to resist |

148

Dàn zhèzhǒng dāng jiātíngzhǔfù de sīxiǎng méiyǒu wéichí hěn jiǔ,

但这种当家庭主妇的思想没有维持很久，

But this idea of being a housewife didn't last long.

| | | |
|------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 但 | dàn | but |
| 这种 | zhèzhǒng | this kind of |
| 当 | dāng | to be |
| 家庭主妇 | jiātíngzhǔfù | housewife |
| 的 | de | (used after an attribute) |
| 思想 | sīxiǎng | thought |
| 没有 | méiyǒu | there is not |
| 维持 | wéichí | to maintain |
| 很 | hěn | very |
| 久 | jiǔ | (long) time |

149

dì'èr nián wǒ jiù gǎibiàn zhǔyi le,

第二年我就改变主意了，

The next year, I changed my mind

| | | |
|----|-------|--------|
| 第二 | dì'èr | second |
|----|-------|--------|

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------|
| 年 | nián | year |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 改变 | gǎibiàn | to change |
| 主意 | zhǔyi | decision |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |

150

yīnwèi dāi zài lǎojiā shízài tài wúliáo le,

因为待在老家实在太无聊了，

because life in my hometown was very boring,

| | | |
|-------|-----------|----------------------|
| 因为 | yīnwèi | because |
| 待 | dāi | to stay |
| 在 | zài | (located) at |
| 老家 | lǎojiā | home state or region |
| 实在 | shízài | really |
| 太...了 | tài... le | extremely |
| 无聊 | wúliáo | boring |

151

érqiě xiǎngdào jiéhūn hòu yǒule háizi, jiù huì shīqù zìyóu jiù juéde kǐpà.

而且想到结婚后有了孩子，就会失去自由就觉得可怕。

and the thought of losing my freedom after getting married and having children,
became frightening.

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

| | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------|
| 而且 | érqiě | moreover |
| 想到 | xiǎngdào | to think of |
| 结婚 | jiéhūn | to marry |
| 后 | hòu | after |
| 有 | yǒu | to have |
| 了 | le | (completed action marker) |
| 孩子 | háizi | child |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 会 | huì | will |
| 失去 | shīqù | to lose |
| 自由 | zìyóu | freedom |
| 就 | jiù | then |
| 觉得 | juéde | to feel |
| 可怕 | kěpà | scary |

152

Yúshì wǒ juéding yào chūqù zhǎo gōngzuò.

于是我决定要出去找工作。

So I decided to go out and look for a job.

| | | |
|----|---------|-------------|
| 于是 | yúshì | as a result |
| 我 | wǒ | I |
| 决定 | juéding | to decide |
| 要 | yào | will |
| 出去 | chūqù | to go out |

Literal Translation - One Year Living In The Chinese Countryside

找 zhǎo to try to find

工作 gōngzuò job