

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

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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

我 wǒ I

是 shì am

2

Shàngge gùshi zhōng, wǒ jiǎngdào

上个故事中，我讲到

In the last story, I mentioned that

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上个	shàngge	previous
故事	gùshi	story
中	zhōng	in
我	wǒ	I
讲到	jiǎngdào	to talk about sth

3

èr líng yīyī nián wǒ líkāi le lǎojiā qù dào fùjìn de xiǎo chéngshì gōngzuò.

2011 年我离开了老家去到附近的小城市工作。

in 2011, I left my hometown and went to work in a nearby small city.

2011	èr líng yīyī	2011
年	nián	year
我	wǒ	I
离开	líkāi	to leave
了	le	(completed action marker)
老家	lǎojiā	hometown
去	qù	to go
到	dào	to (a place)
附近	fùjìn	nearby
的	de	(used after an attribute)
小	xiǎo	small
城市	chéngshì	city
工作	gōngzuò	to work

4

Wǒ zài nǚzhuāng diàn lǐ mài yīfu.

我在女装店里卖衣服。

I worked in a women's clothing store, selling clothes.

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我	wǒ	I
在	zài	(to be) in
女装	nǚzhuāng	women's clothes
店	diàn	shop
里	lǐ	inside
卖	mài	to sell
衣服	yīfu	clothes

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Diàn lǎobǎn yīnwèi yào zhuāngxiū diànmiàn,

店老板因为要装修店面，

The store owner gave me a one-month vacation

店	diàn	shop
老板	lǎobǎn	boss
因为	yīnwèi	because
要	yào	to want
装修	zhuāngxiū	to decorate
店面	diànmiàn	shop front

6

gěi le wǒ yī gè yuè de jiàqī.

给了我一个月的假期。

because they were renovating the shop.

给	gěi	to give
了	le	(completed action marker)
我	wǒ	me
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for objects in general

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月	yuè	month
的	de	(used after an attribute)
假期	jiàqī	vacation

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Gānghǎo nàshí wǒ de biǎojiě yāoqǐng wǒ qù Shēnzhèn lǚyóu,
刚好那时我的表姐邀请我去深圳旅游，

Coincidentally, my cousin invited me to go on a trip to Shenzhen.

刚好	gānghǎo	to happen to be
那时	nàshí	at that time
我的	ǒ de	my
表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
邀请	yāoqǐng	to invite
我	wǒ	me
去	qù	to go to (a place)
深圳	Shēnzhèn	Shenzhen
旅游	lǚyóu	to travel

8

kě wǒ de gōngzī tài dī, méiyǒu jīxù,
可我的工资太低，没有积蓄，

However, as my salary was low and I had no savings,

可	kě	but
我的	wǒ de	my
工资	gōngzī	wages
太	tài	too (much)
低	dī	low
没有	méiyǒu	to not have

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积蓄 jīxù savings

9

suǒyǐ zhǐhǎo xiàng bànmā yào le yī qiān kuài.

所以只好向爸妈要了一千块。

I had to ask my parents for 1000 yuan.

所以 suǒyǐ so

只好 zhǐhǎo to have to

向 xiàng towards

爸妈 bànmā dad and mom

要 yào to ask for

了 le (completed action marker)

一千 yī qiān 1000

块 kuài yuan

10

ránhòu mǎi le huǒchēpiào,

然后买了火车票，

(With the money,) I bought a train ticket

然后 ránhòu then (afterwards)

买 mǎi to buy

了 le (completed action marker)

火车票 huǒchēpiào train ticket

11

tàshàng le zhè jíjiāng gǎibiàn wǒ rénshēng de lǚtú,

踏上了这即将改变我人生的旅途，

and embarked on this journey that would soon change my life.

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踏上	tàshàng	to set foot on
了	le	(completed action marker)
这	zhè	this
即将	jíjiāng	to be about to
改变	gǎibiàn	to change
我	wǒ	my
人生	rénshēng	life
的	de	(used after an attribute)
旅途	lǚtú	journey

12

nà shì wǒ dìyīcì chū yuǎnmén lǚyóu.

那是我第一次出远门旅游。

It was also my first time traveling far from home.

那	nà	that
是	shì	is
我	wǒ	my
第一次	dìyīcì	the first time
出	chū	to go out
远门	yuǎnmén	far away from home
旅游	lǚyóu	to travel

13

Huǒchē kāi le shíliù gè xiǎoshí,

火车开了十六个小时，

After a 16-hour train ride,

火车	huǒchē	train
开	kāi	to operate (a vehicle)

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了	le	(completed action marker)
十六	shíliù	16
个	gè	classifier for objects in general
小时	xiǎoshí	hour

14

zhōngyú dǐdá Shēnzhèn Luóhú huǒchēzhàn.

终于抵达深圳罗湖火车站。

I finally arrived at Shenzhen Luohu Railway Station.

终于	zhōngyú	finally
抵达	dǐdá	to arrive
深圳	Shēnzhèn	Shenzhen
罗湖	Luóhú	Luohu district of Shenzhen City
火车站	huǒchēzhàn	train station

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Nà shì wǒ jiàn guo zuì dà de huǒchēzhàn,

那是我见过最大的火车站，

It was the largest train station I had ever seen.

那	nà	that
是	shì	is
我	wǒ	I
见	jiàn	to see
过	guo	(experienced action marker)
最	zuì	-est (superlative suffix)
大	dà	big
的	de	(used after an attribute)
火车站	huǒchēzhàn	train station

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xiàchē hòu zhuàn le hěn jiǔ cái zhǎodào chūkǒu.

下车后转了很久才找到出口。

It took me a while to find the exit after getting off the train.

下车	xiàchē	to get off or out of (a bus, train, car etc)
----	--------	--

后	hòu	after
---	-----	-------

转	zhuàn	to walk about
---	-------	---------------

了	le	(completed action marker)
---	----	---------------------------

很	hěn	very
---	-----	------

久	jiǔ	(long) time
---	-----	-------------

才	cái	only then
---	-----	-----------

找到	zhǎodào	to find
----	---------	---------

出口	chūkǒu	an exit
----	--------	---------

17

Wǔyuèfèn de tiān yǐjīng kāishǐ rè le,

五月份的天已经开始热了，

The weather in May had already started to get hot.

五月份	wǔyuèfèn	May
-----	----------	-----

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

天	tiān	weather
---	------	---------

已经	yǐjīng	already
----	--------	---------

开始	kāishǐ	to begin
----	--------	----------

热	rè	hot (of weather)
---	----	------------------

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

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wǒ bēi zhe jǐ jiàn huàn xǐ de yīfu zhàn zài dàjiē shang.

我背着几件换洗的衣服站在大街上。

I stood on the street carrying a few sets of clothes.

我	wǒ	I
背	bēi	to carry on the back or shoulder
着	zhe	(indicating action in progress)
几	jǐ	a few
件	jiàn	classifier for clothes
换洗	huànxǐ	change clothes (for washing)
的	de	(used after an attribute)
衣服	yīfu	clothes
站	zhàn	to stand
在	zài	(located) at
大街	dàjiē	street
上	shang	on

19

Chēliàng láilái wǎngwǎng,

车辆来来往往，

Despite the constant flow of vehicles,

车辆 chēliàng vehicle

来来往往 láilái wǎngwǎng come and go in great numbers

20

kě jiùshì méiyǒu kàn dào yī liàng chūzūchē.

可就是没有看到一辆出租车。

I didn't see a single taxi.

可 kě but

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就是	jiùshì	just
没有	méiyǒu	did not
看到	kàndào	to see
一	yī	one
辆	liàng	classifier for vehicles
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi

21

Pángbiān yǒu dìtiě, dàn bù gǎn qù zuò,

旁边有地铁，但不敢去坐，

There was a subway nearby, but I didn't dare use it

旁边	pángbiān	to the side
有	yǒu	there is
地铁	dìtiě	metro
但	dàn	but
不	bù	not
敢	gǎn	to dare
去	qù	to go
坐	zuò	to take (a bus, airplane etc)

22

yīnwèi wǒ cóngláméi zuò guo dìtiě,

因为我从来没坐过地铁，

because I had never taken a subway before

因为	yīnwèi	because
我	wǒ	I
从来没	cóngláméi	never
坐	zuò	to take (a bus, airplane etc)

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过 guo (experienced action marker)

地铁 dìtiě metro

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bù zhīdào zěnmē zuò.

不知道怎么坐。

and didn't know how to (use it).

不知道 bù zhīdào not know

怎么 zěnmē how?

坐 zuò to take (a bus, airplane etc)

24

yúshì wǒ jiù qù dàjiē shang wèn lùrén

于是我就去大街上问路人

So, I went to the street and asked passersby

于是 yúshì thus

我 wǒ I

就 jiù then

去 qù to go

大街 dàjiē street

上 shang on

问 wèn to ask

路人 lùrén passerby

25

nǎlǐ néng dǎ dào chūzūchē.

哪里能打到出租车。

where I could find a taxi.

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哪里	nǎli	where?
能	néng	can
打	dǎ	to take (a taxi)
到	dào	verb complement
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi

26

Kě dàjiā dōu duì wǒ bǎi bǎishǒu,

可大家都对我摆摆手，

However, everyone just waved me off

可	kě	but
大家	dàjiā	everyone
都	dōu	all
对	duì	towards
我	wǒ	me
摆	bǎi	to wave
摆手	bǎishǒu	to wave one's hand

27

méi rén yuànyì lǐ wǒ.

没人愿意理我。

and no one was willing to pay attention to me.

没	méi	have not
人	rén	person
愿意	yuànyì	willing (to do sth)
理	lǐ	to pay attention to
我	wǒ	me

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28

Tiānsè jiànjiàn àn xialai le,

天色渐渐暗下来了，

It was getting darker

天色 tiānsè time of day, as indicated by the color of the sky

渐渐 jiànjiàn gradually

暗 àn dark

下来 xialai indicates continuation from the past towards us

了 le (completed action marker)

29

méibànfǎ, wǒ zhǐhǎo yánzhe rénxíngdào yīzhí zǒu,

没办法，我只好沿着人行道一直走，

and I had no choice but to continue walking along the sidewalk.

没办法 méibànfǎ there is nothing to be done

我 wǒ I

只好 zhǐhǎo to have to

沿着 yánzhe to go along

人行道 rénxíngdào sidewalk

一直 yīzhí continuously

走 zǒu to walk

30

bànxǎoshí hòu wǒ xìngyùn de dǎ dào le chūzūchē,

半小时后我幸运地打到了出租车，

After half an hour, I luckily managed to get a taxi

半小时 bànxǎoshí half hour

后 hòu later

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我	wǒ	I
幸运	xìngyùn	lucky
地	de	-ly
打	dǎ	to take (a taxi))
到	dào	verb complement
了	le	(completed action marker)
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi

31

qù dào zhù zài fùjìn de péngyou jiā guò le yī yè,

去到住在附近的朋友家过了一夜，

and went to stay overnight at a friend's house nearby.

去	qù	to go
到	dào	to (a place)
住	zhù	to live
在	zài	(to be) in
附近	fùjìn	nearby
的	de	(used after an attribute)
朋友	péngyou	friend
家	jiā	home
过	guò	to live
了	le	(completed action marker)
一	yī	one
夜	yè	night

32

dì'èrtiān jiù dā le gōngjiāochē qù zhǎo biǎojiě.

第二天就搭了公交车去找表姐。

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The next day, I took a bus to visit my cousin.

第二天	dì'èrtiān	next day
就	jiù	then
搭	dā	to take (boat, train)
了	le	(completed action marker)
公交车	gōngjiāochē	bus
去	qù	to go
找	zhǎo	to look for
表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line

33

Biǎojiě bǐ wǒ dà liǎng suì,

表姐比我大两岁，

My cousin was two years older than me

表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
比	bǐ	to compare
我	wǒ	me
大	dà	older (than)
两	liǎng	two
岁	suì	classifier for years (of age)

34

zài Shēnzhèn gōngzuò le wǔ nián duō,

在深圳工作了五年多，

and had been working in Shenzhen for over five years.

在	zài	(to be) in
深圳	Shēnzhèn	Shenzhen
工作	gōngzuò	to work

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了 le (completed action marker)

五 wǔ five

年 nián year

多 duō more

35

tā nán péng you kāi le yī jiā xiǎo gōng sī, mài LED diàn yuán.

她男朋友开了一家小公司，卖 LED 电源。

Her boyfriend owned a small company that sold LED power supplies,

她 tā her

男朋友 nán péng you boyfriend

开 kāi to open

了 le (completed action marker)

一 yī one

家 jiā classifier for businesses

小 xiǎo small

公司 gōng sī (business) company

卖 mài to sell

LED 电源 diàn yuán electric power source

36

Tā zì jǐ yě zài nàr gōng zuò.

她自己也在哪儿工作。

and she also worked (in his company).

她自己 tā zì jǐ herself

也 yě also

在 zài (to be) in

那儿 nàr that place

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工作 gōngzuò to work

37

Gōngsī zǒnggòng sān gè rén,

公司总共三个人，

The company had a total of three people:

公司 gōngsī (business) company

总共 zǒnggòng altogether

三 sān three

个 gè classifier for people

人 rén people

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chúle biǎojiě hé tā nán péngyou,

除了表姐和她男朋友，

my cousin, her boyfriend,

除了 chúle besides

表姐 biǎojiě older female cousin via female line

和 hé and

她 tā her

男朋友 nán péngyou boyfriend

39

háiyǒu yī gè tā nán péngyou de qīnqi Xiǎo Zhāng.

还有一个她男朋友的亲戚小张。

and a relative of her boyfriend named Xiao Zhang.

还 hái also

有 yǒu there is

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一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for people
她	tā	her
男朋友	nán péngyou	boyfriend
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
亲戚	qīnqi	a relative
小张	xiǎozhāng	Xiao Zhang

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Tāmen sān gè rén zhù zài yī tào gōngyù lǐ,

他们三个人住在一套公寓里，

All three of them lived in an apartment together,

他们	tāmen	they
三	sān	three
个	gè	classifier for people
人	rén	people
住	zhù	to live
在	zài	(to be) in
一套	yītào	a set
公寓	gōngyù	apartment
里	lǐ	inside

41

wǒ bèi ānpái hé Xiǎo Zhāng zhù yī jiān fáng.

我被安排和小张住一间房。

and I was assigned to share a room with Xiao Zhang.

我	wǒ	I
被	bèi	(indicates passive-voice clauses)

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安排	ānpái	to arrange
和	hé	with
小张	xiǎozhāng	Xiao Zhang
住	zhù	to stay
一	yī	one
间	jiān	classifier for rooms
房	fáng	room

42

Xiǎo Zhāng bǐ wǒ xiǎo liǎng suì.

小张比我小两岁。

Xiao Zhang was two years younger than me.

小张	xiǎozhāng	Xiao Zhang
比	bǐ	to compare
我	wǒ	me
小	xiǎo	young
两	liǎng	two
岁	suì	classifier for years (of age)

43

Biǎojiě de dìdi, yějiùshì wǒ de biǎogē,

表姐的弟弟，也就是我的表哥，

My cousin's younger brother, who was also my cousin,

表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
弟弟	dìdi	younger brother
也就是	yějiùshì	that is
我的	wǒ de	my

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表哥 biǎogē older male cousin via female line

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dāngshí méi gōngzuò, yě zàn zhù zài biǎojiě jiā.

当时没工作，也暂住在表姐家。

was not working at the time and was (also) temporarily staying at her place.

当时 dāngshí at that time

没 méi have not

工作 gōngzuò job

也 yě also

暂 zàn temporary

住 zhù to live

在 zài (to be) in

表姐 biǎojiě older female cousin via female line

家 jiā home

45

Běnlái biǎojiě shì dǎsuàn dài wǒ qù Shēnzhèn gègè dìfāng kànkàn de,

本来表姐是打算带我去深圳各个地方看看的，

Initially, my cousin was planning to take me around various places in Shenzhen,

本来 běnlái originally

表姐 biǎojiě older female cousin via female line

是 shì is

打算 dǎsuàn to plan

带 dài take along

我 wǒ me

去 qù to go to (a place)

深圳 Shēnzhèn Shenzhen

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各个	gègè	every
地方	dìfang	place
看看	kànkàn	to take a look at
的	de	(used at the end for emphasis)

46

dàn yīnwèi gōngsī shì tài duō, tuō bù kāi shēn,

但因为公司事太多，脱不开身，

but due to her busy schedule at work, she couldn't free up her time.

但	dàn	but
因为	yīnwèi	because
公司	gōngsī	(business) company
事	shì	thing
太	tài	too (much)
多	duō	much
脱不开	tuōbùkāi	can't leave somewhere (because too busy, etc.)
身	shēn	body

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suǒyǐ tā ràng biǎogē dài wǒ chūqù wán.

所以她让表哥带我出去玩。

So, she asked this other cousin (her younger brother) to take me out for a tour.

所以	suǒyǐ	so
她	tā	she
让	ràng	to let sb do sth
表哥	biǎogē	older male cousin via female line
带	dài	to take along
我	wǒ	me

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出去 chūqù to go out

玩 wán to have fun

48

Wǒ hé biǎogē jìhuà qù shìzhōngxīn de shū chéng kànshū.

我和表哥计划去市中心的书城看书。

My male cousin and I planned to go to a bookstore in downtown.

我	wǒ	I
和	hé	and
表哥	biǎogē	older male cousin via female line
计划	jìhuà	to plan
去	qù	to go to (a place)
市中心	shìzhōngxīn	downtown
的	de	(used after an attribute)
书城	shūchéng	book city
看书	kànshū	to read

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Biǎojiě zhù de dìfang lí shìzhōngxīn hái hěn yuǎn,

表姐住的地方离市中心还很远，

My (older) cousin's place was far from there,

表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
住	zhù	to live
的	de	(used after an attribute)
地方	dìfang	place
离	lí	(in giving distances) from
市中心	shìzhōngxīn	downtown
还	hái	still

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很 hěnn very

远 yuǎn far

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zuò le liǎng gè xiǎoshí de gōngjiāochē cái dào shū chéng.

坐了两个小时的公交车才到书城。

so we had to take a two-hour bus ride to reach the bookstore.

坐 zuò to take (a bus, airplane etc)

了 le (completed action marker)

两 liǎng two

个 gè classifier for objects in general

小时 xiǎoshí hour

的 de (used after an attribute)

公交车 gōngjiāochē bus

才 cái only then

到 dào to arrive

书城 shūchéng book city

51

Shū chéng lǐ de shū fēicháng duō, kàn de wǒ tóuyūn.

书城里的书非常多，看得我头晕。

There were so many books in the bookstore that it made me dizzy just looking at them.

书城 shūchéng book city

里 lǐ inside

的 de (used after an attribute)

书 shū book

非常 fēicháng very

多 duō many

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

看	kàn	to look at
得	de	(structural particle)
我	wǒ	I
头晕	tóuyūn	dizzy

52

Dàchéngshì lǐ hǎoxiàng shénme dōu duō!

大城市里好像什么都多！

It seemed like everything was abundant in big cities!

大城市	dàchéngshì	big city
里	lǐ	inside
好像	hǎoxiàng	to seem like
什么	shénme	anything
都	dōu	all
多	duō	many

53

Shū duō, rén duō, chēzi duō.

书多，人多，车子多。

There were lots of books, lots of people, lots of cars,

书	shū	book
多	duō	many
人	rén	people
多	duō	many
车子	chēzi	small vehicle (car, bicycle, cart etc)
多	duō	many

54

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

Érqiě rénmen zǒulù fēicháng kuài,

而且人们走路非常快，

and people walked really fast.

而且 érqiě moreover

人们 rénmen people

走路 zǒulù to walk

非常 fēicháng very

快 kuài quick

55

wǒ wánquán wúfǎ shìyìng,

我完全无法适应，

I couldn't adapt to it at all

我 wǒ I

完全 wánquán totally

无法 wúfǎ unable

适应 shìyìng to adapt

56

měicì qù shìzhōngxīn dōu gǎnjué bùshūfu.

每次去市中心都感觉不舒服。

and felt uncomfortable every time I went downtown.

每次 měicì every time

去 qù to go to (a place)

市中心 shìzhōngxīn downtown

都 dōu all

感觉 gǎnjué to feel

不舒服 bùshūfu to feel uncomfortable

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

57

Wǒ měitiān gēnzhe biǎogē chūqù wán,

我每天跟着表哥出去玩，

However, I (still) went out with my male cousin every day

我 wǒ I

每天 měitiān every day

跟着 gēnzhe to follow after

表哥 biǎogē older male cousin via female line

出去 chūqù to go out

玩 wán to have fun

58

suīrán bù tài xíguàn dàchéngshì de kuài jiézòu,

虽然不太习惯大城市的快节奏，

and although I was not used to the fast pace of the big city,

虽然 suīrán although

不太 bùtài not very

习惯 xíguàn to be used to

大城市 dàchéngshì big city

的 de (used after an attribute)

快 kuài quick

节奏 jiézòu rhythm

59

dàn yě hěn kāixīn néng tǐyàn bù yīyàng de shēnghuó.

但也很开心能体验不一样的生活。

I was happy to experience a different lifestyle.

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

但	dàn	yet
也	yě	also
很	hěn	very
开心	kāixīn	to feel happy
能	néng	to be able to
体验	tǐyàn	to experience for oneself
不一样	bùyīyàng	different
的	de	(used after an attribute)
生活	shēnghuó	life

60

Kě méi guò liǎng tiān, biǎojiě de bàba chūshì le,

可没过两天，表姐的爸爸出事了，

Just a few days later, my cousins' father

可	kě	but
没	méi	have not
过	guò	to pass (time)
两	liǎng	two
天	tiān	day
表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
爸爸	bàba	(informal) father
出事	chūshì	to have an accident
了	le	(completed action marker)

61

tā zài gōngzuò shí shòushāng le,

他在工作时受伤了，

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

was injured in an accident while working

他	tā	he
在	zài	(to be) in
工作	gōngzuò	to work
时	shí	when
受伤	shòushāng	to sustain injuries
了	le	(completed action marker)

62

biǎogē bùdébù huíqu zhàogu tā.

表哥不得不回去照顾他。

and the male cousin had to go back to take care of him.

表哥	biǎogē	older male cousin via female line
不得不	bùdébù	have to
回去	huíqu	to go back
照顾	zhàogu	to take care of
他	tā	him

63

Zhèxià méi rén péi wǒ chūqù wán le,

这下没人陪我出去玩了，

Now that no one was there to take me out,

这下	zhèxià	this time
没	méi	not
人	rén	people
陪	péi	to accompany
我	wǒ	me
出去	chūqù	to go out

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

玩	wán	to have fun
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

64

wǒ jiù měitiān gēnzhe biǎojiě qù gōngsī kàn diànshì,

我就每天跟着表姐去公司看电视，

I had to stay at the company with my female cousin every day to watch TV

我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	then
每天	měitiān	every day
跟着	gēnzhe	to follow after
表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
去	qù	to go to
公司	gōngsī	(business) company
看	kàn	to watch
电视	diànshì	television

65

ǒu'ěr bāngmáng gànhuó.

偶尔帮忙干活。

and occasionally helped with chores.

偶尔	ǒu'ěr	occasionally
帮忙	bāngmáng	to help
干活	gànhuó	to work

66

Hěn kuài wǒ de yī gè yuè jiàqī jiù yào jiéshù le.

很快我的一个月假期就要结束了。

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

My one-month vacation was soon coming to an end,

很快 hěn kuài very quickly

我的 wǒ de my

一个月 yī gè yuè one month

假期 jiàqī vacation

就要 jiùyào to be going to

结束 jiéshù to end

了 le (completed action marker)

67

Zhèng dǎsuàn mǎi piào huíqu de shíhou,

正打算买票回去的时候，

and just as I was about to buy a ticket to go back,

正 zhèng just (right)

打算 dǎsuàn to plan

买 mǎi to buy

票 piào ticket

回去 huíqu to return

的 de (used after an attribute)

时候 shíhou time (when)

68

biǎojiě de nán péngyou de nǎinai tūrán qùshì le.

表姐的男朋友的奶奶突然去世了。

my cousin's boyfriend's grandmother passed away suddenly.

表姐 biǎojiě older female cousin via female line

的 de ~'s (possessive particle)

男朋友 nán péngyou boyfriend

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
奶奶	nǎinai	(informal) grandma
突然	tūrán	sudden
去世	qùshì	to pass away
了	le	(completed action marker)

69

Tāmen liǎng gè bìxū zuòfēijī gǎn huíqu cānjiā zànglǐ,

他们两个必须坐飞机赶回去参加葬礼，

Both of them had to fly back to attend the funeral,

他们	tāmen	they
两	liǎng	two
个	gè	classifier for people
必须	bìxū	to have to
坐飞机	zuòfēijī	to catch a plane
赶	gǎn	to rush
回去	huíqu	to go back
参加	cānjiā	to take part
葬礼	zànglǐ	funeral

70

ér gōngsī jiù zhǐyǒu Xiǎo Zhāng yīgèrén,

而公司就只有小张一个人，

leaving only Xiao Zhang at the company.

而	ér	and
公司	gōngsī	(business) company
就	jiù	just (emphasis)
只有	zhǐyǒu	only

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

小张 xiǎozhāng Xiao Zhang

一个人 yīgèrén alone

71

suǒyǐ biǎojiě qǐng wǒ zài Zhēnzhèn duō dāi jǐtiān,

所以表姐请我在深圳多待几天，

So, my cousin asked me to stay in Shenzhen for a few more days

所以 suǒyǐ therefore

表姐 biǎojiě older female cousin via female line

请 qǐng to ask

我 wǒ me

在 zài (to be) in

深圳 Shēnzhèn Shenzhen

多 duō more

待 dāi to stay

几天 jǐtiān several days

72

bāngmáng zhàokàn gōngsī.

帮忙照看公司。

to help take care of the company.

帮忙 bāngmáng to help

照看 zhàokàn to look after

公司 gōngsī (business) company

73

Yī gè lǐbài hòu, tāmen huílai le,

一个礼拜后，他们回来了，

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

After a week, they returned,

一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for objects in general
礼拜	lǐbài	week
后	hòu	later
他们	tāmen	they
回来	huílai	to return
了	le	(completed action marker)

74

wǒ yě gāi huíqu gōngzuò le.

我也该回去工作了。

and it was time for me to go back to work.

我	wǒ	I
也	yě	also
该	gāi	should
回去	huíqu	to go back
工作	gōngzuò	to work
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

75

Kě wǒ fāxiàn wǒ jiànjian xǐhuan shang dàchéngshì le,

可我发现我渐渐喜欢上大城市了，

But I realized that I was gradually falling in love with the big city,

可	kě	but
我	wǒ	I
发现	fāxiàn	to find
我	wǒ	I

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

渐渐	jiànjàn	gradually
喜欢	xǐhuan	to like
上	shang	(indicating an action has started)
大城市	dàchéngshì	big city
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

76

biǎojiě yě tíyì ràng wǒ zài Shēnzhèn zhǎo gōngzuò.

表姐也提议让我在深圳找工作。

and my cousin suggested that I look for a job in Shenzhen.

表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
也	yě	also
提议	tíyì	to suggest
让	ràng	to let sb do sth
我	wǒ	me
在	zài	(to be) in
深圳	Shēnzhèn	Shenzhen
找	zhǎo	to look
工作	gōngzuò	job

77

Wǒ xīnxiǎng huíqu xiǎo chéngshì yě méiyǒushénme fāzhǎn,

我心想回去小城市也没有什么发展，

I thought to myself that going back to a small town wouldn't offer much in terms of career opportunities,

我	wǒ	I
心想	xīnxiǎng	to think to oneself
回去	huíqu	to go back

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

小	xiǎo	small
城市	chéngshì	city
也	yě	also
没有什么	méiyǒushénme	there's nothing ... about it
发展	fāzhǎn	development / growth

78

jiù juéding liú xiàlai le.

就决定留下来了。

so I decided to stay.

就	jiù	then
决定	juéding	to decide
留	liú	to stay
下来	xiàlai	(indicating motion down and towards us)
了	le	(completed action marker)

79

Yúshì wǒ kāishǐ zài wǎngshàng zhǎo gōngzuò,

于是我开始在网上找工作，

Then, I started searching for jobs online,

于是	yúshì	as a result
我	wǒ	I
开始	kāishǐ	to begin
在	zài	(to be) in
网上	wǎngshàng	online
找	zhǎo	to look for
工作	gōngzuò	job

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

80

kě méiyǒu dàxué wénpíng,

可没有大学文凭,

but without a college degree,

可 kě but

没有 méiyǒu to not have

大学 dàxué university / college

文凭 wénpíng diploma

81

gōngsī dōu bù yuànyì yào wǒ.

公司都不愿意要我。

companies were reluctant to hire me.

公司 gōngsī (business) company

都 dōu all

不 bù not

愿意 yuànyì willing (to do sth)

要 yào to take

我 wǒ me

82

Wǒ yǒudiǎn huāng le, bùzhī gāi zěnmébàn.

我有点慌了，不知该怎么办。

(After a while), I started to panic a bit, and did not know what to do.

我 wǒ I

有点 yǒudiǎn a little

慌 huāng to get panicky

了 le (completed action marker)

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

不知 bùzhī not to know

该 gāi should

怎么办 zěnmébàn what's to be done

83

Zuìhòu biǎojiě de nán péngyou juéding ràng wǒ zài tā de gōngsī zuò xiāoshòu,

最后表姐的男朋友决定让我在他的公司做销售，

Eventually, my cousin's boyfriend decided to have me work in his company as a salesperson.

最后 zuìhòu finally

表姐 biǎojiě older female cousin via female line

的 de ~'s (possessive particle)

男朋友 nán péngyou boyfriend

决定 juéding to decide (to do something)

让 ràng to let sb do sth

我 wǒ me

在 zài (to be) in

他的 tā de his

公司 gōngsī (business) company

做 zuò to be

销售 xiāoshòu sales

84

zhèyàng wǒ néng hé biǎojiě zhù zài yīqǐ.

这样我能和表姐住在一起。

This way, I could live with my cousin.

这样 zhèyàng this way

我 wǒ I

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

能	néng	can
和	hé	with
表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
住	zhù	to live
在一起	zàiyìqǐ	together

85

Suīrán bù zhīdào xiāoshòu shì zuò shénme de,

虽然不知道销售是做什么的，

Even though I wasn't exactly sure what sales involved,

虽然	suīrán	even though
不	bù	not
知道	zhīdào	to know
销售	xiāoshòu	sales
是...的	shì...de	(structure to emphasize information)
做	zuò	to do
什么	shénme	what?

86

dàn wǒ hái shì hěn kāixīn néng gēn biǎojiě yìqǐ gōngzuò.

但我还是很开心能跟表姐一起工作。

I was still happy to be able to work with my cousin.

但	dàn	but
我	wǒ	I
还是	háishi	still
很	hěn	very
开心	kāixīn	to feel happy
能	néng	to be able to

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

跟	gēn	with
表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
一起	yīqǐ	together
工作	gōngzuò	to work

87

Jiù zhèyàng, wǒ liú zài le Shēnzhèn,

就这样，我留在了深圳，

And that was how I stayed in Shenzhen

就	jiù	just (emphasis)
这样	zhèyàng	like this
我	wǒ	I
留	liú	to stay
在	zài	(to be) in
了	le	(completed action marker)
深圳	Shēnzhèn	Shenzhen

88

érqiě hái yǒu le gōngzuò.

而且还有了工作。

and got a job.

而且	érqiě	moreover
还	hái	also
有	yǒu	to have
了	le	(completed action marker)
工作	gōngzuò	job

89

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

Wǒ qíshí gēnběn bù dǒng xiāoshòu yuán shì zuò shénme de,

我其实根本不懂销售员是做什么的，

I actually didn't understand what a salesperson was supposed to do

我	wǒ	I
其实	qíshí	actually
根本	gēnběn	(not) at all
不	bù	not
懂	dǒng	to understand
销售员	xiāoshòu yuán	sales person
是...的	shì...de	(structure to emphasize information)
做	zuò	to do
什么	shénme	what?

90

yǐwéi jiù gēn zài gōngchǎng gōngzuò yīyàng.

以为就跟在工厂工作一样。

and I thought it was similar to working in a factory.

以为	yǐwéi	to assume
就	jiù	just (emphasis)
跟	gēn	as (compared to)
在	zài	(to be) in
工厂	gōngchǎng	factory
工作	gōngzuò	to work
一样	yīyàng	the same as

91

Ránhòu biǎojiě de nán péngyou, yě jiù shì wǒ de lǎobǎn,

然后表姐的男朋友，也就是我的老板，

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

And then my cousin's boyfriend, who was now my boss,

然后	ránhòu	then (afterwards)
表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
男朋友	nán péngyou	boyfriend
也就是	yě jiù shì	that is
我的	wǒ de	my
老板	lǎobǎn	boss

92

tā shǒubǎshǒu jiāo wǒ rúhé zài wǎngshàng xúnzhǎo kèhù,

他手把手教我如何在网上寻找客户，

personally taught me how to find clients online,

他	tā	he
手把手	shǒubǎshǒu	hand in hand
教	jiāo	to teach
我	wǒ	me
如何	rúhé	how
在	zài	(to be) in
网上	wǎngshàng	online
寻找	xúnzhǎo	to look for
客户	kèhù	customer

93

rúhé dǎdiànhuà gěi kèhù,

如何打电话给客户，

how to call them,

如何	rúhé	how
----	------	-----

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

打电话 dǎdiànhuà to make a telephone call

给 gěi to

客户 kèhù customer

94

ránhòu shuǐfú kèhù mǎi wǒmen de chǎnpǐn.

然后说服客户买我们的产品。

and how to persuade them to buy our products.

然后 ránhòu then (afterwards)

说服 shuǐfú to convince

客户 kèhù customer

买 mǎi to buy

我们 wǒmen our

的 de ~'s (possessive particle)

产品 chǎnpǐn product

95

Wǒ suīrán shénme dōu bù dǒng,

我虽然什么都不懂，

Although I didn't know anything,

我 wǒ I

虽然 suīrán even if

什么 shénme anything

都 dōu (not) at all

不 bù not

懂 dǒng to understand

96

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

dàn hěn ài wèn wèntí,

但很爱问问题，

I loved asking questions,

但 dàn but

很 hěn very much

爱 ài to love

问 wèn to ask

问题 wèntí question

97

suǒyǐ méi guò duōjiǔ wǒ jiù liǎojiě le xiāoshòu yuán de gōngzuò shì shénme.

所以没过多久我就了解了销售员的工作是什么。

so it didn't take long for me to understand what the job of a salesperson entailed.

所以 suǒyǐ so

没过多久 méi guò duōjiǔ before too long

我 wǒ I

就 jiù then

了解 liǎojiě to understand

了 le (completed action marker)

销售员 xiāoshòu yuán sales person

的 de (used after an attribute)

工作 gōngzuò job

是 shì is

什么 shénme what?

98

Gōngsī zhǐyǒu yī gè xiǎo chējiān,

公司只有一个小车间，

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

The company had only one small workshop

公司	gōngsī	(business) company
只	zhǐ	only
有	yǒu	to have
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for objects in general
小	xiǎo	small
车间	chējiān	workshop

99

yònglái shēngchǎn yàngpǐn.

用来生产样品。

for producing samples,

用来	yònglái	to be used for
生产	shēngchǎn	to produce
样品	yàngpǐn	sample

100

Dà pīliàng de dìngdān jiù fā qù gōngchǎng dàigōng,

大批量的订单就发去工厂代工，

while bulk orders were outsourced to factories.

大批量	dà pīliàng	big batch
的	de	(used after an attribute)
订单	dìngdān	order
就	jiù	then
发	fā	to send out
去	qù	to go
工厂	gōngchǎng	factory

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

代工 dàigōng OEM (original equipment manufacturer) supplier

101

dàn xiǎo pīliàng wǒmen yībān zìjǐ shēngchǎn,

但小批量我们一般自己生产，

However, for small batches, we usually produced them ourselves

但 dàn but

小批量 xiǎo pīliàng small batch

我们 wǒmen we

一般 yībān generally

自己 zìjǐ oneself

生产 shēngchǎn to produce

102

zhèyàng néng shěng yī bǐ qián.

这样能省一笔钱。

to save money.

这样 zhèyàng this way

能 néng can

省 shěng to save

一 yī one

笔 bǐ classifier for sums of money

钱 qián money

103

Yǒuyīcì, wǒ de kèhù xià le yī gè xiǎo dìngdān.

有一次，我的客户下了一个小订单。

Once, a client placed a small order

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有一次	yǒuyīcì	once
我的	wǒ de	my
客户	kèhù	customer
下	xià	issue (an order, etc.)
了	le	(completed action marker)
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for objects in general
小	xiǎo	small
订单	dìngdān	(purchase) order

104

Jiāo qī hěn jǐn, méibànfǎ,

交期很紧，没办法，

with a tight deadline. We had no other choice:

交期	jiāoqī	delivery date
很	hěn	very
紧	jǐn	tight
没办法	méibànfǎ	there is nothing to be done

105

wèile néng zhǔnshí jiāohuò,

为了能准时交货，

in order to deliver it on time,

为了	wèile	in order to
能	néng	to be able to
准时	zhǔnshí	on time
交货	jiāohuò	to deliver goods

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

106

wǒmen sì gè rén gōngzuò le yī wǎnshang,

我们四个人工作了一晚上，

the four of us had to work overnight.

我们	wǒmen	we
四	sì	four
个	gè	classifier for people
人	rén	people
工作	gōngzuò	to work
了	le	(completed action marker)
一	yī	one
晚上	wǎnshang	night

107

dì'èrtiān zǎoshang shùnlì fāhuò.

第二天早上顺利发货。

The next morning, we successfully shipped the order.

第二天	dì'èrtiān	next day
早上	zǎoshang	early morning
顺利	shùnlì	smoothly
发货	fāhuò	to send out goods

108

Lèisì de shìqíng jīngcháng fāshēng,

类似的事情经常发生，

Similar situations frequently occurred,

类似	lèisì	similar
的	de	(used after an attribute)

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

事情	shìqíng	thing
经常	jīngcháng	often
发生	fāshēng	to happen

109

wǒmen yě jīngcháng áoyè shēngchǎn,

我们也经常熬夜生产,

and we often found ourselves working late into the night

我们	wǒmen	we
也	yě	also
经常	jīngcháng	often
熬夜	áoyè	to stay up late or all night
生产	shēngchǎn	to produce

110

yǒushíhou lián zhōumò dōu yào gōngzuò.

有时候连周末都要工作。

or even over weekends.

有时候	yǒushíhou	sometimes
连	lián	(used with 也, 都 etc) even
周末	zhōumò	weekend
都	dōu	(used for emphasis) even
要	yào	must
工作	gōngzuò	to work

111

Dàn nàshíhou bìngbù juéde xīnkǔ,

但那时候并不觉得辛苦,

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

However, I never felt burdened during those times.

但	dàn	but
---	-----	-----

那时候	nàshíhou	at that time
-----	----------	--------------

并不	bìngbù	not at all
----	--------	------------

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

辛苦	xīnkǔ	hard
----	-------	------

112

fǎn'ér juéde hěn chōngshí.

反而觉得很充实。

Instead, I felt fulfilled.

反而	fǎn'ér	instead
----	--------	---------

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

很	hěn	very
---	-----	------

充实	chōngshí	full
----	----------	------

113

Zài Shēnzhèn, chúle biǎojiě,

在深圳，除了表姐，

In Shenzhen, aside from my cousin,

在	zài	(to be) in
---	-----	------------

深圳	Shēnzhèn	Shenzhen
----	----------	----------

除了	chúle	besides
----	-------	---------

表姐	biǎojiě	older female cousin via female line
----	---------	-------------------------------------

114

wǒ shéi yě bù rènshi.

我谁也不认识。

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

I didn't know anyone else.

我	wǒ	I
谁	shéi	who / anyone
也	yě	(for emphasis)
不	bù	not
认识	rènshi	to know

115

Měitiān de shíjiān dōu shì zài bàngōngshì lǐ dùguò,

每天的时间都是在办公室里度过，

I spent all my time in the office

每天	měitiān	every day
的	de	(used after an attribute)
时间	shíjiān	time
都	dōu	all
是	shì	is
在	zài	(to be) in
办公室	bàngōngshì	office
里	lǐ	inside
度过	dùguò	to pass

116

yī nián zhīhòu, wǒ gǎnjué zìjǐ de shēnghuó hěn dāndiào.

一年之后，我感觉自己的生活很单调。

and after a year, I found my life to be quite dull.

一	yī	one
年	nián	year
之后	zhīhòu	later

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我	wǒ	I
感觉	gǎnjué	to feel
自己	zìjǐ	oneself
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
生活	shēnghuó	life
很	hěn	very
单调	dāndiào	monotonous

117

Nàzhǒng gǎnjué ràng wǒ hěn yāyì,

那种感觉让我很压抑，

That feeling made me deeply depressed

那种	nàzhǒng	that kind of
感觉	gǎnjué	feeling
让	ràng	to make sb (feel sad etc)
我	wǒ	me
很	hěn	very
压抑	yāyì	depressing

118

yě fēicháng kěwàng néng jiāo dào yīxiē péngyou.

也非常渴望能交到一些朋友。

and I longed for some friends.

也	yě	also
非常	fēicháng	very much
渴望	kěwàng	to long for
能	néng	to be able to
交	jiāo	to make friends

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

到 dào (verb complement)

一些 yīxiē some

朋友 péngyou friend

119

Ránhòu wǒ zài wǎngshàng zhǎo dào le yī gè páshān de qún,

然后我在网上找到了一个爬山的群，

Then, I found a hiking group online,

然后 ránhòu then (afterwards)

我 wǒ I

在 zài (to be) in

网上 wǎngshàng online

找到 zhǎodào to find

了 le (completed action marker)

一 yī one

个 gè classifier for objects in general

爬山 páshān hiking

的 de (used after an attribute)

群 qún group

120

měi zhōurì gēnzhe yī qún bù rènshi de rén qù páshān,

每周日跟着一群不认识的人去爬山，

and every Sunday I would join a group of strangers to go hiking.

每 měi every

周日 Zhōurì Sunday

跟着 gēnzhe to follow after

一群 yī qún a group of

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

不	bù	not
认识	rènshi	to know
的	de	(used after an attribute)
人	rén	people
去	qù	to go
爬山	páshān	hiking

121

yīxià zǒujìn le yī qún huópo de rénqún zhōng,

一下走进了一群活泼的人群中，

Suddenly, I stepped into a lively community,

一下	yīxià	all of a sudden
走进	zǒujìn	to enter
了	le	(completed action marker)
一	yī	one
群	qún	group
活泼	huópo	lively
的	de	(used after an attribute)
人群	rénqún	crowd
中	zhōng	in

122

wǒ zìjǐ yě biànde kāilǎng duō le.

我自己也变得开朗多了。

and I myself became much more outgoing.

我自己	wǒ zìjǐ	myself
也	yě	also
变得	biànde	to become

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

开朗	kāilǎng	cheerful
多	duō	more
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

123

Měicì pá wán shān wǒ yòu pàn zhe xiàcì qù páshān,

每次爬完山我又盼着下次去爬山，

Every time after hiking, I would eagerly look forward to the next (Sunday hike).

每次	měicì	every time
爬	pá	to climb
完	wán	to finish
山	shān	mountain
我	wǒ	I
又	yòu	(once) again
盼	pàn	to long for
着	zhe	(indicating action in progress)
下次	xiàcì	next time
去	qù	to go
爬山	páshān	hiking

124

dàn bìngbù shì měi zhōurì dōu kěyǐ xiūxi.

但并不是每周日都可以休息。

However, it wasn't always possible to have Sundays off

但	dàn	but
并不	bìngbù	emphatically not
是	shì	is
每	měi	every

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

周日 Zhōurì Sunday

都 dōu all

可以 kěyǐ can

休息 xiūxi rest

125

Yīnwèi gōngsī ǒu'ěr máng,

因为公司偶尔忙，

because occasionally, my company would be busy

因为 yīnwèi because

公司 gōngsī (business) company

偶尔 ǒu'ěr sometimes

忙 máng busy

126

wǒ jiù xūyào liú xiàlai jiābān.

我就需要留下来加班。

and I would have to stay and work overtime.

我 wǒ I

就 jiù then

需要 xūyào to need

留 liú to stay

下来 xiàlai (indicates motion down and towards us)

加班 jiābān to work overtime

127

Nàme wǒ yòu děi zài děng yī gè lǐbài cái néng qù páshān.

那么我又得再等一个礼拜才能去爬山。

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

So, I had to wait another week before I could go hiking again.

那么	nàme	in that case
我	wǒ	I
又	yòu	(once) again
得	děi	to have to
再	zài	in addition to
等	děng	to wait for
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for or objects in general
礼拜	lǐbài	week
才	cái	only then
能	néng	can
去	qù	to go
爬山	páshān	hiking

128

Yě shì yīnwèi páshān,

也是因为爬山，

It was because of hiking

也	yě	also
是	shì	is
因为	yīnwèi	because
爬山	páshān	hiking

129

wǒ rènshi le wǒ de hǎopéngyou Xiǎo Mǐ.

我认识了我的好朋友小米。

that I met my friend Xiaomi.

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我	wǒ	I
认识	rènshi	to get acquainted with sb
了	le	(completed action marker)
我的	wǒ de	my
好朋友	hǎopéngyou	good friend
小米	xiǎomǐ	Xiao Mi

130

Wǒmen liǎ wúhuàbùtán, hěn hédelái.

我们俩无话不谈，很合得来。

We talked about everything and got along very well.

我们	wǒmen	we
俩	liǎ	two
无话不谈	wúhuàbùtán	to tell each other everything
很	hěn	very
合得来	hédelái	to get along well

131

Xiǎo Mǐ hé zhèxiē lúyǒu wèi wǒ de shēnghuó zēngtiān le hěn duō huānxiào.

小米和这些驴友为我的生活增添了很多欢笑。

Xiaomi and these hiking buddies added a lot of joy to my life.

小米	xiǎomǐ	Xiao Mi
和	hé	and
这些	zhèxiē	these
驴友	lúyǒu	travel buddy
为	wèi	for
我的	wǒ de	my
生活	shēnghuó	life

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

增添	zēngtiān	to add
了	le	(completed action marker)
很	hěn	very
多	duō	much
欢笑	huānxiào	to laugh happily

132

Yǒule xīn péngyou, měizhōu yě yǒu huódòng cānjiā,

有了新朋友，每周也有活动参加，

With new friends, I had activities to participate in every week.

有	yǒu	to have
了	le	(indicating a change of state)
新	xīn	new
朋友	péngyou	friend
每周	měizhōu	every week
也	yě	also
有	yǒu	to have
活动	huódòng	active
参加	cānjiā	to participate

133

wǒ yīnggāi hěn kāixīn cái duì,

我应该很开心才对，

I should have been happy,

我	wǒ	I
应该	yīnggāi	should
很	hěn	very
开心	kāixīn	to feel happy

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

才 cái only then

对 duì right

134

Dàn zǒng gǎnjué shēnghuó zhōng hái shì quē le diǎn shénme.

但总感觉生活中还是缺了点什么。

but (instead) I always felt like there was something missing in my life.

但 dàn but

总 zǒng always

感觉 gǎnjué to feel

生活 shēnghuó life

中 zhōng in

还是 hái shì still

缺 quē lack

了 le (completed action marker)

点 diǎn a little

什么 shénme something

135

Zài Zhōngguó, zuòwéi xiāoshòu, bìxū yào huì shuōhuà,

在中国，作为销售，必须要会说话，

In China, as a salesperson, it was necessary to be good at communication,

在 zài (to be) in

中国 Zhōngguó China

作为 zuòwéi as (in the capacity of)

销售 xiāoshòu sales

必须 bìxū to have to

要 yào must

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

会 huì to be able to

说话 shuōhuà to talk

136

huì tǎohǎo kèhù, ǒu'ěr yě yào sāhuǎng.

会讨好客户，偶尔也要撒谎。

pleasing customers and occasionally telling lies.

会 huì to be good at

讨好 tǎohǎo to win favor by fawning on sb

客户 kèhù customer

偶尔 ǒu'ěr occasionally

也 yě also

要 yào must

撒谎 sāhuǎng to tell lies

137

Dàn zhèxiē dōu bùshì wǒ shàncháng de,

但这些都不是我擅长的，

However, these were not my strengths.

但 dàn but

这些 zhèxiē these

都 dōu all

不是 bùshì is not

我 wǒ I

擅长 shàncháng to be good at

的 de (used at the end for emphasis)

138

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yīnggāi shuō wǒ gēnběn jiù bù xǐhuan,

应该说我根本就不喜欢，

I (actually) didn't like it at all.

应该	yīnggāi	should
说	shuō	to say
我	wǒ	I
根本	gēnběn	(not) at all
就	jiù	just (emphasis)
不	bù	not
喜欢	xǐhuan	to like

139

suǒyǐ wǒ de yèjì yīzhí hěn zāogāo,

所以我的业绩一直很糟糕，

So, my performance was poor,

所以	suǒyǐ	therefore
我的	wǒ de	my
业绩	yèjì	performance (of a employee)
一直	yīzhí	always
很	hěn	very
糟糕	zāogāo	terrible

140

cóng gōngzuò shàng wǒ huòdé bùliǎo rènhe chéngjiù gǎn.

从工作上我获得不了任何成就感。

and I didn't derive any sense of achievement from my work.

从	cóng	from
工作	gōngzuò	work

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上	shang	on
我	wǒ	I
获得	huòdé	to get
不了	bùliǎo	unable to
任何	rènhé	any
成就感	chéngjiù gǎn	a sense of achievement

141

Xiāngbǐ hé Zhōngguó rén zuòshēngyì,

相比和中国人做生意，

Compared to Chinese,

相比	xiāngbǐ	to compare
和	hé	with
中国人	Zhōngguó rén	Chinese person
做生意	zuòshēngyì	to do business

142

wǒ gèng xǐhuan xīfāng rén de zhíjiē,

我更喜欢西方人的直接，

I preferred dealing with Westerners in business as I appreciated their directness.

我	wǒ	I
更	gèng	more
喜欢	xǐhuan	to like
西方人	Xīfāng rén	Westerner
的	de	(used after an attribute)
直接	zhíjiē	straightforward

143

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suǒyǐ wǒ xīwàng zìjǐ néng jiǎng yīngyǔ,

所以我希望自己能讲英语，

Therefore, I wished that I could speak English

所以	suǒyǐ	so
----	-------	----

我	wǒ	I
---	----	---

希望	xīwàng	to wish for
----	--------	-------------

自己	zìjǐ	oneself
----	------	---------

能	néng	can
---	------	-----

讲	jiǎng	to speak
---	-------	----------

英语	Yīngyǔ	English (language)
----	--------	--------------------

144

zuò wàimào xiāoshòu yuán, gēn wàiguórén zuòshēngyì.

做外贸销售员，跟外国人做生意。

and worked as a foreign trade salesperson, conducting business with foreigners.

做	zuò	to do
---	-----	-------

外贸	wàimào	foreign trade
----	--------	---------------

销售员	xiāoshòu yuán	sales person
-----	---------------	--------------

跟	gēn	with
---	-----	------

外国人	wàiguórén	foreigner
-----	-----------	-----------

做生意	zuòshēngyì	to do business
-----	------------	----------------

145

Yúshì wǒ jiù xúnsi zhe liyòng kòngyú shíjiān zìxué Yīngyǔ.

于是我就寻思着利用空余时间自学英语。

So I considered using my free time to study English.

于是	yúshì	thus
----	-------	------

我	wǒ	I
---	----	---

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

就	jiù	then
寻思	xúnsi	to think to oneself
着	zhe	(indicating action in progress)
利用	lìyòng	to use
空余	kòngyú	free
时间	shíjiān	time
自学	zìxué	self-study
英语	Yīngyǔ	English (language)

146

Děng xuéhǎo le shuōbúdìng néng zuò wàimào, hái néng chūguó lǚyóu.

等学好了说不定能做外贸，还能出国旅游。

Who knows, if I became proficient, I would be able to work in foreign trade and even travel abroad.

等	děng	when
学	xué	to study
好	hǎo	(indicate finishing satisfactorily)
了	le	(completed action marker)
说不定	shuōbúdìng	maybe
能	néng	can
做	zuò	to do
外贸	wàimào	foreign trade
还	hái	also
能	néng	can
出国	chūguó	to go abroad
旅游	lǚyóu	to travel

147

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

Zhè tīngqilai shì gè bùcuò de zhǔyi ba?

这听起来是个不错的主意吧？

Didn't this sound like a good idea?

这 zhè this

听起来 tīngqilai to sound like

是 shì is

个 gè classifier for objects in general

不错 bùcuò pretty good

的 de (used after an attribute)

主意 zhǔyi idea

吧 ba ...right?

148

Kě wǒ zhǐ zài chūzhōng xué guo sān nián Yīngyǔ,

可我只在初中学过三年英语，

But I only studied English for three years in middle school,

可 kě but

我 wǒ I

只 zhǐ only

在 zài (to be) in

初中 chūzhōng junior high school

学 xué to study

过 guo (experienced action marker)

三年 sān nián three year

英语 Yīngyǔ English (language)

149

nà huìr bùshì hěn xǐhuan Yīngyǔ,

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那会儿不是很喜欢英语，

and I didn't really like it back then,

那会儿 nàhuìr at that time

不是 bùshì not

很 hěn very

喜欢 xǐhuan to like

英语 Yīngyǔ English (language)

150

suǒyǐ chéngjì hěn chà,

所以成绩很差，

so my grades were poor.

所以 suǒyǐ so

成绩 chéngjì grades

很 hěn very

差 chà bad

151

zhǐ rènshi èrshí liù gè zìmǔ hé jǐge dāncí.

只认识二十六个字母和几个单词。

At that time, I only knew the 26 letters and a few words.

只 zhǐ only

认识 rènshi to know

二十六 èrshí liù 26

个 gè classifier for objects in general

字母 zìmǔ letter (of the alphabet)

和 hé and

几个 jǐge a few

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

单词 dāncí word

152

Yào zìxué shìbùshì bù tài kěnéng ya?

要自学是不是不太可能呀?

Didn't it sound impossible for me to self-learn English?

要 yào going to (as future auxiliary)

自学 zìxué self-study

是不是 shìbùshì is or isn't

不太 bùtài not very

可能 kěnéng possible

呀 ya particle expressing surprise or doubt

153

Jiāshàng wǒ dāngshí méi qián yě méi shíjiān qù xuéxiào xué.

加上我当时没钱也没时间去学校学。

In addition, I didn't have money or time to go to school to learn.

加上 jiāshàng in addition

我 wǒ I

当时 dāngshí at that time

没 méi have not

钱 qián money

也 yě also

没时间 méi shíjiān no time

去 qù to go

学校 xuéxiào school

学 xué to study

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

154

Bùguò hǎozài shēnbiān de péngyou men dōu hěn lèyì bāng wǒ,

不过好在身边的朋友们都很乐意帮我，

Luckily, the friends around me were willing to help

不过 bùguò but

好在 hǎozài fortunately

身边 shēnbiān at one's side

的 de (used after an attribute)

朋友 péngyou friend

们 men plural marker for pronouns

都 dōu all

很 hěn very much

乐意 lèyì to be willing to do sth

帮 bāng to help

我 wǒ me

155

fēnfēn gěi wǒ jièshào xuéxí Yīngyǔ de zīyuán.

纷纷给我介绍学习英语的资源。

and recommended English learning resources.

纷纷 fēnfēn one after another

给 gěi for

我 wǒ me

介绍 jièshào to introduce (sb to sb)

学习 xuéxí to learn

英语 Yīngyǔ English (language)

的 de (used after an attribute)

资源 zīyuán resource

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

156

Cóngcǐ wǒ de shíjiān chúle shàngbān jiù dōu yòng zài le xuéxí Yīngyǔ shang.

从此我的时间除了上班就都用在了学习英语上。

From then on, I dedicated all of my time to learning English, except for when I was working.

从此	cóngcǐ	since then
我的	wǒ de	my
时间	shíjiān	time
除了	chúle	except (for)
上班	shàngbān	to go to work
就	jiù	then
都	dōu	all
用	yòng	to use
在	zài	(to be) in
了	le	(completed action marker)
学习	xuéxí	to study
英语	Yīngyǔ	English (language)
上	shang	on

157

Měitiān zǎoshang wǔ diǎn duō jiù qǐchuáng,

每天早上五点多就起床，

I would wake up around 5 am every morning

每天	měitiān	every day
早上	zǎoshang	early morning
五	wǔ	five
点	diǎn	o'clock

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

多	duō	more
就	jiù	as soon as
起床	qǐchuáng	to get up

158

qù shàngbān qián xué yī gè xiǎoshí Yīngyǔ,

去上班前学一个小时英语，

and spent an hour studying English before going to work.

去	qù	to go
上班	shàngbān	to go to work
前	qián	before
学	xué	to study
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for objects in general
小时	xiǎoshí	hour
英语	Yīngyǔ	English (language)

159

xiàbān huílai yòu jìxù xué,

下班回来又继续学，

After returning from work, I would continue studying

下班	xiàbān	to finish work
回来	huílai	to come back
又	yòu	(once) again
继续	jìxù	to continue
学	xué	to study

160

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

yīzhí dào bàn yè cái kěn shuìjiào.

一直到半夜才肯睡觉。

until late at night before finally allowing myself to sleep.

一直	yīzhí	from the beginning of ... up to ...
----	-------	-------------------------------------

到	dào	until (a time)
---	-----	----------------

半夜	bànyè	midnight
----	-------	----------

才	cái	only then
---	-----	-----------

肯	kěn	willing
---	-----	---------

睡觉	shuìjiào	to sleep
----	----------	----------

161

Wǒ de shǒujī lǐ xiàzǎi le hěn duō tīnglì zīliào,

我的手机里下载了很多听力资料，

I had downloaded a lot of listening materials on my phone,

我的	wǒ de	my
----	-------	----

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

里	lǐ	inside
---	----	--------

下载	xiàzǎi	to download
----	--------	-------------

了	le	(completed action marker)
---	----	---------------------------

很	hěn	quite
---	-----	-------

多	duō	a lot of
---	-----	----------

听力	tīnglì	hearing
----	--------	---------

资料	zīliào	material
----	--------	----------

162

yī yǒukòng jiù tīng,

一有空就听，

and whenever I had free time, I listened to them.

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

一	yī	as soon as
有空	yǒukòng	to have time (to do sth)
就	jiù	then
听	tīng	to listen

163

yǒushíhou yīgèrén zǒu zài dàjiē shàng tīng zhe Yīngyǔ,

有时候一个人走在大街上听着英语，

Sometimes, when I was walking alone on the street and listening to them,

有时候	yǒushíhou	sometimes
一个人	yīgèrén	alone (without company)
走	zǒu	to walk
在	zài	(to be) in
大街	dàjiē	street
上	shàng	on
听	tīng	to listen
着	zhe	particle indicating action in progress
英语	Yīngyǔ	English (language)

164

zìjǐ jiù kāishǐ gēn zìjǐ duìhuà le.

自己就开始跟自己对话了。

I started talking to myself in English:

自己	zìjǐ	oneself
就	jiù	just (emphasis)
开始	kāishǐ	to begin
跟	gēn	with
自己	zìjǐ	oneself

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

对话 duìhuà dialog

了 le (completed action marker)

165

Shìbùshì hěn gǎoxiào?

是不是很搞笑？

Wasn't it funny?

是不是 shìbùshì is or isn't

很 hěn very

搞笑 gǎoxiào funny

166

Dàn wǒ juéde xué yǔyán jiù yào kāikǒu shuō.

但我觉得学语言就要开口说。

However, I think when it comes to learning a language, you have to open your mouth.

但 dàn however

我 wǒ I

觉得 juéde to think

学 xué to learn

语言 yǔyán language

就 jiù just (emphasis)

要 yào to need

开口 kāikǒu to open one's mouth

说 shuō to speak

167

Méi rén gēn nǐ shuō, nǐ jiù děi zìjǐ gēn zìjǐ shuō.

没人跟你说，你就得自己跟自己说。

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

If nobody talks to you, you have to talk to yourself.

没人 méi rén nobody

跟 gēn with

你 nǐ you

说 shuō to speak

你 nǐ you

就 jiù then

得 děi to have to

自己 zìjǐ oneself

跟 gēn with

自己 zìjǐ oneself

说 shuō to speak

168

Suǒyǐ nǐmen xuéxí hànyǔ yě shì yīyàng de,

所以你们学习汉语也是一样的，

So it's the same for you guys learning Chinese,

所以 suǒyǐ so

你们 nǐmen you (plural)

学习 xuéxí to study

汉语 Hànyǔ Chinese language

也 yě also

是...的 shì...de (structure to emphasize information)

一样 yīyàng same

169

yīdìngyào duō shuō, duō liàn.

一定要多说,多练。

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

you must speak and practice more.

一定要 yīdìngyào must

多 duō often

说 shuō to speak

多 duō often

练 liàn to practice

170

Jiānchí xué Yīngyǔ liǎng nián hòu,

坚持学英语两年后，

After persistently studying English for two years,

坚持 jiānchí to persist in

学 xué to learn

英语 Yīngyǔ English (language)

两 liǎng two

年 nián year

后 hòu later

171

wǒ fāxiàn wǒ néng yòng Yīngyǔ jiǎndān de jiāoliú le.

我发现我能用英语简单地交流了。

I discovered that I could hold a basic English conversation.

我 wǒ I

发现 fāxiàn to find

我 wǒ I

能 néng can

用 yòng to use

英语 Yīngyǔ English (language)

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

简单	jiǎndān	simple
地	de	-ly
交流	jiāoliú	to communicate
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

172

Dàn háishi bùgòu, yīnwèi wǒ xiǎng kǎo zhèngshū,

但还是不够，因为我想考证书，

However, it was still not enough because I wanted to obtain a certificate

但	dàn	but
还是	háishi	still
不够	bùgòu	not enough
因为	yīnwèi	because
我	wǒ	I
想	xiǎng	to want
考	kǎo	to take an exam
证书	zhèngshū	certificate

173

zhǎo gè gēn Yīngyǔ xiāngguān de gōngzuò.

找个跟英语相关的工作。

and find a job related to English.

找	zhǎo	to try to find
个	gè	classifier for objects in general
跟	gēn	with
英语	Yīngyǔ	English (language)
相关	xiāngguān	related
的	de	(used after an attribute)

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

工作 gōngzuò job

174

Ér zhè fèn xiāoshòu de gōngzuò ràng wǒ měitiān

而这份销售的工作让我每天

But the sales job

而	ér	but (not)
这	zhè	this
份	fèn	classifier for jobs
销售	xiāoshòu	sales
的	de	(used after an attribute)
工作	gōngzuò	job
让	ràng	to let sb do sth
我	wǒ	me
每天	měitiān	every day

175

máng de méiyǒu tài duō shíjiān qù xuéxí.

忙得没有太多时间去学习。

kept me busy every day, leaving me with little time to study.

忙	máng	busy
得	de	structural particle: indicating degree
没有	méiyǒu	to not have
太	tài	too
多	duō	much
时间	shíjiān	time
去	qù	to go
学习	xuéxí	to study

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

176

Rúguǒ wǒ jìxù zài zhèr gōngzuò,

如果我继续在这儿工作，

If I continued working there,

如果 rúguǒ if

我 wǒ I

继续 jìxù to continue

在 zài (to be) in

这儿 zhèr here

工作 gōngzuò to work

177

wǒ yǒngyuǎn yě bùkěnéng dáchéng wǒ de yuànwàng.

我永远也不可能达成我的愿望。

I would never be able to achieve my dreams.

我 wǒ I

永远 yǒngyuǎn forever

也 yě also

不可能 bùkěnéng cannot

达成 dáchéng to accomplish

我的 wǒ de my

愿望 yuànwàng wish

178

Yúshì zài èr líng yī sì nián chūnjié qián wǒ jiù cízhí le,

于是在 2014 年春节前我就辞职了，

So, before the 2014 Spring Festival, I resigned.

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于是	yúshì	thus
在	zài	(to be) in
2014	èr líng yī sì	2014
年	nián	year
春节	Chūnjié	Spring Festival
前	qián	before
我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	then
辞职	cízhí	to resign
了	le	(completed action marker)

179

cízhí hòu wǒ jiù huí lǎojiā guònián le.

辞职后我就回老家过年了。

After resigning, I went back to my hometown to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

辞职	cízhí	to resign
后	hòu	after
我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	then
回老家	huí lǎojiā	to return to one's native place
过年	guònián	to celebrate the Chinese New Year
了	le	(completed action marker)

180

Qíshí wǒ hěn bù yuànyì huí lǎojiā,

其实我很不愿意回老家，

Actually, I didn't really want to go back home

其实	qíshí	actually
----	-------	----------

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我	wǒ	I
很	hěn	very
不	bù	not
愿意	yuànyì	willing (to do sth)
回老家	huílǎojiā	to return to one's native place

181

yīnwèi wǒ de bànmā, háiyǒu qīnqi men,

因为我的爸妈，还有亲戚们

because my parents and relatives

因为	yīnwèi	because
我的	wǒ de	my
爸妈	bànmā	dad and mom
还有	háiyǒu	also
亲戚	qīnqi	a relative
们	men	plural marker for pronouns

182

dōu zhǐ huì wèn wǒ yī gè wèntí,

都只会问我一个问题，

would only ask me one question:

都	dōu	all
只	zhǐ	only
会	huì	will
问	wèn	to ask
我	wǒ	me
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for objects in general

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

问题 wèntí question

183

nà jiùshì “nǐ yǒu méiyǒu nán péngyou a?”

那就是“你有没有男朋友啊？”

"Do you have a boyfriend?"

那就是 nà jiùshì that is

你 nǐ you

有没有 yǒu méiyǒu to have or not have

男朋友 nán péngyou boyfriend

啊 a particle showing affirmation, approval, or consent

184

Rúguǒ wǒ shuō “méiyǒu”,

如果我说“没有”，

If I said "no,"

如果 rúguǒ if

我 wǒ I

说 shuō to say

没有 méiyǒu to not have

185

tāmen lìkè jiù huì hěn xīngfèn de shuō,

他们立刻就会很兴奋地说，

they would immediately get excited and say,

他们 tāmen they

立刻 lìkè immediate

就 jiù then

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

会	huì	will
很	hěn	very
兴奋	xīngfèn	excited
地	de	-ly
说	shuō	to say

186

“yàobù wǒ gěi nǐ jièshào yī gè ba?”

“要不我给你介绍一个吧？”

"How about I introduce someone to you?"

要不	yàobù	how about...?
我	wǒ	I
给	gěi	for
你	nǐ	you
介绍	jièshào	to introduce (sb to sb)
一	yī	one
个	gè	classifier for people
吧	ba	...OK?

187

Zhè shì wǒ měicì huílǎojiā dōu xūyào miànduì de wèntí.

这是我每次回老家都需要面对的问题。

This was a problem I had to face every time I returned to my hometown.

这	zhè	this
是	shì	is
我	wǒ	I
每次	měicì	every time
回老家	huílǎojiā	to return to one's native place

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

都	dōu	all
需要	xūyào	to need
面对	miànduì	to face
的	de	(used after an attribute)
问题	wèntí	question

188

Zhīqián wǒ duì xiāngqīn bìngbù shì hěn dǐkàng,

之前我对相亲并不是很抵抗，

Before, I wasn't very resistant to blind dates,

之前	zhīqián	before
我	wǒ	I
对	duì	towards
相亲	xiāngqīn	arrange marriage
并不	bìngbù	emphatically not
是	shì	is
很	hěn	very
抵抗	dǐkàng	to resist

189

dàn xiànzài wǒ de xiǎngfǎ wánquán biàn le,

但现在我的想法完全变了，

but at that time my mindset had completely changed.

但	dàn	but
现在	xiànzài	now
我的	wǒ de	my
想法	xiǎngfǎ	way of thinking
完全	wánquán	entirely

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变	biàn	to change
了	le	(completed action marker)

190

wǒ juéde wǒ de rénshēng bìng bùshì jiéhūn le jiù yuánmǎn le.

我觉得我的人生并不是结婚了就圆满了。

I felt that my life would not be fulfilled just by getting married.

我	wǒ	I
觉得	juéde	to feel
我的	wǒ de	my
人生	rénshēng	life
并不	bìngbù	emphatically not
是	shì	is
结婚	jiéhūn	to get married
了	le	(indicating an expected or presumed action)
就	jiù	then
圆满	yuánmǎn	perfect
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

191

Wǒ yào xuéxí, gōngzuò, zhuànqián, lǚyóu,

我要学习、工作、赚钱、旅游，

I wanted to study, to earn money, to travel,

我	wǒ	I
要	yào	must
学习	xuéxí	to study
工作	gōngzuò	to work
赚钱	zhuànqián	to earn money

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旅游 lǚyóu to travel

192

shíxiàn zìjǐ de mèngxiǎng.

实现自己的梦想。

and to fulfill my dreams.

实现 shíxiàn to realize

自己 zìjǐ oneself

的 de ~'s (possessive particle)

梦想 mèngxiǎng dream

193

Jiùsuàn yǐhòu yào jiéhūn yě shì wǒ zìjǐ xiǎngyào jiéhūn le,

就算以后要结婚也是我自己想要结婚了，

Even if I wanted to get married in the future, it would be because I wanted to,

就算 jiùsuàn even if

以后 yǐhòu in the future

要 yào going to (as future auxiliary)

结婚 jiéhūn to get married

也 yě also

是 shì is

我自己 wǒ zìjǐ myself

想要 xiǎngyào to want

结婚 jiéhūn to get married

了 le (indicating an expected or presumed action)

194

ér bùshì yīnwèi biéren shuō wǒ yīnggāi jiéhūn le,

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而不是因为别人说我应该结婚了，

not because others said that I should.

而	ér	but (not)
不是	bùshì	is not
因为	yīnwèi	because
别人	biéren	other people
说	shuō	to say
我	wǒ	I
应该	yīnggāi	should
结婚	jiéhūn	to get married
了	le	(indicating a change of state)

195

wǒ jiù ànzhào tāmen de xiǎngfǎ qù zuò.

我就按照他们的想法去做。

I would not do things just to fulfill their expectations.

我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	then
按照	ànzhào	according to
他们	tāmen	they
的	de	~'s (possessive particle)
想法	xiǎngfǎ	way of thinking
去	qù	to go
做	zuò	to do

196

Suǒyǐ bùguǎn jiārén shuō shénme,

所以不管家人说什么，

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So no matter what my family said,

所以 suǒyǐ so

不管 bùguǎn no matter (what, how)

家人 jiārén (one's) family

说 shuō to say

什么 shénme what?

197

wǒ dōu shǐzhōng jiānchí zìjǐ de xiǎngfǎ,

我都始终坚持自己的想法，

I always stuck to my own thinking.

我 wǒ I

都 dōu all

始终 shǐzhōng from beginning to end

坚持 jiānchí to persevere with

自己 zìjǐ one's own

的 de ~'s (possessive particle)

想法 xiǎngfǎ way of thinking

198

dǎsuàn zài huídao Shēnzhèn lìng zhǎo yī fèn gōngzuò,

打算再回到深圳另找一份工作，

I planned to go back to Shenzhen and find another job,

打算 dǎsuàn to plan

再 zài again

回到 huídao to return to

深圳 Shēnzhèn Shenzhen

另 lìng another

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

找	zhǎo	to try to find
一	yī	one
份	fèn	classifier for jobs
工作	gōngzuò	job

199

zhǎo yī fèn shuāng xiū de gōngzuò.

找一份双休的工作。

preferably with weekends off,

找	zhǎo	to find
一	yī	one
份	fèn	classifier for jobs
双休	shuāngxiū	two-day off
的	de	(used after an attribute)
工作	gōngzuò	job

200

Zhèyàng wǒ jiù kěyǐ liyòng zhōumò xuéxí.

这样我就可以利用周末学习。

so that I could utilize my weekends for studying.

这样	zhèyàng	this way
我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	then
可以	kěyǐ	can
利用	liyòng	to use
周末	zhōumò	weekend
学习	xuéxí	to study

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201

Chūnjié qījiān, wǒ yàome zài jiā kàn diànshì,

春节期间，我要么在家看电视，

During the Spring Festival, I either stayed at home watching TV

春节	Chūnjié	Spring Festival
期间	qījiān	period
我	wǒ	I
要么	yàome	either one or the other
在家	zài jiā	at home
看	kàn	to watch
电视	diànshì	television

202

yàome jiùshì bào zhe diànnǎo zhǎo gōngzuò.

要么就是抱着电脑找工作。

or spent time searching for jobs on my computer.

要么	yàome	either one or the other
就是	jiùshì	just
抱	bào	to hold
着	zhe	(indicating action in progress)
电脑	diànnǎo	computer
找	zhǎo	to look for
工作	gōngzuò	job

203

Měitiān liúlǎn gèzhǒng zhāopìn wǎngzhàn,

每天浏览各种招聘网站，

I browsed various job websites every day,

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每天	měitiān	every day
浏览	liúlǎn	to browse
各种	gèzhǒng	all kinds of
招聘	zhāopìn	recruitment
网站	wǎngzhàn	website

204

dànshì yě méiyǒu kàndào shénme héshì de gōngzuò.

但是也没有看到什么合适的工作。

but I didn't see any suitable job opportunities.

但是	dànshì	but
也	yě	also
没有	méiyǒu	haven't
看到	kàndào	to see
什么	shénme	anything
合适	héshì	suitable
的	de	(used after an attribute)
工作	gōngzuò	job

205

Yǒuyīcì, wǒ wúyìjiān kàndào yī jiā

有一次，我无意间看到一家

Once, by chance, I stumbled upon an

有一次	yǒuyīcì	once
我	wǒ	I
无意间	wúyìjiān	unintentionally
看到	kàndào	to see
一	yī	one

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

家 jiā classifier for businesses

206

Yīngyǔ péixùn jīgòu zhāopìn zhùjiào de guǎnggào,

英语培训机构招聘助教的广告，

advertisement for an English training center recruiting teaching assistants.

英语 Yīngyǔ English (language)

培训 péixùn training

机构 jīgòu organization

招聘 zhāopìn recruitment

助教 zhùjiào teaching assistant

的 de (used after an attribute)

广告 guǎnggào advertisement

207

yāoqiú shì yào huì jiǎng yīngyǔ, dàzhuān huò dàxué bìyè.

要求是要会讲英语，大专或大学毕业。

The requirements stated that the applicants should be fluent in English and have an associate or bachelor's degree.

要求 yāoqiú requirement

是 shì is

要 yào must

会 huì to be able to

讲 jiǎng to speak

英语 Yīngyǔ English (language)

大专 dàzhuān three-year college

或 huò or

大学 dàxué university

Into The Wild... Shenzhen

毕业 bìyè graduation

208

Wǒ duì zìjǐ shuō, Yīngyǔ dào shì huì jiǎng,

我对自己说，英语倒是会讲，

I said to myself, "Well, I can speak English,

我 wǒ I

对 duì towards

自己 zìjǐ oneself

说 shuō to say

英语 Yīngyǔ English (language)

倒是 dào shì actually

会 huì can

讲 jiǎng to speak

209

kě dàxué méi shàng guo, yàobù dǎdiànhuà wèn wèn kàn?

可大学没上过，要不打电话问问看？

but I never attended college. Maybe I should make a call and ask them?"

可 kě but

大学 dàxué university

没 méi not

上 shàng to attend (class or university)

过 guo (experienced action marker)

要不 yàobù how about...?

打电话 dǎdiànhuà to make a telephone call

问问 wèn wèn to ask

看 kàn (used after a reduplicated verb) try and see (what happens)

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Ránhòu wǒ jiù náqǐ le shǒujī dǎdiànhuà gěi zhè jiā xuéxiào.

然后我就拿起了手机打电话给这家学校。

I picked up my phone and dialed the number of the school.

然后	ránhòu	then (afterwards)
我	wǒ	I
就	jiù	then
拿起	náqǐ	to pick up
了	le	(completed action marker)
手机	shǒujī	cell phone
打电话	dǎdiànhuà	to make a telephone call
给	gěi	to
这	zhè	this
家	jiā	classifier for businesses
学校	xuéxiào	school

211

Děngdài de guòchéng zhōng, wǒ de xīnzàng pēngpēng tiào,

等待的过程中，我的心脏怦怦跳，

As I waited, my heart raced anxiously.

等待	děngdài	to wait
的	de	(used after an attribute)
过程	guòchéng	process
中	zhōng	while (doing sth)
我的	wǒ de	my
心脏	xīnzàng	heart
怦怦	pēngpēng	thumping sound (onom.)

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跳 tiào to jump

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shíjǐ miǎo hòu, zhōngyú yǒurén jiē le wǒ de diànhuà.

十几秒后，终于有人接了我的电话。

After a few seconds, finally someone answered my call.

十几 shíjǐ more than ten

秒 miǎo second (of time)

后 hòu later

终于 zhōngyú finally

有人 yǒurén someone

接 jiē to answer (the phone)

了 le (completed action marker)

我的 wǒ de my

电话 diànhuà telephone

213

wǒ lǎoshí de gēn duìfāng shuō wǒ méiyǒu dàxué bìyè,

我老实地跟对方说我没有大学毕业，

I honestly told the person on the other end of the line that I did not have a college degree,

我 wǒ I

老实 lǎoshi honest

地 de -ly

跟 gēn with

对方 duìfāng other person involved

说 shuō to say

我 wǒ I

没有 méiyǒu to not have

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大学	dàxué	university
毕业	bìyè	graduation

214

dàn néng jiǎng yīngyǔ.

但能讲英语。

but I could speak English.

但	dàn	but
能	néng	can
讲	jiǎng	to speak
英语	Yīngyǔ	English (language)

215

Méixiǎngdào duìfāng shuō yǒu méiyǒu wén píng wúsuǒwèi,

没想到对方说有没有文凭无所谓，

To my surprise, she said that it didn't matter if I had a diploma or not,

没想到	méixiǎngdào	didn't expect
对方	duìfāng	other person involved
说	shuō	to say
有没有	yǒu méiyǒu	whether or not have
文凭	wén píng	diploma
无所谓	wúsuǒwèi	not to matter

216

zhǐ yāoqiú huì jiǎng yīngyǔ, ràng wǒ qù miànshì.

只要求会讲英语，让我去面试。

as long as I could speak English, and she asked me to come for an interview.

只	zhǐ	only
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要求	yāoqiú	to request
会	huì	to be able to
讲	jiǎng	to speak
英语	Yīngyǔ	English (language)
让	ràng	to let sb do sth
我	wǒ	me
去	qù	to go
面试	miànshì	to interview

217

Wǒ guà le diànhuà zuò zài chuáng shang lèng le hǎo yīhuìr,

我挂了电话坐在床上愣了好一会儿，

After hanging up, I sat on the bed for a while, stunned

我	wǒ	I
挂	guà	to hang up (the phone)
了	le	(completed action marker)
电话	diànhuà	telephone
坐	zuò	to sit
在	zài	(to be)
床	chuáng	bed
上	shang	on
愣	lèng	to stare blankly
了	le	(completed action marker)
好	hǎo	very (quite)
一会儿	yīhuìr	a little while

218

jì jīngyà yòu kāixīn.

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既惊讶又开心。

and pleasantly surprised.

既 jì both... (and...)

惊讶 jīngyà astonished

又 yòu both... and...

开心 kāixīn to feel happy

219

Běnlái wǒ zhǐshì dǎsuàn shìshíkàn, méi bào xīwàng,

本来我只是打算试试看，没抱希望，

I had only intended to give it a try and didn't hold much hope.

本来 běnlái originally

我 wǒ I

只是 zhǐshì simply

打算 dǎsuàn to plan

试试看 shìshíkàn to give it a try

没 méi not

抱希望 bào xīwàng to be hopeful

220

méixiǎngdào duìfāng ràng wǒ qù miànshì!

没想到对方让我去面试！

But to my surprise, they asked me to come for an interview!

没想到 méixiǎngdào didn't expect

对方 duìfāng other person involved

让 ràng to let sb do sth

我 wǒ me

去 qù to go

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面试 miànshì to interview

221

Hūrán jiān wǒ de nǎozi lǐ chūxiàn le gèzhǒng huànxǐǎng,

忽然间我的脑子里出现了各种幻想，

Suddenly, various fantasies popped into my mind.

忽然间 hūránjiān suddenly

我的 wǒ de my

脑子 nǎozi mind

里 lǐ inside

出现 chūxiàn to appear

了 le (completed action marker)

各种 gèzhǒng all kinds of

幻想 huànxǐǎng fantasy

222

wǒ shìbùshì yào dāng lǎoshī le?

我是不是要当老师了？

“Am I going to become a teacher?”

我 wǒ I

是不是 shìbùshì is or isn't

要 yào going to (as future auxiliary)

当 dāng to be

老师 lǎoshī teacher

了 le (indicating a change of state)

223

Érqiě hái néng hé wàiguórén liàn yīngyǔ!

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而且还能和外国人练英语！

And also, I can practice English with foreigners!

而且 érqǐě in addition

还 hái also

能 néng can

和 hé with

外国人 wàiguórén foreigner

练 liàn to practice

英语 Yīngyǔ English (language)

224

Hǎo qīdài huí shēnzhèn a!

好期待回深圳啊！

I am really looking forward to going back to Shenzhen!"

好 hǎo so

期待 qīdài to look forward to

回 huí to go back

深圳 Shēnzhèn Shenzhen

啊 a (particle showing affirmation, approval, or consent)

225

Jiēxiàláide jǐtiān wǒ dōu fēicháng xīngfèn,

接下来的几天我都非常兴奋，

I was really looking forward to returning to Shenzhen!

接下来 jiēxiàláide next

的 de (used after an attribute)

几天 jǐtiān several days

我 wǒ I

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都	dōu	all
非常	fēicháng	very
兴奋	xīngfèn	excited

226

Zhídào huídào shēnzhèn, qù miànshì zhīqián,

直到回到深圳，去面试之前，

It wasn't until I went back to Shenzhen for the interview

直到	zhídào	until
回到	huídào	to return to
深圳	Shēnzhèn	Shenzhen
去	qù	to go
面试	miànshì	to interview
之前	zhīqián	before

227

wǒ cái kāishǐ juéde jǐnzhāng, dānxīn miànshì bù tōngguò.

我才开始觉得紧张，担心面试不通过。

that I started to feel nervous and worried that I would fail the interview.

我	wǒ	I
才	cái	only then
开始	kāishǐ	to begin
觉得	juéde	to feel
紧张	jǐnzhāng	nervous
担心	dānxīn	worried
面试	miànshì	interview
不	bù	not
通过	tōngguò	to pass through

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