

第一课 到了北京

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飞机是昨天晚上六点半降落在⁽¹⁾北京首都国际机场的⁽²⁾，通过海关以后，很顺利地找到了学校外事处派来接我的张先生。因为飞机晚点，他在机场等了我三个多⁽³⁾小时，真让⁽⁴⁾我觉得不好意思。

我们坐上了一辆出租汽车⁽⁵⁾。从机场开了一个多小时才⁽⁶⁾到宿舍。在路上⁽⁷⁾，我从来⁽⁸⁾没见过这么多人骑自行车，这对我来说⁽⁹⁾非常新鲜。

今天坐了十几个小时的飞机，累极了，也兴奋极了。

北京		Běijīng	<i>PW.</i>	Beijing 北: north, 京: capital
飞机	飛機	fēijī	<i>n.</i>	airplane 飞: fly, 机: machine
降落		jiànguò	<i>v.</i>	to land (an airplane) 降: descend, 落: drop
首都		shǒudū	<i>n.</i>	capital 首: head, 都: capital
国际	國際	guójì	<i>adj.</i>	international 际: border

第一课 到了北京

机场	機場	jīchǎng	<i>n.</i>	airport 场: open field, 机: here, short for 飞机
通过	通過	tōngguò	<i>v.</i>	to pass through 通: through, 过: pass
海关	海關	hǎiguān	<i>n.</i>	customs 海: sea, 关: frontier pass
顺利	順利	shùnlì	<i>adj.</i>	smooth, without a hitch 顺: smooth, 利: sharp; benefit
找		zhǎo	<i>v.</i>	to look for
外事处	外事處	wàishìchù	<i>n.</i>	foreign affairs office 处: office
派		pài	<i>v.</i>	to send, to dispatch
接		jiē	<i>v.</i>	to welcome and receive guests or visitors; to pick someone up
先生		xiān.shēng	<i>n.</i>	Mr.
晚点	晚點	wǎndiǎn	<i>v.</i>	to be behind schedule (said of train, airplane, or bus)
等		děng	<i>v.</i>	to wait
让	讓	ràng	<i>v.</i>	to make, to cause
辆	輛	liàng	<i>mw.</i>	measure word for vehicle
出租汽车	出租汽車	chūzūqìchē	<i>n.</i>	taxi 租: rent
开车	開車	kāichē	<i>v.-o.</i>	to drive a car
从来	從來	cónglái	<i>adv.</i>	never before (used only with negative expressions 不 or 没)
见	見	jiàn	<i>v.</i>	to see
骑	騎	qí	<i>v.</i>	to ride (a bike, a horse, etc.)
自行车	自行車	zìxíngchē	<i>n.</i>	bicycle 自: self, 行: walk
对我来说	對我來說	duìwǒláishuō		as far as I'm concerned
新鲜	新鮮	xīnxiān	<i>adj.</i>	novel, original (of experience); fresh
兴奋	興奮	xīngfèn	<i>adj.</i>	excited

第一课 到了北京

语法解释 Grammar Notes

1. The prepositional phrase “在...”, indicating locality, usually appears before a verb. However, verbs such as 住 and 降落 are exceptions, and 在 may appear either before or after the verb. Therefore, it is possible to say both 降落在北京首都国际机场 and 在北京首都国际机场降落.
2. Here, 是……的 is used to emphasize the time, place, and manner of a past event.
3. ……多……
多 is used after a number to indicate a fraction over a given unit. 多 must appear immediately after numbers 十, 百, and 千. With a number less than ten, 多 appears between the measure word and the noun. When a noun is a measure word at the same time, 多 follows.

❖ 三个多小时

Over three hours

十/百/千+多 + measure word + noun

- 1) 一百多间屋子
over 100 rooms but less than 200
- 2) 十多个学生
over ten students but less than twenty
- 3) 五十多件衣服
over fifty items of clothing but less than sixty
- 4) 一千多本书
over 1000 books but less than 2000

number less than ten + measure word + 多 + noun

- 1) 三个多月
over three months but less than four
- 2) 两个多礼拜
over two weeks but less than three
- 3) 五个多钟头
over five hours but less than six

第一课 到了北京

number + measure word/noun + 多

- 1) 一年多
over a year but less than two
- 2) 两天多
over two days but less than three

4. A 让 B Adj. to make, to cause

让 is used to indicate a situation which causes the object of 让, usually a person, to have certain emotional or physical reactions.

❖ 张先生等了我三个多小时，真让我觉得不好意思。

I felt sorry because Mr. Zhang waited over three hours for me.

- 1) 天气很热，让我想睡觉。

Hot weather makes me want to sleep.

- 2) 每个星期的考试让学生很紧张。

Weekly tests make the students nervous.

- 3) 我老是忘记他的名字，这让我觉得很不好意思。

I always forget his name, and this makes me feel embarrassed.

5. 出租汽车 is a taxicab. To take a taxicab is 打的(dǎdī). The pronunciation of “dī” comes from Hong Kong, where the Cantonese for taxi is 的士.

6. 才

才 is an adverb indicating something that happens later than one expects. In those sentences that use 才, 了 is never used, even for a completed action. The adverb 就 is used to contrast with 才 to indicate an event which took place at a comparatively earlier time. With the adverb 就, it is necessary to use 了 when referring to a completed action.

❖ 从机场开了一个多小时才到宿舍。

We drove for over an hour from the airport before we reached the dormitory.

- 1) 我在飞机上睡着了，一直到飞机快降落的时候才醒。

I fell asleep on the plane and didn't wake up until right before we landed.

- 2) 我会说一点儿中文的时候才去中国。

I won't go to China until I can speak a little Chinese.

第一课 到了北京

才 vs. 就

- 1) 他每天都工作到晚上八、九点才回家，可是他的朋友五点就都回家了。

Every day he works until eight or nine o'clock before going home, but all of his friends go home at five.

- 2) 那本书我看了三次才看懂，可是他只看了一次就懂了。

I read that book three times before I understood it, but he understood it after reading it only once.

7. 路 means road. The expression 在路上 does not literally mean on the road, it means on the way to a destination. In the text, the destination it refers to is the school.

8. 从来 have never, never before

从来 is always used with the negative markers 不 or 没. 从来不 emphasizes a habitual event, whereas 从来没 denotes an experience that has not happened yet. The verb suffix 过 must be used with 从来没.

- ❖ 我从来没见过那么多人骑自行车。

I've never seen so many people riding bicycles before.

从来没 V 过

- 1) 我从来没来过北京，这是我第一次来。

I've never been to Beijing before; this is my first trip.

- 2) 他从来没学过上海话，当然听不懂。

He's never studied the Shanghai dialect before; of course he doesn't understand it.

从来不 V

- 1) 我喝咖啡的时候从来不放糖。

I never add sugar to my coffee.

- 2) 我从来不习惯早上洗澡。

I'm not used to showering in the morning.

第一课 到了北京

9. 对……来说

对 is a preposition used to introduce the object which appears after it. 对……来说 is a common expression meaning “to or for someone.”

❖ 这对我来说非常新鲜。

This is all very new to me.

1) 对他来说，学三年级中文恐怕不太合适。

Third-year Chinese is probably not appropriate for him.

2) 写中国字对我来说很难。

Writing Chinese characters is very difficult for me.

3) 每天工作十小时对我父亲来说并不是问题。

Working ten hours every day is no problem for my father.

练习 Exercises

I. 回答问题 (Answer the questions with the given expressions.)

1. 你第一次开车的时候紧张不紧张? (让)
2. 你觉得骑自行车难吗? (对……来说)
3. 他昨天很早就回家了吗? (才)
4. 你在外事处等王先生等了几个小时? (多)

II. 翻译 (Translations)

1. This car was sent by the school to pick up students at the airport.
2. I was very excited when the airplane landed at the Beijing Airport.
3. Yesterday my parents came to visit me; I drove from my house to the airport to pick them up.
4. Because the airplane was delayed, we waited for more than ten hours at the airport. We didn't get on the airplane until three o'clock in the morning.

第一课 到了北京

III. 作文 (Composition)

飞机晚点的时候

IV. 活动 (Activities)

1. Write a letter to your parents describing your flight to China.
2. Write a paragraph to introduce yourself to any Chinese friends you might meet.