

INTRODUCTION

The lessons in Unit 4 focus on the goings and comings of everyday life. The purpose is to make it clear that you can get to where you want to go in great sounding Mandarin. As always use your vivid imagination to put yourself into the journeys and the scenes you encounter along the way.

You have already experienced going places to do things. For example, going to Shanghai to have a meeting is expressed this way:

Dào Shànghǎi kāihuì.

You might recall that you can follow *dào* with a PLACENAME (*Wǔhàn*), a PLACE (*túshūguǎn*, *túshūguǎn-li*), or a PLACEWORD formed from a noun or pronoun followed by a location (*jiē-shang*, *wǒ-zhèr*):

Nǐ dào Wǔhàn kànkàn Péng jiàoshòu ba.

Why don't you go to Wuhan to see Professor Peng.

Nǐ dào túshūguǎn gěi Rén xiānsheng jiè nàběn shū ba.

Why don't you go to the library to take out that book for Mr. Ren.

Tā shì zuótiān dào wǒ-zhèr de.

It was yesterday that he came to visit me.

Movement away from and toward the speaker can be expressed with the same pattern by using *qù* (go) or *lái* (come) before a PLACENAME (*Wǔhàn*), a PLACE (*túshūguǎn*, *túshūguǎn-li*), or a PLACEWORD formed from a noun or pronoun followed by a location (*jiē-shang*, *wǒ-zhèr*):

Nǐ qù Wǔhàn kànkàn Péng jiàoshòu ba.

I suggest you go to Wuhan to meet with Professor Peng.

Nǐ lái Dàlián kànkàn Huáng jīnglǐ ba.

I suggest you come to Dalian to see Ms. Huang, the manager.

Nǐ qù túshūguǎn gěi Rén xiānsheng jiè nàběn shū ba.

Why don't you go to the library and borrow that book for Mr. Ren.

Nǐ lái túshūguǎn gěi Rén xiānsheng jiè nàběn shū ba.

Why don't you come to the library and borrow that book for Mr. Ren.

Tā shì zuótiān qù wǒ-nàr de.

It was yesterday when he went to visit me.

Tā shì zuótiān lái wǒ-zhèr de.

It was yesterday when he came to visit me.

Using the verbs *dào* and *shàng* before a destination and adding *lái* or *qù* after, you will also express movement toward and away from the speaker:

Shàng tā-nàr qù. / Dào tā-nàr qù.	Go to her.
Dào túshūguǎn-wàibiān(r) lái.	Come to outside the library.
Nǐ shàng nǎr qù?	Where are you going?
Tā méi(-you) dào zhèr lái.	She didn't come here.

If you have a purpose for going or coming, you may mention it after you describe the movement:

Shàng tā-nàr qù wènwen. / Dào tā-nàr qù wènwen.
Go ask her.

Dào túshūguǎn-wàibiān(r) lái jiē wǒ.
Come and pick me up outside the library.

Nǐ shàng nǎr qù xuéxí?
Where are you going to study?

Tā méi(-you) dào zhèr lái jiè qián.
She didn't come here to borrow money.

You might recall that you can express change by concluding an expression of a “state.” For example, states can be described by adjectives (*Wǒ lèi le*. I'm tired now.) and negatives (*Lǎo Wáng bú-shàngbān le*. Lao Wang quit coming to work.). You can also describe a state by adding a modal such as *xiǎng* (intention, desire, etc.):

Wǒ xiànzài xiǎng qù le.	I want to go now (change of mind).
Wǒ bù-xiǎng qù le.	I no longer want to go.

One thing about going and coming that sometimes perplexes learners of Chinese is the formulaic use of social expressions. If someone you know comes into your room, it is common in Chinese to greet them by saying:

Nǐ lái le.	You're here. / Hi!
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When you are about to leave a group, you announce your intention by saying:

Wǒ zǒu le.

I'm leaving (probably the most common way to say goodbye).

Another formulaic expression using *qù* that you will encounter in this unit will permit you to express complete befuddlement at someone's actions. You will have to learn this one exactly to get the effect:

Nǐ dōu xiǎng dào nǎr qù le?

Where did you get that?

It will be useful to make the acquaintance of an irrational Chinese speaking person or two to get the opportunity to practice this line.

You will also practice giving and receiving gifts in this unit. This is an important social act in China. The Chinese are usually much more into gift giving than Americans. This means that Americans are usually uneasy in situations where gifts are exchanged. When you study gift giving, learn it well because you will be sure to use it in the future. And, if you do it well, you will appear much more sophisticated in Chinese.

Finally, in this unit you will continue to study the Chinese writing system(s) and learn to use name (or business) cards. If you plan to interact with Chinese at almost any level of formality, using business cards will be a common activity. You might start thinking about how to make your own name card in Chinese.