Lesson Ten

p. 179 #4,5 Note that the word *bao* 報 means “report” in modern Chinese and “response” in ancient Chinese. This older meaning is evident in modern words like *baofu* (retaliating) and *baoying* (retribution), 報復, 報應. Simplified and full forms of *bao* are similar.

p. 180 #8 In ancient Chinese *hui* 會 meant to intersect or to meet, by design or by chance, like the two lines that join at the top of the character. This explains the modern *kaihui* 開會, to hold a meeting (verb-object), and *weiyuanhui* 委員會, committee (literally: delegated personnel meeting). Before a verb *hui* 會 means: it may happen that . . . Distinguish this auxiliary usage from one we have previously discussed: “he is competent to” in a phrase like *Ta huishuo zhongwen* 他會說中文. This usage is indirectly connected to the sense of meeting in that it suggests competence to meet a standard. Compare the full and abbreviated graphs for *hui* 會.

#12 gongyuan 公園 = public garden. The graph at the bottom of *gong* 公 (which is not simplified) appears identical to the graph underneath simplified *hui* 會. This is merely a coincidence. The word *gong* 公 itself is very old and has a wide range of meanings: patriarch (*gongjue* 公爵 duke), grandfather (*gonggong* 公公), impartial, public (modern), company (publicly operated firm), male of animals. The dictionary entry shows scores of compounds and is worth studying closely.

#15 *luxiang* 錄像, although a noun, is formed from the verb *lu* 錄, to record (*录* simplified), and the noun-object *xiang* 像-image (not simplified). Note the elephant to the right of standing man in this graph. What connection there might have been between elephant
and image is unclear, but it is an interesting question. *Daxiang* 大象 (*da* = big) is the modern word for elephant.

#17 Shanghai, the city, is a noun formed of the verb *shang* 上 to go onto and the noun sea. It means embarkation point. The reverse, *haishang* 海上 means on the sea.

p. 186 *bi* 比 is a full verb meaning: one thing brought together with another for comparison, exactly what the graph looks like. Compare *peng* 朋 - friend, which also consists of a doubled graph.

p. 187 Study the examples of change of status *le* 了 and compare them with p. 56, #16. *Le* 了 crosses a boundary of some kind. *Taihaole* 太好了 = better than one would expect. *Xiayule* 下雨了 means: it has (just) begun to rain (not “it is raining now,” which is too vague), OR it means: it will begin raining any minute, immediate future. *Xiayule* 下雨了 could mean: take your umbrella since imminent change of status is also expressed by *le* 了. The present perfect tense in English often captures the sense of *le* 了 as in examples 2-4. In example 5 we see a subjective change of status, namely, a change of mind. Compare the past tense and the present perfect tense in English, went versus has gone. What is the difference?

As for the note at the bottom of p. 187, *bu* 不 negates verbs, *mei* 没/ *meiyou* 没有 negates nouns. A verb negated with *bu* 不 in a sentence ending in *le* 了 always means: not any more, no longer. This meaning is usually objective, not verb-ing any more, but may be subjective, no longer going to / no longer thinking about verb-ing. Since a *bu*-negated verb with a sentence ending *le* ALWAYS means the same thing, make a separate mental note of this form.
p. 188  #4 you又-again. This word is difficult to use properly, zai 再 and ye 也 are simpler. The underlying meaning is: addition, in addition. For example, p. 189 (2) and (3) suggest an unwelcome addition or repetition. Another day of rain, another phone call from Mom. In (4) the implication may be I have had enough dancing for a while, whereas (5) with zai 再 suggests eager anticipation to dance again. Compare the polite phrase zaijian再見. Hope to see you again. Keep this in mind and study dictionary entries for the word. The pattern you-you 又-又 is quite stable: it always means: on top of this and there is also that, adding two related things together.