

责任编辑：丁 图

张大楨

亢亚志

封面设计：周丹青
插图

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UNIT 1

Making Preparations to Go to the U.K.

Dialogue A: Admission Granted

Dr. O'Ryan, a geologist at the Imperial College of Science & Technology in London, is visiting Beijing for a conference. He has arranged to meet Mr. Li Zhi-xian in the lobby of the Xiangshan Hotel to give him some good news

Li: Excuse me, is your name Dr. O'Ryan?

O'Ryan: That's right. You must be Mr. Li.

Li: Yes. How do you do?

- O'Ryan: Pleased to meet you. (They shake hands) Did it take you long to get here?
- Li: Only about 40 minutes. I came by car.
- O'Ryan: This hotel is such a long way out of town. Let's find a place to sit and talk.
(They sit in the guest lounge)
What would you like to drink?
- Li: I'd like a coke, with ice.
- O'Ryan: (To the waiter) One coke with ice and a white coffee, no sugar. Mr. Li, I've got some good news for you. You've been accepted by Imperial College to do research for a doctorate.
- Li: That's wonderful! When does the academic year start?
- O'Ryan: In the first week of October. But we hope you can arrive in London by the middle of September. That will give you time to settle in before the term begins. Can you manage that?
- Li: I'm not sure. I'll have to go to the British Embassy to find out about a visa. Then I'll have to get a plane ticket.
- O'Ryan: That shouldn't take too long. Show the consul this letter of acceptance. (He gives it to Li) By the way, what kind of accommodation would you prefer? You have the choice of a study-bedroom on campus, lodgings with a family, a flat shared with other graduates, or a room in a student hostel off campus. They are all within half an hour from the College by Underground.
- Li: What do you suggest?

A room on campus is probably the cheapest and the most convenient.

That'll do me. Where is Imperial College exactly?

O'Ryan: It's in one of the nicest parts of London — south of Hyde Park and close to several science museums. Oh, I almost forgot, here's a letter from Professor Frank Robinson. He would like to know exactly when you'll be arriving in London. As soon as you get your ticket, let him know the number of your flight, its arrival time and the name of the airport. He'll meet you and drive you to the College.

Li: That's very kind of him. When are you going back to London?

O'Ryan: The day after tomorrow. Would you like me to take a message to Frank?

Li: Please send him my best regards and tell him I'll write as soon as I have any news.

O'Ryan: Certainly. Look at the time! Would you like to stay for dinner, Mr. Li?

Li: Thanks anyway, but I must be getting back. Thank you for all your help.

O'Ryan: Not at all. I'll look forward to seeing you again in London in a couple of months. Goodbye, Mr. Li.

Li: Goodbye, Dr. O'Ryan.

Notes

1. This hotel is such a long way out of town. = This hotel is so

far (away) from town.
out of town.

注意这些句子中 such 与 so 的搭配。

又如:

This man is such a good scientist. = This man is so good at science.

This book is such a long one. = This book is so long.

2. academic degrees (学位): B. A. (Bachelor of Arts 文学士), B.Sc. (Bachelor of Science 理学士), M.A. (Master of Arts 文学硕士), M.Sc. (Master of Science 理科硕士), Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy 哲学博士)。
3. The academic year (学年) begins in October and ends in June. The approximate dates are as follows:

Term 1	7 Oct. — 16 Dec.
Term 2	13 Jan. — 24 Mar.
Term 3	28 Apr. — 30 June.
4. lodgings: a room in someone's private home where the lodger eats one or more meals with the family
5. Underground (the Tube): This is the underground railway which goes to every part of London.
6. That'll do me. = That (room) will serve my needs.
7. There are two main airports in the London area: Heathrow Airport (west of London) and Gatwick Airport (south of London). CAAC (China Airlines) takes off and lands at Gatwick Airport.

Drills

1. Did it take you long to get here?
 - a. How long did it take you to get here?
 - b. How long does it take for a letter to get to London?
 - c. How long does the flight take?
 - d. Will it take me long to get to the railway station?

- e. It takes too long by bus. Why don't you go by tube?
 2. What would you like to drink?

a. A: What

would you like
do you want

 ?

B: I

would like
want
feel like

 a coke.

b. Which

would you like
do you want

 — beer or wine?

c. A:

What
Where
When

 would you like to

do
go
leave

 ?

B:

Go for a walk.
To the park.
At 9 o'clock.

- d. Would you like to go sightseeing in Beijing?
 3. You have the choice of a study-bedroom on campus, lodgings with a family, a flat shared with other graduates or a room in a student hostel off campus.

a. You have the choice of three

varieties of fresh fruit.
kinds of dessert.

- b. For the second course, there is a choice of steak, lamb chops or chicken.
 c. The supermarket has a large choice of goods.
 4. Please send him my best wishes.

a. A: Good-bye, and remember me to your wife.

B: I'll give her your regards as soon as I get back.

- b. Please say a special hello to your parents.
- c. Convey (Extend) my kindest regards to your mother.
5. He has arranged to meet Mr. Li at the Xiangshan Hotel.
- a.

I arranged to meet her at 9 o'clock. I arranged with her to meet at 9 o'clock. I arranged that I should meet her at 9 o'clock. I made arrangements to meet her at 9 o'clock.

- b. Would you like to arrange for a private meeting?
- c. I can arrange for you to see the doctor two weeks from now.
6. I'll have to go to the British Embassy to find out about a visa.
- a. You should see

the consul at the American Embassy the American consul

 to find out about getting a visa.
- b. He wrote to find out about a job in China.
- c. I want to find out about my relatives in the States.
- d. Wait a moment. I haven't found out how much the fare is yet.
7. You will have to share a flat with other graduates.
- a. We have to share the kitchen with the landlady.
- b. Everyone in the house shares the bathroom.
- c. (At the hotel)
- A: Do you take in foreign students?
- B: Yes, if you don't mind sharing (a room with two others).

Exercise 1

I. Comprehension questions:

1. What degree is Mr. Li going to study for?
2. When does the academic year start in Britain?
3. Why do Professor Robinson and Dr. O'Ryan want Mr. Li

to come to England before the term starts?

4. Are the different kinds of accommodation Dr. O'Ryan talks about far from Imperial College?
5. Why does Prof. Robinson want to know the arrival time of Mr. Li's flight?
6. Where does Prof. Robinson work?

II. Make dialogues out of the following:

A: What is the purpose of your visit to the UK ?

B. I'm going

for a conference.
for trade purposes.
for personal reasons.
on business.
with an official/scientific/government delegation.
as a student
as a visiting scholar.
as a tourist.
to do research
to visit an exhibition

A: How long are you planning to

stay
spend

 there?

B: I don't know exactly.

No more than
No longer than
Less than .
About ..
At most...
At least .

A: What degree are you going to study for?

B: B.A./B Sc./M.A /M.Sc./Ph D.

A: What kind of accommodation would you prefer?

B: I'd like

a study-bedroom on campus.

lodgings with a family.

a flat shared with other graduates.

a room in a student hostel off campus.

III. Write a reply to Professor Robinson's letter, including the following:

1. Thank him for his letter.
2. Apologize for not writing earlier. The reason is that your visa didn't come through until Sept. the first (1st).
3. Tell him that you have a plane ticket for Saturday September the fifteenth (15th). Your flight number is CAAC 937. It leaves Beijing at 9 p.m. local time and arrives at Gatwick Airport on Sunday morning at 8 a.m. G.M.T. Thank him for offering to meet you. Say that you will look forward to meeting him at the airport.
4. Tell him what kind of accommodation you prefer.
5. Thank him again for his kindness and send your regards to his family.

Dialogue B: An Interview with the Consul

Several days ago Mr. Li made arrangements to meet the consul at the British Embassy. He is right on time for his appointment.

Li: Good morning. I'm Mr. Li Zhi-xian from the Academia Sinica. I have come to discuss my visa application.

Consul: Oh, yes. How do you do, Mr. Li? My name is

Miss Morgan.

Li: Glad to meet you.

Consul: Please take a seat. Make yourself comfortable. Now there are a few questions I would like to ask you if I may.

Li: Of course. Go right ahead.

Consul: Why do you want to go to the U.K.?

Li: I want to study for a doctorate.

Consul: Have you been accepted by a university?

Li: Yes. The Imperial College of Science and Technology has accepted me as a research graduate. Here is the letter of acceptance.

Consul: That's fine. Do you have a state scholarship or are you a private student?

Li: I have a state scholarship.

Consul: How long do you intend to stay in the U.K.?

Li: About two years.

Consul: Does your scholarship cover the whole two years?

Li: Yes, it does.

Consul: And where will you live?

Li: I hope to live on the university campus. I have a letter here from my professor about accommodation.

Consul: May I have a look? Mm, I see, thank you. Now, one last question. Is your family going with you?

Li: Oh, no. I am going alone. My wife and two children will remain in China.

Consul: Well, that's all. Thank you, Mr. Li. We will contact you when your visa is ready.

Li: Do you have any idea when that will be?

Consul: Probably about the middle of September.

L1: Thank you very much, Miss Morgan.

Consul: Not at all. I wish you a pleasant stay in the U.K.

Notes

1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) is the name used at the United Nations.

大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国是英国在联合国所使用的正式名称,略作 U K。

The British Isles include Great Britain and the whole of Ireland. 不列颠岛(英伦诸岛)包括大不列颠,以及整个爱尔兰。

England is only a part of Great Britain. The other parts are Scotland, Ireland and Wales. If you call a Scot, an Irishman or a Welshman “English”, he will be very annoyed.

英格兰仅是大不列颠的一部分。其它部分是苏格兰、爱尔兰和威尔士。因此你如果称呼一个苏格兰人、爱尔兰人或威尔士人为 “English”, 他会很生气的。

2. the Imperial College of Science and Technology

帝国科技学院(伦敦大学的一个学院)

3. Well, that's all 中的 Well 为惊叹词,带有惊讶、慰藉、让步、同意、了解等意思;要根据上下文和具体情景来确定。本句译为:好,我要问的就这么些。

4. Do you have any idea when that will be? 中的 When that will be 为 when that will be ready 的省略形式,是同位语从句。

又如

You have no idea how worried I was.

Now we have some idea what a hard life they were leading at that time.

5. Not at all. 是回答别人向你道谢的客套语,还可以用 You are welcome / It's nothing. / No trouble at all / Don't mention

it./ My pleasure. 之类的话回答。

Drills

1. Glad to meet you.

- a
- I'm very glad to meet you.
(I'm) very pleased to meet you.
I'm delighted to have the opportunity of meeting you
It's a (great) pleasure to meet you.
I've always wanted to meet you.
I've been looking forward to meeting you.
Nice to meet you.

b A: Good-bye.

It was nice meeting you
Nice to have met you

B: Good-bye.

2 Make yourself comfortable

a. Please make yourself

comfortable.
at home

b. As a matter of fact, you make everybody feel

comfortable
relaxed.
welcome.

3. Go right ahead.

a. A:

May I ask you a question?
Do you mind if I ask you a few questions?

B: Go (right) ahead. 问吧!

b. A. May I start now?

B: Yes, go ahead. 动身吧!

4. May I

have
take

 a look?

a. (At a hotel)

Could I have a look at the room, please? Do you think I could have a look at it, please? Would it be convenient to see the room?
--

b. I'd like to book a flight to London. Could you have a look at the time-table for me?

c. Let me have a look at your letter of acceptance.

5. L₁ has an interview with the consul.

a. The President granted an interview to journalists.

b. The applicant had an interview with the personnel manager.

c. How did your interview go?

d. Would you like to arrange for a personal interview?

6. How long do you

intend
plan

 to stay in the U.K.?

a. We intend to leave at five o'clock.

b. He doesn't intend to look for a new job.

c. This book is intended for those who want to go abroad to do research or attend international conferences.

7. Does your scholarship cover the whole two years?
(cover. include/be enough for)

a. Assistantships usually cover an academic year.

b. The stipend will cover tuition, room and board.

c. Will twenty dollars cover the cost of a new shirt?

8. We will contact you when your visa is ready.

a. I'd be obliged if you'd contact me personally.

b. A: How did Brown contact Smith?