

~ Lesson 1 ~
St. Valentine's Day

The Education:

Happy St. Valentine's Day
Would you be mine?
Would you be my valentine?
Something sweet for my sweetheart.
I'm giving you a valentine.
Thinking of you on this holiday
This is from my heart.
I've been noticing you.
Let's take it slow.
I love you.

The Entertainment:

Michelle: Patrick, do you know what's so special about
February 14th?

Patrick: Humm ... Don't know.

Michelle: You men are so forgetful.

Patrick: I was just kidding. February 14th is St.
Valentine's Day.

Michelle: Right!

ERTT/24

Patrick: This holiday is named after Saint Valentine.

Michelle: He was a ^{patron} patron of lovers and hosted a pagan love festival on February 14th.

Patrick: Today, this holiday is celebrated by exchanging romantic or comic messages called *valentines*.

Michelle: St. Valentine's Day is one of the warmest and most cheerful days in America.

Patrick: Every store front is filled with colorful decorations, mainly red and pink.

Michelle: Don't forget the candies, heart-shaped chocolates, and stuffed animals.

Patrick: It's a day of expressing your love to all those around you.

Michelle: Not just to your boyfriend or girlfriend but to your friends, parents and even teachers.

Patrick: On St. Valentine's Day, you give out cute cards and candies.

Michelle: These funny-shaped candies usually have a message on them.

Patrick: Such as *be mine* and *love you*

Michelle: In China, many young people are getting into the spirit of St. Valentine's Day.

Patrick: So we want to teach you sentences and questions that you can use on this holiday.

Michelle: *Happy St. Valentine's Day*
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Patrick: And how can we forget *I love you*?

Michelle: Now let's enjoy a song, "Be My Baby."

Patrick: Perfect!

Music

Patrick: That was "Be My Baby."

Michelle: On St. Valentine's Day, most Americans carry a bag of cards and candies which are handed out

to their friends and acquaintances. Some people give out flowers.

Patrick: Around this holiday, flower shops are overwhelmed with countless orders.

Michelle: Supplies of roses are almost always depleted after February 14th.

Patrick: And the price of flowers skyrockets around this time.

Michelle: The rose's color holds a special meaning- red for burning passion; pink for just getting warm; yellow for friendship.

Patrick: So when you are passionately in love with someone and the relationship is very serious, you send him or her a bundle of red roses.

Michelle: And if you like someone and want to advance the relationship, you send this person pink roses. Something light and warm.

Patrick: And if you are just friends, then you send yellow roses, which symbolize friendship.

Michelle: Also the amount of flowers you send expresses your feelings and intentions.

Patrick: Really?

Michelle: Of course. If you send a lot of flowers, then you probably feel very strongly towards this person.

Patrick: I notice many people like to give three roses.

Michelle: Good observation. Each rose stands for one of the words in the sentence, *I love you*.

Patrick: How about sending just one rose?

Michelle: Then you are just getting started, meaning *let's take it slow*.

Patrick: This is pretty complicated.

Michelle: Like a woman's heart. You men must be more attentive.

Patrick: So why do most cards have cute little animals like bunnies, kittens, and puppies on them?

Michelle: Fuzzy animals warm the heart. So stuffed animals are also very popular on St. Valentine's Day.

Patrick: Sweets are good, too. *Something sweet for my sweetheart*.

Michelle: However, sometimes you need to give your boyfriend or girlfriend a more substantial present.

Patrick: You can give your girlfriend jewelry, beauty supplies, perfume, and clothes.

Michelle: And FLOWERS! Don't ever give her household appliances such as blenders or dusters.

Patrick: Yes, no practical, useful items.

Michelle: No, that's not what I mean. On St. Valentine's Day, we women want something romantic and personal.

Patrick: I just don't understand women. Hey, Michelle, what do girls give guys?

Michelle: Chocolates. Flowers. Shirts. Ties. Personal items that you spend time picking out.

Patrick: Packaging these gifts is also an art.

Michelle: Yes, the presentation is important. Everything is done with love and care. Also many stores offer special gift packs to make the men's lives easier

Patrick: Yes, most men I know are not very good at wrapping and decorating gifts.

Michelle: I noticed. In stores, most candies are placed inside a red, satin, heart-shaped box.

Patrick: And the boxes come in all sizes. So you can choose according to the size of your heart. Hey, Michelle, you are a writer, right?

Michelle: Yes?

Patrick: What are your thoughts on love poems and letters?

Michelle: I absolutely adore them. I think writing is one of the best ways of expressing your feelings.

Patrick: Have you written love letters before?

Michelle: Yes, for myself and for people who need help with their writing.

Patrick: Can you write one for me?

Michelle: Sure. To whom?

Patrick: That's a secret.

Michelle: Tell me!

Patrick: Later.

Michelle: Fine. I won't embarrass you in front of our listeners.

Patrick: Thank you.

Michelle: But I think when you write a love letter, you should be romantic but also direct, so the other party doesn't have to guess what you're trying to say.

Patrick: Is that an advice?

Michelle: Yes. I believe there is nothing more touching than sincerity.

Patrick: In high school, on every St. Valentine's Day, our school newspaper has a special section for all those who wish to write something to their love ones.

Michelle: Some notes are very cute.

Patrick: Michelle, have you ever sent your letters and poems to the newspaper?

Michelle: No. I'm too shy.

Patrick: I find that hard to believe.

Michelle: Well, when it comes to someone you like, I think everyone gets a little nervous.

Patrick: How about signing your letters anonymously?

Michelle: That's a good idea. Hey, let's review.

Patrick: OK.

Michelle: *Happy St. Valentine's Day
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Something sweet for my sweetheart.
I'm giving you a valentine.
Thinking of you on this holiday
This is from my heart.
I've been noticing you.
Let's take it slow*

Patrick: *I love you.*

Michelle: Patrick, I know roses hold a very special meaning to you.

Patrick: Yes, they do. I think the rose is the flower of love, and each petal contains much affection. That's why during every gathering, I pass

around a rose and ask people to take a petal
and share it with others around them.

Michelle: Then you can really spread your love.

Patrick: Precisely. Anyway, Michelle and I wish you all
a very *happy St. Valentine's Day*.

Michelle: *We think of you on this holiday* and hope that
you will think of us, too.

Patrick: Michelle, we're running out of time.

Michelle: But there is still so much more to say.

Patrick: We'll save it for the future.

Michelle: Now we will end our show with Roy Orbison's
"A Love so Beautiful."

Music

~ Lesson 2 ~

Home Sweet Home

The Education:

Home sweet home

Welcome to my humble abode

Make yourself comfortable.

Help yourself to anything you like.

“A man travels the world in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.”

The Entertainment:

Patrick: Michelle, the last few episodes of the television series, *The Symphony of Life*, are about returning home to our roots.

Michelle: Patrick and I both had a very intimate and personal experience with coming to China and visiting our hometown, Beilun, Ningbo.

Patrick: Hey, Michelle, didn't you write a whole book about that?

Michelle: Yes, the book is called *That Year in China*.

Patrick: Next time you should read excerpts from your book to share with our listeners.

Michelle: Sure, it would be my pleasure

Patrick: Could you tell our audience a little bit more about your book?

Michelle: Well, it's pretty much about the year I spent in China, teaching and traveling. I recorded many cultural differences between China and America.

Patrick: I think a lot of people would be interested in learning about these differences.

Michelle: Let me read from the book in the future and see what our listeners think.

Patrick: It's a deal then

Michelle: Yep.

Patrick: So how did it feel to return to our hometown?

Michelle: It was quite an experience.

Patrick: I felt like a child returning to a long forgotten home.

Michelle: Yes, I had the same feeling. Everything felt unfamiliar and familiar at the same time.

Patrick: Almost like a dream.

Michelle: Even though I've never been to my hometown, our Father has told us so many stories that I felt as if I'd been there before.

Patrick: Exactly.

Michelle: Everything exuded warmth, even the dialect. Do you know that I can actually understand Ningbo-hua?

Patrick: Really, I can't understand Ningbo-hua at all.

Michelle: Well, I'm better with languages. Also when I was a kid, I spent a lot of time with Grandparents who spoke the dialect.

Patrick: True, true.

Michelle: Today, we're going to teach some sentences and phrases related to this sort of experience.

Patrick: We believe that the lesson will be very useful since most Chinese feel very close to their hometown.

Michelle: Yes, in many occasions when two strangers from the same hometown get together, they always have so much to talk about.

Patrick: There is a very popular saying in America.

Michelle: Home sweet home

Patrick: When you invite guests to your home, you often say-

Welcome to my humble abode.

Make yourself comfortable.

Help yourself to anything you like.

Michelle: Yes, in America, when you have people over, you want to make sure that they feel comfortable in your home.

Patrick: The guests should feel as if they were in their own home.

Michelle: After a while, they feel so comfortable that they might start helping themselves to things.

Patrick: From getting food from the refrigerator to turning on the TV to plopping into the sofa.

Michelle: That's when you know that they are very comfortable in your house and the friendship is very deep.

Patrick: Comfort is very important.

Michelle: And Patrick and I certainly felt that way when we returned to our hometown.

Patrick: It's as if we had spent a lifetime wandering the world and had finally found our way home.

Michelle: Walking around Beilun was like living in my father's stories. Suddenly everything became very clear to me. This is where I belong.

Patrick: And I felt a sudden warmth running through my body.

Michelle: Let's take a quick break and listen to "The Boxer" by Simon and Garfunkel.

Patrick: Excellent suggestion.

Michelle: "The Boxer" by Simon and Garfunkel.

Music

Patrick: That was Simon and Garfunkel's "The Boxer."

Michelle: Pat, what do you remember the most from that trip?

Patrick: I think it would be the food.

Michelle: That's surprising. What kind of food?

Patrick: Dad's favorite dish, stirred fried rice cakes.

Michelle: This kind of food is really hard to come by in the States.

Patrick: Every time we find it in the Chinese supermarket, it's as if we discovered a rare treasure.

Michelle: Also the sesame rice balls.

Patrick: I love that too. I can tell how happy Dad is when he indulges in his childhood favorites. All those wonderful memories.

Michelle: Dad told me that the Chinese appreciate good food and much affection is transpired during meals.

Patrick: Home is such an ingrained concept in many cultures.

Michelle: Especially in our family and that's why we've traveled across the world to go home.

Patrick: I bet as a writer, you probably gained a lot of insights from this journey.

Michelle: And I wrote everything down in my book.

Patrick: Which you will share with us, right?

Michelle: Of course. I didn't travel all this way for nothing.

Patrick: Then let's listen to "I'm Gonna be (500 miles)" by The Proclaimers.

Michelle: Pay attention to the beat which sounds like a person marching towards a place.

Patrick: "I'm Gonna be (500 miles)" by The Proclaimers.

Music

Michelle: That was The Proclaimers' "I'm Gonna be (500 miles)." Pat, don't you think we are very fortunate?

Patrick: What do you mean?