1.11 SVs and associated function words

好 累 忙 冷 很
hǎo lèi māng lěng hěn
be good tired busy cold very

還 餓 熱 了 太
hái è rè le tài
still hungry hot LE too; very (grand)

Notes

a) SVs: 好 is composed of the female-radical, 女, and 子 zǐ ‘child’ (the latter without phonetic function); often explained as the paradigm of a ‘good relationship’. 累 shows 田 ‘field’ above and the radical derived from the graph used for ‘silk’ below: ‘a heavy and tiring burden for such as slender base’. 忙, with heart radical (a compressed and truncated version of 心) and 死 wáng as a phonetic element, can be compared to 忘 wàng ‘forget’ with the same elements configured vertically. 餓 è is composed of the food radical and the element 我 wǒ, chosen for its sound value. 冷, has two strokes (diān and tiáo) on the left forming the so-called ‘ice radical’, found in a few graphs such as 冰 bīng ‘ice’. The right hand element of 冷 is 令 líng, a ‘phonetic element’ also found in 零 líng ‘zero’. The four strokes at the base of 热 rè are a form of the ‘fire-radical’ which, in its independent form, is written 火.

b) ADVs: The graph 很 hěn ‘very’ is composed of 人 as radical and 艮 gèn as phonetic (cf. 恨 hèn, 臨 hěn, 跟 gēn). 太 tài ‘great’ is 大 dà ‘big’ with the extra dot. The graph 还 huán is also used for the word 还 huán ‘to give back’, which is probably the meaning that inspired the traditional graph. The simplified version substitutes 不 not for its sound or meaning, but for its general shape which serves
to represent the complicated right-hand element. (Cf. 環 huán ‘a ring; surround’.)

c) 了 should be distinguished from 子 zǐ. In the traditional set, the radical assigned to 了 is the second stroke, the vertical hook; but in the simplified set, it is the first stroke, whose uncontroverted form is 也, a radical also assigned to 了.

1.11.1 Covering the pinyin, check your pronunciation of the following phrases:

a) Jiǎntízi ‘simplified set’

| 三月 | 今天 | 也好 | 姓王 | 昨天 | 我们 |
| sānyuè | jīntiān | yě hǎo | xìng Wáng | zuótiān | wǒmen |

| 很累 | 不饿 | 不好 | 明天 | 还好 | 姓毛 |
| hěn lèi | bù è | bù hǎo | míngtiān | hái hǎo | xìng Máo |

| 你们 | 九月 | 二十日 | 姓林 | 明年 | 她们 |
| nǐmen | jiǔyuè | èrshí rì | xìng Lín | míngnián | tāmen |

| 你呢 | 他们 | 八月 | 很忙 | 不太累 | 冷吗 |
| nǐ ne | tāmen | bāyuè | hěn máng | bù tài lèi | lěng ma |

| 不冷 | 很热 | 九十 | 不饿了 | 好不好 | 冷了 |
| bù lěng | hěn rè | jiǔshí | bù è le | hào bu hào | lěng le |

b) Fántízi (including graphs that have only one form)

| 他們 | 很热 | 不冷了 | 很饿 | 明年 | 我们 |
| tāmen | hěn rè | bù lěng le | hěn è | míngnián | wǒmen |

| 不熟了 | 饿不饿 | 姓周 | 你们 | 冷嗎 | 太好 |
| bù rè le | è bu è | xìng Zhōu | nǐmen | lěng ma | tài hǎo |
1.11.2 Reading

甲
1。 今天很忙也很累。 昨天呢？
昨天还好，不太忙，也不太累。

2。 你们饿不饿？ 不饿，还好！你呢？
我呢，我很饿。

3。 今天很热！ 昨天也很热！

4。 今天冷了。 昨天呢？
昨天不太冷，还好。

5。 我们很热。 我也很热！很热也很累！
Ng，我们也很累。

6。 饿吗？ 不太饿。我很累。你呢？
不累，还好。
不饿了。

乙

1.12 Action verbs and associated function words

吃  饭   已经  課  班
3+3       8+4       3+0       6+7       7+8       4+6

飯  经  课班
3+4       3+5       2+8

chī      fàn      yǐjīng      kè      bān
eat      rice; food; already class; lesson (a shift; class)
a) 吃 is a compound of 口 kǒu ‘mouth’ and the element 乞 qǐ, pronounced qǐ on its own. It suggests ‘mouth, teeth and tongue’. 饭/飯 is a compound of the food radical (whose independent form is 食) and phonetic 反 fǎn. Hint: ‘customer on the left with a cap on, with FOOD on the right behind a sneeze shield’. 课/課 contains the speech radical (言 in its independent form) and 果 guǒ (meaning ‘fruit’) as an imperfect phonetic element. Hint: ‘board on an easel in a classroom’.
b) Contrast 乙 yǐ with 乙 jǐ, 巳 sì, and 乙 yǐ.
c) The right hand side of the traditional graph, 经, is said to derive from the drawing of a loom used to represent the root meaning of jīng, ie ‘warp [of a loom]’. From the movements and result of weaving, the word derives meanings such as ‘pass through’ or ‘regulate’ as well as ‘classic texts’ [cf. English ‘text’ and ‘textile’]. The etymological meaning of the compound 已經 is harder to see, but probably derives from a notion of ‘completing the task’.
d) 没 (whose traditional form, 没, is only slightly different) has a version of the water radical on the left (three strokes in contrast to the two of 冷) and an element pronounce shū on the right (with 4 strokes). The graph is also used for the word mò ‘submerge’, which probably explains the presence of the water radical.

1.12.1 Phrases
a) Jiǎntízi ‘simplified set’

吃 了 还 没 有 你 呢
chī fān  chī le  hái méi  méi you  nǐ ne

上 课 已 经 走 了 下 班 饭 很 好
shàng kè  yǐ jīng  zǒu le  xià bān  fàn hěn hǎo

没有了 上 课 没 课 明 天 很 累
méi you le  shàng kè  méi kè  míng tiān  hěn lèi

上 班 还 没 吃 呢 已 经 吃 了 走 了 没 有 还 没
shàng bān  hái méi chī ne  yǐ jīng chī le  zǒu le méi you  hái méi
### 1.12.2 Reading

#### a) Jiǎntízi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>甲</th>
<th>乙</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>吃了吗?</td>
<td>吃了。你呢？</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>还没，我不饿。</td>
<td>还没，你呢。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>没有，我不饿。</td>
<td>我也不饿，今天太热了。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>你吃饭了吗？</td>
<td>还没。你呢？</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>我已经吃了。</td>
<td>还好。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>今天好不好？</td>
<td>吃饭了。你呢？</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>吃饭了吗？</td>
<td>我也已经吃了。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>我已经吃了。</td>
<td>还好。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>他们走了没有？</td>
<td>已经走了，上课了。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>哦，上课了。</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>他吃了没有？</td>
<td>没有，太忙了。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>他不饿吗？</td>
<td>不饿，还好。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>他们已经上课了吗？</td>
<td>还没，他们还没有吃饭呢。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>哦，没吃饭呢。</td>
<td>没有。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>明天有没有课？</td>
<td>没有，明天十月一号。一号</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>二号呢？</td>
<td>二号有，三号也有。</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b) Fántìzi

甲：我今天很累！
乙：吃饭了吗？

還沒呢，太忙了。

很餓。你呢？
我不餓，已經吃了。

李白呢，他已經上課了嗎？
他今天很忙，沒有上課。

你熱嗎？
熱！？我不熱，昨天很熱

昨天很熱，今天也很熱。

你熱嗎？
熱！？我不熱，昨天很熱

今天好了。

昨天很熱，今天也很熱。

今天還好，不熱。

Exercise 5. Fill in the blanks:

1. 我__没吃饭呢，你呢？ / 我__经吃了。
2. 今天很好，不__也不冷。/ ____天也很好。
3. 昨天不__冷，还好。 / 昨天很好，可是今天热__。
4. 我姓林，她__姓林。 / 是吗？你们姓林？我也__林。
5. 我昨天很忙，今天也很__。/ 明天__？
6. 吃__了没有？ / 吃__。

Notes

可是 kěshì ‘but’

是 shì ‘be the case’
1.13 On the streets

This section appears regularly in the lessons to introduces you to words and phrases commonly seen on signs, notices, shop fronts and billboards across China (as well as in Chinese communities across the world). Though notes and annotations are still provided for them, the focus is on recognizing the combinations rather than writing them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>入口</th>
<th>出口</th>
<th>雨水</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rúkǒu</td>
<td>chūkǒu</td>
<td>yǔshuǐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enter opening</td>
<td>exit opening</td>
<td>rainwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entrance</td>
<td>exit</td>
<td>[on manhole covers]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

有限公司

yǒuxiàn gōngsī

have-limit company

CO.LTD.

銀行

yínháng

silver-shop

bank

Notes

a) Left leaning 入 has, in earlier notes been contrasted with right leaning 人 rén, as well as with balanced 八 bà

b) 限 and 銀/银 are part of a phonetic set based on 艮 that includes 很 hěn ‘very’

c) 行 writes two (historically related) words: 行 háng, with a number of meanings including ‘shop; firm’ and ‘row’; and 行 xínɡ ‘to go; do; be okay’ (as in 還行).

Don't! [JKW 2002]