

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S1 #1

Rocking in China

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DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. A: 这座位真棒。
2. B: 当然，我们挨着舞台呢。
3. A: 看……那个领唱的歌手真老了。
4. B: 嗯……他是越来越老了。
5. A: 还有那个鼓手……他是坐在轮椅上吗？
6. B: 他们已经演出40多年了。
7. A: 突然我觉得自己好老啊。

ENGLISH

1. A: These seats are great.
2. B: I know. We're right next to the stage.
3. A: Look...the lead singer looks really old.
4. B: Well...he is getting a bit old now.
5. A: And the drummer... is that a wheelchair?
6. B: They did start playing in the 1970s.
7. A: All of a sudden, I feel old.

PINYIN

1. A: Zhè zuòwèi zhēn bàng.
2. B: Dāngrán, wǒmen āizhe wǔtái ne.
3. A: Kànnà ge lǐng chàng de gēshǒu zhēn lǎo le.
4. B: En ... tā shì yuèláiyuè lǎo le.
5. A: Hái yǒu nà ge gǔ shǒutā shì zuò zài lúnǐyǐ shàng ma?
6. B: Tāmen yǐjīng yǎnchū sìshí duōnián le.
7. A: Tūrán wǒ juéde zìjǐ hǎo lǎo ā.

TRADITIONAL

1. A: 這座位真棒。
2. B: 當然，我們挨著舞臺呢。
3. A: 看.....那個領唱的歌手真老了。
4. B: 嗯.....他是越來越老了。
5. A: 還有那個鼓手.....他是坐在輪椅上嗎？
6. B: 他們已經演出40多年了。
7. A: 突然我覺得自己好老啊。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
位置	位置	wèizhi	position	noun
当然	當然	dāngrán	of course	conjunction
舞台	舞臺	wǔtái	stage	noun
鼓手	鼓手	gǔ shǒu	drummer	noun
歌手	歌手	gēshǒu	singer	noun
吉他手	吉他手	jítāshǒu	guitarist	noun
乐队	樂隊	yuèduì	band	noun
演出	演出	yǎnchū	performance	noun
音乐会	音樂會	yīnyuèhuì	concert	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这就是你挑的位置吗？ <i>Zhè jiù shì nǐ tiāo de wèizhi ma?</i> Is this the seat you chose?	当然，选择是你自己的。 <i>Dāngrán, xuǎnzé shì nǐ zìjǐ de.</i> Of course, it's your own choice.
登上舞台是每个演员的梦想。 <i>Dēng shàng wǔtái shì měi ge yǎnyuán de mèngxiǎng.</i> It's every actor's dream to be on stage.	一个乐队一定要有一个好的鼓手。 <i>Yī ge yuèduì yīdìng yào yǒu yī ge hǎo de gǔshǒu.</i> A band must have a good drummer.

男歌手 <i>nángēshǒu</i> male singer	歌手必须对他们的声音有很好的控制。 <i>Gēshǒu bìxū duì tāmen de shēngyīn yǒu hěn hǎo de kòngzhì.</i> A singer must have good control of their voice.
我是一个歌手。 <i>Wǒ shì yī ge gēshǒu.</i> I'm a singer.	他真是个一流的歌手。 <i>Tā zhēn shì ge yīliú de gēshǒu.</i> He really is a first-class singer.
好的吉他手在乐队里是不可缺少的。 <i>Hǎo de jítāshǒu zài yuèduì lǐ shì bùkě quēshǎo de.</i> A good guitarist is indispensable to a band.	这个乐队真棒！ <i>Zhège yuèduì zhēn bàng!</i> This band is amazing!
你今天有演出吗？ <i>Nǐ jīntiān yǒu yǎnchū ma?</i> Do you have a show today?	你喜欢今天的音乐会吗？ <i>Nǐ xǐhuān jīntiān de yīnyuèhuì ma?</i> Did you like the concert today?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Using 手 Properly

看.....那个领唱的歌手真老了。 *Kàn... nà ge lǐng chàng de gēshǒu zhēn lǎo le.*

"Look...the lead singer looks really old."

Today we review a common pattern used in job titles. This is a relatively common noun followed by the Chinese character 手, *shǒu* ("hand"). In our dialogue, we saw this in the sentence 领唱的歌手真老, where the word for "singer" is 歌手. There are many other cases of this in Chinese. Other examples include the words 水手, *shuǐshǒu* ("sailor"), 鼓手, *gǔshǒu* ("drummer"), and 吉他手, *jítāshǒu* ("guitarist"), among others.

For Example:

- 一个乐队一定要有一个好的鼓手。
Yī ge yuèduì yīdìng yào yǒu yī ge hǎo de gǔ shǒu.
"A band must have a good drummer."
- 他真是个一流的歌手。
Tā zhēnshì ge yīliú de gēshǒu.
"He really is a first-class singer."
- 好的吉他手在乐队里是不可缺少的。
Hǎo de jítā shǒu zài yuèduì lǐ shì bù kě quēshǎo de.
"A band can't do without a good guitarist."

A similar pattern consists of a common adjective followed by the character 手, *shǒu* ("hand"). In these cases, we have not the name of an occupation, but a description of how someone does something. For example, the word 老手 suggests, "that someone has done something for a long time." They are an old-hand, if you will. Someone who is a 高手 is "very good at something," while a 新手 would be "someone who has just started working in a profession."

For Example:

1. 他是个唱歌的高手。
Tā shì ge chàngē de gāoshǒu.
"He is quite good at singing."
2. 我是个新手，什么都会。
Wǒ shì ge xīnshǒu, shénme dōu bù huì.
"I am a new-hand and don't know anything."
3. 李阿姨可是做菜的好手。
Lǐ Ayí kěshì zuòcài de hǎoshǒu.
"Auntie Lee is good at cooking."

These two patterns are easily confused. Just remember, a noun followed by 手 means "a profession or type of job." An adjective followed by 手 "describes" the way in which someone does something."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Rock Music in China

Chinese rock music has a relatively short history compared to its development in the West. Cui Jian, an ethnic Korean Beijinger, is widely considered to be the "Father of Chinese Rock" for his famous album "Nothing to My Name" released in 1986. For the last twenty or so years, the development of Chinese rock music has had its rises and falls along with the economic development and political changes in China. In the mid-80s, Chinese rock music found its root in the Northwest wind style of music, which drew heavily from the folk traditions of the Shanxi province in the northwest. After going through a peak period in the early 90s, which became the symbol of the urban youth culture at the time, Chinese rock music went into a decline period for the government's policy of focusing on the economic development. However, in recent years, the taste for rock music in China has said to be on the rise again and attracting more and more followers.