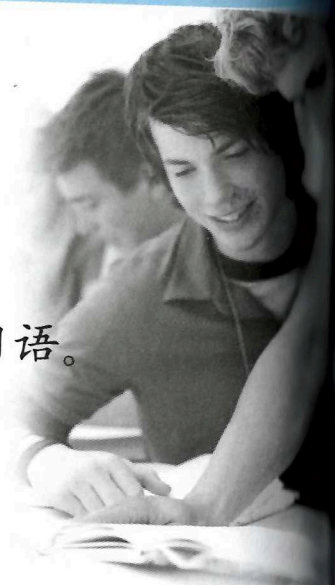


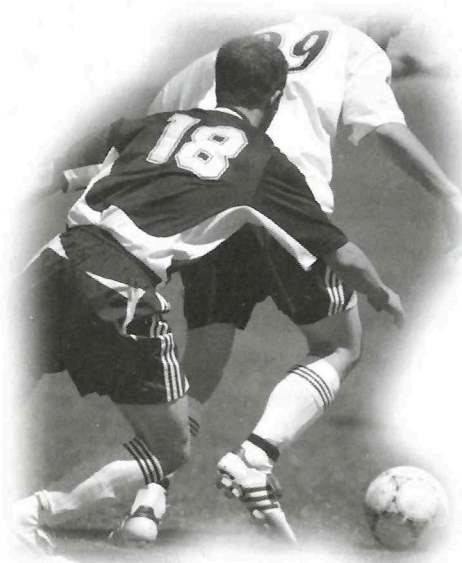
 对话 1 Dialogue One

李: 王京, 你是英国人, 为什么要^①学汉语?
 王: 我喜欢学外语。我会说法语, 也会说一点儿日语。
 李: 你会说日语? 你认识^②汉字吗?
 王: 不认识。
 李: 我会说一点儿^③汉语, 可是我也不认识汉字。
 王: 你想学汉字吗?
 李: 我的老师说我应该学, 可是我不想学。
 王: 为什么?
 李: 我喜欢汉字, 可是汉字不喜欢我。



 对话 2 Dialogue Two

王: 小李, 你喜不喜欢踢足球?
 李: 不喜欢, 我不会踢。
 王: 你喜欢打网球吗?
 李: 我喜欢看, 不喜欢打。
 王: 为什么?
 李: 因为我^④不太会打。
 王: 我也不太会, 我们一起学, 好吗?
 李: 好。



语法注释 Grammar Notes

① 想 and 要 —Both of the words are modal verbs. 想 means "would like to", while 要 means "want". 想 is more polite than 要 in its usage.

② 认识 —认识 and 知道 are often translated as "know" in English, but they are quite different in Chinese. 知道 means "having a knowledge of something" while 认识 is used for recognising or identifying people, characters and roads.

For example:

我不认识他。
 I don't know him. (personally)
 我知道他是英国人。
 I know he is English.

③ 一点儿 —Some Chinese words have an additional character 儿 added to them, especially in spoken language. However 儿 doesn't form an independent syllable. It is usually pronounced as an "r" ending to the syllable in front of it.

In some cases, it distinguishes the meaning of words.

For example:

这(zhè) means "this" 这儿(zhèr) means "here"
 那(nà) means "that" 那儿(nàr) means "there"

In spoken English, the 一 in 一点儿 is usually omitted. Thus it is common to hear 我会说点儿法语 or 你想喝点儿什么?

④ 我不太会打(网球) —I don't play (tennis) very well. When 太 is used in a negative sentence, it is similar to 很, but less strong in emphasis.

⑤ Additional tone changes —一 is pronounced with a first tone on its own, but it becomes a fourth tone when it precedes a first tone, a second tone or a third tone syllable (e.g., yì zhī, yì pán, yì běn). Like 不, 一 becomes a second tone when it precedes a fourth tone syllable (e.g., yí gè).

文化知识 Cultural Note

“天”字的魅力 The Fascinating Character 天

天 is an ideographic character that reflects the way the ancient Chinese viewed the relationship between human beings and the sky (Heaven) above. The character implies "The highest", and it means both "sky" and "gods". 天 is formed by a horizontal line on top of the character 大 which shows a person with arms fully outstretched horizontally. Therefore 天 is a world above human beings and is thus holy and mysterious.

