

塞翁失马

Sài Wēng shī mǎ

Chinese Story Listening and Speaking Pack

A story about good luck bad luck and what comes next



Beginner to lower-intermediate
roughly HSK 2 to 3

Let Me Tell You a Chinese Story

LISTEN · REPEAT · ANSWER · RETELL

01 怎么使用 How to Use This Pack

Zěnmě shǐyòng

This pack helps you move from recognizing Chinese to following a complete story, answering in Chinese, and retelling the main events. Use it with the video and let the real speaker's face, rhythm, pauses, and emotion support your listening.

1

Listen 先听

Xiān tīng

Watch the whole story once. Do not stop for every unknown word. Turn on Chinese, pinyin, and English subtitles only when you need help.

2

Repeat 跟着说

Gēnzhe shuō

Play the key lines again and repeat after the presenter. Copy the rhythm and pauses before worrying about speed.

3

Answer and Retell 回答和复述

Huídá hé fùshù

Pause at each question, answer aloud in Chinese, then use the story map to retell the four main events.

Your finish line

- ☐ I can answer the three core questions without looking back.
- ☐ I can say the old man's key line with natural rhythm.
- ☐ I can retell the four turns of the story in simple Chinese.

02 故事地图 Story Map

Gùshi dìtú

Listen first. Then cover the words and use only the pictures to retell the story.



1 马跑了。

Mǎ pǎo le.

The horse ran away.

坏事?



2 马回来了，还带回了好几匹马。

Mǎ huī lái le, hái dài huí le hǎo jǐ pǐ mǎ.

The horse returned with several more horses.

好事?



3 儿子从马上摔下来，腿受伤了。

Érzi cóng mǎ shàng shuāi xià lái, tuǐ shòu shāng le.

The son fell from a horse and injured his leg.

坏事?



4 因为腿受伤，儿子没有去打仗。

Yīnwèi tuǐ shòu shāng, érzi méiyǒu qù dǎ zhàng.

Because of his injury, the son did not go to war.

好事?

03 重要词汇 Key Vocabulary

Zhòngyào cíhuì

词汇	拼音	Meaning	Example from the story
跑	pǎo	to run; run away	马跑了。 <i>Mǎ pǎo le.</i> The horse ran away.
倒霉	dǎoméi	unlucky; have bad luck	你们怎么这么倒霉? <i>Nimen zěnmě zhème dǎoméi?</i> How could you be so unlucky?
着急	zháojí	worried; anxious	儿子很着急。 <i>Ērzi hěn zháojí.</i> The son was very worried.
邻居	línjū	neighbor	邻居们也来了。 <i>Línjūmen yě lái le.</i> The neighbors came too.
平静	píngjìng	calm	老人还是很平静。 <i>Lǎorén hái shì hěn píngjìng.</i> The old man remained calm.
幸运	xìngyùn	lucky	你们真幸运! <i>Nimen zhēn xìngyùn!</i> You are so lucky!
受伤	shòushāng	to get hurt; be injured	他的腿受伤了。 <i>Tā de tuǐ shòushāng le.</i> His leg was injured.
打仗	dǎzhàng	to fight in a war	年轻人要去打仗。 <i>Niánqīng rén yào qù dǎzhàng.</i> The young men had to go to war.
失去	shīqù	to lose	他失去了自己的马。 <i>Tā shīqù le zìjǐ de mǎ.</i> He lost his horse.
不一定	bù yíding	not necessarily	这不一定是一件坏事。 <i>Zhè bù yíding shì yí jiàn huàishì.</i> This is not necessarily a bad thing.

04 重要句子 Key Sentences

Zhòngyào jùzi

中文和拼音	English
先别急，谁知道呢？ <i>Xiān bié jí, shéi zhīdào ne?</i>	Wait. Who knows?
也许这不一定是一件坏事。 <i>Yěxǔ zhè bù yīdìng shì yí jiàn huàishì.</i>	Maybe this isn't necessarily a bad thing.
马回来了，而且还带回了好几匹马。 <i>Mǎ huílái le, érqiě hái dài huí le hǎo jǐ pǐ mǎ.</i>	The horse returned and brought several more horses.
马越跑越快。 <i>Mǎ yuè pǎo yuè kuài.</i>	The horse ran faster and faster.
因为腿受伤，所以儿子留在了家里。 <i>Yīnwèi tuǐ shòushāng, suǒyǐ érzi liú zài le jiālǐ.</i>	Because his leg was injured, the son stayed home.
事情刚刚发生的时候，不要太快决定它的好和坏。 <i>Shìqíng gānggāng fāshēng de shíhou, bú yào tài kuài juéding tā de hǎo hé huài.</i>	When something has just happened, don't decide too quickly whether it is good or bad.

05 听懂故事 Listen and Understand

Tīngdǒng gùshi

1. 马第一次怎么了?

Mǎ dì-yī cì zěnmē le?

What happened to the horse the first time?

2. 马跑了以后，邻居们觉得这是好事还是坏事?

Mǎ pǎo le yǐhòu, línjūmen juéde zhè shì hǎoshì háishi huàishì?

After the horse ran away, did the neighbors think it was good or bad?

3. 马回来的时候，还带回了什么?

Mǎ huílái de shíhou, hái dài huí le shénme?

What did the horse bring back when it returned?

4. 儿子为什么受伤?

Érzi wèishénme shòushāng?

Why was the son injured?

5. 儿子为什么没有去打仗?

Érzi wèishénme méiyǒu qù dǎzhàng?

Why didn't the son go to war?

06 跟着说 Repeat and Speak

Gēnzhe shuō

Say each line three times. Keep the pauses. Then cover the text and say it again.

邻居
Línjū

这真是一件坏事。你们怎么这么倒霉？

Zhè zhēn shì yí jiàn huàishì. Nǐmen zěnmē zhème dǎoméi?

This is really bad. How could you be so unlucky?

☐ Listen ☐ Repeat ☐ Say it without looking ☐

老人
Lǎorén

先别急。谁知道呢？也许这不一定是一件坏事。

Xiān bié jí. Shéi zhīdào ne? Yěxǔ zhè bù yíding shì yí jiàn huàishì.

Wait. Who knows? Maybe this isn't necessarily bad.

☐ Listen ☐ Repeat ☐ Say it without looking ☐

儿子
Érzi

爸爸，现在我懂了。

Bàba, xiànzài wǒ dǒng le.

Dad, now I understand.

☐ Listen ☐ Repeat ☐ Say it without looking ☐

Change one idea

也许这不一定是一件坏事。

Yěxǔ zhè bù yíding shì yí jiàn huàishì.

Maybe this isn't necessarily a bad thing.

也许这不一定是一件好事。

Yěxǔ zhè bù yíding shì yí jiàn hǎoshì.

Maybe this isn't necessarily a good thing.

07 复述故事 Retell the Story

Fùshù gùshi

Use the four starters and the word bank. First read. Then cover the sample lines and speak from memory.

有一天…… <i>Yǒu yì tiān...</i> One day...	马跑了，大家觉得这是一件坏事。 <i>Mǎ pǎo le, dàjiā juéde zhè shì yí jiàn huàishì.</i>
过了几天…… <i>Guò le jǐ tiān...</i> A few days later...	马回来了，还带回了好几匹马。 <i>Mǎ huílái le, hái dài huí le hǎo jǐ pǐ mǎ.</i>
后来…… <i>Hòulái...</i> Later...	儿子从马上摔下来，腿受伤了。 <i>Érzi cóng mǎ shàng shuāi xiàlai, tuǐ shòushāng le.</i>
最后…… <i>Zuìhòu...</i> Finally...	因为腿受伤，儿子没有去打仗。 <i>Yīnwèi tuǐ shòushāng, érzi méiyǒu qù dǎzhàng.</i>

Word bank

马 mǎ 跑 pǎo 回来 huílái 受伤 shòushāng 打仗 dǎzhàng

Now retell the story in your own words

08 文化和今天的生活 Culture and Modern Life

Wénhuà hé jīntiān de shēnghuó

塞翁失马，焉知非福。

Sài Wēng shī mǎ, yān zhī fēi fú.

A setback may turn into a blessing.

这句话提醒我们：事情刚发生的时候，不要太快决定它是好事还是坏事。

Zhè jù huà tíxǐng wǒmen: shìqíng gāng fāshēng de shíhou, bú yào tài kuài juédìng tā shì hǎoshì háishì huàishì.

The saying reminds us not to judge an event as good or bad too quickly.

它不是说困难一定会变成好事，也不是说遇到问题时什么都不做。

Tā bú shì shuō kùnnan yíding huì biàn chéng hǎoshì, yě bú shì shuō yùdào wèntí shí shénme dōu bù zuò.

It does not promise that every difficulty will become good, and it does not mean doing nothing.

Connect it to your life

你有没有遇到过一件事，刚开始你觉得它是坏事，后来却发现它可能是好事？

Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu yùdào guo yí jiàn shì, gāng kāishǐ nǐ juéde tā shì huàishì, hòulái què fāxiàn tā kěnéng shì hǎoshì?

Have you experienced something that first seemed bad but later appeared to be good?

有一天，我……

Yǒu yì tiān, wǒ...

One day, I...

09 参考答案 Answer Key

Cānkǎo dá'àn

1. 马第一次跑了。

Mǎ dì-yī cì pǎo le.

The horse ran away the first time.

2. 邻居们觉得这是一件坏事。

Línjūmen juéde zhè shì yí jiàn huàishì.

The neighbors thought it was bad.

3. 它带回了好几匹马。

Tā dài huí le hǎo jǐ pǐ mǎ.

It brought back several horses.

4. 儿子骑了一匹新来的马，从马上摔了下来。

Érzi qí le yí pǐ xīn lái de mǎ, cóng mǎ shàng shuāi le xiàlai.

The son rode a new horse and fell off.

5. 因为他的腿受伤了，不能正常走路，所以他没有去打仗。

Yīnwèi tā de tuǐ shòushāng le, bù néng zhèngcháng zǒulù, suǒyǐ tā méiyǒu qù dǎzhàng.

Because his leg was injured and he could not walk normally, he did not go to war.

Final speaking check

- ☐ I can say what happened to the horse.
- ☐ I can explain why the son stayed home.
- ☐ I can use 先别急，谁知道呢? in a new situation.
- ☐ I can tell a short personal story beginning with 有一天，我……

Keep listening. Keep speaking. A complete story is stronger practice than a list of isolated sentences.