

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 199 [English]

Kirin: Chinese Learn Online lesson 199 .

Hello everyone , I'm Kirin .

Raphael: Hello everyone , I'm Raphael .

Adam: And hello, I'm Adam.

Kirin: Welcome to Taiwan and our progressive course teaching Mandarin Chinese . What are we going to study today ?

Raphael: Today we are going to discuss time .

Kirin: What part of time ?

Raphael: For example , yesterday , today , and tomorrow , what is the difference between these three times ?

Kirin: Oh, you are talking about tenses .

Adam: Tenses

Raphael: Right, in English and many other languages , when we use verbs , we have to see what tense it is in , and what verb to use . But Chinese is simpler , since the verbs you use are not related to the tense .

Kirin: So how do we know what tense what we are saying is in ?

Raphael: That's what today's lesson is all about . Now the first tense we are going to teach you is

Kirin: Past tense .

Adam: Literally that's "across go type," or "past tense".

Kirin: Past tense .

Raphael: So how do we know if a sentence is talking about something in the past tense ?

Kirin: Normally we add a le .

Raphael: Right, for example

Kirin: I have eaten .

Adam: I have eaten.

Raphael: But when we are talking about past tense , we don't always have to add a le .
For example

Kirin: I went to see my friend yesterday .

Adam: I went to see my friend yesterday.

Raphael: Now how do we know that what happened in this sentence is in the past tense ?

Kirin: Because in the sentence we said yesterday .

Raphael: Right, so if it's past tense , you will see le , or some words that describe the past tense time . For example, last year , last week , the last few days etc . Today's next new tense is

Kirin: Present tense .

Adam: Present tense

Raphael: Let's look at some present tense sentences .

Kirin: I eat .

Adam: I eat.

Kirin: I am eating .

Adam: I am eating.

Raphael: Present tense is simpler , so we don't have to spend much time explaining it .
Finally we have

Kirin: Future tense

Adam: Future tense

Raphael: [To better understand future tense](#) , let's look at a few sentences .

Kirin: [I am going to eat](#) .

Adam: I am going to eat. Note that the [want](#) here also can mean “want”; so depending on context, this could also mean “I want to eat.”

Kirin: [I am going to eat](#) .

Adam: I am going to eat.

Raphael: [So what's the difference between “wǒ yào chīfàn” and “wǒ yào chīfàn le”](#) ?

Adam: Good question. Here the [change in situation particle](#) signifies a change in situation. So by adding the [change in situation particle](#) we know that the speaker wants to eat now, but didn't want to eat previously.

Kirin: [I will eat](#) .

Adam: I will eat. Note that depending on context, [will / can](#) can also measure an ability, so this could also mean “I can eat.”

Raphael: [Next, some words can describe past tense and future tense](#) . For example

Kirin: [I've been busy recently](#) .

Adam: I've been busy recently.

Kirin: [I will be busy in the near future](#) .

Adam I will be busy in the near future.

Raphael: [In the premium section for this lesson](#) , we will give you some practice questions . You can try to see if you can use Chinese tenses .

Kirin: [Keep at it](#) !