

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 349 [English]

Kirin: Chinese Learn Online lesson 349 .

Hello everyone , I am Teacher Yang .

Raphael: Hello everyone , I am Teacher Lai .

Adam: And hello, I'm Adam.

Kirin: Welcome to our learning Chinese course .

Raphael: In today's lesson , we are going to listen to two new words .

Kirin: To associate with / To contact .

Adam: To associate with or contact.

Kirin: Ideal .

Adam: Ideal.

Raphael: In our last lesson , we listened to the conclusion of the story from our recent lessons .
So what did you think of the result of this story ?

Kirin: It might have been different from what our students expected .

Raphael: Why would you think that ?

Kirin: Umm, most of the movies and story we see and read , normally have a happy ending .
But the result of our story last time might make some people feel a little sad .

Raphael: You're right . But that's life . People can't always be happy everyday , sometimes
things might happen to make people worried or sad .

Kirin: You're right .

Raphael: Now when this part of the story first began , why did Mike purchase a ring ?

Kirin: So he could propose to Xiaoli . Normally, according to westerners , when you propose to
someone , men should give a ring to the woman they love . As well, they look for a romantic or

special place for their proposal . Like how Mike selected a romantic restaurant to propose to Xiaoli .

Raphael: So how about Chinese people then ? When men propose to women , is there any special activity they perform ?

Kirin: Normally they organize a banquet , and invite the bride and grooms' parents and friends to celebrate together . At the banquet they may exchange some presents .

Raphael: Now why is it that Mike and Xiaoli had been together for less than a year , and yet Mike wanted to marry Xiaoli ?

Kirin: Everyone has a different way of looking at marriage . Not everyone believes that you have to be with your partner for more than a year before you can get married . You have to see what their situation is like at the time . Like in the situation in the story , since Mike had to go back to America , he realized that if he didn't propose to Xiaoli soon , he may not be able to be together with Xiaoli in the future .

Raphael: So why did Mike's proposal to Xiaoli make Xiaoli so surprised ?

Kirin: Xiaoli might not have ever thought that one day Mike would propose to her . Or they might have never discussed marriage before .

Raphael: Marriage is a very important matter . Why didn't Mike first tell Xiaoli before buying a ring ?

Kirin: It might have been because Mike wanted to make Xiaoli happy , and see Xiaoli's surprised expression .

Raphael: Right . Now in the restaurant , the other customers all felt quite curious .

Kirin: That's right . Because how Chinese people propose is very different from westerners . So we don't often see an occasion like this in a restaurant .

Raphael: Hmm . Especially in a small town . Now later Mike didn't quite understand whether Xiaoli's reaction was happy or sad . Why was that ?

Kirin: Because Xiaoli was crying . Sometimes women might cry for happy things . But in the story , Xiaoli's reason for crying was because she was sad .

Raphael: That's right . Now what was Xiaoli's reason for not marrying Mike ?

Kirin: The biggest reason was Xiaoli didn't want to leave her family, due to her marrying Mike .

Raphael: Ah, in China, most families only have one child . So if Xiaoli moved to America to marry Mike , Xiaoli's parents would probably be very worried .

Kirin: That's right . As well, in America , apart from Mike, Xiaoli wouldn't have any other friends .

Raphael: Hmm, so they should probably first go travel to another place , then decide whether or not to move there . Now in the end they separated , but they are still friends , they might still continue to keep in touch . But I feel that when most people break up , they won't stay friends with the other side . Why is Xiaoli and Mike's situation different ?

Kirin: Normally the reason for breaking up is because of a fight with the opposing side , or their personalities don't match each other . But in the story , Xiaoli and Mike's personalities match each other very well , as well they are both interested in each other's culture . So after they broke up , they could still use the internet or telephone to keep in contact .

Raphael: If that's the case , then why didn't they continue to be boyfriend and girlfriend ?

Kirin: If the place your partner lives in is very far from you , and there aren't many opportunities to meet , in this case it would be difficult for your relationship to continue .

Raphael: I understand . Now since they broke up in the end , do you feel that the time they spent together previously was all a waste ?

Kirin: Not at all . Before we get married , we all have experience associating with other people . I feel that these experiences all help us better understand ourselves , and even help us better understand what conditions our ideal partner should have .

Raphael: Ah, as well in this story , they were probably happy that they could better understand each other's culture . Ok, from our next lesson we are going to discuss a new topic . Our premium subscribers can visit our website chineselearnonline-com for more practice .

Kirin: See you next time .