

Do You Want to Get to the Guesthouse

M: Hi everybody, dajia hao!

S: dajia hao! All together.

S/M: 大家好!

S: ML, 今天, today, jīntiān, we really will leave the airport.

M: Hao zhúyi. Good idea. Hao zhúyi. Wo tongyi. I agree, wo tongyi.

S: 我们去哪儿?

M: 我们去宾馆。Women qù bīnguǎn. Women qu ni de bin'guan.

S: na hao. Women qu wo de bin'guan. Good, we're going to my hotel. Women qu wo de bin'guan.

M: Did you hear the words for GO and HOTEL? 去 QU QU qù. To go. Try it, qù qù qù. We don't have the u sound in English. It's like the u of tu in French.

S: To make this sound, remember how your grandmother used to pucker her lips to kiss you. Do the same and try to say "u".

M: Try it u u u. Now qu qu qu. Remember qù to go, is 4th tone. Qù.

S: And notice that in pinyin Q is pronounced like a hard, short 期. Listen, 去, qù. Hao! Back to the dialogue. Don't worry, we'll soon learn a word for HOTEL.

S: 我们去哪儿?

M: 我们去你的宾馆。

S: Women qu wo de bin'guan. Wode bin'guan. What does Binguan mean? 宾馆是什么意思?

M: 宾馆是什么意思? shì SHI, to be, is. Shenme SHENME, shén me. Shenme means 'what'. Yisi, yi si, means 'meaning'. Shenme yisi? What meaning? Shenme yisi.

S: So, Bin'guan shi shenme yisi? What does bin'guan mean?

M: I'll give you a clue. Bīn BIN BIN bīn, here means 'guest'. Guǎn GUAN, guǎn, 'house', or 'hall'. Guess what binguan means? Dui le, guesthouse, or hotel. Binguan.

S: Another word for 'hotel' is '饭店', fandian. Fàn FAN fàn, means rice. diàn DIAN DIAN diàn, means shop, or inn, that's I-N-N, not I-N. Fandian, hotel. It also means restaurant. Let's have a break, then practice all this.

M: 我同意. I agree, wo tongyi.

S: Now, let's practice 去, to 'go', 哪儿, 'where?' and 什么意思. You people at home, answer with bin'guan or fandian.

M: Ready? 你去哪儿? Ni qu nǎr?

S: Wo qu fandian. Wo qu fandian.

M: Nimen, nimen qu nǎr?

S: Women, women qu bin'guan. Women qu bin'guan.

M: Why don't we add another place in here, Stuart?

S: Mei wenti, no problem, mei wenti.

M: Ok. 商店 shang SHANG SHANG shāng, means 'business'. diàn DIAN diàn, meaning shop, like in fàndiàn. So, shangdian, shop. A question: Where is he going?

S: To the shop.

M: 他去哪儿? Ta qu nǎr?

S: Ta qu shangdian. Ta qu shangdian.

M: Tamen qu nar? Tamen qu nǎr?

S: Tamen qu shangdian. Tamen qu shangdian.

M: Stuart, ni qu nǎr?

S: Wo qu xishoujian. Wo qu xishoujian.

M: Good, then we can leave the 机场。

S: So now we can say zai jian.

M: See you next time.