

Intake File Topic 8. At the Start and End of a TC

Step 1. Target language review 重点词组句型复习 (课程当天截图提交)

(Highlight 20-30% out of the target language points to give yourself more focus when doing the daily personalization and review)

Vocabulary	Sentence structures
on one's way over running a bit late the other week haze off the scale. Thankfully manage to catch up with some work trail disconnect from screens quality time recharge full of energy varied landscapes escape from the city theraputic get down to business regularly live adj./ai/ a pretty good season make it through playoffs the finals determine specifics be divided into keep an eye out for	we're just waiting on sb. Sb.'ll be about another ... minutes I meant to (do) I read that I didn't dare (do) appreciate the importance of It's a great way to (do) We've been trying to (do) I would regularly (do) since ..., I don't get the chance so often. unfortunately I have to admit, I've never (done) used to (do) when ... You'll have to excuse my ignorance, but I have no idea about ... To be honest, I'm not sure exactly how ...
	Communication tools
	I hear you loud and clear. Can't complain. Busy as usual, but that's how I like it. Would you mind holding on before we get started so he doesn't miss anything? Is that still an issue? Thanks for asking. Thankfully, it's much better now fingers crossed it remains that way. if you don't mind me asking? I can relate to that. Sure, let me just find my slides... one moment while I share my screen. Okay, here we are, are you seeing them at your end? I think that's about all. Is there anything else you'd like to bring up before we bring things to a close. I think we've covered everything we need to for today. We can leave things here. Sorry to ask again, but ... Is that how it works? I'll let you know how they get on. I won't keep you any longer.

Conversation 1: At the start of a TC while waiting for a late arrival

Zhao: Hi Dan, can you hear me?

Dan: Hi Zhao, **I hear you loud and clear.** How's it going?

Zhao: **Pretty good thanks. How about yourself?**

Dan: **Can't complain. Busy as usual, but that's how I like it.** Actually, **we're just waiting on** Daniel. He's on his way over, but he's running a bit late. **He'll be about another five minutes. Would you mind holding on before we get started so he doesn't miss anything?**

Zhao: No, of course not. By the way, **I meant to** ask you the other week, how's the air quality with you there in Chicago these days? **I read that** it'd been affected quite badly by the wildfires over in Canada. **Is that still an issue?**

Dan: **Yes, thanks for asking.** It's still not great, but it's getting better. The situation as it is now is a big improvement on a few weeks ago. On the worst few days, last month, the haze was so bad that you could hardly see the buildings across the road from here. **I didn't dare** look at the AQI readings – I think it was almost off the scale.

Zhao: That's scary. I remember when I first moved to Beijing, the pollution was similar to what you're describing. People would wear facemasks when they went out to try and protect themselves. It certainly makes you **appreciate the importance of** clean air. **Thankfully, it's much better now** – we see a lot more blue sky these days. I'm glad to hear the situation's getting better where you are too – **fingers crossed it remains that way.**

Dan: Indeed. Hopefully the worst is over.

Zhao: Let's hope so. How was your weekend? Did you manage to get out at all?

Dan: Yes, I had a great weekend, thanks. I had to catch up with some work on the Saturday, but I spent the whole of Sunday with my kids, which was nice.

Zhao: That sounds wonderful. It's important to have some family time. How old are your kids, **if you don't mind me asking?**

Dan: I have a six-year-old and an eight-year-old – both boys. How about you? Do you have kids?

Zhao: I have a son, but not quite as old as that – he'll be four next month. I guess at that age, your kids must have a lot of energy; they must keep you busy. What did you get up to with them on Sunday?

Dan: We went hiking at a nearby forest preserve. Since the air quality was better, it was a good opportunity to get outside and enjoy nature. We hiked some beautiful trails, explored the woods, and even had a picnic by a small lake. The kids loved it, and it was a nice way to disconnect from screens and spend quality time together.

Zhao: That sounds wonderful. I like to get out into nature with my family too when we get the chance. **It's a great way to** recharge after a busy week. Did your kids enjoy the hike as well?

Dan: They absolutely loved it. As you guessed, they **are** always full of energy, so being able to run around in nature and explore was perfect for them. They were excited to spot different plants, insects, and even a few animals along the way.

Zhao: That sounds perfect. Are there many good hiking spots in the Chicago area?

Dan: Yes, there are quite a few nature reserves within a couple of hours drive of here with some quite varied landscapes. **We've been trying to** explore more and more of them now that the kids are old enough to walk a bit further.

Zhao: Yes, **I can relate to that.** I still have to spend most of my time carrying my son whenever we go hiking. But it's still nice to escape from the city.

Dan: Absolutely. Getting into nature can be very therapeutic...Ah, Daniel's just arrived. It's been nice talking, but I guess we should get down to business.

Zhao: **Sure, let me just find my slides...one moment while I share my screen. Okay, here we are, are you seeing them at your end?**

Conversation 2 - Ending a TC

Zhao: **I think that's about all. Is there anything else you'd like to bring up before we bring things to a close.**

Charles: No, **I think we've covered everything we need to for today. We can leave things here.**

Zhao: Great. Any plans for the weekend?

Charles: Yeah, I managed to get tickets for the Lakers game.

Zhao: Lakers? That's the basketball team, right?

Charles: Yes, that's right.

Zhao: Oh wow, I'm jealous. I'd love to see a game like that one day. The atmosphere at a live match must be something special. Do you watch a lot of live sports?

Charles: I used to, especially basketball. When I first moved to LA, **I would regularly** go to see the Lakers play live, but **since I got married, I don't get the chance so often**. How about you?

Zhao: No, **unfortunately I have to admit, I've never** seen a live sports match myself. But I **used to** watch a lot of NBA on TV when I was younger. The Lakers are very popular with Chinese fans. Are they having a good season?

Charles: They've had a pretty good season this year. They just made it through to the playoffs. In fact, they're playing Denver in the first round of the playoffs this weekend.

Zhao: The playoffs?

Charles: Yeah, it's like the finals, to determine the NBA champions.

Zhao: I see. **You'll have to excuse my ignorance, but I have no idea about** the specifics of the competition. How many teams take part in the playoffs?

Charles: There's 16 in total, eight teams from each of the conferences.

Zhao: **Sorry to ask again, but** what are the conferences? As I said, I used to watch lots of NBA when I was back in college, but, to be honest, I just enjoyed the action – I didn't pay much attention to how it all worked.

Charles: No problem at all. Actually, it is a bit complicated, but basically, the nation's basketball teams are divided into two conferences - eastern and western. At the end of the regular season, the top eight teams from each go through to the playoffs.

Zhao: Oh, I see. So during the regular season, the teams just play other teams in their own conference – **is that how it works?**

Charles: **Not exactly.** All the teams play each other at least twice during the regular season, but they play against the other teams from their own conference more often. It's basically designed to reduce the amount of travel. **To be honest, I'm not sure exactly how** it's all calculated, but it seems to work.

Zhao: Got it...I think. Thanks for the explanation. I'll have to do some more research on that. Anyway, **I won't keep you any longer.** Enjoy the match, and have a good weekend. I'll keep an eye out for the result.

Charles: Thanks, **I'll let you know how they get on.** Have a good weekend too!