

## 注释 LANGUAGE NOTES

## 洗澡间(洗手间, 厕所)

洗澡 means “to take a bath.” 间 means “room.” 洗澡间 is “bathroom.”  
 洗手间 [xǐshǒujiān], which literally means “wash hands room,” and 厕所 [cèsuǒ] are also common terms for the restroom or bathroom.

## 有的

有的 means “some (of the) N.” Thus 有的(书) means “some books.”

## 语法 GRAMMAR

## Position Words

A position word is used to specify a relative location. The following are examples of position words:

Position words	English	Position words	English
前边/前面	front	后边/后面	back
上边/上面	top	下边/下面	under, beneath
里边/里面	inside	外边/外面	outside
左 [zuǒ] (left) 边	left	右 [yòu] (right) 边	right
旁边	beside		
中间	middle		
对面	opposite		

- The suffix 边 literally means “side.” It is usually interchangeable with 面.
- However, in 左边, 右边, and 旁边 the 边 cannot be replaced with 面.
- 面 literally means “face.” 对面 means “opposite, face to face.”

- In Chinese, the word order for specifying a location is different from that of English. For example,

图书馆 在宿舍的 前边。 The library is in front of the dorm.  
 The reference point location  
 (landmark)

State the reference point (宿舍) first, then specify the location (前边)

- 的 can be either present or not. Therefore we can use both 宿舍前边 or 宿舍的前边
- 里边 means “inside.” It is never used with a place word that is a geographical name, building, or organization. For example,

他在北京学中文。 He studies Chinese in Beijing.  
 他在银行 [yínháng] 工作。 He works in a bank.

### Sentences Expressing Location and Existence with 在, 有, and 是

在, 有, and 是 are commonly used to indicate location and existence. Some of their sentence patterns are shown below:

Pattern	Example	English
N. (definite) + 在 + Place	图书馆在宿舍(的)前边。	The library is in front of the dorm. (focus on location)
Place + 有 + N. (indefinite)	宿舍(的)前边有一个图书馆。	There is a library in front of the dorm. (focus on existence)
Place + 是 + N. (definite or indefinite)	宿舍(的)前边是图书馆。	In front of the dorm is the library. (focus on identification)

Notes: Example of definite noun: the library.

Example of indefinite noun: a library.

Example	English	Situation
这儿有厕所吗?	Is there a bathroom here?	(e.g., when traveling and asking someone whether there is a bathroom)
厕所在哪儿?	Where is the bathroom?	(e.g., at a friend's house, asking for the location of the bathroom)
这儿是厕所吗?	Is this the bathroom?	(e.g., to identify whether this is or isn't a bathroom)