

注釋 LANGUAGE NOTES**自行車**

自行車 means “bicycle.” A more colloquial form used mostly in Taiwan is 腳踏車 [jiǎotàchē], and 單車 [dānchē] is also used in Mainland China and Hong Kong. The bicycle is currently the most common means of transportation in China.

公共汽車

公共汽車 means “(public) bus.” In Taiwan, it is more commonly called 公車 or 巴士 [bāshì].

路上

路上 is an idiomatic expression commonly used to mean “on the way.”

語法 GRAMMAR**離**

The verb 離 means “to be away from . . .” It is used in the following pattern:

A + 離 + B + adjective phrase

For example, 宿舍 離 學校 很近。 The dorm is very close to the school.
中國 離 美國 很遠。 China is very far from the U.S.

Note: While English modifiers of distance such as “very close” and “very far” are placed between the names of two places, Chinese modifiers of distance are placed at the end of the sentence, as shown in the examples above.

先.....(再)..... 然後.....

Both 先 and 再 are adverbs, but 然後 is a conjunction. All three words are used to show sequence. Look at the following examples:

他先去吃飯，再去圖書館，然後回宿舍。
He first went to eat, then to the library and after that he went back to the dorm.

我先去找老師，然後去看你。
I will go to see the professor first, and then to see you.

Note that when you want to indicate sequence, you must use 先 first, and then 然後. If there are more than two actions involved, you need to use 再 as well. The order of the three expressions can be either 先....., 再....., 然後..... or 先....., 然後..... 再..... For example, for the sentence “Xiaomei will go to Beijing first, then to Hong Kong, and then to Taiwan to visit her Grandma,” the Chinese sentence can be either

小美要先去北京, 再去香港, 然後去台灣看奶奶。
or 小美要先去北京, 然後去香港, 再去台灣看奶奶。

坐, 騎 and 開

These three verbs are used for different kinds of vehicles:

Verb	Vehicle	Translation
坐 to take, to ride in	汽車	to take (ride in) a car
	長途汽車 [chángtú qìchē]	to take (ride in) a long-distance bus
	出租汽車 [chūzū qìchē]	to take (ride in) a taxicab
	公共汽車 [gōnggòng qìchē]	to take (ride in) a (public) bus
	火車 飛機	to take (ride in) a train to take (fly in) an airplane
	輪船 [lúnchuán]	to take a ship
騎 to ride	自行車	to ride a bike
	馬 [mǎ]	to ride a horse
開 to drive	車	to drive a car