

dì dì lái le
弟弟来了

The Baby Comes Home

PAGE 1

jīn nián chūn tiān wǒ men jiā duō
今年春天我们家多
le yí gè rén
了一个人

This spring our family got one more person.

PAGE 4

tā jiào xiǎo zhōu shì wǒ dì dì
他叫小舟是我弟弟

His name is Xiaozhou, and he's my little brother.

PAGE 2

nà ge rén hěn xiǎo yì tiān yào
那个人很小一天要
shuì shí liù gè xiǎo shí
睡十六个小时

He's very small, and sleeps sixteen hours a day.

PAGE 5

bái tiān tā hěn ān jìng shéi bào
白天他很安静谁抱
dōu kě yǐ
都可以

In the daytime he's quiet, and anyone can hold him.

PAGE 3

kě shì nà shí liù gè xiǎo shí
可是那十六个小时
bú zài yè lǐ
不在夜里

But those sixteen hours are not at night.

PAGE 6

dào le yè lǐ tā jiù kāi shǐ
到了夜里他就开始
kū
哭

When night comes, he starts to cry.

dì yī gè xīng qī quán jiā dōu
第一个星期全家都

méi yǒu shuì hǎo
没有睡好

Nobody in the house slept well that first week.

dì bā tiān lǎo lao cóng nán fāng
第八天姥姥从南方

lái le
来了

On the eighth day, Grandma came up from the south.

mā ma bào zhe tā zǒu lái zǒu
妈妈抱着他走来走

qù zǒu le yí yè
去走了一夜

Mum walked him up and down all night.

tā jìn mén de dì yī jù huà
她进门的第一句话

shì nǐ men bú huì chàng gē ma
是你们不会唱歌吗

Her first words through the door were: can none of you sing?

wǒ zài fáng jiān lǐ tīng zhe yě
我在房间里听着也

shuì bù hǎo
睡不好

I lay in my room listening, and couldn't sleep either.

mā ma shuō chàng guò le méi yǒu
妈妈说唱过了没有

yòng
用

Mum said: we've tried. It doesn't work.

lǎo lao shuō nà shì yīn wèi nǐ
 姥姥说那是因为你
 men chàng cuò le gē
 们唱错了歌

Grandma said: that's because you're singing
 the wrong songs.

tā chàng de jiào yuè ér míng wǒ
 她唱的叫月儿明我
 méi yǒu tīng guò
 没有听过

What she sang was called Yue'erming, and
 I'd never heard it.

tā shuō hǒng hái zǐ de gē bú
 她说哄孩子的歌不
 shì suí biàn nǎ yì shǒu
 是随便哪一首

She said: the songs that settle a child aren't
 just any songs.

yuè ér míng fēng ér jìng shù yè
 月儿明风儿静树叶
 ér zhē chuāng líng
 儿遮窗棂

The moon is bright, the wind is still, and the
 leaves screen the window lattice.

nà tiān yè lǐ lǎo lao bào zhe
 那天夜里姥姥抱着
 xiǎo zhōu zuò xià lái
 小舟坐下来

That night Grandma sat down with Xiaozhou
 in her arms.

shí fēn zhōng yǐ hòu fáng jiān jiù
 十分钟以后房间就
 ān jìng le wǒ kāi shǐ jì zhè
 安静了我开始记这
 xiē gē
 些歌

Ten minutes later the room was quiet, and I
 started learning these songs by heart.

弟弟来了 · Writing Practice

The Baby Comes Home

Name: _____

Date: _____

夜里

yè li
during the night

夜	里				
---	---	--	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

姥姥

lǎo lao
mother's mother

姥	姥				
---	---	--	--	--	--

十六

shí liù
sixteen

十	六				
---	---	--	--	--	--

小时

xiǎo shí
hour

小	时				
---	---	--	--	--	--

安静

ān jìng
quiet

安	静				
---	---	--	--	--	--

开始

kāi shǐ
to begin

开	始				
---	---	--	--	--	--

第一

dì yī
first

第	一				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

yáo dào wài pó qiáo
摇到外婆桥

Rowing to Grandma's Bridge

PAGE 1

lǎo lao chàng de dì yī shǒu gē
姥姥唱的第一首歌
shì jiāng nán de
是江南的

The first song Grandma sang was from
Jiangnan.

PAGE 4

dì yī jù shì yáo a yáo yáo
第一句是摇啊摇摇
dào wài pó qiáo
到外婆桥

The first line is: row and row, row to
Grandma's bridge.

PAGE 2

tā xiǎo shí hou tā de lǎo lao
她小时候她的姥姥
chàng gěi tā tīng
唱给她听

When she was little, her own grandmother
sang it to her.

PAGE 5

xià miàn yí jù shì wài pó jiào
下面一句是外婆叫
wǒ hǎo bǎo bao
我好宝宝

The next line: Grandma calls me a good
child.

PAGE 3

wǒ men jiā zài xī ān lǎo lao
我们家在西安姥姥
shì nán fāng rén
是南方人

Our family lives in Xi'an; Grandma is a
southerner.

PAGE 6

rán hòu shì táng yì bāo guǒ yì
然后是糖一包果一
bāo
包

Then: a packet of sweets, a packet of fruit.

PAGE 7

wǒ wèn lǎo lao wài pó qiáo zài
我问姥姥外婆桥在
nǎ lǐ
哪里

I asked Grandma where Grandma's bridge is.

PAGE 10

chuán yì yáo yì yáo hái zi jiù
船一摇一摇孩子就
zài chuán shàng shuì le
在船上睡了

The boat rocked and rocked, and the child
fell asleep on it.

PAGE 8

tā shuō nán fāng rén guǎn lǎo lao
她说南方人管姥姥
jiào wài pó
叫外婆

She said: southerners call a laolao a waipo.

PAGE 11

suǒ yǐ zhè shǒu gē běn lái jiù
所以这首歌本来就
shì yáo chū lái de
是摇出来的

So the song was rocked into being.

PAGE 9

jiāng nán měi gè cūn zi dōu yǒu
江南每个村子都有
qiáo cóng qián de rén zǒu shuǐ lù
桥从前的人走水路

Every village in Jiangnan has a bridge, and
people used to travel by water.

PAGE 12

lǎo lao chàng de shí hou shēn tǐ
姥姥唱的时候身体
yě zài màn màn yáo
也在慢慢摇

When Grandma sang, her body swayed
slowly too.

PAGE 13

tā zuò zài nà lǐ kě shì nà
她坐在那里可是那
ge dòng zuò shì chuán de dòng zuò
个动作是船的动作

She was sitting still, but the movement was a
boat's movement.

PAGE 16

lǎo lao shuō nà shì wǒ qǐ de
姥姥说那是我起的

Grandma said: I chose it.

PAGE 14

xiǎo zhōu tīng le liǎng jù jiù bù
小舟听了两句就不
kū le
哭了

Xiaozhou stopped crying after two lines.

PAGE 17

tā shuō zuò zhe chuán qù lǎo lao
她说坐着船去姥姥
jiā de hái zi shuì de zuì hǎo
家的孩子睡得最好

She said: children who go to their
grandmother's by boat sleep the best.

PAGE 15

wǒ fā xiàn tā de míng zì lǐ
我发现他的名字里
yě yǒu yì tiáo chuán
也有一条船

I noticed there's a boat in his name too.

PAGE 18

nà tiān yè lǐ wǒ yě shuì de
那天夜里我也睡得
hěn hǎo
很好

I slept well that night too.

摇到外婆桥 · Writing Practice

Rowing to Grandma's Bridge

Name: _____

Date: _____

姥姥

lǎo lao
mother's mother

姥

姥

外婆

wài pó
mother's mother

外

婆

第一

dì yī
first

第

一

南方

nán fāng
south

南

方

孩子

hái zi
child

孩

子

动作

dòng zuò
movement

动

作

小时候

xiǎo shí hou
in one's childhood

小

时

候

下面

xià miàn
to boil noodles

下

面

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

yuè guāngguāng

月光光

Moonlight

PAGE 1

nǎi nai shì guǎng dōng rén shuō huà
奶 奶 是 广 东 人 说 话

wǒ cháng cháng tīng bù dǒng
我 常 常 听 不 懂

Grandma Nai is from Guangdong, and I often
can't follow her speech.

PAGE 4

tóu liǎng jù shì yuè guāng guāng zhào
头 两 句 是 月 光 光 照

dì táng
地 堂

The first two lines are: moonlight, moonlight,
shining on the courtyard.

PAGE 2

tā yě yǒu yì shǒu hǒng hái zǐ
她 也 有 一 首 哄 孩 子

de gē
的 歌

She has a song for settling a child too.

PAGE 5

dì táng jiù shì yuàn zi guǎng dōng
地 堂 就 是 院 子 广 东

huà zhè yàng shuō
话 这 样 说

Ditang means courtyard — that's how they
say it in Cantonese.

PAGE 3

nà shǒu gē jiào yuè guāng guāng
那 首 歌 叫 月 光 光

That song is called Yueguangguang.

PAGE 6

nǎi nai yòng guǎng dōng huà chàng wǒ
奶 奶 用 广 东 话 唱 我

yí jù yě tīng bù dǒng
一 句 也 听 不 懂

Grandma Nai sings it in Cantonese, and I
don't understand a line.

kě shì xiǎo zhōu tīng de hěn rèn
可是小舟听得很认
zhēn
真

But Xiaozhou listened very closely.

nǎi nai shuō hái zǐ tīng de bú
奶奶说孩子听的不
shì yì si
是意思

She said: a child isn't listening to the meaning.

tā cái sān gè yuè tā yě tīng
他才三个月他也听
bù dǒng
不懂

He's three months old. He doesn't understand it either.

tā shuō hái zǐ tīng de shì shēng
她说孩子听的是声
yīn lǐ yǒu méi yǒu rén
音里有没有人

She said: he's listening for whether there's a person in the voice.

wǒ wèn nǎi nai tā tīng bù dǒng
我问奶奶他听不懂
wèi shén me bù kū
为什么不哭

I asked her: if he doesn't understand it, why doesn't he cry?

nà jù huà wǒ xiǎng le hěn jiǔ
那句话我想了很久

I thought about that for a long time.

PAGE 13

hòu lái nǚ nǚ jiāo wǒ chàng tóu
后 来 奶 奶 教 我 唱 头
liǎng jù
两 句

Later she taught me the first two lines.

PAGE 16

nǚ nai shuō nǐ kàn tā bù guǎn
奶 奶 说 你 看 他 不 管
nǐ chàng de hǎo bu hǎo
你 唱 得 好 不 好

She said: look — he doesn't care whether
you sing well.

PAGE 14

wǒ de guǎng dōng huà hěn nán tīng
我 的 广 东 话 很 难 听
nǚ nai xiào le hěn jiǔ
奶 奶 笑 了 很 久

My Cantonese was terrible, and she laughed
for a long time.

PAGE 17

nà shì wǒ dì yī cì chàng gē
那 是 我 第 一 次 唱 歌
gěi bié rén tīng
给 别 人 听

That was the first time I ever sang to anyone.

PAGE 15

kě shì xiǎo zhōu méi yǒu kū
可 是 小 舟 没 有 哭

But Xiaozhou didn't cry.

PAGE 18

chàng de shí hou wǒ de shǒu yì
唱 的 时 候 我 的 手 一
zhí zài dǒu
直 在 抖

My hands shook the whole time.

月光光 · Writing Practice

Moonlight

Name: _____

Date: _____

奶奶

nǎi nai

grandma (paternal grand...

奶

奶

听不懂

tīng bu dǒng

unable to make sense of...

听

不

懂

孩子

hái zi

child

孩

子

两句

liǎng jù

a few words

两

句

月光

yuè guāng

moonlight

月

光

可是

kě shì

but

可

是

说话

shuō huà

to speak

说

话

常常

cháng cháng

frequently

常

常

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

yuè liang bā ba
月亮粑粑

The Moon Cake

PAGE 1

lóu xià zhù zhe yí wèi hú nán
楼下住着一位湖南
lái de ā yí
来的阿姨

Downstairs lives an auntie from Hunan.

PAGE 2

tā tīng jiàn xiǎo zhōu kū jiù shàng
她听见小舟哭就上
lái qiāo mén
来敲门

She heard Xiaozhou crying and came up and
knocked.

PAGE 3

tā shuō tā yě huì yì shǒu
她说她也会一首

She said she knew one too.

PAGE 4

tā de gē jiào yuè liang bā ba
她的歌叫月亮粑粑

Her song is called Yueliang Baba.

PAGE 5

bā ba shì hú nán huà jiù shì
粑粑是湖南话就是
bǐng
饼

Baba is Hunanese for a flat cake.

PAGE 6

suǒ yǐ nà ge míng zì de yì
所以那个名字的意思
sī shì yuè liang bǐng
是月亮饼

So the name means: moon cake.

wǒ yì tīng jiù xiào le yīn wèi
我一听就笑了因为

yuè liang zhēn de hěn xiàng
月亮真的很像

I laughed, because the moon really does look like one.

diē diē chū lái mǎi cài dù lǐ
爹爹出来买菜肚里

zuò gè nǎi nai
坐个奶奶

Grandpa comes out to buy food, and a grandma sits inside.

zhè shǒu gē hěn qí guài yí jù
这首歌很奇怪一句

jiē yí jù wǎng xià zǒu
接一句往下走

The song is strange — each line hands on to the next.

yí gè yí gè wǎng xià jiē méi
一个一个往下接没

yǒu wán de shí hou
有完的时候

One after another, and it never ends.

yuè liang bā ba dù lǐ zuò gè
月亮粑粑肚里坐个

diē diē
爹爹

Moon cake, moon cake, with a grandpa sitting inside.

ā yí shuō chàng dào hái zǐ shuì
阿姨说唱到孩子睡

le jiù tíng
了就停

Auntie said: you stop when the child sleeps.

PAGE 13

suǒ yǐ zhè shǒu gē chàng duō jiǔ
所以这首歌唱多久
hái zǐ shuō le suàn
孩子说了算

So how long the song runs is up to the child.

PAGE 16

ā yí zǒu de shí hòu shuō míng
阿姨走的时候说明
tiān wǒ hái lái
天我还会来

As she left, she said she'd come again
tomorrow.

PAGE 14

nà tiān tā chàng dào le dì èr
那天她唱到了第二
shí jǐ gè rén
十几个人

That night she got as far as the twentieth-
odd person.

PAGE 17

mā ma shuō wǒ men jiā xiàn zài
妈妈说我们家现在
yǒu sān gè rén huì hǒng tā
有三个人会哄他

Mum said: three people in this house can
settle him now.

PAGE 15

xiǎo zhōu dì shí bā gè rén de
小舟第十八个人的
shí hòu shuì le
时候睡了

Xiaozhou was asleep by the eighteenth.

PAGE 18

wǒ shuō sì gè
我说四个

I said: four.

月亮粿粿 · Writing Practice

The Moon Cake

Name: _____

Date: _____

月亮

yuè liang
the moon

月	亮				
---	---	--	--	--	--

阿姨

ā yí
maternal aunt

阿	姨				
---	---	--	--	--	--

时候

shí hou
time

时	候				
---	---	--	--	--	--

个人

gè rén
individual

个	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

所以

suǒ yǐ
therefore

所	以				
---	---	--	--	--	--

爹爹

diē diē
daddy

爹	爹				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一句

yī jù
a line of verse

一	句				
---	---	--	--	--	--

孩子

hái zi
child

孩	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

bà ba chàng cuò le
爸爸唱错了

Dad Sings the Wrong One

PAGE 1

bà ba shì běi fāng rén tā shuō
爸 爸 是 北 方 人 他 说

tā yě huì
他 也 会

Dad is a northerner, and he said he knew one too.

PAGE 4

xià yí jù shì lǎo lao mén kǒu
下 一 句 是 姥 姥 门 口

chàng dà xì
唱 大 戏

The next line: there's an opera at Grandma's gate.

PAGE 2

nà tiān yè lǐ tā bào qiǎo xiǎo
那 天 夜 里 他 抱 起 小

zhōu hěn yǒu xìn xīn
舟 很 有 信 心

That night he picked Xiaozhou up, full of confidence.

PAGE 5

chàng dào yí bàn xiǎo zhōu de yǎn
唱 到 一 半 小 舟 的 眼

jīng yuè zhēng yuè dà
睛 越 睁 越 大

Halfway through, Xiaozhou's eyes opened wider and wider.

PAGE 3

tā chàng de shì lā dà jù chē
他 唱 的 是 拉 大 锯 扯

dà jù
大 锯

What he sang was: saw the big saw, pull the big saw.

PAGE 6

chàng wán yǐ hòu tā yì diǎn yě
唱 完 以 后 他 一 点 也

bú kùn le
不 困 了

By the end, he wasn't sleepy at all.

PAGE 7

bà ba yòu chàng le yí cì gèng
爸爸又唱了一次更
qīng chū
清楚

Dad sang it again, more clearly.

PAGE 10

zuì hòu tā shuō nà bú shì hǒng
最后她说那不是哄
shuì de gē
睡的歌

At last she said: that isn't a song for putting a
child down.

PAGE 8

xiǎo zhōu xiào le rán hòu kāi shǐ
小舟笑了然后开始
dēng tuǐ
蹬腿

Xiaozhou laughed, then started kicking his
legs.

PAGE 11

tā shuō lā dà jù shì wán de
她说拉大锯是玩的
gē
歌

She said: Lā Dà Jù is a game song.

PAGE 9

lǎo lao zài páng biān kàn zhe yí
姥姥在旁边看着一
zhí bù shuō huà
直不说话

Grandma watched from the side and said
nothing.

PAGE 12

dà rén lā zhe hái zǐ de shǒu
大人拉着孩子的手
yì qián yí hòu
一前一后

A grown-up holds the child's hands and
rocks them back and forth.

PAGE 13

xiàng liǎng gè rén zài lā yì bǎ
像 两 个 人 在 拉 一 把
dà jù
大 锯

Like two people working a big saw.

PAGE 16

lǎo lao shuō nà shì yīn wèi nǐ
姥 姥 说 那 是 因 为 你
bái tiān yě shuì
白 天 也 睡

Grandma said: that's because you slept in
the daytime too.

PAGE 14

nà shì bái tiān de gē bú shì
那 是 白 天 的 歌 不 是
yè lǐ de
夜 里 的

It's a daytime song, not a night one.

PAGE 17

nà tiān xiǎo zhōu liǎng diǎn cái shuì
那 天 小 舟 两 点 才 睡

That night Xiaozhou didn't go down until two.

PAGE 15

bà ba shuō wǒ xiǎo shí hou tīng
爸 爸 说 我 小 时 候 听
de jiù shì zhè ge
的 就 是 这 个

Dad said: this is the one I heard when I was
small.

PAGE 18

kě shì bà ba yì diǎn yě bù
可 是 爸 爸 一 点 也 不
nán guò
难 过

But Dad wasn't sorry at all.

爸爸唱错了 · Writing Practice

Dad Sings the Wrong One

Name: _____

Date: _____

爸爸

bà ba
father

爸	爸				
---	---	--	--	--	--

姥姥

lǎo lao
mother's mother

姥	姥				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那天

nà tiān
that day

那	天				
---	---	--	--	--	--

夜里

yè li
during the night

夜	里				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一点

yī diǎn
a bit

一	点				
---	---	--	--	--	--

不是

bù shì
no

不	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那是

nà shì
of course

那	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

白天

bái tiān
daytime

白	天				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

xiǎo lǎo shǔ shàngdēng tái
小老鼠上灯台

The Mouse on the Lamp Stand

PAGE 1

dì èr tiān wǒ shuō wǒ yě lái
第二天我说我也来
shì yì shǒu
试一首

The next day I said: let me try one too.

PAGE 4

cóng qián de dēng tái shàng miàn yǒu
从前的灯台上面有
yóu lǎo shǔ huì qù tōu
油老鼠会去偷

Old lamp stands had oil in them, and mice
would come and steal it.

PAGE 2

wǒ huì de zhǐ yǒu xiǎo lǎo shǔ
我会的只有小老鼠
shàng dēng tái
上灯台

The only one I know is The Mouse on the
Lamp Stand.

PAGE 5

pá shàng qù róng yì xià lái hěn
爬上去容易下来很
nán
难

Climbing up is easy. Getting down is hard.

PAGE 3

xiǎo lǎo shǔ shàng dēng tái tōu yóu
小老鼠上灯台偷油
chī xià bù lái
吃下不来

Little mouse climbs the lamp stand, steals
the oil, and can't get down.

PAGE 6

xià yí jù shì jiào nǎi nai nǎi
下一句是叫奶奶奶
nai bù lái
奶不来

The next line: it calls for Grandma, and
Grandma doesn't come.

PAGE 7

zuì hòu yí jù lǐ tā gǔn xià
最 后 一 句 里 它 滚 下
lái le
来 了

In the last line, down it tumbles.

PAGE 10

wǒ hěn bù hǎo yì si xiǎng ràng
我 很 不 好 意 思 想 让
mā ma lái bào
妈 妈 来 抱

I was embarrassed and wanted Mum to take him.

PAGE 8

wǒ chàng dào gǔn xià lái de shí
我 唱 到 滚 下 来 的 时
hou shēng yīn hěn dà
候 声 音 很 大

When I got to the tumbling part, I sang it loud.

PAGE 11

lǎo lao shuō nǐ bié zǒu zài chàng
姥 姥 说 你 别 走 再 唱
yí cì
一 次

Grandma said: don't go. Sing it again.

PAGE 9

xiǎo zhōu xià le yí tiào kū de
小 舟 吓 了 一 跳 哭 得
bǐ gāng cái hái lì hai
比 刚 才 还 厉 害

Xiaozhou jumped, and cried harder than before.

PAGE 12

tā shuō zhè cì zuì hòu yí jù
她 说 这 次 最 后 一 句
xiǎo shēng chàng
小 声 唱

She said: this time sing the last line softly.

PAGE 13

wǒ bù míng bai gǔn xià lái zěn
我 不 明 白 滚 下 来 怎
me néng xiǎo shēng
么 能 小 声

I didn't see how a tumble could be sung
softly.

PAGE 16

lǎo lao shuō gē shì shén me bú
姥 姥 说 歌 是 什 么 不
yào jǐn
要 紧

Grandma said: it doesn't much matter what
the song is.

PAGE 14

kě shì wǒ zhào zuò le
可 是 我 照 做 了

But I did as she said.

PAGE 17

tā shuō yào jǐn de shì nǐ zěn
她 说 要 紧 的 是 你 怎
me chàng
么 唱

She said: what matters is how you sing it.

PAGE 15

zhè yí cì xiǎo zhōu méi yǒu xià
这 一 次 小 舟 没 有 吓
dào
到

This time Xiaozhou wasn't startled.

PAGE 18

nà tiān wǒ chàng le shí yī cì
那 天 我 唱 了 十 一 次
gǔn xià lái
滚 下 来

That night I sang the tumbling line eleven
times.

小老鼠上灯台 · Writing Practice

The Mouse on the Lamp Stand

Name: _____

Date: _____

下来

xià lái
to come down

下	来				
---	---	--	--	--	--

灯台

dēng tái
lampstand

灯	台				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一句

yī jù
a line of verse

一	句				
---	---	--	--	--	--

小老鼠

xiǎo lǎo shǔ
@

小	老	鼠			
---	---	---	--	--	--

奶奶

nǎi nai
grandma (paternal grand...)

奶	奶				
---	---	--	--	--	--

最后

zuì hòu
final

最	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

姥姥

lǎo lao
mother's mother

姥	姥				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一次

yī cì
first

一	次				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

yuè ér wān wān
月儿弯弯

The Crooked Moon

PAGE 1

yǒu yì shǒu gē lǎo lao hěn jiǔ
有 一 首 歌 姥 姥 很 久

méi yǒu chàng le
没 有 唱 了

There was one song Grandma hadn't sung in
a long time.

PAGE 4

xià yí jù shì jǐ jiā huān lè
下 一 句 是 几 家 欢 乐

jǐ jiā chóu
几 家 愁

The next: some houses are glad and some
are sad.

PAGE 2

nà tiān yè lǐ wài miàn xià yǔ
那 天 夜 里 外 面 下 雨

tā hū rán chàng le
她 忽 然 唱 了

It was raining that night, and she suddenly
sang it.

PAGE 5

wǒ shuō zhè bú xiàng hōng hái zi
我 说 这 不 像 哄 孩 子

de gē
的 歌

I said: this doesn't sound like a song for a
baby.

PAGE 3

dì yī jù shì yuè ér wān wān
第 一 句 是 月 儿 弯 弯

zhào jiǔ zhōu
照 九 州

The first line is: the crooked moon shines on
nine provinces.

PAGE 6

lǎo lao shuō zhè běn lái bú shì
姥 姥 说 这 本 来 不 是

Grandma said: it wasn't one, originally.

PAGE 7

tā shuō zhè shì bā bǎi nián qián
她说这是八百年前
de mín gē
的民歌

She said: it's a folk song from eight hundred years ago.

PAGE 10

wǒ wèn nà wèi shén me chàng gěi
我问那为什么唱给
xiǎo zhōu tīng
小舟听

I asked: then why sing it to Xiaozhou?

PAGE 8

nà shí hou dǎ zhàng hěn duō rén
那时候打仗很多人
bú zài jiā
不在家

There was war then, and many people were away from home.

PAGE 11

lǎo lao shuō yīn wèi tā màn
姥姥说因为它慢

Grandma said: because it's slow.

PAGE 9

yuè liang zhào zhe měi yí gè cūn
月亮照着每一个村
zi kě shì rén bú zài yì qǐ
子可是人不在一起

The moon shone on every village, but the people weren't together.

PAGE 12

tā shuō hái zi bù zhī dào gē
她说孩子不知道歌
lǐ de yì si
里的意思

She said: the child doesn't know what the words mean.

PAGE 13

tā shuō kě shì chàng gē de rén
她说可是唱歌的人
zhī dào
知道

She said: but the person singing does.

PAGE 16

nà shǒu gē shì tā men liǎng gè
那首歌是他们两个
rén yì qǐ chàng de
人一起唱的

That song was one the two of them used to
sing together.

PAGE 14

wǒ kàn zhe lǎo lao de liǎn tā
我看着姥姥的脸她
zài xiǎng bié de shì
在想别的事

I watched her face. She was thinking about
something else.

PAGE 17

wǒ nà tiān cái míng bai gē kě
我那天才明白歌可
yǐ zhuāng hěn duō dōng xi
以装很多东西

Only that day did I understand how much a
song can hold.

PAGE 15

hòu lái mā ma gào su wǒ lǎo
后来妈妈告诉我姥
ye zǒu le sān nián le
爷走了三年了

Later Mum told me that Grandpa had been
gone three years.

PAGE 18

xiǎo zhōu shuì le lǎo lao hái zài
小舟睡了姥姥还在
chàng
唱

Xiaozhou was asleep, and Grandma was still
singing.

月儿弯弯 · Writing Practice

The Crooked Moon

Name: _____

Date: _____

姥姥

lǎo lao
mother's mother

姥

姥

那天

nà tiān
that day

那

天

孩子

hái zi
child

孩

子

不在

bù zài
not to be present

不

在

可是

kě shì
but

可

是

一起

yī qǐ
in the same place

一

起

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没

有

一句

yī jù
a line of verse

一

句

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

chóngchóng fēi
虫虫飞

Little Bug, Fly

PAGE 1

zuì duǎn de yì shǒu gē zhǐ yǒu
最 短 的 一 首 歌 只 有

liǎng jù
两 句

The shortest song has only two lines.

PAGE 4

liǎng gè shí zhǐ pèng yí xià zài
两 个 食 指 碰 一 下 再

fēn kāi
分 开

The two index fingers touch, then part.

PAGE 2

chóng chóng fēi chóng chóng fēi fēi
虫 虫 飞 虫 虫 飞 飞

dào nán shān chī lù shuǐ
到 南 山 吃 露 水

Little bug fly, little bug fly, fly to South
Mountain and drink the dew.

PAGE 5

pèng yí xià shì chóng fēn kāi shì
碰 一 下 是 虫 分 开 是

fēi
飞

The touch is the bug; the parting is the flight.

PAGE 3

chàng de shí hòu yào lā zhe hái
唱 的 时 候 要 拉 着 孩

zi de shǒu
子 的 手

You hold the child's hands while you sing.

PAGE 6

xiǎo zhōu de shǒu hěn xiǎo wǒ dān
小 舟 的 手 很 小 我 单

shǒu jiù néng bāo zhù
手 就 能 包 住

Xiaozhou's hands are tiny — I can close one
hand around them.

PAGE 7

tā de shí zhǐ hái bú huì zì
他的食指还不会自
jǐ dòng
己动

His index finger can't move on its own yet.

PAGE 10

nà shì wǒ dì yī cì tīng tā
那是我第一次听他
xiào chū shēng
笑出声

It was the first time I'd heard him laugh out loud.

PAGE 8

wǒ lā zhe tā de shǒu bāng tā
我拉着他的手帮他
pèng
碰

I held his hands and made them touch for him.

PAGE 11

mā ma cóng chú fáng pǎo chū lái
妈妈从厨房跑出来
kàn
看

Mum came running from the kitchen to look.

PAGE 9

pèng le shí jǐ cì yǐ hòu tā
碰了十几次以后他
hū rán xiào le
忽然笑了

After a dozen times, he suddenly laughed.

PAGE 12

nà tiān wǒ men ràng tā xiào le
那天我们让他笑了
sān shí duō cì
三十多次

We made him laugh more than thirty times that day.

PAGE 13

lǎo lao shuō zhè shǒu yě bú shì
姥姥说这首也不是
hǒng shuì de
哄睡的

Grandma said: this one isn't for sleep either.

PAGE 16

lǎo lao tīng le yǐ hòu shén me
姥姥听了以后什么
yě méi shuō
也没说

Grandma heard that and said nothing.

PAGE 14

wǒ shuō wǒ zhī dào
我说我知道

I said I knew.

PAGE 17

tā zhǐ shì zuò xià lái kàn wǒ
她只是坐下来看我
men wán
们玩

She just sat down and watched us play.

PAGE 15

wǒ shuō wǒ jīn tiān bù xiǎng ràng
我说我今天不想让
tā shuì
他睡

I said: today I don't want him to sleep.

PAGE 18

nà tiān xià wǔ shéi yě méi yǒu
那天下午谁也没有
chàng gē
唱歌

Nobody sang at all that afternoon.

虫虫飞 · Writing Practice

Little Bug, Fly

Name: _____

Date: _____

食指

shí zhǐ
index finger

食	指				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一下

yī xià
give it a go

一	下				
---	---	--	--	--	--

分开

fēn kāi
to separate

分	开				
---	---	--	--	--	--

以后

yǐ hòu
after

以	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那天

nà tiān
that day

那	天				
---	---	--	--	--	--

我们

wǒ men
we

我	们				
---	---	--	--	--	--

姥姥

lǎo lao
mother's mother

姥	姥				
---	---	--	--	--	--

只有

zhǐ yǒu
only have ...

只	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

mā ma bú huì chàng gē
妈妈不会唱歌

Mum Can't Sing

PAGE 1

wǒ men jiā huì chàng gē de rén
我们 家 会 唱 歌 的 人

hěn duō
很 多

There are a lot of singers in our house.

PAGE 4

tā chàng gē de shí hou shēng yīn
她 唱 歌 的 时 候 声 音

zǒng shì bù zhǔn
总 是 不 准

When she sings, she's always off.

PAGE 2

zhǐ yǒu mā ma bú huì
只 有 妈 妈 不 会

Only Mum can't.

PAGE 5

suǒ yǐ zhè yí gè yuè tā dōu
所 以 这 一 个 月 她 都

méi yǒu chàng
没 有 唱

So all that month she hadn't sung.

PAGE 3

tā zì jǐ yě zhè yàng shuō
她 自 己 也 这 样 说

She says so herself.

PAGE 6

tā bào xiǎo zhōu kě shì bù chū
她 抱 小 舟 可 是 不 出

shēng
声

She held Xiaozhou, but made no sound.

PAGE 7

yǒu yì tiān yè lǐ lǎo lao chū
有一天夜里姥姥出
qù le
去了

One night Grandma was out.

PAGE 10

bà ba bào wǒ bào dōu méi yǒu
爸爸抱我抱都没有
yòng
用

Dad held him, I held him. It made no
difference.

PAGE 8

nǎi nai yě bú zài ā yí yě
奶奶也不在阿姨也
bú zài
不在

Grandma Nai wasn't there either, and neither
was Auntie.

PAGE 11

zuì hòu mā ma bǎ tā jiē guò
最后妈妈把他接过
qù
去

In the end Mum took him.

PAGE 9

xiǎo zhōu kū le sì shí fēn zhōng
小舟哭了四十分钟

Xiaozhou cried for forty minutes.

PAGE 12

tā méi yǒu chàng gē zhǐ shì hēng
她没有唱歌只是哼

She didn't sing. She just hummed.

PAGE 13

nà ge shēng yīn méi yǒu cí yě
那个声音没有词也
bù zhǔn
不准

It had no words, and it wasn't in tune.

PAGE 16

bǐ lǎo lao kuài bǐ nǎi nai kuài
比姥姥快比奶奶快
bǐ shéi dōu kuài
比谁都快

Faster than Grandma, faster than Grandma
Nai, faster than anyone.

PAGE 14

wǒ tīng bù chū nà shì shén me
我听不出那是什么
gē
歌

I couldn't tell what song it was.

PAGE 17

wǒ wèn mā ma nà shì shén me
我问妈妈那是什么
gē
歌

I asked her what the song was.

PAGE 15

kě shì xiǎo zhōu sān fēn zhōng jiù
可是小舟三分钟就
shuì le
睡了

But Xiaozhou was asleep in three minutes.

PAGE 18

tā shuō bú shì gē shì wǒ yì
她说不是歌是我一
zhí zài zhè lǐ
直在这里

She said: it isn't a song. It's 'I've been here
all along'.

妈妈不会唱歌 · Writing Practice

Mum Can't Sing

Name: _____

Date: _____

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

唱歌

chàng gē
to sing a song

唱	歌				
---	---	--	--	--	--

妈妈

mā ma
mama

妈	妈				
---	---	--	--	--	--

声音

shēng yīn
voice

声	音				
---	---	--	--	--	--

不准

bù zhǔn
not to allow

不	准				
---	---	--	--	--	--

可是

kě shì
but

可	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

姥姥

lǎo lao
mother's mother

姥	姥				
---	---	--	--	--	--

奶奶

nǎi nai
grandma (paternal grand...)

奶	奶				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

wǒ yě huì chàng le
我也会唱了

Now I Can Sing Them Too

PAGE 1

lǎo lao yào huí nán fāng le
姥姥要回南方了

Grandma was going back south.

PAGE 4

tā shuō chàng bù hǎo yě yào chàng
她说唱不好也要唱

She said: sing them anyway.

PAGE 2

zǒu yǐ qián tā wèn wǒ jì zhù
走以前她问我记住
le jǐ shǒu
了几首

Before she left, she asked how many I'd
learned.

PAGE 5

tā shuō zhè xiē gē bù xiě zài
她说这些歌不写在
zhǐ shàng
纸上

She said: these songs aren't written down on
paper.

PAGE 3

wǒ shuō bā shǒu kě shì yǒu liǎng
我说八首可是有两
shǒu wǒ chàng bù hǎo
首我唱不好

I said eight, but two of them I don't sing well.

PAGE 6

tā shuō wàng le jiù zhēn de méi
她说忘了就真的没
yǒu le
有了

She said: if you forget them, they're really
gone.

PAGE 7

wǒ wèn nà nǐ de lǎo lao huì
我问那你的姥姥会
jǐ shǒu
几首

I asked: how many did your grandmother
know?

PAGE 10

nà xiē gē jiù zài tā zhè lǐ
那些歌就在她这里
méi yǒu le
没有了

Those songs end with her.

PAGE 8

tā xiǎng le hěn jiǔ shuō jì bù
她想了很久说记不
qīng le
清了

She thought a long time and said she
couldn't remember.

PAGE 11

lǎo lao zǒu de nà tiān xiǎo zhōu
姥姥走的那天小舟
liù gè yuè le
六个月了

The day Grandma left, Xiaozhou was six
months old.

PAGE 9

tā shuō yǒu jǐ shǒu tā zhǐ jì
她说有几首她只记
de tóu yí jù
得头一句

She said there were a few she only
remembered the first line of.

PAGE 12

yè lǐ tā hái shì kū kě shì
夜里他还是哭可是
bú xiàng yǐ qián nà me jiǔ
不像以前那么久

He still cried at night, but not for as long as
before.

PAGE 13

nà tiān shì wǒ bào tā
那天是我抱他

That night it was me holding him.

PAGE 16

zuì hòu wǒ shén me yě bú chàng
最后我什么也不唱
zhǐ hēng
只哼

At the end I didn't sing anything. I just hummed.

PAGE 14

wǒ xiān chàng yáo dào wài pó qiáo
我先唱摇到外婆桥

First I sang Rowing to Grandma's Bridge.

PAGE 17

xiǎo zhōu zài wǒ shǒu lǐ shuì le
小舟在我手里睡了

Xiaozhou fell asleep in my arms.

PAGE 15

rán hòu chàng yuè guāng guāng guǎng
然后唱月光光光广
dōng huà hái shì hěn nán tīng
东话还是很难听

Then Yueguangguang — my Cantonese is still terrible.

PAGE 18

wǒ hū rán míng bai lǎo lao jiāo
我忽然明白姥姥教
de bú shì gē
的不是歌

I understood all at once: what Grandma taught me wasn't songs.

我也会唱了 · Writing Practice

Now I Can Sing Them Too

Name: _____

Date: _____

姥姥

lǎo lao
mother's mother

姥

姥

不好

bù hǎo
no good

不

好

以前

yǐ qián
before

以

前

可是

kě shì
but

可

是

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没

有

那天

nà tiān
that day

那

天

还是

hái shì
still (as before)

还

是

南方

nán fāng
south

南

方

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.