# Chinese letter reading comprehension

In small groups, choose one letter to analyse. Pay close attention to structure, content and language and answer the questions that follow the text in English.

## Letter 1

亲爱的朋友：

你好！我家有四口人：爸爸、妈妈、我和妹妹。我们都喜欢音乐和画画。

你家有几口人？你的爱好是什么？

期待你的回复！祝

好！

你的朋友，

小明

### General questions

1. What are the main components of a Chinese letter? Identify and highlight the greeting, body and closing in the text.
2. What is the purpose of this letter? Is it to inform, inquire or something else?
3. What language structures or phrases are used to introduce family members or hobbies in the letter? List them in Chinese.

### Comprehension questions

1. Who is in Xiao Ming’s family?
2. What are the hobbies of Xiao Ming’s family member(s)?
3. How does the writer express their anticipation for a reply?

## Letter 2

尊敬的王老师：

你好！我爸爸是医生，妈妈是老师。他们工作很忙。我最喜欢踢足球。

你的学习忙吗？你喜欢什么运动？

期待你的回复！祝

好！

你的学生，

李红

### General questions

1. What are the main components of a Chinese letter? Identify and highlight the greeting, body and closing in the text.
2. What is the purpose of this letter? Is it to inform, inquire or something else?
3. What language structures or phrases are used to introduce family members or hobbies in the letter? List them in Chinese.

### Comprehension questions

1. What are the occupations of Li Hong’s parents? How are they described in terms of their work?
2. What is Li Hong’s favourite sport and how is it expressed in the letter?

## Letter 3

亲爱的兰兰，

你好！我爸爸是警察，妈妈是护士。周末的时候我喜欢看书和打篮球。

你现在怎么样？你想和我一起打篮球吗？

期待你的回复。祝

好！

你的朋友，

小东

### General questions

1. What are the main components of a Chinese letter? Can you identify the greeting, body and closing in the text?
2. What is the purpose of this letter? Is it to inform, inquire or something else?
3. What language structures or phrases are used to introduce family members or hobbies in the letter?

### Comprehension questions

1. How does Xiao Dong address the recipient of the letter? What does this tell you about their relationship?
2. What hobbies does Xiao Dong mention that he likes? How does he present the information? Write the sentence structure he uses.
3. What structure did Xiao Dong use to persuade Lan Lan to do an activity with him?

## For the teacher

### Letter 1

#### General questions

1. What are the main components of a Chinese letter? Identify and highlight the greeting, body and closing in the text.

**Greeting**: 亲爱的朋友：

**Body**: 你好！我家有四口人：爸爸、妈妈、我和妹妹。我们都喜欢音乐和画画。

你家有几口人？你的爱好是什么？

**Closing**: 期待你的回复！祝

好！

你的朋友，

小明

1. What is the purpose of this letter? Is it to inform, inquire or something else?

The purpose of this letter is both to inform and inquire. Xiao Ming informs the recipient about his family and their hobbies, and inquires about the recipient’s family size and hobbies.

1. What language structures or phrases are used to introduce family members or hobbies in the letter? List them in Chinese.

**Introducing family members**: 我家有四口人：爸爸、妈妈、我和妹妹。

**Talking about hobbies**: 我们都喜欢音乐和画画。

#### Comprehension questions

1. Who is in Xiao Ming’s family?

There are 4 people in Xiao Ming’s family: father, mother, Xiao Ming and his younger sister.

1. What are the hobbies of Xiao Ming’s family member(s)?

Their hobbies are music and painting (or drawing).

1. How does the writer express their anticipation for a reply?

The writer expresses their anticipation for a reply with the phrase 期待你的回复! which translates to ‘Looking forward to your reply!’

### Letter 2

#### General questions

1. What are the main components of a Chinese letter? Identify and highlight the greeting, body and closing in the text.

**Greeting**: 尊敬的王老师：

**Body**: 你好！我爸爸是医生，妈妈是老师。他们工作很忙。我最喜欢踢足球。

你的学习忙吗？你喜欢什么运动？

**Closing**: 期待你的回复！祝

好！

你的学生，

李红

1. What is the purpose of this letter? Is it to inform, inquire or something else?

The purpose of this letter is both to **inform and inquire**. Li Hong informs the teacher about her parents’ occupations and her favourite sport, and inquires about the teacher’s workload and favourite sport.

1. What language structures or phrases are used to introduce family members or hobbies in the letter? List them in Chinese.

**Introducing family members**: 我爸爸是医生，妈妈是老师。

**Talking about hobbies (or a favourite sport in this context)**: 我最喜欢踢足球。

#### Comprehension questions

1. What are the occupations of Li Hong’s parents? How are they described in terms of their work?

Li Hong’s father is a doctor and her mother is a teacher. They are described as being very busy, with the phrase 他们的工作很忙.

1. What is Li Hong’s favourite sport and how is it expressed in the letter?

Li Hong’s favourite sport is soccer. It is expressed in the letter with the phrase 我最喜欢踢足球 which translates to ‘I like playing soccer the most’.

### Letter 3

#### General questions

1. What are the main components of a Chinese letter? Can you identify the greeting, body and closing in the text?

**Greeting**: 亲爱的兰兰，

**Body**: 你好！我爸爸是警察，妈妈是护士。周末的时候我喜欢看书和打篮球。

你现在怎么样？你想和我一起打篮球吗？

**Closing**: 期待你的回复。祝

好！

你的朋友，

小东

1. What is the purpose of this letter? Is it to inform, inquire or something else?

The purpose of this letter is both to **inform and inquire**. Xiao Dong informs Lan Lan about his family and his hobbies, and inquires about how Lan Lan is doing and if she wants to play basketball with him.

1. What language structures or phrases are used to introduce family members or hobbies in the letter?

**Introducing family members**: 我爸爸是警察，妈妈是护士。

**Talking about hobbies**: 周末的时候我喜欢看书和打篮球。

#### Comprehension questions

1. How does Xiao Dong address the recipient of the letter? What does this tell you about their relationship?

Xiao Dong addresses the recipient as 亲爱的兰兰 which translates to ‘Dear Lan Lan’. 亲爱的 is an informal, affectionate greeting which suggests that they have a close or friendly relationship.

1. What hobbies does Xiao Dong mention that he likes? How does he present the information? Write the sentence structure he uses.

Xiao Dong mentions 2 hobbies, reading books and playing basketball. They are presented in the context of his weekend activities, with the phrase 周末的时候我喜欢.

1. What structure did Xiao Dong use to persuade Lan Lan to do an activity with him?

Xiao Dong used the structure 你想和我一起打篮球吗？ which translates to ‘Do you want to play basketball with me?’.

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