



LISTENING • EARLY BEGINNER

Five Beginner Mandarin Mini-Stories

Five printable limited-vocabulary Mandarin stories with Hanzi, tone-marked pinyin, English, comprehension checks, and detachable read-aloud scripts.

Tā yǒu chá, yě yǒu kāfēi.

她有茶，也有咖啡。

She has tea and coffee.

Story 1 repeats 有 and everyday drink words.

By the end, you can...

- ✓ Read five short connected texts built from recurring beginner language
- ✓ Retrieve who, where, what, and why details after reading
- ✓ Run a partner dictation or solo read-cover-write recall without website audio



Early beginner

60–90 minutes across five sessions

26 pages

Answer guide

Self-contained print practice. Audio and web tools are optional.



1

Shared core word bank

After this page, you can Preview the small set of language that will recur across all five stories.

PREVIEW

Words the stories reuse

Do not memorize this table first. Use it to preview, then return only when a line blocks meaning.

Group	Hanzi	Pinyin	English
People	我、他、她、它、朋友	wǒ, tā, tā, tā, péngyou	I; he; she; it; friend
Places	家、咖啡店、饭馆、图书馆	jiā, kāfēidiàn, fànguǎn, túshūguǎn	home; café; restaurant; library
Time	今天、早上、中午、下午、现在	jīntiān, zǎoshang, zhōngwǔ, xiàwǔ, xiànzài	today; morning; noon; afternoon; now
Movement	来、去、回家	lái, qù, huí jiā	come; go; go home
Location	在、有、没有、住、这里	zài, yǒu, méiyǒu, zhù, zhèlǐ	be at; have/there is; not have; live/stay; here



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



2

Shared core word bank CONTINUED

After this page, you can Preview the small set of language that will recur across all five stories.

PREVIEW

Words the stories reuse

Do not memorize this table first. Use it to preview, then return only when a line blocks meaning.

Group	Hanzi	Pinyin	English
Wants	想、要、可以	xiǎng, yào, kěyǐ	want/think; want; may/can
Food actions	喝、吃、水、茶、咖啡、 面	hē, chī, shuǐ, chá, kāfēi, miàn	drink; eat; water; tea; coffee; noodles
Descriptions	很、小、太、热、冷、 饿、高兴	hěn, xiǎo, tài, rè, lěng, è, gāoxìng	very; small; too; hot; cold; hungry; happy
Connections	也、但是、然后、一起	yě, dànshì, ránhòu, yìqǐ	also; but; then; together
Communication	问、说、发、谢谢	wèn, shuō, fā, xièxie	ask; say; send; thank you



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



3

Detachable Script 1: The Hot Coffee

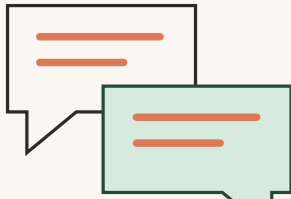
After this page, you can Follow a six-line problem-and-wait sequence.

READ

Read-aloud script

Detach this page. With a partner, the reader reads all six lines once; for dictation, repeat the suggested line exactly once. Working alone, read a suggested line once, cover it, and write from memory. Suggested lines: 3 and 5.

1

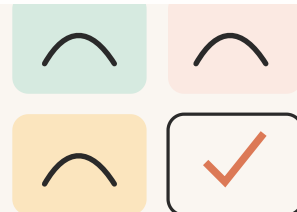


Zǎoshang, Ānnà zài jiā.

早上，安娜在家。

In the morning, Anna is at home.

2

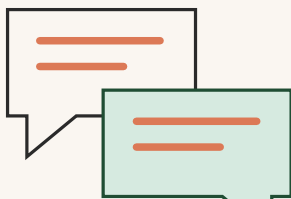


Tā yǒu chá, yě yǒu kāfēi.

她有茶，也有咖啡。

She has tea and coffee.

3



Tā xiǎng hē kāfēi.

她想喝咖啡。

She wants to drink coffee.

New words

děng

等 to wait

yíxià

一下 a moment / briefly

tài

太 too / extremely



4

Detachable Script 1: The Hot Coffee CONTINUED

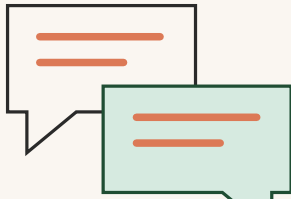
After this page, you can Follow a six-line problem-and-wait sequence.

READ

Read-aloud script

Detach this page. With a partner, the reader reads all six lines once; for dictation, repeat the suggested line exactly once. Working alone, read a suggested line once, cover it, and write from memory. Suggested lines: 3 and 5.

4



Dànshì kāfēi tài rè le.

但是咖啡太热了。

But the coffee is too hot now.

5

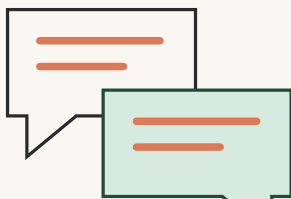


Tā děng le yíxià.

她等了一下。

She waits briefly.

6



Xiànzài kěyǐ hē le.

现在可以喝了。

Now she can drink it.



5

Detachable Script 2: The Kitten at the Door

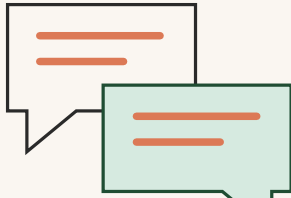
After this page, you can Follow who finds the kitten and what help is given.

READ

Read-aloud script

Detach this page. With a partner, the reader reads all six lines once; for dictation, repeat the suggested line exactly once. Working alone, read a suggested line once, cover it, and write from memory. Suggested lines: 2 and 4.

1

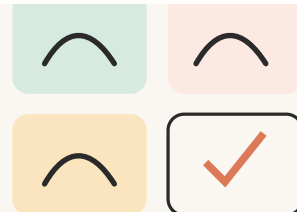


Xiǎo Wáng huí jiā.

小王回家。

Xiao Wang goes home.

2

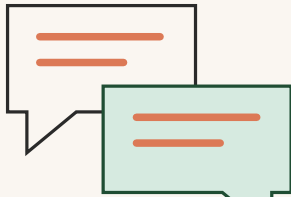


Ménkǒu yǒu yì zhī xiǎomāo.

门口有一只小猫。

There is a kitten at the door.

3



Xiǎomāo hěn xiǎo, yě hěn è.

小猫很小，也很饿。

The kitten is very small and hungry.

New words

ménkǒu

门口 doorway / entrance

xiǎomāo

小猫 kitten / small cat

gěi

给 to give



6

Detachable Script 2: The Kitten at the Door

CONTINUED

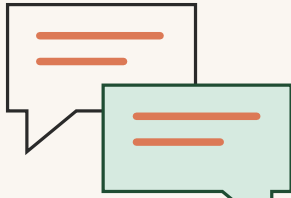
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4

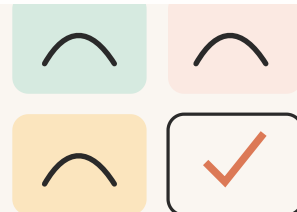


Xiǎo Wáng gěi tā yìdiǎnr shuǐ.

小王给它一点儿水。

Xiao Wang gives it a little water.

5

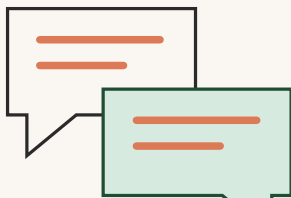


Xiǎomāo hē shuǐ.

小猫喝水。

The kitten drinks water.

6



Xiǎo Wáng shuō: "Nǐ kěyǐ zhù zài zhèlǐ."

小王说：“你可以住在这里。”

Xiao Wang says, "You can stay here."



7

Detachable Script 3: Noodles for Lunch

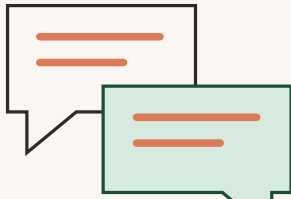
After this page, you can Follow a short restaurant order and its result.

READ

Read-aloud script

Detach this page. With a partner, the reader reads all six lines once; for dictation, repeat the suggested line exactly once. Working alone, read a suggested line once, cover it, and write from memory. Suggested lines: 2 and 4.

1

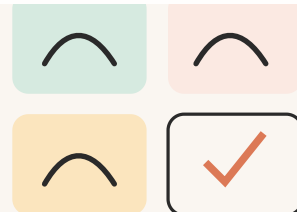


Zhōngwǔ, Měiměi qù yì jiā xiǎo fànguǎn.

中午，美美去一家小饭馆。

At noon, Meimei goes to a small restaurant.

2

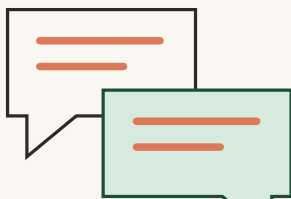


Tā xiǎng yào yì wǎn miàn.

她想要一碗面。

She wants a bowl of noodles.

3



Fúwùyuán wèn: “Yào là ma?”

服务员问：“要辣吗？”

The server asks, “Do you want it spicy?”

New words

fúwùyuán

服务员 server / attendant

là

辣 spicy

wǎn

碗 bowl; measure word for bowls



8

Detachable Script 3: Noodles for Lunch

CONTINUED

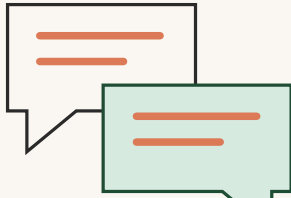
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READ

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4

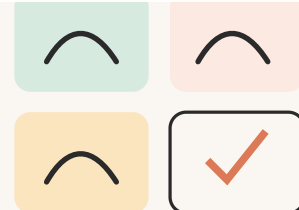


Měiměi shuō: “Bú yào là, xièxie.”

美美说：“不要辣，谢谢。”

Meimei says, “Not spicy, thank you.”

5

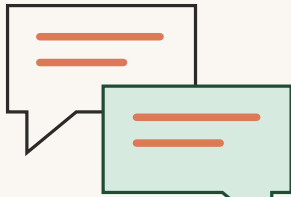


Miàn lái le.

面来了。

The noodles arrive.

6



Měiměi chī le miàn, hěn gāoxìng.

美美吃了面，很高兴。

Meimei ate the noodles and is very happy.



9

Detachable Script 4: Meet at the Library

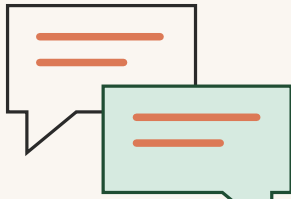
After this page, you can Follow a time plan and notice who arrives first.

READ

Read-aloud script

Detach this page. With a partner, the reader reads all six lines once; for dictation, repeat the suggested line exactly once. Working alone, read a suggested line once, cover it, and write from memory. Suggested lines: 3 and 5.

1

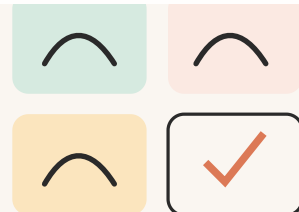


Jīntiān Xīngqīliù.

今天星期六。

Today is Saturday.

2

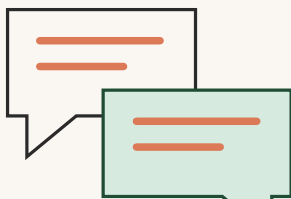


Lǐ Míng hé péngyou xiǎng qù túshūguǎn.

李明和朋友想去图书馆。

Li Ming and a friend want to go to the library.

3



Péngyou wèn: "Jǐ diǎn jiàn?"

朋友问：“几点见？”

The friend asks, "What time shall we meet?"

New words

Xīngqīliù

星期六 Saturday

jǐ diǎn

几点 what time

xiān

先 first / before



10

Detachable Script 4: Meet at the Library

CONTINUED

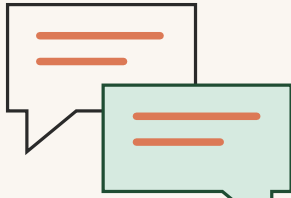
After this page, you can Follow a time plan and notice who arrives first.

READ

Read-aloud script

Detach this page. With a partner, the reader reads all six lines once; for dictation, repeat the suggested line exactly once. Working alone, read a suggested line once, cover it, and write from memory. Suggested lines: 3 and 5.

4

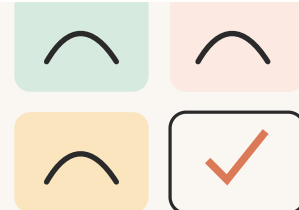


Lǐ Míng shuō: "Xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn."

李明说：“下午两点。”

Li Ming says, "Two in the afternoon."

5

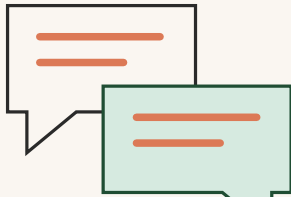


Péngyou xiān dào túshūguǎn.

朋友先到图书馆。

The friend arrives at the library first.

6



Lǐ Míng lái le, tāmen yìqǐ kàn shū.

李明来了，他们一起看书。

Li Ming arrives, and they read together.



11

Detachable Script 5: One Umbrella

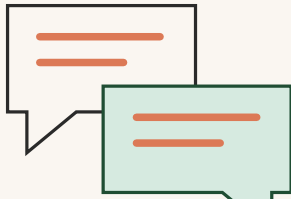
After this page, you can Follow a rain problem and a friend's simple solution.

READ

Read-aloud script

Detach this page. With a partner, the reader reads all six lines once; for dictation, repeat the suggested line exactly once. Working alone, read a suggested line once, cover it, and write from memory. Suggested lines: 3 and 4.

1

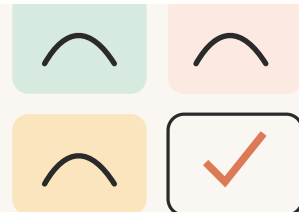


Xiàwǔ xiàyǔ le.

下午下雨了。

It starts raining in the afternoon.

2

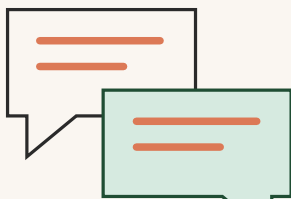


Xiǎo Měi zài kāfēidiàn.

小美在咖啡店。

Xiao Mei is at a café.

3



Tā méiyǒu yǔsǎn.

她没有雨伞。

She does not have an umbrella.

New words

xiàyǔ

下雨 to rain

yǔsǎn

雨伞 umbrella

xiāoxi

消息 message / news



12

Detachable Script 5: One Umbrella CONTINUED

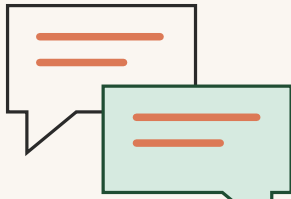
After this page, you can Follow a rain problem and a friend's simple solution.

READ

Read-aloud script

Detach this page. With a partner, the reader reads all six lines once; for dictation, repeat the suggested line exactly once. Working alone, read a suggested line once, cover it, and write from memory. Suggested lines: 3 and 4.

4

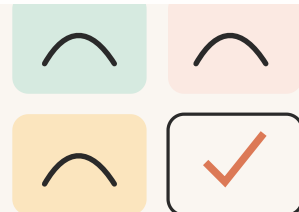


Péngyou fā xiāoxi: "Wǒ yǒu yǔsǎn."

朋友发消息：“我有雨伞。”

Her friend sends a message: "I have an umbrella."

5

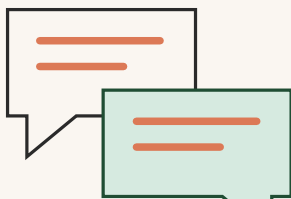


Péngyou lái le.

朋友来了。

The friend arrives.

6



Tāmen yìqǐ huí jiā.

他们一起回家。

They go home together.



13

Comprehension: Stories 1–3

After this page, you can Retrieve the main event and one detail without rereading first.

RECALL

Answer from memory

Complete all six, then check the detachable scripts.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

Story 1: 安娜在哪儿? (Where is Anna?)



在家。



在图书馆。



在饭馆。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

Story 1: Why does Anna wait?



The coffee is too hot



There is no coffee



She is not at home

3

Story 2: 门口有什么? (What is at the door?)



一只小猫



一杯咖啡



一本书



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



14

Comprehension: Stories 1–3 CONTINUED

After this page, you can Retrieve the main event and one detail without rereading first.

RECALL

Answer from memory

Complete all six, then check the detachable scripts.

4

Story 2: What does Xiao Wang give the kitten?

☐ 一点儿水☐ 一碗面☐ 一本书

5

Story 3: What does Meimei order?

☐ 一碗面☐ 一杯咖啡☐ 一瓶水

6

Story 3: Which preference does she state?

☐ 不要辣。☐ 不要热。☐ 不要面。

One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



15

Comprehension: Stories 4–5

After this page, you can Retrieve time, sequence, problem, and solution details.

RECALL

Answer from memory

Complete all four, then repair only missed details.

7

WORKED EXAMPLE

Story 4: 他们几点见? (What time do they meet?)



下午两点



早上两点



下午六点

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

8

Story 4: Who arrives first?



朋友



李明



老师

9

Story 5: What problem does Xiao Mei have?



下雨了, 她没有雨伞。



她没有咖啡。



图书馆关门了。

10

Story 5: How is the problem resolved?



A friend comes with an umbrella



She buys a train ticket



The café moves

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



16

Partner dictation or solo recall lab

After this page, you can Use one valid listen-write or read-cover-write repair cycle.

DICTATE

Choose the protocol you can do honestly

Partner dictation: the reader holds a detached story page and reads the selected line once while the learner only listens. Read it one more time while the learner writes Hanzi or pinyin. Solo recall: read the selected line once, cover it completely, and write it from memory in Hanzi or tone-marked pinyin. In either mode, check the printed line, circle one mismatch, rewrite only that part, then change one detail and say the new line.

Put it in your own words.

Cover this card and explain the idea in one sentence.



A visual anchor for this page's idea



17

Partner dictation or solo recall lab CONTINUED

After this page, you can Use one valid listen-write or read-cover-write repair cycle.

 **DICTATE**

Run one partner dictation or solo recall

11

Choose one suggested line. With a partner, write what you hear; working alone, read it once, cover it, and write from memory. Mark one repair after checking, then write a changed version with one person, place, item, or time replaced.

Success looks like Accept a first partner-dictation or solo-recall attempt, a visible repair against the printed script, and one coherent changed-context sentence. Hanzi or tone-marked pinyin is acceptable.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



18

Match and retell

After this page, you can Reconstruct each story's central event, then transfer one pattern.

 **RETELL**

Match title to central event

Choose the event that best summarizes each story.

12

WORKED EXAMPLE

The Hot Coffee

- ☒ Anna waits because her drink is hot
- ☐ A kitten waits at a library
- ☐ A friend brings noodles

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

13

The Kitten at the Door

- ☐ Xiao Wang gives water to a hungry kitten
- ☐ Meimei orders spicy food
- ☐ Li Ming misses a train

14

Noodles for Lunch

- ☐ Meimei orders non-spicy noodles
- ☐ Anna makes cold coffee
- ☐ A friend finds a cat

**One more from you**

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



19

Match and retell

CONTINUED

After this page, you can Reconstruct each story's central event, then transfer one pattern.

RETELL

Match title to central event

Choose the event that best summarizes each story.

15

Meet at the Library

☐ Two friends arrange a time and read together

☐ A server asks about an umbrella

☐ Xiao Yu drinks tea at home

16

One Umbrella

☐ A friend helps Xiao Mei get home in the rain

☐ Li Ming waits for hot noodles

☐ Anna goes to the library



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



20

Match and retell CONTINUED

After this page, you can Reconstruct each story's central event, then transfer one pattern.

RETELL

Retell with one change

17

Choose one story. Write or say four to six lines that preserve the event sequence but change exactly one recurring detail: person, place, item, or time. Underline the changed detail.

Success looks like Accept a coherent four- to six-line retell that preserves the original causal or time sequence and consistently changes one detail.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



21

Check your work

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

1

Story 1: 安娜在哪儿? (Where is Anna?)

zài jiā

在家。

2

Story 1: Why does Anna wait?

The coffee is too hot

3

Story 2: 门口有什么? (What is at the door?)

yì zhī xiǎo māo

一只小猫

4

Story 2: What does Xiao Wang give the kitten?

yì diǎn ér shuǐ

一点儿水

5

Story 3: What does Meimei order?

yì wǎn miàn

一碗面

6

Story 3: Which preference does she state?

bú yào là

不要辣。

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



22

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

7

Story 4: 他们几点见? (What time do they meet?)

xià wǔ liǎng diǎn

下午两点

8

Story 4: Who arrives first?

péng yǒu

朋友

9

Story 5: What problem does Xiao Mei have?

xià yǔ le · tā méi yǒu yǔ sǎn

下雨了，她没有雨伞。

10

Story 5: How is the problem resolved?

A friend comes with an umbrella

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



23

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

11

Choose one suggested line. With a partner, write what you hear; working alone, read it once, cover it, and write from memory. Mark one repair after checking, then write a changed version with one person, place, item, or time replaced.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

First attempt: Tā xiǎng hé kāfēi. Repair: hé → hē. Checked line: Tā xiǎng hē kāfēi. Changed line: Tā xiǎng hē chá.

First attempt—她想和咖啡。 Repair—和 → 喝. Checked line—她想喝咖啡。

Changed line—她想喝茶。

Why: A wrong first attempt is expected; the visible comparison and targeted repair are part of the task.

Success criteria: Accept a first partner-dictation or solo-recall attempt, a visible repair against the printed script, and one coherent changed-context sentence. Hanzi or tone-marked pinyin is acceptable.

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.

**24**

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

12

The Hot Coffee

Anna waits because her drink is hot

13

The Kitten at the Door

Xiao Wang gives water to a hungry kitten

14

Noodles for Lunch

Meimei orders non-spicy noodles

15

Meet at the Library

Two friends arrange a time and read together

16

One Umbrella

A friend helps Xiao Mei get home in the rain

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



25

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

17

Choose one story. Write or say four to six lines that preserve the event sequence but change exactly one recurring detail: person, place, item, or time. Underline the changed detail.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

Person changed from Ānnà to Xiǎo Lǐ: Zǎoshang, Xiǎo Lǐ zài jiā. Tā yǒu chá, yě yǒu kāfēi. Tā xiǎng hē kāfēi. Dànshì kāfēi tài rè le. Tā děng le yíxià. Xiànzài kěyǐ hē le.

Person changed from 安娜 to 小李: 早上, 小李在家。她有茶, 也有咖啡。她想喝咖啡。但是咖啡太热了。她等了一下。现在可以喝了。

Why: Change one person, place, item, or time consistently rather than changing several story facts.

Success criteria: Accept a coherent four- to six-line retell that preserves the original causal or time sequence and consistently changes one detail.

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.