

My MEP Projects

Project: Bà ba qù nǎr 爸爸去哪儿

Series: Culture (TV)



Name: _____

In this Project you are going to watch a very popular reality TV programme from China. It's called 爸爸去哪儿 Bà ba qù nǎr.

You're in for a bit of a ride with this one. It's funny, a little crazy and a really enjoyable way to improve your Mandarin.

Go for it!

1. Meet the show



Translate the show's title 爸爸去哪儿 (Bà ba qù nǎr) and have a guess at what this programme might be about.

Translation: _____

I think it's going to be about: _____

Let's see how close you were. On the next page is a very short description of the show in Chinese which needs translating into English. There is a glossary to help you. Each underlined word from the text is in the glossary (some words you may know already), and you can use the pinyin to look up any other words you don't know with a dictionary app.

Write your translation below each pinyin line.

Glossary

这个 zhè gè = this
节目 jié mù = programme
关于 guān yú = about, to be about something
孩子 hái zi = children
旅行 lǚ xíng = travel
这些 zhè xiē = these

都 dōu = all
名人 míng rén = famous person/people, celebrity
们 men = makes some nouns plural
要 yào = need to, have to (at other times 要 also means 'want to' or is the future tense)
玩 wán = to play
游戏 yóu xì = game(s)

Here is the Chinese text introducing the show:

这个 电 视 节 目 是 关于 五 个 爸 爸 和 他 们 的 孩子 一 起 去 旅行。
Zhè ge diàn shì jié mù shì guān yú wǔ gè bà ba hé tā men de hái zi yì qǐ qù lǚ xíng.

Your translation:

这些 爸 爸 都 是 名人。
Zhè xiē bà ba dōu shì míng rén.

Your translation:

他们 要 玩 很 多 游戏。
Tā men yào wán hěn duō yóu xì.

Your translation:

★	Task 1 complete	
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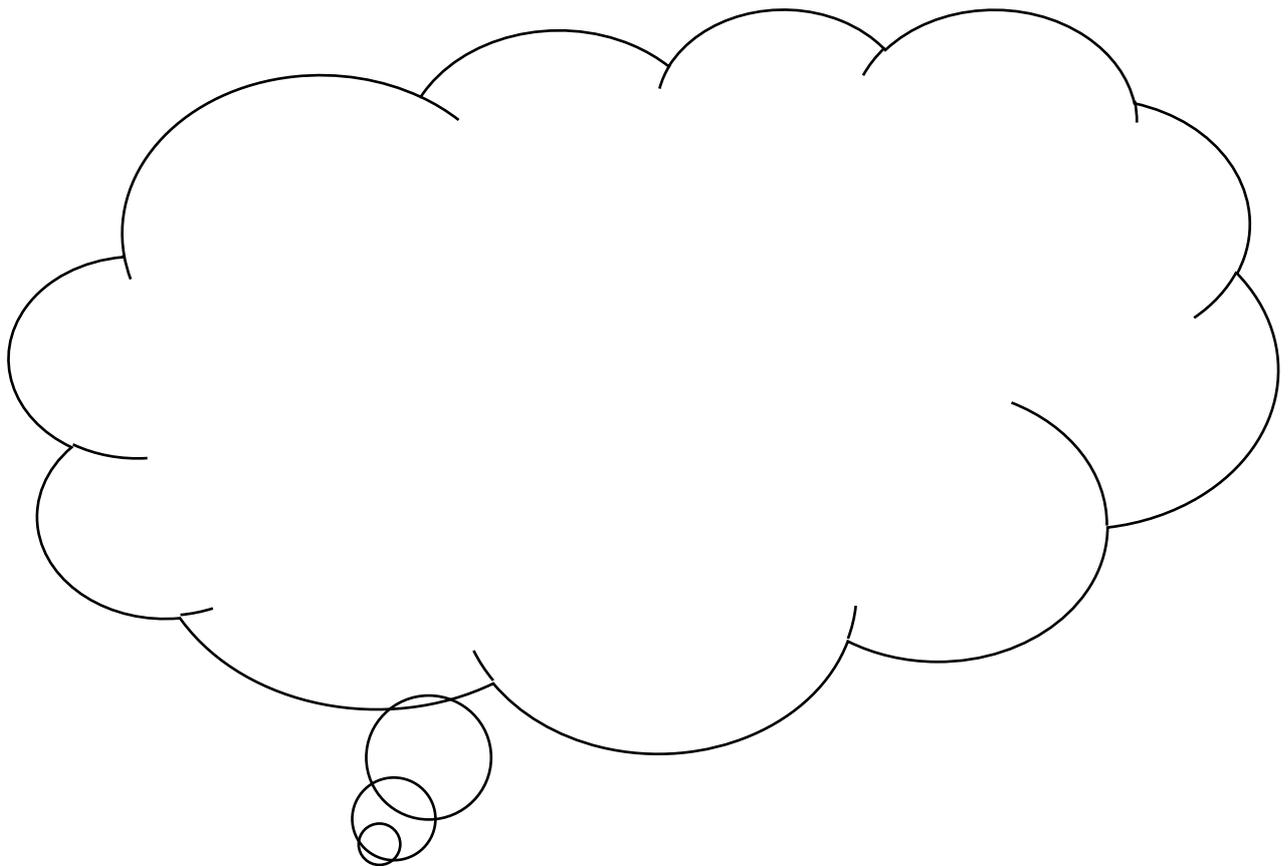
2. Let's get watching!

In each episode of the series, the children and dads go to different parts of China. Let's take a look at where they are in this episode – click below and watch up to **3:26** of the show **and no longer**, then answer the questions on the next page.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV9PPww9ntI&index=7&list=PLUM8x224JrX-hAzTOTxkPMsFNL8NCSghW>

Here are some shots from the opening of this episode. Write a few notes in the thought bubble about what you can see and what you think it is like here? (Think about the weather and how and where people live, for example. Give your reasons why you think that.)

Try to answer in Chinese wherever you can. Use a dictionary if you need to (if you have already completed the 'The Land That is China' project, you should know some useful words already.).



☆	Task 2 complete	
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3. Where in China?

In this episode, the fathers and children are taken far from their city life, and experience lots of differences between their home and this part of China – including the places, the weather, the people and the food. This isn't surprising, as they are nearly 2,000 miles from home, about the same distance as London to Moscow!

First, let's look at where in China they are. Below are some screen shots with different place names in the white subtitles. First, let's find out the name of the province that they are in (remember, China is divided into provinces, just like England is divided into counties like Kent or Yorkshire).

Look at the bottom line of white characters- the fourth and fifth characters tell us the name of the province 新疆. Use a dictionary or app to translate this name for you. Look at a map of China and work out where this is (hint: if you have completed the 'People and Places of China' or 'The Land That is China' Project, you will have heard of this place before!). Can you say it in Chinese?



Name of province (pinyin): _____

Location in China: _____

Now we're going to discover the names of the places *within* the province that the children and fathers are going to.



Have a look at the subtitles in the picture on the left. Ignore the first character for now; the next three characters (吐鲁番) are the name of a town in 新疆. What is the pinyin for this town?

Answer: _____

Super Challenge! The rest of the sentence says '最热的地方' (zuì rè dì dì fang). What does this mean? (and does it link to your answer about the weather? If so, how?)

Answer: _____



Look at the image on the left – this is a famous place in 新疆. It is near the town of 吐鲁番. Look at the characters. The first three will tell you the name of this place: 火焰山 (huǒ yàn shān) How would you translate this in English? Why do you think it has this name?

Name: _____

Reason for name: _____

★ Task 3 complete

4. Meeting the local animals



The little boy says ‘你好骆驼’ (Nǐ hǎo luò tuo). What does this mean?

Answer: _____

Look closely at the characters 骆驼. Can you see the character for another animal repeated in both characters? Can you remember what animal it is?

Answer: _____



What does the camel do to the little boy? (You can answer in English!)

Answer: _____

How do the children and fathers get to their first task? Can you try and say it in Chinese?

(Hint, the Chinese word for riding an animal, like a horse, is 骑 qí)

Answer: 他们 _____

★ Task 4 complete

5. Challenges and strange adventures

火焰山 (huǒ yàn shān) appears in a very famous story called '[Journey to the West](#)', which has characters like the Monkey King, and lots of demons and princesses – it's a great story and has also been made into cartoons and TV shows.

In this second clip the children and dads have been paired up to complete different missions, just like the characters in the book have to do. First one father has been given the task of finding a man who is an expert at making his eyebrows dance! Meanwhile, his son has been missing him as he got scared when he met a demon princess from Journey to the West, who lives in a scary, dark cave underground.

Afterwards you will see a father who has to learn to dance.

Watch from **20:10 to 25:43 only**. The below link will take you to 20:10.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV9PPww9ntI&index=7&list=PLUM8x224JrX-hAzT0TxkPMSFNL8NCSghW#t=20m10s>



Can you translate the question this father is asking a man he meets?

你们的眉毛会不会跳舞?

Nǐ men de méi mao huì bú huì tiào wǔ?

Answer: _____

It looks like this dad has found his man!

The two men have an eyebrow dance together. Why do you think the captions 左边 zuǒ bian and 右边 yòu bian are used here?

Answer: _____



Speaking of dancing, now answer these questions in Chinese about yourself.

你会不会跳舞? Answer: _____

你的眉毛会跳舞吗? Answer: _____



Shiming's son is really getting into the local food. His father notices and uses the four-character 'idiom' 入乡随俗 (rù xiāng suí sú). What does this mean in English?

Answer: _____

Can you think of a saying in English that means the same thing?

Answer: _____

Having just been scared by a demon princess, this little boy is saying 我要爸爸 (wǒ yào bà ba). He then says 我想爸爸 (wǒ xiǎng bà ba). What is the difference in meaning between these two?



Answer: _____

The two dads then go with him back into the cave so that he is not alone anymore. His father asks him, '怕什么?' (pà shén me)? What does this mean?

Answer: _____

Thinking of yourself now, write three Chinese sentences beginning with 我怕 ... then three sentences beginning with 我不怕 ...

For example, 我怕蜘蛛 wǒ pà zhī zhū (I'm scared of spiders)

The princess turns out not to be so scary after all. What does she want from them at this point?

我想和你们做朋友的。

wǒ xiǎng hé nǐ men zuò péng you de

Answer: _____





The demon princess 铁扇公主(tiě shān gōng zhǔ) is pictured here.

What does her name mean in English?

Answer: _____

Nuoyi seems to like the princess but doesn't really know what to say to her. In the end he says 我不好意思(wǒ bù hǎo yì si). 不好意思 is used very often by Chinese people- can you translate it?

Answer: _____



You can use 不好意思 like Nuoyi here to show embarrassment, but you can also use it if you feel uncomfortable about asking (问 wèn = to ask) someone a favour:

我不好意思问你。。。 (wǒ bù hǎo yì si wèn nǐ - sorry to ask/bother you...).

不好意思 is also used to say 'sorry'. For example, if you step on someone's foot, or bump into them.



Holding up jewellery the children say 好漂亮. This does **not** mean 'good pretty' – You have learnt that 好 means good, but here it means "very".

Translate the following three sentences into Chinese using 好.

- a) You are very pretty. _____
- b) He is very tall. _____

This father has been learning a traditional local dance. He has just broken a pot and been told to dance one more time to make up for it.

The subtitle reads: 再跳一支舞 zài tiào yì zhī wǔ

Which common word have you seen the character 再 in before? (clue, it's how you say goodbye)

Answer: _____



What does the character mean? Why do you think it is used here?

Answer: _____

Looking at this man's reaction, guess if you think the local people liked the dad's dance or not?

Answer: _____

Now look up what his words mean and see if you guessed rightly or wrongly.

我很满意。(wǒ hěn mǎn yì)

What does 满意 mean?

Answer: _____



★ Task 5 complete

Some Cool Grammar!

Verb phrases

Verb phrases are common in Chinese. In this example, we see 跳 tiào and 舞 wǔ mean 'to dance', they are actually a verb and noun put together:

跳 tiào – to jump

舞 wǔ - a dance

they can also be broken up in a sentence, as they are here. You have probably learned quite a few verb phrases already. Do you know the ones below? Write the English meaning next to any that you recognise.

看电视

吃饭

听音乐

Measure Words

再跳一支舞 - zài tiào yì zhī wǔ

Here's another fun thing about Chinese – measure words! Notice 支 zhī after the number 一, this is a 'measure word'. **You will definitely know some other measure words from your teachers**, so write down all the one you have already learned here, and what they are used for – try and add a noun as well (for example, 一个哥哥):

6. It's all about the grapes

The children have been divided into two teams to take part in a ...



... which means what in English? **Answer:** _____

Remember, they are in the town of 吐鲁番 - it's very famous for fruit, grapes in particular. In this task, the children have to find the sweetest grapes and pick as many as possible. 诺一 (Nuoyi, a boy) and 夏天 (Xiatian, a girl) are one team.

Watch from **1:01:15 to 1:03:38 only**. This link starts at 1:01:15:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV9PPww9ntI&index=7&list=PLUM8x224JrX-hAzT0TxkPMsFNL8NCSghW#t=1h1m15s>



Xiatian has just picked a huge bunch and says 重死了 (zhòng sǐ le). Look up these characters and write down what you think she means.

Answer: _____

Actually, this is Chinese slang. The meaning of 死 sǐ here is different to the character's original meaning. It's a really easy way to say something is 'extremely ...' Here are some common examples. Can you work out what they mean in English by completing the table?

无聊死了	Wú liáo sǐ le	
难吃死了	Nán chī sǐ le	
累死了	lèi sǐ le	

Extra Challenge: How would you use this slang way of speaking to say 'yummy'? **Answer:** _____



What do you think Xiatian is saying at this point, and do you think she is asking for help or showing off?

你看我的力气

nǐ kàn wǒ de lìqì

Answer: _____

Nuoyi is asking for help with putting his T shirt on, and Xiatian remarks:

等一下，给我。

(Děng yí xià, gěi wǒ)

一下 is often used after a verb and means you are doing the verb quickly/ briefly- so 等一下 means “wait a moment.”



The structure **(verb) + 一下** is used a lot in Chinese, so it is very useful to know. Here are a few examples:

我吃一下。 = I want to try (tasting) that.

他看一下。 = He is going to have a quick look.

If you wanted to ask your friend to, ‘Have a quick listen’ to a song, how would you say this?

Answer: _____

It's nearly the end of the grape picking race, and Nuoyi is getting emotional! Translate the amusingly dramatic exchange into English using the lines below the pinyin.



Nuoyi:

不行

Bù xíng

Xiatian:

对不起

Duì bù qǐ



Nuoyi:

我不要你生气

Wǒ bú yào nǐ shēng qì



Nuoyi
我要妈妈
wǒ yào mā ma



Xiatian:
请问，还可以当我好朋友吗？
Qǐng wèn, hái kě yǐ dāng wǒ hǎo péng you ma?

Nuoyi:
可以。
kěyǐ

★ Task 6 complete

7. It really is all about the grapes ...

In our final clip, everybody is playing a very unusual game. The fathers have to eat a huge bunch of grapes whilst balancing on ice. They then have to recite a famous tongue twister as quickly as they can. Next, the children have to crush lots of grapes into juice which their fathers have to drink. The first father to finish drinking the juice wins. As you will see, the children end up using a strange method to make the grape juice!

Click on this link and watch between **1:20:13 and 1:27:25**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV9PPww9ntI&index=7&list=PLUM8x224JrX-hAzT0TxxkPMsFNL8NCSghW#t=1h20m13s>



Every child is willing his/her father to succeed and so they say 爸爸加油 (bà ba jiā yóu).

Look up what the literal meaning of each of these characters is:

加	
油	

What do you think is a good way to say 加油 in English?

Answer: _____

Below is the Chinese tongue twister. Try humming it, seeing if you can get the tones right.

吃葡萄不吐葡萄皮，
 Chī pú táo bù tǔ pú táo pí.
 不吃葡萄倒吐葡萄皮。
 bù chī pú táo dào tǔ pú táo pí.

If you want to watch other non-Chinese people trying to say it, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PM5I0899Qqg>

Now practise saying it a few times yourself. Then time yourself and write down your three fastest times here:

_____ 秒钟 miǎo zhōng (seconds)

_____ 秒钟 miǎo zhōng (seconds)

_____ 秒钟 miǎo zhōng (seconds)



This dad exclaims 好冰 (hǎo bīng), when he gets onto the ice. What do you think that could mean in English? (Remember how the children said 好漂亮 about the jewellery?!)

English: _____

While we're talking about 冰, there are a number of other words in Chinese that include the character 冰 (bīng). Can you find out how to write the following two words in Chinese? Include characters and pinyin.

1. Ice cream _____
2. Iced tea _____



This dad is doing very well!

You may remember that 了 le is often used to make the past tense in Chinese. Well, sometimes it can be used together with 要 in the future tense as well, especially for **things that are about to happen**.

What do you think he means when he says 我要赢了 wǒ yào yíng le? (clue: you might say it in a competition!)

Answer: _____

Can put the characters in the correct order to mean, 'I'm about to go to China.'?

去 了 要 我 中 国 。

Answer: _____



Why do you think this dad has a look of disgust on his face as he says, 'Poppy, 你脚的味道' (Poppy, nǐ jiǎo de wèi dao) [Poppy is his daughter's name]

Answer:



He has managed to 喝完了 (hē wán le = finished drinking/has drunk it all up)!

This is an amazing way to say you have **completed** something. All you have to do is put 完 wán (complete, finished) after the verb, followed by 了:

Verb + 完 + 了

How would you write 'She has finished eating'?

Answer: _____

In fact, you are just about to finish this project! How would you use 完 and 了 to say, 'Done it.'?

Answer: _____

At the end of the programme, the children have met princesses and demons, climbed big hills, ridden camels, slept in all kinds of places, raced to pick grapes and spent a lot of time with their dads, getting to know them better.

Would you like to go somewhere in China with a parent or a good friend? Where would you like to go?

Answer: _____

We wish you luck in getting there- 加油 (jiā yóu)!

★	Task 7 complete	
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Well done!



太棒了!

Your Achievements

Congratulations on completing 1 MEP Project!

- You have got to know a mega-popular Chinese reality TV show and you can amaze Chinese people by telling them that you know about the programme 爸爸去哪儿.
- You have seen some beautiful places in Xinjiang Province.
- You may never forget the words 葡萄 pú táo and 加油 jiā yóu (Go for it!)

If you enjoyed this Project, why not watch another episode of 爸爸去哪儿?

*If your teacher signs you off,
you will collect 1 Badge!*