

Conversation Friends

Class # 27

10:00 a.m. October 10, 2017

Volunteers: Charlotte* Sylvia Sister Sage, Sister Dixon (Jon, second half of class)

Students: Yoko, Guosheng, Rainbow, Jing sun, Xi lin

Discussion Topic: **More about Food.**

Listening/Pronunciation Practice: **Sharing a Meal on Family Night. (level 1.5)**

The discussion included types of foods, favorite foods here and at home, etc. Charlotte introduced a list of food idioms and these were discussed as well.

We had a coffee break and then, since there were so few students, all participated in the listening/pronunciation exercises. We used the level 1.5 story, *Sharing a Meal on Family Night*. There were the usual problems of hearing the endings of words and hearing the pronouns and articles. In addition, the terms, “family night, set the table, and grill” were new to the students.

In discussing what a “family meal” is, Charlotte asked if they have such things in China and they, all being from China (Yoko had to leave at the break), shared their history of the Spring Festival when everyone wants to go back home for the meal, which sounded like our Thanksgiving holiday. Jing sun, who lived in southern China, told us about a big snowfall and cold weather that unexpectedly hit southern China a few years ago. People were stranded on roads and trains and had no warm clothing because the weather in that area is not usually cold.

Xi lin and Guosheng told us about setting out the ancestors’ pictures on a table and laying food and chopsticks out on the table for the ancestors. They also burn incense sticks, which Xi lin showed us on her phone, since she has recreated the holiday at her home.

It was an interesting discussion and again, we volunteers learned more than the students did.