

# Yoyo Chinese presents:

## The 3 "De's" of Mandarin Chinese

|         | Function                                              | Structure                             | Example                             |                                                |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| de<br>的 | Possessive 的 (de)<br>(like 'apostrophe s' in English) | Noun 1 + 的 (de) + Noun 2              | wǒ de péng you<br>我的朋友<br>my friend | tā de chē<br>他的车<br>his car                    |
|         | Descriptive 的 (de)<br>(describing a noun)             | Multiple Syllable Adj + 的 (de) + Noun | lán sè de chē<br>蓝色的车<br>blue car   | měi hǎo de huí yì<br>美好的回忆<br>beautiful memory |

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|         | Function                                                                 | Structure                                     | Example                                                                  |                                                                                        |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| de<br>得 | Verb Modifier 得 (de)<br>(commenting on how action is done)               | (Verb + Noun +) Verb + 得 (de) + 很 (hěn) + Adj | nǐ shuō yīng wén shuō de hěn hǎo<br>你说英文说得很好。<br>You speak English well. | nǐ shuō de hěn hǎo<br>你说得很好。<br>You speak well.                                        |
|         | Comparison 得 (de)<br>(comparing A to B)                                  | A + 比 (bǐ) + B + Verb/Adj + 得 (de) + Adj      | nǐ bǐ wǒ shuō de hǎo<br>你比我说得好。<br>You speak better than I do.           | jīn tiān bǐ zuó tiān lěng de duō<br>今天比昨天冷得多。<br>Today is a lot colder than yesterday. |
|         | Potential Complement 得 (de)<br>(expressing having the ability to do sth) | Verb + 得 (de) + Complement of Result          | wǒ tīng de dào<br>我听得。<br>I can hear (it).                               | nǐ kàn de dǒng ma<br>你看懂吗？<br>Can you understand (by reading)?                         |

|         | Function                                                                                  | Structure           | Example                                                                   |                                                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| de<br>地 | Adjective Modifier 地 (de)<br>(turns adjectives into adverbs, similar to '-ly' in English) | Adj + 地 (de) + Verb | tā jí jí máng máng de chū qu le<br>她急急忙忙地出去了。<br>She went out in a hurry. | tā màn màn de zǒu guo lai le<br>他慢慢地走过来了。<br>He walked over slowly. |