



Business Chinese Radio Classes— Lesson 2 Second Meet

I Text:

A: 您好，张经理，好久不见！最近怎么样？

B: 王总，好久不见！我还行，您最近很忙吧？

A: 唉，都是瞎忙。

II Language Points

1 还行

2 都是瞎忙

III Cultural Points

打招呼时的回答有时并不一定积极正面，但并不是出于消极情绪而是一种谦辞。

IV Questions

如果有人说他在瞎忙，他是真的什么也没做吗？

V Script:

Xiaomeng: Hello everyone, I'm your host Xiaomeng, welcome to "Everything about Business Chinese"!

Colin: Hi, I'm Colin.

Xiaomeng: Colin, how are you?

Colin: Couldn't be better!

Xiaomeng: Well, sounds you have some good news to share with us!

Colin: Sure, you know what, since our last talk, I attended a conference and I met one Chinese business man who might be my potential client. I got his business card and I am thinking about visiting his company next week.

Xiaomeng: Congratulations!

Colin: But, Xiaomeng, I'm not sure how to greet him when I see him again? Can I say 你最近怎么样 (nǐ zuì jìn zěn me yàng)? I know it means how are you doing recently?

Xiaomeng: Chinese people may respond to your greetings in more than one way.

Colin: Really?

Xiaomeng: Yes, let's listen to a dialogue now:

Dialogue starts:

A: 您好，张经理，好久不见！最近怎么样？

B: 王总，好久不见！我还行，您最近很忙吧？

A: 唉，都是瞎忙。

Dialogue ends

Xiaomeng: Let's listen to the English Version.

A: Hello, Manager Zhang, it's been a long time since we met last time. How are you doing?

B: General Manager Wang, I'm fine. Are you busy recently?

A: Ah, I am always busy but it seems that I have done nothing very important.

Colin: Umm... I think I can understand almost all of them, but I still cannot follow some expressions.

Xiaomeng: Well, this dialogue happens between two persons who have already known each other. They greet each other by saying 好久不见。

Colin: Yes, 好久不见 (hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn) is where the English phrase “long time no see” comes from. After that, they greet each other by their last name plus their titles; I remember you told me this is the way people show respect to each other. Then the first person continues to say 你最近怎么样 (nǐ zuì jìn zěnmeyàng) which means how are you doing recently? But why the response is 我还行 (wǒ hái xíng)?

Xiaomeng: 我还行 means I’m fine, not bad.

Colin: Does it mean he is not doing very well?

Xiaomeng: 我还行 does not necessarily mean the person is not good, it is just one way to respond to 最近怎么样? Many Chinese people are less likely to speak highly of their life, 我还行 can be understood as “good” in a modest way. Similar responses include 还可以 and 凑合吧。They have the same meaning as 我还行。

Colin: I see, I suppose 您最近很忙吧 (nín zuì jìn hěn máng ba) is a question asking are you very busy recently?

Xiaomeng: Yes, you are right, and Wang responses “瞎忙”。

Colin: But what does 瞎忙 (xiā máng) mean?

Xiaomeng: 瞎忙 (xiā máng) means I’m always busy but I’ve never done anything that important, but it does not necessarily mean he gets nothing done. It is also a way of showing modesty.

Colin: Interesting! Shall we practice one more time?

Xiaomeng: Sure.

Dialogue starts:

A: 您好，张经理，好久不见！最近怎么样？

B: 王总，好久不见！我还行，您最近很忙吧？

A: 唉，都是瞎忙。

Dialogue ends

Colin: I understand now. I've never heard of these different expressions, thank you Xiaomeng.

COLIN: Thank you for listening. This is the end of today's program. Today's question is what does “瞎忙 (xi ā m á ng)” mean? You can email your answer or your comments to CIB@Chinamericaradio.com and we will post them on our twitter account @Confuciusbiz.

Xu: You can download today's transcript or listen to the program again for free at Chinamericaradio.com Just go to the Partners page and click on the SUNY-CIB banner.

Tingting: You can also see a listing of the upcoming activities at SUNY-Confucius Institute for Business. See you next week! 下周见 xià zhōu jiàn”