

"I'm Very Busy!" 《我很忙!》

Lesson Plan

TEACHING AT HOME USING

I'm Very Busy! 《我很忙!》



Book information

Authors	Woo Yen Yen and Colin Goh
Translator	Tan Dan Feng
Illustrator	Colin Goh
Synopsis	Baozi looks like he's too busy to play with Xiajiao and Shaomai but realizes that it's really not very fun being busy without his friends.
Theme	Which is more important, looking like we are "busy" or being with our friends?

Everyday practice suggestions



A Better Way to be Busy

Author's note:

This story about "being busy" is inspired by how my daughter, when she was about 18 months started to talk a lot more, and would regularly take my cellphone and walk around chatting into the phone like she's very busy. Our children are constantly observing and mimicking us, and one of the ways in which they learn implicitly from us is how we handle being "busy". And for many of us who work from home, especially during a pandemic, it can feel like we are constantly busy, and constantly digitally distracted.

It's a continual struggle but I've been trying to make sure I mark out blocks of time for what's important in my life. This means actually marking out time to be with my daughter, time for social media, time for friends. And making sure that I don't mix these up so that I'm psychologically present in each block of time.

This book, "I'm Very Busy" is about deciding what's important in life, and making sure that on a daily basis, we make focused time where we are completely present for that. The practice is so that we don't feel like we are busy and feel pulled in so many directions all the time that we miss out on what's really important.

**Sincerely,
Yen Yen**

Everyday practice suggestions



Responding to Children's Artwork

Our kids, when they are drawing, love to show us what they have drawn. Very often, it's hard to make sense of their drawing, and we just say something general like, "Great work!". THEY KNOW we are just saying it without fully engaging in the artwork! How do we comment on their art so that they will think and create more?

The best teachers we know have taught us that it's important to ask questions that show we are actually engaged in children's artwork. So, instead of making a quick judgment we can ask the following:

- **"Tell me about this piece..."**
- **"What are you trying to say with this?"**
- **Ask about details like "Oh, she's wearing red when everyone else is wearing black, is there a reason for that?" "This hand seems quite different from how you used to draw hands ... what changed?"**
- **Ask about effort "Was it hard to draw such thin lines?"**
- **Make connections to other things you've seen "This reminds me of ... have you seen this other piece of work?" These questions also extend their learning.**
- **Ask the kids to teach you how to draw something so that they are positioned as powerful and knowledgeable.**

Everyday practice suggestions

Thoughtful engagement with children's artwork encourages them to think deeper and helps them understand that their expressions can communicate a lot of information and so that they become motivated to create even more. Having an engaged audience really helps creators!



Practice reading aloud

Listen and practice using the Dim Sum Warriors Mobile Comic App every day.

Research shows better recall when something is read aloud rather than read silently. And even better recall when learners are hearing their own voices reading aloud. So, record your own voices in the READ function of the app and playback to listen!



Book Discussion



Making Connections

After reading aloud "I'm Very Busy", chat using the following prompts with kids so that they can make "text-to-self", and "text-to-world" connections. Pepper the conversation liberally and casually with the key words used in the text. There are word lists below that you can tag on your wall for easy reference.

Text-to-Self Connections

- **Baozi is very busy. Have you ever been busy or have you ever seen someone busy?**

你有忙着做什么过，或看过很忙的人吗？

- **What do grown-ups' faces look like when they are busy?**

大人很忙时的表情长怎么样？

- **How do people walk when they're busy?**

很忙的人怎样走路？

- **What does it feel like to be busy?**

很忙的时候有什么感觉？

Text-to-World connections

- **Is it good to be busy?**

忙碌好不好？

- **Is there "good" busy and "bad" busy?**

是否有“好”的忙法和“不好”的忙法？

- **Do you like being busy?**

你喜欢忙碌的感觉吗？

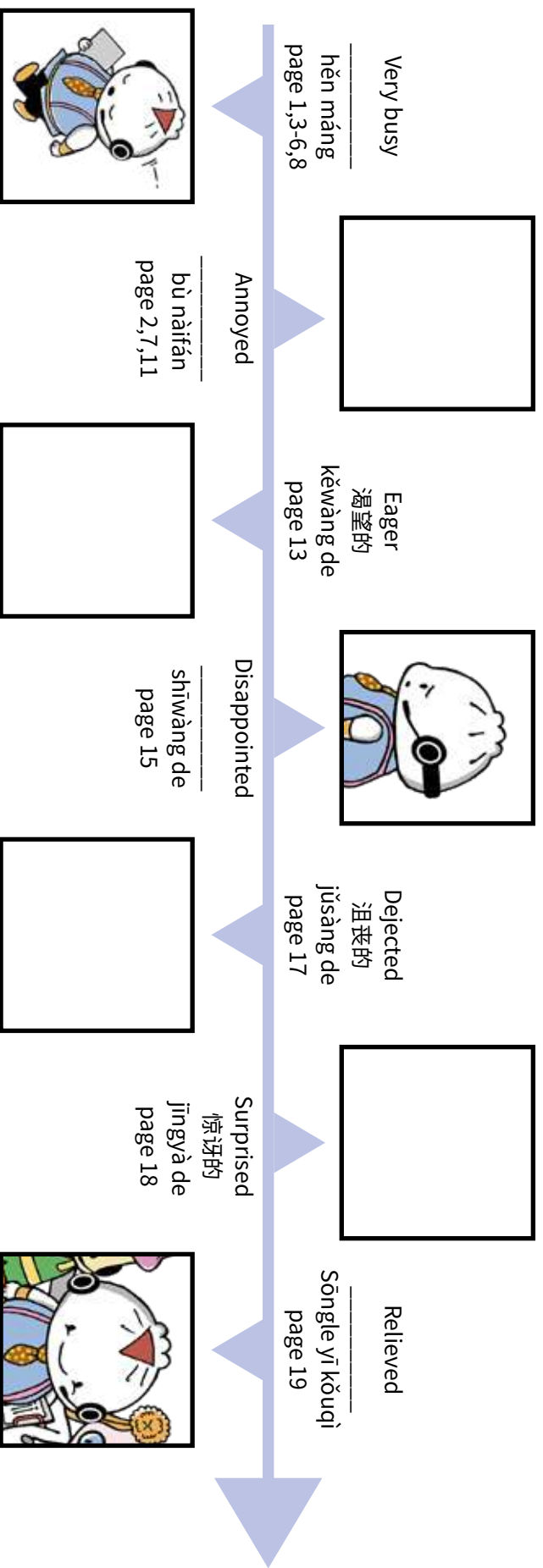
- **What recommendations do you have for grown-ups when they feel very busy? What can they do?**

你对忙碌的大人有什么建议吗？他们能做些什么来改善现况？



Story retelling and re-creation using BAOZI'S emotions

- **Revisit JAM session dated November 7th, 2020.**
- Draw Baozi's emotions (情绪) throughout the book and know what the trigger events are (触发点).
- Re-tell the story using those emotions. Talk about what happened that triggered the emotions. (利用这些情绪, 把故事再讲一次)。



NAME: _____

DATE: ____/____/____

Story retelling and re-creation using BAOZI's emotions

- Use this mini-poster as a reference for Baozi's emotions (包子的情绪).



Very Busy
很忙
hěn máng



Disappointed
失望
shīwàng



Reject
拒绝 | 拒絕
jùjué



Annoyed/Irritated
不耐烦 | 不耐煩
bù nàifán



Relieved
松了一口气
sōng le yī kǒu qì

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ / _____ / _____

Draw!

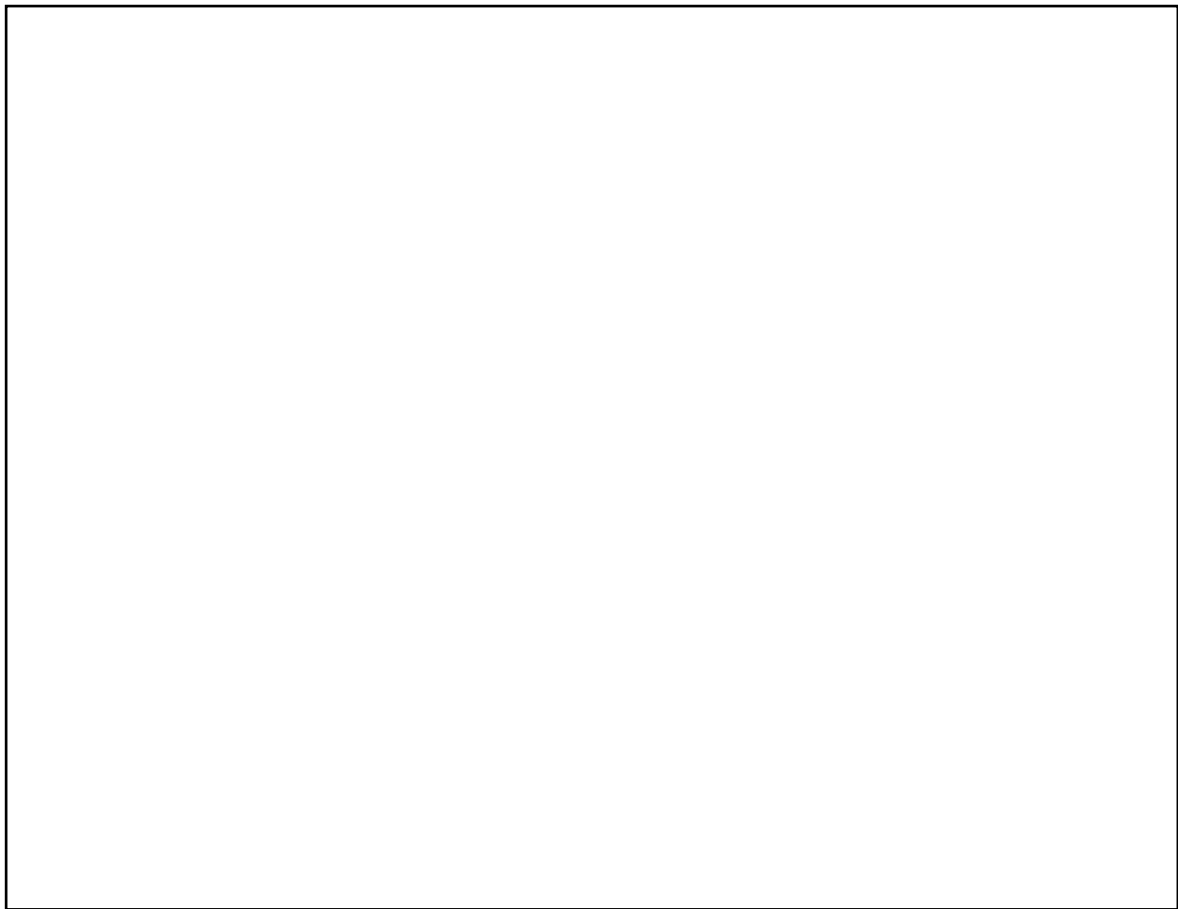
成語：披星戴月

idiom: pī xīng dài yuè

So busy that you wear stars on your back the moon on your head. This idiom describes working so much that you have no time to rest. Revisit JAM session Nov 14th, 2020.

Draw a picture of what you look like when you are very busy working.

你曾经像披星戴月一样忙吗？试着画画看当时的模样。



NAME: _____ DATE: _____ / _____ / _____

Create a Schedule!

Use these words to help you create your schedule in Chinese!

Leisure activities:

Read	阅读	yuèdú
Draw	画画	huàhuà
Play computer games	打电动 / 玩电脑	dǎ diàndòng / wán diànnǎo
Exercise	运动	yùndòng
Chat	聊天	liáotiān
Watch TV	看电视	kàn diànshì

Work activities:

Homework	作业	zuòyè
School	学校	Xuéxiào

Everyday activities:

Wake up	睡醒	shuì xǐng
Eat	吃东西	chī dōngxī
Sleep	睡觉	shuìjiào
Exercise	运动	yùndòng
Shower	洗澡	xǐzǎo
Brush teeth	刷牙	shuāyá



NAME: _____

DATE: ____ / ____ / ____



Create a Schedule!

Use these words to help you create your schedule in Chinese!

_____ 的时间表

	星期一 Monday	星期二 Tuesday	星期三 Wednesday	星期四 Thursday	星期五 Fri- day	星期六 Saturday	星期天 Sunday
7am							
8am							
9am							
10am							
11am							
中午							
1pm							
2pm							

NAME: _____

DATE: _____ / _____ / _____



Create a Schedule!

Use these words to help you create your schedule in Chinese!

_____的时间表

	星期一 Monday	星期二 Tuesday	星期三 Wednesday	星期四 Thursday	星期五 Fri- day	星期六 Saturday	星期天 Sunday
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							



Draw a picture of the “work”

Related ideas you see! Revisit JAM session on Nov 14th, 2020.

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Work 工作 gōngzuò

Meeting _____ kāihuì

Discuss _____ tāolùn

--	--

very busy _____ hěn máng

I don't have time _____ wǒ méi kōng



SIGHT WORDS LIST

Level 1

Study these words and learn to write them. You can also challenge yourself by going to "I'm Very Busy" in the APP and playing the "Hats Off" Game. Break these up over many days so that it's not too much for one day. Skip the words you already know.

is / are	是	shì
good	好	hǎo
a (person or thing)	个	gè
very	很	hěn
I / me	我	wǒ
at (a place)	在	zài
also / as well	也	yě





SIGHT WORDS LIST

Level 2

Study these words and learn to write them. You can also challenge yourself by going to "My Way is the Best" in the APP and playing the BOING BOING BALL GAME. Break these up over many days so that it's not too much for one day.

Skip the words you already know.

Hmm	嗯	ń
Used at the end of a suggestion	吧	ba
Hey	嘿	hēi
Used at the end of a question	吗	ma
Not yet	没	méi
Look / watch / see / read	看	kàn
And / with	和	hé





SIGHT WORDS LIST

Level 3

Study these words and learn to write them. You can also challenge yourself by going to "My Way is the Best" in the APP and playing the BOING BOING BALL GAME. Break these up over many days so that it's not too much for one day.

Skip the words you already know.

Ah!	啊	a
Haha	哈	hā
Hehe	嘻	xī
Hey	喂	wèi
Squeak	吱	zhī
Chirp	喳	zhā
Oh	哦	ó
Sigh	唉	āi
What?	咦	yí





Word List: Level 1

Study these words and learn to write them. You can also challenge yourself by going to "I'm Very Busy" in the APP and playing the "Take It Down" Game. Break these up over many days so that it's not too much for one day. Skip the words you already know.

Note to parents: we have deliberately made the examples easy to read and explain for kids and families who are English-dominant. You can use the example 1 or example 2, whichever fits your level better.

Understand	明白	míngbái
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1. Do you 明白 what I am saying? 2. 你明白我在说什么吗?

Week	星期	xīngqí
------	----	--------

1. We will go back to school on 星期一. 2. 我们星期一会回去上课。

Work	工作	gōngzuò
------	----	---------

1. I'm very busy with my 工作. 2. 我的工作很忙。

What?	什么	shénme
-------	----	--------

1. Why are you so busy? 2. 你为什么这么忙?

Really	真的	zhēnde
--------	----	--------

1. I'm 真的 very busy. 2. 我真的很忙。

(Have) free time	有空	yǒu kòng
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1. Do you 有空 to play now? 2. 你现在有空玩吗?

Busy	忙	máng
------	---	------

1. I'm very 忙. 2. 我很忙。



Writing Worksheet: Level 1

明	明	明	明	明	明
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明	明	明	明	明	明
---	---	---	---	---	---

日	日	日	日	日	日
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明	日								



Writing Worksheet: Level 1

星	星	星	星	星	星
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星	星	星	星	星	星
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期	期	期	期	期	期
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期	期	期	期	期	期
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期									



Writing Worksheet: Level 1

工	工	工	工	工	工
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作	作	作	作	作	作
---	---	---	---	---	---

作	作	作	作	作	作
---	---	---	---	---	---

工	作								



Writing Worksheet: Level 1

什	什	什	什	什	什
---	---	---	---	---	---

么	么	么	么	么	么
---	---	---	---	---	---

真	真	真	真	真	真
---	---	---	---	---	---

真	真	真	真	真	真
---	---	---	---	---	---



Writing Worksheet: Level 1

真	的								

有	有	有	有	有	有

有	有	有	有	有	有

空	空	空	空	空	空

空	空	空	空	空	空



Writing Worksheet: Level 1

忙	忙	忙	忙	忙	忙
---	---	---	---	---	---

忙	忙	忙	忙	忙	忙
---	---	---	---	---	---

明	白					星	期
---	---	--	--	--	--	---	---

				工	作				
--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--

真	的					有	空
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Word List: Level 2

Study these words and learn to write them. You can also challenge yourself by going to "My Way is the Best" in the APP and playing the EGGSPLOSION GAME. Break these up over many days so that it's not too much for one day. Skip the words you already know.

Note to parents: we have deliberately made the examples easy to read and explain for kids and families who are English-dominant. You can use the example 1 or example 2, whichever fits your level better.

Wait

等

děng

1. Wait a minute! 2. 等一等!

Know

知道

zhīdào

1. I 知道 you are very busy. 2. 我知道你很忙。

Very

非常

fēicháng

1. I know you are 非常 busy. 2. 我知道你非常忙。

Friends

朋友

péngyǒu

1. I want to play with my 朋友. 2. 我想和我的朋友玩。

But

可是

kěshì

1. I want to play, 可是 I'm very busy. 2. 我想玩, 可是我很忙。

Because

因为

yīnwèi

1. I can't play with you 因为 I'm very busy.
2. 因为我很忙, 所以不能和你玩。



Writing Worksheet: Level 2

等	等	等	等	等	等
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等	等	等	等	等	等
---	---	---	---	---	---

等	等	等	等	等	等
---	---	---	---	---	---

知	知	知	知	知	知
---	---	---	---	---	---

知	知	知	知	知	知
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Writing Worksheet: Level 2

道	道	道	道	道	道

道	道	道	道	道	道

道	道	道	道	道	道

知	道										



Writing Worksheet: Level 2

非	非	非	非	非	非
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非	非	非	非	非	非
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常	常	常	常	常	常
---	---	---	---	---	---

常	常	常	常	常	常
---	---	---	---	---	---



Writing Worksheet: Level 2

友	友	友	友	友	友
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朋	友								
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可	可	可	可	可	可
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是	是	是	是	是	是
---	---	---	---	---	---



Writing Worksheet: Level 2

是	是	是	是	是	是
---	---	---	---	---	---

可	是								
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

因	因	因	因	因	因
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因	因	因	因	因	因
---	---	---	---	---	---



Writing Worksheet: Level 2

为	为	为	为	为	为
---	---	---	---	---	---

因	为					等		
---	---	--	--	--	--	---	--	--

知	道					非	常
---	---	--	--	--	--	---	---

				朋	友				
--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--

可	是								
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Word List: Level 3

Note to parents: we have deliberately made the examples easy to read and explain for kids and families who are English-dominant. You can use the example 1 or example 2, whichever fits your level better.

Meeting

開會

kāihuì

1. Let's 开会 next Tuesday. 2. 我们星期二开会吧。

Discuss

讨论

tǎolùn

1. Let's 讨论 at our next meeting. 2. 我们下一次开会的时候讨论吧。

Game

游戏

yóuxì

1. This 游戏 is so much fun! 2. 这个游戏真有趣!

Actually

其实

qíshí

1. 其实, it's more fun playing with friends!
2. 其实, 和朋友一起玩是更有趣!

Fun, interesting

有趣

yǒuqù

1. This game is very 有趣! 2. 这个游戏真有趣!

Get ready

准备

zhǔnbèi

1. I am getting ready to play the game. 2. 我准备玩这个游戏。



Writing Worksheet: Level 3

開	開	開	開	開	開
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開	開	開	開	開	開
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開	開	開	開	開	開
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會	會	會	會	會	會
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會	會	會	會	會	會
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Writing Worksheet: Level 3

會	會	會	會	會	會
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開	會										

讨	讨	讨	讨	讨	讨
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论	论	论	论	论	论
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Writing Worksheet: Level 3

论	论	论	论	论	论
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讨	论										

游	游	游	游	游	游
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游	游	游	游	游	游
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游	游	游	游	游	游
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Writing Worksheet: Level 3

戏	戏	戏	戏	戏	戏
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戏	戏	戏	戏	戏	戏
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游	戏								

其	其	其	其	其	其
---	---	---	---	---	---

其	其	其	其	其	其
---	---	---	---	---	---



Writing Worksheet: Level 3

实	实	实	实	实	实
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实	实	实	实	实	实
---	---	---	---	---	---

其	实								

趣	趣	趣	趣	趣	趣
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趣	趣	趣	趣	趣	趣
---	---	---	---	---	---



Writing Worksheet: Level 3

趣	趣	趣	趣	趣	趣
---	---	---	---	---	---

有	趣										

准	准	准	准	准	准
---	---	---	---	---	---

准	准	准	准	准	准
---	---	---	---	---	---



Writing Worksheet: Level 3

备	备	备	备	备	备
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备	备	备	备	备	备
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准	备					開	會

				讨	论				

游	戏					其	实