



**!WE!**



**Margaret & Lan menghan**

**America & China**

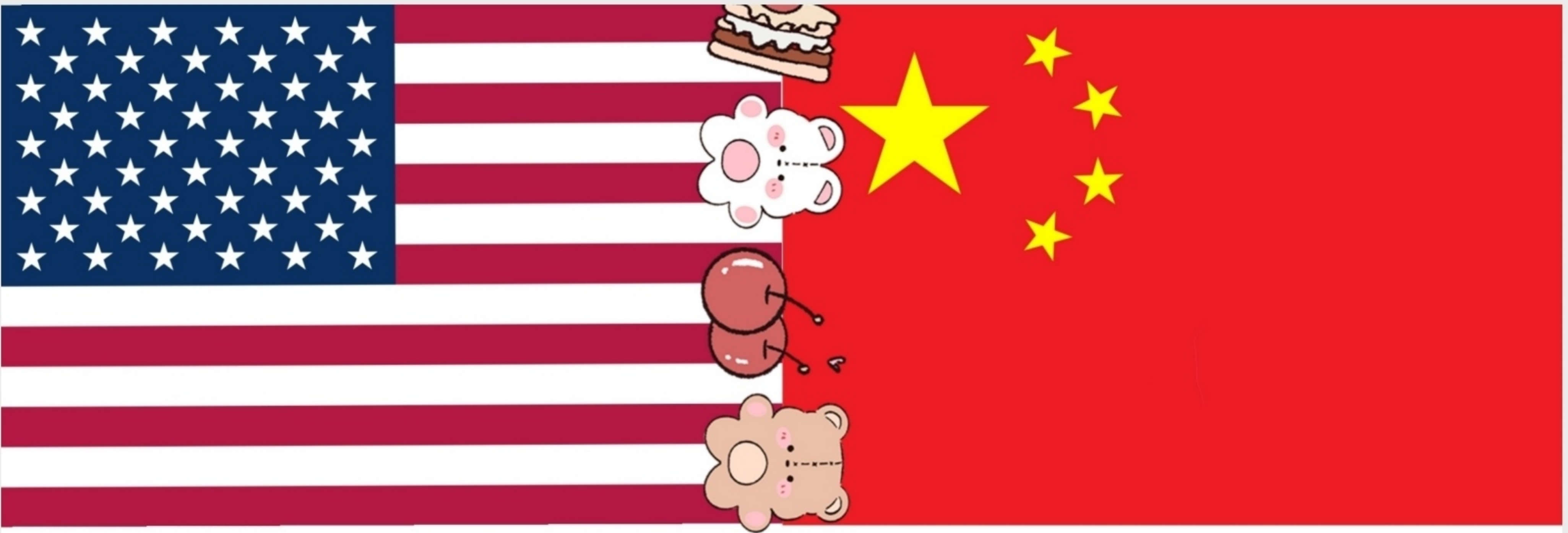


**Long Beach State University &  
Qingdao University of Technology**



**INFP & INTJ**

**2024-2025-future**



Pen Pal's Contact Information:

Pen Pal's Contact Information:

- Name: Margaret Yao
- Email: [margaret.4879@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.4879@gmail.com)
- Other Platforms: Whatsapp: (+1) [415-996-6606](tel:415-996-6606)
  - Instagram: @kirungdi (Preferred)
  - Email: [margaret.4879@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.4879@gmail.com)

- Name: Lan Menghan (蓝梦涵)
- Email: [1628445660@qq.com](mailto:1628445660@qq.com)
- Other Platforms: WeChat: (BluexC321) (Preferred)

2024.11.03

# exchanging contact information

The first general topic is: [Home Country Introduction]

- Share an introduction to your home country. For example, share your culture, traditional foods, popular tourist locations, popular music, geographic location, etc.



Pen Pal Letter  
marge笔友

Hello Lan Menghan,

Please let me know if you would like me to address you by a different nickname, or anything! My name is Margaret, and I'm really looking forward to getting to know you and your life throughout our time together. I go to school at Long Beach State University.

I'm from America, and live in Los Angeles, California. Being in such close proximity to Mexico, I feel that my city's Mexican food is really worth trying. In fact, I stopped trying Mexican food anywhere else because I sort of don't believe it can get better in any state that isn't bordering Mexico. Los Angeles is so diverse and hosts the country's only Thai Town, which has some of the best (traditional) Thai food in the country. We also have some amazing Chinese and Japanese food, with the Asian population in Los Angeles alone being 458, 721 in 2022.

Two days ago, we had our national election for president. We also had elections for our local legislatures, senators, etc. It was my first time voting in my life, and it was very interesting to experience.

Los Angeles isn't my favorite city, and eventually I want to move away to New York City after college, as my city is extremely car based and I have to drive everywhere just to go where I want, which is super annoying. However, with that being said, I still feel so privileged and lucky to have everything be relatively still accessible. Even upon reflection of everything I've just shared with you, I feel really grateful to be where I am, and I hope you feel the same way about where you live. Let me know if you've ever been to Los Angeles and if so, what you think of it! Looking forward to your response!

Take care,  
Margaret

I feel really lucky as someone who lives in a big city like Los Angeles, because there's always a lot to do, and a lot of art to see and explore. I like to go to concerts, raves, and festivals in Southern California. My favorite music festival that I have been to is the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, which is held each year in Indio, California, which is in the desert. Coachella is one of the most popular music festivals in the entire world, and is always live-streamed on the internet for the world to tune into the acts. I have been to this festival twice so far, but I intend on attending each year whenever I can, because it is such an amazing experience and piece of modern pop culture. The festival brings different popular and up and coming musicians each year. My favorite part of this festival is how unifying it feels; people come from all over the country and world, just to be a part of this festival. It is truly amazing that one festival can bring together so many different kinds of people from all over. The art at Coachella is also very beautiful, with the festival sourcing artists each year to build humongous sculptures and interactive art pieces.

Apart from the country's rocky political landscape, America is actually a really beautiful country physically. We have many national parks in which people from all over the globe come to visit. We have 64 national parks as of 2024, and each national park is federally protected land, meaning the land cannot be commercialized or bought. My favorite part about America is the national parks that we have, as our country is extremely diverse in vegetation, geology, landscape, and wildlife. As someone who lives in California, it is quite the blessing to be living in a state that hosts nine national parks, the state with the most national parks. My favorite national park that I have visited so far (I have only visited 8, but want to visit each one!), is Zion National Park, in Utah. It is an extremely beautiful, spiritual place for me, and I feel extremely connected to the land whenever I am there. Zion National Park is one of the most visited national parks in the country, and I have met people from even as far as Russia that have come to visit this beautiful park. Zion consists of a desert landscape, with lots of red rock, natural clay, and plateaus. One of my favorite parts of this park is the river that snakes through the valley, the Virgin River. The river is shallow in some parts, and deeper in other parts, and you can go swimming in the summer, which feels amazing, especially in the dry desert heat. I hope if you ever come to the United States, you are lucky enough to visit a national park.

The message from your pen pal  
Lan

Dear Margaret Yao

Hello! How's everything going? I'm Lan Menghan, your pen pal! You can call me Blue. (Lan "蓝" in Chinese means the color blue.) I noticed that you didn't mention your Wechat number. Could you leave me your Wechat number so that we can talk on it in the future!

Yours sincerely,  
Blue

Now let me talk about myself. I'm from Zibo City, Shandong Province, China. Nowadays, my hometown is a hot place where so many visitors travel long distances to taste Zibo barbecue (淄博烧烤). I'm proud of my hometown and glad to see many domestic and overseas tourists can experience the local customs of my hometown through traveling. And I feel the same way as you. When I studied at Qingdao University of Technology, I had never eaten Zibo barbecue in Qingdao. But it's interesting that I always eat Northeastern Chinese cuisine (in Chinese, we call it "东北菜") in Qingdao. The Iron Pot Stew (铁锅炖) and Fried Pork in Scoop (锅包肉) in Northeast cuisine are my favorites. The Iron Pot Stew boasts rich, savory flavors and tender meat, while the crispy, sweet-and-sour Fried Pork in Scoop is a tantalizing delight for the taste buds! If one day you want to come to China, I'm very glad to lead you to taste not only the food I mentioned above but also the eight famous big cuisines in China.

I notice that you talked about the national election. I also mention this these days. (And because I'm an English major, our teachers in class also talk things about it.) I believe the experience of voting lets you know more about your country and I sincerely hope that your life will be better than before.

Pen Pal Letter  
Lan

Hello Margaret,

It's very nice for me to have you as my pen pal and I also want to know more about you! You can call me Blue in our future letters if you want. (o>\_<o)

As for me, I hadn't gone abroad before, so I didn't go to Los Angeles. The memory of this place for me comes from the movie La La Land. (I really like this movie! The color, the music and the story in the movie are all so perfect.) So Los Angeles, in my view, is a place about dreams and reality, about love and future and about loneliness and full.

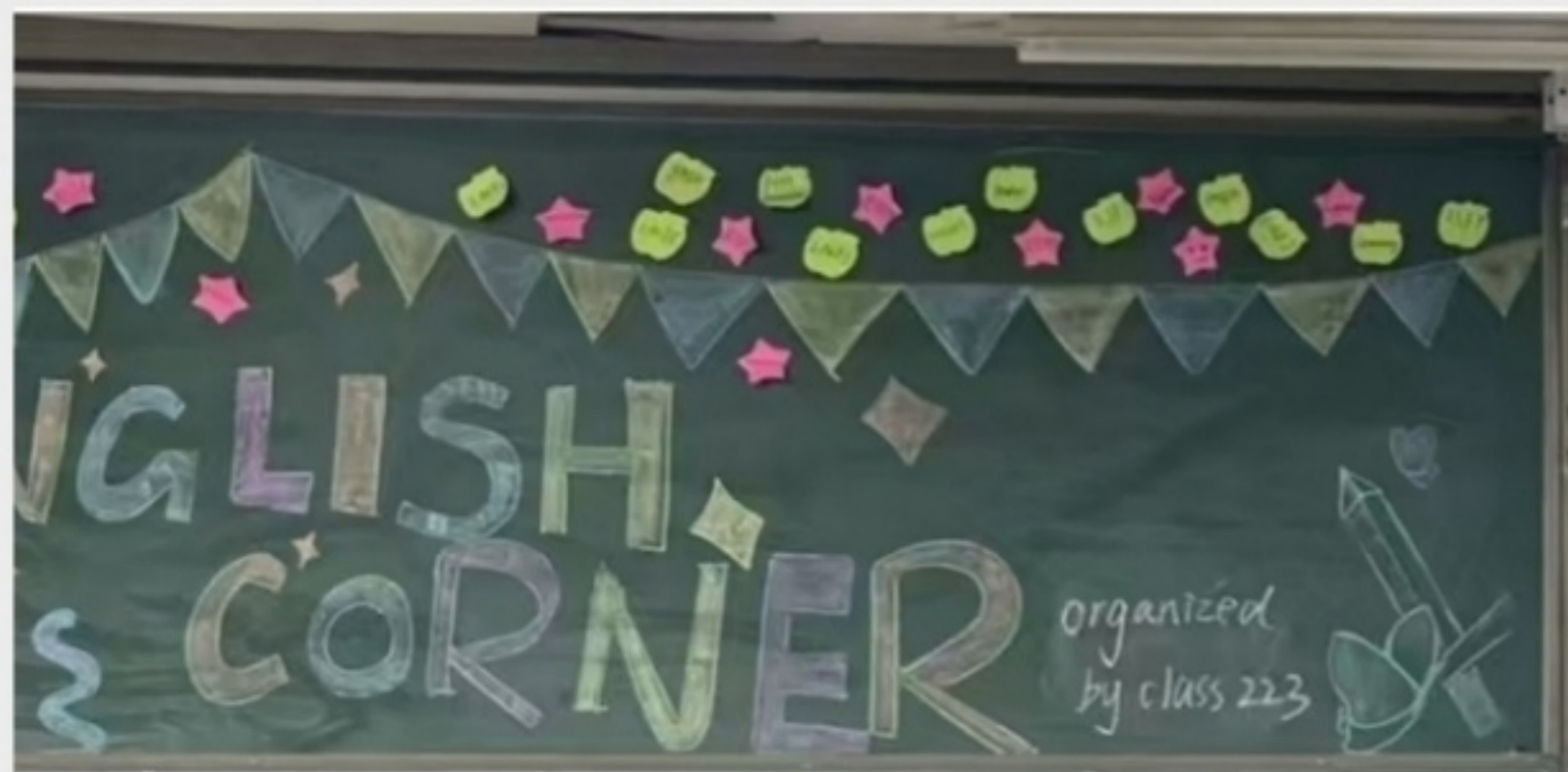
I'm also interested in the park and the music festival you mentioned! I've never been to a music festival. And after your introduction about the festival, my emotions are infected by you, and I feel as if the grand concert is presented in front of me. I'm also interested in arts and music. And the music I listen to these days is APT. It's also hot on popular websites such as Tick tick and the little red book (I don't know the name of the app in English actually, so I just make a literal translation).

In my opinion, when we live in every province in my country, we need a car necessarily. Cars are an important pillar of our industry and now new energy vehicles are becoming more and more popular. So I want to get a driver's license before graduation. But in daily life, I prefer riding an electro mobile or walking.

Ps It's not quick for me to talk on e-mail and it's hard for me to download the ins and WhatsApp. So could you download the Wechat so that we can talk more timely? If you have any problems, I'm glad to help you. :-)- :-)- :-)-

Best wishes,  
Blue.





Pen pal daily life sharing

Lan @ 1

Hello Margaret,

Did you already download the Wechat? I can't wait to talk to you on that app! My number is: BluexC321. Please add me!

And I want to share with you my experience in the English corner yesterday! It's so interesting and it's my first time talking with foreigners face to face. And the amazing thing is that the Russians don't test their MBTI (Our English corner centered with the MBTI, so I asked them)! So I'm very curious about whether you tested what your MBTI is or not. (I have attached picture shoot in the English corner, you can guess which one is me.) (๑~๑)

Looking forward to your reply.

Yours,  
Blue

Pen pal reply

Lan @ 1

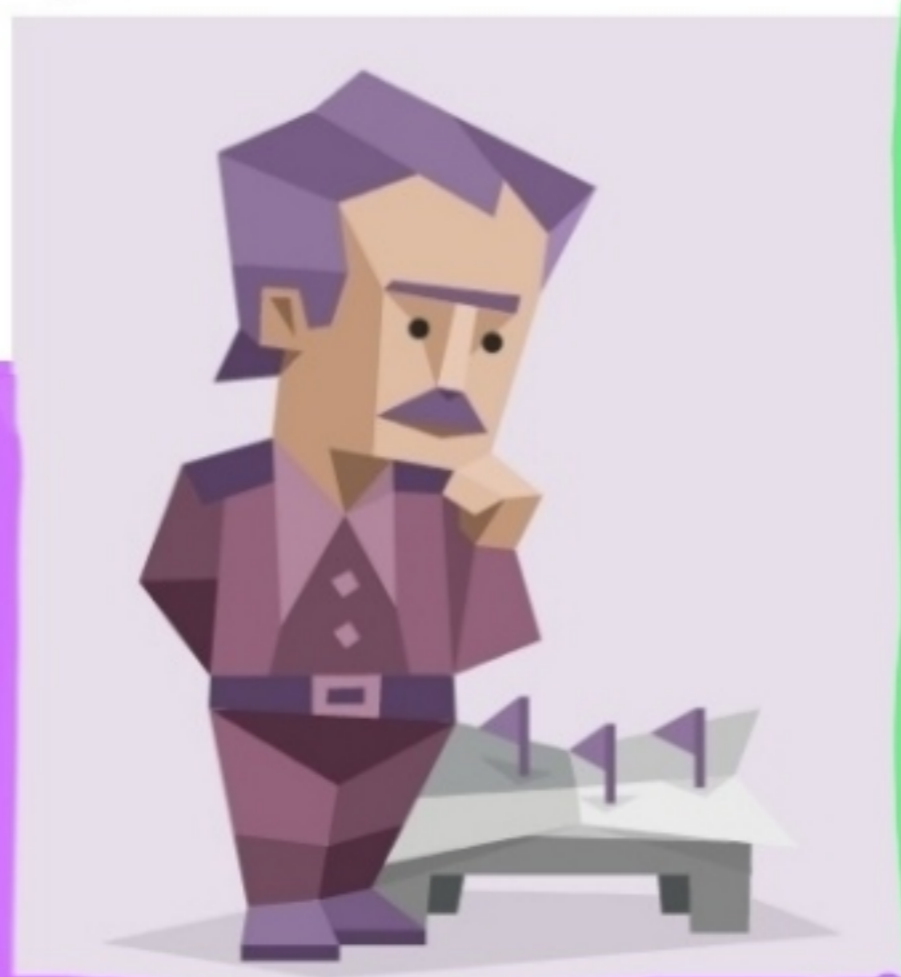
Hi Margaret,

Wow! I'm waiting for you to add me.♡●\*。\*●♡

The English corner is a place we call it a "corner" to speak English only. So that in this place we can enhance our oral English ability. And we will choose a topic to talk about in the corner. And in this English corner which I made my Russian friends, we choose the MBTI as a topic. I have many friends. Their MBTI is INFP! And about me, my MBTI is INTJ. Oh, when it comes to this, I remember that we also have some gifts in this English corner, a brooch! I will show you a picture.♪(๑~๑)♪

Yours, Lan

The second general topic is



## "MBTI" Type Decoding and Interactive Activities



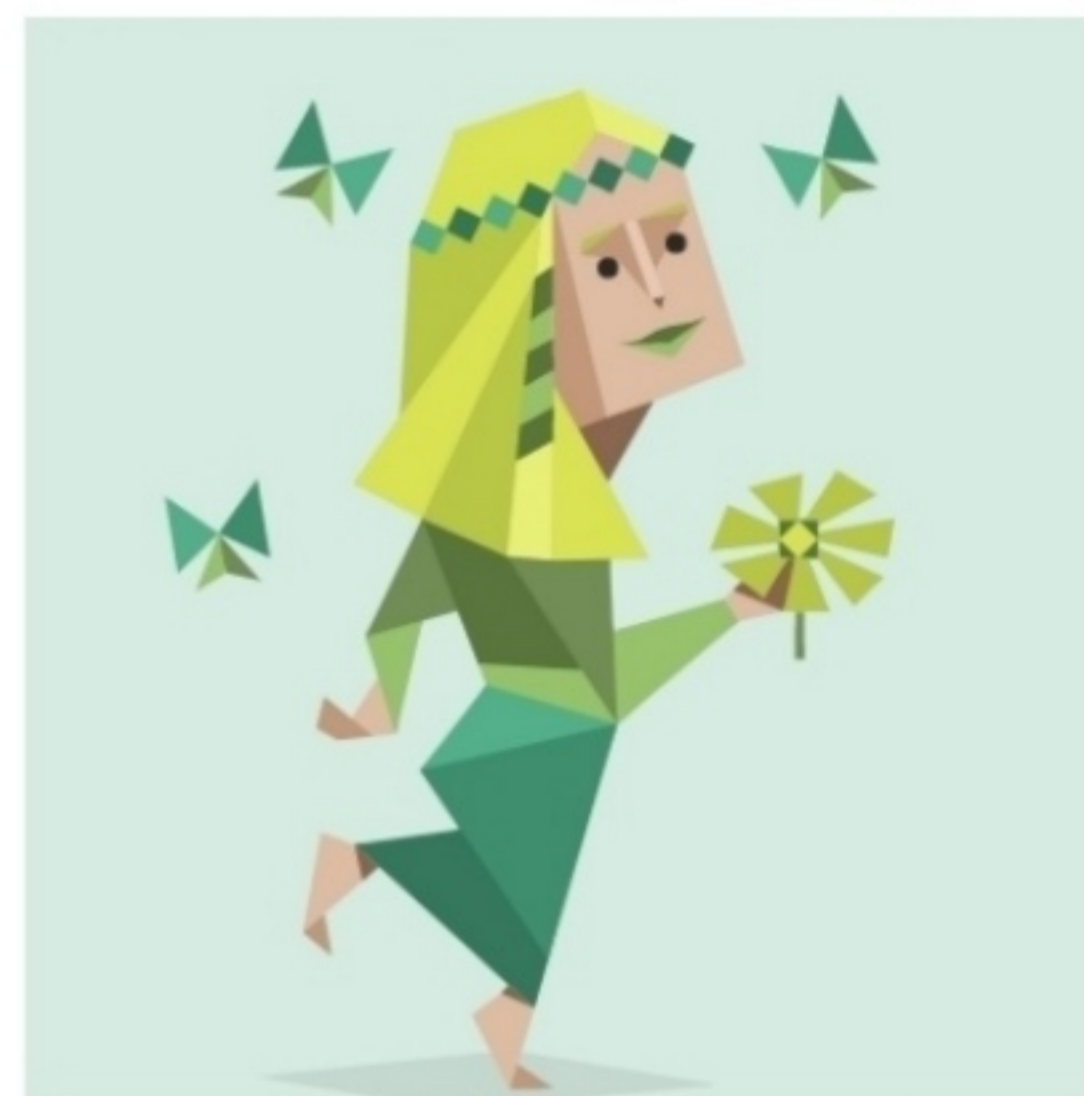
Re: Pen pal daily life sharing

marge笔友

详情

Hi Lan,

I downloaded the pp, I'm currently trying to figure out how to navigate this app as I've never actually used it before, it is not an app that Americans typically use, but I will add you. That's so cool that you met some Russians in China! How was that? What exactly is the English corner if I may ask? As for the MBTI test, I am an INFP! What is yours?  
Margaret<3



详情

2024.12.04  
Daily life sharing  
-English corner  
MBTI(INFP&INTJ)

Sports/ Activities/  
Hobbies/  
Musical Instruments



2024.12.25

Merry Christmas! 🌲

Lan @ 1

详情

With warm wishes for a bright and wonderful holiday season!  
p.s. I painted a picture as a Christmas present for you. I hope you enjoy it.

Re: Merry Christmas! 🌲

marge笔友

详情

Hi Lan,  
Merry Christmas to you! I wish I could draw you a present as well but unfortunately I suck at drawing 😅 May the holidays and new year bring you lots of light!

Best wishes  
Margaret :)

Merry  
Christmas

For Margaret!

Yours, Lan

# The fourth general topic is

I got a new (and also the fourth) topic today, so I will also mention my dream destination in the letter. Beijing(北京) is the capital city of our country, and the best school in China is also in this city. I hope one day, I can secure a job in Beijing based on my ability.

Personally, I believe I will encounter many people and things in this city that I haven't before. Oh, actually, another reason I like this city is because of a favorite online novel of mine called "It's such a satisfying read! The two main characters both get admitted to universities in Beijing. I truly hope I can be as impressive as they are! So the first step to feeling this city for me is to travel to this city! 🍻"

I remember that you told me you wanted to move to New York City after college, so could you tell me more about the reason? Good luck in our finals and have a nice day!

Yours,  
Lan

Hi Margaret,  
I hope you have a fantastic trip!(•̀•́)و I'm also going abroad during my winter break. My destination is Japan.  
I've got a couple of exams coming up, so I'll have to hit the books now.  
Best wishes,  
Lan

Travel  
marge笔友 @4

Hi Lan,  
Happy New Year's to you! I hope your New Year's Eve was fun and safe! Mine was wonderful. I am in Auckland now, conducting my field studies and analyzing the city and culture here. It doesn't feel like much of a culture shock, though I am feeling like Auckland is quite overrated. Some of the locale here have told me that Wellington, New Zealand is way better. In terms of my dream travel destination, I really want to visit Tehran in Iran, and some cute villages in Syria. I think the Middle East would be absolutely beautiful to visit. I've seen pictures of Syrian villages and they look absolutely stunning. This on top of the fact that I love the idea of draping myself in fabrics over there, to protect myself from the heat, and to be reminded of the Silk Road. The Middle East is such a complicated and historical place but when I think of Iran before the US went to war with it, it seemed like such a lovely place. I love the idea of being somewhere with a lot of religious and holy significance and history, even if I am not religious myself. It would still be wonderful to be in the presence of someplace that is so much greater than myself. Specifically, though I will never experience it, I'd be so honored to visit the Mecca. It is a strict place though, only staunch Muslims can go. Iran is also a difficult place to go now as an American, especially a woman. Maybe I can go one day with someone who is from there.

What is your dream travel destination? Here's some pics of Auckland!

Margaret

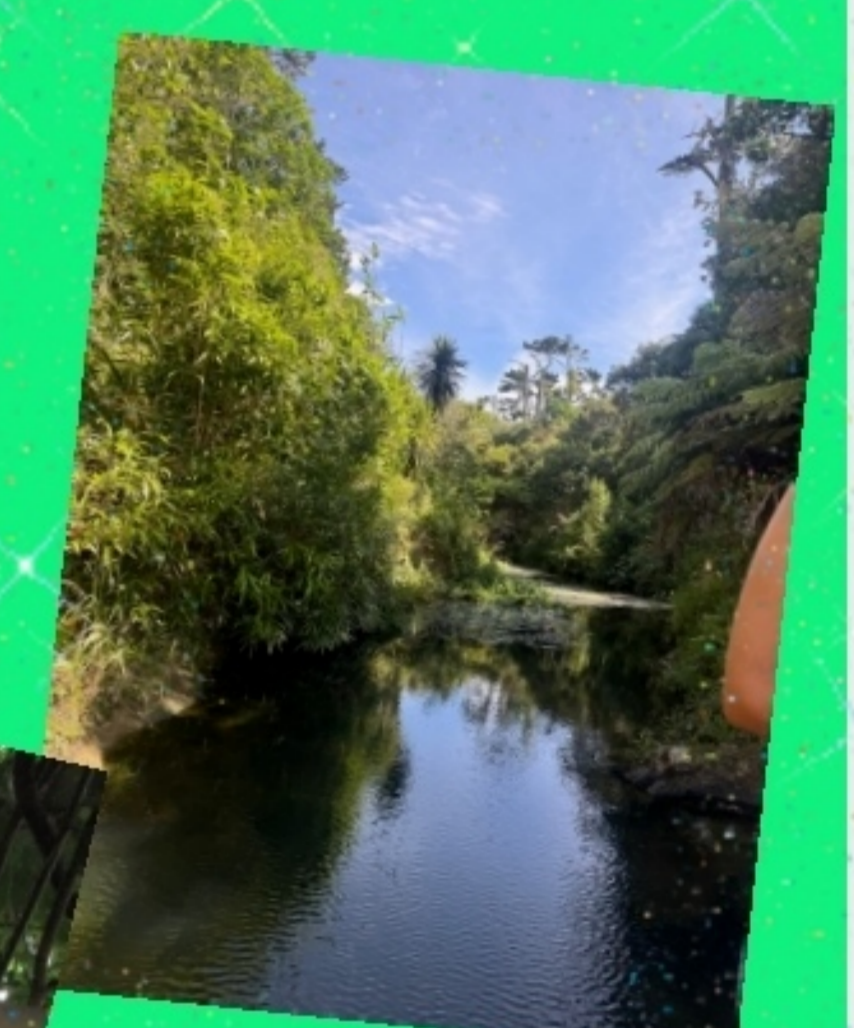
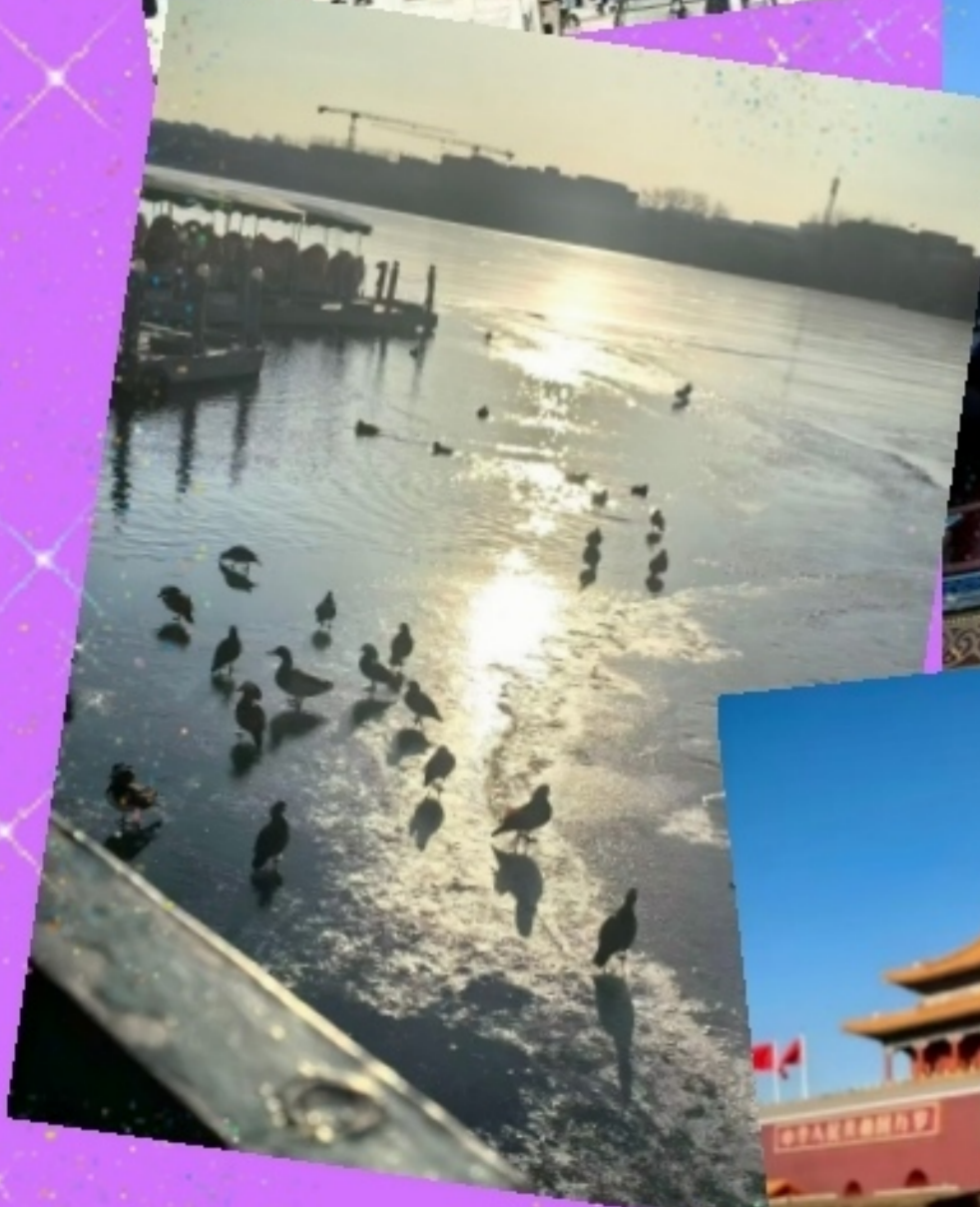
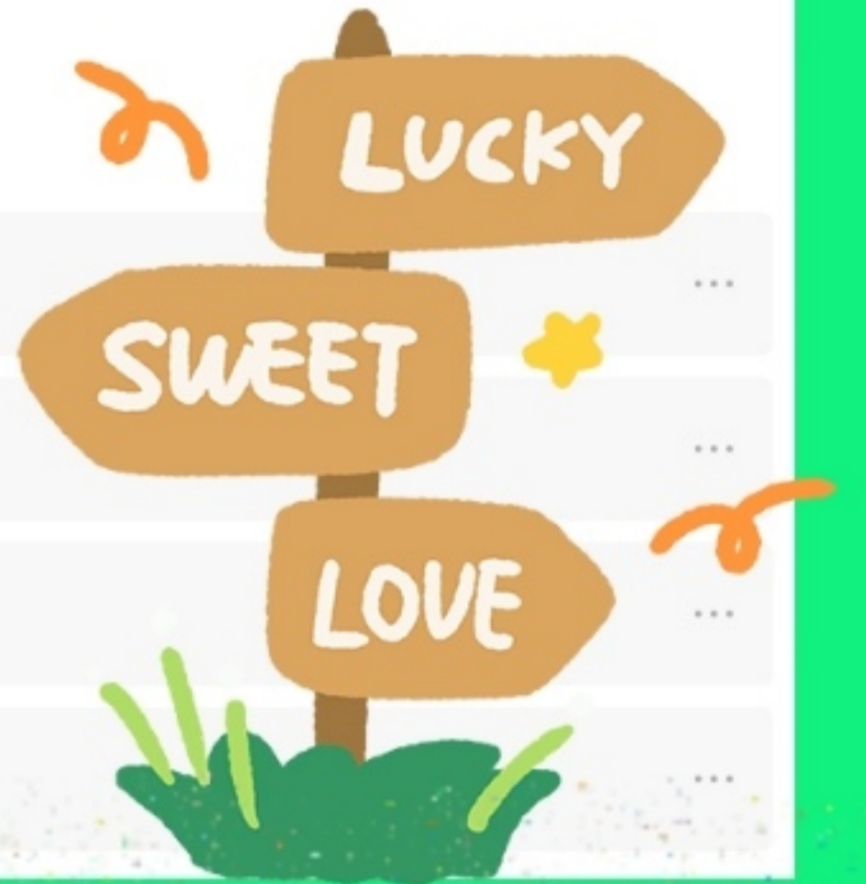
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2025.01.01  
[Travel]



Go! Go!



HOLIDAY



# The fifth logistical topic is

Re: Sustainable Development

Lan

详情

Hello, Margaret~

I have finally put an end to my long "final exam month." I didn't reply to your letter in a timely manner before because I was constantly taking exams and preparing for finals. I had 10 final exams. Oh right, I forgot if I mentioned to you that I'm majoring in English. We divide English into many aspects such as reading, writing, speaking, history, and so on, so there are relatively more final exams, and naturally, the exam period is longer. Therefore, we jokingly call it the "final exam month." Besides exams, some courses end with papers. This semester, I also took a photography class, which was very interesting. The final project was to submit a series of photographic works. I want to attach a few photos to show you my learning outcomes.

I saw your photos in Auckland, and I really liked them, especially the one with a screen full of greens and some books on it. It felt like a fairyland.

I was also surprised by the form that required filling in details about not carrying seeds casually. I guess it's to prevent species invasion or something like that.

I haven't been to Japan yet. I will go there in February. However, I asked some peers who have been there, and they said that garbage classification is very strict there, so I guess they also pay a lot of attention to sustainable development.

Lan

Sustainable Development

marge笔友

详情

Hi Lan,

This topic is an interesting one because as I am in New Zealand right now, it is a country that is super intense on biosecurity measures, as it is an island with a lot of stunning nature that they try to preserve. When I landed in Auckland, I was made to fill out a form that basically stated that I was not carrying any plants, food, or seeds on my person. The government is very strict on how long you stay in the country as well, and if you overstay your visa, you will be deported. It feels almost even stricter than the USA regarding visas.

In terms of the biosecurity measures that New Zealand has, I do appreciate that they are quite secure because they respect the Maori who are indigenous and try to respect that it is their land in the first place. I also think it's important to make sure that things like diseases, invasive species, and germs don't come onto this island. I think this is good, as I care a lot about the environment and invasive species and also care about preserving indigenous culture. New Zealand also has a lot of electricity conservation within the homes and hotels. I think it's quite a culture shock as well as the fact that it forces me to be more cautious of the way I have been living in the United States. How is Japan with its development regarding sustainability? Hope you are doing well Lan:) Hope to hear from you soon!  
Margaret



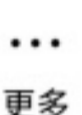
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## Sustainable Development

# The sixth general topic is

I saw the letter about final exam.

I always thought that the exam pressure in the United States was not that big. 🤖

After reading your letter, I realized that it is the same everywhere. 🙏🙏 Students are all suffering during dreadful final exam month. But it seems there is a slight difference. 😬 We have two semesters, summer and winter, while you guys seem to have autumn and winter.



Final Exams

marge笔友

详情

Hi Lan,

I hope you're doing well! I recently finished my winter semester, and had to do a final exam actually, which was a class on nonverbal communication. Finals in my country is a stressful time, where students spend a few weeks stressed, cramming study time for their exams and tests. During my winter semester final exam, because the semester is only one month long, I only had a few days to prepare for the test, which was very stressful. I ended up not doing that well, as it was a standardized test (not my strong suit). However, that course was extremely informative.

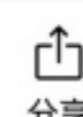
During my fall semester finals, it was extremely stressful, as our professors assigned a lot to study up on, and to take in all that info and remember it for the exams was extremely grueling. Me and my friends stayed up late studying together and were very stressed during finals week, as were a lot of other people. We had to write a lot of papers, take a lot of notes, and overall didn't have a lot of time to just take a minute to relax. Usually finals last one week at my school, but can go on for two weeks. It usually just depends on your professor, so it really does vary. Depending on your professor, exams can be papers, standardized tests, or even a mix of both, as was my experience.

I am happy to hear your exams went well! I hope your week is going well!

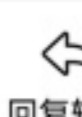
Lots of love,  
Margaret



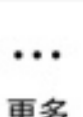
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更多

## Finals

## Exams

Re: Pen Pal Match! (Digital Pen Pal Program)

Lan

详情

Hi Isis Nolasco Ramirez,

As for me, I'm more inclined on discussing general topics. And so do I. Besides the general topics, my Pen Pal and I also like to share our daily experience to each other such as the Us elections or recent events(school marathon...).

Thanks for you to give me a platform to talk with people in different country!

Hope you can have a nice day!

Best wishes,

Lan Menghan

# Free talk

Free talk

# Free talk

Pen pal

Lan @ 2

详情

Daily life share:

Hi, Margaret~

These days, I work hard for my driver's license. The type I learned is C1. And it's much more interesting than I imagined.

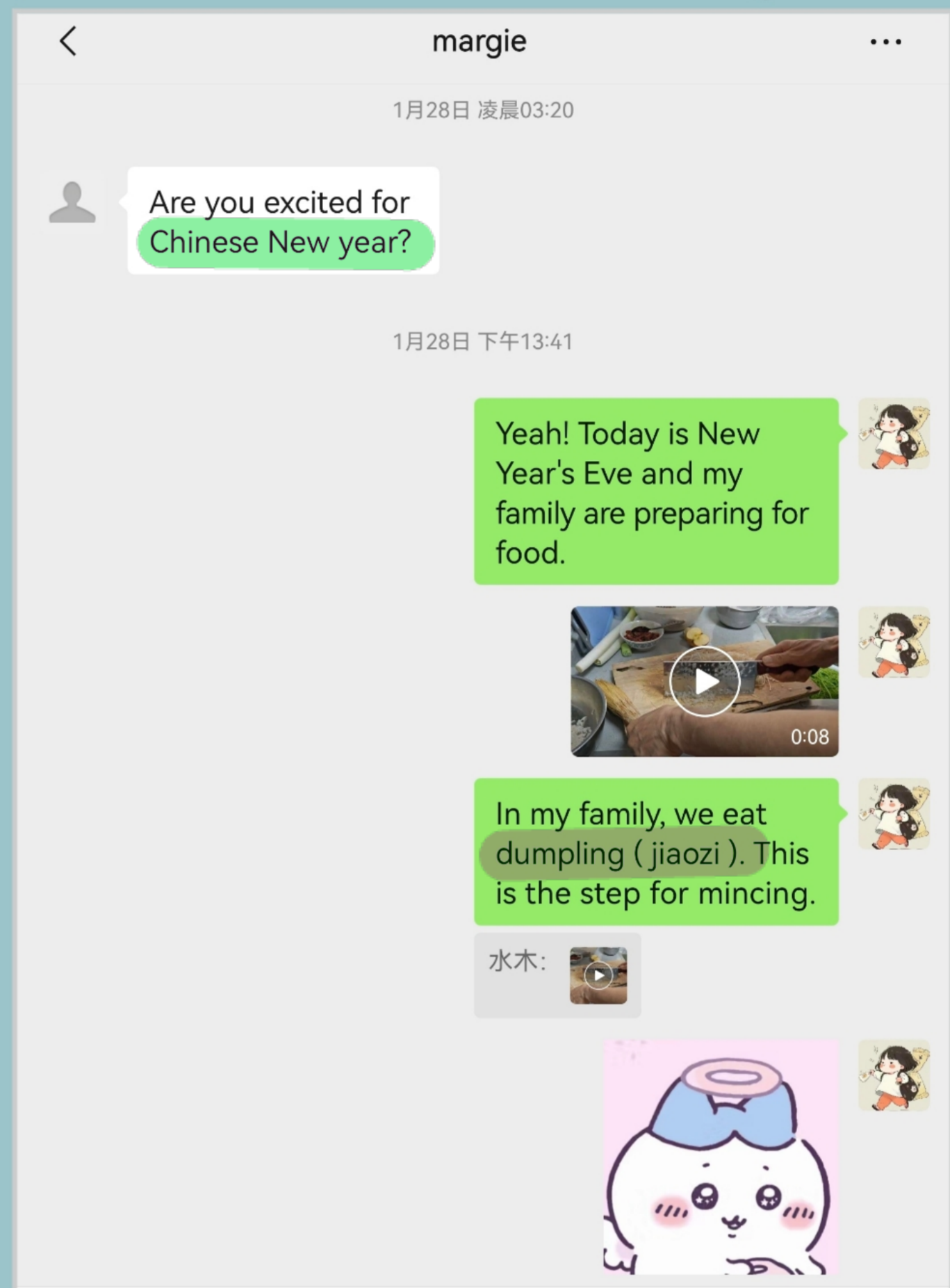
Hope I can pass the exam for driving easily!

How about you? Are you still traveling? If you want, please tell me some about your life these days~

# Free talk

Free talk

Free talk



Free talk

Re: Pen pal

marge笔友

详情

Hi Lan,

I don't have xiao hong shu downloaded. I prefer to try and stay off social medias as much as possible.

Congrats on your drivers license! I hope you pass your exam! I am sure you will do well!

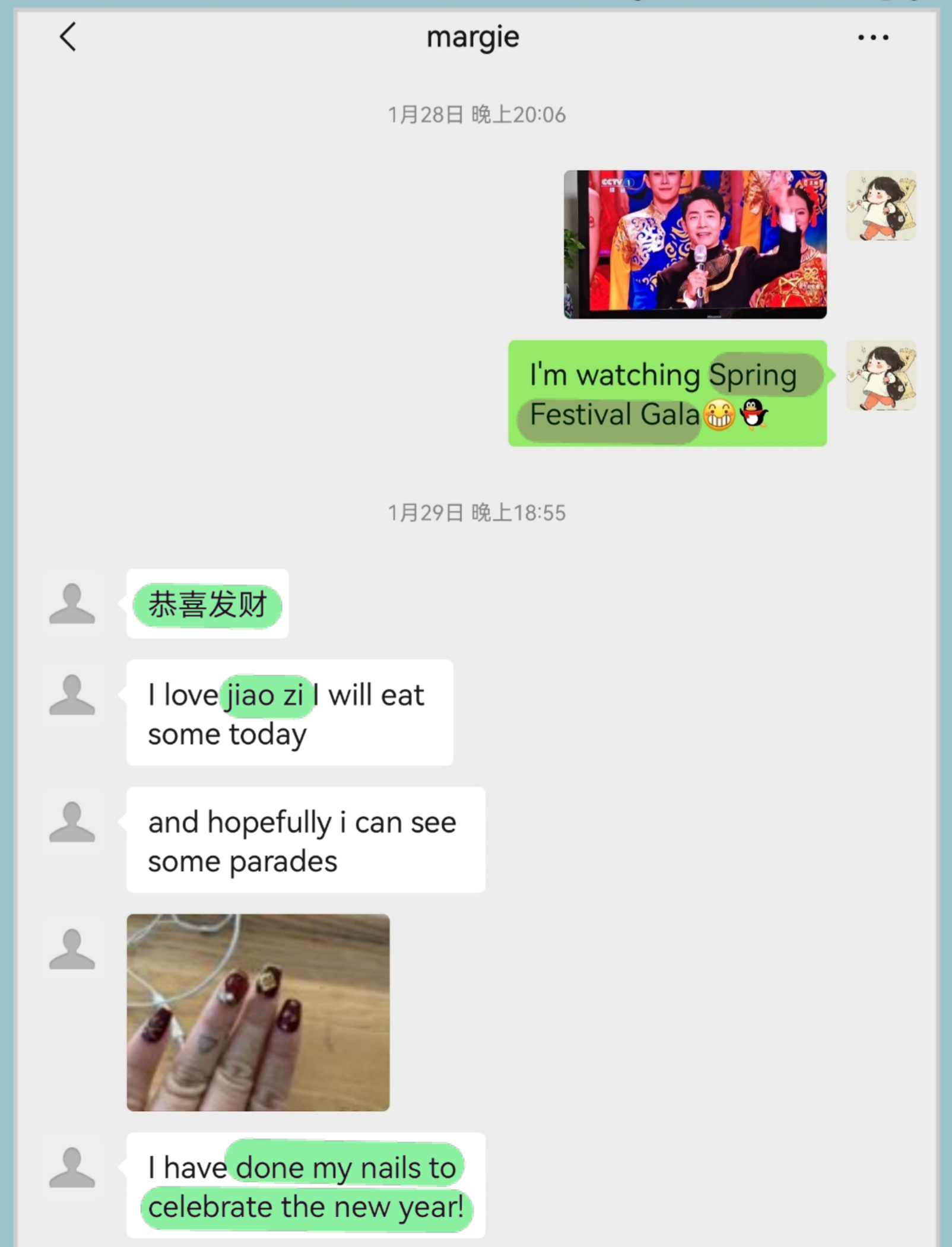
I am still travelling, I have just arrived in London! Whereabouts are you now? What did you like about your travels? I loved going to New Zealand and conducting my field studies! New Zealand was a beautiful country, I would love to move there for some time, and maybe conduct some anthropological research, or even just take a few years there to write. I also went to Australia,

and I was ready to come home. I am now in London, as I mentioned, and even though it is winter, I really do love it here. There is so much art and music that comes from London, and I am really starting to understand why that is. It's a very inspiring place, I feel so unbelievably grateful. I'm currently reading Sylvia Plath. What are your current interests or artists?

Margaret xx

# Free talk

Free talk



Free talk

# Free talk

Free talk

# Free talk

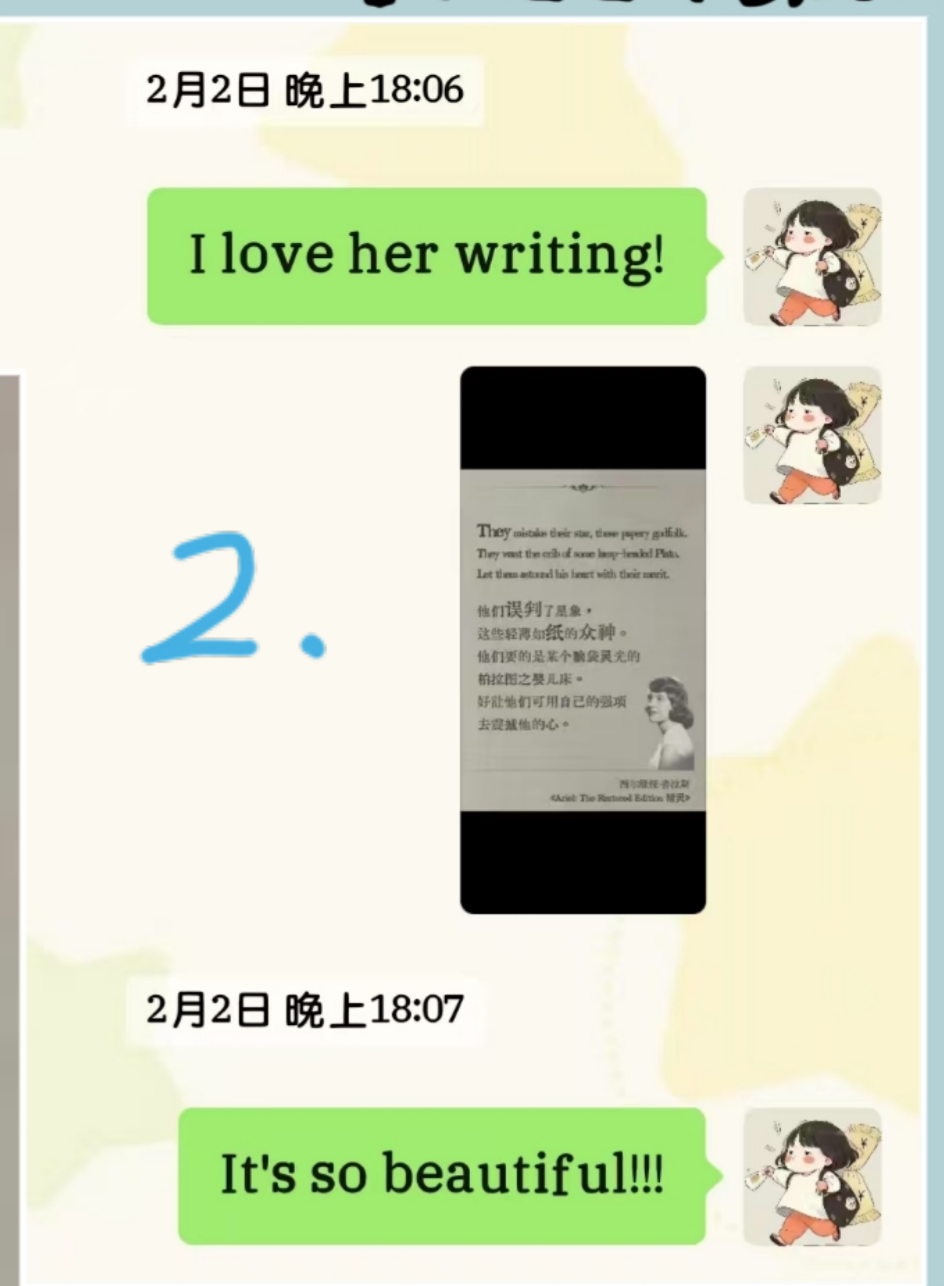
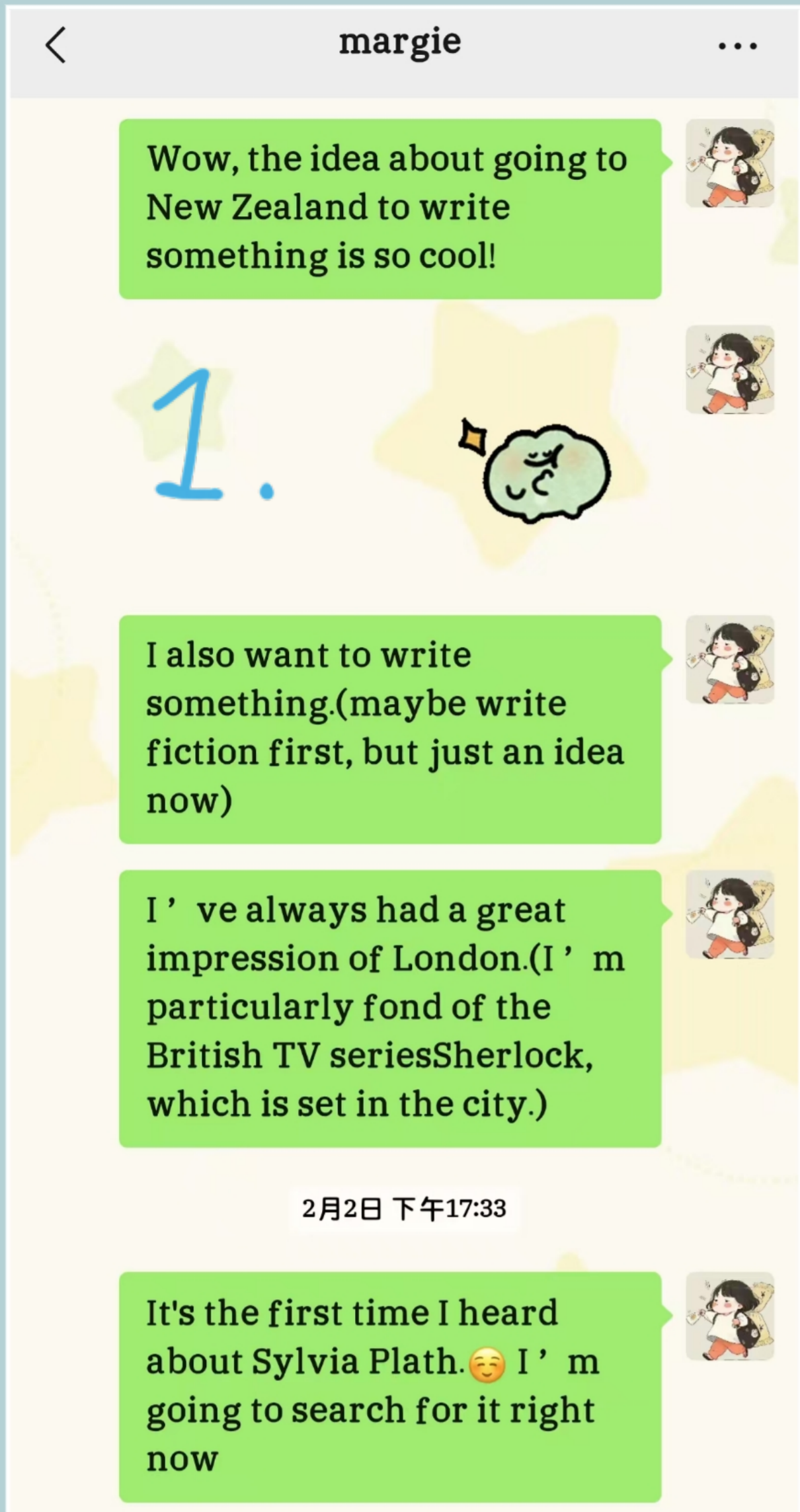
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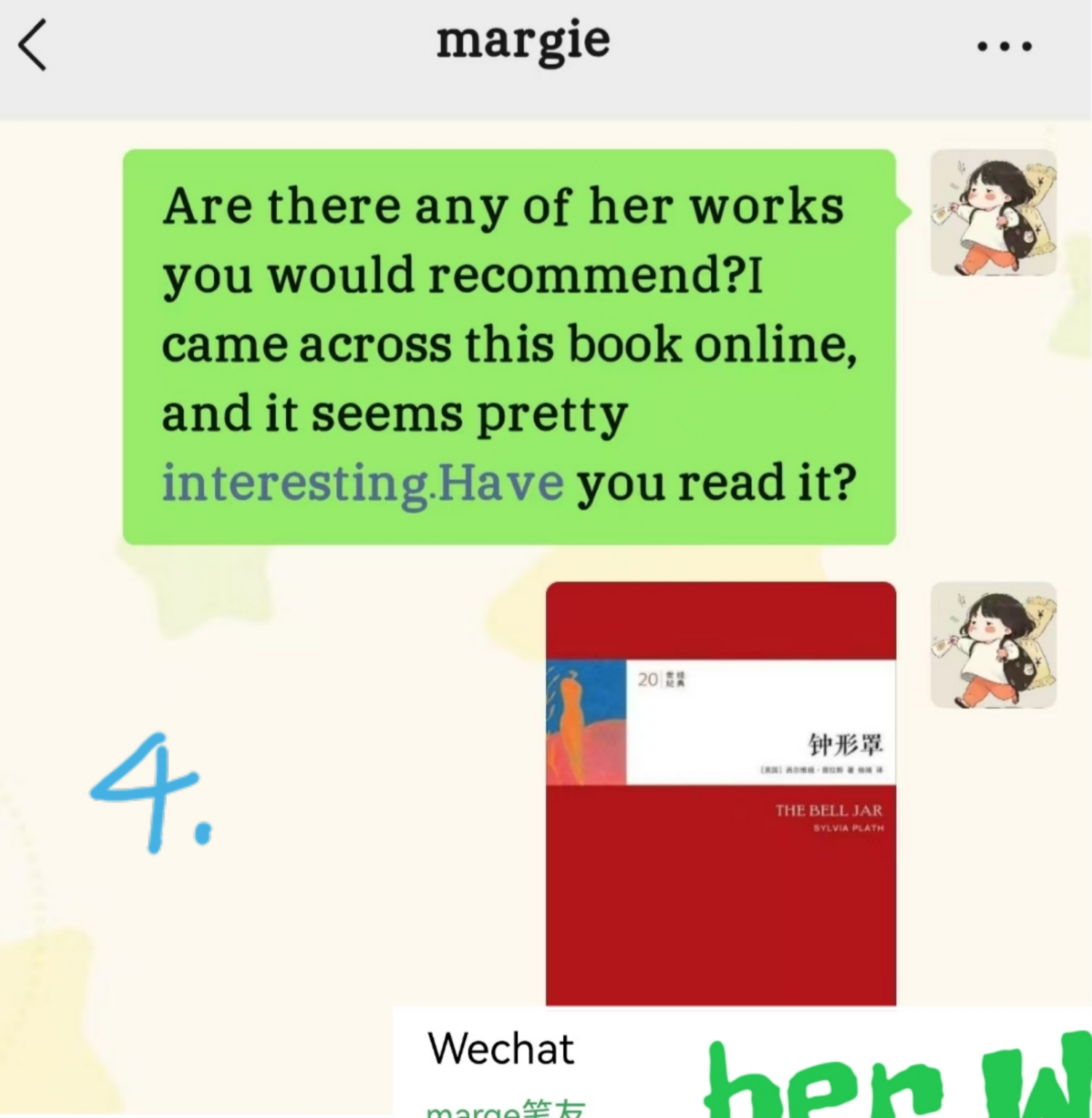


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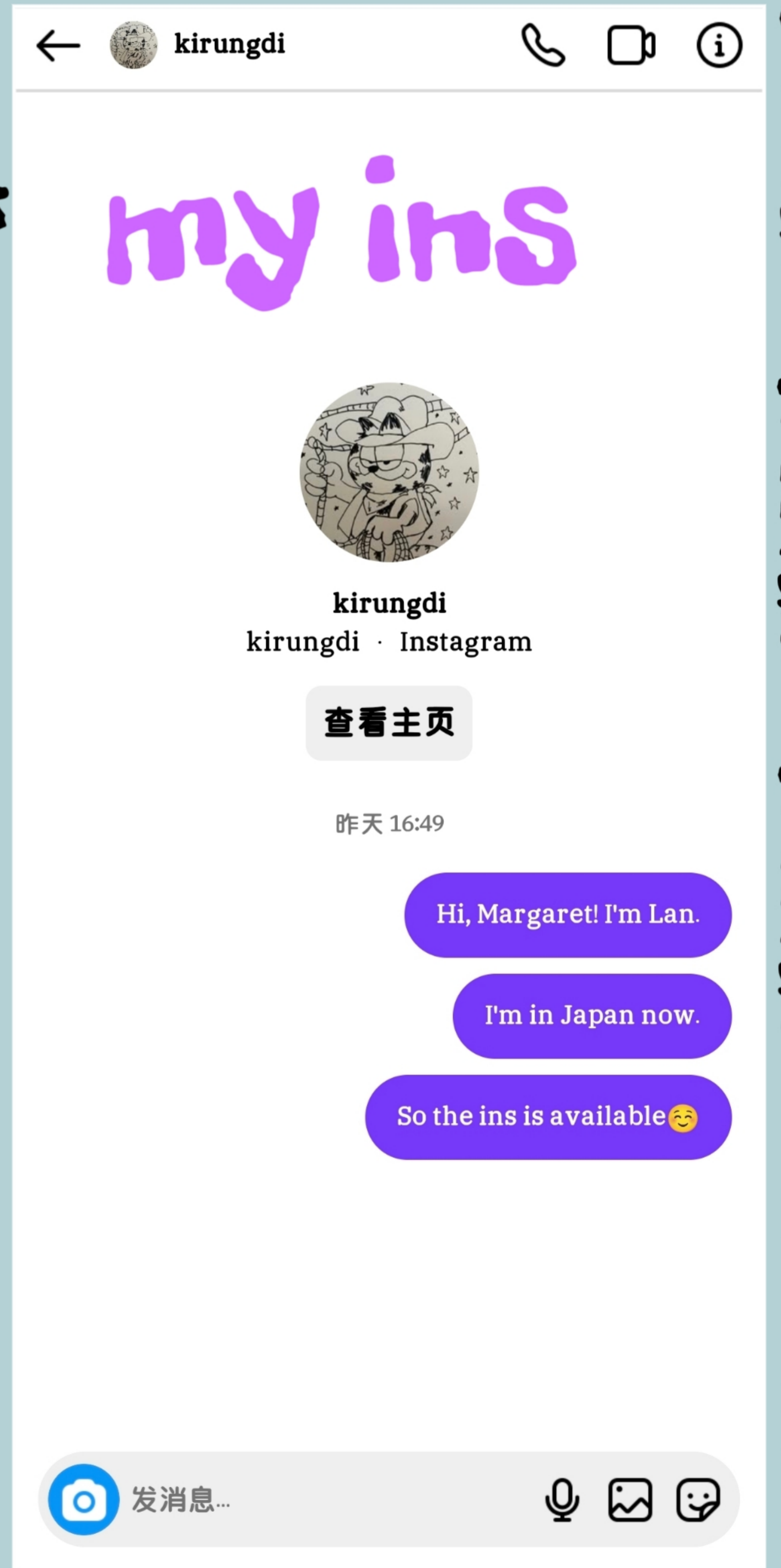
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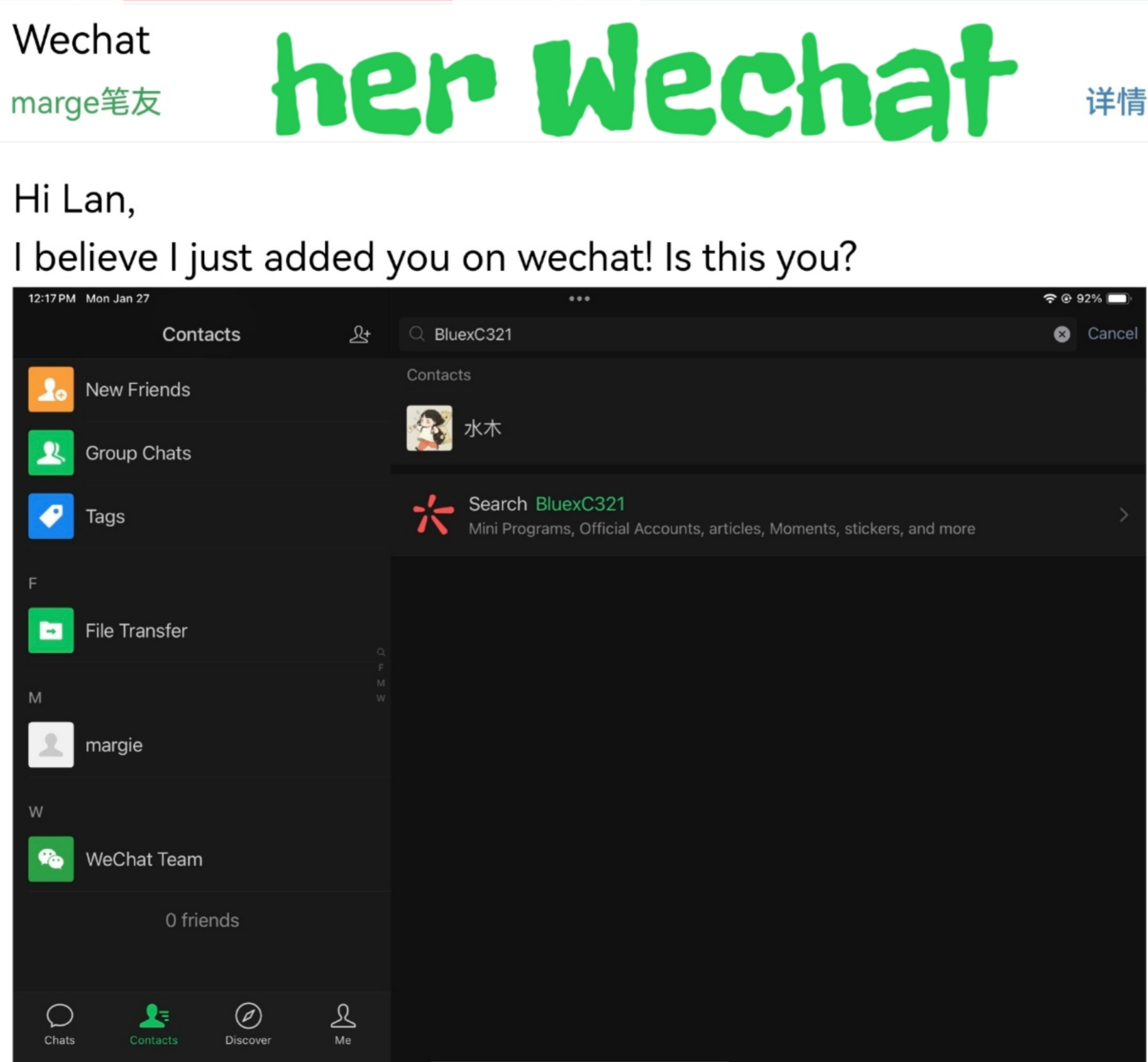
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Free talk



Free talk

Free talk

## The seventh general topic is: [Hypothetical Meeting]

- Share what you would do if you met your pen pal? Where would you meet, or what places would you visit together?

How we interact with the world and our habits

Hypothetical Meeting

marge笔友

详情

Hi Lan,

If we were to meet, I would be quite happy and enthused! I love meeting new people of all backgrounds and would love to see you in person, how you interact with the world, and your habits!

I think that would be so interesting and lovely.

I ideally would love to visit you in China, Hong Kong, or Taiwan. I haven't been back since I was 10 years old, so I would love to go back with someone who is familiar with the environments. I would love to go out with you, see some local art, underground scenes, and maybe even see some concerts. I would also love to eat some local food, and talk about life! It would be so wonderful to get to see your face too! What would you like to do if we met?

Here's a link to a compilation of some of my favorite moments of 2024. It was a very special year for me, and I feel like this video gives a good idea of what I like to do. I hope to hear from you soon!

Let me know what you think of my video!

Margaret

So am I

I think so

America, New York, or Hawaii

~ call back: the words reminds me of our first letter.

It feels like a spiritual journey that transcends

culture and geography. The tapestry of your life unfolds before my eyes, each frame brimming with exotic charm and your unique essence, offering fresh perspectives and experiences that allow me to appreciate the diversity and boundless possibilities of life. It's an emotional exchange that leaps across the screen, a cultural resonance that needs no words, a profound emotional stirring deep within the heart.

# The eighth general topic is: [Life Goals and Reflection]

Reflect on your time spent communicating with your pen pal.

What have you enjoyed about the exchange,  
what have you learned from your conversations with each other?



difference friendship sports food  
cross-culture same nature life  
music feminism horizon dream

## Thank you for meeting.

Best wishes, Lan

2024-2025-future