# The thin wall, a Chinese short story for HSK 2

Every night at eleven, the neighbor Lín Fēng has never seen sings the same song through the wall, very badly. What can Lín Fēng do?

你会唱歌吗？我有一个唱歌的故事！
Nǐ huì chàng gē ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge chàng gē de gùshi!
*Can you sing? I have a story about singing!*

我在广州租了一个小房间。房间很便宜，可是墙很薄。
Wǒ zài Guǎngzhōu zūle yí ge xiǎo fángjiān. Fángjiān hěn piányi, kěshì qiáng hěn báo.
*I rent a small room in Guǎngzhōu. The room is cheap, but the wall is very thin.*

我从来没见过我的邻居，可是他做什么，我都听得到。
Wǒ cónglái méi jiànguo wǒ de línjū, kěshì tā zuò shénme, wǒ dōu tīng de dào.
*I have never seen my neighbor, but I can hear everything he does.*

每天晚上十一点，他都唱歌。总是那一首歌，唱得很难听。
Měi tiān wǎnshang shíyī diǎn, tā dōu chàng gē. Zǒngshì nà yì shǒu gē, chàng de hěn nántīng.
*Every night at eleven he sings. Always the same song, and he sings it very badly.*

第一天晚上，我很累，很想睡觉。你猜，我做了什么？
Dì yī tiān wǎnshang, wǒ hěn lèi, hěn xiǎng shuìjiào. Nǐ cāi, wǒ zuòle shénme?
*The first night I was very tired, and I really wanted to sleep. Guess what I did?*

我把头放到枕头下面。可是还是听得到。
Wǒ bǎ tóu fàngdào zhěntou xiàmiàn. Kěshì háishi tīng de dào.
*I put my head under my pillow. But I could still hear him.*

第二天晚上一样，第三天晚上也一样。每天十一点，还是那首歌。
Dì èr tiān wǎnshang yíyàng, dì sān tiān wǎnshang yě yíyàng. Měi tiān shíyī diǎn, háishi nà shǒu gē.
*The second night was the same. The third night too. Every night at eleven, that same song.*

一个月以后，这首歌我全会唱了。我不想学，可是我学会了。
Yí ge yuè yǐhòu, zhè shǒu gē wǒ quán huì chàng le. Wǒ bù xiǎng xué, kěshì wǒ xuéhuì le.
*After one month I could sing the whole song. I didn't want to learn it, but I did.*

后来，我自己也开始唱：做饭的时候唱，洗衣服的时候也唱。我停不下来。
Hòulái, wǒ zìjǐ yě kāishǐ chàng: zuò fàn de shíhou chàng, xǐ yīfu de shíhou yě chàng. Wǒ tíng bu xiàlai.
*Then I started to sing it myself: when I cooked, when I washed my clothes. I couldn't stop.*

两个月以后，晚上十一点，我躺在床上……在等那首歌。
Liǎng ge yuè yǐhòu, wǎnshang shíyī diǎn, wǒ tǎng zài chuáng shang…… zài děng nà shǒu gē.
*Two months later, at eleven at night, I was lying in bed... waiting for the song.*

有一天晚上，十一点了，没有歌。十一点半，还是没有。你猜，那天晚上我睡着了吗？
Yǒu yì tiān wǎnshang, shíyī diǎn le, méiyǒu gē. Shíyī diǎn bàn, háishi méiyǒu. Nǐ cāi, nà tiān wǎnshang wǒ shuìzháo le ma?
*Then one night it was eleven, and there was no song. Eleven thirty: still nothing. Guess: did I sleep that night?*

没有。我看着墙，看了一个晚上。
Méiyǒu. Wǒ kànzhe qiáng, kànle yí ge wǎnshang.
*No. I looked at the wall all night.*

第二天晚上，还是没有歌。我开始担心了：他病了吗？搬走了吗？
Dì èr tiān wǎnshang, háishi méiyǒu gē. Wǒ kāishǐ dānxīn le: tā bìng le ma? Bānzǒu le ma?
*The next night, still no song. I started to worry. Was he sick? Had he moved away?*

第三天，我买了一些水果，去敲他的门。
Dì sān tiān, wǒ mǎile yìxiē shuǐguǒ, qù qiāo tā de mén.
*On the third day I bought some fruit and went to knock on his door.*

开门的是一个跟我差不多大的男人。我说：“你好，我是你的邻居。你怎么不唱歌了？你没事吧？”
Kāi mén de shì yí ge gēn wǒ chàbuduō dà de nánrén. Wǒ shuō: “Nǐ hǎo, wǒ shì nǐ de línjū. Nǐ zěnme bú chàng gē le? Nǐ méi shì ba?”
*A man about my age opened the door. I said: “Hi, I'm your neighbor. Why don't you sing anymore? Are you OK?”*

他的脸一下子红了：“你听得到？真不好意思！”
Tā de liǎn yíxiàzi hóng le: “Nǐ tīng de dào? Zhēn bù hǎoyìsi!”
*His face turned red: “You can hear me? I'm so sorry!”*

我说：“没关系，我喜欢听！你为什么不唱了？”你猜，他说了什么？
Wǒ shuō: “Méi guānxi, wǒ xǐhuan tīng! Nǐ wèishénme bú chàng le?” Nǐ cāi, tā shuōle shénme?
*I said: “That's OK, I like it! Why did you stop?” Guess what he said?*

他说：“那首歌……我以前很喜欢。”
Tā shuō: “Nà shǒu gē…… wǒ yǐqián hěn xǐhuan.”
*He said: “That song… I used to love it.”*

“可是这个楼里有一个人，每天做饭的时候都唱。”
“Kěshì zhège lóu lǐ yǒu yí ge rén, měi tiān zuò fàn de shíhou dōu chàng.”
*“But someone in this building sings it every day, when he cooks.”*

“他唱得太难听了。我再也不想听那首歌了。”
“Tā chàng de tài nántīng le. Wǒ zài yě bù xiǎng tīng nà shǒu gē le.”
*“He sings it so badly. I never want to hear that song again.”*

## Words in the story

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|---|---|---|
| 唱歌<br>chàng gē<br>*to sing* | 租<br>zū<br>*to rent* | 墙<br>qiáng<br>*wall* |
| 薄<br>báo<br>*thin* | 邻居<br>línjū<br>*neighbor* | 听得到<br>tīng de dào<br>*can hear* |
| 一首歌<br>yì shǒu gē<br>*a song (首 counts songs)* | 难听<br>nántīng<br>*bad to listen to* | 枕头<br>zhěntou<br>*pillow* |
| 全会<br>quán huì<br>*can do all of it* | 学会<br>xuéhuì<br>*to learn (until you know it)* | 停不下来<br>tíng bu xiàlai<br>*can't stop* |
| 躺<br>tǎng<br>*to lie down* | 睡着<br>shuìzháo<br>*to fall asleep* | 担心<br>dānxīn<br>*to worry* |
| 搬走<br>bānzǒu<br>*to move away* | 敲门<br>qiāo mén<br>*to knock on the door* | 差不多大<br>chàbuduō dà<br>*about the same age* |
| 不好意思<br>bù hǎoyìsi<br>*sorry, embarrassed* | 楼<br>lóu<br>*building* | 再也不<br>zài yě bù<br>*never again* |

**Hear this story from an AI chatbot:** kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/the-thin-wall