



ADVENTURES IN LANGUAGE



MANDARIN CHINESE ACTIVITY

How to express "be about to" in Mandarin Chinese?

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Word Bank

Mandarin	Transcription	Translation
上学	shàngxué	to go to school
妹妹	mèimei	younger sister
哭	kū	to cry
下雨	xiàyǔ	to rain
天	tiān	sky
商店	shāngdiàn	shop
开门	kāimén	to open the door
学校	xuéxiào	school
聚会	jùhuì	party
开始	kāishǐ	to start
旅行	lǚxíng	to travel
生	shēng	to give birth

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1 Rearrange the following to make a correct sentence.

- a. 上学 他 了 要。
Shàngxué tā le yào.
He is about to go to school.
- b. 哭 我 妹妹 了 要 快。
Kū wǒ mèimei le yào kuài.
My younger sister is about to cry.
- c. 要 天 了 下 雨 就。
Yào tiān le xià yǔ jiù.
It's going to rain soon.
- d. 了 就 商店 开 门。
Le jiù shāngdiàn kāimén.
The store is about to open.

2 Translate the following using (快 kuài/ 就 jiù) 要 (yào) ... 了 (le).

- a. He is about to go to the shops.
- b. She is coming to Beijing soon.
- c. I am leaving now.
- d. School is about to open.

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- 3** Based on the clues provided below, describe what are going to happen soon, using (快 kuài/ 就 jiù) 要 (yào) ... 了 (le).



Clue 1: things prepared ready for a party



Clue 2: items prepared ready for travel



Clue 3: she is ready for a new baby

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- 1**
- a. 他要上学了。
Tā yào shàngxué le.
He is about to go to school.
 - b. 我妹妹快要哭了。
Wǒ mèimei kuài yào kū le.
My younger sister is about to cry.
 - c. 天就要下雨了。
Tiān jiù yào xià yǔ le.
It's going to rain soon.
 - d. 商店就开门了。
Shāngdiàn jiù kāimén le.
The store is about to open.

- 2**
- a. 他要去商店了。
Tā yào qù shāngdiàn le.
 - b. 她要来北京了。
Tā yào lái Běijīng le.
 - c. 我就要走了。
Wǒ jiù yào zǒu le.
 - d. 学校快开学了。
Xuéxiào kuài kāixué le.

- 3**
- 聚会要开始了。
Jùhuì yào kāishǐ le.
The party is about to begin.

他就要去旅行了。
Tā jiù yào qù lǚxíng le.
He is going to travel soon.

她快要生了。
Tā kuài yào shēng le.
She is about to give birth.

