

Grammar point: 文法

1. “A stroll around the night market sure is tiring.”

There is a difference between “S + Be + tired” and “S + Be+ tiring.” If someone says, “Sarah is tired,” the person is making an observation that she thinks Sarah feels tired. If, however, someone said that something about Sarah is tiring, the speaker is saying that something about Sarah makes interaction with her tiring, but not that she is tired. For example, if Sarah likes to talk a lot in a high pitched voice and picks mistakes from other people all the time, they may say that “Talking to Sarah is so tiring.”

In the text, May feels tired because she has strolled around the night market. “S + Be + tiring” indicates that doing something (“S”) tends to make someone tired.

2. “Why don’t we go have some shaved ice?”

Notice that for the phrase “go have,” there is no “to” between the two words. When sentences use “go + V,” nothing should be put between them. “Go eat cake,” “She will go sign up tomorrow,” or “let’s go take a walk” are all such examples. Grammar books say that two verbs cannot exist in one working sentence, so what makes this phrase different? [Explanations? Is it because “come” and “go” are directional verbs, and are these the only exceptions?]

3. “It was made from pig’s blood and sticky rice.”

There is a difference between “made of” and “made from.” When something is made *of* something else, the form does not change; thus, if something is made *from* something else, the form would have changed. A shirt is made *of* cotton because it is still cotton. Wine is made *from* grapes because it has changed its form. Paper is made *from* trees, but a house is made *of* bricks. Here the pig’s blood cake has changed its form—it is neither pig’s blood anymore, nor is it truly sticky rice—so it would be made *from* the two ingredients.