

Complete a message with the right character

HSK 2

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

Use the sentence meaning and pronunciation to choose a character.

Build the meaning

Characters with similar sounds can have different meanings: 在 zài locates something; 再 zài can mean again or then.

To complete a message, check the whole sentence, the pinyin cue, and the role of the missing word. Guessing from sound alone is not enough.

Useful words in context

- **在 zài – at / in.** 我在学校。
- **再 zài – again / then.** 请再说一遍。
- **见 jiàn – see.** 明天见。
- **这里 zhèlǐ – here.** 我在这里。
- **字 zì – character.** 这个字怎么读？

Read for meaning

林安写：“我在学校。请明天再来。明天下午三点见。”她检查了时间和地点，然后发出消息。

Lin An writes that she is at school and asks the reader to come again tomorrow, meeting at three in the afternoon. She checks the time and place before sending.

Listen to a different passage

Ask a partner to read this with the script closed. Use the online practice for browser playback.

我在图书馆。明天下午四点见。

I am at the library. See you tomorrow at four in the afternoon.

Speak and write

Ask a partner how to read 在, then say a sentence with it. Explain in English how 再 differs.

Write a two-line message giving your location and tomorrow’s meeting time. Check 在 and 再 carefully.

One speaking model: A: 这个字怎么读？ B: zài。 A: 我在学校。

One writing model: 我在学校。明天下午四点见。

- Use 在 for the current location.
- Give tomorrow’s time.
- Check the characters, not only pinyin.

Check the distinction: A correct pinyin sound does not guarantee the correct character. This authored practice is separate from the official sample with quarantined writing-key numbering.

Learn step by step · Practise and review.