

Sentence patterns – existence & emphasis

HSK 4

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.

并 + 不 / 没 (emphatic denial)

■ Deny an assumed difficulty

- Someone says a task must be difficult; you disagree.
- 这并不难。** – 并 strengthens the rejection of the assumed difficulty.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **并 + 不 / 没 (emphatic denial)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

这并不难。

zhè bìng bù nán

Word guide: 这 – this; 并 – actually; 不 – not; 难 – hard.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **这并不难。**: 并 strengthens the rejection of the assumed difficulty.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- This negative use differs from 并 as a connector meaning and.
- The emphatic wording is still the speaker's assessment, not objective proof.

■ Use the distinction

- 并 strengthens the rejection of the assumed difficulty.
- This negative use differs from 并 as a connector meaning and. The emphatic wording is still the speaker's assessment, not objective proof.

■ Try it with help closed

Someone says a task must be difficult; you disagree. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 这并不难。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- This negative use differs from 并 as a connector meaning and.
- The emphatic wording is still the speaker's assessment, not objective proof.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.