Adverbs

HSK 3 Grammar

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

又 + Verb + 了 (again, in the past)

Late again

- Your classmate arrived late on Monday, and on Tuesday the teacher sighs when the door opens at 8:20.
- **他又迟到了。** – "He is late again." 又 says the same thing has happened once more.

Subject + 又 + Verb + 了

- **又** goes before the verb and 了 marks the repeated event as having happened: 又下雨了, 又忘了.
- It often carries a feeling: surprise, annoyance or amusement that it happened again.

我又忘了他的名字。
wǒ yòu wàng le tā de míng zi
Word guide: 我 – I; 又 – again; 忘 – forget; 他 – his; 名字 – name.



Repeated past events

- **昨天下雨，今天又下雨了。** – "It rained yesterday, and today it is raining again."
- With an object: **她又买了一双鞋。** – "She bought another pair of shoes."

她又买了一双鞋。
tā yòu mǎi le yì shuāng xié
Word guide: 她 – she; 又 – again; 买 – buy; 一 – a; 双 – pair; 鞋 – shoes.

Past again needs 又, not 再

- For something that has already happened again, use 又: 他又来了, not 他再来了.
- 又 stands before the verb, after the subject and any time word: 他昨天又迟到了.

又 for a repetition you can predict

- 又 also works for a regular repetition that is certain to come: **明天又是星期一了。** – "Tomorrow is Monday again."
- For a planned or requested repetition, use 再: 请再说一遍 – "Please say it again."

明天又是星期一了。
míng tiān yòu shì xīng qī yī le
Word guide: 明天 – tomorrow; 又 – again; 是 – is; 星期一 – Monday.

Recap

- **又 + Verb + 了** = did it again (it already happened once more).
- 又 also fits a certain, regular repetition (又是星期一了); a planned or requested "again" takes 再.

Practise this pattern step by step.

一直 (all along, continuously)

It has not stopped all day

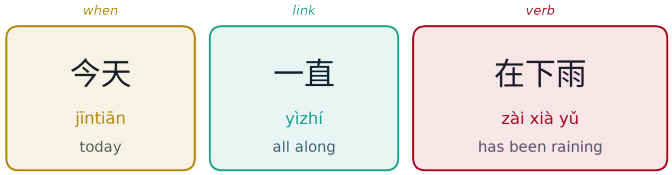
- You look out of the window at 6 p.m. The rain started in the morning and has not stopped once.
- **今天一直在下雨。** – "It has been raining all day (non-stop)."

一直 + Verb phrase

- **Subject + 一直 + Verb** = do something continuously, without a break, over a period: 一直在等, 一直很忙.
- It goes before the verb or adjective and often combines with 在 or 都.

我一直在等你。
wǒ yì zhí zài děng nǐ
Word guide: 我 – I; 一直 – the whole time; 在 – (ongoing); 等 – wait for; 你 – you.

一直: without a break



All along: a state that has not changed

- **我一直想去中国。** – "I have always wanted to go to China."
- **他一直住在上海。** – "He has lived in Shanghai all along." The state lasts from then until now.

他一直住在上海。
tā yì zhí zhù zài Shàng hǎi
Word guide: 他 – he; 一直 – all along; 住 – live; 在 – in; 上海 – Shanghai.

Continuous, not repeated

- 一直 means without interruption; for something done again and again, use 总是 or 经常.
- Put 一直 before the verb, not at the end of the sentence: 他一直在工作, not 他在工作一直.

Another meaning: straight ahead

- Giving directions, 一直 means "straight": **一直往前走，就到了。** – "Go straight ahead and you're there."
- With 没 or 不, it means "never, all this time": 他一直没来 – "He still hasn't come (the whole time)."

一直往前走。
yì zhí wǎng qián zǒu
Word guide: 一直 – straight; 往 – towards; 前 – the front; 走 – walk.

Recap

- **一直 + Verb/Adj** = continuously, all along, from then until now.
- 一直没 = has not … the whole time. In directions, 一直走 = go straight.

Practise this pattern step by step.

总是 (always – a habit)

Every single morning

- Your father starts every day the same way, whatever the weather.
- **爸爸早上总是先喝一杯咖啡。** – "Dad always has a cup of coffee first thing in the morning."

Subject + 总是 + Verb

- **总是** = "always, every time": a habit or a pattern that keeps repeating. It goes before the verb.
- Time words come before it: 他周末总是去爬山 – "At weekends he always goes hiking."

他周末总是去爬山。
tā zhōu mò zǒng shì qù pá shān
Word guide: 他 – he; 周末 – at weekends; 总是 – always; 去 – go; 爬山 – hiking.

总是: always



Habits and repeated situations

- **她总是第一个到教室。** – "She is always the first to arrive in the classroom."
- It can describe a repeated state too: 这里的冬天总是很冷。– "Winters here are always cold."

她总是第一个到教室。
tā zǒng shì dì yī gè dào jiào shì
Word guide: 她 – she; 总是 – always; 第一个 – the first; 到 – arrive at; 教室 – the classroom.

Position and negation

- 总是 goes before the verb, never at the end: 他总是迟到, not 他迟到总是.
- "Never" is not 总是不 in most cases; use 从来不: 他从来不喝酒 – "He never drinks."

总是 versus 老是 and 一直

- 总是 is neutral: a fact about a habit. 老是 sounds like a complaint: 你老是忘带钥匙!
- 一直 is one continuous stretch (一直在下雨); 总是 is the same thing happening again and again.

你老是忘带钥匙!
nǐ lǎo shì wàng dài yào shi
Word guide: 你 – you; 老是 – always; 忘 – forget; 带 – to bring; 钥匙 – keys.

Recap

- **总是 + Verb** = always, every time: a habit or repeated pattern.
- Before the verb, after time words. "Never" = 从来不; a complaint often uses 老是.

Practise this pattern step by step.

终于 (finally, at last)

After a two-hour wait

- The train was delayed and you have been waiting on the platform since six. At eight it pulls in.
- **火车终于来了!** – "The train has finally come!"

Subject + 终于 + Verb (+ 了)

- **终于** = "finally, at last": a result comes after a long wait, effort or process. It goes before the verb.
- Because it reports an outcome that has now happened, the sentence usually ends with 了 or uses Verb + 了.

我终于找到了我的钥匙。
wǒ zhōng yú zhǎo dào le wǒ de yào shi
Word guide: 我 – I; 终于 – finally; 找到 – found; 我 – my; 钥匙 – keys.



After effort or after a long process

- **他学了三年，终于考上了大学。** – "After three years of study, he finally got into university."
- The outcome need not be good news: **他忙了一个月，终于病倒了。** – "After a month of overwork he finally fell ill."

他学了三年，终于考上了大学。
tā xué le sān nián zhōng yú kǎo shàng le dà xué
Word guide: 他 – he; 学 – study; 三年 – three years; 终于 – finally; 考上 – got into; 大学 – university.

What 终于 needs

- It needs a long wait or process before it; it does not mean "at the end of a list". For "lastly", use 最后.
- Put 终于 after the subject, before the verb: 他终于来了, not 终于他来了 in ordinary speech.

终于 versus 最后

- 最后 orders events: 我们先吃饭，最后去看电影 – "First we ate, and last we went to a film."
- 终于 adds the feeling of a long wait reaching its end: 等了两个小时，电影终于开始了。

等了两个小时，电影终于开始了。
děng le liǎng ge xiǎo shí diàn yǐng zhōng yú kāi shǐ le
Word guide: 等 – wait; 两个 – two; 小时 – hours; 电影 – the film; 终于 – finally; 开始 – start.

Recap

- **终于 + Verb (+ 了)** = finally, at last, after a long wait or effort; the outcome may be welcome or not.
- 终于 goes before the verb. For the last step in a sequence, use 最后.

Practise this pattern step by step.

几乎 (nearly, almost)

So close

- You stayed up late and only remembered the test at breakfast.
- **我几乎忘了今天有考试。** – "I almost forgot there was a test today." It came very close but did not happen.

几乎 + Verb or Adjective

- **几乎** = “almost, nearly”: it goes before the verb, adjective or number phrase it limits.
- It often goes with 都 or 每: 他几乎每天都跑步 – “He runs almost every day.”

他几乎每天都跑步。
tā jī hū měi tiān dōu pǎo bù
Word guide: 他 – he; 几乎 – almost; 每天 – every day; 都 – (all); 跑步 – run.

几乎: almost



Almost all, almost none

- With 所有 or 都: **几乎所有的学生都来了。** – “Almost all the students came.”
- With 没 or 不: **我几乎没睡觉。** – “I hardly slept at all.”

几乎所有的学生都来了。
jī hū suǒ yǒu de xué sheng dōu lái le
Word guide: 几乎 – almost; 所有 – all; 学生 – students; 都 – (all); 来 – come.

Where 几乎 goes

- Put 几乎 before the part that is “almost”: 几乎每天, 几乎没有, 几乎都. Not after the verb.
- With 都, 几乎 comes first: 我们几乎都去过, not 我们都几乎去过.

几乎 versus 差不多

- 差不多 also means “about, almost”, and is more common in speech: 差不多十点了.
- 几乎 stresses how close something came, and suits 没 / 不: 他几乎不说话 – “He hardly says a word.”

他几乎不说话。
tā jī hū bù shuō huà
Word guide: 他 – he; 几乎 – almost; 不 – not; 说话 – speak.

Recap

- **几乎 + Verb / Adj / number phrase** = almost, nearly.
- 几乎都 / 几乎所有 = almost all; 几乎没 / 几乎不 = hardly at all.

Practise this pattern step by step.

只 (only)

Just one bowl, please

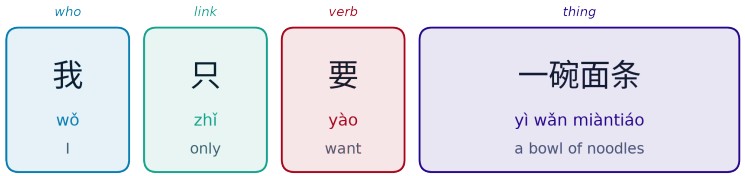
- At a noodle shop your friend orders three dishes. You are not hungry.
- **我只要一碗面条。** – “I only want a bowl of noodles.”

Subject + 只 + Verb

- **只** = “only, just” and goes before the verb, even when “only” in English seems to belong to the object.
- 我只喝茶 – “I only drink tea.” 他只去过北京 – “He has only been to Beijing.”

他只去过北京。
tā zhǐ qù guo Běi jīng
Word guide: 他 – he; 只 – only; 去过 – has been to; 北京 – Beijing.

只: only



Only a small amount

- With a number: **我只有十块钱。** – “I only have ten yuan.”
- With a completed action: **昨天我只睡了五个小时。** – “Yesterday I only slept five hours.”

我只有十块钱。
wǒ zhǐ yǒu shí kuài qián
Word guide: 我 – I; 只 – only; 有 – have; 十 – ten; 块 – yuan; 钱 – money.

只 never stands before the subject

- “Only I went” is 只有我去了, not 只我去了: before a noun or the subject, use 只有.
- Keep 只 before the verb, not after it: 我只喝了一杯, not 我喝了只一杯.

只 versus 只有

- 只 limits the action: 我只会说一点儿中文 – “I can only speak a little Chinese.”
- 只有 limits a person or thing: **只有她知道答案。** – “Only she knows the answer.”

只有她知道答案。
zhǐ yǒu tā zhī dào dá àn
Word guide: 只有 – only; 她 – she; 知道 – knows; 答案 – the answer.

Recap

- **只 + Verb** = only, just; it stands before the verb.
- To make a noun or subject “only”, use **只有 + noun**: 只有我, 只有一个.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Duration + 没 + Verb + 了 (how long you haven’t ...)

Three days without meat

- Your friend is on a vegetable diet and is starting to miss dumplings.
- **我三天没吃肉了。** – “I haven’t eaten meat for three days.”

Duration + 没 + Verb + 了

- **Subject + duration + 没 + Verb (+ object) + 了** = has not done something for that length of time.
- The duration comes before 没, unlike a positive duration, which follows the verb.

我三天没吃肉了。
wǒ sān tiān méi chī ròu le
Word guide: 我 – I; 三天 – three days; 没 – not; 吃 – eat; 肉 – meat.



Counting the gap up to now

- **我们好久没见了！** – “We haven’t seen each other for ages!”
- **他两个星期没来上课了。** – “He hasn’t come to class for two weeks.”

我们好久没见了！
wǒ men hǎo jiǔ méi jiàn le
Word guide: 我们 – we; 好久 – a long time; 没 – not; 见 – see.

Two things that must stay

- Keep the final 了 when the gap lasts up to now: 我三天没吃肉了 means it is still true today.
- Put the duration before 没: 三天没吃肉了, not 没吃肉三天了.

Positive duration goes after the verb

- Positive: **我学了两年中文。** – “I studied Chinese for two years.” The duration follows the verb.
- Negative gap: **我两年没说中文了。** – “I haven’t spoken Chinese for two years.” The duration moves to the front.

我两年没说中文了。
wǒ liǎng nián méi shuō Zhōng wén le
Word guide: 我 – I; 两年 – two years; 没 – not; 说 – speak; 中文 – Chinese.

Recap

- **Duration + 没 + Verb + 了** = haven’t done it for that long (up to now).
- Negative gap: duration before 没. Positive duration: after the verb (学了两年).

Practise this pattern step by step.

Time + 才 (not until – lateness)

Not until midnight

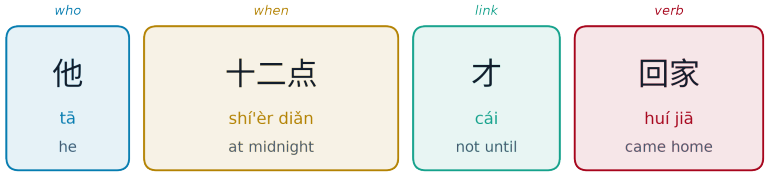
- The party was supposed to end at ten. Your brother walked in at midnight.
- **他十二点才回家。** – “He didn’t get home until twelve.” 才 says it was later than expected.

Time + 才 + Verb

- **Subject + time + 才 + Verb** = not until that time; the speaker finds it late.
- The time word comes before 才, and 才 stands right before the verb.

他十二点才回家。
tā shí èr diǎn cái huí jiā
Word guide: 他 – he; 十二点 – twelve o’clock; 才 – not until; 回家 – go home.

才: not until (later than expected)



Late after a condition or a process

- After a long process: **我学了三年才敢说中文。** – "I studied for three years before I dared to speak Chinese."
- The time can be a clause: **他吃了药才睡着。** – "He only fell asleep after taking medicine."

我学了三年才敢说中文。
wǒ xué le sān nián cái gǎn shuō Zhōng wén
Word guide: 我 – I; 学 – study; 三年 – three years; 才 – only then; 敢 – dare; 说 – speak; 中文 – Chinese.

Read 才 and aspect in context

- The simple late-arrival model here is 他十二点才回家. Other contexts can allow 了; do not treat 才 as a universal ban on aspect or change-of-state marking.
- The time word goes before 才: 九点才起床, not 才九点起床 (that means "it's only nine").

The opposite: 就 for early

- **他六点就回家了。** – "He was home as early as six." 就 makes the time sound early, and 了 is normal.
- The same clock time can take 才 or 就, depending on what was expected.

他六点就回家了。
tā liù diǎn jiù huí jiā le
Word guide: 他 – he; 六点 – six o'clock; 就 – already; 回家 – go home.

Recap

- **Time + 才 + Verb** = not until then; later than expected.
- The simple late-arrival model omits final 了. Other 才 constructions can use aspectual or sentence-final 了; choose from the whole message.

Practise this pattern step by step.

先 … ，再 … (first …, then …)

Instructions for a guest

- A friend is staying with you and asks how to use the washing machine.
- **你先放衣服，再按这个按钮。** – "First put the clothes in, then press this button."

先 + Verb 1，再 + Verb 2

- **先 … 再 …** = "first …, then …" for plans, suggestions and instructions.
- Both words are adverbs, so each goes before its verb, after the subject.

我们先吃饭，再看电影吧。
wǒ men xiān chī fàn zài kàn diàn yǐng ba
Word guide: 我们 – we; 先 – first; 吃饭 – eat; 再 – then; 看 – watch; 电影 – a film.

先 …，再 …: first, then



Suggesting an order

- **你先休息一下，再做作业。** – "Rest a bit first, then do your homework."
- With 然后 between them for a longer list: 先洗手，然后做饭，再吃饭。

你先休息一下，再做作业。
nǐ xiān xiū xi yí xià zài zuò zuò yè
Word guide: 你 – you; 先 – first; 休息 – rest; 一下 – a bit; 再 – then; 做 – do; 作业 – homework.

Future plans, not past events

- 再 is for steps still to come. For what already happened, use 先 … 然后 / 又 …: 我先吃了饭，然后去看电影了.
- Put 先 after the subject: 我先走, not 先我走.

先 … 再 … versus 先 … 然后 …

- 然后 is a conjunction and can start the second clause on its own: 先买票，然后进去。
- 先 … 再 … stresses that the second step must wait for the first: 你先想好，再回答。

你先想好，再回答。
nǐ xiān xiǎng hǎo zài huí dá

Word guide: 你 – you; 先 – first; 想 – think; 好 – it through; 再 – then; 回答 – answer.

Recap

- **先 A，再 B** = first A, then B, for plans and instructions.
- For past sequences, use 先 … 然后 / 又 … with 了.

Practise this pattern step by step.

一边 … 一边 … (doing two things at once)

Breakfast and the news

- Every morning your grandfather reads the paper while he drinks his tea.
- **爷爷一边喝茶一边看报纸。** – "Grandpa reads the paper while drinking tea."

一边 + Verb 1 + 一边 + Verb 2

- **Subject + 一边 A + 一边 B** = do A and B at the same time. Each 一边 goes before its own verb.
- Both actions belong to the same person, and both are activities that can last: 听, 看, 走, 聊, 吃.

我一边听音乐一边做作业。
wǒ yì biān tīng yīn yuè yì biān zuò zuò yè
Word guide: 我 – I; 一边 – while; 听 – listen to; 音乐 – music; 一边 – (at the same time); 做 – do; 作业 – homework.



Shorter 边 … 边 …

- With one-syllable verbs, speakers often shorten it: **我们边走边聊。** – "We chatted as we walked."
- It also describes the scene in a story: 他一边哭一边说 – "He spoke while crying."

我们边走边聊。
wǒ men biān zǒu biān liáo
Word guide: 我们 – we; 边 – while; 走 – walk; 边 – (at the same time); 聊 – chat.

Actions, not states

- Use action verbs that can happen together; 一边是学生一边是老师 is wrong. For two roles, use 既 … 又 … or 也.
- Keep one subject before the first 一边: 他一边吃一边看, not 一边他吃一边看.

一边 … 一边 … versus 又 … 又 …

- 一边 … 一边 … is two actions at the same moment: 一边唱一边跳.
- 又 … 又 … describes two qualities or a lively scene: 又唱又跳 – "singing and dancing (all over the place)."

孩子们又唱又跳。
hái zi men yòu chàng yòu tiào
Word guide: 孩子们 – the children; 又 – both; 唱 – sing; 又 – and; 跳 – dance.

Recap

- **一边 A 一边 B** = doing A while doing B, same person, same time.
- Short form with one-syllable verbs: 边走边聊. Use action verbs, not 是 or other states.

Practise this pattern step by step.

老是 (always – a complaint)

Not again!

- Your roommate leaves dirty dishes in the sink, and it is the third time this week.
- **你老是不洗碗！** – "You never wash the dishes!" (literally "you always don't wash them"). 老是 complains.

Subject + 老是 + Verb

- **老是** = "always, keep on (doing)" with annoyance. It goes before the verb, like 总是.
- It is spoken and emotional; you usually would not use it in a formal report.

他老是迟到。
tā lǎo shì chí dào
Word guide: 他 – he; 老是 – keeps; 迟到 – being late.

老是: always (a complaint)



Complaints and worries

- **我的电脑老是出问题。** – "My computer keeps having problems."
- It can describe yourself: **我老是忘记带伞。** – "I keep forgetting to bring an umbrella."

我的电脑老是出问题。
wǒ de diàn nǎo lǎo shì chū wèn tí
Word guide: 我 – my; 电脑 – computer; 老是 – keeps; 出 – having; 问题 – problems.

Tone and position

- Use 老是 for something irritating or worrying; for a neutral habit (他总是七点起床) choose 总是.
- 老是 goes before the verb (or before 不 / 没): 你老是不听, not 你不老是听.

老是 versus 总是

- 总是 reports a pattern: **他总是坐地铁上班。** – "He always takes the subway to work."
- 老是 adds a complaint: **他老是坐错车。** – "He keeps getting on the wrong train."

他老是坐错车。
tā lǎo shì zuò cuò chē
Word guide: 他 – he; 老是 – keeps; 坐 – take; 错 – the wrong; 车 – train.

Recap

- **老是 + Verb** = keeps doing, always, with annoyance or worry.
- Spoken and emotional. For a neutral habit, use 总是.

Practise this pattern step by step.

才 + Number (only – a small amount)

Only ten years old

- A boy at the piano competition plays better than adults, and everyone is surprised by his age.
- **他才十岁，钢琴就弹得这么好！** – "He's only ten, and he already plays the piano this well!"

才 + Number

- **才 + number (+ measure word)** = "only": the speaker finds the amount small. 才五块钱, 才两个人.
- Before a verb with a number, 才 goes before the verb: 我才喝了一杯 – "I've only had one glass."

这件衣服才五十块。
zhè jiàn yī fu cái wǔ shí kuài
Word guide: 这 – this; 件 – (measure word); 衣服 – clothes; 才 – only; 五十 – fifty; 块 – yuan.

才 + number: only (less than expected)



Small amounts, early times

- **我才学了三个月中文。** – "I've only studied Chinese for three months."
- With a clock time it means "it's only …": **现在才七点，再睡一会儿吧。** – "It's only seven; sleep a little longer."

现在才七点，再睡一会儿吧。
xiàn zài cái qī diǎn zài shuì yí huìr ba
Word guide: 现在 – now; 才 – only; 七点 – seven o'clock; 再 – a little more; 睡 – sleep; 一会儿 – a while.

■ Which 才 is it?

- 才 before the number = “only that much”: 才九点 – “it’s only nine”.
- 才 after the time, before the verb = “not until”: 九点才起床 – “didn’t get up until nine”. Same word, different position.

■ 才 versus 只

- 只 limits an amount neutrally: 我只有十块钱.
- 才 adds the speaker’s surprise that the amount is small: 他才十岁 – “He’s only ten (so young!).”

我只有十块钱。
wǒ zhǐ yǒu shí kuài qián
Word guide: 我 – I; 只 – only; 有 – have; 十 – ten; 块 – yuan; 钱 – money.

■ Recap

- **才 + number** = only, and less than expected: 才十岁, 才五块钱.
- 才 + number = only; time + 才 + verb = not until. 只 is the neutral “only”.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 又 + Verb + 了 (again, in the past)

0201.1 Complete: “My phone is broken again.” 我的手机 …… 坏了。

0201.2 Which says “He came again yesterday.”?

- A. 他昨天又来了。
- B. 他昨天再来了。
- C. 昨天他来了又。
- D. 他又昨天来了。

0201.3 Build: “She bought another pair of shoes.”

Arrange all chunks: 一双鞋。 / 又 / 买了 / 她

0201.4 明天又是星期一了 is correct, even though it is about tomorrow.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0201.5 Your classmate arrived late on Monday, and on Tuesday the teacher sighs when the door opens at 8:20. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 一直 (all along, continuously)

0202.1 Complete: “He has been busy the whole time.” 他 …… 很忙。

0202.2 “She goes to the gym every Monday and Friday.” Which adverb fits best?

- A. 才
- B. 经常
- C. 一直
- D. 又

0202.3 Build: “I have always wanted to go to China.”

Arrange all chunks: 一直 / 去中国。 / 想 / 我

0202.4 In directions, 一直走 means “keep turning”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0202.5 You look out of the window at 6 p.m. The rain started in the morning and has not stopped once. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 总是 (always – a habit)

0203.1 Complete: “She always walks to school.” 她 …… 走路去学校。

0203.2 Which says “He never eats meat.”?

- A. 他一直吃肉。
- B. 他总是吃肉。
- C. 他吃肉总是不。
- D. 他从来不吃肉。

0203.3 Match each sentence to what it expresses.

- 1. 他总是七点起床。
- 1. 你老是迟到!
- 1. 雨一直在下。
- A. a complaint about a habit
- B. a neutral habit
- C. one continuous stretch of time

0203.4 Build: “At weekends he always goes hiking.”

Arrange all chunks: 周末 / 去爬山。 / 他 / 总是

0203.5 Your father starts every day the same way, whatever the weather. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 终于 (finally, at last)

0204.1 Complete: “After a week of rain, the sun has finally come out.” 下了一个星期的雨，太阳 …… 出来了。

0204.2 “First we went to the museum, and lastly we went shopping.” Which word fills the gap? 我们先去了博物馆，_____ 去买东西。

- A. 又
- B. 终于
- C. 一直
- D. 最后

0204.3 Build: “I finally found my keys.”

Arrange all chunks: 我的钥匙。 / 终于 / 我 / 找到了

0204.4 终于 can only introduce good news.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0204.5 The train was delayed and you have been waiting on the platform since six. At eight it pulls in. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 几乎 (nearly, almost)

0205.1 Complete: “She goes to the library almost every day.” 她 …… 每天都去图书馆。

0205.2 Which says “We have almost all been there.”?

- A. 我们去过几乎都。
- B. 我们都几乎去过。
- C. 我们几乎都去过。
- D. 几乎我们去过都。

0205.3 我几乎没睡觉 means “I hardly slept at all.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0205.4 Build: “Almost all the students came.”

Arrange all chunks: 都 / 几乎 / 所有的学生 / 来了。

0205.5 You stayed up late and only remembered the test at breakfast. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 只 (only)

0206.1 Complete: “I only drink green tea.” 我 …… 喝绿茶。

0206.2 Which says “Only Xiao Wang came.”?

- A. 只小王来了。
- B. 小王只来了。
- C. 小王来了只。
- D. 只有小王来了。

0206.3 Build: “Yesterday I only slept five hours.”

Arrange all chunks: 昨天 / 只 / 睡了五个小时。 / 我

0206.4 我喝了只一杯咖啡 is correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0206.5 At a noodle shop your friend orders three dishes. You are not hungry. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Duration + 没 + Verb + 了 (how long you haven’t …)

0207.1 Complete: “I haven’t phoned home for a week.” 我一个星期没给家里打电话 ……。

0207.2 Which says “He hasn’t slept for two days.”?

- A. 他没两天睡觉。
- B. 他没睡觉两天了。
- C. 他睡觉两天没了。
- D. 他两天没睡觉了。

0207.3 Build: “We haven’t seen each other for ages!”

Arrange all chunks: 我们 / 好久 / 了！ / 没见

0207.4 In 我学了两年中文, the duration comes after the verb because the sentence is positive.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0207.5 Your friend is on a vegetable diet and is starting to miss dumplings. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Time + 才 (not until – lateness)

0208.1 Complete: “The film didn’t start until nine.” 电影九点 …… 开始。

0208.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他才十一点睡觉。
- B. 他十一点睡才觉了。
- C. 他十一点才睡觉。
- D. 他十一点睡觉才。

0208.3 Build: “He only fell asleep after taking medicine.”

Arrange all chunks: 他 / 才 / 吃了药 / 睡着。

0208.4 他六点就回家了 and 他六点才回家 give opposite impressions of the same time.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0208.5 The party was supposed to end at ten. Your brother walked in at midnight. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 先 … ，再 … (first …, then …)

0209.1 Complete the plan: “Let’s buy tickets first, then go in.” 我们先买票，…… 进去。

0209.2 Which describes what you did yesterday?

- A. 先我昨天去银行，再去超市。
- B. 我昨天先去银行，再去超市了。
- C. 我昨天再去银行，先去超市。
- D. 我昨天先去了银行，然后去了超市。

0209.3 Build: “Rest a bit first, then do your homework.”

Arrange all chunks: 你先 / ，再 / 做作业。/ 休息一下

0209.4 先我走 is the normal way to say “I’ll go first.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0209.5 A friend is staying with you and asks how to use the washing machine. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 一边 … 一边 … (doing two things at once)

0210.1 Complete: “She sings while she cooks.” 她 …… 做饭一边唱歌。

0210.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他一边吃饭一边看手机。
- B. 他一边是医生一边是老师。
- C. 一边他吃饭一边看手机。
- D. 他吃饭一边看手机一边。

0210.3 Build: “We chatted as we walked.”

Arrange all chunks: 我们 / 边聊。/ 边走

0210.4 一边 … 一边 … and 又 … 又 … are always interchangeable.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0210.5 Every morning your grandfather reads the paper while he drinks his tea. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 老是 (always – a complaint)

0211.1 Complain: “You keep playing on your phone!” 你 …… 玩手机！

0211.2 A news report says the factory opens at eight every day. Which adverb suits the neutral report?

- A. 老是
- B. 才
- C. 又
- D. 总是

0211.3 Build: “I keep forgetting to bring an umbrella.”

Arrange all chunks: 我 / 老是 / 带伞。/ 忘记

0211.4 你不老是听 is the right way to say “You never listen.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0211.5 Your roommate leaves dirty dishes in the sink, and it is the third time this week. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 才 + Number (only – a small amount)

0212.1 Complete with surprise: “This bag is only twenty yuan!” 这个包 …… 二十块!

0212.2 Match each sentence to its meaning.

- 1. 现在才九点。
- 1. 他九点才起床。
- 1. 我才喝了一杯。
- A. He didn’t get up until nine.
- B. It’s only nine o’clock.
- C. I’ve only had one glass.

0212.3 Build: “I’ve only studied Chinese for three months.”

Arrange all chunks: 三个月中文。/ 学了 / 才 / 我

0212.4 他才十岁 sounds more surprised than 他十岁.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0212.5 A boy at the piano competition plays better than adults, and everyone is surprised by his age. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

Answers and explanations

■ 又 + Verb + 了 (again, in the past)

0201.1 又

The breakage has already happened again, so 又 + Verb + 了.

0201.2 A. 他昨天又来了。

Subject + time + 又 + verb + 了.

0201.3 她又买了一双鞋。

Subject + 又 + Verb + 了 + object.

0201.4 True.

又 can describe a repetition that is certain to come, such as the days of the week.

0201.5 One possible response: 他又迟到了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- For something that has already happened again, use 又: 他又来了, not 他再来了.
- 又 stands before the verb, after the subject and any time word: 他昨天又迟到了.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 一直 (all along, continuously)

0202.1 一直

一直 + Adj = continuously in that state.

0202.2 B. 经常

Repeated visits are frequent, not continuous, so 经常 (or 总是) fits; 一直 means without a break.

0202.3 我一直想去中国。

Subject + 一直 + 想 + verb phrase.

0202.4 False.

一直走 means “go straight (ahead)”.

0202.5 One possible response: 今天一直在下雨。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 一直 means without interruption; for something done again and again, use 总是 or 经常.

- Put 一直 before the verb, not at the end of the sentence: 他一直在工作, not 他在工作一直.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 总是 (always – a habit)

0203.1 总是

A habit takes 总是 before the verb.

0203.2 D. 他从来不吃肉。

"Never" as a habit is 从来不 + verb.

0203.3 1–B: 他总是七点起床。= a neutral habit; 2–A: 你老是迟到！= a complaint about a habit; 3–C: 雨一直在下。= one continuous stretch of time

总是 states a habit, 老是 complains about it, 一直 describes something unbroken.

0203.4 他周末总是去爬山。

Subject + time word + 总是 + verb phrase.

0203.5 One possible response: 爸爸早上总是先喝一杯咖啡。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 总是 goes before the verb, never at the end: 他总是迟到, not 他迟到总是.
- "Never" is not 总是不 in most cases; use 从来不: 他从来不喝酒 – "He never drinks."
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 终于 (finally, at last)

0204.1 终于

A long wait ends, so 终于 + verb + 了.

0204.2 D. 最后

最后 marks the last step in a sequence; there is no long wait here.

0204.3 我终于找到了我的钥匙。

Subject + 终于 + Verb + 了 + object.

0204.4 False.

It reports any outcome reached after a long process, e.g. 他终于病倒了.

0204.5 One possible response: 火车终于来了！

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- It needs a long wait or process before it; it does not mean "at the end of a list". For "lastly", use 最后.
- Put 终于 after the subject, before the verb: 他终于来了, not 终于他来了 in ordinary speech.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 几乎 (nearly, almost)

0205.1 几乎

几乎 + 每天都 = almost every day.

0205.2 C. 我们几乎都去过。

几乎 comes before 都.

0205.3 True.

几乎 + 没 = almost not, i.e. hardly.

0205.4 几乎所有的学生都来了。

几乎 + 所有的 + noun + 都 + verb.

0205.5 One possible response: 我几乎忘了今天有考试。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Put 几乎 before the part that is "almost": 几乎每天, 几乎没有, 几乎都. Not after the verb.
- With 都, 几乎 comes first: 我们几乎都去过, not 我们都几乎去过.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 只 (only)

0206.1 只

只 goes before the verb 喝.

0206.2 D. 只有小王来了。

To limit a person, use 只有 + noun. 小王只来了 would mean he only came (and did nothing else).

0206.3 昨天我只睡了五个小时。

Time + subject + 只 + verb + 了 + duration.

0206.4 False.

只 goes before the verb: 我只喝了一杯咖啡.

0206.5 One possible response: 我只要一碗面条。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- "Only I went" is 只有我去了, not 只我去了: before a noun or the subject, use 只有.
- Keep 只 before the verb, not after it: 我只喝了一杯, not 我喝了只一杯.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Duration + 没 + Verb + 了 (how long you haven't …)

0207.1 了

The final 了 shows the gap lasts until now.

0207.2 D. 他两天没睡觉了。

Duration + 没 + verb + 了.

0207.3 我们好久没见了!

Subject + duration + 没 + verb + 了.

0207.4 True.

A positive duration follows the verb; a negative gap puts the duration before 没.

0207.5 One possible response: 我三天没吃肉了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Keep the final 了 when the gap lasts up to now: 我三天没吃肉了 means it is still true today.
- Put the duration before 没: 三天没吃肉了, not 没吃肉三天了.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Time + 才 (not until – lateness)

0208.1 才

Time + 才 + Verb presents the start as later than expected.

0208.2 C. 他十一点才睡觉。

Time precedes 才, which precedes the verb in this simple model. Other constructions with 才 can allow 了.

0208.3 他吃了药才睡着。

Condition + 才 + result.

0208.4 True.

就 presents six as early; 才 presents it as late.

0208.5 One possible response: 他十二点才回家。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The simple late-arrival model here is 他十二点才回家. Other contexts can allow 了; do not treat 才 as a universal ban on aspect or change-of-state marking.
- The time word goes before 才: 九点才起床, not 才九点起床 (that means "it's only nine").
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 先 … ，再 … (first …, then …)

0209.1 再

先 … 再 … orders future steps.

0209.2 D. 我昨天先去了银行，然后去了超市。

For past events use 先 … 然后 … with 了; 再 is for steps still to come.

0209.3 你先休息一下，再做作业。

先 + verb 1, 再 + verb 2.

0209.4 False.

先 goes after the subject: 我先走.

0209.5 One possible response: 你先放衣服，再按这个按钮。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.

- 再 is for steps still to come. For what already happened, use 先 … 然后 / 又 …: 我先吃了饭，然后去看电影了.
- Put 先 after the subject: 我先走, not 先我走.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 一边 … 一边 … (doing two things at once)

0210.1 一边

一边 A 一边 B – the first 一边 goes before 做饭.

0210.2 A. 他一边吃饭一边看手机。

Subject + 一边 action + 一边 action. 是 is not an action that can run alongside another.

0210.3 我们边走边聊。

The short form 边 … 边 … fits one-syllable verbs.

0210.4 False.

一边 … 一边 … joins two simultaneous actions; 又 … 又 … usually joins two qualities.

0210.5 One possible response: 爷爷一边喝茶一边看报纸。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Use action verbs that can happen together; 一边是学生一边是老师 is wrong. For two roles, use 既 … 又 … or 也.
- Keep one subject before the first 一边: 他一边吃一边看, not 一边他吃一边看.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 老是 (always – a complaint)

0211.1 老是

老是 + verb for an irritating habit.

0211.2 D. 总是

总是 states a neutral habit; 老是 would sound like a complaint.

0211.3 我老是忘记带伞。

Subject + 老是 + verb phrase.

0211.4 False.

老是 comes before 不: 你老是不听.

0211.5 One possible response: 你老是不洗碗!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Use 老是 for something irritating or worrying; for a neutral habit (他总是七点起床) choose 总是.
- 老是 goes before the verb (or before 不 / 没): 你老是不听, not 你不老是听.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 才 + Number (only – a small amount)

0212.1 才

才 + number shows the amount is smaller than expected.

0212.2 1–B: 现在才九点。= It's only nine o'clock.; 2–A: 他九点才起床。= He didn't get up until nine.; 3–C: 我才喝了一杯。= I've only had one glass.

Before a number, 才 means "only"; after a time and before the verb, it means "not until".

0212.3 我才学了三个月中文。

才 goes before the verb that carries the small amount.

0212.4 True.

才 adds the feeling that the age is surprisingly young.

0212.5 One possible response: 他才十岁，钢琴就弹得这么好!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 才 before the number = "only that much": 才九点 – "it's only nine".
- 才 after the time, before the verb = "not until": 九点才起床 – "didn't get up until nine". Same word, different position.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.