Complex Sentence Patterns

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.

除了 ... 都 / 还 (except / besides)

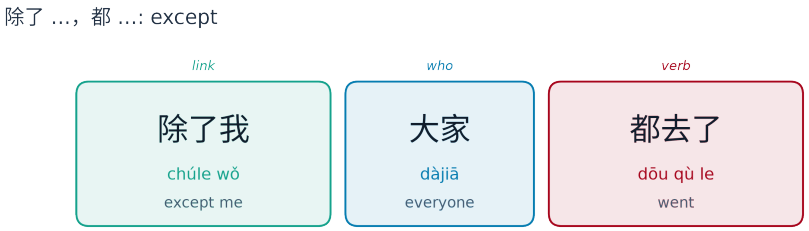
Everyone except me

- Your whole class went to the concert, but you were ill at home.
- **除了我，大家都去了。** – "Everyone went except me."

除了 A (以外)，都 ... = except A

- **除了 A，(B) 都 ...** = "except for A, all …": A is left out of the group.
- 以外 can follow A: 除了我以外. The 都 is needed in this meaning.

除了星期天，我每天都上班。
chú le xīng qī tiān wǒ měi tiān dōu shàng bān
Word guide: 除了 – except; 星期天 – Sunday; 我 – I; 每天 – every day; 都 – all; 上班 – work.



除了 A，还 / 也 ... = besides A

- **除了 A，还 B** = "besides A, also B": A is included and more is added.
- **除了中文，他还会说日语。** – "Besides Chinese, he can also speak Japanese."

除了中文，他还会说日语。
chú le Zhōng wén tā hái huì shuō Rì yǔ
Word guide: 除了 – besides; 中文 – Chinese; 他 – he; 还 – also; 会 – can; 说 – speak; 日语 – Japanese.

都 excludes, 还 adds

- 除了我，大家都去了 = I did not go. 除了我，小李也去了 = Xiao Li went as well as me.
- Put 都 / 还 / 也 after the subject of the second clause: 大家都去了, not 都大家去了.

With a verb phrase

- 除了 can take an action: **周末除了看书，我还喜欢跑步。** – "At weekends, besides reading, I also like running."
- **他除了吃就是睡。** – "All he does is eat and sleep." (except eating, it is sleeping)

他除了吃就是睡。
tā chú le chī jiù shì shuì
Word guide: 他 – he; 除了 – apart from; 吃 – eating; 就是 – it's just; 睡 – sleeping.

Recap

- **除了 A (以外)，都 ...** = except A (A is left out).
- **除了 A (以外)，还 / 也 ...** = besides A (A plus more).

Practise this pattern step by step.

如果 ... 的话 (if ...)

A trip that depends on the weather

- You are planning a trip to the Great Wall but the forecast is uncertain.
- **如果明天下雨的话，我们就在家看电影。** – "If it rains tomorrow, we'll stay home and watch a film."

如果 + condition + 的话

- **如果 ... 的话** = "if …". 的话 closes the condition; either word may be dropped in speech.
- 如果下雨, 下雨的话, 如果下雨的话 all mean "if it rains".

下雨的话，我就不去了。
xià yǔ de huà wǒ jiù bú qù le
Word guide: 下雨 – rain; 的话 – if; 我 – I; 就 – then; 不 – not; 去 – go.



Offers and advice

- **你有问题的话，可以问我。** – “If you have any questions, you can ask me.”
- **如果你累了的话，就休息一下。** – “If you’re tired, have a rest.”

你有问题的话，可以问我。
nǐ yǒu wèn tí de huà kě yǐ wèn wǒ
Word guide: 你 – you; 有 – have; 问题 – questions; 的话 – if; 可以 – can; 问 – ask; 我 – me.

The condition comes first

- Put the 如果 clause before the result: 如果你有时间，来找我, not 来找我如果你有时间 (English order).
- 的话 goes at the end of the condition, not after the result.

要是 in speech

- **要是** is a spoken “if”: 要是你不想去的话，就别去了。
- It works with 的话 and 就 exactly like 如果.

要是你不想去，就别去了。
yào shi nǐ bù xiǎng qù jiù bié qù le
Word guide: 要是 – if; 你 – you; 不 – don’t; 想 – want to; 去 – go; 就 – then; 别 – don’t; 去 – go.

Recap

- **如果 / 要是 … (的话)，(就) …** = if …, then …; either 如果 or 的话 may be dropped.
- The condition comes first, 的话 closes it.

Practise this pattern step by step.

如果 … ，就 … (if …, then …)

If the tickets are cheap

- You and a friend are checking flights for the holiday.
- **如果机票便宜，我们就去海南。** – “If the plane tickets are cheap, we’ll go to Hainan.”

如果 A，(Subject) 就 B

- **如果 A，就 B** = “if A, then B”. 就 links the result to the condition.
- 就 goes after the subject of the result clause: 如果你来，我就会很高兴.

如果你来，我就会很高兴。
rú guǒ nǐ lái wǒ jiù huì hěn gāo xìng
Word guide: 如果 – if; 你 – you; 来 – come; 我 – I; 就 – then; 会 – will; 很 – very; 高兴 – happy.



Plans, warnings, advice

- Warning: **如果你不快点儿，就会迟到。** – “If you don’t hurry, you’ll be late.”
- Advice: **如果你不舒服，就去看医生吧。** – “If you’re not well, go and see a doctor.”

如果你不快点儿，就会迟到。
rú guǒ nǐ bú kuài diǎnr jiù huì chí dào
Word guide: 如果 – if; 你 – you; 不 – don’t; 快 – hurry; 点儿 – a bit; 就 – then; 会 – will; 迟到 – be late.

就 after the subject

- Subject first, then 就: 我就去, not 就我去.
- Do not use 所以 for “then” after 如果: 如果下雨，我就不去, not 如果下雨，所以我不去.

如果 versus 因为

- 如果 is a possibility that may or may not happen: 如果下雨，我就不去.
- 因为 is a fact that already holds: 因为下雨，所以我没去.

因为下雨，所以我没去。
yīn wèi xià yǔ suǒ yǐ wǒ méi qù
Word guide: 因为 – because; 下雨 – it rained; 所以 – so; 我 – I; 没 – didn’t; 去 – go.

Recap

- **如果 A，Subject + 就 + B** = if A, then B.
- 就 follows the subject; 如果 pairs with 就, 因为 with 所以.

Practise this pattern step by step.

不但 … ，而且 … (not only … but also)

Not only cheap

- You are recommending a new restaurant to a friend who is hard to please.
- **这家饭馆不但便宜，而且很好吃。** – “This restaurant isn’t only cheap, it’s also delicious.”

不但 A，而且 B

- **不但 A，而且 B** = “not only A, but also B”: B adds a further, often stronger, point.
- 而且 can be followed by 还 or 也: 而且还很好吃.

她不但会唱歌，而且会跳舞。
tā bú dàn huì chàng gē ér qiě huì tiào wǔ
Word guide: 她 – she; 不但 – not only; 会 – can; 唱歌 – sing; 而且 – but also; 会 – can; 跳舞 – dance.



One subject or two

- Same subject: subject first, then 不但: **他不但聪明，而且很努力。** – “He’s not only clever but also hard-working.”
- Different subjects: 不但 before the first subject: **不但我喜欢，而且我朋友也喜欢。** – “Not only do I like it, my friend does too.”

不但我喜欢，而且我朋友也喜欢。
bú dàn wǒ xǐ huan ér qiě wǒ péng you yě xǐ huan
Word guide: 不但 – not only; 我 – I; 喜欢 – like it; 而且 – but also; 我 – my; 朋友 – friend; 也 – too; 喜欢 – likes it.

Where 不但 goes

- One subject: 他不但聪明, not 不但他聪明.
- Two subjects: 不但我喜欢，而且他也喜欢 – 不但 goes before the first subject.

而且 alone, and 不仅

- 而且 can stand alone to add a point: 天气很冷，而且下雪了 – “It’s cold, and it’s snowing too.”
- 不仅 is a more written synonym of 不但: 不仅 … 而且 ….

天气很冷，而且下雪了。
tiān qì hěn lěng ér qiě xià xuě le
Word guide: 天气 – the weather; 很 – very; 冷 – cold; 而且 – and also; 下雪 – snow.

Recap

- **不但 A，而且 B** = not only A, but also B.
- One subject: after it; two subjects: before the first. 而且 can stand alone; 不仅 is more formal.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

除了 … 都 / 还 (except / besides)

0711.1 Complete: “Besides tea, I also drink coffee.” 除了茶，我 …… 喝咖啡。

0711.2 In 除了小王，我们都喜欢吃辣的, does Xiao Wang like spicy food?

- A. Yes, and so do the others.
- B. Yes, he likes it most.
- C. The sentence does not say.
- D. No, he is the exception.

0711.3 Build: “I work every day except Sunday.”

Arrange all chunks: 除了星期天 / 我每天 / 都上班。/ ，

0711.4 除了中文，他还会说日语 means he speaks both Chinese and Japanese.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0711.5 Your whole class went to the concert, but you were ill at home. 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.

如果 … 的话 (if …)

0712.1 Complete: “If you have time, come to my place.” 你有时间 ……，来我家吧。

0712.2 Which sentence has natural Chinese word order?

- A. 我们去公园，如果明天天气好的话。
- B. 如果明天天气好的话，我们去公园。
- C. 的话明天天气好，我们去公园。
- D. 我们如果去公园的话，明天天气好。

0712.3 Build: “If you have any questions, you can ask me.”

Arrange all chunks: 的话 / 问我。/ 你有问题 / ， 可以

0712.4 要是 is a spoken word for “if”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0712.5 You are planning a trip to the Great Wall but the forecast is uncertain. 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.

■ 如果 … ，就 … (if …, then …)

0713.1 Complete: "If you come, I'll cook for you." 如果你来，我 …… 给你做饭。

0713.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 下雨如果，我就不去。
- B. 如果下雨，就我不去。
- C. 如果下雨，我就不去。
- D. 如果下雨，所以我不去。

0713.3 Build: "If you're not well, go and see a doctor."

Arrange all chunks: ， / 看医生吧。/ 如果你不舒服 / 就去

0713.4 因为下雨 describes a possibility; 如果下雨 describes a fact.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0713.5 You and a friend are checking flights for the holiday. 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.

■ 不但 … ，而且 … (not only … but also)

0714.1 Complete: "He not only speaks Chinese, but also speaks French." 他不但会说中文，…… 会说法语。

0714.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他不但很高，很帅而且。
- B. 他很高不但，而且很帅。
- C. 不但他很高，而且很帅。
- D. 他不但很高，而且很帅。

0714.3 Build: "Not only do I like it, my friend does too."

Arrange all chunks: ， / 而且我朋友 / 也喜欢。/ 不但我喜欢

0714.4 而且 can be used on its own to add a point.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0714.5 You are recommending a new restaurant to a friend who is hard to please. 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

■ 除了 … 都 / 还 (except / besides)

0711.1 还

除了 … 还 … adds to A.

0711.2 D. No, he is the exception.

除了 … 都 … leaves Xiao Wang out of the group.

0711.3 除了星期天，我每天都上班。

除了 A，subject + 都 + verb.

0711.4 True.

还 adds to what 除了 introduced.

0711.5 One possible response: 除了我，大家都去了。

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.
- 除了我，大家都去了 = I did not go. 除了我，小李也去了 = Xiao Li went as well as me.
- Put 都 / 还 / 也 after the subject of the second clause: 大家都去了, not 都大家去了.
- 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.

■ 如果 … 的话 (if …)

0712.1 的话

的话 closes the condition.

0712.2 B. 如果明天天气好的话，我们去公园。

The condition comes first.

0712.3 你有问题的话，可以问我。

Condition + 的话, then the result.

0712.4 True.

要是 …(的话) works like 如果.

0712.5 One possible response: 如果明天下雨的话，我们就在家看电影。

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 the 如果 clause before the result: 如果你有时间，来找我, not 来找我如果你有时间 (English order).
- 的话 goes at the end of the condition, not after the result.
- 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.

■ 如果 … ，就 … (if …, then …)

0713.1 就

如果 …，subject + 就 ….

0713.2 C. 如果下雨，我就不去。

如果 pairs with 就, placed after the subject.

0713.3 如果你不舒服，就去看医生吧。

如果 + condition, 就 + advice.

0713.4 False.

It is the other way round: 因为 = a fact, 如果 = a possibility.

0713.5 One possible response: 如果机票便宜，我们就去海南。

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.
- Subject first, then 就: 我就去, not 就我去.
- Do not use 所以 for "then" after 如果: 如果下雨，我就不去, not 如果下雨，所以我不去.
- 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.

■ 不但 … ，而且 … (not only … but also)

0714.1 而且

不但 A，而且 B.

0714.2 D. 他不但很高，而且很帅。

With one subject, 不但 follows the subject.

0714.3 不但我喜欢，而且我朋友也喜欢。

Two subjects: 不但 before the first.

0714.4 True.

天气很冷，而且下雪了.

0714.5 One possible response: 这家饭馆不但便宜，而且很好吃。

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.
- One subject: 他不但聪明, not 不但他聪明.
- Two subjects: 不但我喜欢，而且他也喜欢 – 不但 goes before the first subject.
- 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.