Adverbs

HSK 4 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.

差不多 (almost / about the same)

Which one should I buy?

- You compare two phones in a shop. The prices, cameras and sizes are almost identical.
- **这两个手机差不多。** – "These two phones are about the same."

差不多 as an adjective: about the same

- **A 跟 B 差不多** / **A 和 B 差不多** = A and B are about the same: 我跟我哥哥差不多高.
- Alone after the subject, it can mean "nearly the same" or "nearly done": 作业写得差不多了.

我跟我哥哥差不多高。
wǒ gēn wǒ gē ge chà bu duō gāo
Word guide: 我 – I; 跟 – and; 我 – my; 哥哥 – older brother; 差不多 – about equally; 高 – tall.



差不多 as an adverb: almost, about

- Before a number or time: **差不多十点了。** – "It's almost ten." 差不多五十个人 – "about fifty people".
- Before 都 / 所有: **同学们差不多都来了。** – "Almost all the classmates have come."

同学们差不多都来了。
tóng xué men chà bu duō dōu lái le
Word guide: 同学们 – the classmates; 差不多 – almost; 都 – all; 来 – come.

Two jobs, two positions

- Before a number or verb phrase it means "almost": 差不多三点. After the things compared it means "similar": 价格差不多.
- It does not mean "nearly happened (but didn't)"; that is 差点儿: 我差点儿迟到.

差不多就行了: good enough

- **差不多就行了。** – "That's good enough." A relaxed attitude to small details.
- **他是个 " 差不多先生 "。** – said of someone who never bothers to be exact.

差不多就行了。
chà bu duō jiù xíng le
Word guide: 差不多 – close enough; 就 – then; 行 – OK.

Recap

- **A 跟 B 差不多** = about the same; **差不多 + number / 都** = almost, about.
- 差不多就行了 = good enough. "Nearly happened" is 差点儿.

Practise this pattern step by step.

看来 (it seems / in one's view)

Dark clouds over the hills

- The sky turns grey and the wind picks up while you are hiking.
- **看来要下雨了，我们回去吧。** – "It looks like it's going to rain; let's head back."

看来，... = judging from this

- **看来** draws a conclusion from what you have noticed: "it seems, it looks as if".
- It usually starts the sentence, sometimes with a comma: 看来，他今天不会来了.

看来，他今天不会来了。
kàn lái tā jīn tiān bú huì lái le
Word guide: 看来 – it seems; 他 – he; 今天 – today; 不会 – won't; 来 – come.



Evidence first, then 看来

- **他到现在还没回消息，看来是很忙。** – “He still hasn’t replied – he must be busy.”
- **你的中文进步这么快，看来每天都在练习。** – “Your Chinese is improving so fast; you must practise every day.”

他还没回，看来很忙。
tā hái méi huí kàn lái hěn máng
Word guide: 他 – he; 还 – still; 没 – hasn’t; 回 – replied; 看来 – it seems; 很 – very; 忙 – busy.

A conclusion, not a look

- 看来 reasons from evidence; for how something looks, use 看起来: 他看起来很累 – “He looks tired.”
- Put 看来 before the conclusion, not after it: 看来他病了, not 他病了看来.

在我看来 = in my view

- **在我看来，这个办法不太好。** – “In my view, this approach isn’t very good.”
- 在 … 看来 gives someone’s opinion; 看来 alone draws a conclusion from facts.

在我看来，这个办法不太好。
zài wǒ kàn lái zhè ge bàn fǎ bú tài hǎo
Word guide: 在 – in; 我 – my; 看来 – view; 这个 – this; 办法 – method; 不太 – not very; 好 – good.

Recap

- **看来，...** = it seems / it looks as if, a conclusion drawn from evidence.
- 看起来 = appearance; 在 … 看来 = in someone’s view.

Practise this pattern step by step.

正好 (just right / exactly)

Perfect timing

- You are about to phone your friend when your phone rings – it’s her.
- **你来得正好，我正想给你打电话。** – “You’ve come at just the right moment; I was just about to call you.”

正好 = just right

- As a description: **大小正好。** – “The size is just right.” 时间正好 – “The timing is perfect.”
- After a 得 complement: 你来得正好 – “You came at the right time.”

这双鞋大小正好。
zhè shuāng xié dà xiǎo zhèng hǎo
Word guide: 这 – this; 双 – pair of; 鞋 – shoes; 大小 – size; 正好 – just right.



正好 + Verb = happen to

- **我正好也要去超市，一起走吧。** – “I happen to be going to the supermarket too; let’s go together.”
- It points to a lucky coincidence that fits the situation.

我正好也要去超市。
wǒ zhèng hǎo yě yào qù chāo shì
Word guide: 我 – I; 正好 – happen to; 也 – also; 要 – be going to; 去 – go to; 超市 – the supermarket.

Exactly an amount

- Before a number, 正好 = exactly: 正好一百块. For “about”, use 左右 or 差不多: 一百块左右.
- Do not confuse it with 正在 (in the middle of doing): 我正在吃饭, not 我正好吃饭 for “I’m eating”.

正好 versus 刚好 and 正在

- 刚好 is almost the same as 正好: 刚好十点.
- 正好 can also open a sentence to stress the lucky timing: 正好，他也在那儿 – “As it happened, he was there too.”

一共正好一百块。
yí gòng zhèng hǎo yì bǎi kuài
Word guide: 一共 – in total; 正好 – exactly; 一百 – one hundred; 块 – yuan.

Recap

- **正好** = just right (大小正好), happen to (我正好也去), exactly (正好一百块).
- 刚好 is a close synonym; “about” is 左右, and “in the middle of doing” is 正在.

Practise this pattern step by step.

只好 (have no choice but to)

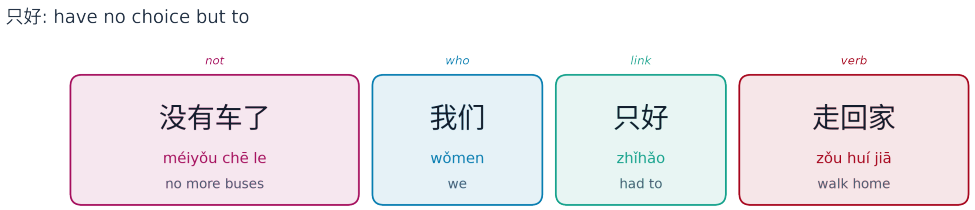
The last bus has gone

- You leave a party at midnight and the last bus left ten minutes ago. Taxis are all taken.
- **没有车了，我们只好走回家。** – “There’s no transport left, so we have no choice but to walk home.”

Obstacle, Subject + 只好 + Verb

- **只好** = “have no choice but to, can only”: the action is the only option left.
- The reason comes first; 只好 goes after the subject of the result: 我只好 ….

下大雨了，比赛只好取消。
xià dà yǔ le bǐ sài zhǐ hǎo qǔ xiāo
Word guide: 下 – fall; 大雨 – heavy rain; 比赛 – the match; 只好 – had to; 取消 – be cancelled.



Accepting a second-best choice

- **商店关门了，我只好明天再来。** – “The shop was closed, so I’ll have to come back tomorrow.”
- **他不会做饭，只好每天吃方便面。** – “He can’t cook, so he has to eat instant noodles every day.”

商店关门了，我只好明天再来。
shāng diàn guān mén le wǒ zhǐ hǎo míng tiān zài lái
Word guide: 商店 – the shop; 关门 – closed; 我 – I; 只好 – had to; 明天 – tomorrow; 再 – again; 来 – come.

Reason first, 只好 after the subject

- Give the obstacle before 只好; 只好 alone with no reason sounds incomplete.
- Place 只好 after the subject: 我只好走路, not 只好我走路 in most speech.

只好 versus 不得不

- 不得不 is stronger and a little more formal: forced by duty or pressure: 他病了，我不得不替他上课.
- 只好 sounds more resigned: “Oh well, I’ll just have to …”.

他病了，我不得不替他上课。
tā bìng le wǒ bù dé bú tì tā shàng kè
Word guide: 他 – he; 病 – ill; 我 – I; 不得不 – had to; 替 – for; 他 – him; 上课 – teach.

Recap

- **Obstacle, Subject + 只好 + Verb** = have no choice but to.
- 只好 is resigned; 不得不 is stronger and more formal.

Practise this pattern step by step.

又 + 不 / 没 (emphatic negation)

It’s not as if I’m your servant

- Your roommate asks you, again, to wash his dishes.
- **我又不是你的服务员！** – “I’m not your waiter, you know!” 又 + 不 pushes back against an assumption.

又 + 不 / 没 = emphatic negation

- **又 + 不/没** strengthens a negative to reject what someone assumes: “it’s not as if …”.
- It is spoken, often a little impatient or defensive.

我又不是你的服务员。
wǒ yòu bú shì nǐ de fú wù yuán
Word guide: 我 – I; 又 – (it’s not as if); 不 – not; 是 – am; 你 – your; 服务员 – waiter.



Giving the reason behind a reaction

- **你别怪他，他又没做错。** – “Don’t blame him – it’s not like he did anything wrong.”
- **怕什么？他又不会吃了你。** – “What are you afraid of? He’s not going to eat you.”

你别怪他，他又没做错。
nǐ bié guài tā tā yòu méi zuò cuò
Word guide: 你 – you; 别 – don’t; 怪 – blame; 他 – him; 他 – he; 又 – (it’s not as if); 没 – didn’t; 做错 – do wrong.

Not “again”

- In 又不 / 又没, 又 is not “again”; it adds force to the denial.
- Keep it in speech; in neutral statements, plain 不 / 没 is enough: 他没做错.

又 + 不 versus 并 + 不

- 并不 denies a mistaken idea in a calmer, more written way: 这个问题并不难.
- 又不 is personal and emotional: 我又不是不想去 – “It’s not that I don’t want to go.”

这个问题并不难。
zhè ge wèn tí bìng bù nán
Word guide: 这个 – this; 问题 – question; 并 – (actually); 不 – not; 难 – hard.

Recap

- **又 + 不 / 没** = it’s not as if …, rejecting an assumption (spoken, emphatic).
- Not “again” here. Calmer written denial: 并不.

Practise this pattern step by step.

可 + Adj (emphatic)

Harbin in January

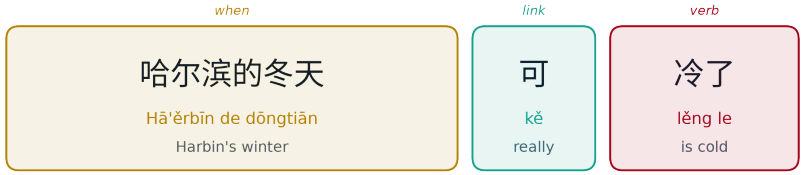
- A friend from the south asks whether Harbin in winter is really as cold as people say.
- **哈尔滨的冬天可冷了！** – “Harbin winters are really cold!”

可 + Adjective + 了

- **可 + Adj (+ 了 / 呢)** = “really, so” with emphasis, in speech: 可好了, 可贵了, 可有意思了.
- It often tells someone something they may not believe or know.

这个电影可有意思了。
zhè ge diàn yǐng kě yǒu yì si le
Word guide: 这个 – this; 电影 – film; 可 – really; 有意思 – interesting.

可 + adjective + 了: really (spoken emphasis)



Warnings and reminders

- **可 + 别 / 要**: **你可别忘了！** – “Don’t you forget!” **你可要小心！** – “Do be careful!”
- The 可 adds urgency to the request.

你可别忘了！
nǐ kě bié wàng le
Word guide: 你 – you; 可 – (do); 别 – don’t; 忘 – forget.

Spoken emphasis

- Use 可 … 了 in conversation; in writing choose 非常 or 十分.
- 可 + Adj usually needs 了 or 呢 at the end: 可冷了, not just 可冷.

可 as “but”

- At the start of a clause, 可 can be short for 可是: 我想去，可没时间 – “I’d like to go, but I don’t have time.”
- Before an adjective with 了, it is the emphatic “really”.

我想去，可没时间。
wǒ xiǎng qù kě méi shí jiān
Word guide: 我 – I; 想 – want to; 去 – go; 可 – but; 没 – haven’t; 时间 – time.

Recap

- **可 + Adj + 了** = really …! (spoken emphasis); **可别 / 可要** = urgent warnings.
- At the start of a clause, 可 can mean “but”.

Practise this pattern step by step.

原来 (so it turns out / all along)

So that’s why

- Your colleague hasn’t touched his lunch all week. Today you find out he has a toothache.
- **原来他牙疼，难怪不吃饭。** – “So he has toothache – no wonder he isn’t eating.”

■ 原来 = so it turns out

- **原来** announces a discovery: the truth you have just found out explains something.
- It usually starts the clause: 原来是你！ – “Oh, it’s you!”

原来是你！
yuán lái shì nǐ
Word guide: 原来 – so it turns out; 是 – it’s; 你 – you.



■ Discovery and explanation

- **我以为他是老师，原来他是学生。** – “I thought he was a teacher, but it turns out he’s a student.”
- Often with 难怪 (no wonder): 原来下雪了，难怪这么冷。

原来下雪了，难怪这么冷。
yuán lái xià xuě le nán guài zhè me lěng
Word guide: 原来 – so it turns out; 下雪 – snow; 难怪 – no wonder; 这么 – so; 冷 – cold.

■ Two meanings

- At the start of a clause, 原来 reveals a discovery: 原来是这样！ – “So that’s how it is!”
- Before a noun (with 的) or describing the past, it means “original(ly)”: 原来的计划 – “the original plan”.

■ 原来 = originally

- **他原来住在北京，后来搬到了上海。** – “He originally lived in Beijing; later he moved to Shanghai.”
- Here 原来 contrasts the earlier situation with a later change.

他原来住在北京。
tā yuán lái zhù zài Běi jīng
Word guide: 他 – he; 原来 – originally; 住 – live; 在 – in; 北京 – Beijing.

■ Recap

- **原来，...** = so it turns out (a discovery), often with 难怪 or after 我以为.
- **原来 + 的 + noun / earlier situation** = original, originally.

Practise this pattern step by step.

差点 (almost / nearly)

■ That was close

- You slipped on the ice outside your building but grabbed the railing just in time.
- **我差点儿摔倒。** – “I nearly fell.” It almost happened, but didn’t.

■ 差点 (儿) + Verb = nearly happened

- **差点 (儿) + Verb** = something almost happened but did not: 差点儿迟到, 差点儿忘了.
- It goes before the verb, after the subject; 了 often closes the sentence: 我差点儿忘了.

我差点儿忘了。
wǒ chà diǎnr wàng le
Word guide: 我 – I; 差点儿 – nearly; 忘 – forget.



■ With 没: the tricky part

- For something **unwanted**, 差点儿 and 差点儿没 mean the same: 差点儿摔倒 = 差点儿没摔倒 – “nearly fell (but didn’t)”.
- For something **wanted**, 没 flips the meaning: **我差点儿没赶上火车。** – “I nearly missed the train (but caught it).”

我差点儿没赶上火车。
wǒ chà diǎnr méi gǎn shàng huǒ chē
Word guide: 我 – I; 差点儿 – nearly; 没 – not; 赶上 – catch; 火车 – the train.

Wanted or unwanted?

- Wanted result: 差点儿考上 = almost passed (but failed); 差点儿没考上 = nearly failed (but passed).
- Unwanted result: 差点儿撞车 and 差点儿没撞车 both = nearly crashed (but didn't).

差点儿 versus 差不多

- 差点儿 = "nearly happened": 他差点儿哭了 – "He nearly cried."
- 差不多 = "about, almost (in amount)": 差不多十点了. They are not interchangeable.

他差点儿哭了。
tā chà diǎnr kū le
Word guide: 他 – he; 差点儿 – nearly; 哭 – cry.

Recap

- **差点儿 + Verb** = nearly (but didn't).
- Unwanted events: with or without 没, same meaning. Wanted events: 差点儿没 = nearly failed but succeeded.

Practise this pattern step by step.

从来 + 不 / 没 (never)

Not once in his life

- Your grandfather is eighty and proud of one thing about his health.
- **爷爷从来不抽烟。** – "Grandpa has never smoked."

从来 + 不 = never (habit or rule)

- **从来不 + Verb** = never, as a habit or personal rule: 他从来不喝酒, 我从来不迟到.
- 从来 goes before 不, after the subject.

他从来不喝酒。
tā cóng lái bù hē jiǔ
Word guide: 他 – he; 从来 – ever; 不 – not; 喝 – drink; 酒 – alcohol.

从来 + 不 / 没: never ever



从来 + 没 (有) + Verb + 过 = never once

- **从来没 (有) + Verb + 过** = has never done (an experience): **我从来没去过西藏。** – "I've never been to Tibet."
- 过 highlights experience in these models; 没 itself does not require 过 after every predicate.

我从来没去过西藏。
wǒ cóng lái méi qù guo Xī zàng
Word guide: 我 – I; 从来 – ever; 没 – not; 去 – go; 过 – (experience); 西藏 – Tibet.

不 or 没, and keep 过

- Habit or choice → 从来不; past experience → 从来没 + V + 过.
- Use 过 to highlight experience in this model. It is not required after every 从来没; the predicate and intended meaning determine the complete phrase.

Adjectives and 从来都

- With adjectives: **他从来不着急。** – "He's never in a hurry."
- 从来都 in a positive sentence stresses "always, without exception" (他从来都是这样); for a plain "always", 一直 or 总是 is more usual: 他一直很努力.

他从来不着急。
tā cóng lái bù zháo jí
Word guide: 他 – he; 从来 – ever; 不 – not; 着急 – anxious.

Recap

- **从来不 + Verb/Adj** = never (habit, rule, character).
- **从来没 + Verb + 过** = have never (experience). For "always", use 一直 / 总是.

Practise this pattern step by step.

结果 (as a result / in the end)

So much for the picnic

- You prepared sandwiches all morning for a picnic. At noon it started to pour.
- **我们准备了一上午，结果下雨了。** – “We spent the whole morning preparing, and in the end it rained.”

…，结果 … = as a result, in the end

- **结果** introduces what finally happened, often a surprise or a disappointment.
- It starts the second clause: 他没复习，结果没考好.

他没复习，结果没考好。
tā méi fù xí jié guǒ méi kǎo hǎo
Word guide: 他 – he; 没 – didn’t; 复习 – revise; 结果 – as a result; 没 – didn’t; 考 – do the exam; 好 – well.



Cause and outcome

- **他昨天睡得很晚，结果今天迟到了。** – “He went to bed late yesterday, and as a result he was late today.”
- The outcome can be good: 我试了一下，结果真的成功了。– “I gave it a try, and it actually worked.”

我试了一下，结果真的成功了。
wǒ shì le yí xià jié guǒ zhēn de chéng gōng le
Word guide: 我 – I; 试 – try; 一下 – once; 结果 – in the end; 真的 – really; 成功 – succeed.

Past outcomes, not plans

- 结果 reports what actually happened, so it does not fit plans: 如果下雨，我们就不去, not 如果下雨，结果我们不去.
- It starts the result clause: …，结果他迟到了, not …，他结果迟到了 in most speech.

结果 as a noun

- **考试的结果出来了。** – “The exam results are out.” Here 结果 is a noun: result, outcome.
- 结果怎么样? – “How did it turn out?”

考试的结果出来了。
kǎo shì de jié guǒ chū lai le
Word guide: 考试 – exam; 结果 – results; 出来 – come out.

Recap

- **…，结果 …** = as a result / in the end, what actually happened (often unexpected).
- As a noun, 结果 = result. Plans and general causes use 所以.

Practise this pattern step by step.

够 (enough / sufficient)

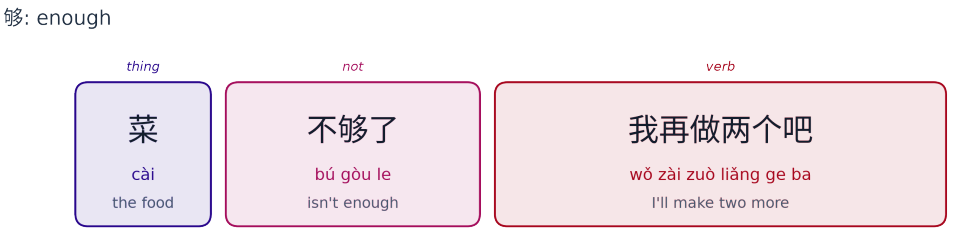
Is there enough food?

- You invited eight friends, but only cooked for four.
- **菜不够了，我再做两个吧。** – “There isn’t enough food; I’ll make two more dishes.”

Noun + 够 / 不够

- **够** = enough; it works like a verb or adjective: 钱够了, 时间不够, 人够不够?
- 够 also follows a noun: 我们人够了 – “We have enough people.”

时间不够了。
shí jiān bú gòu le
Word guide: 时间 – time; 不 – not; 够 – enough.



■ 够 + Verb: enough to …

- **钱够买一张票。** – “The money is enough to buy one ticket.”
- With 不: **这些饭不够吃。** – “This rice isn’t enough (to eat).”

这些饭不够吃。
zhè xiē fàn bú gòu chī
Word guide: 这些 – this; 饭 – food; 不 – not; 够 – enough; 吃 – eat.

■ Position

- 够 normally follows the thing that is enough: 钱够了, 时间不够.
- “Enough to do” puts the verb after 够: 够吃, 够用, not 吃够 (that means “have had one’s fill”).

■ 够 + Adj, 足够

- **够 + Adj** = “enough”: 这个房间够大 – “This room is big enough.” In an exclamation it means “really”: 你够厉害！ – “You’re really something!”
- 足够 is more formal: 我们有足够的时间 – “We have sufficient time.”

我们有足够的时间。
wǒ men yǒu zú gòu de shí jiān
Word guide: 我们 – we; 有 – have; 足够 – sufficient; 时间 – time.

■ Recap

- **X + 够 / 不够** = X is (not) enough; **够 + Verb** = enough to: 够吃, 够用.
- 够 + Adj = adj enough; 足够 (的) is formal “sufficient”.

Practise this pattern step by step.

甚至 (even / to the point that)

■ Too busy to eat

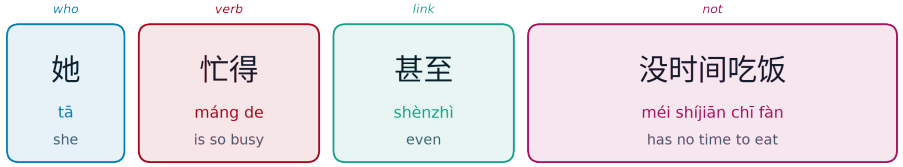
- Your sister has started a new job and works from morning till night.
- **她忙得甚至没时间吃饭。** – “She’s so busy she doesn’t even have time to eat.”

■ 甚至 + extreme point

- **甚至** = “even, so much that”: it introduces the most extreme or surprising item.
- It goes before the part it highlights: 甚至没时间吃饭, 甚至连他也来了.

他学得很认真，甚至周末也学习。
tā xué de hěn rèn zhēn shèn zhì zhōu mò yě xué xí
Word guide: 他 – he; 学 – study; 很 – very; 认真 – hard; 甚至 – even; 周末 – at weekends; 也 – also; 学习 – study.

甚至: even



■ Building up a list

- **这首歌大人喜欢，孩子喜欢，甚至老人也喜欢。** – “Adults like this song, children like it, even old people like it.”
- With 连 … 都/也: **他甚至连自己的名字都写错了。** – “He even wrote his own name wrong.”

他甚至连自己的名字都写错了。
tā shèn zhì lián zì jǐ de míng zi dōu xiě cuò le
Word guide: 他 – he; 甚至 – even; 连 – even; 自己 – his own; 名字 – name; 都 – (even); 写错 – wrote wrong.

■ Last and strongest

- Put the 甚至 item last, as the strongest point; 甚至 does not introduce an ordinary item.
- 甚至 is more formal than 连 … 都 alone; the two often appear together.

■ 甚至 versus 连 … 都

- 连 … 都 marks the surprising item: 连小孩都知道 – “Even children know.”
- 甚至 can also join clauses and raise the stakes: 他不说话，甚至不看我 – “He won’t speak, he won’t even look at me.”

连小孩都知道。
lián xiǎo hái dōu zhī dào
Word guide: 连 – even; 小孩 – children; 都 – (even); 知道 – know.

■ Recap

- **甚至 + extreme item** = even, so much that; usually the last, strongest point.
- Often with 连 … 都/也; it can also join clauses.

Practise this pattern step by step.

还是 + Verb (had better)

Traffic jam ahead

- You are about to drive to the airport, but the radio says the motorway is blocked.
- **我们还是坐地铁吧。** – "We'd better take the subway."

还是 + Verb (+ 吧) = had better

- **还是 + Verb** = "had better, it would be better to": a suggestion after weighing options.
- 吧 at the end makes it a gentle suggestion: 还是早点儿走吧.

太晚了，你还是回家吧。
tài wǎn le nǐ hái shi huí jiā ba
Word guide: 太 – too; 晚 – late; 你 – you; 还是 – had better; 回家 – go home.

还是 … 吧: we'd better



After thinking it over

- **想了想，我还是不去了。** – "I thought it over, and I've decided not to go after all."
- 还是 shows you considered other options and came back to this one.

想了想，我还是不去了。
xiǎng le xiang wǒ hái shi bú qù le
Word guide: 想 – think; 想 – it over; 我 – I; 还是 – after all; 不 – not; 去 – go.

Suggestion, not a question

- In a question, 还是 = "or": 你去还是我去? Here it is a statement or suggestion, so no question mark.
- 还是 + 不 … 了 reverses a plan: 我还是不去了 – "I'm not going after all."

还是 versus 最好

- 最好 gives direct advice: 你最好早点儿去 – "You'd best go early."
- 还是 sounds like a decision after considering options: 还是早点儿去吧 – "Let's go early after all."

你最好早点儿去。
nǐ zuì hǎo zǎo diǎnr qù
Word guide: 你 – you; 最好 – had best; 早 – early; 点儿 – a bit; 去 – go.

Recap

- **还是 + Verb (+ 吧)** = had better / after all, a choice made after weighing options.
- Not the question 还是 ("or"); 最好 gives more direct advice.

Practise this pattern step by step.

最好 (had best / it's best to)

Advice from the doctor

- You have a bad cold and ask the doctor what to do.
- **你最好多喝水，早点儿睡觉。** – "You'd best drink plenty of water and go to bed early."

最好 + Verb = had best

- **最好 + Verb** = "it's best to, you'd better": friendly but clear advice.
- It goes after the subject: 你最好 …; the negative is 最好别 / 最好不要.

你最好别喝咖啡。
nǐ zuì hǎo bié hē kā fēi
Word guide: 你 – you; 最好 – had best; 别 – not; 喝 – drink; 咖啡 – coffee.

最好: you'd best



Planning and warnings

- **去北京最好坐高铁。** – “The best way to get to Beijing is by high-speed train.”
- **最好提前订票，不然买不到。** – “It’s best to book in advance, or you won’t get a ticket.”

最好提前订票，不然买不到。
zuì hǎo tí qián dìng piào bù rán mǎi bu dào
Word guide: 最好 – best; 提前 – in advance; 订票 – book tickets; 不然 – otherwise; 买不到 – can’t get them.

Negative: 最好别

- “You’d better not” = 最好别 / 最好不要: 最好别去, not 不最好去.
- 最好 + Verb gives advice; 最好的 + noun means “the best”: 最好的朋友.

最好 versus 应该

- 应该 states what is right or expected: 你应该道歉 – “You should apologise.”
- 最好 suggests the wisest option: 你最好先道歉 – “You’d best apologise first.”

你应该道歉。
nǐ yīng gāi dào qiàn
Word guide: 你 – you; 应该 – should; 道歉 – apologise.

Recap

- **最好 + Verb** = it’s best to / you’d better; negative **最好别 / 不要**.
- 最好的 + noun = the best ….; 应该 = should (duty).

Practise this pattern step by step.

不得不 (have no choice but to)

No other option

- Your friend has a high fever on the morning of an important exam.
- **他发烧了，不得不请假。** – “He has a fever, so he has no choice but to ask for leave.”

Subject + 不得不 + Verb

- **不得不** = “have no choice but to, be forced to”: outside pressure makes the action necessary.
- It sits after the subject, before the verb: 我不得不承认, 我们不得不改计划.

我不得不承认，他说得对。
wǒ bù dé bù chéng rèn tā shuō de duì
Word guide: 我 – I; 不得不 – have to; 承认 – admit; 他 – he; 说 – says; 对 – right.

不得不: have to (no way round it)



Rules, money, health

- **因为没钱，他不得不卖掉了车。** – “Because he had no money, he had to sell his car.”
- **飞机晚点了，我们不得不在机场住一晚。** – “The flight was delayed, so we had to spend a night at the airport.”

飞机晚点了，我们不得不在机场住一晚。
fēi jī wǎn diǎn le wǒ men bù dé bú zài jī chǎng zhù yì wǎn
Word guide: 飞机 – the flight; 晚点 – delayed; 我们 – we; 不得不 – had to; 在 – at; 机场 – the airport; 住 – stay; 一晚 – one night.

Not “must not”

- 不得不 is a double negative that means “must”: “cannot not do”. It never means “mustn’t”.
- “Mustn’t” is 不能 or 不可以: 这里不能停车.

不得不 versus 只好 and 必须

- 只好 is resigned and casual: 没车了，只好走回去.
- 必须 states a requirement: 你必须带护照. 不得不 stresses being forced by the situation.

你必须带护照。
nǐ bì xū dài hù zhào
Word guide: 你 – you; 必须 – must; 带 – bring; 护照 – your passport.

Recap

- **不得不 + Verb** = have no choice but to, forced by circumstances.
- It means “must”, never “mustn’t” (不能). 只好 = resigned; 必须 = a requirement.

Practise this pattern step by step.

到底 (on earth / after all)

Are you coming or not?

- Your friend has changed his answer three times about tonight's dinner.
- **你到底来不来?** – "Are you coming or not, for goodness' sake?"

到底 in questions = on earth

- **到底** adds impatience or insistence to a question: "on earth, exactly".
- It goes before the question part: 到底去哪儿? 到底是谁? 到底怎么了?

你到底想说什么?
nǐ dào dǐ xiǎng shuō shén me
Word guide: 你 – you; 到底 – on earth; 想 – want; 说 – say; 什么 – what.

到底 in a question: so which is it?



Question words and A-not-A, not 吗

- **这到底是怎么回事?** – "What on earth is going on?"
- **他到底同意不同意?** – "Does he agree or not?" 到底 needs a question word or an A-not-A form.

这到底是怎么回事?
zhè dào dǐ shì zěn me huí shì
Word guide: 这 – this; 到底 – on earth; 是 – is; 怎么 – how; 回事 – matter.

No 吗 with 到底

- Do not combine 到底 with 吗: 你到底去不去? , not 你到底去吗?
- Put 到底 before the question part, after the subject: 你到底在哪儿?

到底 in statements: after all, in the end

- **他到底是个孩子，别太生气。** – "He is, after all, just a child; don't be too angry."
- **我们等了很久，他到底还是来了。** – "We waited a long time, and in the end he did come."

他到底是个孩子。
tā dào dǐ shì ge hái zi
Word guide: 他 – he; 到底 – after all; 是 – is; 个 – a; 孩子 – child.

Recap

- **到底 + question (QW or A-not-A)** = on earth / exactly; never with 吗.
- In statements: 到底是 … = after all; 到底还是 = in the end.

Practise this pattern step by step.

究竟 (exactly / on earth)

The question everyone asks

- A news report on a mysterious light in the sky ends with one question.
- **那究竟是什么?** – "What exactly was it?"

究竟 = exactly, on earth (more formal)

- **究竟** works like 到底 in questions, but sounds more serious and written.
- It needs a question word or A-not-A: 究竟为什么? 究竟去不去?

问题究竟在哪儿?
wèn tí jiū jìng zài nǎr
Word guide: 问题 – the problem; 究竟 – exactly; 在 – lies; 哪儿 – where.

究竟: what on earth (formal 到底)



In reports and discussions

- **事故的原因究竟是什么?** – "What exactly caused the accident?"
- **我们究竟应该怎么做?** – "What exactly should we do?"

事故的原因究竟是什么?
shì gù de yuán yīn jiū jìng shì shén me
Word guide: 事故 – the accident's; 原因 – cause; 究竟 – exactly; 是 – is; 什么 – what.

Same rules as 到底

- No 吗: 你究竟同意不同意？, not 你究竟同意吗?
- Put 究竟 after the topic and before the question part: 原因究竟是什么?

究竟 versus 到底

- In questions they are interchangeable; 究竟 is more formal and calmer.
- 到底 has extra uses in statements (到底还是来了 – "in the end he came"); 究竟 rarely does.

他到底还是来了。
tā dào dǐ hái shi lái le
Word guide: 他 – he; 到底 – in the end; 还是 – still; 来 – come.

Recap

- **究竟 + question** = exactly / on earth, more formal than 到底.
- It needs a question word or A-not-A, never 吗; 到底 also works in statements.

Practise this pattern step by step.

刚 + Verb (just did)

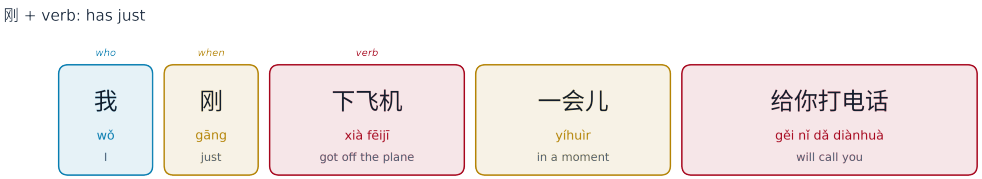
Just landed

- Your mum calls as you walk out of the arrivals hall.
- **我刚下飞机，一会儿给你打电话。** – "I've just got off the plane; I'll call you in a bit."

刚 + Verb = have just done

- **刚 + Verb** = something happened a short time ago: 刚到, 刚吃完, 刚起床.
- It sits right before the verb; the sentence usually has no 了: 我刚到.

我刚起床。
wǒ gāng qǐ chuáng
Word guide: 我 – I; 刚 – just; 起床 – get up.



刚 + Verb + duration: only recently

- **他刚来北京两个月。** – "He's only been in Beijing for two months."
- "Recent" depends on the speaker: two months can be 刚 for a new arrival.

他刚来北京两个月。
tā gāng lái Běi jīng liǎng gè yuè
Word guide: 他 – he; 刚 – just; 来 – come; 北京 – Beijing; 两个月 – two months.

Position and 了

- 刚 never starts the sentence: 我刚到, not 刚我到. (刚才 can start it.)
- A 刚 sentence usually needs no 了: 他刚走 already says it has happened.

刚 ... 就 ...: as soon as

- **我刚到家，就下雨了。** – "I'd only just got home when it started to rain."
- The second event follows immediately after the first.

我刚到家，就下雨了。
wǒ gāng dào jiā jiù xià yǔ le
Word guide: 我 – I; 刚 – just; 到 – arrive; 家 – home; 就 – then; 下雨 – rain.

Recap

- **刚 + Verb** = have just; **刚 + Verb + duration** = only recently. Aspectual 了 is possible when the sentence needs it.
- **刚 ... 就 ...** = no sooner … than. 刚 never starts the sentence.

Practise this pattern step by step.

一 + MW + 一 + MW (one by one)

Step by step

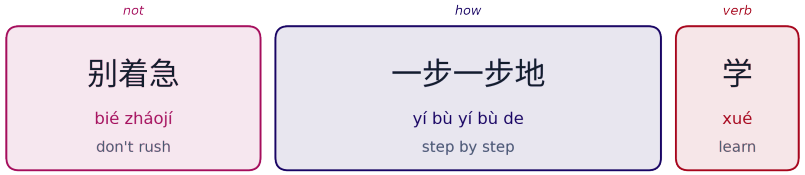
- Your coach tells you not to rush learning a new dance.
- **别着急，一步一步地学。** – "Don't rush; learn it step by step."

一 + MW + 一 + MW (地) + Verb

- **一个一个, 一天一天, 一步一步** = one by one, day by day, step by step.
- Before a verb it often takes 地: 一个一个地检查 – "check them one by one".

请一个一个地进来。
qǐng yí gè yí gè de jìn lai
Word guide: 请 – please; 一个 – one; 一个 – by one; 进来 – come in.

一 + measure + 一 + measure: one by one



■ Gradual change

- **孩子一天一天地长大了。** – "The child grew up day by day."
- **问题要一个一个地解决。** – "The problems have to be solved one at a time."

孩子一天一天地长大了。
hái zi yì tiān yì tiān de zhǎng dà le
Word guide: 孩子 – the child; 一天 – day; 一天 – by day; 长大 – grow up.

■ Same measure word twice

- Use the same measure word in both halves: 一本一本, not 一本一个.
- Put the phrase before the verb: 一个一个地问, not 问一个一个.

■ Describing a scene

- Before a noun, it can describe many items in a row: **一座一座的高楼** – "tall building after tall building".
- Then it takes 的, not 地.

路边是一座一座的高楼。
lù biān shì yí zuò yí zuò de gāo lóu
Word guide: 路边 – by the road; 是 – are; 一座 – one; 一座 – after another; 高楼 – tall buildings.

■ Recap

- **一 + MW + 一 + MW + 地 + Verb** = one by one, step by step.
- Same MW twice; before a verb take 地, before a noun take 的.

Practise this pattern step by step.

本来 (originally / at first)

■ Change of plan

- You were going to spend the holiday in Yunnan, but then your cousin invited you to Hainan.
- **我本来想去云南，后来去了海南。** – "I originally wanted to go to Yunnan, but in the end I went to Hainan."

■ 本来 = originally, at first

- **本来** describes the original plan or situation, usually before something changed.
- It goes after the subject (or at the start): 他本来是医生，后来当了作家.

他本来是医生，后来当了作家。
tā běn lái shì yī shēng hòu lái dāng le zuò jiā
Word guide: 他 – he; 本来 – originally; 是 – was; 医生 – a doctor; 后来 – later; 当 – became; 作家 – a writer.

本来 … 后来 …: the plan, then what happened



■ Plans that changed

- **我本来不想来，可是朋友一定要我来。** – "I didn't really want to come, but my friend insisted."
- 本来 often pairs with 后来, 可是 or 但是 to show the change.

我本来不想来。
wǒ běn lái bù xiǎng lái
Word guide: 我 – I; 本来 – originally; 不 – not; 想 – want to; 来 – come.

■ The second meaning: of course

- **本来就** = "should have been obvious, naturally": 学生本来就应该学习 – "Students are, of course, supposed to study."
- This 本来 has no change of plan; it means the thing was always true.

■ 本来 versus 原来

- Both can mean "originally": 本来 / 原来的计划.
- Only 原来 announces a discovery: 原来是你！ – "Oh, it's you!" 本来 cannot do this.

原来是你！
yuán lái shì nǐ
Word guide: 原来 – so it turns out; 是 – it's; 你 – you.

Recap

- **本来** = originally, before a change (often with 后来 / 可是).
- **本来就** = naturally, of course. Only 原来 can mean "so it turns out".

Practise this pattern step by step.

就 (only / just – small quantity)

Just ten yuan

- Your friend asks to borrow money for lunch, but your wallet is almost empty.
- **我就有十块钱。** – "I've only got ten yuan." Here 就 means "only, just".

就 + number / noun = only

- **就 + amount** = "only that much": 就十块钱, 就两个人, 就一次.
- **就 + person** = "only (that person)": 就他一个人来了 – "Only he came."

就他一个人来了。
jiù tā yí gè rén lái le
Word guide: 就 – only; 他 – he; 一个人 – alone; 来 – came.

就 + amount: only



Spoken "only"

- **我就去过一次。** – "I've only been once."
- **就这么多了?** – "Is that all?" 就 often sounds casual and immediate.

我就去过一次。
wǒ jiù qù guo yí cì
Word guide: 我 – I; 就 – only; 去 – go; 过 – (experience); 一次 – once.

Which 就?

- Before a number or a person, 就 means "only". Between a time/condition and a verb it means "then / as early as": 六点就起床了.
- Stress helps in speech: 就 is said with emphasis when it means "only".

就 versus 只 and 才

- 只 is the neutral "only": 我只有十块钱.
- 才 + number = only, with surprise that it is so little: 他才十岁. 就 is casual and matter-of-fact.

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

- **就 + number / person** = only, just (casual): 就十块, 就他一个人.
- 只 = neutral only; 才 = surprisingly few. Time + 就 + verb is a different 就 (early).

Practise this pattern step by step.

千万 (be sure to / whatever you do)

Before you leave

- Your friend is flying abroad tomorrow, and you remember how forgetful she is.
- **你千万别忘了带护照!** – "Whatever you do, don't forget your passport!"

千万 + 别 / 不要 / 要

- **千万 + 别 / 不要** = "whatever you do, don't …": a strong warning.
- **千万要** = "be sure to": 千万要小心.

千万要小心!
qiān wàn yào xiǎo xīn
Word guide: 千万 – whatever you do; 要 – be sure to; 小心 – be careful.

千万 + 别: whatever you do, don't



Advice to someone else

- **这件事千万不要告诉别人。** – “Whatever you do, don’t tell anyone about this.”
- **路上千万注意安全。** – “Do be careful on the road.”

这件事千万不要告诉别人。
zhè jiàn shì qiān wàn bú yào gào su bié rén
Word guide: 这件事 – this matter; 千万 – whatever you do; 不要 – don’t; 告诉 – tell; 别人 – others.

Requests, not statements

- Use 千万 in advice or requests to someone, not to describe facts: 他千万没来 is wrong.
- 千万 goes before 别 / 不要 / 要, after the subject if there is one: 你千万别 ….

千万 versus 一定

- 一定要 = must, definitely: 你一定要来 – “You must come.”
- 千万 is more urgent and mostly warns against something going wrong.

你一定要来。
nǐ yí dìng yào lái
Word guide: 你 – you; 一定 – definitely; 要 – must; 来 – come.

Recap

- **千万别 / 千万不要** = whatever you do, don’t; **千万要** = be sure to.
- For requests and advice only; 一定要 = must.

Practise this pattern step by step.

恐怕 (I’m afraid / probably)

Running late

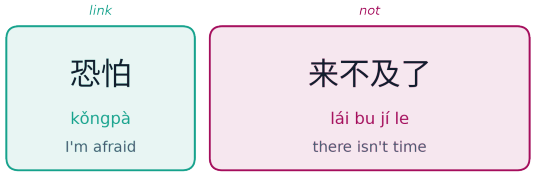
- You are stuck in traffic and the train leaves in ten minutes.
- **恐怕来不及了。** – “I’m afraid we won’t make it.”

恐怕 + guess = I’m afraid, probably

- **恐怕** introduces a guess, usually about something unwelcome: “I’m afraid …, probably …”.
- It can start the sentence or follow the subject: 恐怕他不会来了 / 他恐怕不会来了.

他恐怕不会来了。
tā kǒng pà bú huì lái le
Word guide: 他 – he; 恐怕 – I’m afraid; 不会 – won’t; 来 – come.

恐怕: I'm afraid (that)



Softening bad news

- **这件事恐怕有点儿难。** – “I’m afraid this may be a bit difficult.”
- **明天恐怕要下雨。** – “It’ll probably rain tomorrow, I’m afraid.”

明天恐怕要下雨。
míng tiān kǒng pà yào xià yǔ
Word guide: 明天 – tomorrow; 恐怕 – probably; 要 – will; 下雨 – rain.

A guess, not fear

- 恐怕 is a cautious prediction, not “be scared of”: “I’m scared of dogs” is 我怕狗, not 我恐怕狗.
- It usually goes with unwelcome news; for a neutral guess, 可能 is better: 他可能在家.

恐怕 versus 可能

- 可能 = maybe, neutral: 他可能来, 也可能不来.
- 恐怕 = probably, with regret: 他恐怕来不了了 – “I’m afraid he can’t come.”

他可能在家。
tā kě néng zài jiā
Word guide: 他 – he; 可能 – maybe; 在 – be at; 家 – home.

Recap

- **恐怕 + guess** = I’m afraid / probably, softening bad news.
- Not “be afraid of” (怕); neutral guesses use 可能.

Practise this pattern step by step.

竟然 (actually / unexpectedly)

He actually did it

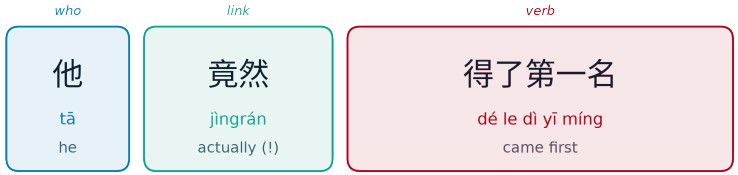
- Your quiet classmate, who never speaks in class, won the speech contest.
- **他竟然得了第一名！** – “He actually won first place!”

Subject + 竟然 + Verb

- **竟然** = “unexpectedly, to my surprise”: the event goes against what the speaker expected.
- It sits after the subject, before the verb: 他竟然忘了, 她竟然没来.

他竟然忘了我的生日。
tā jìng rán wàng le wǒ de shēng rì
Word guide: 他 – he; 竟然 – actually; 忘 – forget; 我 – my; 生日 – birthday.

竟然: surprisingly



Good or bad surprises

- Bad: **这么简单的题，我竟然做错了。** – “I actually got such an easy question wrong.”
- Good: **六岁的孩子竟然会说三种语言。** – “A six-year-old who can speak three languages!”

这么简单的题，我竟然做错了。
zhè me jiǎn dān de tí wǒ jìng rán zuò cuò le
Word guide: 这么 – such; 简单 – easy; 题 – question; 我 – I; 竟然 – actually; 做错 – got wrong.

Only for surprises

- Use 竟然 only when the outcome is unexpected; for a plain fact, leave it out.
- It is an adverb: 他竟然来了, not 竟然他来了 in most speech.

竟然 versus 居然 and 果然

- 居然 means the same and is common in speech: 他居然没来!
- 果然 is the opposite: “just as expected”: 天气预报说下雨，果然下雨了.

天气预报说下雨，果然下雨了。
tiān qì yù bào shuō xià yǔ guǒ rán xià yǔ le
Word guide: 天气 – weather; 预报 – forecast; 说 – said; 下雨 – rain; 果然 – sure enough; 下雨 – it rained.

Recap

- **竟然 / 居然 + Verb** = unexpectedly, actually (to my surprise).
- 果然 = just as expected, the opposite.

Practise this pattern step by step.

难道 (rhetorical: don’t tell me …?)

You can’t be serious

- Your friend asks whether today’s class is cancelled. The whole school knows it isn’t.
- **难道你不知道吗?** – “Don’t tell me you don’t know?”

难道 … (吗)? = rhetorical question

- **难道 … 吗?** asks a question that expects the opposite answer: “Surely not … ?”
- A negative question expects “yes”: 难道你不累吗? = “Surely you’re tired.”

难道你不累吗?
nán dào nǐ bú lèi ma
Word guide: 难道 – surely; 你 – you; 不 – not; 累 – tired.

难道 … 吗: surely not … ?



Surprise or reproach

- **难道他忘了?** – “Can he really have forgotten?”
- **这么重要的事，难道你不应该先问我吗?** – “Shouldn’t you have asked me first about something so important?”

难道他忘了?
nán dào tā wàng le
Word guide: 难道 – can it be; 他 – he; 忘 – forget.

The answer is built in

- 难道 does not ask for information; the speaker already believes the answer. Use it to challenge, not to ask.
- 难道 sits at the start or after the subject: 你难道不知道吗？ is also correct.

Versus a normal question

- 你知道吗？ – a real question: “Do you know?”
- 难道你不知道吗？ – “You must know!” (and the speaker is surprised or annoyed).

你知道吗?
nǐ zhī dào ma
Word guide: 你 – you; 知道 – know.

Recap

- **难道 … 吗?** = surely not … ? / don’t tell me …, a rhetorical challenge.
- A negative 难道 question means the positive: 难道你不累吗 = you must be tired.

Practise this pattern step by step.

先 … ，再 … (first …, then …)

A three-step plan

- You are explaining to a new colleague how to set up their work account.
- **你先填这张表，再去人事部，然后领电脑。** – “First fill in this form, then go to HR, and after that collect your computer.”

先 A，再 B (，然后 C)

- **先 … 再 …** orders steps that are still to come: plans, instructions, suggestions.
- Add 然后 or 最后 for longer sequences: 先 … 再 … 然后 … 最后 ….

我们先看看，再决定。
wǒ men xiān kàn kan zài jué dìng
Word guide: 我们 – we; 先 – first; 看看 – have a look; 再 – then; 决定 – decide.



先 … 再说: deal with it later

- **先吃饭，别的事以后再说。** – “Let’s eat first; we can talk about the rest later.”
- 再说 here postpones a decision until the first step is done.

先吃饭，别的事以后再说。
xiān chī fàn bié de shì yǐ hòu zài shuō
Word guide: 先 – first; 吃饭 – eat; 别的 – other; 事 – things; 以后 – later; 再说 – deal with.

Future steps only

- For a past sequence, use 先 … 然后 … with 了: 我先去了银行，然后去了超市.
- 先 and 再 are adverbs: each comes after the subject, before its verb: 我先走，你再走.

再 = only then

- 再 can mean “not until (the first step is done)”: **等雨停了再走。** – “Wait until the rain stops before you leave.”
- 等 … 再 … is a very common pattern for “wait until … then …”.

等雨停了再走。
děng yǔ tíng le zài zǒu
Word guide: 等 – wait until; 雨 – the rain; 停 – stop; 再 – then; 走 – leave.

Recap

- **先 A，再 B** = first A, then B, for future steps; extend with 然后 / 最后.
- 先 … 再说 = deal with it later; 等 … 再 … = wait until … then. Past sequences use 先 … 然后 … + 了.

Practise this pattern step by step.

也都 (also all of them)

They came too

- Your class went to the museum; you find out the class next door all went as well.
- **他们也都去了博物馆。** – “They all went to the museum too.”

Subject + 也 + 都 + Verb

- **也都** = “also all”: 也 adds this group to another, 都 says every member of the group did it.
- The order is fixed: 也 before 都.

我们也都是学生。
wǒ men yě dōu shì xué sheng
Word guide: 我们 – we; 也 – also; 都 – all; 是 – are; 学生 – students.

也都: also ... all (in that order)



■ Adding another group

- **我的朋友喜欢这首歌，我的父母也都喜欢。** – "My friends like this song, and my parents both like it too."
- With negatives: **他们也都不知道。** – "They don't know either (none of them)."

他们也都不知道。
tā men yě dōu bù zhī dào
Word guide: 他们 – they; 也 – also; 都 – all; 不 – not; 知道 – know.

■ 也 first, then 都

- Say 也都, never 都也: 我们也都去, not 我们都也去.
- Both adverbs come after the subject and before the verb or 不 / 没.

■ 也, 都 and 也都

- 我们都去 = all of us are going. 我们也去 = we are going too.
- **我们也都去。** = we are all going too: another group, and every one of us.

我们也都去。
wǒ men yě dōu qù
Word guide: 我们 – we; 也 – also; 都 – all; 去 – go.

■ Recap

- **也都 + Verb** = also all (another group, every member).
- Order: 也 before 都, both before the verb or negative.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 差不多 (almost / about the same)

0201.1 Complete: "It's almost twelve o'clock." …… 十二点了。

0201.2 Which says "I almost missed the train (but caught it)"?

- A. 我跟火车差不多。
- B. 我赶上火车差不多。
- C. 我差不多没赶上火车。
- D. 我差点儿没赶上火车。

0201.3 Match each sentence to its meaning.

- 1. 这两件衣服差不多。
- 1. 差不多八点了。
- 1. 差不多就行了。
- A. The two items are about the same.
- B. That's good enough.
- C. It's almost eight.

0201.4 Build: "I'm about as tall as my older brother."

Arrange all chunks: 我哥哥 / 差不多 / 我跟 / 高。

0201.5 You compare two phones in a shop. The prices, cameras and sizes are almost identical. 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.

■ 看来 (it seems / in one's view)

0202.1 The restaurant is empty at seven: "It looks like the food here isn't very good." …… 这儿的菜不太好吃。

0202.2 Which says "She looks very young"?

- A. 她看起来很年轻。
- B. 在她看来很年轻。
- C. 看来她很年轻。
- D. 她很年轻看来。

0202.3 Build: "In my view, this approach isn't very good."

Arrange all chunks: 这个办法 / 在我看来 / ， / 不太好。

0202.4 看来 usually comes after the conclusion it introduces.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0202.5 The sky turns grey and the wind picks up while you are hiking. 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.

■ 正好 (just right / exactly)

0203.1 Complete: “I happen to have an umbrella; let’s share it.” 我 …… 带了伞，一起用吧。

0203.2 What does 一共正好五十块 mean?

- A. nearly fifty yuan
- B. about fifty yuan altogether
- C. exactly fifty yuan altogether
- D. more than fifty yuan

0203.3 Build: “You’ve come at just the right moment.”

Arrange all chunks: 正好。 / 来得 / 你

0203.4 正好 and 正在 both mean “in the middle of doing”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0203.5 You are about to phone your friend when your phone rings – it’s her. 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.

■ 只好 (have no choice but to)

0204.1 Complete: “The lift is broken, so we have to take the stairs.” 电梯坏了，我们 …… 走楼梯。

0204.2 Which sentence is natural?

- A. 我明天再来只好。
- B. 商店关门了，只好我再来明天。
- C. 只好我明天再来。
- D. 商店关门了，我只好明天再来。

0204.3 Build: “He can’t cook, so he has to eat instant noodles.”

Arrange all chunks: ， / 只好 / 他不会做饭 / 吃方便面。

0204.4 不得不 sounds stronger than 只好.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0204.5 You leave a party at midnight and the last bus left ten minutes ago. Taxis are all taken. 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.

■ 又 + 不 / 没 (emphatic negation)

0205.1 What does 又 add in 我又不是小孩子！?

- A. emphasis rejecting an assumption
- B. a time in the past
- C. again
- D. both … and

0205.2 Complete: “Don’t blame her – it’s not like she was late.” 别怪她，她 …… 没迟到。

0205.3 Build: “He’s not going to eat you.”

Arrange all chunks: 又 / 吃了你。 / 不会 / 他

0205.4 并不 is calmer and more written than 又不.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0205.5 Your roommate asks you, again, to wash his dishes. 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.

■ 可 + Adj (emphatic)

0206.1 Complete: “That restaurant is really expensive!” 那家饭馆 …… 贵了！

0206.2 What does 你可别迟到！ mean?

- A. You can’t be late.
- B. Whatever you do, don’t be late!
- C. You may be late.
- D. You were late again.

0206.3 Build: “This film is really interesting.”

Arrange all chunks: 这个电影 / 了。 / 可 / 有意思

0206.4 In 我想去，可没时间, 可 means “but”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0206.5 A friend from the south asks whether Harbin in winter is really as cold as people say. 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.

■ 原来 (so it turns out / all along)

0207.1 You hear a knock and open the door: “Oh, it’s you!” …… 是你!

0207.2 In 原来的计划是星期一出发, what does 原来 mean?

- A. original
- B. so it turns out
- C. no wonder
- D. suddenly

0207.3 Build: “So it snowed – no wonder it’s so cold.”

Arrange all chunks: 原来下雪了 / 难怪 / ， / 这么冷。

0207.4 我以为他是老师，原来他是学生 means he turned out to be a student.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0207.5 Your colleague hasn’t touched his lunch all week. Today you find out he has a toothache. 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.

■ 差点 (almost / nearly)

0208.1 Complete: “I nearly forgot your birthday!” 我 …… 忘了你的生日!

0208.2 What does 他差点儿没考上大学 mean?

- A. He didn’t try.
- B. He nearly passed but failed.
- C. He nearly failed but got in.
- D. He passed easily.

0208.3 我差点儿摔倒 and 我差点儿没摔倒 mean the same.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0208.4 Build: “I nearly missed the train.”

Arrange all chunks: 我 / 差点儿 / 火车。/ 没赶上

0208.5 You slipped on the ice outside your building but grabbed the railing just in time. 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.

■ 从来 + 不 / 没 (never)

0209.1 Complete: “I’ve never eaten durian.” 我从来没吃 …… 榴莲。

0209.2 Which says “She never eats meat” (a personal rule)?

- A. 她从来没吃肉了。
- B. 她从来没吃过肉。
- C. 她从来不吃肉。
- D. 她不从来吃肉。

0209.3 Build: “He never drinks alcohol.”

Arrange all chunks: 不喝 / 他 / 从来 / 酒。

0209.4 从来 is the usual word for “always” in positive sentences.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0209.5 Your grandfather is eighty and proud of one thing about his health. 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.

■ 结果 (as a result / in the end)

0210.1 Complete: “I didn’t bring an umbrella, and in the end I got soaked.” 我没带伞，…… 被雨淋湿了。

0210.2 In 比赛的结果是二比一, what is 结果?

- A. a noun meaning “result”
- B. an adverb meaning “finally”
- C. a verb meaning “finish”
- D. a conjunction meaning “so”

0210.3 Build: “He went to bed late, and as a result he was late today.”

Arrange all chunks: 他睡得很晚 / 结果 / 今天迟到了。/ ，

0210.4 结果 is used for a result that has actually happened.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0210.5 You prepared sandwiches all morning for a picnic. At noon it started to pour. 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.

■ 够 (enough / sufficient)

0211.1 Complete: “Is there enough money?” 钱 …… 不够?

0211.2 Which says “This water isn’t enough to drink”?

- A. 这些水不够喝。
- B. 这些水不喝够。
- C. 这些水喝不够。
- D. 这些水够不喝。

0211.3 Build: “The money is enough to buy one ticket.”

Arrange all chunks: 钱 / 买一张票。/ 够

0211.4 足够 is more formal than 够.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0211.5 You invited eight friends, but only cooked for four. 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.

■ 甚至 (even / to the point that)

0212.1 Complete: “He works so hard he even works at weekends.” 他工作很努力，…… 周末也工作。

0212.2 Where does 甚至 fit best? A 这个地方 B 夏天热，C 春天也热，D 冬天也不冷。

- A. A
- B. D
- C. B
- D. C

0212.3 Build: “He even wrote his own name wrong.”

Arrange all chunks: 写错了。/ 都 / 连自己的名字 / 他甚至

0212.4 甚至 can join two clauses, as in 他不说话，甚至不看我.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0212.5 Your sister has started a new job and works from morning till night. 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.

■ 还是 + Verb (had better)

0213.1 Suggest: “It’s raining; we’d better stay home.” 下雨了，我们 …… 在家吧。

0213.2 In which sentence does 还是 mean “had better”?

- A. 我们还是打车吧。
- B. 你去还是不去?
- C. 他是老师还是学生?
- D. 你喝茶还是咖啡?

0213.3 Build: “I thought it over, and I’m not going after all.”

Arrange all chunks: 我还是 / 不去了。/ 想了想 / ，

0213.4 还是 here suggests the speaker considered other options.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0213.5 You are about to drive to the airport, but the radio says the motorway is blocked. 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.

■ 最好 (had best / it’s best to)

0214.1 Advise: “You’d best bring a coat.” 你 …… 带一件外套。

0214.2 Which says “You’d better not drive tonight”?

- A. 你不最好今晚开车。
- B. 你今晚最好别开车。
- C. 你今晚别最好开车。
- D. 你今晚开车最好别。

0214.3 Build: “It’s best to book in advance.”

Arrange all chunks: 订票。/ 提前 / 最好

0214.4 In 他是我最好的朋友, 最好 means “had better”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0214.5 You have a bad cold and ask the doctor what to do. 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.

■ 不得不 (have no choice but to)

0215.1 Complete: “The shop closed, so we had to find another one.” 商店关门了，我们 …… 去找别的店。

0215.2 What does 我不得不走了 mean?

- A. I can’t leave.

- B. I have to leave now.
- C. I don't want to leave.
- D. I mustn't leave.

0215.3 Build: "Because he had no money, he had to sell his car."

Arrange all chunks: 卖掉了车。 / 不得不 / ， / 他 / 因为没钱

0215.4 不得不 can mean "must not".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0215.5 Your friend has a high fever on the morning of an important exam. 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.

■ 到底 (on earth / after all)

0216.1 Complete: "What on earth happened?" …… 发生了什么?

0216.2 Which question is correct?

- A. 到底你喜欢她吗?
- B. 你到底喜欢不喜欢她?
- C. 你到底喜欢她吗?
- D. 你喜欢她到底吗?

0216.3 Build: "What on earth is going on?"

Arrange all chunks: 回事? / 到底 / 是怎么 / 这

0216.4 In 他到底是个孩子, 到底 means "after all".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0216.5 Your friend has changed his answer three times about tonight's dinner. 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.

■ 究竟 (exactly / on earth)

0217.1 Complete a formal question: "What exactly is the reason?" 原因 …… 是什么?

0217.2 Which question is correct?

- A. 他究竟来吗?
- B. 他究竟来不来?
- C. 他来究竟吗?
- D. 究竟他来吗?

0217.3 Build: "What exactly should we do?"

Arrange all chunks: 怎么做? / 应该 / 我们 / 究竟

0217.4 究竟 sounds more formal than 到底.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0217.5 A news report on a mysterious light in the sky ends with one question. 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.

■ 刚 + Verb (just did)

0218.1 Complete: "I've just finished eating." 我 …… 吃完饭。

0218.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他刚走了了。
- B. 刚他走。
- C. 他刚走。
- D. 他走刚。

0218.3 Build: "I'd only just got home when it started to rain."

Arrange all chunks: ， 就 / 我刚 / 到家 / 下雨了。

0218.4 他刚来北京两个月 means he has only been in Beijing for two months.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0218.5 Your mum calls as you walk out of the arrivals hall. 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 + MW + 一 + MW (one by one)

0219.1 Complete: "Please come in one by one." 请一个 …… 地进来。

0219.2 Which phrase is correct?

- A. 一本地一本看
- B. 一本一本地看
- C. 看一本一本
- D. 一本一个地看

0219.3 Build: "The problems have to be solved one at a time."

Arrange all chunks: 问题 / 一个一个地 / 要 / 解决。

0219.4 一座一座的高楼 uses 的 because it comes before a noun.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0219.5 Your coach tells you not to rush learning a new dance. 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.

■ 本来 (originally / at first)

0220.1 Complete: "I originally planned to leave on Monday." 我 …… 打算星期一走。

0220.2 You open the door and find your old friend. Which fits? "_____ 是你！"

- A. 本来
- B. 原来
- C. 后来
- D. 从来

0220.3 Build: "I didn't really want to come, but my friend insisted."

Arrange all chunks: 不想来 / 我本来 / ， 可是 / 朋友一定要我来。

0220.4 In 学生本来就应该学习, 本来就 means "of course, naturally".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0220.5 You were going to spend the holiday in Yunnan, but then your cousin invited you to Hainan. 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.

■ 就 (only / just – small quantity)

0221.1 Complete: "Only two people came." …… 两个人来了。

0221.2 In 他六点就起床了, what does 就 mean?

- A. also
- B. only
- C. as early as
- D. not until

0221.3 Build: "I've only been once."

Arrange all chunks: 一次。/ 我 / 去过 / 就

0221.4 他才十岁 sounds more surprised than 他就十岁.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0221.5 Your friend asks to borrow money for lunch, but your wallet is almost empty. 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.

■ 千万 (be sure to / whatever you do)

0222.1 Warn: "Whatever you do, don't be late!" 你 …… 别迟到！

0222.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他昨天千万没来。
- B. 千万你别去。
- C. 你别千万去。
- D. 你千万要注意身体。

0222.3 Build: "Whatever you do, don't tell anyone about this."

Arrange all chunks: 告诉别人。/ 这件事 / 不要 / 千万

0222.4 千万 is mainly used to warn against something going wrong.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0222.5 Your friend is flying abroad tomorrow, and you remember how forgetful she is. 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.

■ 恐怕 (I'm afraid / probably)

0223.1 Soften the news: "I'm afraid the tickets are sold out." …… 票已经卖完了。

0223.2 Which says "My little sister is scared of the dark"?

- A. 恐怕妹妹黑。
- B. 妹妹恐怕黑了。
- C. 妹妹怕黑。
- D. 妹妹恐怕黑。

0223.3 Build: "It'll probably rain tomorrow, I'm afraid."

Arrange all chunks: 下雨。/ 明天要 / 恐怕

0223.4 恐怕 usually goes with welcome news.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0223.5 You are stuck in traffic and the train leaves in ten minutes. 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.

■ 竟然 (actually / unexpectedly)

0224.1 Complete: “She actually didn’t come!” 她 …… 没来！

0224.2 The forecast said it would snow, and it did. Which word fits? 天气预报说下雪，_____ 下雪了。

- A. 突然
- B. 居然
- C. 果然
- D. 竟然

0224.3 Build: “I actually got such an easy question wrong.”

Arrange all chunks: 做错了。 / ， 我 / 这么简单的题 / 竟然

0224.4 竟然 can introduce a good surprise as well as a bad one.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0224.5 Your quiet classmate, who never speaks in class, won the speech contest. 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.

■ 难道 (rhetorical: don’t tell me …?)

0225.1 Challenge: “Don’t tell me you’ve never heard of him?” …… 你没听说过他吗?

0225.2 What does 难道你不饿吗? suggest?

- A. The speaker is hungry.
- B. The speaker thinks you must be hungry.
- C. The speaker thinks you are not hungry.
- D. The speaker is asking for information.

0225.3 Build: “Can he really have forgotten?”

Arrange all chunks: 忘了 / 真的 / 吗? / 难道他

0225.4 难道 is used to ask for information you don’t have.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0225.5 Your friend asks whether today’s class is cancelled. The whole school knows it isn’t. 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 …)

0226.1 Complete: “Let’s have a look first, then decide.” 我们先看看，…… 决定。

0226.2 Which says “Wait until the rain stops before you leave”?

- A. 再等雨停了走。
- B. 等雨停了又走。
- C. 雨停了等再走。
- D. 等雨停了再走。

0226.3 Build: “Let’s eat first; we can talk about the rest later.”

Arrange all chunks: 以后再说。 / 别的事 / 先吃饭 / ，

0226.4 先 … 再 … is the usual way to describe what you did yesterday.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0226.5 You are explaining to a new colleague how to set up their work account. 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.

■ 也都 (also all of them)

0227.1 Complete: “We are all teachers too.” 我们 …… 都是老师。

0227.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他们喜欢也都唱歌。
- B. 他们也都喜欢唱歌。
- C. 也他们都喜欢唱歌。
- D. 他们都也喜欢唱歌。

0227.3 Build: “They don’t know either (none of them).”

Arrange all chunks: 不 / 也都 / 知道。 / 他们

0227.4 都也 and 也都 are both correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0227.5 Your class went to the museum; you find out the class next door all went as well. 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

■ 差不多 (almost / about the same)

0201.1 差不多

差不多 + time = almost.

0201.2 D. 我差点儿没赶上火车。

Something that nearly happened takes 差点儿.

0201.3 1–A: 这两件衣服差不多。= The two items are about the same.; 2–C: 差不多八点了。= It's almost eight.; 3–B: 差不多就行了。= That's good enough.

The position of 差不多 decides its meaning.

0201.4 我跟我哥哥差不多高。

A 跟 B 差不多 + Adj.

0201.5 One possible response: 这两个手机差不多。

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.
- Before a number or verb phrase it means "almost": 差不多三点. After the things compared it means "similar": 价格差不多.
- It does not mean "nearly happened (but didn't)"; that is 差点儿: 我差点儿迟到.
- 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.

■ 看来 (it seems / in one's view)

0202.1 看来

An empty restaurant is evidence; 看来 draws the conclusion.

0202.2 A. 她看起来很年轻。

Appearance takes 看起来; 看来 draws a conclusion.

0202.3 在我看来，这个办法不太好。

在 + person + 看来 introduces an opinion.

0202.4 False.

看来 comes before the conclusion.

0202.5 One possible response: 看来要下雨了，我们回去吧。

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.
- 看来 reasons from evidence; for how something looks, use 看起来: 他看起来很累 – "He looks tired."
- Put 看来 before the conclusion, not after it: 看来他病了, not 他病了看来.
- 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.

■ 正好 (just right / exactly)

0203.1 正好

正好 + verb = happen to (a lucky fit).

0203.2 C. exactly fifty yuan altogether

Before a number, 正好 = exactly.

0203.3 你来得正好。

Verb + 得 + 正好.

0203.4 False.

Only 正在 means that; 正好 = just right / happen to / exactly.

0203.5 One possible response: 你来得正好，我正想给你打电话。

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.
- Before a number, 正好 = exactly: 正好一百块. For "about", use 左右 or 差不多: 一百块左右.
- Do not confuse it with 正在 (in the middle of doing): 我正在吃饭, not 我正好吃饭 for "I'm eating".
- 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.

■ 只好 (have no choice but to)

0204.1 只好

Obstacle, then subject + 只好 + verb.

0204.2 D. 商店关门了，我只好明天再来。

Reason first, then subject + 只好 + verb.

0204.3 他不会做饭，只好吃方便面。

Reason + 只好 + verb phrase.

0204.4 True.

不得不 stresses being forced; 只好 sounds resigned.

0204.5 One possible response: 没有车了，我们只好走回家。

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.
- Give the obstacle before 只好; 只好 alone with no reason sounds incomplete.
- Place 只好 after the subject: 我只好走路, not 只好我走路 in most 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.

■ 又 + 不 / 没 (emphatic negation)

0205.1 A. emphasis rejecting an assumption

又 + 不 pushes back: "I'm not a child, you know!"

0205.2 又

又 + 没 for an emphatic denial.

0205.3 他又不会吃了你。

Subject + 又 + 不会 + verb.

0205.4 True.

又不 is emotional speech; 并不 states a correction calmly.

0205.5 One possible response: 我又不是你的服务员！

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.
- In 又不 / 又没, 又 is not "again"; it adds force to the denial.
- Keep it in speech; in neutral statements, plain 不 / 没 is enough: 他没做错.
- 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.

■ 可 + Adj (emphatic)

0206.1 可

可 + Adj + 了 for spoken emphasis.

0206.2 B. Whatever you do, don't be late!

可 before 别 adds urgency: 你可别迟到！"Whatever you do, don't be late!" It is a strong warning, not a statement about what is possible.

0206.3 这个电影可有意思了。

可 + Adj + 了.

0206.4 True.

At the start of a clause, 可 can be short for 可是.

0206.5 One possible response: 哈尔滨的冬天可冷了！

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.
- Use 可 … 了 in conversation; in writing choose 非常 or 十分.
- 可 + Adj usually needs 了 or 呢 at the end: 可冷了, not just 可冷.
- 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.

■ 原来 (so it turns out / all along)

0207.1 原来

原来 announces a discovery.

0207.2 A. original

原来 + 的 + noun = the original plan.

0207.3 原来下雪了，难怪这么冷。

原来 + discovery, 难怪 + what it explains.

0207.4 True.

以为 marks the mistaken belief; 原来 the truth.

0207.5 One possible response: 原来他牙疼，难怪不吃饭。

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.
- At the start of a clause, 原来 reveals a discovery: 原来是这样！– "So that's how it is!"
- Before a noun (with 的) or describing the past, it means "original(ly)": 原来的计划 – "the original plan".
- 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.

■ 差点 (almost / nearly)

0208.1 差点儿

差点儿 + verb = it almost happened.

0208.2 C. He nearly failed but got in.

Getting in is wanted, so 差点儿没 = nearly failed (but succeeded).

0208.3 True.

Falling is unwanted, so both mean "I nearly fell (but didn't)".

0208.4 我差点儿没赶上火车。

差点儿没 + wanted result = nearly failed to.

0208.5 One possible response: 我差点儿摔倒。

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.
- Wanted result: 差点儿考上 = almost passed (but failed); 差点儿没考上 = nearly failed (but passed).
- Unwanted result: 差点儿撞车 and 差点儿没撞车 both = nearly crashed (but didn't).
- 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.

■ 从来 + 不 / 没 (never)

0209.1 过

从来没 + verb + 过 for an experience.

0209.2 C. 她从来不吃肉。

A habit or rule takes 从来不.

0209.3 他从来不喝酒。

Subject + 从来 + 不 + verb.

0209.4 False.

Use 一直 or 总是 for "always"; 从来 mostly appears with 不 / 没.

0209.5 One possible response: 爷爷从来不抽烟。

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.
- Habit or choice → 从来不; past experience → 从来没 + V + 过.
- Use 过 to highlight experience in this model. It is not required after every 从来没; the predicate and intended meaning determine the complete phrase.
- 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.

■ 结果 (as a result / in the end)

0210.1 结果

结果 introduces what actually happened.

0210.2 A. a noun meaning "result"

After 的, 结果 is a noun, "result": 比赛的结果是二比一 "The result of the match was 2–1." At the start of a clause, 结果 can also mean "as a result, in the end".

0210.3 他睡得很晚，结果今天迟到了。

Cause, then 结果 + outcome.

0210.4 True.

It reports the real outcome, often a surprise.

0210.5 One possible response: 我们准备了一上午，结果下雨了。

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.
- 结果 reports what actually happened, so it does not fit plans: 如果下雨，我们就不去, not 如果下雨，结果我们不去.
- It starts the result clause: …，结果他迟到了, not …，他结果迟到了 in most 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.

■ 够 (enough / sufficient)

0211.1 够

够不够 asks whether it is enough.

0211.2 A. 这些水不够喝。

不够 + verb = not enough to.

0211.3 钱够买一张票。

Noun + 够 + verb phrase.

0211.4 True.

足够 (的) = sufficient, often in writing.

0211.5 One possible response: 菜不够了，我再做两个吧。

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.
- 够 normally follows the thing that is enough: 钱够了, 时间不够.
- "Enough to do" puts the verb after 够: 够吃, 够用, not 吃够 (that means "have had one's fill").
- 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.

■ 甚至 (even / to the point that)

0212.1 甚至

甚至 introduces the extreme point.

0212.2 B. D

甚至 goes before the last, strongest item: 甚至冬天也不冷.

0212.3 他甚至连自己的名字都写错了。

甚至 + 连 … 都 + verb.

0212.4 True.

It raises the second clause to a stronger point.

0212.5 One possible response: 她忙得甚至没时间吃饭。

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 甚至 item last, as the strongest point; 甚至 does not introduce an ordinary item.
- 甚至 is more formal than 连 … 都 alone; the two often appear together.
- 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.

■ 还是 + Verb (had better)

0213.1 还是

还是 + verb + 吧 = had better.

0213.2 A. 我们还是打车吧。

The others are choice questions where 还是 = or.

0213.3 想了想，我还是不去了。

Reflection, then subject + 还是 + decision.

0213.4 True.

It marks a choice reached after weighing alternatives.

0213.5 One possible response: 我们还是坐地铁吧。

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.
- In a question, 还是 = "or": 你去还是我去? Here it is a statement or suggestion, so no question mark.
- 还是 + 不 … 了 reverses a plan: 我还是不去了 – "I'm not going after all."
- 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.

■ 最好 (had best / it's best to)

0214.1 最好

最好 + verb = had best.

0214.2 B. 你今晚最好别开车。

Time + 最好别 + verb; 不最好 is wrong.

0214.3 最好提前订票。

最好 + verb phrase.

0214.4 False.

False. Before 的 + noun, 最好 is "best": 我最好的朋友 "my best friend". Only before a verb does 最好 mean "had better": 你最好早点儿走.

0214.5 One possible response: 你最好多喝水，早点儿睡觉。

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.
- "You'd better not" = 最好别 / 最好不要: 最好别去, not 不最好去.
- 最好 + Verb gives advice; 最好的 + noun means "the best": 最好的朋友.
- 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.

■ 不得不 (have no choice but to)

0215.1 不得不

Forced by the situation: 不得不 (or 只好).

0215.2 B. I have to leave now.

不得不 = must, forced by the situation.

0215.3 因为没钱，他不得不卖掉了车。

Reason, then subject + 不得不 + verb.

0215.4 False.

It means "have no choice but to"; "must not" is 不能.

0215.5 One possible response: 他发烧了，不得不请假。

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.
- 不得不 is a double negative that means "must": "cannot not do". It never means "mustn't".
- "Mustn't" is 不能 or 不可以: 这里不能停车.
- 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.

■ 到底 (on earth / after all)

0216.1 到底

到底 + question word.

0216.2 B. 你到底喜欢不喜欢她?

到底 takes an A-not-A or a question word, never 吗.

0216.3 这到底是怎么回事?

Subject + 到底 + question.

0216.4 True.

In statements, 到底是 = after all.

0216.5 One possible response: 你到底来不来?

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.
- Do not combine 到底 with 吗: 你到底去不去? , not 你到底去吗?
- Put 到底 before the question part, after the subject: 你到底在哪儿?
- 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.

■ 究竟 (exactly / on earth)

0217.1 究竟

究竟 + question word.

0217.2 B. 他究竟来不来?

究竟 needs A-not-A or a question word.

0217.3 我们究竟应该怎么做?

Subject + 究竟 + question.

0217.4 True.

It suits reports and serious discussion.

0217.5 One possible response: 那究竟是什么?

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.
- No 吗: 你究竟同意不同意? , not 你究竟同意吗?
- Put 究竟 after the topic and before the question part: 原因究竟是什么?
- 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.

■ 刚 + Verb (just did)

0218.1 刚

刚 + verb = have just done.

0218.2 C. 他刚走。

他刚走 is right: 刚 is an adverb, so it goes after the subject and before the verb. It cannot start the sentence or follow the verb, and 了 is not doubled.

0218.3 我刚到家，就下雨了。

刚 + event 1, 就 + event 2.

0218.4 True.

刚 + verb + duration = only recently.

0218.5 One possible response: 我刚下飞机，一会儿给你打电话。

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.

- 刚 never starts the sentence: 我刚到, not 刚我到. (刚才 can start it.)
- A 刚 sentence usually needs no 了: 他刚走 already says it has happened.
- 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 + MW + 一 + MW (one by one)

0219.1 一个

一 + MW + 一 + MW.

0219.2 B. 一本一本地看

Same MW twice, then 地 + verb.

0219.3 问题要一个一个地解决。

Topic + 要 + 一个一个地 + verb.

0219.4 True.

Before a noun the phrase takes 的; before a verb, 地.

0219.5 One possible response: 别着急，一步一步地学。

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 the same measure word in both halves: 一本一本, not 一本一个.
- Put the phrase before the verb: 一个一个地问, not 问一个一个.
- 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.

■ 本来 (originally / at first)

0220.1 本来

本来 = originally (before a change).

0220.2 B. 原来

A discovery takes 原来; 本来 cannot announce one.

0220.3 我本来不想来，可是朋友一定要我来。

本来 + original wish, 可是 + change.

0220.4 True.

本来就 states something that was always true.

0220.5 One possible response: 我本来想去云南，后来去了海南。

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.
- **本来就** = "should have been obvious, naturally": 学生本来就应该学习 – "Students are, of course, supposed to study."
- This 本来 has no change of plan; it means the thing was always true.
- 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.

■ 就 (only / just – small quantity)

0221.1 就

就 + number = only.

0221.2 C. as early as

Time + 就 + verb = as early as; this is not the "only" 就.

0221.3 我就去过一次。

Subject + 就 + verb + 过 + 一次.

0221.4 True.

才 + number adds surprise that it is so little.

0221.5 One possible response: 我就有十块钱。

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.
- Before a number or a person, 就 means "only". Between a time/condition and a verb it means "then / as early as": 六点就起床了.
- Stress helps in speech: 就 is said with emphasis when it means "only".
- 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.

■ 千万 (be sure to / whatever you do)

0222.1 千万

千万 + 别 = a strong warning.

0222.2 D. 你千万要注意身体。

千万 belongs in advice; it goes after the subject, before 要 / 别.

0222.3 这件事千万不要告诉别人。

Topic + 千万不要 + verb.

0222.4 True.

It is an urgent warning or reminder.

0222.5 One possible response: 你千万别忘了带护照!

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 千万 in advice or requests to someone, not to describe facts: 他千万没来 is wrong.
- 千万 goes before 别 / 不要 / 要, after the subject if there is one: 你千万别 ….
- 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.

■ 恐怕 (I'm afraid / probably)

0223.1 恐怕

恐怕 introduces an unwelcome guess.

0223.2 C. 妹妹怕黑。

Being scared of something is 怕; 恐怕 is a cautious guess.

0223.3 恐怕明天要下雨。

恐怕 can start the sentence, before the prediction.

0223.4 False.

It usually softens unwelcome news; 可能 is neutral.

0223.5 One possible response: 恐怕来不及了。

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.
- 恐怕 is a cautious prediction, not "be scared of": "I'm scared of dogs" is 我怕狗, not 我恐怕狗.
- It usually goes with unwelcome news; for a neutral guess, 可能 is better: 他可能在家.
- 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.

■ 竟然 (actually / unexpectedly)

0224.1 竟然

竟然 marks a surprise.

0224.2 C. 果然

果然 means "just as expected": the forecast said snow, and it did snow. 竟然 and 居然 mark surprise, and 突然 means "suddenly".

0224.3 这么简单的题，我竟然做错了。

Subject + 竟然 + verb.

0224.4 True.

It marks any outcome that goes against expectation.

0224.5 One possible response: 他竟然得了第一名!

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 竟然 only when the outcome is unexpected; for a plain fact, leave it out.
- It is an adverb: 他竟然来了, not 竟然他来了 in most 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.

■ 难道 (rhetorical: don't tell me …?)

0225.1 难道

难道 … 吗 makes a rhetorical question.

0225.2 B. The speaker thinks you must be hungry.

A negative 难道 question implies the positive.

0225.3 难道他真的忘了吗?

难道 + statement + 吗?

0225.4 False.

It challenges; the speaker already believes the answer.

0225.5 One possible response: 难道你不知道吗?

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.
- 难道 does not ask for information; the speaker already believes the answer. Use it to challenge, not to ask.
- 难道 sits at the start or after the subject: 你难道不知道吗? is also correct.

- 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 …)

0226.1 再

先 A，再 B for future steps.

0226.2 D. 等雨停了再走。

等 + condition + 再 + action.

0226.3 先吃饭，别的事以后再说。

先 + step, 以后再说 postpones the rest.

0226.4 False.

Past sequences use 先 … 然后 … with 了.

0226.5 One possible response: 你先填这张表，再去人事部，然后领电脑。

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 a past sequence, use 先 … 然后 … with 了: 我先去了银行，然后去了超市.
- 先 and 再 are adverbs: each comes after the subject, before its verb: 我先走，你再走.
- 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.

■ 也都 (also all of them)

0227.1 也

也 comes before 都.

0227.2 B. 他们也都喜欢唱歌。

他们也都喜欢唱歌 is right: when 也 and 都 are both used, 也 comes first, and both go after the subject and before the verb.

0227.3 他们也都不知道。

也都 + 不 + verb.

0227.4 False.

False. When both appear, the order is 也都: 他们也都来了 “They all came too.” 都也 is not used.

0227.5 One possible response: 他们也都去了博物馆。

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.
- Say 也都, never 都也: 我们也都去, not 我们都也去.
- Both adverbs come after the subject and before the verb or 不 / 没.
- 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.