Particles

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.

Statement + 吗 (yes/no confirmation)

Checking what you heard

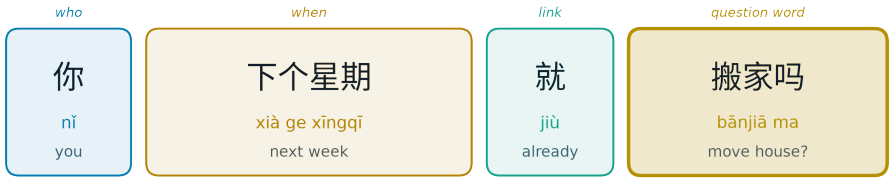
- Your friend mentions she's moving next week, and you can't quite believe it.
- **你下个星期就搬家吗?** – "You're moving as soon as next week?"

Statement + 吗? = yes/no question

- Add **吗** to the end of a statement to make it a yes/no question; word order does not change.
- 他是老师。→ 他是老师吗? – "Is he a teacher?"

他是老师吗?
tā shì lǎo shī ma
Word guide: 他 – he; 是 – is; 老师 – a teacher.

就 + time ... 吗: checking a surprising detail



Checking and confirming

- With a rising, surprised tone, 吗 checks what you heard: **你不去吗?** – "You're not going?"
- A negative 吗 question often expects "yes" or shows surprise: 你不累吗? – "Aren't you tired?"

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

One question form at a time

- No 吗 after a question word: 你去哪儿? , not 你去哪儿吗? (unless it means "anywhere").
- No 吗 after A-not-A: 你去不去? , not 你去不去吗?

Answering a negative question

- Q: **你不喜欢吗?** A: 对，我不喜欢 – "Right, I don't." / 不，我喜欢 – "No, I do."
- 对 agrees with the statement inside the question, which can feel the opposite of English.

对，我不喜欢。
duì wǒ bù xǐ huan
Word guide: 对 – right; 我 – I; 不 – don't; 喜欢 – like it.

Recap

- **Statement + 吗?** = yes/no question; word order stays the same.
- Not with question words or A-not-A. For negative questions, 对 agrees with the negative statement.

Practise this pattern step by step.

... 吧，... ；... 吧，... (weighing options)

Can't decide

- You can't choose between two jobs: one is near home, the other pays more.
- **去吧，太远；不去吧，工资又很高。** – "If I take it, it's too far; if I don't, well, the pay is high."

A 吧，...；B 吧，...

- **Option 1 + 吧，problem；Option 2 + 吧，problem** weighs two choices that both have drawbacks.
- 吧 here marks "suppose I ..."; each option is followed by its downside.

买吧，太贵；不买吧，又很喜欢。
mǎi ba tài guì bù mǎi ba yòu hěn xǐ huan
Word guide: 买 – buy; 吧 – (suppose); 太 – too; 贵 – expensive; 不 – not; 买 – buy; 吧 – (suppose); 又 – but; 很 – really; 喜欢 – like it.

去吧 … 太远: weighing a choice



Showing a dilemma

- **说吧，怕他生气；不说吧，又觉得不好。** – "If I tell him, I'm afraid he'll be angry; if I don't, I feel bad."
- 又 in the second half often adds "but on the other hand".

说吧，怕他生气。
shuō ba pà tā shēng qì
Word guide: 说 – tell; 吧 – (suppose); 怕 – afraid; 他 – he; 生气 – angry.

Two sides, same shape

- Keep the two halves parallel: 去吧 …; 不去吧 …. Each needs its own problem.
- This 吧 is not a suggestion ("let's"); it means "if I were to …".

吧 as a suggestion

- At the end of a sentence, 吧 suggests: 我们走吧 – "Let's go."
- Inside the dilemma pattern, 吧 is followed by a comma and a problem.

我们走吧。
wǒ men zǒu ba
Word guide: 我们 – we; 走 – go; 吧 – (let's).

Recap

- **A 吧，problem；B 吧，problem** = whichever I choose, there is a downside.
- Parallel halves; 又 often in the second; different from the suggestion 吧.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Sentence-final 的 (modal: certainty)

Don't worry

- Your friend is nervous about tomorrow's interview. You are sure it will go well.
- **你一定会成功的。** – "You'll definitely succeed." The final 的 adds certainty.

… 会 / 能 … 的 = certainty

- **Sentence + 的** strengthens a judgement, promise or reassurance: 我会去的, 他不会忘的.
- It often appears with 会, 能, 一定 or 肯定.

我会帮你的。
wǒ huì bāng nǐ de
Word guide: 我 – I; 会 – will; 帮 – help; 你 – you; 的 – (I'm sure).

一定会 … 的: sure to



Promises and reassurance

- **放心，我不会告诉别人的。** – "Don't worry, I won't tell anyone."
- **这个问题能解决的。** – "This problem can be solved, I'm sure."

放心，我不会告诉别人的。
fàng xīn wǒ bú huì gào su bié rén de
Word guide: 放心 – don't worry; 我 – I; 不会 – won't; 告诉 – tell; 别人 – anyone; 的 – (for sure).

Not the 是 … 的 pattern

- This 的 adds certainty to a future or general statement; 是 … 的 focuses on how/when/where a past event happened: 我是坐飞机来的.
- Without 的, the sentence is still correct; 的 just makes it more reassuring or firm.

Compare with 是 … 的

- **我会来的** = I'll definitely come (certainty).
- **我是昨天来的** = It was yesterday that I came (focus on the time of a past event).

我是昨天来的。
wǒ shì zuó tiān lái de
Word guide: 我 – I; 是 – (it was); 昨天 – yesterday; 来 – came.

■ **Recap**

- **会 / 能 / 一定 … + 的** = certainly, for sure: reassurance or a promise.
- Different from 是 … 的, which focuses on details of a past event.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ **Statement + 吗 (yes/no confirmation)**

0801.1 Make a question: "Are you a student?" 你是学生 ……?

0801.2 Which question is correct?

- A. 你明天来吗?
- B. 吗你明天来?
- C. 你去不去吗?
- D. 你什么时候来吗?

0801.3 Q: 你不饿吗? You are not hungry. What do you say?

- A. 对，我饿。
- B. 对，我不饿。
- C. 不，我饿了。
- D. 吗，我不饿。

0801.4 Build: "Aren't you tired?"

Arrange all chunks: 累 / 吗? / 你 / 不

0801.5 Your friend mentions she's moving next week, and you can't quite believe it. 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.

■ **… 吧，… ；… 吧，… (weighing options)**

0802.1 Complete the dilemma: "If I eat it, I'll get fat; if I don't, I'll be hungry." 吃 ……，会胖；不吃吧，会饿。

0802.2 In 去吧，太远；不去吧，又想去, what does the speaker feel?

- A. Torn between two choices
- B. Sure about going
- C. Inviting a friend
- D. Happy to stay at home

0802.3 Build: "If I tell him, I'm afraid he'll be angry."

Arrange all chunks: 说吧 / ， / 生气。/ 怕他

0802.4 In the dilemma pattern, 吧 means "let's".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0802.5 You can't choose between two jobs: one is near home, the other pays more. 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.

■ **Sentence-final 的 (modal: certainty)**

0803.1 Reassure: "He'll definitely come." 他一定会来 ……。

0803.2 Which sentence focuses on HOW a past event happened?

- A. 我会去的。
- B. 他不会忘的。
- C. 我是坐火车来的。
- D. 你会喜欢的。

0803.3 Build: "Don't worry, I won't tell anyone."

Arrange all chunks: ， 我不会 / 放心 / 告诉别人 / 的。

0803.4 你会成功 is wrong without 的.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0803.5 Your friend is nervous about tomorrow's interview. You are sure it will go 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

■ Statement + 吗 (yes/no confirmation)

0801.1 吗

Statement + 吗.

0801.2 A. 你明天来吗?

Only a plain statement takes 吗.

0801.3 B. 对，我不饿。

对 agrees with the negative statement "you're not hungry".

0801.4 你不累吗?

Negative statement + 吗.

0801.5 One possible response: 你下个星期就搬家吗?

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.
- No 吗 after a question word: 你去哪儿? , not 你去哪儿吗? (unless it means "anywhere").
- No 吗 after A-not-A: 你去不去? , not 你去不去吗?
- 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.

■ … 吧，… ；… 吧，… (weighing options)

0802.1 吧

Option + 吧, then the problem.

0802.2 A. Torn between two choices

Each option has a drawback: a dilemma.

0802.3 说吧，怕他生气。

Option + 吧, then the worry.

0802.4 False.

Here it means "suppose I …"; the suggestion 吧 ends a sentence.

0802.5 One possible response: 去吧，太远；不去吧，工资又很高。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Keep the two halves parallel: 去吧 …; 不去吧 …. Each needs its own problem.
- This 吧 is not a suggestion ("let's"); it means "if I were to …".
- 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.

■ Sentence-final 的 (modal: certainty)

0803.1 的

Final 的 adds certainty.

0803.2 C. 我是坐火车来的。

是 … 的 focuses on a detail of a past event.

0803.3 放心，我不会告诉别人的。

Promise + 的.

0803.4 False.

的 only adds certainty; the sentence is fine without it.

0803.5 One possible response: 你一定会成功的。

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.
- This 的 adds certainty to a future or general statement; 是 … 的 focuses on how/when/where a past event happened: 我是坐飞机来的.
- Without 的, the sentence is still correct; 的 just makes it more reassuring or firm.
- 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.