

Sentence Patterns

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

连 + 动词 + 都 + 不 / 没 + 动词 — “didn’t even”

Repeat a verb around 连 ... 都 + 不 / 没 to stress that the most basic action **didn’t even** happen — “didn’t even ...” Add 就 for “without even ...ing, (then) ...”

Structure: 连 + Verb + 都 + 不 / 没 + (same) Verb (, 就

{zh: 这个人 |zhè ge rén|this person / 我 |wǒ|I / 连 |lián|even / 见 |jiàn|met / 都 |dōu|
/ 没 |méi|haven’t / 见过 |jiàn guo|met / 。 }

I’ve never even met this person.

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 连 |lián|even / 说 |shuō|say / 都 |dōu| / 不 |bù|didn’t / 说 |shuō|say
/ 就 |jiù|just / 走 |zǒu|left / 了 |le| / 。 }

He left without even saying a word.

Remember: 连 ... 都 + the verb REPEATED maxes the emphasis — 见都没见过 (“never even met”). Tack on 就 for “without even ...ing, then...”: 连问都不问就走了 (“left without even asking”).

Watch out

- The repeat is what does the work — 连见都没见过, not 连都没见过.

为 ... 而 ... — “for the sake of”

为 A 而 B ties a **purpose** to the action done for it — “do B for the sake of A.” It’s formal; the everyday swap is 为 → 为了. Negate with 不为 ... 而 ...

Structure: Subject + 为 + Goal + 而 + Action

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|we / 为 |wèi|for / 梦想 |mèng xiǎng|our dreams / 而 |ér| / 努力
|nǔ lì|strive / 。 }

We strive for our dreams.

{zh: 不要 |bú yào|don’t / 为了 |wèi le|for / 别人 |bié rén|other people / 而 |ér| / 活
|huó|live / 。 }

Don’t live for other people.

Remember: 为 (goal) 而 (action) = “for the sake of ... , (one) does ...”. 而 elegantly bridges the *why* to the *what*. It’s the formal cousin of 为了; in speech you’d

more often just say 为了.

Watch out

- This 为 reads *wèi* (“for”) — the goal comes first, the action after 而.

任何 + 名词 + 都 / 也 — “any (at all)”

任何 means “any (at all), whatsoever”; with **都 / 也** it sweeps over **every** case — “any ... at all.” It takes no 的, and it’s more emphatic and formal than 什么.

Structure: 任何 + Noun + 都 / 也 + Predicate

{zh: 任何 |rèn hé|any / 人 |rén|person / 都 |dōu|at all / 不 |bù|can’t / 能 |néng| / 说服 |shuō fú|persuade / 他 |tā|him / 。 }

No one at all can persuade him.

{zh: 这里 |zhè lǐ|here / 任何 |rèn hé|any / 车 |chē|vehicle / 都 |dōu|at all / 不 |bù|can’t / 可以 |kě yǐ| / 通过 |tōng guò|pass / 。 }

No vehicle at all may pass here.

Remember: 任何 = emphatic “any whatsoever” + 都 / 也 — and **NO** 的 (任何人 ✓, not 任何的人). It’s the stronger, more formal sibling of 什么 (任何人 hits harder than 谁/什么人).

Watch out

- It always wants a 都 / 也 to complete the sweep — 任何人都 ..., not a bare 任何人

既 ... 又 / 也 ... — “both ... and ...”

既 A 又 B stacks two qualities that **both** hold — “both ... and ...” A and B should match in form (both adjectives, ideally both the same length). It’s a more formal version of 又 ... 又

Structure: 既 + A + 又 / 也 + B

{zh: 这家 |zhè jiā|this / 餐厅 |cān tīng|restaurant / 既 |jì|both / 便宜 |pián yi|cheap / 又 |yòu|and / 好吃 |hǎo chī|tasty / 。 }

This restaurant is both cheap and tasty.

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 做 |zuò|does / 事情 |shì qing|things / 既 |jì|both / 快 |kuài|fast / 又 |yòu|and / 好 |hǎo|well / 。 }

He does things both quickly and well.

Remember: 既 A 又 B = “both A and B,” and A and B should MATCH (same length/type) — 既便宜又好吃, 既快又好. It’s the dressed-up 又 ... 又 ...; 既 opens, 又 / 也 follows.

Watch out

- Mismatched halves read awkwardly — keep A and B parallel (both two-syllable, both adjectives).

在 ... 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边 — locations

在 + place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边 says **where** something sits relative to an object. The position word comes **after** the place noun — English “on the table” becomes 在桌子上 (“at table-on”). Big places (countries, cities) need no position word.

Structure: 在 + Location + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边

{zh: 你 |nǐ|your / 的 |de / 手机 |shǒu jī|phone / 在 |zài|is in / 包 |bāo|the bag / 里 |lǐ / 吗 |ma / ? }

Is your phone in the bag?

{zh: 超市 |chāo shì|the supermarket / 在 |zài|is / 我家 |wǒ jiā|my house / 旁边 |páng biān|next to / 。 }

The supermarket is next to my house.

Remember: the position word comes **AFTER** the place — 在桌子上, 在包里, 在床下 — the mirror of English “on/in the ...”. And **big places take no position word:** 在中国 ✓ (never 在中国里).

Watch out

- A bare 在桌子 is incomplete — you need the 上 / 里 / 下 to anchor it.