Sentence Patterns

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.

连 ... 都 ... 不 / 没 (not even)

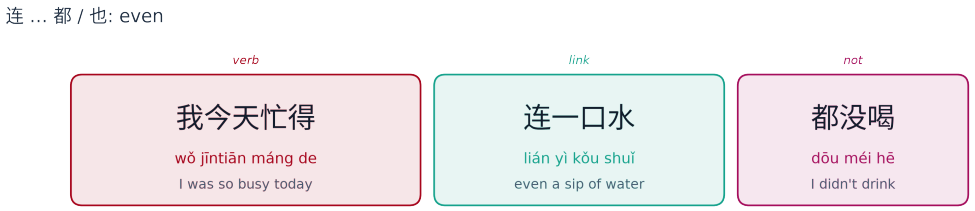
A day with no break

- You were so busy at work that you didn't have a single break.
- **我今天忙得连一口水都没喝。** – "I was so busy today I didn't even have a sip of water."

连 + X + 都 / 也 + 不 / 没 + Verb

- **连 X 都/也 + negative** = "not even X": X is the smallest or easiest thing, and still it didn't happen.
- X moves before the verb: 连他的名字都不知道.

我连他的名字都不知道。
wǒ lián tā de míng zi dōu bù zhī dào
Word guide: 我 – I; 连 – even; 他 – his; 名字 – name; 都 – (even); 不 – don't; 知道 – know.



The minimum didn't happen

- **他连一个字都没写。** – "He didn't write a single character."
- **这么简单的题，他连看都没看就交了。** – "Such an easy question, and he handed it in without even looking at it."

他连一个字都没写。
tā lián yí gè zì dōu méi xiě
Word guide: 他 – he; 连 – even; 一个 – one; 字 – character; 都 – (even); 没 – didn't; 写 – write.

X before the verb

- The 连 phrase comes before the verb: 连饭都没吃, not 没吃连饭.
- Keep 都 / 也: 连水没喝 is incomplete; say 连水都没喝.

连 + Verb + 都 + 没 + Verb

- The same verb can repeat: **他连想都没想就答应了。** – "He agreed without even thinking."
- This shows how little effort or care was taken.

他连想都没想就答应了。
tā lián xiǎng dōu méi xiǎng jiù dā ying le
Word guide: 他 – he; 连 – even; 想 – think; 都 – (even); 没 – didn't; 想 – think; 就 – then; 答应 – agreed.

Recap

- **连 X 都 / 也 + 不 / 没 + Verb** = not even X.
- X goes before the verb; keep 都 / 也. 连想都没想 = without even thinking.

Practise this pattern step by step.

为 ... 而 ... (for the sake of)

Working for a dream

- Your cousin works two jobs to save for university.
- **他为了上大学而努力工作。** – "He works hard in order to go to university."

为 (了) + goal + 而 + action

- **为 (了) A 而 B** = "do B for the sake of A": a formal way to link a purpose with an action.
- 而 links the purpose to the verb that follows: 为理想而奋斗 – "strive for an ideal".

我们为理想而奋斗。
wǒ men wèi lǐ xiǎng ér fèn dòu
Word guide: 我们 – we; 为 – for; 理想 – our ideals; 而 – (and); 奋斗 – strive.



Feelings caused by something

- **为 + cause + 而 + feeling**: **大家都为他的成功而高兴。** – “Everyone was happy about his success.”
- **不要为小事而生气。** – “Don’t get angry over small things.”

大家都为他的成功而高兴。
dà jiā dōu wèi tā de chéng gōng ér gāo xìng
Word guide: 大家 – everyone; 都 – all; 为 – about; 他 – his; 成功 – success; 而 – (and); 高兴 – happy.

Formal, and 为 is wèi

- In this pattern 为 is read wèi (“for”); it is written or formal speech. In chat, 为了 …, 我 … is enough.
- 而 does not mean “but” here; it links the purpose or cause to the action.

为 … 而 … versus 为了

- 为了 + goal, clause: 为了上大学，他努力工作 – the everyday form.
- 为 … 而 … puts the goal and action in one tight phrase, common in speeches and slogans.

为了上大学，他努力工作。
wèi le shàng dà xué tā nǔ lì gōng zuò
Word guide: 为了 – in order to; 上 – go to; 大学 – university; 他 – he; 努力 – hard; 工作 – works.

Recap

- **为 (了) A 而 B** = do B for the sake of A; **为 + cause + 而 + feeling** = feel … about.
- Formal; 为 = wèi; 而 links, it is not “but”.

Practise this pattern step by step.

任何 + Noun + 都 / 也 (any)

Any questions?

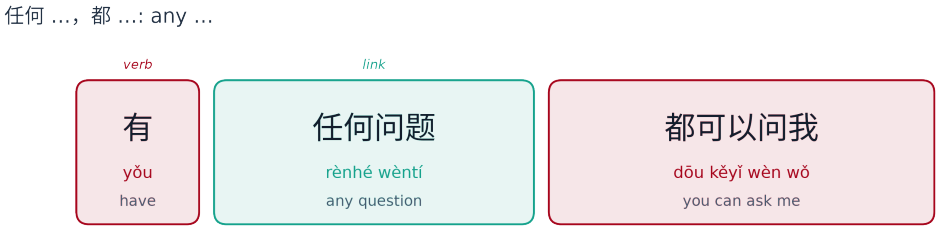
- At the end of the lesson your teacher wants to be sure everyone understood.
- **有任何问题，都可以问我。** – “If you have any questions at all, you can ask me.”

任何 + Noun + 都 / 也

- **任何 + noun** = “any (at all)”; 都 or 也 usually follows: 任何人都可以参加.
- In the negative: 任何人都不知道 / 他没有任何问题 – “nobody / no … at all”.

任何人都可以参加。
rèn hé rén dōu kě yǐ cān jiā

Word guide: 任何 – any; 人 – person; 都 – (all); 可以 – can; 参加 – take part.



Total statements

- **我不会告诉任何人。** – “I won’t tell anyone.”
- **任何时候你都可以给我打电话。** – “You can call me any time.”

我不会告诉任何人。
wǒ bú huì gào su rèn hé rén
Word guide: 我 – I; 不 – won’t; 会 – (will); 告诉 – tell; 任何 – any; 人 – person.

Add 都 as a subject

- As a subject, 任何 + noun needs 都 / 也: 任何人都知道, not 任何人知道.
- 任何 goes before a noun only; it does not stand alone: 任何人, not just 任何.

任何 versus question word + 都

- Spoken: 谁都可以来 – “Anyone can come.”
- 任何人都可以来 says the same in a more formal way.

谁都可以来。
shéi dōu kě yǐ lái
Word guide: 谁 – anyone; 都 – (all); 可以 – can; 来 – come.

Recap

- **任何 + noun + 都 / 也** = any … at all; negative = no … at all.
- Needs a noun and, as a subject, 都 / 也. 谁都 is the spoken equivalent.

Practise this pattern step by step.

既 … 也 / 又 … (both … and …)

Good-looking and practical

- You are recommending a backpack to a friend.
- **这个包既好看又实用。** – “This bag is both good-looking and practical.”

既 A 又 / 也 B = both A and B

- **既 A 又 B** joins two qualities or actions of the same subject; 又 / 也 introduces the second.
- It sounds a little more formal and balanced than 又 … 又 ….

她既聪明又努力。
tā jì cōng ming yòu nǔ lì
Word guide: 她 – she; 既 – both; 聪明 – clever; 又 – and; 努力 – hard-working.

既 … 又 …: both … and …



Two roles or two actions

- **他既是老师，也是作家。** – "He is both a teacher and a writer."
- **我们既要学习，也要休息。** – "We need both to study and to rest."

我们既要学习，也要休息。
wǒ men jì yào xué xí yě yào xiū xi
Word guide: 我们 – we; 既 – both; 要 – need to; 学习 – study; 也 – also; 要 – need to; 休息 – rest.

Same subject, same direction

- Both parts belong to one subject: 他既 … 又 …, not 他既 …, 她又 ….
- The two qualities should fit together (both good, both bad); for a contrast use 但是.

既 … 又 … versus 不但 … 而且 …

- 既 … 又 … gives two qualities equal weight.
- 不但 … 而且 … builds up: the second point is stronger: 不但便宜，而且质量很好.

不但便宜，而且质量很好。
bú dàn pián yi ér qiě zhì liàng hěn hǎo
Word guide: 不但 – not only; 便宜 – cheap; 而且 – but also; 质量 – quality; 很 – very; 好 – good.

Recap

- **既 A 又 / 也 B** = both A and B (same subject, equal weight).
- 不但 … 而且 … builds up to a stronger second point.

Practise this pattern step by step.

在 + Place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边 (location)

Where did I put it?

- You can't find your keys and your roommate helps you look.
- **钥匙在桌子上，手机在包里。** – "The keys are on the table, and the phone is in the bag."

在 + place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边

- **在 + noun + location word** = on / under / in / beside: 在桌子上, 在床下, 在包里, 在门旁边.
- Most ordinary nouns need the location word: 在桌子上, not 在桌子.

猫在床下。
māo zài chuáng xià
Word guide: 猫 – the cat; 在 – is; 床 – the bed; 下 – under.

Thing + 在 + place: where it is



Doing something somewhere

- Before a verb: **他在图书馆里看书。** – "He's reading in the library."
- After a verb: **把书放在桌子上。** – "Put the book on the table."

把书放在桌子上。
bǎ shū fàng zài zhuō zi shang
Word guide: 书 – the book; 放 – put; 在 – on; 桌子 – the table; 上 – (on).

■ When to drop the location word

- Ordinary objects need it: 在书包里, not 在书包.
- Place names and places that are already locations do not: 在北京, 在学校, not 在北京里.

■ 上 / 里 / 中 for abstract places

- 在电视上 / 在网上 = on TV / online; 在报纸上 = in the newspaper.
- 在心里 = in one's heart; 在生活中 = in life. Fixed phrases are worth learning as chunks.

我在网上买的。
wǒ zài wǎng shàng mǎi de
Word guide: 我 – I; 在 – on; 网上 – the internet; 买 – bought.

■ Recap

- **在 + noun + 上/下/里/旁边** = on/under/in/beside; ordinary nouns need the location word.
- Place names do not (在北京). Fixed phrases: 在网上, 在报纸上, 在生活中.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 连 ... 都 ... 不 / 没 (not even)

2301.1 Complete: "He doesn't even know my name." 他 …… 我的名字都不知道。

2301.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他没吃连早饭。
- B. 他连早饭没吃。
- C. 连他都早饭没吃。
- D. 他连早饭都没吃。

2301.3 Build: "He agreed without even thinking."

Arrange all chunks: 就 / 都没想 / 他连想 / 答应了。

2301.4 他连一个字都没写 means he wrote a lot.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2301.5 You were so busy at work that you didn't have a single break. 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.

■ 为 ... 而 ... (for the sake of)

2302.1 Complete (formal): "Strive for your dreams." 为梦想 …… 奋斗。

2302.2 In 不要为小事而生气, what does 而 do?

- A. means "but"
- B. links the cause to the feeling
- C. asks a question
- D. means "and then later"

2302.3 Build: "Everyone was happy about his success."

Arrange all chunks: 大家都 / 高兴。/ 而 / 为他的成功

2302.4 为了 …, … is the more everyday form.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2302.5 Your cousin works two jobs to save for university. 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.

■ 任何 + Noun + 都 / 也 (any)

2303.1 Complete: "Anyone can take part." …… 人都可以参加。

2303.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 人任何都知道这件事。
- B. 任何人都知道这件事。
- C. 任何都人知道这件事。
- D. 任何人知道这件事。

2303.3 Build: "I won't tell anyone."

Arrange all chunks: 不会告诉 / 我 / 人。/ 任何

2303.4 谁都可以来 is a spoken way to say 任何人都可以来.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2303.5 At the end of the lesson your teacher wants to be sure everyone understood. 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.

■ 既 ... 也 / 又 ... (both ... and ...)

2304.1 Complete: "This dish is both cheap and tasty." 这个菜既便宜 …… 好吃。

2304.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他既高又瘦。

- B. 他高既又瘦。
- C. 既他高又瘦。
- D. 他既高，她又瘦。

2304.3 Build: “He is both a teacher and a writer.”

Arrange all chunks: 他既是老师 / 也是 / ， / 作家。

2304.4 不但 … 而且 … usually makes the second point stronger.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2304.5 You are recommending a backpack to a friend. 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.

■ 在 + Place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边 (location)

2305.1 Complete: “The phone is in the bag.” 手机在包 ……。

2305.2 Which is correct?

- A. 他北京在工作。
- B. 他在桌子工作。
- C. 他在北京里工作。
- D. 他在北京工作。

2305.3 Build: “Put the book on the table.”

Arrange all chunks: 上。/ 桌子 / 把书 / 放在

2305.4 在网上 means “online”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2305.5 You can’t find your keys and your roommate helps you look. 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

■ 连 ... 都 ... 不 / 没 (not even)

2301.1 连

连 X 都 + negative = not even X.

2301.2 D. 他连早饭都没吃。

他连早饭都没吃 is right: 连 + X + 都/也 + 没 + verb. Without 都 the sentence is incomplete, and 连 must come right before the item it stresses.

2301.3 他连想都没想就答应了。

连 + V + 都没 + V + 就 ….

2301.4 False.

He didn’t write a single character.

2301.5 One possible response: 我今天忙得连一口水都没喝。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The 连 phrase comes before the verb: 连饭都没吃, not 没吃连饭.
- Keep 都 / 也: 连水没喝 is incomplete; say 连水都没喝.
- 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.

■ 为 ... 而 ... (for the sake of)

2302.1 而

为 A 而 B links the purpose and the action.

2302.2 B. links the cause to the feeling

In 为 + cause + 而 + verb, 而 links the cause to the reaction: 不要为小事而生气 “Don’t get angry over small things.” It does not mean “but” here.

2302.3 大家都为他的成功而高兴。

为 + cause + 而 + feeling.

2302.4 True.

True. 为了 …， … is the everyday way to state a purpose. 为 … 而 … is more formal and written.

2302.5 One possible response: 他为了上大学而努力工作。

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 this pattern 为 is read wèi (“for”); it is written or formal speech. In chat, 为了 …, 我 … is enough.
- 而 does not mean “but” here; it links the purpose or cause to the action.
- 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.

■ 任何 + Noun + 都 / 也 (any)

2303.1 任何

任何 + noun + 都.

2303.2 B. 任何人都知道这件事。

任何人都知道这件事 is right: 任何 + noun as the subject needs 都 before the verb, and 任何 always comes before its noun.

2303.3 我不会告诉任何人。

Negative verb + 任何 + noun.

2303.4 True.

QW + 都 is the spoken equivalent.

2303.5 One possible response: 有任何问题，都可以问我。

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.
- As a subject, 任何 + noun needs 都 / 也: 任何人都知道, not 任何人知道.
- 任何 goes before a noun only; it does not stand alone: 任何人, not just 任何.
- 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.

■ 既 … 也 / 又 … (both … and …)

2304.1 又

既 A 又 B (既 A 也 B is also correct).

2304.2 A. 他既高又瘦。

他既高又瘦 is right: 既 A 又 B describes one subject, with both words after it. A second subject (她) breaks the pattern.

2304.3 他既是老师，也是作家。

既是 …，也是 ….

2304.4 True.

It builds up; 既 … 又 … gives equal weight.

2304.5 One possible response: 这个包既好看又实用。

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.
- Both parts belong to one subject: 他既 … 又 …, not 他既 …，她又 ….
- The two qualities should fit together (both good, both bad); for a contrast use 但是.
- 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.

■ 在 + Place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边 (location)

2305.1 里

在 + noun + 里 = in.

2305.2 D. 他在北京工作。

Place names take no location word.

2305.3 把书放在桌子上。

Verb + 在 + noun + 上.

2305.4 True.

It is a fixed abstract location.

2305.5 One possible response: 钥匙在桌子上，手机在包里。

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.
- Ordinary objects need it: 在书包里, not 在书包.
- Place names and places that are already locations do not: 在北京, 在学校, not 在北京里.
- 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.