Not only... but also...

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.

不但 / 不仅 … ，而且 / 还 / 也 … (not only … but also)

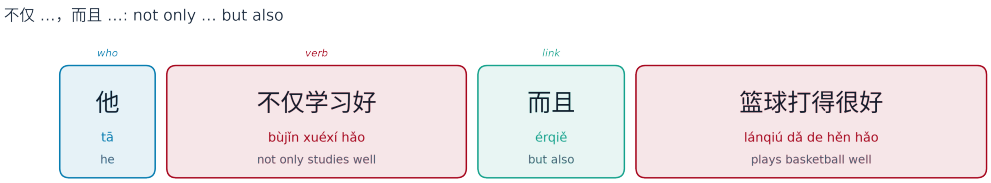
More than one talent

- You are introducing a new classmate who is a strong student and a great athlete.
- **他不仅学习好，而且篮球打得也很好。** – “Not only is he a good student, he’s also great at basketball.”

不但 / 不仅 A，而且 / 还 / 也 B

- **不但 / 不仅 A，而且 B** = not only A, but also B; B adds a further, often stronger point.
- 而且 can combine with 还 / 也: 而且还会唱歌. 不仅 is a little more formal.

她不仅会说英语，而且会说法语。
tā bù jǐn huì shuō Yīng yǔ ér qiě huì shuō Fǎ yǔ
Word guide: 她 – she; 不仅 – not only; 会 – can; 说 – speak; 英语 – English; 而且 – but also; 会 – can; 说 – speak; 法语 – French.



Two subjects

- With different subjects, 不但 / 不仅 go before the first subject: **不仅学生喜欢他，老师也喜欢他。** – “Not only do the students like him, the teachers do too.”
- With one subject, they follow it: 他不但聪明，而且很努力.

不仅学生喜欢他，老师也喜欢他。
bù jǐn xué sheng xǐ huan tā lǎo shī yě xǐ huan tā
Word guide: 不仅 – not only; 学生 – students; 喜欢 – like; 他 – him; 老师 – teachers; 也 – also; 喜欢 – like; 他 – him.

Placement with one or two subjects

- One subject: subject first, then 不但: 他不但 …. Two subjects: 不但 first: 不但他 …，而且我也 ….
- The two points go the same direction; for a contrast use 但是.

不但不 …，反而 …

- **不但不 A，反而 B** = not only not A, but (contrary to expectation) B: 吃了药，病不但没好，反而更重了.
- This variant reverses expectations instead of adding a point.

病不但没好，反而更重了。
bìng bú dàn méi hǎo fǎn ér gèng zhòng le
Word guide: 病 – the illness; 不但 – not only; 没 – didn’t; 好 – get better; 反而 – instead; 更 – even more; 重 – serious.

Recap

- **不但 / 不仅 A，而且 / 还 / 也 B** = not only A, but also B.
- One subject: after it; two subjects: before the first. 不但不 … 反而 … reverses expectation.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

不但 / 不仅 … ，而且 / 还 / 也 … (not only … but also)

2601.1 Complete: “This phone is not only cheap but also good quality.” 这个手机不仅便宜，…… 质量很好。

2601.2 Which sentence is correct for two subjects?

- A. 学生不仅喜欢他，老师也喜欢他。
- B. 不仅学生喜欢他，也老师喜欢他。
- C. 学生喜欢他不仅，老师也喜欢他。
- D. 不仅学生喜欢他，老师也喜欢他。

2601.3 Build: “The illness not only didn’t improve, it got worse.”

Arrange all chunks: ， / 病不但没好 / 更重了。/ 反而

2601.4 With one subject, 不但 comes after the subject.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2601.5 You are introducing a new classmate who is a strong student and a great athlete. 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

■ 不但 / 不仅 … ，而且 / 还 / 也 … (not only … but also)

2601.1 而且

不仅 … 而且 ….

2601.2 D. 不仅学生喜欢他，老师也喜欢他。

With two subjects, 不仅 comes before the first one.

2601.3 病不但没好，反而更重了。

不但不/没 …，反而 ….

2601.4 True.

True. With one subject, 不但 comes after it: 他不但聪明，而且很努力. With two different subjects, 不但 comes before the first subject.

2601.5 One possible response: 他不仅学习好，而且篮球打得也很好。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- One subject: subject first, then 不但: 他不但 …. Two subjects: 不但 first: 不但他 …，而且我也 ….
- The two points go the same direction; 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.