Sentence Patterns

HSK 5 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.

Advanced 把 (把 + Obj + Verb + result)

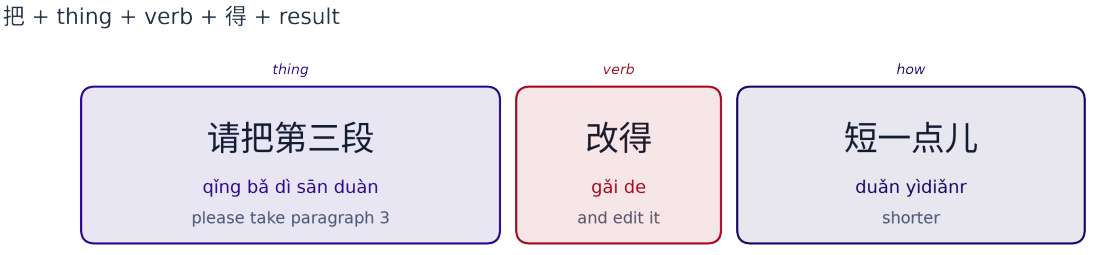
Editing a report

- Your manager hands back your draft with instructions.
- **请把第三段改得短一点儿，再把图表放到最后。** – "Please make the third paragraph a bit shorter, then move the chart to the end."

把 + Object + Verb + complex result

- At HSK 5, the part after the verb can be a 得 complement, a 成 / 为 change, a place or a direction: 改得短一点儿, 翻译成中文, 放到最后, 送回家.
- The object must be specific and the verb must not stand alone.

请把这句话翻译成中文。
qǐng bǎ zhè jù huà fān yì chéng Zhōng wén
Word guide: 请 – please; 这 – this; 句话 – sentence; 翻译 – translate; 成 – into; 中文 – Chinese.



Change, place, manner

- Change: **他把客厅变成了书房。** – "He turned the living room into a study."
- Manner with 得: **她把房间打扫得干干净净。** – "She cleaned the room spotless."

她把房间打扫得干干净净。
tā bǎ fáng jiān dǎ sǎo de gān gān jìng jìng
Word guide: 她 – she; 房间 – the room; 打扫 – clean; 干干净净 – spotless.

■ Negatives and modals before 把

- 没 / 不 / 别 / 能 / 要 / 应该 go before 把: 你应该把问题说清楚, not 你把问题应该说清楚.
- Perception and feeling verbs (看见, 知道, 喜欢) don't take 把.

■ Why use 把?

- 把 puts the focus on what happens to a specific object: 我把钱包丢了 – "I've lost my wallet."
- Without 把, the same idea can sound unfinished or neutral: 我丢了钱包.

我把钱包丢了。
wǒ bǎ qián bāo diū le
Word guide: 我 – I; 钱包 – my wallet; 丢 – lose.

■ Recap

- **把 + specific object + Verb + result** (得 complement, 成, 到 + place, direction).
- Negatives / modals before 把; no 把 with perception or feeling verbs.

Practise this pattern step by step.

N1 + 不比 + N2 + Adj (no more ... than)

■ Not so different

- Your friend thinks the expensive brand is much better. You think it's no better than the cheap one.
- **这个牌子不比那个好。** – "This brand is no better than that one."

■ A 不比 B + Adj = A is no more ... than B

- **A 不比 B + Adj** rejects the claim that A is more Adj than B: they are about the same, or A may be less.
- It usually answers or corrects someone: 他不比我高 – "He isn't taller than me (we're about the same)."

他不比我高。
tā bù bǐ wǒ gāo
Word guide: 他 – he; 不 – not; 比 – than; 我 – me; 高 – tall.

A 不比 B + adjective: no better than



Correcting an assumption

- **今天不比昨天冷，你别穿那么多。** – "Today is no colder than yesterday; don't wear so much."
- **我的中文不比你差。** – "My Chinese is no worse than yours."

我的中文不比你差。
wǒ de Zhōng wén bù bǐ nǐ chà
Word guide: 我 – my; 中文 – Chinese; 不 – not; 比 – than; 你 – yours; 差 – worse.

Not the same as 没有

- A 没有 B 高 = A is less tall than B (clearly shorter).
- A 不比 B 高 denies that A is taller. A may be equally tall or shorter; the phrase does not establish equality.

Side by side

- 弟弟没有哥哥高 – the younger brother is shorter.
- 弟弟不比哥哥高 – the younger brother isn't taller (perhaps the same height).

弟弟没有哥哥高。
dì di méi yǒu gē ge gāo
Word guide: 弟弟 – younger brother; 没有 – not as; 哥哥 – older brother; 高 – tall.

Recap

- **A 不比 B + Adj** denies that A exceeds B on that scale. A can be equal or lower; exact equality needs additional information.
- **A 没有 B + Adj** = A is less Adj than B.

Practise this pattern step by step.

要 + Verb + 就 + Verb (if you're going to, do it right)

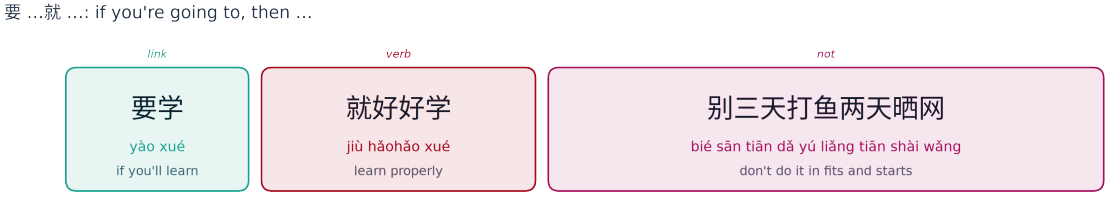
■ Five minutes of guitar a week

- Your friend wants to learn the guitar but only practises five minutes a week.
- **要学就好好学，别三天打鱼两天晒网。** – "If you're going to learn, learn properly – don't do it in fits and starts."

■ 要 + Verb + 就 + Verb (+ properly)

- **要 V 就 V** = "if you're going to do it, do it (properly / now)": 要去就去, 要买就买好的.
- The same verb repeats; the second often has a modifier: 好好学, 早点儿去.

要去就早点儿去。
yào qù jiù zǎo diǎnr qù
Word guide: 要 – if going to; 去 – go; 就 – then; 早 – early; 点儿 – a bit; 去 – go.



■ Encouraging decisiveness

- **要买就买质量好的。** – "If you're going to buy one, buy a good-quality one."
- **要说就说清楚。** – "If you're going to say it, say it clearly."

要买就买质量好的。
yào mǎi jiù mǎi zhì liàng hǎo de
Word guide: 要 – if going to; 买 – buy; 就 – then; 买 – buy; 质量 – quality; 好 – good; 的 – (one).

■ Same verb, firm tone

- Repeat the same verb: 要学就好好学, not 要学就好好练 (unless you mean a different action).
- The tone is firm advice or impatience; it is spoken.

■ 要 ... 就 ... versus 想 ... 就 ...

- 想去就去 = go if you want to (permission, freedom).
- 要去就早点儿去 = if you're going, go early (advice about doing it well).

想去就去吧。
xiǎng qù jiù qù ba

Word guide: 想 – want to; 去 – go; 就 – then; 去 – go.

Recap

- **要 V 就 (好好 / 早点儿) V** = if you're going to do it, do it properly.
- Spoken, firm; 想 V 就 V = do it if you like.

Practise this pattern step by step.

少不了 (can't do without)

A birthday essential

- Your family is planning grandma's 80th birthday party.
- **生日聚会少不了蛋糕。** – "A birthday party isn't complete without a cake."

少不了 + noun = can't do without

- **A 少不了 B** = A can't do without B; B is essential: 过年少不了饺子.
- The thing that is essential follows 少不了.

过年少不了饺子。
guò nián shǎo bu liǎo jiǎo zi
Word guide: 过年 – the New Year; 少不了 – can't do without; 饺子 – dumplings.



Certain to happen

- 少不了 can also mean "bound to, certain": **这么做，少不了要挨批评。** – "Do it like that and you're bound to be criticised."
- **他是主角，少不了他。** – "He's the lead; we can't manage without him."

他是主角，少不了他。
tā shì zhǔ jué shǎo bu liǎo tā
Word guide: 他 – he; 是 – is; 主角 – the lead; 少不了 – can't do without; 他 – him.

Read it liǎo

- 了 in 少不了 is liǎo, as in 吃不了.
- The opposite is 少得了 (rare); for "not needed", say 不需要 or 用不着.

少不了 versus 离不开

- 离不开 = can't be separated from, depend on: 孩子离不开妈妈.
- 少不了 = can't be missing: 这顿饭少不了酒.

孩子离不开妈妈。
hái zi lí bu kāi mā ma
Word guide: 孩子 – the child; 离不开 – can't be without; 妈妈 – mum.

Recap

- **A 少不了 B** = A can't do without B; also "bound to (happen)".
- 了 = liǎo; 离不开 = depend on.

Practise this pattern step by step.

A 等于 B (equals / amounts to)

Saying nothing is saying yes

- Your friend didn't object when you suggested the plan.
- **你不说话就等于同意了。** – "If you say nothing, that amounts to agreeing."

A 等于 B = A equals B

- In maths: **二加三等于五。** – "Two plus three equals five."
- In argument: A amounts to B, is the same as B: 不回答就等于拒绝.

二加三等于五。
èr jiā sān děng yú wǔ
Word guide: 二 – two; 加 – plus; 三 – three; 等于 – equals; 五 – five.



■ Drawing a strong conclusion

- **浪费时间就等于浪费生命。** – "Wasting time is the same as wasting your life."
- **不复习就去考试，等于没准备。** – "Taking the exam without revising is as good as not preparing."

浪费时间就等于浪费生命。
làng fèi shí jiān jiù děng yú làng fèi shēng mìng
Word guide: 浪费 – wasting; 时间 – time; 就 – (is); 等于 – equals; 浪费 – wasting; 生命 – life.

■ 不等于 = doesn't mean

- **不等于** = is not the same as: 便宜不等于不好 – "Cheap doesn't mean bad."
- In argument, 等于 often follows 就: 不说就等于同意.

■ 等于 versus 是

- 是 states identity: 他是我的老师.
- 等于 says one thing has the same effect or value as another: 沉默等于同意.

便宜不等于不好。
pián yi bù děng yú bù hǎo
Word guide: 便宜 – cheap; 不 – not; 等于 – equals; 不好 – bad.

■ Recap

- **A 等于 B** = A equals / amounts to B (maths or argument); 就等于 adds force.
- **不等于** = doesn't mean; 是 states identity.

Practise this pattern step by step.

从 ... 中 (from within)

■ Learning from mistakes

- Your coach talks to the team after a lost match.
- **我们要从失败中吸取教训。** – "We must learn lessons from failure."

■ 从 + noun + 中 = from (within)

- **从 A 中 + verb** = get, learn or choose something out of A: 从失败中学习, 从三个人中选一个.
- 中 can be replaced by 里 in speech: 从书里学到.

我从这本书中学到了很多。
wǒ cóng zhè běn shū zhōng xué dào le hěn duō
Word guide: 我 – I; 从 – from; 这 – this; 本 – (measure word); 书 – book; 中 – (within); 学到 – learned; 很多 – a lot.

从 … 中: from (within)



■ Choosing and learning

- Choosing: **从这些方案中选一个最好的。** – "Choose the best from these plans."
- Gaining: **他从工作中得到了很多经验。** – "He gained a lot of experience from work."

他从工作中得到了很多经验。
tā cóng gōng zuò zhōng dé dào le hěn duō jīng yàn
Word guide: 他 – he; 从 – from; 工作 – work; 中 – (within); 得到 – gained; 很多 – much; 经验 – experience.

■ Keep both 从 and 中

- Say 从失败中学习, not 从失败学习 (for "from within, through").
- The 从 … 中 phrase goes before the verb: 从中选一个, not 选一个从中.

■ 从中 = from it

- 从中 = from it / from among them, referring back: 他犯了错误，并从中学到了很多。– "He made a mistake and learned a lot from it."
- Common in writing and reflections.

并从中学到了很多。
bìng cóng zhōng xué dào le hěn duō
Word guide: 并 – and; 从中 – from it; 学到 – learned; 很多 – a lot.

■ Recap

- **从 + noun + 中 + verb** = get / learn / choose from within: 从失败中吸取教训.
- 从中 = from it (refers back); the phrase goes before the verb.

Practise this pattern step by step.

无 ... 可 ... (have no ... to ...)

Nothing left to say

- After a long argument, your friend shrugs and goes quiet.
- **我已经无话可说了。** – "I have nothing more to say."

无 + noun + 可 + verb = have no ... to ...

- **无 X 可 V** = there is no X that can be V-ed: 无话可说 (nothing to say), 无处可去 (nowhere to go), 无事可做 (nothing to do).
- It is concise and literary, often fixed as four-character phrases.

周末他无事可做。
zhōu mò tā wú shì kě zuò
Word guide: 周末 – at the weekend; 他 – he; 无事可做 – has nothing to do.



Common fixed forms

- **无处可去** = nowhere to go: 下着大雨，我们无处可去.
- **无家可归** = homeless (no home to return to); **无路可走** = no way out.

大雨中他们无处可去。
dà yǔ zhōng tā men wú chù kě qù
Word guide: 大雨 – heavy rain; 中 – in; 他们 – they; 无处可去 – have nowhere to go.

Written and fixed

- In speech, say 没有话说 / 没地方去; 无 … 可 … is more formal.
- Keep the order 无 + noun + 可 + verb; do not add 的 or 了 inside: 无话可说, not 无话的可说.

■ 无 … 可 … versus 没有 … 可以 …

- 无话可说 = 没有什么话可以说.
- The 无 … 可 … form is shorter and stronger, typical of writing and formal speech.

我没有什么可以说的。
wǒ méi yǒu shén me kě yǐ shuō de
Word guide: 我 – I; 没有 – have no; 什么 – anything; 可以 – can; 说 – say.

■ Recap

- **无 + noun + 可 + verb** = have no … to … (无话可说, 无处可去, 无事可做).
- Literary; spoken equivalent 没有 … 可以 ….

Practise this pattern step by step.

不但 …，甚至连 … 也 … (not only …, even …)

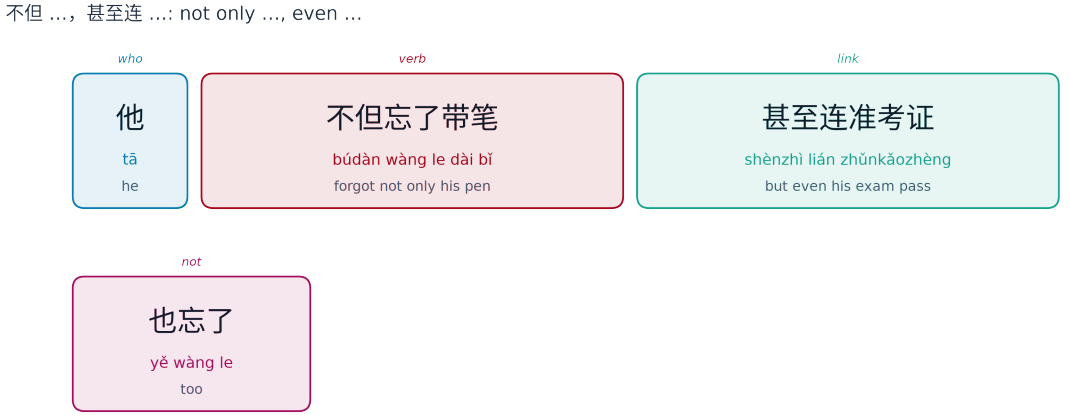
■ Forgot everything

- Your roommate had a terrible morning before the exam.
- **他不但忘了带笔，甚至连准考证也忘了。** – "He not only forgot his pen; he even forgot his admission ticket."

■ 不但 A，甚至连 B 也 / 都 …

- **不但 A，甚至连 B 也/都 …** = not only A, but even B: B is the most extreme, surprising item.
- 甚至 and 连 … 也 together make the climax very strong.

他不但会说英语，甚至连阿拉伯语也会。
tā bú dàn huì shuō Yīng yǔ shèn zhì lián Ā lā bó yǔ yě huì
Word guide: 他 – he; 不但 – not only; 会 – can; 说 – speak; 英语 – English; 甚至 – even; 连 – even; 阿拉伯语 – Arabic; 也 – also; 会 – can speak.



■ Building to a climax

- **这个问题不但学生不懂，甚至连老师也说不清楚。** – "Not only do the students not understand this question, even the teacher can't explain it clearly."
- The B item should be the one nobody would expect.

甚至连老师也说不清楚。
shèn zhì lián lǎo shī yě shuō bu qīng chu
Word guide: 甚至 – even; 连 – even; 老师 – the teacher; 也 – also; 说不清楚 – can't explain clearly.

■ Keep the order

- 甚至 comes before 连, and 也 / 都 after B: 甚至连他也 …, not 连甚至他也 ….
- B should be stronger than A; a weaker B makes the sentence fall flat.

■ Versus 不但 ... 而且 ...

- 不但 … 而且 … adds a second point of similar weight.
- 不但 … 甚至连 … 也 … adds a surprising, extreme case.

不但便宜，而且好吃。
bú dàn pián yi ér qiě hǎo chī
Word guide: 不但 – not only; 便宜 – cheap; 而且 – but also; 好吃 – tasty.

■ Recap

- **不但 A，甚至连 B 也 / 都 ...** = not only A, but even B (the extreme case).
- Order: 甚至 + 连 + B + 也/都; 而且 for ordinary additions.

Practise this pattern step by step.

跟 / 和 ... 有关的 + Noun (related to)

■ Research for an essay

- You are writing about air pollution and go to the library.
- **我借了几本跟环境有关的书。** – "I borrowed a few books related to the environment."

■ 跟 / 和 + X + 有关 (的) + Noun

- **跟 X 有关的 + noun** = a noun related to X: 跟工作有关的问题, 和健康有关的新闻.
- **A 跟 B 有关** as a sentence = A is related to B.

这件事跟他有关。
zhè jiàn shì gēn tā yǒu guān
Word guide: 这 – this; 件 – (measure word); 事 – matter; 跟 – with; 他 – him; 有关 – is related.

跟 … 有关: related to



Causes and topics

- **他的病跟压力有关。** – "His illness is related to stress."
- **请只回答和这次考试有关的问题。** – "Please only answer questions related to this exam."

他的病跟压力有关。
tā de bìng gēn yā lì yǒu guān
Word guide: 他 – his; 病 – illness; 跟 – with; 压力 – stress; 有关 – is related.

Order before the noun

- The whole phrase comes before the noun with 的: 跟环境有关的书, not 书跟环境有关的.
- Negative: 跟他无关 / 跟他没有关系 – "nothing to do with him".

有关 versus 关于

- 关于 + topic introduces what something is about: 关于环境的书.
- 跟 … 有关 stresses a connection, including causes: 跟压力有关.

这跟我没有关系。
zhè gēn wǒ méi yǒu guān xi
Word guide: 这 – this; 跟 – with; 我 – me; 没有 – has no; 关系 – connection.

Recap

- **跟 / 和 X 有关 (的) + noun** = related to X; **A 跟 B 有关** = A is related to B.
- Negative 跟 … 无关 / 没有关系; 关于 = about (a topic).

Practise this pattern step by step.

所谓 (the so-called ...)

A shortcut that wasn't

- Your friend promised a quick route home; it took twice as long.
- **他所谓的近路，比大路还远。** – "His so-called shortcut was even longer than the main road."

■ 所谓 (的) + noun = so-called / what is called

- **所谓的 X** can be doubtful or ironic: "the so-called X (which isn't really)".
- It can also be neutral, introducing a definition: **所谓“低碳”，就是减少二氧化碳排放。** – "What is called 'low-carbon' means reducing CO_2 emissions."

所谓的专家。
suǒ wèi de zhuān jiā
Word guide: 所谓 – so-called; 专家 – expert.



■ Two uses

- Ironic: **这就是你所谓的“很便宜”?** – "So this is what you call 'very cheap'?"
- Defining: **所谓幸福，就是做自己喜欢的事。** – "Happiness is doing what you love."

所谓幸福，就是做自己喜欢的事。
suǒ wèi xìng fú jiù shì zuò zì jǐ xǐ huan de shì
Word guide: 所谓 – what is called; 幸福 – happiness; 就是 – is just; 做 – doing; 自己 – one; 喜欢 – likes; 事 – things.

■ Tone matters

- 你所谓的朋友 can sound very critical; use it carefully about people.
- For a neutral definition, 所谓 X，就是 … is the standard frame.

■ 所谓 versus 叫做

- 叫做 neutrally names something: 这种花叫做牡丹 – "This flower is called a peony."
- 所谓 often signals doubt or sets up a definition for discussion.

这种花叫做牡丹。
zhè zhǒng huā jiào zuò mǔ dān
Word guide: 这种 – this kind of; 花 – flower; 叫做 – is called; 牡丹 – peony.

Recap

- **所谓（的）X** = so-called X (often doubtful); **所谓 X，就是 …** = X means … (definition).
- Neutral naming uses 叫做.

Practise this pattern step by step.

在 + Time + 内 (within a span)

Within three days

- The online shop promises fast delivery in its advert.
- **我们保证三天内送到。** – "We guarantee delivery within three days."

(在) + time span + 内 = within

- **在 + time + 内** = within that period: 在一个月内, 在两周内, 三天内.
- 在 can be dropped in short phrases; 以内 is a close synonym.

请在一周内交报告。
qǐng zài yì zhōu nèi jiāo bào gào
Word guide: 请 – please; 在 – within; 一周 – a week; 内 – (inside); 交 – hand in; 报告 – the report.



Deadlines and rules

- **护照必须在两周内办好。** – "The passport must be sorted within two weeks."
- Space too: **在学校内不能吸烟。** – "No smoking within the school."

在学校内不能吸烟。
zài xué xiào nèi bù néng xī yān
Word guide: 在 – within; 学校 – the school; 内 – (inside); 不能 – not allowed; 吸烟 – smoke.

Formal register

- 内 is formal; in chat, 三天之内 or 三天以内 also work, and 三天里 is casual.
- The phrase goes before the verb: 在三天内完成, not 完成在三天内.

内 versus 以后

- 三天内 = within three days (any time up to day three).
- 三天以后 = after three days (not before).

三天以后再来。
sān tiān yǐ hòu zài lái
Word guide: 三天 – three days; 以后 – after; 再 – then; 来 – come.

Recap

- **(在) + time / place + 内** = within; formal, before the verb.
- 以内 / 之内 are synonyms; 以后 = after.

Practise this pattern step by step.

宁可 … ，也 … (would rather)

The lesser evil

- Your friend suggests taking the crowded night bus. You'd rather walk an hour.
- **我宁可走路回家，也不坐那么挤的车。** – "I'd rather walk home than take such a crowded bus."

宁可 A，也不 B = would rather A than B

- **宁可 A，也不 B** = choose A (unpleasant) rather than B (even worse).
- Also **宁可 A，也要 B** = would even do A in order to achieve B: 宁可少睡一点儿，也要把工作做完.

我宁可少睡一点儿，也要把工作做完。
wǒ nìng kě shǎo shuì yì diǎnr yě yào bǎ gōng zuò zuò wán
Word guide: 我 – I; 宁可 – would rather; 少 – less; 睡 – sleep; 一点儿 – a bit; 也 – (still); 要 – must; 工作 – work; 做完 – finish.



■ Firm choices

- **他宁可饿着，也不吃垃圾食品。** – "He'd rather go hungry than eat junk food."
- 宁愿 is a close synonym: 我宁愿一个人去.

他宁可饿着，也不吃垃圾食品。
tā nìng kě è zhe yě bù chī lā jī shí pǐn
Word guide: 他 – he; 宁可 – would rather; 饿 – hungry; 着 – (stay); 也 – (still); 不 – not; 吃 – eat; 垃圾 – junk; 食品 – food.

■ Read it nìng

- 宁 here is nìng (fourth tone), as in 宁可 / 宁愿.
- 宁可 goes after the subject: 我宁可 …, and the second clause needs 也: 也不 / 也要.

■ 宁可 … 也不 versus 与其 … 不如

- 宁可 A 也不 B: A is chosen firmly, often with sacrifice.
- 与其 A 不如 B: B is the better option: 与其在家等，不如出去找 – "Rather than wait at home, better go and look."

与其等，不如去找。
yǔ qí děng bù rú qù zhǎo
Word guide: 与其 – rather than; 等 – wait; 不如 – better to; 去 – go; 找 – look.

■ Recap

- **宁可 A，也不 B** = would rather A than B; **宁可 A，也要 B** = would even A in order to B.
- 宁 = nìng; 宁愿 is a synonym; 与其 … 不如 … recommends B.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 就 + Verb (indifference / a shrug)

■ Whatever, it's fine

- Your friend apologises for being five minutes late. You really don't mind.
- **晚了就晚了，没关系。** – "So you're late – it doesn't matter."

■ Verb / Adj + 就 + same Verb / Adj (+ 了 / 吧)

- **X 就 X** = "if it's X, so be it": the speaker accepts a fact or brushes it aside.
- 了 / 吧 often follows: 丢了就丢了, 贵就贵吧.

贵就贵吧，我喜欢。
guì jiù guì ba wǒ xǐ huan
Word guide: 贵 – expensive; 就 – (so be it); 贵 – expensive; 我 – I; 喜欢 – like it.

A 就 A: so be it



Accepting and moving on

- **丢了就丢了，再买一个吧。** – "If it's lost, it's lost; just buy another."
- **去就去，谁怕谁！** – "Fine, let's go – who's afraid?"

丢了就丢了，再买一个吧。
diū le jiù diū le zài mǎi yí gè ba
Word guide: 丢 – lost; 就 – (so be it); 丢 – lost; 再 – again; 买 – buy; 一个 – one.

Tone: relaxed or defiant

- It can sound relaxed (没关系) or defiant (谁怕谁); context and voice tell which.
- Repeat exactly the same word: 贵就贵吧, not 贵就便宜吧.

Versus 算了

- 算了 = forget it, let it go: 算了，别生气了.
- X 就 X names the fact you are accepting: 输了就输了.

算了，别生气了。
suàn le bié shēng qì le
Word guide: 算了 – forget it; 别 – don't; 生气 – be angry.

Recap

- **X 就 X (了 / 吧)** = if it's X, so be it: acceptance or defiance.
- Same word twice; 算了 = let it go.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Action，好 + Purpose (so that)

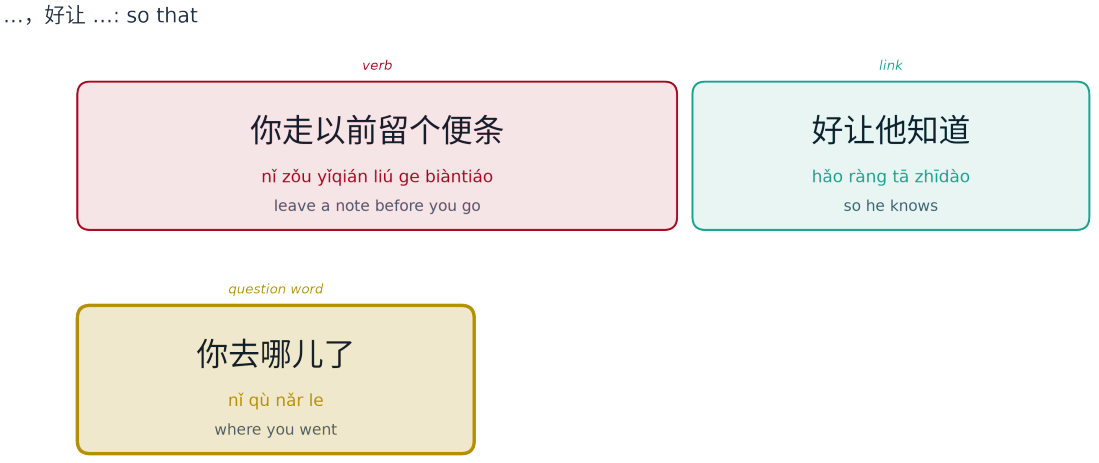
Leave a note

- You are going out and your flatmate will come home later.
- **你走以前留个便条，好让他知道你去哪儿了。** – "Leave a note before you go, so that he knows where you've gone."

■ Action，好 + purpose

- **A，好 B** = do A so that B can happen: 好 here means “so that, in order to (make it easier)”.
- 好 starts the second clause, often with 让 or 能: 好让他知道.

早点儿睡，好明天早起。
zǎo diǎnr shuì hǎo míng tiān zǎo qǐ
Word guide: 早 – early; 点儿 – a bit; 睡 – sleep; 好 – so that; 明天 – tomorrow; 早 – early; 起 – get up.



■ Practical preparations

- **把电话号码写下来，好随时联系。** – “Write down the number so we can get in touch any time.”
- **我带上伞，好在下雨的时候用。** – “I’ll take an umbrella so I can use it if it rains.”

把电话号码写下来，好随时联系。
bǎ diàn huà hào mǎ xiě xià lai hǎo suí shí lián xì
Word guide: 电话 – phone; 号码 – number; 写下来 – write down; 好 – so that; 随时 – any time; 联系 – get in touch.

■ Purpose follows action

- The action comes first and 好 + purpose second; this 好 is not “good”.
- It is spoken and practical; in writing, 以便 is the formal equivalent.

■ 好 versus 为了 and 以便

- 为了 + purpose usually comes first: 为了明天早起，我早点儿睡.
- 好 / 以便 come after the action: 我早点儿睡，好明天早起.

为了明天早起，我早点儿睡。
wèi le míng tiān zǎo qǐ wǒ zǎo diǎnr shuì
Word guide: 为了 – in order to; 明天 – tomorrow; 早 – early; 起 – get up; 我 – I; 早 – early; 点儿 – a bit; 睡 – sleep.

■ Recap

- **Action，好 (让 / 能) + purpose** = do A so that B (spoken).
- Purpose after the action; 为了 puts it first; 以便 is formal.

Practise this pattern step by step.

一面 … ，一面 … (two things at once)

■ Driving and chatting

- Your uncle is a taxi driver who loves to tell stories while he drives.
- **他一面开车，一面跟乘客聊天。** – "He chats with passengers while he drives."

■ 一面 A，一面 B = doing A while doing B

- **一面 A，一面 B** = two actions at the same time by the same person, like 一边 … 一边 ….
- It is a little more formal and written.

她一面工作，一面读研究生。
tā yí miàn gōng zuò yí miàn dú yán jiū shēng
Word guide: 她 – she; 一面 – while; 工作 – working; 一面 – (at the same time); 读 – studying; 研究生 – for a master's.



■ Ongoing parallel activities

- Can describe long-term parallel activities: **他一面上大学，一面打工。** – "He goes to university and works part-time."
- Also for two attitudes: 一面批评, 一面鼓励 – "criticising and encouraging at once."

他一面上大学，一面打工。
tā yí miàn shàng dà xué yí miàn dǎ gōng
Word guide: 他 – he; 一面 – while; 上 – attending; 大学 – university; 一面 – (also); 打工 – works part-time.

■ Same subject, actions

- Both actions belong to one subject: 他一面 … 一面 ….
- Use action verbs; for two qualities use 既 … 又 ….

■ 一面 versus 一边 and 一方面

- 一边 … 一边 … is the everyday version: 一边吃一边看.
- 一方面 … 一方面 … gives two aspects or reasons, not two simultaneous actions.

他一边吃饭一边看新闻。
tā yì biān chī fàn yì biān kàn xīn wén
Word guide: 他 – he; 一边 – while; 吃饭 – eating; 一边 – (also); 看 – watches; 新闻 – the news.

■ Recap

- **一面 A，一面 B** = doing A while doing B (same subject; a little formal).
- 一边 … 一边 … is everyday; 一方面 … 一方面 … gives aspects.

Practise this pattern step by step.

不是 … ，就是 … (either … or …)

■ Always one or the other

- You complain about the weather in your city in spring.
- **这里的春天不是刮风，就是下雨。** – "Spring here is either windy or rainy."

■ 不是 A，就是 B = either A or B

- **不是 A，就是 B** = it is always one of the two: if not A, then B.
- It often describes a habit or a frustrating situation.

他周末不是睡觉，就是打游戏。
tā zhōu mò bú shì shuì jiào jiù shì dǎ yóu xì
Word guide: 他 – he; 周末 – at weekends; 不是 – if not; 睡觉 – sleeping; 就是 – then; 打 – playing; 游戏 – games.

不是 A，就是 B: if not A, then B



■ Two possibilities, nothing else

- Guess: **这个时间他不是在图书馆，就是在食堂。** – "At this time he's either in the library or the canteen."
- Complaint: **你不是迟到，就是早退！** – "You're either late or leaving early!"

他不是在图书馆，就是在食堂。
tā bú shì zài tú shū guǎn jiù shì zài shí táng
Word guide: 他 – he; 不是 – if not; 在 – at; 图书馆 – the library; 就是 – then; 在 – at; 食堂 – the canteen.

■ Not "isn't ... but is ..."

- 不是 A，而是 B = not A but B (a correction): 他不是老师，而是医生. Different meaning!
- 不是 A，就是 B = either A or B (two options, one of them true).

■ Versus 或者 ... 或者 ...

- 或者 … 或者 … offers choices: 或者你来，或者我去.
- 不是 … 就是 … describes a situation with only two outcomes, often habitual.

他不是老师，而是医生。
tā bú shì lǎo shī ér shì yī shēng
Word guide: 他 – he; 不是 – not; 老师 – a teacher; 而是 – but; 医生 – a doctor.

■ Recap

- **不是 A，就是 B** = either A or B (one of the two).
- **不是 A，而是 B** = not A but B (correction).

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ Advanced 把 (把 + Obj + Verb + result)

2001.1 Complete: "Please translate this sentence into English." 请把这句话翻译 …… 英文。

2001.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 你把问题应该说清楚。
- B. 你把应该问题说清楚。
- C. 你应该说把问题清楚。
- D. 你应该把问题说清楚。

2001.3 Build: “She cleaned the room spotless.”

Arrange all chunks: 打扫得 / 她 / 干干净净。/ 把房间

2001.4 我把他看见了 is a natural sentence.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2001.5 Your manager hands back your draft with instructions. 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.

■ N1 + 不比 + N2 + Adj (no more … than)

2002.1 Rebut: “My room is no smaller than yours.” 我的房间 …… 比你的小。

2002.2 Which says clearly that A is shorter than B?

- A. A 跟 B 一样高。
- B. A 比 B 不高。
- C. A 没有 B 高。
- D. A 不比 B 高。

2002.3 Build: “Today is no colder than yesterday.”

Arrange all chunks: 不比 / 昨天 / 今天 / 冷。

2002.4 弟弟不比哥哥高 means the younger brother is definitely shorter.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2002.5 Your friend thinks the expensive brand is much better. You think it’s no better than the cheap one. 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.

■ 要 + Verb + 就 + Verb (if you’re going to, do it right)

2003.1 Complete: “If you’re going to learn, learn properly.” 要学 …… 好好学。

2003.2 Which gives permission rather than advice?

- A. 想走就走吧。
- B. 要做就做完。
- C. 要说就说清楚。

- D. 要买就买好的。

2003.3 Build: “If you’re going to buy one, buy a good one.”

Arrange all chunks: 就买 / 要买 / 质量好的。

2003.4 要 … 就 … is mainly used in formal writing.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2003.5 Your friend wants to learn the guitar but only practises five minutes a week. 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.

■ 少不了 (can’t do without)

2004.1 Complete: “Chinese New Year isn’t complete without dumplings.” 过年 …… 饺子。

2004.2 What does 这么做，少不了要挨批评 mean?

- A. You’re bound to be criticised.
- B. Criticise less.
- C. Criticism is missing.
- D. You won’t be criticised.

2004.3 Build: “He’s the lead; we can’t do without him.”

Arrange all chunks: 少不了 / 他。/ 他是主角 / ，

2004.4 孩子离不开妈妈 means the child depends on its mother.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2004.5 Your family is planning grandma’s 80th birthday party. 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.

■ A 等于 B (equals / amounts to)

2005.1 Complete: “Ten minus four equals six.” 十减四 …… 六。

2005.2 What does 贵不等于好 mean?

- A. Expensive equals good.
- B. Expensive is not good.
- C. Expensive doesn’t mean good.
- D. Good things are expensive.

2005.3 Build: “Wasting time is the same as wasting your life.”

Arrange all chunks: 浪费 / 浪费时间 / 生命。/ 就等于

2005.4 等于 can express that two things have the same effect.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2005.5 Your friend didn't object when you suggested the plan. 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 ... 中 (from within)

2006.1 Complete: "Learn from failure." 从失败 …… 学习。

2006.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 从这些书选一本中。
- B. 选一个从中。
- C. 从这些书中选一本。
- D. 选从这些书中一本。

2006.3 Build: "He gained a lot of experience from work."

Arrange all chunks: 得到了 / 他从工作中 / 很多经验。

2006.4 从中 can refer back to something just mentioned.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2006.5 Your coach talks to the team after a lost match. 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.

■ 无 ... 可 ... (have no ... to ...)

2007.1 Complete: "I have nothing to say." 我无话 …… 说。

2007.2 Match each phrase to its meaning.

- 1. 无处可去
- 1. 无事可做
- 1. 无家可归
- A. homeless
- B. nothing to do
- C. nowhere to go

2007.3 Which is the spoken equivalent of 无话可说?

- A. 没有什么话说可以。
- B. 有话可以说的。
- C. 无什么可以说。
- D. 没有什么可以说的。

2007.4 无话可说 is more formal than 没话说.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2007.5 After a long argument, your friend shrugs and goes quiet. 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.

■ 不但 ...，甚至连 ... 也 ... (not only ..., even ...)

2008.1 Complete: "He not only forgot his pen, he even forgot his ticket." 他不但忘了带笔，甚至 …… 准考证也忘了。

2008.2 Which order is correct?

- A. 老师甚至也连不知道。
- B. 连甚至老师也不知道。
- C. 甚至老师连也不知道。
- D. 甚至连老师也不知道。

2008.3 Build: "Even the teacher can't explain it clearly."

Arrange all chunks: 说不清楚。 / 连老师 / 也 / 甚至

2008.4 The B item in this pattern should be the most surprising one.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2008.5 Your roommate had a terrible morning before the 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.

■ 跟 / 和 ... 有关的 + Noun (related to)

2009.1 Complete: "This matter is related to him." 这件事跟他 ……。

2009.2 Which phrase is correct?

- A. 书跟历史有关的
- B. 有关的跟历史书
- C. 跟历史有关的书
- D. 跟有关历史的书

2009.3 Build: "His illness is related to stress."

Arrange all chunks: 跟压力 / 有关。 / 他的病

2009.4 这跟我没有关系 means "This has nothing to do with me."

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2009.5 You are writing about air pollution and go to the library. 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.

■ 所谓 (the so-called ...)

2010.1 Complete the definition: "What is called 'low-carbon' means reducing emissions." …… 低碳，就是减少排放。

2010.2 What does 这就是你所谓的“好主意”? suggest?

- A. The speaker admires the idea.
- B. The speaker is asking for an idea.
- C. The speaker is defining a term.
- D. The speaker doubts the idea is good.

2010.3 Build: "Happiness is doing what you love."

Arrange all chunks: 喜欢的事。 / 做自己 / 所谓幸福 / ，就是

2010.4 叫做 is the neutral way to name something.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2010.5 Your friend promised a quick route home; it took twice as long. 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 + Time + 内 (within a span)

2011.1 Complete (formal notice): "Pay within thirty days." 请在三十天 …… 付款。

2011.2 Which means "after a week" (not before)?

- A. 一周以内
- B. 一周内
- C. 一周以后
- D. 在一周内

2011.3 Build: "No smoking within the school."

Arrange all chunks: 在学校内 / 吸烟。 / 不能

2011.4 完成在三天内 is the normal word order.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2011.5 The online shop promises fast delivery in its advert. 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.

■ 宁可 … ，也 … (would rather)

2012.1 Complete: “I’d rather stay at home than go out in this rain.” 我宁可待在家里，…… 不在这么大的雨里出去。

2012.2 How is 宁 read in 宁可?

- A. nìng
- B. nīng
- C. nǐng
- D. níng

2012.3 Build: “He’d rather go hungry than eat junk food.”

Arrange all chunks: 也不吃 / 他宁可饿着 / 垃圾食品。/ ，

2012.4 与其 A 不如 B recommends B.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2012.5 Your friend suggests taking the crowded night bus. You’d rather walk an hour. 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.

■ Verb + 就 + Verb (indifference / a shrug)

2013.1 Accept it: “If it’s expensive, so be it – I like it.” 贵就 …… 吧，我喜欢。

2013.2 What does 输了就输了，下次再来 express?

- A. A plan to cheat
- B. Surprise at winning
- C. Great disappointment
- D. Accepting the loss and moving on

2013.3 Build: “If it’s lost, it’s lost; buy another one.”

Arrange all chunks: 一个吧。/ 丢了 / ，再买 / 就丢了

2013.4 去就去，谁怕谁！ sounds defiant.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2013.5 Your friend apologises for being five minutes late. You really don’t mind. 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.

■ Action，好 + Purpose (so that)

2014.1 Complete: “Write down the address so you can check it any time.” 把地址写下来，…… 随时查。

2014.2 In 早点儿睡，好明天早起, what does 好 mean?

- A. very
- B. so that
- C. finished
- D. good

2014.3 Build: “Leave a note so that he knows.”

Arrange all chunks: 他知道。/ ， / 好让 / 留个便条

2014.4 以便 is a formal equivalent of this 好.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2014.5 You are going out and your flatmate will come home later. 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.

■ 一面 ... ，一面 ... (two things at once)

2015.1 Complete: “She works while studying for a master’s.” 她一面工作，…… 读研究生。

2015.2 Which describes two reasons, not two simultaneous actions?

- A. 一面 … 一面 …
- B. 一边 … 一边 …
- C. 一方面 … 一方面 …
- D. 又 … 又 …

2015.3 Build: “He goes to university and works part-time.”

Arrange all chunks: ， 一面 / 上大学 / 他一面 / 打工。

2015.4 一面 … 一面 … is more formal than 一边 … 一边 ….

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2015.5 Your uncle is a taxi driver who loves to tell stories while he drives. 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.

■ 不是 … ，就是 … (either … or …)

2016.1 Complete: “At weekends he either sleeps or plays games.” 他周末不是睡觉，…… 打游戏。

2016.2 What does 他不是老师，而是医生 mean?

- A. He isn’t a teacher; he’s a doctor.
- B. He is either a teacher or a doctor.
- C. He is neither.
- D. He is both a teacher and a doctor.

2016.3 Build: “He’s either in the library or the canteen.”

Arrange all chunks: ， / 就是 / 在食堂。/ 他不是在图书馆

2016.4 不是 … 就是 … often describes a habit or a frustrating pattern.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2016.5 You complain about the weather in your city in spring. 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.

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Answers and explanations

■ Advanced 把 (把 + Obj + Verb + result)

2001.1 成

翻译成 = translate into (a change).

2001.2 D. 你应该把问题说清楚。

你应该把问题说清楚 is right: modal verbs and negatives (应该, 要, 不) go before 把, not between 把 and the verb.

2001.3 她把房间打扫得干干净净。

把 + object + verb + 得 + result.

2001.4 False.

Perception verbs like 看见 don't take 把.

2001.5 One possible response: 请把第三段改得短一点儿，再把图表放到最后。

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.
- 没 / 不 / 别 / 能 / 要 / 应该 go before 把: 你应该把问题说清楚, not 你把问题应该说清楚.
- Perception and feeling verbs (看见, 知道, 喜欢) don't take 把.
- 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.

■ N1 + 不比 + N2 + Adj (no more ... than)

2002.1 不

A 不比 B + Adj.

2002.2 C. A 没有 B 高。

没有 gives the lower degree here; 不比 denies a higher degree and can allow equality or a lower degree.

2002.3 今天不比昨天冷。

A 不比 B + Adj.

2002.4 False.

It only says he isn't taller; they may be the same height.

2002.5 One possible response: 这个牌子不比那个好。

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.

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- A 没有 B 高 = A is less tall than B (clearly shorter).
- A 不比 B 高 denies that A is taller. A may be equally tall or shorter; the phrase does not establish equality.
- 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.

■ 要 + Verb + 就 + Verb (if you're going to, do it right)

2003.1 就

要 V 就 V.

2003.2 A. 想走就走吧。

想 V 就 V gives permission: 想走就走吧 "Feel free to leave if you want." 要 V 就 V gives firm advice: if you do it, do it properly.

2003.3 要买就买质量好的。

要 V 就 V + object.

2003.4 False.

False. 要 … 就 … is spoken and firm (要买就买好的 "If you're buying, buy a good one"). It is not a formal written pattern.

2003.5 One possible response: 要学就好好学，别三天打鱼两天晒网。

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.
- Repeat the same verb: 要学就好好学, not 要学就好好练 (unless you mean a different action).
- The tone is firm advice or impatience; it is spoken.
- 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.

■ 少不了 (can't do without)

2004.1 少不了

A 少不了 B = B is essential.

2004.2 A. You're bound to be criticised.

少不了 can mean "bound to, can't avoid": 这么做，少不了要挨批评 "Do it this way and you're bound to be criticised." Its other sense is "can't do without".

2004.3 他是主角，少不了他。

少不了 + essential person.

2004.4 True.

True. 离不开 means "can't be without, depends on": 孩子离不开妈妈 "The child can't be without its mother."

2004.5 One possible response: 生日聚会少不了蛋糕。

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.
- 了 in 少不了 is liǎo, as in 吃不了.
- The opposite is 少得了 (rare); for "not needed", say 不需要 or 用不着.
- 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.

■ A 等于 B (equals / amounts to)

2005.1 等于

等于 = equals.

2005.2 C. Expensive doesn't mean good.

不等于 = is not the same as.

2005.3 浪费时间就等于浪费生命。

A 就等于 B.

2005.4 True.

沉默等于同意 – silence amounts to consent.

2005.5 One possible response: 你不说话就等于同意了。

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.
- **不等于** = is not the same as: 便宜不等于不好 – "Cheap doesn't mean bad."
- In argument, 等于 often follows 就: 不说就等于同意.
- 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 … 中 (from within)

2006.1 中

从 + noun + 中.

2006.2 C. 从这些书中选一本。

从这些书中选一本 is right: the 从 … 中 phrase comes before the verb, and 中 closes the phrase directly after the noun.

2006.3 他从工作中得到了很多经验。

Subject + 从 … 中 + verb + object.

2006.4 True.

并从中学到了很多 – learned a lot from it.

2006.5 One possible response: 我们要从失败中吸取教训。

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 从失败中学习, not 从失败学习 (for "from within, through").
- The 从 … 中 phrase goes before the verb: 从中选一个, not 选一个从中.
- 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.

■ 无 ... 可 ... (have no ... to ...)

2007.1 可

无 + noun + 可 + verb.

2007.2 1–C: 无处可去 = nowhere to go; 2–B: 无事可做 = nothing to do; 3–A: 无家可归 = homeless

无 X 可 V = no X to V.

2007.3 D. 没有什么可以说的。

没有 … 可以 … is the everyday form.

2007.4 True.

True. 无 … 可 … comes from literary Chinese (无话可说, 无家可归), so it is more formal than everyday 没话说.

2007.5 One possible response: 我已经无话可说了。

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.
- In speech, say 没有话说 / 没地方去; 无 … 可 … is more formal.

- Keep the order 无 + noun + 可 + verb; do not add 的 or 了 inside: 无话可说, not 无话的可说.
- 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.

■ 不但 …，甚至连 … 也 … (not only …, even …)

2008.1 连

甚至连 B 也 ….

2008.2 D. 甚至连老师也不知道。

The order is 甚至 + 连 + B + 也/都: 甚至连老师也不知道 "Even the teacher didn't know." 甚至 comes first and 连 directly before the surprising item.

2008.3 甚至连老师也说不清楚。

甚至连 B 也 + verb.

2008.4 True.

True. B is the climax, the least expected case: if even the teacher didn't know, nobody would.

2008.5 One possible response: 他不但忘了带笔，甚至连准考证也忘了。

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.
- 甚至 comes before 连, and 也 / 都 after B: 甚至连他也 …, not 连甚至他也 ….
- B should be stronger than A; a weaker B makes the sentence fall flat.
- 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.

■ 跟 / 和 … 有关的 + Noun (related to)

2009.1 有关

A 跟 B 有关.

2009.2 C. 跟历史有关的书

The whole 跟 … 有关的 phrase comes before the noun.

2009.3 他的病跟压力有关。

A 跟 B 有关.

2009.4 True.

没有关系 negates the connection.

2009.5 One possible response: 我借了几本跟环境有关的书。

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 whole phrase comes before the noun with 的: 跟环境有关的书, not 书跟环境有关的.
- Negative: 跟他无关 / 跟他没有关系 – "nothing to do with him".
- 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.

■ 所谓 (the so-called ...)

2010.1 所谓

所谓 X，就是 … introduces a definition.

2010.2 D. The speaker doubts the idea is good.

所谓 can be ironic, "so-called": 这就是你所谓的 " 好主意 "? "So this is your so-called good idea?" The speaker doubts it is good.

2010.3 所谓幸福，就是做自己喜欢的事。

所谓 X，就是 ….

2010.4 True.

所谓 often adds doubt or sets up a definition.

2010.5 One possible response: 他所谓的近路，比大路还远。

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.
- 你所谓的朋友 can sound very critical; use it carefully about people.
- For a neutral definition, 所谓 X，就是 … is the standard frame.
- 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 + Time + 内 (within a span)

2011.1 内

在 + time + 内 = within.

2011.2 C. 一周以后

一周以后 means “after a week”. 一周内, 一周以内 and 在一周内 all mean “within a week”, i.e. before the week is over.

2011.3 在学校内不能吸烟。

在 + place + 内 + rule.

2011.4 False.

The time phrase goes before the verb: 在三天内完成.

2011.5 One possible response: 我们保证三天内送到。

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.
- 内 is formal; in chat, 三天之内 or 三天以内 also work, and 三天里 is casual.
- The phrase goes before the verb: 在三天内完成, not 完成在三天内.
- 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.

■ 宁可 … ，也 … (would rather)

2012.1 也

宁可 A，也不 B.

2012.2 A. nìng

In 宁可 (“would rather”) 宁 is read nìng, fourth tone: nìngkě. The second-tone níng is used in 安宁 and the name 南宁.

2012.3 他宁可饿着，也不吃垃圾食品。

宁可 A，也不 B.

2012.4 True.

True. 与其 A 不如 B means “rather than A, better B”: 与其等车，不如走路. The speaker recommends B.

2012.5 One possible response: 我宁可走路回家，也不坐那么挤的车。

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.
- 宁 here is nìng (fourth tone), as in 宁可 / 宁愿.
- 宁可 goes after the subject: 我宁可 …, and the second clause needs 也: 也不 / 也要.
- 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.

■ Verb + 就 + Verb (indifference / a shrug)

2013.1 贵

The same word repeats: 贵就贵.

2013.2 D. Accepting the loss and moving on

X 就 X accepts a fact and moves on: 输了就输了，下次再来 "If we lost, we lost; we'll try again next time." It is not disappointment or surprise.

2013.3 丢了就丢了，再买一个吧。

X 就 X, then the next step.

2013.4 True.

The tone can be relaxed or defiant.

2013.5 One possible response: 晚了就晚了，没关系。

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.
- It can sound relaxed (没关系) or defiant (谁怕谁); context and voice tell which.
- Repeat exactly the same word: 贵就贵吧, not 贵就便宜吧.
- 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.

■ Action，好 + Purpose (so that)

2014.1 好

Action，好 + purpose.

2014.2 B. so that

Here 好 introduces the purpose.

2014.3 留个便条，好让他知道。

Action，好让 + person + verb.

2014.4 True.

Both introduce a purpose after the action.

2014.5 One possible response: 你走以前留个便条，好让他知道你去哪儿了。

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.

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- The action comes first and 好 + purpose second; this 好 is not "good".
- It is spoken and practical; in writing, 以便 is the formal equivalent.
- 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.

■ 一面 … ，一面 … (two things at once)

2015.1 一面

一面 A，一面 B.

2015.2 C. 一方面 … 一方面 …

一方面 gives aspects or reasons.

2015.3 他一面上大学，一面打工。

一面 A，一面 B.

2015.4 True.

True. 一面 … 一面 … is more formal and written; 一边 … 一边 … is the everyday form for doing two things at once.

2015.5 One possible response: 他一面开车，一面跟乘客聊天。

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 actions belong to one subject: 他一面 … 一面 ….
- Use action verbs; for two qualities use 既 … 又 ….
- 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.

■ 不是 … ，就是 … (either … or …)

2016.1 就是

不是 A，就是 B.

2016.2 A. He isn't a teacher; he's a doctor.

而是 corrects: not A but B.

2016.3 他不是在图书馆，就是在食堂。

不是 A，就是 B.

2016.4 True.

True. 不是 A 就是 B ("if it's not A, it's B") often describes an annoying pattern: 不是刮风，就是下雨 "If it isn't windy, it's raining."

2016.5 One possible response: 这里的春天不是刮风，就是下雨。

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.
- 不是 A，而是 B = not A but B (a correction): 他不是老师，而是医生. Different meaning!
- 不是 A，就是 B = either A or B (two options, one of them 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.