

Either... or

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

或者 , 或者 — “either ... or ...”

Doubling 或者 lays out **two options** in a statement — “either ..., or ...” The options are usually verb phrases. (In a *question*, you’d switch to 还是.)

Structure: 或者 + A , 或者 + B

{zh: 只有 |zhǐ yǒu|there’s only / 一块 |yí kuài|one piece of / 蛋糕 |dàn gāo|cake / , 或者 |huò zhě|either / 你 |nǐ|you / 吃 |chī|eat it / 或者 |huò zhě|or / 我 |wǒ|I / 吃 |chī|eat it / 。 }

There’s only one piece of cake — either you eat it or I do.

{zh: 咱们 |zán men|let’s / 或者 |huò zhě|either / 今天 |jīn tiān|today / 去 |qù|go / 或者 |huò zhě|or / 明天 |míng tiān|tomorrow / 去 |qù|go / , 一定 |yí dìng|definitely / 要 |yào|must / 去 |qù|go / 。 }

Let’s go either today or tomorrow — but we definitely must go.

Remember: 或者 ... 或者 ... = “either ... or ...” in a **STATEMENT** (laying out options); a *choice question* still takes 还是. Same statement-vs-question split as the basic 或者 / 还是 pair (HSK 3).

Watch out

- Don’t slip into 还是 here — these are stated options, not a question being asked.