Auxiliary Words

HSK 6 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.

Sentence + 来着 (recalling the recent past)

What was his name again?

- You met someone at a party last week and can't recall his name.
- **他叫什么名字来着?** – "What was his name again?"

Question + 来着 = what was it again?

- **来着** at the end of a sentence asks someone to remind you of something you knew: 你刚才说什么来着?
- It refers to the recent past and is very colloquial.

你刚才说什么来着?
nǐ gāng cái shuō shén me lái zhe
Word guide: 你 – you; 刚才 – just now; 说 – said; 什么 – what; 来着 – (again).



Statements too

- **我昨天还看见他来着。** – "I saw him only yesterday, I'm sure."
- In statements it recalls a recent event as a reminder or confirmation.

我昨天还看见他来着。
wǒ zuó tiān hái kàn jiàn tā lái zhe
Word guide: 我 – I; 昨天 – yesterday; 还 – even; 看见 – saw; 他 – him; 来着 – (I recall).

Recent past, spoken only

- 来着 is for things in the recent past; it cannot describe the future.
- Keep it out of formal writing; 他说什么来着 is the basic form, and 了 may also appear (他说了什么来着) depending on the sentence.

Versus a plain question

- 他叫什么名字? asks for new information.
- 他叫什么名字来着? admits you knew it and have forgotten.

他叫什么名字?
tā jiào shén me míng zi
Word guide: 他 – he; 叫 – is called; 什么 – what; 名字 – name.

Recap

- **Question + 来着** = what was it again? (asking to be reminded).
- Colloquial recollection of an earlier situation. Whether 了 also appears depends on the complete sentence; do not use a blanket ban.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

Sentence + 来着 (recalling the recent past)

0201.1 Complete: "What did you say just now?" 你刚才说什么 ……?

0201.2 What does 他叫什么名字来着? suggest?

- A. The speaker is being formal.
- B. The speaker never knew the name.
- C. The speaker knew it but has forgotten.
- D. The speaker is asking about the future.

0201.3 Build: "I saw him only yesterday."

Arrange all chunks: 还看见他 / 来着。/ 我昨天

0201.4 来着 suits formal writing.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0201.5 You met someone at a party last week and can't recall his name. 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

■ Sentence + 来着 (recalling the recent past)

0201.1 来着

来着 = what was it again?

0201.2 C. The speaker knew it but has forgotten.

来着 at the end of a question shows that the speaker once knew the answer but has forgotten it: 他叫什么名字来着? "What was his name again?"

0201.3 我昨天还看见他来着。

Statement + 来着 recalls the recent past.

0201.4 False.

False. 来着 is colloquial and belongs in conversation. In formal writing you would simply ask 他叫什么名字? or restate the information.

0201.5 One possible response: 他叫什么名字来着?

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.
- 来着 is for things in the recent past; it cannot describe the future.
- Keep it out of formal writing; 他说什么来着 is the basic form, and 了 may also appear (他说了什么来着) depending on the sentence.
- 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.