# Conjunctions

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.

## 以免 (so as to avoid)

### Just in case

- The forecast is uncertain, and you're heading out for the whole day.
- **你带上雨伞，以免淋湿。** – "Take an umbrella so you don't get soaked."

### Action，以免 + unwanted result

- **以免** = "so as to avoid, lest": the first clause is a precaution, the second the result you want to avoid.
- It starts the second clause: 请保存好收据，以免丢失.

**请保存好收据，以免丢失。**
*qǐng bǎo cún hǎo shōu jù yǐ miǎn diū shī*
Word guide: 请 – please; 保存 – keep; 好 – safely; 收据 – the receipt; 以免 – so as to avoid; 丢失 – losing it.




### Warnings and instructions

- **开车时不要看手机，以免发生事故。** – "Don't look at your phone while driving, to avoid accidents."
- **把药放在高处，以免孩子拿到。** – "Put the medicine up high so children can't reach it."

**把药放在高处，以免孩子拿到。**
*bǎ yào fàng zài gāo chù yǐ miǎn hái zi ná dào*
Word guide: 药 – the medicine; 放 – put; 在 – at; 高处 – a high place; 以免 – so that … not; 孩子 – children; 拿到 – reach it.

### Only unwanted results

- What follows 以免 is something bad you want to avoid; for a positive goal use 以便: 早点儿出发，以便准时到.
- Do not add 不 after 以免: 以免迟到, not 以免不迟到 (that would mean the opposite).

### 以免 versus 免得 and 省得

- 免得 / 省得 mean the same in speech: 早点儿走，免得堵车.
- 以免 is more formal and common in instructions and notices.

**早点儿走，免得堵车。**
*zǎo diǎnr zǒu miǎn de dǔ chē*
Word guide: 早 – early; 点儿 – a bit; 走 – leave; 免得 – to avoid; 堵车 – traffic jams.

### Recap

- **Precaution，以免 + unwanted result** = so as to avoid (formal).
- Positive goals take 以便; spoken equivalents 免得 / 省得; no 不 after 以免.

Practise this pattern step by step.

## 以及 (as well as / and)

### A formal list

- A company report lists everyone who took part in a project.
- **参加会议的有经理、工程师以及部分客户。** – "Attending the meeting were the manager, the engineers, and some of the clients."

### A、B 以及 C = and, as well as

- **以及** joins the last item of a list in formal writing, like a formal 和.
- It often adds an item of a slightly different kind or lower importance.

**学生、老师以及家长都参加了。**
*xué sheng lǎo shī yǐ jí jiā zhǎng dōu cān jiā le*
Word guide: 学生 – students; 老师 – teachers; 以及 – as well as; 家长 – parents; 都 – all; 参加 – took part.



### ■ Joining phrases and clauses

- It can join larger units: **大家讨论了活动的时间、地点以及费用。** – "Everyone discussed the time, place and cost of the event."
- Questions too: 怎么去以及什么时候去，还没决定.

**讨论了时间、地点以及费用。**
*tǎo lùn le shí jiān dì diǎn yǐ jí fèi yong*
Word guide: 讨论 – discussed; 时间 – the time; 地点 – place; 以及 – and; 费用 – cost.

### ■ Formal, and before the last item

- In casual speech, 和 sounds more natural: 我买了苹果和香蕉.
- Put 以及 before the last item only: A、B 以及 C, not A 以及 B 以及 C.

### ■ 以及 versus 和 and 及

- 和 = and (everyday).
- 及 is an even more compact written form: 学生及家长. 以及 can join longer phrases than 及.

**学生及家长。**
*xué sheng jí jiā zhǎng*
Word guide: 学生 – students; 及 – and; 家长 – parents.

### ■ Recap

- **A、B 以及 C** = A, B, and (also) C (formal writing).
- Everyday 和; compact written 及; 以及 can join phrases and clauses.

Practise this pattern step by step.

## 总之 (in short / in a word)

### ■ Wrapping it up

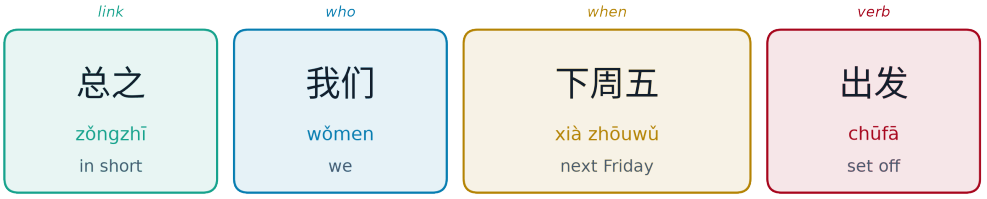
- At the end of a long discussion about holiday plans, you sum up.
- **总之，我们下周五出发。** – "In short, we leave next Friday."

### ■ 总之，+ summary = in short, in a word

- **总之** introduces a conclusion or summary after several points.
- It usually starts the sentence, followed by a comma.

**总之，这次活动很成功。**
*zǒng zhī zhè cì huó dòng hěn chéng gōng*
Word guide: 总之 – in short; 这次 – this; 活动 – event; 很 – very; 成功 – successful.

总之: in short




### ■ After a list of reasons

- **价格太高，质量一般，服务也不好。总之，我不推荐。** – "The price is too high, the quality average, the service poor. In short, I don't recommend it."
- It pulls everything together into one point.

**总之，我不推荐。**
*zǒng zhī wǒ bù tuī jiàn*
Word guide: 总之 – in short; 我 – I; 不 – don't; 推荐 – recommend it.

### ■ After the details, not before

- 总之 comes after the points it sums up; it cannot open a conversation.
- It closes a discussion; for "for example" use 比如.

### ■ 总之 versus 总而言之 and 反正

- 总而言之 = the full, more formal form.
- 反正 = anyway, whatever happens: 反正我不去 – the speaker's mind is made up.

**反正我不去。**
*fǎn zhèng wǒ bú qù*
Word guide: 反正 – anyway; 我 – I; 不 – won't; 去 – go.

### ■ Recap

- **总之，…** = in short, in a word (a summary after several points).
- Formal 总而言之; 反正 = anyway (mind made up).

Practise this pattern step by step.

## 则 (while / whereas – formal contrast)

### ■ North and south

- An essay compares eating habits across China.
- **北方人爱吃面，南方人则爱吃米饭。** – "Northerners love noodles, whereas southerners love rice."

## ■ A …，B 则 … = whereas, while (formal contrast)

- **则** follows the subject of the second clause and marks a contrast with the first: 他喜欢安静，我则喜欢热闹.
- It is written and formal.

**他喜欢安静，我则喜欢热闹。**
*tā xǐ huan ān jìng wǒ zé xǐ huan rè nao*
Word guide: 他 – he; 喜欢 – likes; 安静 – quiet; 我 – I; 则 – whereas; 喜欢 – like; 热闹 – bustle.




## ■ Consequence: then

- 则 can also mean "then" in a condition: **欲速则不达。** – "More haste, less speed."
- **如果 …，则 …** in formal writing: 如果温度超过一百度，则水会沸腾.

**欲速则不达。**
*yù sù zé bù dá*
Word guide: 欲 – wanting; 速 – speed; 则 – then; 不 – not; 达 – arriving.

## ■ After the subject

- 则 follows the subject: 南方人则 …, not 则南方人 ….
- It is formal; in speech, 而 or 但是 / 可是 are more natural.

## ■ 则 versus 而

- 而 starts the contrasting clause: 北方冷，而南方暖和.
- 则 sits inside it, after the subject: 北方冷，南方则暖和.

**北方冷，而南方暖和。**
*běi fāng lěng ér nán fāng nuǎn huo*
Word guide: 北方 – the north; 冷 – is cold; 而 – whereas; 南方 – the south; 暖和 – is warm.

■ **Recap**

- **…，B 则 …** = whereas (formal contrast, after the subject); in conditions, 则 = then.
- 而 starts the clause; speech uses 但是 / 可是.

Practise this pattern step by step.

## Practice without the models

■ **以免 (so as to avoid)**

**0301.1** Complete: “Keep the receipt so you don’t lose it.” 请保存好收据，…… 丢失。

**0301.2** “Leave early so you arrive on time.” Which fits? 早点儿出发，_____ 准时到达。

- A. 免得
- B. 以便
- C. 省得
- D. 以免

**0301.3** Build: “Put the medicine up high so children can’t reach it.”

Arrange all chunks: 以免 / 把药放在高处 / ， / 孩子拿到。

**0301.4** 免得 is a spoken equivalent of 以免.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

**0301.5** The forecast is uncertain, and you’re heading out for the whole day. 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.

■ **以及 (as well as / and)**

**0302.1** Complete (formal): “Students, teachers and parents all took part.” 学生、老师 …… 家长都参加了。

**0302.2** Which suits casual speech? “I bought apples and bananas.”

- A. 我买了苹果以及香蕉。
- B. 我买了苹果和香蕉。
- C. 我买了以及苹果香蕉。
- D. 我买了苹果及香蕉。

**0302.3** Build: “We discussed the time, place and cost.”

Arrange all chunks: 时间、地点 / 以及 / 费用。/ 我们讨论了

**0302.4** 以及 can join longer phrases than 及.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

**0302.5** A company report lists everyone who took part in a project. 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.

### ■ 总之 (in short / in a word)

**0303.1** Sum up: "In short, the event was a success." ……，这次活动很成功。

**0303.2** "Whatever you say, I'm not going anyway." Which fits? _____ 我不去。

- A. 然后
- B. 比如
- C. 总之
- D. 反正

**0303.3** Build: "In short, I don't recommend it."

Arrange all chunks: 不推荐。 / 总之 / ， / 我

**0303.4** 总之 can open a conversation before any points are made.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

**0303.5** At the end of a long discussion about holiday plans, you sum up. 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.

### ■ 则 (while / whereas – formal contrast)

**0304.1** Complete (written): "He likes quiet, whereas I like bustle." 他喜欢安静，我…… 喜欢热闹。

**0304.2** Which is correct?

- A. 则北方冷，南方暖和。
- B. 北方冷，南方则暖和。
- C. 北方冷，则南方暖和。
- D. 北方则冷，南方暖和则。

**0304.3** Build: "More haste, less speed."

Arrange all chunks: 则 / 不达。 / 欲速

**0304.4** 而 starts the contrasting clause; 则 follows its subject.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

**0304.5** An essay compares eating habits across China. 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

### ■ 以免 (so as to avoid)

**0301.1** 以免

以免 + unwanted result.

**0301.2** B. 以便

A positive goal takes 以便.

**0301.3** 把药放在高处，以免孩子拿到。

Precaution，以免 + unwanted result.

**0301.4** True.

Both introduce something to avoid.

**0301.5 One possible response:** 你带上雨伞，以免淋湿。

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.
- What follows 以免 is something bad you want to avoid; for a positive goal use 以便: 早点儿出发，以便准时到.
- Do not add 不 after 以免: 以免迟到, not 以免不迟到 (that would mean the opposite).
- 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.

### ■ 以及 (as well as / and)

**0302.1** 以及

以及 joins the last item.

**0302.2** B. 我买了苹果和香蕉。

以及 and 及 are formal connectors used in writing and announcements. In casual speech two nouns are joined with 和: 我买了苹果和香蕉.

**0302.3** 我们讨论了时间、地点以及费用。

A、B 以及 C.

**0302.4** True.

以及 can link phrases and clauses.

**0302.5 One possible response:** 参加会议的有经理、工程师以及部分客户。

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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- In casual speech, 和 sounds more natural: 我买了苹果和香蕉.
- Put 以及 before the last item only: A、B 以及 C, not A 以及 B 以及 C.
- 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.

### ■ 总之 (in short / in a word)

**0303.1** 总之

总之 introduces the summary.

**0303.2** D. 反正

A mind already made up = 反正.

**0303.3** 总之，我不推荐。

总之，+ summary.

**0303.4** False.

It sums up points already made.

**0303.5 One possible response:** 总之，我们下周五出发。

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.
- 总之 comes after the points it sums up; it cannot open a conversation.
- It closes a discussion; for "for example" use 比如.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

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### ■ 则 (while / whereas – formal contrast)

**0304.1** 则

Subject + 则 marks the contrast.

**0304.2** B. 北方冷，南方则暖和。

则 follows the subject of the second clause.

**0304.3** 欲速则不达。

A fixed saying with 则 = then.

**0304.4** True.

That is their difference in position.

**0304.5 One possible response:** 北方人爱吃面，南方人则爱吃米饭。

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.
- 则 follows the subject: 南方人则 …, not 则南方人 ….
- It is formal; in speech, 而 or 但是 / 可是 are more natural.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

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