Sentence patterns

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.

岂不是 (wouldn't that be ...?)

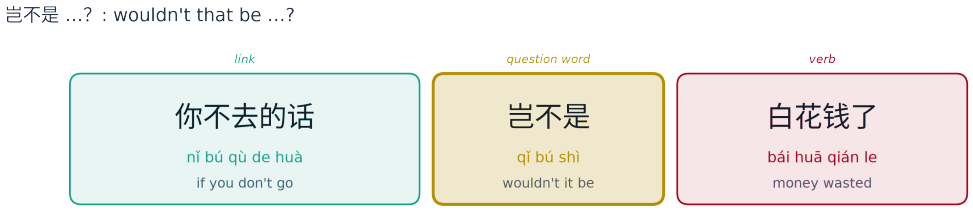
An unused gym card

- Your friend bought a gym membership but never goes.
- **你不去的话，岂不是白花钱了？** – "If you don't go, wouldn't that be money wasted?"

岂不是 + conclusion? = wouldn't that be ...?

- **岂不是** asks a rhetorical question: the conclusion is obvious, so it means "that would be ..., wouldn't it?".
- It usually follows a condition: 如果 ..., 岂不是 ...?

这样岂不是更麻烦?
zhè yàng qǐ bú shì gèng má fan
Word guide: 这样 – this way; 岂不是 – wouldn't it be; 更 – even more; 麻烦 – troublesome.



Pointing out a consequence

- **现在去的话，岂不是要迟到？** – "If we go now, won't we be late?"
- **你这么说，岂不是承认自己错了？** – "Saying that, aren't you admitting you were wrong?"

你这么说，岂不是承认自己错了?
nǐ zhè me shuō qǐ bú shì chéng rèn zì jǐ cuò le
Word guide: 你 – you; 这么 – like this; 说 – say; 岂不是 – aren't you; 承认 – admitting; 自己 – yourself; 错 – wrong.

Rhetorical only

- 岂不是 does not ask for information; the speaker is sure of the answer.
- It is a bit literary; in casual speech, 那不就 ... 了吗? is common: 那不就白花钱了吗?

岂不是 versus 难道

- 难道 ... 吗? challenges a belief: 难道你不知道吗?
- 岂不是 draws out a consequence: 那岂不是白跑一趟? – "Wouldn't that be a wasted trip?"

那不就白花钱了吗?
nà bú jiù bái huā qián le ma
Word guide: 那 – then; 不 – not; 就 – just; 白 – in vain; 花钱 – spent money.

Recap

- **(Condition,) 岂不是 + consequence?** = wouldn't that be ...? (rhetorical).
- Spoken 那不就 ... 了吗; 难道 challenges a belief.

Practise this pattern step by step.

非 (要) ... 不可 (simply must / insist on)

He simply must go

- Your little brother wants to go to the amusement park in the rain and won't take no for an answer.
- **下这么大的雨，他非要去不可。** – "It's pouring, and he simply insists on going."

非 (要) + verb + 不可 = must, insist on

- **非 ... 不可** is a double negative: "not doing it is not allowed" → must, absolutely have to.
- With 要, it often shows insistence: 他非要去不可.

这件事非他去不可。
zhè jiàn shì fēi tā qù bù kě
Word guide: 这件事 – this matter; 非 – (must); 他 – he; 去 – go; 不可 – (must).

非 ... 不可: absolutely must



Necessity and stubbornness

- Necessity: **这个问题非解决不可。** – "This problem absolutely must be solved."
- Stubbornness: **我说不用，她非要请客不可。** – "I said there was no need, but she insisted on paying."

这个问题非解决不可。
zhè ge wèn tí fēi jiě jué bù kě
Word guide: 这个 – this; 问题 – problem; 非 – (must); 解决 – be solved; 不可 – (must).

Keep both parts

- In careful style, keep 不可 (or 不行 / 不成) at the end: 非去不可. In speech 不可 is sometimes dropped: 他非要去.
- 非 + verb, then 不可: not 非不可去.

非 ... 不可 versus 必须 and 一定要

- 必须 / 一定要 = must (plain).
- 非 … 不可 is more emphatic, often with a sense of insistence or "no other way".

你必须按时完成。
nǐ bì xū àn shí wán chéng
Word guide: 你 – you; 必须 – must; 按时 – on time; 完成 – finish.

Recap

- **非 (要) + verb + 不可** = absolutely must / insist on (emphatic double negative).
- Plainer: 必须 / 一定要.

Practise this pattern step by step.

兼 (doubling as / concurrently)

Two jobs in one

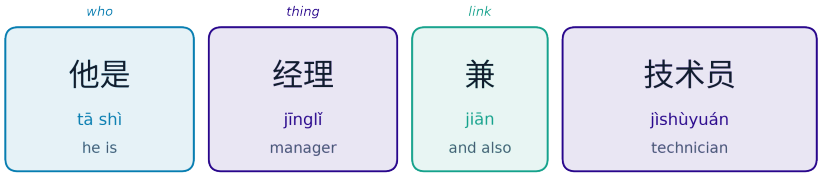
- In a small start-up, one person often has several roles.
- **他是我们公司的经理兼技术员。** – "He's our company's manager and also its technician."

A 兼 B = A and concurrently B

- **兼** joins two roles or functions held by the same person or thing at the same time: 老师兼翻译, 客厅兼餐厅.
- It is formal and compact.

这间屋子是客厅兼书房。
zhè jiān wū zi shì kè tīng jiān shū fáng
Word guide: 这 – this; 间 – (measure word); 屋子 – room; 是 – is; 客厅 – a living room; 兼 – and also; 书房 – a study.

A 兼 B: also serving as



As a verb: hold concurrently

- **他兼了两份工作。** – "He holds two jobs at the same time."
- **兼职** = part-time job: 她在咖啡馆做兼职.

她在咖啡馆做兼职。
tā zài kā fēi guǎn zuò jiān zhí
Word guide: 她 – she; 在 – at; 咖啡馆 – a café; 做 – does; 兼职 – a part-time job.

Same person, same time

- 兼 is for roles held at the same time by one person or thing; two different people take 和.
- It joins nouns of roles or functions: 经理兼技术员, not 很好兼很便宜 (use 又 … 又 …).

■ 兼 versus 又 … 又 … and 既 … 又 …

- 又便宜又好 / 既 … 又 … join qualities.
- 兼 joins roles: 司机兼导游 – “driver and guide in one”.

司机兼导游。
sī jī jiān dǎo yóu
Word guide: 司机 – driver; 兼 – and also; 导游 – tour guide.

■ Recap

- **A 兼 B** = A and concurrently B (two roles of one person or thing); 兼职 = part-time job.
- Qualities take 又 … 又 … / 既 … 又 …; different people take 和.

Practise this pattern step by step.

莫非 (could it be that …?)

■ A dark office at nine

- The office is dark at nine in the morning and nobody is answering the phone.
- **莫非今天放假?** – “Could it be that today is a holiday?”

■ 莫非 + guess? = could it be that …?

- **莫非** introduces a surprised guess, often as a question: “Can it be that …?”
- It is literary; the speaker suspects but isn’t sure.

莫非他生病了?
mò fēi tā shēng bìng le
Word guide: 莫非 – could it be; 他 – he; 生病 – is ill.



■ Surprise and suspicion

- **他一直不接电话，莫非出了什么事?** – “He hasn’t answered all day – could something have happened?”
- Often with 不成 at the end: 莫非你忘了不成? – “Don’t tell me you’ve forgotten?”

他一直不接电话，莫非出了什么事?
tā yì zhí bù jiē diàn huà mò fēi chū le shén me shì
Word guide: 他 – he; 一直 – all along; 不 – not; 接 – answer; 电话 – the phone; 莫非 – could it be; 出 – happened; 什么 – something; 事 – matter.

■ A guess, not a statement

- 莫非 marks an uncertain guess; it does not state a fact.
- It is literary; in speech, 难道 or 是不是 is more common: 是不是今天放假?

■ 莫非 versus 难道

- 难道 often challenges (the speaker thinks the answer is “no”): 难道你不知道吗?
- 莫非 is closer to a suspicious guess (the speaker thinks it might be “yes”).

是不是今天放假?
shì bu shì jīn tiān fàng jià
Word guide: 是不是 – could it be; 今天 – today; 放假 – is a holiday.

■ Recap

- **莫非 + guess (不成)?** = could it be that …? (literary suspicion).
- Spoken 是不是 …? ; 难道 challenges.

Practise this pattern step by step.

由此 (from this / hence)

■ What the data shows

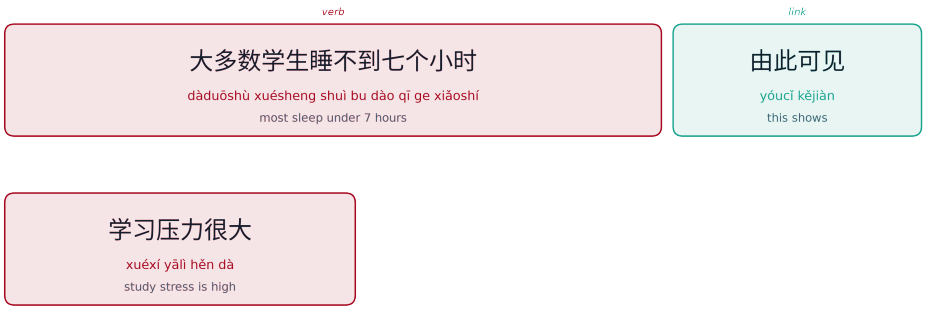
- A researcher presents a survey on how much students sleep.
- **大多数学生每天睡不到七个小时，由此可见，学习压力很大。** – “Most students sleep less than seven hours a day; from this we can see that study pressure is high.”

■ 由此 + verb = from this, hence

- **由此** = “from this”: it draws a conclusion or consequence from what was just said.
- Common fixed forms: 由此可见 (it can be seen from this), 由此看来 (judging from this), 由此产生 (arise from this).

由此可见，他很努力。
yóu cǐ kě jiàn tā hěn nǔ lì
Word guide: 由此 – from this; 可见 – it can be seen; 他 – he; 很 – very; 努力 – hard-working.

由此可见: from this we can see



Consequences that follow

- **工厂关闭了，由此产生了很多失业问题。** – "The factory closed, and many unemployment problems arose from this."
- It links a fact to its result in argument or analysis.

由此产生了很多问题。
yóu cǐ chǎn shēng le hěn duō wèn tí
Word guide: 由此 – from this; 产生 – arose; 很多 – many; 问题 – problems.

After the evidence

- 由此 needs the evidence or event first; it cannot start a text.
- It is written and analytical; in speech, 所以 / 看来 do the job.

由此 versus 因此

- 因此 = therefore (a logical result): 他病了，因此没来.
- 由此 often precedes a verb of seeing or arising: 由此可见, 由此产生.

他病了，因此没来。
tā bìng le yīn cǐ méi lái
Word guide: 他 – he; 病 – was ill; 因此 – therefore; 没 – didn't; 来 – come.

Recap

- **由此 + verb** = from this (由此可见, 由此看来, 由此产生).
- After the evidence; written style; 因此 = therefore.

Practise this pattern step by step.

莫过于 (nothing is more … than)

Nothing better

- Asked about the happiest moment of the week, your grandmother smiles.
- **最开心的莫过于周末全家一起吃饭。** – "Nothing makes me happier than the whole family eating together at the weekend."

… 莫过于 + X = nothing is more … than X

- **(最) Adj 的莫过于 X** = the most Adj thing is X; nothing beats X.
- It singles out the top example in a formal, emphatic way.

最重要的莫过于健康。
zuì zhòng yào de mò guò yú jiàn kāng
Word guide: 最 – most; 重要 – important; 的 – (thing); 莫过于 – nothing beats; 健康 – health.

莫过于: nothing is more … than



Superlatives in essays

- **人生最大的幸福莫过于做自己喜欢的事。** – "The greatest happiness in life is doing what you love."
- **学习语言最好的方法莫过于多说多练。** – "The best way to learn a language is to speak and practise a lot."

最好的方法莫过于多练习。
zuì hǎo de fāng fǎ mò guò yú duō liàn xí
Word guide: 最好 – the best; 方法 – method; 莫过于 – nothing beats; 多 – plenty of; 练习 – practice.

The top example follows

- X after 莫过于 is the single best example; do not put a list there.
- It is formal; in speech say 最 … 的是 ….

■ 莫过于 versus 最 … 的是

- 最重要的是健康 – plain statement.
- 最重要的莫过于健康 – stronger: nothing is more important.

最重要的是健康。
zuì zhòng yào de shì jiàn kāng
Word guide: 最 – most; 重要 – important; 的 – (thing); 是 – is; 健康 – health.

■ Recap

- **(最) Adj 的莫过于 X** = nothing is more … than X (formal, emphatic).
- Spoken: 最 … 的是 ….

Practise this pattern step by step.

与其 A，宁可 / 宁愿 B (rather than … would rather)

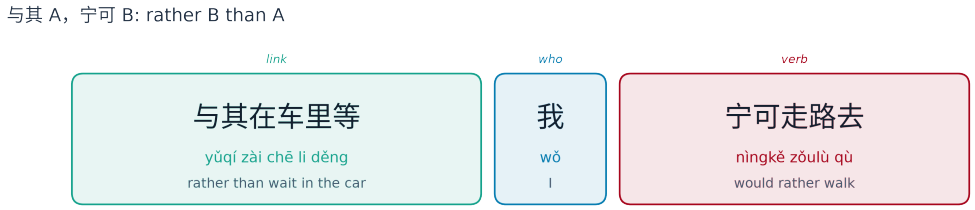
■ Better to walk

- The traffic is completely stuck, and your office is only two kilometres away.
- **与其在车里等，我宁可走路去。** – "Rather than wait in the car, I'd rather walk."

■ 与其 A，宁可 / 宁愿 B

- **与其 A，宁可 B** = rather than A, (I) would rather B: the speaker rejects A and chooses B firmly.
- 与其 introduces the rejected option; 宁可 / 宁愿 the chosen one.

与其在家等，我宁愿出去找。
yǔ qí zài jiā děng wǒ nìng yuàn chū qu zhǎo
Word guide: 与其 – rather than; 在家 – at home; 等 – wait; 我 – I; 宁愿 – would rather; 出去 – go out; 找 – look.



■ Two versions

- **与其 … 不如 …** = rather than A, better B (recommending): 与其抱怨，不如想办法.
- **与其 … 宁可 …** = rather than A, I'd rather B (personal choice, often with sacrifice).

与其抱怨，不如想办法。
yǔ qí bào yuàn bù rú xiǎng bàn fǎ
Word guide: 与其 – rather than; 抱怨 – complaining; 不如 – better to; 想 – think of; 办法 – a solution.

■ Which option is chosen?

- The option after 与其 is the one rejected; the one after 宁可 / 不如 is chosen.
- 宁 in 宁可 / 宁愿 is read nìng.

■ Versus 宁可 … 也不 …

- 宁可 A，也不 B = I'd rather A than B (the rejected option second).
- 与其 B，宁可 A = the same choice with the rejected option first.

我宁可走路，也不坐这车。
wǒ nìng kě zǒu lù yě bú zuò zhè chē
Word guide: 我 – I; 宁可 – would rather; 走路 – walk; 也 – (and); 不 – not; 坐 – take; 这 – this; 车 – bus.

■ Recap

- **与其 A，宁可 / 宁愿 B** = rather than A, I'd rather B; **与其 A，不如 B** = better B.
- The 与其 option is rejected; 宁可 … 也不 … puts it second.

Practise this pattern step by step.

跟 … 似的 (just like / as if)

■ Cold as ice

- You come in from a winter walk and your hands are freezing.
- **我的手冷得跟冰似的。** – "My hands are as cold as ice."

■ 跟 / 像 + X + 似的 = like X, as if

- **跟 X 似的** (shì de) compares something to X vividly: 跟孩子似的, 跟冰似的.
- It can describe a noun, a verb or an adjective: 他高兴得跟孩子似的.

他高兴得跟孩子似的。
tā gāo xìng de gēn hái zi shì de
Word guide: 他 – he; 高兴 – happy; 跟 – like; 孩子 – a child; 似的 – (as if).

跟 … 似的: just like



As if: imagined situations

- **他说话的样子，好像什么都知道似的。** – "The way he talks, it's as if he knows everything."
- **外面跟下了一场大雪似的，到处都是白的。** – "Outside it's as if there'd been a heavy snowfall – everything is white."

他好像什么都知道似的。
tā hǎo xiàng shén me dōu zhī dào shì de
Word guide: 他 – he; 好像 – as if; 什么 – everything; 都 – all; 知道 – knows; 似的 – (as if).

Read it shì de

- 似的 is read shì de, not sì de.
- It is spoken and vivid; in writing, 像 … 一样 or 仿佛 are common.

跟 … 似的 versus 像 … 一样

- 像 X 一样 = like X (neutral, also written): 像冰一样冷.
- 跟 X 似的 = like X (spoken, lively): 冷得跟冰似的.

她像妈妈一样温柔。
tā xiàng mā ma yí yàng wēn róu
Word guide: 她 – she; 像 – like; 妈妈 – her mum; 一样 – (the same); 温柔 – gentle.

Recap

- **跟 / 像 / 好像 + X + 似的 (shì de)** = like X, as if (spoken, vivid).
- Neutral / written: 像 … 一样.

Practise this pattern step by step.

不愧是 (truly worthy of)

Living up to the name

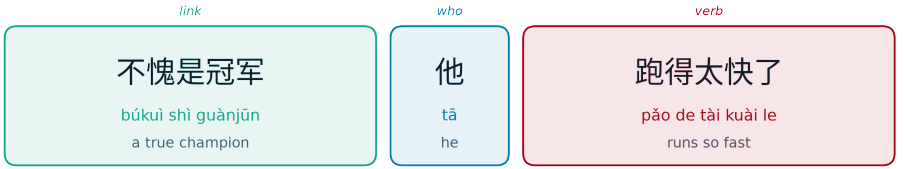
- The national champion wins again, easily, in front of a huge crowd.
- **不愧是冠军，他跑得太快了！** – "He really lives up to being the champion – he's so fast!"

不愧 (是) + identity = truly worthy of

- **不愧是 X** praises someone for living up to their name, role or reputation.
- It often starts the sentence or follows the subject: 他不愧是老师.

你不愧是大厨，这菜太好吃了。
nǐ bú kuì shì dà chú zhè cài tài hǎo chī le
Word guide: 你 – you; 不愧 – truly; 是 – are; 大厨 – a master chef; 这 – this; 菜 – dish; 太 – so; 好吃 – delicious.

不愧是: worthy of the name



Praise with evidence

- **这本书不愧是畅销书，我一个晚上就看完了。** – "This book really deserves to be a bestseller; I finished it in one night."
- The evidence usually follows or comes before.

这本书不愧是畅销书。
zhè běn shū bú kuì shì chàng xiāo shū
Word guide: 这本书 – this book; 不愧 – truly; 是 – is; 畅销书 – a bestseller.

Praise only

- 不愧 is positive; for "doesn't deserve", say 配不上 or 名不副实.
- Give the reason: 不愧是冠军 alone sounds unfinished without the achievement.

不愧 versus 果然

- 果然 = as expected: 他果然赢了.
- 不愧是 = truly worthy of a title: 他不愧是冠军. The two often appear together.

他果然赢了，不愧是冠军。
tā guǒ rán yíng le bú kuì shì guàn jūn
Word guide: 他 – he; 果然 – as expected; 赢 – won; 不愧 – truly; 是 – is; 冠军 – the champion.

Recap

- **不愧 (是) + identity** = truly worthy of, lives up to (praise with evidence).
- Positive only; 果然 = as expected.

Practise this pattern step by step.

由 ... 做主 (for ... to decide)

Who gets to decide?

- Your parents ask what you want to study at university.
- **这是你的人生，由你自己做主。** – "It's your life – it's up to you to decide."

由 + person + 做主 = for ... to decide

- **由 X 做主** = X has the right to decide: 由你做主, 由父母做主.
- **做主** = make the decision, be in charge.

这件事由你做主。
zhè jiàn shì yóu nǐ zuò zhǔ
Word guide: 这件事 – this matter; 由 – by; 你 – you; 做主 – decide.



Who's in charge

- **家里的大事都由爷爷做主。** – "All the big family decisions are made by Grandpa."
- Asking: **这件事谁做主?** – "Who decides about this?"

家里的大事都由爷爷做主。
jiā li de dà shì dōu yóu yé ye zuò zhǔ
Word guide: 家里 – family; 大事 – big matters; 都 – all; 由 – by; 爷爷 – Grandpa; 做主 – decided.

由 marks the decider

- 由 + person comes before 做主; the matter decided is the topic in front: 这件事由你做主.
- Do not use 被: 被你做主 is wrong.

做主 versus 决定

- 决定 = to decide (any decision): 我决定明天走.
- 做主 = to have the authority to decide: 我做不了主 – "It's not my decision to make."

这件事我做不了主。
zhè jiàn shì wǒ zuò bu liǎo zhǔ
Word guide: 这件事 – this matter; 我 – I; 做不了 – can't make; 主 – the decision.

Recap

- **(Matter) + 由 + person + 做主** = it's up to that person to decide.
- 做主 = have the authority; 做不了主 = not my call; 决定 = decide.

Practise this pattern step by step.

非得 ... 不可 (absolutely must)

You have to see a doctor

- Your friend has had a fever for three days but refuses to see a doctor.
- **你烧得这么厉害，非得去医院不可。** – "With a fever this bad, you absolutely have to go to hospital."

非得 + verb (+ 不可) = must, have to

- **非得** (fēi děi) = must, absolutely have to; 不可 / 不行 can close the sentence for extra force.
- In speech, 非得 alone often works: 你非得今天去吗?

你非得今天去吗?
nǐ fēi děi jīn tiān qù ma
Word guide: 你 – you; 非得 – must; 今天 – today; 去 – go.

非得 … 不可: really have to



Necessity and insistence

- Necessity: **这份报告非得今天交不可。** – "This report absolutely must be handed in today."
- Insistence: **他非得自己做，谁帮忙都不要。** – "He insists on doing it himself and won't take help from anyone."

这份报告非得今天交不可。
zhè fèn bào gào fēi děi jīn tiān jiāo bù kě
Word guide: 这份 – this; 报告 – report; 非得 – must; 今天 – today; 交 – be handed in; 不可 – (absolutely).

Read it fēi děi

- 得 here is děi ("must"), not de.
- 非得 is spoken; in writing, 必须 is the neutral choice.

非得 versus 非 … 不可

- 非 … 不可 puts the verb in the middle: 非去不可.
- 非得 …(不可) is the spoken variant with 得: 非得去 / 非得去不可. Both are emphatic.

我非去不可。
wǒ fēi qù bù kě
Word guide: 我 – I; 非 – (must); 去 – go; 不可 – (must).

Recap

- **非得 (fēi děi) + verb (+ 不可 / 不行)** = absolutely must / insist on.
- Spoken; 非 … 不可 is the classic form; 必须 is neutral.

Practise this pattern step by step.

一来 … ，二来 … (firstly …, secondly …)

Two good reasons

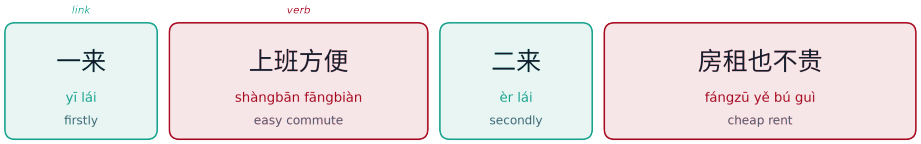
- A friend asks why you chose to live near your office.
- **一来上班方便，二来房租也不贵。** – "Firstly, it's convenient for work; secondly, the rent isn't high."

一来 A，二来 B = firstly …, secondly …

- **一来 …，二来 …** lists two reasons for a choice, usually in speech.
- Each reason is a short clause; a third can follow with 三来.

一来便宜，二来离家近。
yì lái pián yi èr lái lí jiā jìn
Word guide: 一来 – firstly; 便宜 – it's cheap; 二来 – secondly; 离 – from; 家 – home; 近 – close.

一来 …，二来 …: for one thing …, for another …



Explaining a decision

- **我坐地铁，一来快，二来不堵车。** – "I take the subway: firstly it's fast, secondly there are no traffic jams."
- **他学中文，一来是为了工作，二来是喜欢中国文化。** – "He's learning Chinese partly for work and partly because he likes Chinese culture."

一来是为了工作，二来是喜欢文化。
yì lái shì wèi le gōng zuò èr lái shì xǐ huan wén huà
Word guide: 一来 – firstly; 是 – is; 为了 – for; 工作 – work; 二来 – secondly; 是 – is; 喜欢 – liking; 文化 – culture.

Reasons, not steps

- 一来 … 二来 … gives reasons; for steps in a sequence, use 首先 … 然后 … or 第一 … 第二 ….
- Keep the two reasons parallel and short.

■ Versus 一方面 ... 另一方面 ...

- 一方面 … 另一方面 … weighs two aspects, sometimes in contrast.
- 一来 … 二来 … simply lists supporting reasons for one decision.

首先洗菜，然后切。
shǒu xiān xǐ cài rán hòu qiē
Word guide: 首先 – first; 洗 – wash; 菜 – the vegetables; 然后 – then; 切 – cut them.

■ Recap

- **一来 A，二来 B (三来 C)** = firstly …, secondly … (reasons for a choice).
- Steps take 首先 … 然后 …; contrasting aspects take 一方面 ….

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 岂不是 (wouldn't that be ...?)

0701.1 Complete: "Wouldn't that be even more trouble?" 这样 …… 更麻烦?

0701.2 Which is the casual spoken equivalent of 岂不是白花钱了?

- A. 白花钱是不是?
- B. 岂白花钱?
- C. 那不就白花钱了吗?
- D. 花钱白了吗?

0701.3 Build: "If we go now, won't we be late?"

Arrange all chunks: 现在去的话 / 岂不是 / ， / 要迟到?

0701.4 岂不是 asks for information the speaker doesn't have.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0701.5 Your friend bought a gym membership but never goes. 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.

■ 非 (要) ... 不可 (simply must / insist on)

0702.1 Complete: "This problem absolutely must be solved." 这个问题非解决 ……。

0702.2 Which order is correct?

- A. 他非要去不可。
- B. 他不可非要去。
- C. 他要去非不可。
- D. 他非不可要去。

0702.3 Build: "She insisted on paying."

Arrange all chunks: 请客 / 非要 / 她 / 不可。

0702.4 非 … 不可 is more emphatic than 必须.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0702.5 Your little brother wants to go to the amusement park in the rain and won't take no for an answer. 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.

■ 兼 (doubling as / concurrently)

0703.1 Complete: "He is the driver and also the guide." 他是司机 …… 导游。

0703.2 Which is wrong?

- A. 这间屋子是客厅兼书房。
- B. 她做兼职。
- C. 他是老师兼翻译。
- D. 这件衣服便宜兼好看。

0703.3 Build: "She does a part-time job at a café."

Arrange all chunks: 她 / 兼职。/ 在咖啡馆 / 做

0703.4 兼 joins roles held at the same time.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0703.5 In a small start-up, one person often has several roles. 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.

■ 莫非 (could it be that ...?)

0704.1 Complete: "Could it be that he's ill?" …… 他生病了?

0704.2 Which is the everyday spoken equivalent of 莫非今天放假?

- A. 今天放假吗不成?
- B. 是不是今天放假?
- C. 放假今天莫非?
- D. 今天莫非放假了。

0704.3 Build: "Could something have happened?"

Arrange all chunks: 莫非 / 什么事? / 出了

0704.4 莫非 states a fact.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0704.5 The office is dark at nine in the morning and nobody is answering the phone. 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.

■ 由此 (from this / hence)

0705.1 Complete: "From this we can see that…" …… 可见 ……

0705.2 Where must 由此 come?

- A. Only in questions
- B. At the very start of a text
- C. After the evidence it refers to
- D. After 吗

0705.3 Build: "Many problems arose from this."

Arrange all chunks: 由此 / 很多 / 问题。/ 产生了

0705.4 由此 is more written than 所以.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0705.5 A researcher presents a survey on how much students sleep. 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.

■ 莫过于 (nothing is more … than)

0706.1 Complete: "Nothing is more important than health." 最重要的 …… 健康。

0706.2 Which is the plainer spoken equivalent?

- A. 最重要的是健康。
- B. 健康莫过于重要。
- C. 重要莫过于最健康。
- D. 最健康莫过于。

0706.3 Build: "The best method is plenty of practice."

Arrange all chunks: 莫过于 / 多练习。/ 最好的方法

0706.4 莫过于 is followed by a single top example.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0706.5 Asked about the happiest moment of the week, your grandmother smiles. 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.

■ 与其 A，宁可 / 宁愿 B (rather than … would rather)

0707.1 Complete: "Rather than complain, better find a solution." 与其抱怨，…… 想办法。

0707.2 In 与其在家等，我宁愿出去找, which option does the speaker reject?

- A. both
- B. neither
- C. waiting at home
- D. going out to look

0707.3 Build: "Rather than wait in the car, I'd rather walk."

Arrange all chunks: 我宁可 / 走路去。/ 与其在车里等 / ，

0707.4 In 宁可 A，也不 B, B is the rejected option.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0707.5 The traffic is completely stuck, and your office is only two kilometres away. 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 … 似的 (just like / as if)

0708.1 Complete: "He was as happy as a child." 他高兴得跟孩子 ……。

0708.2 How is 似 read in 似的?

- A. shí
- B. sī
- C. sì
- D. shì

0708.3 Build: "It's as if he knows everything."

Arrange all chunks: 什么都知道 / 似的。/ 他好像

0708.4 像 … 一样 is more neutral than 跟 … 似的.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0708.5 You come in from a winter walk and your hands are freezing. 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.

■ 不愧是 (truly worthy of)

0709.1 Praise: “You really are a master chef!” 你 …… 是大厨!

0709.2 Is 不愧 used for criticism?

- A. No, it is praise
- B. Only in questions
- C. Yes, often
- D. Only about places

0709.3 Build: “As expected he won; he truly is the champion.”

Arrange all chunks: ， / 冠军。/ 不愧是 / 他果然赢了

0709.4 不愧是畅销书 means the book deserves to be a bestseller.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0709.5 The national champion wins again, easily, in front of a huge crowd. 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.

■ 由 ... 做主 (for ... to decide)

0710.1 Complete: “It’s up to you.” 由你自己 ……。

0710.2 What does 我做不了主 mean?

- A. I decided not to.
- B. I can’t decide quickly.
- C. It’s not my decision to make.
- D. I am the boss.

0710.3 Build: “Big family decisions are made by Grandpa.”

Arrange all chunks: 家里的大事 / 爷爷 / 都由 / 做主。

0710.4 被你做主 is correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0710.5 Your parents ask what you want to study at university. 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.

■ 非得 ... 不可 (absolutely must)

0711.1 Complete: “Do you really have to go today?” 你 …… 今天去吗?

0711.2 How is 得 read in 非得?

- A. dé
- B. dì
- C. děi
- D. de

0711.3 Build: “This report must be handed in today.”

Arrange all chunks: 今天交 / 不可。/ 非得 / 这份报告

0711.4 非去不可 and 非得去 are both emphatic.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0711.5 Your friend has had a fever for three days but refuses to see a doctor. 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.

■ 一来 ... ，二来 ... (firstly ..., secondly ...)

0712.1 Complete: “Firstly it’s cheap, secondly it’s close to home.” 一来便宜，…… 离家近。

0712.2 For steps in a recipe, which is better?

- A. 首先洗菜，然后切菜。
- B. 一方面洗菜，一方面切菜。
- C. 一来洗菜，二来切菜。
- D. 二来洗菜，一来切菜。

0712.3 Build: “I take the subway: firstly it’s fast, secondly there are no jams.”

Arrange all chunks: ，一来快 / 不堵车。/ 我坐地铁 / ，二来

0712.4 一来 … 二来 … lists reasons for one decision.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0712.5 A friend asks why you chose to live near your office. 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

■ 岂不是 (wouldn't that be …?)

0701.1 岂不是

岂不是 + consequence.

0701.2 C. 那不就白花钱了吗?

那不就 … 了吗? is the spoken form.

0701.3 现在去的话，岂不是要迟到?

Condition, 岂不是 + consequence.

0701.4 False.

False. 岂不是 is rhetorical: it asks "wouldn't that be …?" to make a point the speaker already believes, as in 这样岂不是更好?

0701.5 One possible response: 你不去的话，岂不是白花钱了?

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.
- 岂不是 does not ask for information; the speaker is sure of the answer.
- It is a bit literary; in casual speech, 那不就 … 了吗? is common: 那不就白花钱了吗?
- 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.

■ 非 (要) ... 不可 (simply must / insist on)

0702.1 不可

非 … 不可.

0702.2 A. 他非要去不可。

The frame is 非 + (要) + verb + 不可, meaning "must, insist on": 他非要去不可. 非 comes before the verb phrase and 不可 closes the sentence.

0702.3 她非要请客不可。

非要 + verb + 不可.

0702.4 True.

It stresses there is no other way.

0702.5 One possible response: 下这么大的雨，他非要去不可。

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 careful style, keep 不可 (or 不行 / 不成) at the end: 非去不可. In speech 不可 is sometimes dropped: 他非要去.
- 非 + verb, then 不可: not 非不可去.
- 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.

■ 兼 (doubling as / concurrently)

0703.1 兼

A 兼 B for two roles of one person.

0703.2 D. 这件衣服便宜兼好看。

Qualities take 又 … 又 …, not 兼.

0703.3 她在咖啡馆做兼职。

兼职 = part-time job.

0703.4 True.

True. 兼 links two roles or functions held at the same time: 经理兼技术员 "manager and also technician", both held by one person.

0703.5 One possible response: 他是我们公司的经理兼技术员。

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.
- 兼 is for roles held at the same time by one person or thing; two different people take 和.
- It joins nouns of roles or functions: 经理兼技术员, not 很好兼很便宜 (use 又 … 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.

■ 莫非 (could it be that ...?)

0704.1 莫非

莫非 + guess.

0704.2 B. 是不是今天放假?

是不是 …? is the spoken form.

0704.3 莫非出了什么事?

莫非 + guess.

0704.4 False.

It introduces an uncertain guess.

0704.5 One possible response: 莫非今天放假?

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.
- 莫非 marks an uncertain guess; it does not state a fact.
- It is literary; in speech, 难道 or 是不是 is more common: 是不是今天放假?
- 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.

■ 由此 (from this / hence)

0705.1 由此

由此可见 = it can be seen from this.

0705.2 C. After the evidence it refers to

由此 refers back to what was just said.

0705.3 由此产生了很多问题。

由此 + verb + result.

0705.4 True.

True. 由此 ("from this, hence") belongs to analytical and written style: 由此可见 "from this we can see". In speech 所以 is normal.

0705.5 One possible response: 大多数学生每天睡不到七个小时，由此可见，学习压力很大。

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.
- 由此 needs the evidence or event first; it cannot start a text.
- It is written and analytical; in speech, 所以 / 看来 do the job.
- 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.

■ 莫过于 (nothing is more … than)

0706.1 莫过于

最 … 的莫过于 X.

0706.2 A. 最重要的是健康。

最 … 的是 … ("the most … is …") is the plain spoken form: 最重要的是健康. 莫过于 is a written way to say "nothing is more … than", as in 最重要的莫过于健康.

0706.3 最好的方法莫过于多练习。

最 … 的 + 莫过于 + X.

0706.4 True.

True. 莫过于 means "nothing exceeds" and is followed by the single top example: 最大的快乐莫过于助人.

0706.5 One possible response: 最开心的莫过于周末全家一起吃饭。

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.
- X after 莫过于 is the single best example; do not put a list there.
- It is formal; in speech say 最 … 的是 ….
- 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.

■ 与其 A，宁可 / 宁愿 B (rather than … would rather)

0707.1 不如

与其 A，不如 B.

0707.2 C. waiting at home

The 与其 option is rejected.

0707.3 与其在车里等，我宁可走路去。

与其 A，宁可 B.

0707.4 True.

The order is reversed compared with 与其.

0707.5 One possible response: 与其在车里等，我宁可走路去。

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 option after 与其 is the one rejected; the one after 宁可 / 不如 is chosen.
- 宁 in 宁可 / 宁愿 is read nìng.

- 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 … 似的 (just like / as if)

0708.1 似的

跟 X 似的 = like X.

0708.2 D. shì

In 似的 ("as if, like"), 似 is read shì: 像 … 似的 xiàng … shìde. In other words such as 似乎 and 相似 it is read sì.

0708.3 他好像什么都知道似的。

好像 + clause + 似的.

0708.4 True.

跟 … 似的 is spoken and vivid.

0708.5 One possible response: 我的手冷得跟冰似的。

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.
- 似的 is read shì de, not sì de.
- It is spoken and vivid; in writing, 像 … 一样 or 仿佛 are common.
- 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.

■ 不愧是 (truly worthy of)

0709.1 不愧

不愧是 + identity.

0709.2 A. No, it is praise

不愧 praises someone for living up to a name.

0709.3 他果然赢了，不愧是冠军。

果然 + result, 不愧是 + title.

0709.4 True.

It lives up to the title.

0709.5 One possible response: 不愧是冠军，他跑得太快了！

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.
- 不愧 is positive; for "doesn't deserve", say 配不上 or 名不副实.
- Give the reason: 不愧是冠军 alone sounds unfinished without the achievement.
- 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.

■ 由 … 做主 (for … to decide)

0710.1 做主

由 + person + 做主.

0710.2 C. It's not my decision to make.

做不了主 = lack the authority.

0710.3 家里的大事都由爷爷做主。

Matter + 由 + person + 做主.

0710.4 False.

False. 由 marks who is responsible for a decision: 由你做主 "It's up to you." 被 marks the passive and does not fit here.

0710.5 One possible response: 这是你的人生，由你自己做主。

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.
- 由 + person comes before 做主; the matter decided is the topic in front: 这件事由你做主.
- Do not use 被: 被你做主 is wrong.
- 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.

■ 非得 … 不可 (absolutely must)

0711.1 非得

非得 = must (spoken).

0711.2 C. děi

In 非得 ("must, have to"), 得 is read děi, as in 你得去. It is not the structural particle de or dé "obtain".

0711.3 这份报告非得今天交不可。

非得 + verb + 不可.

0711.4 True.

Both mean “absolutely must go”.

0711.5 One possible response: 你烧得这么厉害，非得去医院不可。

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.
- 得 here is děi (“must”), not de.
- 非得 is spoken; in writing, 必须 is the neutral choice.
- 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.

■ 一来 … ，二来 … (firstly …, secondly …)

0712.1 二来

一来 …，二来 ….

0712.2 A. 首先洗菜，然后切菜。

Steps take 首先 … 然后 …; 一来 … 二来 … gives reasons.

0712.3 我坐地铁，一来快，二来不堵车。

Decision, then 一来 … 二来 ….

0712.4 True.

True. 一来 … 二来 … lists two reasons for one decision or situation: 一来天太晚，二来我很累，所以不去了.

0712.5 One possible response: 一来上班方便，二来房租也不贵。

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.
- 一来 … 二来 … gives reasons; for steps in a sequence, use 首先 … 然后 … or 第一 … 第二 ….
- Keep the two reasons parallel and short.
- 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.