Comparing similar adverbs

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.

按照 vs 根据 (in accordance with vs based on)

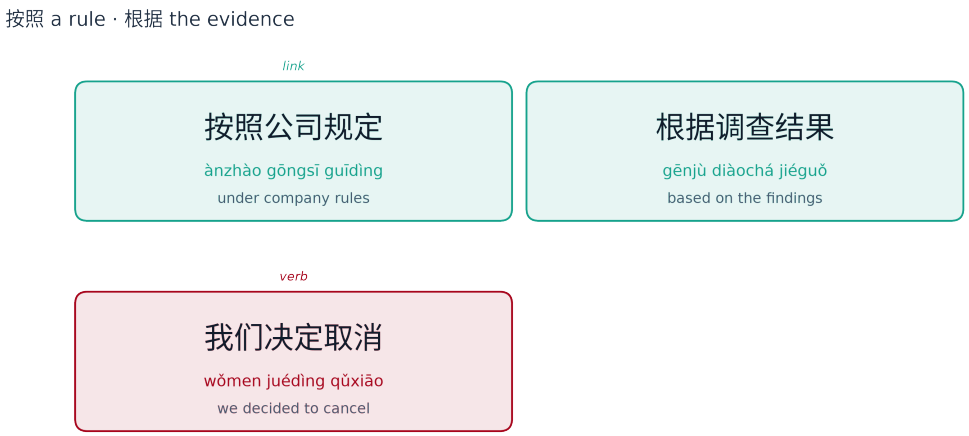
Rules and evidence

- A company memo explains how a decision was made.
- **按照公司规定，根据调查结果，我们决定取消这次活动。** – "In accordance with company rules, and based on the survey results, we've decided to cancel the event."

按照 = according to (follow a rule or plan)

- **按照 + rule / plan / order** = do something as the rule says: 按照计划, 按照规定, 按照顺序.
- The focus is on following a standard.

请按照顺序排队。
qǐng àn zhào shùn xù pái duì
Word guide: 请 – please; 按照 – according to; 顺序 – the order; 排队 – queue.



根据 = based on (evidence or source)

- **根据 + data / facts / source** = draw a conclusion from: 根据调查, 根据天气预报, 根据他的说法.
- The focus is on what a judgement rests on.

根据天气预报，明天有雨。
gēn jù tiān qì yù bào míng tiān yǒu yǔ
Word guide: 根据 – based on; 天气 – the weather; 预报 – forecast; 明天 – tomorrow; 有 – there'll be; 雨 – rain.

Follow versus base on

- To follow a rule, plan or order, use 按照: 按照计划进行. 根据规定 is also correct, but it justifies a decision: "on the basis of the rules".
- Evidence for a conclusion: 根据研究, not 按照研究.

根据 as a noun

- 根据 can be a noun: "basis, grounds": 你这么说有什么根据? – "What grounds do you have for saying that?"
- 按照 is only a preposition.

你这么说有什么根据?
nǐ zhè me shuō yǒu shén me gēn jù
Word guide: 你 – you; 这么 – so; 说 – say; 有 – have; 什么 – what; 根据 – grounds.

Recap

- **按照** = according to (follow a rule, plan, order); **根据** = based on (evidence, data, source).
- 根据 can also be a noun (grounds); 按照 cannot.

Practise this pattern step by step.

不得不 vs 只好 (forced to vs only option)

Forced or resigned?

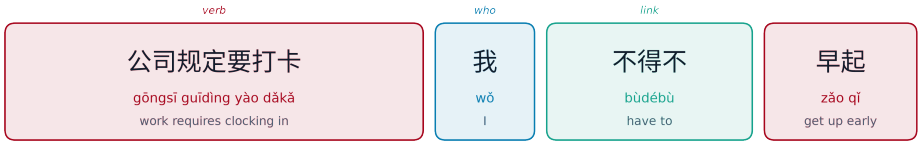
- The last train has been cancelled and there are no taxis.
- **没有车了，我们只好走回去。公司规定要打卡，我不得不早起。** – "No transport left, so we'll just have to walk back. The company makes us clock in, so I have no choice but to get up early."

只好 = the only option left (resigned)

- **只好 + verb** = "have no choice but to", after other options have disappeared; it sounds resigned, matter-of-fact.
- 商店都关门了，我只好明天再买.

商店都关门了，我只好明天再买。
shāng diàn dōu guān mén le wǒ zhǐ hǎo míng tiān zài mǎi
Word guide: 商店 – the shops; 都 – all; 关门 – closed; 我 – I; 只好 – had to; 明天 – tomorrow; 再 – then; 买 – buy.

只好: resigned to it · 不得不: forced to



■ 不得不 = forced (pressure, duty)

- **不得不 + verb** = be forced to, by rules, duty or pressure: 我不得不承认, 他病了, 不得不住院.
- It stresses the force of the situation and is a bit more formal.

他病得很重，不得不住院。
tā bìng de hěn zhòng bù dé bú zhù yuàn
Word guide: 他 – he; 病 – was ill; 很 – very; 重 – seriously; 不得不 – had to; 住院 – be hospitalised.

■ Choosing by the force

- Options ran out and you accept it → 只好. Something forces you (law, health, duty) → 不得不.
- Both go after the subject: 我只好 …, 我不得不 …; neither takes 吗 in a statement.

■ Often interchangeable

- 下雨了，我们只好 / 不得不待在家里 – both possible; 不得不 sounds more forced.
- 不得不承认 is a fixed expression: “I have to admit”.

我不得不承认他说得对。
wǒ bù dé bù chéng rèn tā shuō de duì
Word guide: 我 – I; 不得不 – have to; 承认 – admit; 他 – he; 说 – said; 对 – right.

■ Recap

- **只好** = no other option, resigned; **不得不** = forced by rules, duty or pressure.
- Often interchangeable; 不得不承认 is fixed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

不断 vs 不停 (continually vs non-stop)

■ Steady growth versus non-stop

- A news report and a neighbour’s complaint describe two kinds of “continually”.
- **城市在不断发展。楼上的狗叫个不停。** – “The city keeps developing. The dog upstairs barks non-stop.”

■ 不断 = continually, ongoing (development)

- **不断 + verb** = keep on, with progress or repetition over time: 不断进步, 不断提高, 不断变化.
- It goes before the verb and suits formal contexts.

我们要不断学习。
wǒ men yào bú duàn xué xí
Word guide: 我们 – we; 要 – must; 不断 – continually; 学习 – learn.

不断: steadily · 个不停: non-stop



■ 不停 = without stopping (an action)

- **不停 (地) + verb** = keep doing an action with no pause: 不停地说, 不停地下雨.
- **V + 个不停** = keep V-ing: 说个不停, 哭个不停.

孩子哭个不停。
hái zi kū ge bù tíng
Word guide: 孩子 – the baby; 哭 – cry; 个 – (on and); 不停 – non-stop.

■ Progress versus repetition

- Development or improvement over time → 不断: 不断提高, not 不停提高.
- A physical action that won’t stop → 不停: 雨不停地下, 说个不停.

个不停 only with 不停

- 说个不停 ✓, 说个不断 ×.
- 不断 can describe things: 不断的努力 – "constant effort"; 不停 is mostly for actions.

经过不断的努力，他成功了。
jīng guò bú duàn de nǔ lì tā chéng gōng le
Word guide: 经过 – after; 不断 – constant; 努力 – effort; 他 – he; 成功 – succeeded.

Recap

- **不断** = continually (development, improvement, formal); **不停** = non-stop (an action).
- V 个不停 only with 不停; 不断的努力 = constant effort.

Practise this pattern step by step.

反而 vs 却 (instead vs however)

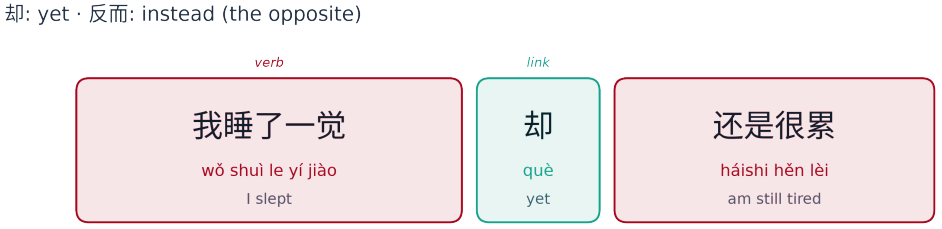
Yet versus instead

- You took a nap to feel better, but woke up even more tired.
- **我睡了一觉，却还是很累；不但没好，反而更累了。** – "I took a nap, yet I'm still tired; far from better, I'm actually more tired."

却 = but, yet (a contrast)

- **却** marks a contrast with the first clause; it goes after the subject: 他很累，却睡不着.
- The second part simply goes against what you'd expect, without being the opposite.

已经春天了，天气却还很冷。
yǐ jīng chūn tiān le tiān qì què hái hěn lěng
Word guide: 已经 – already; 春天 – spring; 天气 – the weather; 却 – yet; 还 – still; 很 – very; 冷 – cold.



反而 = instead, the opposite happened

- **反而** says the result went the opposite way: 吃了药，病反而更重了.
- It often follows 不但不 / 不但没: 他不但没生气，反而笑了.

吃了药，病反而更重了。
chī le yào bìng fǎn ér gèng zhòng le
Word guide: 吃 – took; 药 – medicine; 病 – the illness; 反而 – instead; 更 – more; 重 – serious.

Contrast or reversal?

- A plain "but": 却. The opposite of the expected result: 反而.
- Both follow the subject: 他却 …, 他反而 …; neither starts the clause.

Side by side

- 他很有钱，却不快乐 – rich but not happy (contrast).
- 他有钱了，反而不快乐了 – he got rich and became unhappier (reversal).

他有钱了，反而不快乐了。
tā yǒu qián le fǎn ér bú kuài lè le
Word guide: 他 – he; 有钱 – got rich; 反而 – instead; 不 – not; 快乐 – happy.

Recap

- **却** = but, yet (contrast); **反而** = instead (the opposite of the expected result).
- Both after the subject; 不但不 … 反而 … is the classic reversal frame.

Practise this pattern step by step.

根本 vs 到底 (at all vs on earth)

At all, or on earth?

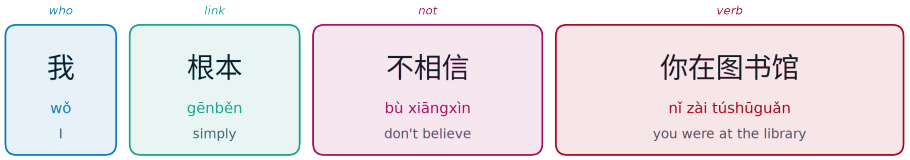
- Your friend keeps changing his story about where he was last night.
- **你到底去哪儿了？我根本不相信你在图书馆。** – "Where on earth did you go? I don't believe at all that you were in the library."

根本 = at all, simply (negatives) / fundamentally

- **根本 + 不 / 没** = not at all: 根本不知道, 根本没去. It strongly rejects an idea.
- As a noun / adjective: "root, fundamental": 根本原因 – "the root cause".

我根本不认识他。
wǒ gēn běn bú rèn shi tā
Word guide: 我 – I; 根本 – at all; 不 – not; 认识 – know; 他 – him.

根本: at all · 到底: on earth



■ 到底 = on earth (questions) / after all

- **到底 + question** = on earth, exactly: 你到底想怎么样?
- In statements, 到底 = after all, in the end: 他到底还是来了.

你到底想怎么样?
nǐ dào dǐ xiǎng zěn me yàng
Word guide: 你 – you; 到底 – on earth; 想 – want; 怎么样 – what.

■ Different jobs

- 根本 strengthens a negative statement; it does not go in questions as "on earth": 你根本去哪儿了 ×.
- 到底 strengthens a question; it does not mean "not at all": 我到底不知道 × → 我根本不知道.

■ Together in an argument

- **问题到底在哪儿? 根本原因是缺少沟通。** – "Where exactly is the problem? The root cause is a lack of communication."
- 到底 asks; 根本 answers at the deepest level.

根本原因是缺少沟通。
gēn běn yuán yīn shì quē shǎo gōu tōng
Word guide: 根本 – the root; 原因 – cause; 是 – is; 缺少 – a lack of; 沟通 – communication.

■ Recap

- **根本 + 不/没** = not at all; 根本原因 = root cause.
- **到底 + question** = on earth / exactly; in statements = after all.

Practise this pattern step by step.

根据 vs 据 (based on vs formal shorthand)

■ According to reports

- You read a news story citing an official source.
- **据报道，今年的游客人数增加了两成。** – "According to reports, the number of tourists has risen by 20% this year."

■ 根据 = based on (any source)

- **根据 + source / evidence** = on the basis of: 根据调查, 根据他的说法, 根据规定.
- It is used in speech and writing.

根据调查，大多数人同意。
gēn jù diào chá dà duō shù rén tóng yì
Word guide: 根据 – based on; 调查 – the survey; 大多数 – most; 人 – people; 同意 – agree.

据 ...: according to



■ 据 = according to (formal shorthand)

- **据 + verb of reporting** in fixed formal phrases: 据报道 (according to reports), 据说 (it is said), 据统计 (according to statistics), 据了解 (it is understood).
- **据说他要出国了。** – "Word is he's going abroad."

据说他要出国了。
jù shuō tā yào chū guó le
Word guide: 据说 – it is said; 他 – he; 要 – is going to; 出国 – go abroad.

■ 据 mostly before a reporting verb

- 据 usually takes a reporting verb directly: 据报道, 据统计. Before a plain noun phrase, 根据 is safer: 根据这份报告.
- 据说 is common even in speech; the other 据 phrases are formal.

■ 根据 as a noun

- 根据 can also mean “grounds, basis”: 你有什么根据?
- 据 cannot be a noun.

据统计，人口增加了。
jù tǒng jì rén kǒu zēng jiā le
Word guide: 据 – according to; 统计 – statistics; 人口 – the population; 增加 – increased.

■ Recap

- **根据 + source** = based on (general; also a noun “grounds”).
- **据 + reporting verb** = according to (据报道, 据说, 据统计; formal shorthand).

Practise this pattern step by step.

恢复 vs 还原 (recover vs restore to original)

■ Back to normal

- After a week in hospital, your grandfather is walking again; meanwhile, technicians restore an old photo.
- **爷爷的身体慢慢恢复了。他们把老照片还原成了彩色的样子。** – “Grandpa’s health has slowly recovered. They restored the old photo to its colour form.”

■ 恢复 = recover, resume (a normal state)

- **恢复** = return to a previous normal condition: 恢复健康, 恢复正常, 恢复交通.
- Often for health, order, activity or relationships.

交通已经恢复正常了。
jiāo tōng yǐ jīng huī fù zhèng cháng le
Word guide: 交通 – traffic; 已经 – already; 恢复 – returned to; 正常 – normal.

恢复: return to health · 还原: restore to the original



■ 还原 = restore to the original form

- **还原** = put something back to its original form or state: 还原现场 (reconstruct the scene), 还原历史 (recreate history as it was).
- It stresses getting back the original version.

这部电影还原了当时的历史。
zhè bù diàn yǐng huán yuán le dāng shí de lì shǐ
Word guide: 这部 – this; 电影 – film; 还原 – recreated; 当时 – that time’s; 历史 – history.

■ Normal state versus original form

- Health, order, activity → 恢复: 恢复健康, not 还原健康.
- A scene, picture or story back to its original → 还原: 还原历史真相.

■ Both with places

- 恢复营业 = (a shop) reopens for business.
- 还原老城区的样子 = restore the old town to how it originally looked.

商店下周恢复营业。
shāng diàn xià zhōu huī fù yíng yè
Word guide: 商店 – the shop; 下周 – next week; 恢复 – resumes; 营业 – business.

■ Recap

- **恢复** = recover / resume a normal state (health, order, business).
- **还原** = restore to the original form (scene, history, appearance).

Practise this pattern step by step.

居然 vs 反而 (surprisingly vs instead)

■ Surprise or reversal?

- Your shy classmate surprised everyone at the talent show.
- **他居然上台唱了一首歌！大家以为他会紧张，他反而很放松。** – “He actually went on stage and sang! Everyone thought he’d be nervous, but he was relaxed instead.”

■ 居然 = surprisingly, actually

- **居然** marks any unexpected event: 他居然忘了, 她居然会说日语.
- It just signals surprise; the event need not be the opposite of anything.

这么简单的题，他居然做错了。
zhè me jiǎn dān de tí tā jū rán zuò cuò le
Word guide: 这么 – such; 简单 – an easy; 题 – question; 他 – he; 居然 – actually; 做错 – got wrong.

居然: surprisingly · 反而: on the contrary



■ 反而 = instead, the opposite

- **反而** says the result went in the opposite direction from expected: 吃了药，反而更不舒服了.
- It needs a clear expectation to reverse.

休息了一天，他反而更累了。
xiū xi le yì tiān tā fǎn ér gèng lèi le
Word guide: 休息 – after resting; 一天 – a day; 他 – he; 反而 – instead; 更 – more; 累 – tired.

■ Surprise versus opposite

- Any surprise → 居然 / 竟然. A result opposite to the expected one → 反而.
- 居然 can describe good or bad surprises; 反而 always reverses an expectation.

■ Can they combine?

- Yes: 他不但没生气，居然还笑了 / 反而笑了 – both possible; 反而 stresses the reversal, 居然 the surprise.
- Choose by what you want to highlight.

他不但没生气，反而笑了。
tā bú dàn méi shēng qì fǎn ér xiào le
Word guide: 他 – he; 不但 – not only; 没 – didn't; 生气 – get angry; 反而 – instead; 笑 – laughed.

■ Recap

- **居然** = surprisingly (any unexpected event); **反而** = instead (the opposite of what was expected).
- Pick by focus: surprise or reversal.

Practise this pattern step by step.

一度 vs 一时 (at one time vs for the moment)

■ Once, for a while

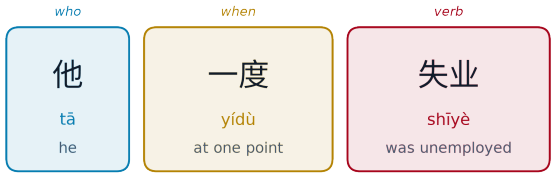
- Your uncle talks about a difficult period in his life and a moment of panic.
- **他一度失业，那时他一时不知道该怎么办。** – "He was unemployed for a time, and at that moment he didn't know what to do."

■ 一度 = at one time, for a period (in the past)

- **一度 + verb / adj** = once, for a while in the past (and it is no longer so): 一度很流行, 一度中断.
- It describes a past phase.

这首歌一度非常流行。
zhè shǒu gē yí dù fēi cháng liú xíng
Word guide: 这 – this; 首 – (measure word); 歌 – song; 一度 – at one time; 非常 – very; 流行 – popular.

一度: for a time · 一时: momentarily



■ 一时 = for the moment, temporarily

- **一时 + verb** = at that moment, for a short time: 一时想不起来 (can't remember just now), 一时冲动 (a moment's impulse).
- It is about a brief moment, often a temporary failure.

他的名字我一时想不起来。
tā de míng zi wǒ yì shí xiǎng bu qǐ lái
Word guide: 他 – his; 名字 – name; 我 – I; 一时 – for the moment; 想不起来 – can't recall.

■ A phase versus a moment

- A past period that has ended → 一度: 他一度住在国外.
- A brief moment or impulse → 一时: 一时生气说错了话.

■ 一时 in set phrases

- 一时半会儿 = in a short while: 这个问题一时半会儿解决不了.
- 一度 can also be a count: 一年一度 – "once a year": 一年一度的春节.

一年一度的春节。
yì nián yí dù de Chūn jié
Word guide: 一年 – once a year; 一度 – (once); 春节 – Spring Festival.

■ Recap

- **一度** = at one time (a past phase); also 一年一度 = once a year.
- **一时** = for the moment, temporarily (一时想不起来, 一时冲动, 一时半会儿).

Practise this pattern step by step.

一直 vs 一向 (continuously vs habitually)

■ All day, or always?

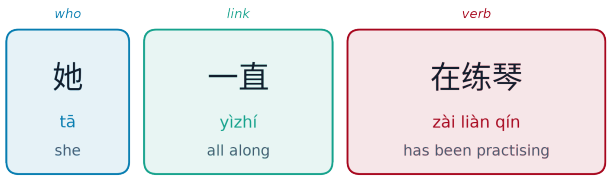
- Your neighbour has been practising piano all morning; she has always been hard-working.
- **她一直在练琴，她一向很努力。** – "She's been practising the piano all along; she's always been hard-working."

■ 一直 = continuously (a stretch of time)

- **一直** = without a break over a stretch, past or future: 一直在下雨, 我会一直等你.
- It can also mean "straight": 一直走.

我会一直等你。
wǒ huì yì zhí děng nǐ
Word guide: 我 – I; 会 – will; 一直 – always; 等 – wait for; 你 – you.

一直: continuously · 一向: always (by nature)



■ 一向 = habitually, consistently (character)

- **一向** describes long-standing habits or character from past to present: 他一向很准时.
- It does not look to the future: 我会一向等你 ×.

他一向很准时。
tā yí xiàng hěn zhǔn shí
Word guide: 他 – he; 一向 – has always been; 很 – very; 准时 – punctual.

■ Future and activities

- Future promises take 一直: 我会一直支持你. 一向 is past-to-present only.
- An ongoing activity (在 + verb) usually takes 一直: 一直在等; 一向 is about habits and traits.

■ Both possible

- 他一直 / 一向不喜欢吃辣 – both fine: a long-standing preference.
- 一向 sounds more like a character trait; 一直 more like continuity.

他一向不喜欢吃辣。
tā yí xiàng bù xǐ huan chī là
Word guide: 他 – he; 一向 – has always; 不 – not; 喜欢 – liked; 吃 – eating; 辣 – spicy food.

■ Recap

- **一直** = continuously (past or future; activities; also "straight ahead").
- **一向** = habitually, consistently (character, past to present, not future).

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 按照 vs 根据 (in accordance with vs based on)

1401.1 Complete: "Please queue in order." 请 …… 顺序排队。

1401.2 "Based on the survey, most students like online classes." Which fits? _____ 调查，大多数学生喜欢网课。

- A. 按照
- B. 关于
- C. 对于
- D. 根据

1401.3 Build: "What grounds do you have for saying that?"
Arrange all chunks: 根据? / 有什么 / 你这么说

1401.4 根据天气预报 means "based on the weather forecast".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1401.5 A company memo explains how a decision was made. 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.

■ 不得不 vs 只好 (forced to vs only option)

1402.1 Complete: "I have to admit he was right." 我 …… 承认他说得对。

1402.2 "The restaurant was full, so we just had to eat at home." Which sounds most natural?

- A. 饭馆满了，我们不得不吗在家吃。
- B. 饭馆满了，我们只好在家吃。
- C. 饭馆满了，只好我们在家吃了吗。
- D. 饭馆满了，我们得不得在家吃。

1402.3 Build: "He was seriously ill and had to be hospitalised."

Arrange all chunks: ， / 他病得很重 / 住院。/ 不得不

1402.4 只好 and 不得不 can sometimes be used interchangeably.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1402.5 The last train has been cancelled and there are no taxis. 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.

■ 不断 vs 不停 (continually vs non-stop)

1403.1 Complete (formal): "Our level keeps improving." 我们的水平在 …… 提高。

1403.2 Which is wrong?

- A. 技术不断进步。
- B. 他说个不断。
- C. 雨不停地下。
- D. 他说个不停。

1403.3 Build: "The baby cries non-stop."

Arrange all chunks: 不停。/ 孩子 / 个 / 哭

1403.4 不断的努力 means "constant effort".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1403.5 A news report and a neighbour's complaint describe two kinds of "continually". 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.

■ 反而 vs 却 (instead vs however)

1404.1 Complete: "After the medicine, the illness got worse instead." 吃了药，病 …… 更重了。

1404.2 "He's clever, but he doesn't work hard." Which fits? 他很聪明，_____ 不努力。

- A. 于是
- B. 却
- C. 因此
- D. 反而

1404.3 Build: "It's already spring, yet it's still cold."

Arrange all chunks: ， / 天气却 / 已经春天了 / 还很冷。

1404.4 反而 can start a clause before the subject.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1404.5 You took a nap to feel better, but woke up even more tired. 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.

■ 根本 vs 到底 (at all vs on earth)

1405.1 Complete: "I don't know him at all." 我 …… 不认识他。

1405.2 "What on earth do you want?" Which fits? 你 _____ 想怎么样?

- A. 本来
- B. 根据
- C. 根本
- D. 到底

1405.3 Build: "The root cause is a lack of communication."

Arrange all chunks: 是 / 根本原因 / 沟通。/ 缺少

1405.4 他到底还是来了 means "In the end he came after all."

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1405.5 Your friend keeps changing his story about where he was last night. 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.

■ 根据 vs 据 (based on vs formal shorthand)

1406.1 Complete: “It is said that he’s going abroad.” …… 说他要出国了。

1406.2 Which is safer before a plain noun phrase? “based on this report”

- A. 根这份报告
- B. 据这份报告
- C. 根据这份报告
- D. 据说这份报告

1406.3 Match each phrase to its meaning.

- 1. 据报道
- 1. 据统计
- 1. 据说
- A. according to statistics
- B. it is said
- C. according to reports

1406.4 据 can be used as a noun meaning “grounds”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1406.5 You read a news story citing an official source. 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.

■ 恢复 vs 还原 (recover vs restore to original)

1407.1 Complete: “He has recovered his health.” 他已经 …… 健康了。

1407.2 “The police reconstructed the accident scene.” Which fits? 警察 _____ 了事故现场。

- A. 恢复
- B. 回复
- C. 还原
- D. 复习

1407.3 Build: “The shop resumes business next week.”

Arrange all chunks: 商店 / 营业。/ 下周 / 恢复

1407.4 还原健康 is the usual phrase for recovering health.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1407.5 After a week in hospital, your grandfather is walking again; meanwhile, technicians restore an old photo. 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.

■ 居然 vs 反而 (surprisingly vs instead)

1408.1 Complete: “She can actually speak Japanese!” 她 …… 会说日语!

1408.2 “After a day of rest, he was even more tired.” Which fits best? 休息了一天，他 _____ 更累了。

- A. 反而
- B. 居然
- C. 当然
- D. 果然

1408.3 Build: “He actually got such an easy question wrong.”

Arrange all chunks: 这么简单的题 / 居然 / 做错了。/ ， 他

1408.4 反而 always reverses an expectation.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1408.5 Your shy classmate surprised everyone at the talent show. 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.

■ 一度 vs 一时 (at one time vs for the moment)

1409.1 Complete: “I can’t recall his name just now.” 他的名字我 …… 想不起来。

1409.2 “This song was once very popular.” Which fits? 这首歌 _____ 非常流行。

- A. 一时
- B. 一度
- C. 一向
- D. 一直

1409.3 Build: “This problem can’t be solved in a short while.”

Arrange all chunks: 解决 / 这个问题一时半会儿 / 不了。

1409.4 一年一度 means “once a year”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1409.5 Your uncle talks about a difficult period in his life and a moment of panic. 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.

■ 一直 vs 一向 (continuously vs habitually)

1410.1 Promise: “I’ll always support you.” 我会 …… 支持你。

1410.2 Which is wrong?

- A. 他一向很准时。
- B. 我会一向等你。
- C. 雨一直在下。
- D. 他一直在练琴。

1410.3 Build: “I will wait for you all along.”

Arrange all chunks: 一直 / 等你。/ 我会

1410.4 他一直不喜欢吃辣 and 他一向不喜欢吃辣 are both acceptable.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1410.5 Your neighbour has been practising piano all morning; she has always been hard-working. 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

■ 按照 vs 根据 (in accordance with vs based on)

1401.1 按照

Following an order or rule = 按照.

1401.2 D. 根据

Evidence for a conclusion = 根据.

1401.3 你这么说有什么根据?

根据 as a noun = grounds.

1401.4 True.

根据 introduces the source of a judgement.

1401.5 One possible response: 按照公司规定，根据调查结果，我们决定取消这次活动。

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.
- To follow a rule, plan or order, use 按照: 按照计划进行. 根据规定 is also correct, but it justifies a decision: “on the basis of the rules”.
- Evidence for a conclusion: 根据研究, not 按照研究.
- 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.

■ 不得不 vs 只好 (forced to vs only option)

1402.1 不得不

不得不承认 is fixed.

1402.2 B. 饭馆满了，我们只好在家吃。

Options ran out, so 只好 fits naturally.

1402.3 他病得很重，不得不住院。

Pressure of the situation = 不得不.

1402.4 True.

不得不 just sounds more forced.

1402.5 One possible response: 没有车了，我们只好走回去。公司规定要打卡，我不得不早起。

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.

- Options ran out and you accept it → 只好. Something forces you (law, health, duty) → 不得不.
- Both go after the subject: 我只好 …, 我不得不 …; neither takes 吗 in a statement.
- 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.

■ 不断 vs 不停 (continually vs non-stop)

1403.1 不断

Improvement over time = 不断.

1403.2 B. 他说个不断。

Verb + 个 + 不停 means "non-stop" (他说个不停). 不断 does not fit this pattern; it works as an adverb before verbs like 进步 or 提高.

1403.3 孩子哭个不停。

V + 个不停.

1403.4 True.

True. 不断 can also describe a noun with 的: 不断的努力 "constant effort".

1403.5 One possible response: 城市在不断发展。楼上的狗叫个不停。

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.
- Development or improvement over time → 不断: 不断提高, not 不停提高.
- A physical action that won't stop → 不停: 雨不停地下, 说个不停.
- 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.

■ 反而 vs 却 (instead vs however)

1404.1 反而

The opposite of the expected result = 反而.

1404.2 B. 却

却 marks a plain contrast after the subject: 他很聪明，却不努力. 反而 would mean the result goes against what was expected, and 因此 / 于是 show result or sequence.

1404.3 已经春天了，天气却还很冷。

Subject + 却 + predicate.

1404.4 False.

False. 反而 is an adverb and goes after the subject, before the verb: 他反而笑了. It does not come before the subject.

1404.5 One possible response: 我睡了一觉，却还是很累；不但没好，反而更累了。

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.
- A plain "but": 却. The opposite of the expected result: 反而.
- Both follow the subject: 他却 …, 他反而 …; neither starts the clause.
- 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.

■ 根本 vs 到底 (at all vs on earth)

1405.1 根本

根本 + 不 = not at all.

1405.2 D. 到底

到底 strengthens questions.

1405.3 根本原因是缺少沟通。

根本 as an adjective: root.

1405.4 True.

In statements, 到底 = after all.

1405.5 One possible response: 你到底去哪儿了？我根本不相信你在图书馆。

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.
- 根本 strengthens a negative statement; it does not go in questions as "on earth": 你根本去哪儿了 ×.
- 到底 strengthens a question; it does not mean "not at all": 我到底不知道 × → 我根本不知道.
- 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.

■ 根据 vs 据 (based on vs formal shorthand)

1406.1 据

据说 = it is said.

1406.2 C. 根据这份报告

Before a noun phrase, 根据 is the safe choice.

1406.3 1–C: 据报道 = according to reports; 2–A: 据统计 = according to statistics; 3–B: 据说 = it is said

据 + reporting verb.

1406.4 False.

False. On its own 据 is a preposition, "according to" (据报道). The noun "grounds, basis" is 根据 (你有什么根据？); 据 has this meaning only inside compounds like 证据.

1406.5 One possible response: 据报道，今年的游客人数增加了两成。

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.
- 据 usually takes a reporting verb directly: 据报道, 据统计. Before a plain noun phrase, 根据 is safer: 根据这份报告.
- 据说 is common even in speech; the other 据 phrases are formal.
- 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.

■ 恢复 vs 还原 (recover vs restore to original)

1407.1 恢复

Health returns to normal = 恢复.

1407.2 C. 还原

Reconstructing a scene as it originally was = 还原.

1407.3 商店下周恢复营业。

恢复营业 = resume business.

1407.4 False.

The usual phrase is 恢复健康.

1407.5 One possible response: 爷爷的身体慢慢恢复了。他们把老照片还原成了彩色的样子。

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.
- Health, order, activity → 恢复: 恢复健康, not 还原健康.
- A scene, picture or story back to its original → 还原: 还原历史真相.
- 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.

■ 居然 vs 反而 (surprisingly vs instead)

1408.1 居然

Surprise = 居然.

1408.2 A. 反而

The opposite of the expected result = 反而.

1408.3 这么简单的题，他居然做错了。

Subject + 居然 + verb.

1408.4 True.

True. 反而 always says the result goes against an expectation. 居然 only marks the speaker's surprise and does not need a reversal.

1408.5 One possible response: 他居然上台唱了一首歌！大家以为他会紧张，他反而很放松。

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.
- Any surprise → 居然 / 竟然. A result opposite to the expected one → 反而.
- 居然 can describe good or bad surprises; 反而 always reverses an expectation.
- 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.

■ 一度 vs 一时 (at one time vs for the moment)

1409.1 一时

A brief moment = 一时.

1409.2 B. 一度

一度 marks a past phase that has since ended: 这首歌一度非常流行 "was once very popular". 一直 and 一向 describe continuity up to now.

1409.3 这个问题一时半会儿解决不了。

Topic + 一时半会儿 + verb + potential complement 不了.

1409.4 True.

True. In 一年一度, 度 counts occasions, so the phrase means "once a year", as in 一年一度的春节.

1409.5 One possible response: 他一度失业，那时他一时不知道该怎么办。

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.
- A past period that has ended → 一度: 他一度住在国外.
- A brief moment or impulse → 一时: 一时生气说错了话.
- 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.

■ 一直 vs 一向 (continuously vs habitually)

1410.1 一直

Future promises take 一直.

1410.2 B. 我会一向等你。

一向 does not look to the future.

1410.3 我会一直等你。

会 + 一直 + verb.

1410.4 True.

For a long-standing preference, both work.

1410.5 One possible response: 她一直在练琴，她一向很努力。

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.
- Future promises take 一直: 我会一直支持你. 一向 is past-to-present only.
- An ongoing activity (在 + verb) usually takes 一直: 一直在等; 一向 is about habits and traits.
- 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.