

Describe weather and location

HSK 1

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.

Say what the weather is like and where a place is.

Before you start: Recall place names and simple 在 location statements. 冷 means cold, 热 means hot and 下雨 means rain; use the supplied gloss for 旁边, beside.

■ Build the meaning

For an ordinary description, say 今天很冷, today is cold. 很 often supports a neutral adjective description; it does not always mean strongly “very”.

A place expression can use 在: 学校在医院旁边, the school is beside the hospital. The adjective pattern and location pattern do different jobs.

Weather and place: 怎么样 and 哪里 take the answer's slot



■ Work through a decision

Read 今天很冷, 学校在医院旁边 – it is cold today; the school is beside the hospital. The first clause describes weather. The second uses 学校 as the place being located and 医院 as the reference place. To answer 学校在哪里, use 在医院旁边. The message supplies no road distance or walking time.

Compare: 今天很冷 is an ordinary adjective description; 学校在医院旁边 locates a place. Do not insert 是 into the cold description just because English uses is, or

replace 在 with 是 to locate the school. Other constructions with 是 exist; this contrast concerns these ordinary frames.

■ Useful words in context

- 冷 lěng – cold. 今天很冷。
- 热 rè – hot. 今天很热。
- 下雨 xià yǔ – rain. 今天下雨。
- 旁边 pángbiān – beside. 学校在医院旁边。
- 哪里 nǎlǐ – where. 学校在哪里？

■ Listen before reading the script

Ask a partner to read the listening script from the answer section while you keep it covered. Then attempt the listening question. If you work alone without audio, use the script for reading practice; it is not a listening test.

■ Read a different account

今天很冷，还下雨。林安不去公园。她去学校。学校在医院旁边。

Try the reading question before checking the English meaning in the answer section.

■ Speak with a partner

Describe today's weather. Ask a partner where a fictional school is and answer with 旁边.

Check the distinction: For the ordinary adjective description use 今天很冷. Do not insert 是 just because English says is cold.

Learn step by step · Practise and review.

Practice without the models

Choose a pattern, cover its teaching examples, and attempt its questions. Use the labels to find feedback in the separate key.

■ Describe weather and location

0401.1 Listening. Where is the park in the recording?

- A. Inside the school
- B. Beside the hospital
- C. Beside the school

0401.2 Reading. Why does the text describe an unpleasant outdoor day?

- A. It is cold and raining
- B. The school is closed
- C. It is hot

0401.3 Complete “The school is beside the hospital”: 学校 医院旁边。

0401.4 Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- 1. 冷
- 1. 热
- 1. 下雨
- 1. 旁边
- 1. 哪里
- A. beside
- B. where
- C. rain
- D. hot
- E. cold

0401.5 Write one weather sentence and one location sentence using a different place order.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

0401.6 学校在哪里? 学校 means school and 在哪里 asks where something is. Which reply supplies its location?

- A. 在医院旁边 – beside the hospital
- B. 今天很冷 – it is cold today
- C. 我想休息 – I want to rest

0401.7 今天下雨, 公园在学校旁边。今天下雨 means it is raining today; 公园 means park and 旁边 means beside. First locate the clause that answers 公园在哪里 – where is the park?

- A. 在医院旁边 – beside the hospital
- B. 今天下雨 – it is raining today
- C. 在学校旁边 – beside the school

0401.8 Read: 今天很热, 不下雨。林安在学校, 王力在医院。医院 means hospital. Which statement preserves the account?

- A. Lin An is at the hospital; Wang Li is at school.
- B. Lin An is at school; the account says it is raining.
- C. Lin An is at school; the account says it is not raining.

0401.9 Use Mandarin for the new sentences or dialogue. You may explain your reasoning in English. Invent a short weather report and a location statement about two familiar places. Ask a partner one weather question and one location question, or write the questions and replies. State one practical detail the report leaves unknown, such as travel time.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. Someone wants to say that a friend is at school and writes 他是学校. Repair the location statement.

R2. Use it yourself. Say that it is cold today and that you are at home. Do not imply that 很 must always mean emphatic very.

Write your responses before opening the key. Compare meaning as well as form; a different valid answer need not copy the model.

Answers and explanations

Check after your attempt. For open tasks, compare the message and the stated criteria, then revise one detail.

■ Describe weather and location

0401.1 C. Beside the school

公园在学校旁边 gives the park's location.

0401.2 A. It is cold and raining

很冷 and 下雨 describe the day; a school closure is not stated.

0401.3 在

在 introduces the location.

0401.4 1-E: 冷 = cold; 2-D: 热 = hot; 3-C: 下雨 = rain; 4-A: 旁边 = beside; 5-B: 哪里 = where

Use the example sentences to check each word's meaning in context.

0401.5 One possible response: 今天很热。医院在学校旁边。

Check meaning and form:

- Use an adjective or weather expression.
- Use 在 for location.
- Keep the two sentence purposes distinct.

Compare the meaning and structure with the checklist. Your own response may differ from the model.

0401.6 A. 在医院旁边 – beside the hospital

在哪里 asks a location, so beside the hospital is relevant. Weather and a wish do not locate the school. Choose by the question's purpose rather than by a familiar word.

0401.7 C. 在学校旁边 – beside the school

公园在学校旁边 gives the park's location. Rain answers a weather question; the hospital is not in this message. Keep the reference place attached to the right location statement.

0401.8 C. Lin An is at school; the account says it is not raining.

林安在学校 locates Lin An at school; 王力在医院 locates Wang Li at the hospital. 不下雨 negates rain. The first option swaps the people's locations; the second drops the negation. No reason for either location is supplied.

0401.9 One possible response: Possible account: 今天很热，不下雨。图书馆在学校旁边。Questions and replies: 今天天气怎么样? 很热，不下雨。图书馆在哪里? 在学校旁边。The library is beside the school; the account supplies no walking time. Different weather and places are valid.

How to revise: If your reply describes weather when asked where, return to the location clause. If you confused the two places, identify the one before 在 and the reference

after it. A relevant answer matters more than repeating every word in the account. Check meaning and form:

- Give a weather description with a clear positive or negative meaning.
- Use 在 with the place you are locating and its reference place.
- Answer the weather and location questions with their respective details.
- Name an unstated detail without turning it into a fact.
- Write or speak the requested sentences, questions or dialogue in Mandarin; optional English reasoning does not replace them.

If your reply describes weather when asked where, return to the location clause. If you confused the two places, identify the one before 在 and the reference after it. A relevant answer matters more than repeating every word in the account.

■ Listening script and meaning

今天很热，不下雨。公园在学校旁边。

It is hot today and not raining. The park is beside the school.

■ Reading meaning

It is cold and also raining today. Lin An does not go to the park. She goes to school, which is beside the hospital.

■ Speaking model

A: 今天天气怎么样? B: 很冷。A: 学校在哪里? B: 在医院旁边。

Compare the intended message first. Ask a listener to comment on intelligibility and pronunciation; matching the written model does not establish speaking accuracy.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 他在学校。在 gives location; 是学校 would identify the person as a school. A place after 在 differs from an action after progressive 在.

R2. One possible response. 今天很冷。我在家。很冷 can be an ordinary adjective statement. Emphatic very needs support from stress or context; 在家 names a location.

Recall later. Tomorrow, replace both the weather description and the location from memory.