

Choose food and a drink

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.

Ask what someone wants to eat and drink.

Before you start: Recall 想 followed by an action and 在 before an ongoing action. Recognise 吃, eat, and 喝, drink; food and drink meanings are supplied in each fresh task.

■ Build the meaning

想吃 says what someone would like to eat. 在吃 describes eating in progress. Compare 我想吃饺子 and 我在吃饺子.

Ask 吃什么 or 喝什么 for the missing food or drink; reply with that information rather than a bare yes.

想 + verb: what you would like

	who	verb		question word
A	你 nǐ you	想 xiǎng would like	吃 chī eat	什么 shénme what
B	我 wǒ I	想 xiǎng would like	吃 chī eat	米饭 mǐfàn rice

■ Work through a decision

Compare 我想吃饺子 – I would like to eat dumplings – with 我在吃米饭 – I am eating rice. 想 introduces the wish; 在 before 吃 presents an action in progress. The two sentences can both be true: what someone wants is not necessarily what they are currently eating.

Compare: 不想喝茶 says someone does not want tea; 不喝茶 says they do not drink tea in the relevant situation or habit. Neither sentence by itself identifies the drink they choose instead. Do not turn a rejected option into a positive choice of water.

■ Useful words in context

- 吃 chī – eat. 我想吃饭。
- 喝 hē – drink. 我喝水。
- 饺子 jiǎozi – dumplings. 我想吃饺子。
- 水 shuǐ – water. 我要一杯水。
- 想 xiǎng – would like to. 你想吃什么?

■ 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

王力想吃饺子。林安想吃米饭。两个人都喝水。他们中午在学校吃饭。

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

■ Speak with a partner

Ask a partner what they want to eat and drink. Repeat their choices to check you understood.

Check the distinction: 我想吃 means I want to eat, not I am eating now. Do not treat wanting and ongoing action as the same.

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.

■ Choose food and a drink

0501.1 Listening. Which drink does the speaker choose?

- A. 水
- B. 茶
- C. 米饭

0501.2 Reading. What do Wang Li and Lin An both do?

- A. Eat rice
- B. Eat dumplings
- C. Drink water

0501.3 Complete “What would you like to eat?”: 你想吃?

0501.4 Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- 1. 吃
- 1. 喝
- 1. 饺子
- 1. 水
- 1. 想
- A. drink
- B. dumplings
- C. would like to
- D. eat
- E. water

0501.5 Write a lunch choice: one food and one drink. Then state the place you eat.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

0501.6 你想喝什么? 想喝 means would like to drink and 什么 means what. Which reply supplies a drink?

- A. 茶 – tea
- B. 学校 – school
- C. 饺子 – dumplings

0501.7 我想喝水, 不想喝茶。水 means water and 茶 means tea. First separate the wish from the rejected option. Which drink does the speaker say they want?

- A. Tea
- B. Water
- C. Both tea and water

0501.8 Read: 林安在吃米饭。她想喝水, 不想喝咖啡。米饭 means rice, 水 water and 咖啡 coffee. Which account keeps action and wishes distinct?

- A. She wants rice, is drinking water and does not want coffee.
- B. She is eating rice, wants water and does not want coffee.
- C. She is eating rice, is drinking water and does not want coffee.

0501.9 Use Mandarin for the new sentences or dialogue. You may explain your reasoning in English. Write a fictional café exchange: one person asks what food and drink the other wants. Give a choice, reject a different drink and separately say what the person is eating now. Speak both roles or work with a partner; keep current action and preference clear.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A friend asks 你喝茶还是水? A learner replies 是. Why does it fail to answer the choice?

R2. Use it yourself. Politely request one cup of tea and say that you do not want coffee.

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.

■ Choose food and a drink

0501.1 B. 茶

我喝茶 identifies tea as the drink.

0501.2 C. Drink water

两个人都喝水 says both drink water, although they choose different foods.

0501.3 什么

什么 asks for the food.

0501.4 1-D: 吃 = eat; 2-A: 喝 = drink; 3-B: 饺子 = dumplings; 4-E: 水 = water; 5-C: 想 = would like to

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

0501.5 One possible response: 我想吃饺子，喝水。我在学校吃饭。

Check meaning and form:

- Name a food and a drink.
- Use 想 for the choice.
- Give a place with 在.

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

0501.6 A. 茶 – tea

Tea is a drink and answers the requested information. Dumplings are food and school is a place. A bare yes would also fail to identify what the person wants to drink.

0501.7 B. Water

想喝水 states the positive wish; 不想喝茶 rejects tea. Choosing both ignores 不. This reports a preference, not proof that the water has already been served or drunk.

0501.8 B. She is eating rice, wants water and does not want coffee.

在吃米饭 marks eating in progress. 想喝水 states a wish, not proof that drinking has begun; 不想喝咖啡 rejects coffee. Both incorrect options turn the water wish into current drinking, and the last also turns current eating into a wish.

0501.9 One possible response: One possible exchange: 你想吃什么，喝什么？我想吃饺子，喝茶，不想喝咖啡。我现在在吃米饭。The speaker wants dumplings and tea, declines coffee and is currently eating rice. 现在 means now. Other coherent combinations are valid, even if current food differs from the wish.

How to revise: If your account turns a wish into current eating, check the word before 吃. If the reply leaves the choice unknown, name the requested item. Compare the meanings of your own exchange with the checklist; the model is one possibility.

Check meaning and form:

- Ask for the missing food and drink information.
- State a positive choice and a clear rejection.
- Use 在吃 for the current action and 想 for a wish.
- Avoid claiming the desired item has already been served unless you state that separately.
- Write or speak the requested sentences, questions or dialogue in Mandarin; optional English reasoning does not replace them.

If your account turns a wish into current eating, check the word before 吃. If the reply leaves the choice unknown, name the requested item. Compare the meanings of your own exchange with the checklist; the model is one possibility.

■ Listening script and meaning

我想吃米饭，不想吃饺子。我喝茶。

I want rice, not dumplings. I drink tea.

■ Reading meaning

Wang Li wants dumplings. Lin An wants rice. Both drink water. They eat at school at noon.

■ Speaking model

A: 你想吃什么? B: 我想吃米饭。A: 喝什么? B: 水。

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. The question asks for a choice, not yes or no. Answer 我喝茶 or 我喝水. The question's alternatives, not an English habit of saying yes, determine the response.

R2. One possible response. 请给我一杯茶。我不要咖啡。杯 names the serving; 不要 states the choice. A valid response can use another polite request with the same meaning.

Recall later. Later, switch the drink and ask a fresh choice question before answering it.