

State a destination and departure time

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 where you are going, when, and how.

Before you start: Recall 明天, time expressions with 点, and common place names. Distinguish 在 for a location from 去 for a destination; use the glosses supplied with unfamiliar travel words.

■ Build the meaning

Put time before the main action in this simple pattern: 我明天八点去上海. Mandarin does not add an English-style future verb ending here.

坐火车 describes transport; 去上海 gives the destination. Asking 去哪里 needs a place; asking 怎么去 needs a method.

Where, then how: 坐 + vehicle

	who	when	verb	question word
A	你 nǐ you	明天 míngtiān tomorrow	去 qù go	哪里 nǎlǐ where
B	answer 上海 Shànghǎi Shanghai			
A	怎么 zěnmē how	去 qù go		
B	how 坐 zuò by (ride)	火车 huǒchē train		

■ Work through a decision

For the plan 我明天八点坐火车去上海, separate tomorrow (明天), eight o'clock (八点), travel by train (坐火车) and go to Shanghai (去上海). To answer 怎么去, select 坐火车. To answer 去哪里, select 上海. This departure plan gives no arrival time or journey duration.

Compare: 我八点去上海 says I go to Shanghai at eight; 我八点到上海 says I arrive in

Shanghai at eight. 到 means arrive here. Do not use the same time as both departure and arrival unless the situation independently establishes that claim.

■ Useful words in context

- 去 qù – go. 我去学校。
- 火车 huǒchē – train. 我坐火车。
- 坐 zuò – travel by / sit. 我坐火车去上海。
- 上海 Shànghǎi – Shanghai. 我明天去上海。
- 八点 bā diǎn – eight o'clock. 我八点去。

■ 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

王力明天八点坐火车去上海。林安明天九点坐车去学校。王力今天在学校。

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

■ Speak with a partner

Ask where a partner is going tomorrow and how. Give your own fictional departure plan.

Check the distinction: 在上海 gives a location; 去上海 gives a destination. Do not answer 去哪里 with only 坐火车.

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.

■ State a destination and departure time

0601.1 Listening. What is the departure time?

- A. Eight
- B. Nine
- C. Tomorrow afternoon

0601.2 Reading. Where is Wang Li today?

- A. 上海
- B. 学校
- C. On the train

0601.3 Complete “Where are you going?”: 你去?

0601.4 Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- 1. 去
- 1. 火车
- 1. 坐
- 1. 上海
- 1. 八点
- A. go
- B. Shanghai
- C. travel by / sit
- D. eight o'clock
- E. train

0601.5 Write a travel plan with a time, method, and destination. Change the time from the reading.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

0601.6 你去哪里? 去 means go and 哪里 means where. Which reply supplies the requested kind of information?

- A. 上海 – Shanghai
- B. 八点 – eight o'clock
- C. 坐火车 – by train

0601.7 The plan is 林安明天七点坐车去医院 – tomorrow Lin An goes to the hospital by vehicle at seven. Someone asks 怎么去 – how will she travel? First identify whether the question requests time, method or destination.

- A. 医院 – the hospital
- B. 明天七点 – seven tomorrow
- C. 坐车 – by vehicle

0601.8 Read: 王力今天在北京。明天十点坐火车去上海。Which account preserves the places and times?

- A. He is in Shanghai today and goes to Beijing tomorrow.
- B. He arrives in Shanghai by train at ten tomorrow.
- C. He plans to go to Shanghai by train at ten tomorrow.

0601.9 Use Mandarin for the new sentences or dialogue. You may explain your reasoning in English. Make a new fictional plan: choose a destination, departure time and method. Write the plan and two different questions that a partner can answer from it. Then name one journey detail your plan does not establish. Speak the questions and replies if working with a partner.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A travel note says 我明天三点去学校. Does this say the person arrives at three? Explain.

R2. Use it yourself. Write a message saying you leave home at eight and arrive at school at half past eight.

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.

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0601.1 B. Nine

九点 gives nine o'clock; no afternoon is stated.

0601.2 B. 学校

今天在学校 refers to today, while the trip is tomorrow.

0601.3 哪里

去哪里 asks the destination.

0601.4 1-A: 去 = go; 2-E: 火车 = train; 3-C: 坐 = travel by / sit; 4-B: 上海 = Shanghai; 5-D: 八点 = eight o'clock

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

0601.5 One possible response: 我明天十点坐火车去上海。

Check meaning and form:

- Include a time before the action.
- Include 坐 plus transport.
- Include 去 plus a place.

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

0601.6 A. 上海 – Shanghai

去哪里 requests a destination. Eight o'clock answers when; by train answers how. Identify the question word before choosing a detail.

0601.7 C. 坐车 – by vehicle

怎么去 asks how she travels, so 坐车 supplies the method. The other details are true within the plan but answer different questions. A true detail is not automatically a relevant reply.

0601.8 C. He plans to go to Shanghai by train at ten tomorrow.

今天在北京 gives today's location; 明天十点坐火车去上海 gives tomorrow's going time, method and destination. 去 does not supply an arrival time. The last choice reverses the cities' roles.

0601.9 One possible response: Possible plan: 我明天七点坐车去学校。Questions: 你明天去哪里? 你几点去? Replies: 学校。七点。The plan does not identify an arrival time or the specific vehicle. Other destinations, times and travel methods can work.

How to revise: Check each question against the exact phrase that answers it. If you supplied an arrival time from a departure plan, mark it as unknown and revise. Compare meanings rather than copying the model's itinerary; self-review does not

assess pronunciation.

Check meaning and form:

- Include time, method and destination in the plan.
- Use 去 for the destination and distinguish it from a current 在 location.
- Make both questions answerable from your own plan.
- Identify an unstated detail without inventing it as fact.
- Write or speak the requested sentences, questions or dialogue in Mandarin; optional English reasoning does not replace them.

Check each question against the exact phrase that answers it. If you supplied an arrival time from a departure plan, mark it as unknown and revise. Compare meanings rather than copying the model's itinerary; self-review does not assess pronunciation.

■ Listening script and meaning

我明天九点坐火车去上海。

Tomorrow I take a train to Shanghai at nine.

■ Reading meaning

Tomorrow Wang Li takes a train to Shanghai at eight. Lin An goes to school by vehicle at nine. Wang Li is at school today.

■ Speaking model

A: 你明天去哪里? B: 上海。A: 怎么去? B: 坐火车。

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. It says the person goes to school at three tomorrow; it does not explicitly give the arrival time. 到学校 gives arrival. Do not silently turn departure into arrival.

R2. One possible response. 我八点从家出发, 八点半到学校。出发 marks departure and 到 marks arrival. The two times describe different events.

Recall later. Tomorrow, change the route and keep departure and arrival times distinct.