Course Companion

HSK 1

Every topic handout in one volume

全部专题讲义合集

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Introductions, identity and polite exchanges

HSK 1

Your first conversation in Chinese. You will greet people and thank them, give your name with 叫 and say who you are with 是, ask yes-or-no questions with 吗 and information questions with 什么 and 谁. Then three small words make your sentences longer: 的 (whose), 也 and 都 (also, all) and 呢 (and you?). Section 7 puts everything together in one short conversation.

At a glance

Polite words

- **1.** 你好 / 谢谢 / 对不起 / 再见 – hello / thank you / sorry / goodbye: 你好！谢谢！再见！
- **2.** 不 + verb – say no politely: 不好意思，我不去。

Names, people and questions

- **3.** 我叫 …… – my name is …: 我叫林安。
- **4.** 我是 …… – I am … (who you are): 我是学生。
- **5.** …… 吗? – turns a sentence into a yes-or-no question: 你是学生吗?
- **6.** 什么 / 谁 – what / who: 这是什么？他是谁?
- **7.** Put it together – a first conversation: 你好！我叫林安。你叫什么名字?

Three small words

- **8.** 的 – saying whose something is: 这是我的书。
- **9.** 也 and 都 – also, all and both: 我也是学生。
- **10.** 呢 – “And you?” and “Where is …?”: 我很好，你呢?

1. Greet, thank and say goodbye

Five phrases cover most first meetings. Learn each one as a whole: you do not need to analyse the characters yet.

Chinese	Pinyin	Meaning	When you say it
你好	nǐ hǎo	hello	meeting someone, at any time of day
谢谢	xièxie	thank you	someone helps you or praises you
不客气	bú kèqi	you’re welcome	someone thanks you
对不起	duìbuqǐ	sorry	you made a mistake or bumped into someone
再见	zàijiàn	goodbye	you leave

A short exchange

- A: 你好！ B: 你好！ – Hello! – Hello!
- A: 谢谢！ B: 不客气。 – Thank you! – You're welcome.
- A: 再见！ B: 再见！ – Goodbye! – Goodbye!

Choose by the situation. Ask yourself who has been helped. If a classmate lends *you* a pen, you say 谢谢 and they answer 不客气. If you bump into someone, you say 对不起. 不客气 never replaces 谢谢: it is only the answer to thanks.

Pronunciation. In 你好 two third tones meet, so the first one rises: you say *ní hǎo*, although the pinyin is still written nǐ hǎo. The second syllable of 谢谢 is light and short: xiè-xie.

Watch out

- 你好 is not only for the morning. Chinese has separate words for "good morning" (早上好), but 你好 works all day.
- When you are thanked, do not answer 谢谢 again. Say 不客气.

Four phrases, four social actions



2. Decline an invitation politely

Form: person + 不 + verb ·不好意思，……

- **你去吗?** *Nǐ qù ma?* – Are you going?
- **我不去。** *Wǒ bú qù.* – I'm not going.
- **不好意思，我不去。谢谢!** *Bù hǎoyìsi, wǒ bú qù. Xièxie!* – Sorry, I'm not going. Thanks!

How it works. 不 goes directly before the verb to say no to an action now or in the future: 不去 (not go), 不喝 (not drink), 不买 (not buy). A short answer to a question just repeats the verb: 你去吗? – 去。/ 不去。

Saying no politely. 不好意思 *bù hǎoyìsi* softens a refusal, like "sorry" or "I'm afraid". Add 谢谢 to thank the person for asking. The answer is still no; the polite words only make it kinder.

Pronunciation. 不 becomes *bú* before a fourth tone (不去 *bú qù*, 不是 *bú shì*) and stays *bù* before other tones (不好意思 *bù hǎoyìsi*).

Watch out

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- Answer a 去 question with 去 or 不去, not with 是 or 不是.
- For 有 (to have) the negative is 没有 (*wrong:* 不有). You will practise this in topic 8.

不 goes right before the verb



3. Say your name and ask for theirs

Form: 我叫 + name ·你叫什么名字?

- **我叫林安。** *Wǒ jiào Lín Ān.* – My name is Lin An.
- **你叫什么名字?** *Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?* – What is your name?
- **我叫王力。你呢?** *Wǒ jiào Wáng Lì. Nǐ ne?* – I'm Wang Li. And you?

How it works. 叫 *jiào* means "to be called". Put a name after it: 我叫林安. To ask, use 什么 *shénme* (what) in the place of the name: 你叫什么名字? ("You are called what name?"). The question word stays where the answer will go, so the question and the answer have the same order:

- 你叫 **什么名字**?
- 我叫 **林安**。

The person who answers changes 你 (you) to 我 (I). Chinese names put the surname first: in 王力, 王 is the family name.

Watch out

- 什么 already makes the sentence a question. Do not add 吗: *wrong:* 你叫什么名字吗?
- 你叫林安 means "*you* are called Lin An". To give your own name, start with 我.
- Any name works after 我叫, including your own English name: 我叫 Tom.

Ask a name: the answer goes where 什么 was



4. Say who someone is

Form: person + 是 + identity · person + 不是 + identity

- **我是学生。** *Wǒ shì xuésheng.* – I am a student.
- **她是老师。** *Tā shì lǎoshī.* – She is a teacher.
- **我不是老师，我是学生。** *Wǒ bú shì lǎoshī, wǒ shì xuésheng.* – I'm not a teacher, I'm a student.

How it works. 是 *shì* links a person to what they are: a student, a teacher, a doctor. Chinese does not need a word for "a": 我是学生 is complete. To say "not", put 不 directly before 是: 我**不是**老师.

叫 or 是? 叫 gives a name (我叫林安); 是 gives a role or identity (我是学生). 我是林安 is also possible when you point yourself out ("I'm Lin An, the one you're looking for"), but 我叫林安 is the clear way to tell someone your name.

Pronunciation. 不 is normally *bù*, but before a fourth tone it changes to *bú*: 不是 *bú shì*. The character does not change.

Watch out

- 是 is not used before adjectives. "She is busy" is 她很忙 (*wrong:* 她是忙).
- 我不是老师 only says what you are *not*. Add 我是学生 if you want to say what you are.
- 他 (he) and 她 (she) are both read *tā*.

A yes/no question: add 吗 to the end



5. Ask a yes-or-no question

Form: statement + 吗?

- 你是学生。– You are a student. → **你是学生吗?** *Nǐ shì xuésheng ma?* – Are you a student?
- **她是老师吗?** *Tā shì lǎoshī ma?* – Is she a teacher?
- **是，她是老师。/ 不是，她是学生。** – Yes, she is a teacher. / No, she's a student.

How it works. To turn a statement into a yes-or-no question, add 吗 *ma* at the end. Nothing else moves: no new word order, no extra verb. 吗 is light and unstressed.

Answering. Chinese has no single word for "yes" or "no". Answer with the verb of the question: for a 是 question, 是 means yes and 不是 means no. For other verbs, repeat that verb: 你去吗? – 去。/ 不去。

Two kinds of question

Yes-or-no question	Information question
你是学生吗?	你叫什么名字?
ends in 吗	uses a question word (什么, 谁)
answer: 是 / 不是	answer: the information

Watch out

- Never use 吗 with a question word: *wrong:* 你叫什么名字吗?
- Do not change the word order as English does ("Are you …?"). Keep 你是 …… and add 吗.

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6. Ask what and who

Form: 这是什么? · 这是谁? · 谁是老师?

- **这是什么?** *Zhè shì shénme?* – What is this? – **这是书。** *Zhè shì shū.* – This is a book.
- **这是谁?** *Zhè shì shéi?* – Who is this? – **这是林安。** – This is Lin An.
- **谁是老师?** *Shéi shì lǎoshī?* – Who is the teacher? – **高文是老师。** – Gao Wen is the teacher.

How it works. 什么 *shénme* asks about a thing and 谁 *shéi* asks about a person. A question word sits exactly where the answer will be. Compare each question with its answer:

Question	Answer
这是 **什么**?	这是 **书**。
这是 **谁**?	这是 **林安**。
谁是老师?	**高文**是老师。

So 谁 can be at the start of a sentence when the person is the subject. Do not move it to the front just because English starts with "who".

Answering. Give the information that is asked for. 是 alone does not answer 这是谁? ; you need a name.

Watch out

- No 吗 with 什么 or 谁.
- 谁 can also be read *shuí*; this course uses *shéi*.

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- 这 *zhè* means "this"; 那 *nà* means "that".



7. Meet a new classmate

Greet someone, exchange names, and ask about an identity.

Key sentences

- **你好！我叫林安。** *Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ jiào Lín Ān.* – Hello! My name is Lin An.
- **你叫什么名字?** *Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?* – What's your name?
- **我是学生。你是老师吗?** *Wǒ shì xuésheng. Nǐ shì lǎoshī ma?* – I'm a student. Are you a teacher?
- **不是，我是学生。** *Bú shì, wǒ shì xuésheng.* – No, I'm a student.

How the conversation works

A first conversation has four moves: greet (你好), give your name (我叫 ……), ask the other name (你叫什么名字? or just 你呢?), and say who you are (我是 ……). Each move uses a pattern from sections 1–6:

Move	Pattern
greet	你好!
give a name	我叫 + name
ask a name	你叫什么名字?
check who someone is	你是 + identity + 吗?
answer	是 / 不是，我是 ……

Watch out

- 叫 gives a name and 是 gives a role: 我叫林安, 我是学生.
- 什么 already asks; 吗 asks yes or no. Never use both.

Words in context

- **你好** nǐ hǎo – hello. 你好！我叫林安。
- **名字** míngzi – name. 你叫什么名字?
- **学生** xuésheng – student. 我是学生。
- **老师** lǎoshī – teacher. 你是老师吗?
- **谢谢** xièxie – thank you. 谢谢你!

Reading

你好！我叫林安。我是学生。高文是老师。

Speaking

Greet a new classmate, give your name, and ask their name. Use real or fictional names.

8. 的 – saying whose something is

Form: owner + 的 + thing · 谁的?

- **这是我的书。** *Zhè shì wǒ de shū.* – This is my book.
- **这是谁的手机?** *Zhè shì shéi de shǒujī?* – Whose phone is this?
- **是老师的。** *Shì lǎoshī de.* – It's the teacher's.

How it works. 的 *de* shows who owns something. The owner always comes first: 我的书 (my book), 老师的电话 (the teacher's phone number). This is the same order as English "the teacher's phone", and the opposite of "the phone of the teacher".

Leaving out the thing. When everyone knows what you mean, end with 的: 这本书是我的 (this book is mine).

Leaving out 的. With family, close people and your own group, 的 is usually dropped: 我妈妈 (my mum), 我朋友 (my friend), 我们学校 (our school). With objects, keep it: 我的杯子 (my cup).

Watch out

- Owner first: 我的书 (*wrong:* 书的我).
- Ask "whose?" with 谁的: 这是谁的?

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Person + 的 + thing; 谁的 asks whose



9. 也 and 都 – also, all and both

Form: subject + 也 + verb · group + 都 + verb

- **我也是学生。** *Wǒ yě shì xuésheng.* – I'm a student too.
- **我们都是学生。** *Wǒmen dōu shì xuésheng.* – We are all students.
- **他们也都是老师。** *Tāmen yě dōu shì lǎoshī.* – They are all teachers too.

How it works. 也 *yě* (also, too) and 都 *dōu* (all, both) are adverbs, so they go **after the subject and before the verb**, never at the end of the sentence as "too" does in English.

- 也 adds one more person or thing to something already said: 他是学生，我也是学生.
- 都 covers every member of a group named **before** it: 我们都去 (we are all going). With two people, 都 means "both": 他和她都喜欢猫.
- When both are used, 也 comes first: 也都.

With 不. 都不 means "none of …": 我们都不忙 (none of us is busy).

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我是学生也 → 我也是学生.
- *wrong:* 都我们去 → 我们都去. The group comes before 都.

也 and 都 sit before the verb



10. 呢 – “And you?” and “Where is …?”

Form: person / thing + 呢?

- **我很好，你呢?** *Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?* – I’m fine. And you?
- **我是中国人，你呢?** – **我是英国人。** – I’m Chinese, and you? – I’m British.
- **我的手机呢?** *Wǒ de shǒujī ne?* – Where’s my phone?

How it works. 呢 *ne* after a person or thing asks the same question again about them. 你呢? saves you from repeating the whole question: after 我很好, 你呢? means 你好吗?

Where is …? On its own, *thing* + 呢? asks where something is, usually something you expected to find: 我的书呢? (Where’s my book?) 你妈妈呢? can mean “Where’s your mum?”

Answering. Answer the real question, with a full sentence: 我是英国人, not just 呢.

Watch out

- 呢 and 吗 are both question words; never use them together: *wrong:* 你呢吗?
- 呢 needs something said before it (or a missing object), so the listener knows what you are asking.

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呢 asks the same question back



Practice

Cover the teaching pages before you answer. The answers are at the end.

■ 1. Greet, thank and say goodbye

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. What does the phrase mean?

- A. Thank you
- B. Sorry
- C. Goodbye

2. A classmate says 谢谢 after you lend them a pen. Reply:

- A. 谢谢?
- B. 对不起。
- C. 不客气。

3. Write the missing character in “thank you”: 谢 ……。

4. True or false? You can reply 谢谢 to a compliment. If false, correct it.

5. Match each phrase to the situation.

- (1) 你好
- (2) 谢谢
- (3) 对不起
- (4) 再见
- A. leaving

- B. bumping into someone
- C. meeting someone
- D. receiving help

6. Put this brief exchange in order: arrive, thank a classmate for help, leave.

Put in order: 谢谢。/ 你好。/ 再见。

7. Before learning the Mandarin phrases: someone lends you a pen. What do you want your reply to do?

- A. Apologise for a collision.
- B. Greet someone arriving.
- C. Thank someone for help.

8. You lend a classmate a pen. They say 谢谢。Choose your reply.

- A. 对不起。
- B. 不客气。
- C. 再见。

9. 林安把笔给王力。王力说：“ 谢谢！ ” 林安说：“ 不客气。 ” Word help: 把笔给 = hands the pen to. Which account fits this new scene?

- A. Wang Li thanks Lin An; Lin An acknowledges the thanks.
- B. Wang Li apologises to Lin An; Lin An acknowledges the apology.
- C. Lin An thanks Wang Li; Wang Li acknowledges the thanks.

10. Write a short Mandarin exchange for a new situation: arrive, receive help and leave. Include the helper's reply to your thanks. Say both roles aloud or work with a partner. Then change the middle event to accidentally bumping into someone and write the phrase you would use instead. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. Decline an invitation politely

11. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. What is the reply?

- A. I am a teacher.
- B. I am going.
- C. I am not going.

12. Complete “I am not going”: 我 …… 去。

13. You will go. Give a short positive reply to 你去吗?

- A. 去。
- B. 不去。
- C. 不是。

14. True or false? 没有 can only refer to the past. If false, correct it.

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15. Match the phrases.

- (1) 去
- (2) 不去
- (3) 不好意思
- A. go
- B. sorry / excuse me
- C. not go

16. Apologise, say you are not going, then thank the inviter.

Put in order: 我不去。/ 不好意思，/ 谢谢。

17. You hear a question ending in 吗. In the beginner patterns already studied, what is its purpose?

- A. To state a confirmed fact.
- B. To supply a person's name.
- C. To check a yes-or-no possibility.

18. A friend asks 你去吗? You will not go but want to acknowledge the invitation. Choose a fitting reply.

- A. 是，我是学生。谢谢。
- B. 不好意思，我不去。谢谢。
- C. 不好意思，我去。谢谢。

19. 王力说：“ 我去。 ” 林安说：“ 谢谢，我不去。 ”Which account fits these different decisions?

- A. Wang Li will go; Lin An declines and gives thanks.
- B. Both will go; Lin An also gives thanks.
- C. Wang Li declines; Lin An will go and gives thanks.

20. Write a new Mandarin invitation question with 去 and a polite refusal. Say both roles aloud. Then change the decision: write a short positive reply to the same question. Explain which part changes the decision; English explanation is optional. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. Say your name and ask for theirs

21. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. Which name did you hear?

- A. 王力
- B. 李明
- C. 林安

22. Complete the full name question: 你叫什么 ……?

23. Someone asks 你叫什么名字? Which answer gives your name?

- A. 你叫林安。
- B. 我叫林安。
- C. 我是学生。

24. True or false? In 林安, 林 is the surname. If false, correct it.

25. Match these words.

- (1) 我
- (2) 你
- (3) 名字
- A. name
- B. I
- C. you

26. Greet, ask a name, then receive the answer.

Put in order: 你好。/ 我叫林安。/ 你叫什么名字?

27. Someone asks for your name. Which information would answer that request?

- A. Your planned departure time.
- B. The name you use.
- C. Your role as a student.

28. You are playing Lin An. A partner asks 你叫什么名字? Choose your own introduction.

- A. 我叫林安。
- B. 你叫林安。
- C. 我叫王力。

29. A：我叫李明。你叫什么名字? B：我叫王力。In this fresh exchange, whose name is 王力?

- A. B's name.
- B. A's name.
- C. Both people's names.

30. Write a new Mandarin greeting, name question and answer using a fictional name different from the lesson's model. Say both roles aloud. Then switch roles and write the new answerer's own name sentence; keep 我 tied to the current speaker. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. Say who someone is

31. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. What did you hear?

- A. She is not a teacher.
- B. I am a student.

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- C. She is a teacher.

32. Complete "I am not a teacher": 我 …… 是老师。

33. You are a student. Someone asks 你是老师吗? Reply:

- A. 是，我是老师。
- B. 你叫学生。
- C. 不是，我是学生。

34. True or false? 我是学生 can mean "I am a student" without 一个. If false, correct it.

35. Match the whole words.

- (1) 学生
- (2) 老师
- (3) 不是
- A. is not
- B. teacher
- C. student

36. Build "She is not a teacher" from these chunks.

Put in order: 老师。/ 不是 / 她

37. You want to say your role rather than your name. Which information would fit?

- A. A surname and given name.
- B. The name Lin An.
- C. The identity student.

38. Role card: you are a student, not a teacher. Choose a sentence pair that states both facts.

- A. 我是老师。我不是学生。
- B. 我不是老师。我是学生。
- C. 我不是学生。我是老师。

39. A：我是老师。B：我不是老师。我是学生。Which account fits this different pair of speakers?

- A. A is a teacher; B is a student.
- B. A is a teacher; B is a teacher.
- C. A is a student; B is a teacher.

40. Invent a student and a teacher. Write two Mandarin sentences for each person: one stating their role, one denying the other role. Say the sentences as that person. Then swap the fictional roles and revise all four sentences. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 5. Ask a yes-or-no question

41. Are you a student? 你是学生 ……?

42. A teacher is asked 你是学生吗? Choose the true reply.

- A. 我叫学生。
- B. 不是，我是老师。
- C. 是，我是学生。

43. Which is an information question?

- A. 他是王力吗?
- B. 你是老师吗?
- C. 她是学生吗?
- D. 你叫什么名字?

44. True or false? The ordinary way to ask a name is 你叫什么名字吗? If false, correct it.

45. Answer "No" to 你去吗?

46. Is she a teacher?

Put in order: 吗? / 老师 / 她 / 是

47. A：你是老师吗? B：不是，我是学生。What is B?

- A. a teacher
- B. we can't tell
- C. a student

■ 6. Ask what and who

48. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. What does the speaker want?

- A. The price
- B. The time
- C. A person's identity

49. Complete "Who is this?": 这是 ……?

50. Someone points at a book and asks 这是什么? Reply:

- A. 我是学生。
- B. 这是书。
- C. 是。

51. True or false? A Chinese question word can be at the beginning if that is the information slot. If false, correct it.

52. Match each question to a fitting answer.

- (1) 这是什么?
- (2) 这是谁?
- (3) 你叫什么名字?
- A. 我叫王力。
- B. 这是书。
- C. 这是林安。

53. Build "Who is a teacher?"

Put in order: 老师? / 是 / 谁

54. A question requests someone's name rather than checking an identity. Which reply supplies the requested kind of information?

- A. 我叫李明。
- B. 是。
- C. 我不是老师。

55. The fact is 高文是老师。You want to ask which person is the teacher. Choose the question that replaces the person slot.

- A. 高文是谁?
- B. 这是什么?
- C. 谁是老师?

56. 王力是学生。高文是老师。问题：谁是老师? Which reply fits this fresh account?

- A. 这是书。
- B. 王力是老师。
- C. 高文是老师。

57. Invent a new Mandarin mini-scene with a named student, a named teacher and a book. Write one 谁 question and fitting answer about a person, then one 什么 question and answer about the book. Say both pairs aloud. Swap the two people's roles and revise the person answer. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 7. Meet a new classmate

58. I am a student. 我 …… 学生。

59. Which question does 我叫王力 answer?

- A. 这是什么?
- B. 你叫什么名字?
- C. 你是老师吗?

60. Which question fits the reply 不是，我是学生?

- A. 你是老师吗?
- B. 你好吗?
- C. 你叫什么名字?

61. True or false? 你呢? can ask someone's name after you have given yours. If false,

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correct it.

62. Hello! My name is Lin An.

Put in order: 我 / 你好！ / 叫 / 林安。

63. 王力说：“我是学生。”高文说：“我不是学生，我是老师。” Who is the teacher?

- A. 高文
- B. 王力
- C. both

64. Write a two-line first meeting: ask a name and answer it.

■ 8. 的 – saying whose something is

65. Complete: “This is my book.” 这是我 …… 书。

66. How do you usually say “my mum”?

- A. 我是妈妈
- B. 我妈妈
- C. 妈妈的我

67. True or false? 这是谁的? means “Whose is this?” If false, correct it.

68. Build: “This is the teacher’s phone.”

Put in order: 的 / 电话。/ 这是 / 老师

69. Point to three things on your desk and say whose they are, including one that belongs to a family member. Use 的. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 9. 也 and 都 – also, all and both

70. Complete: “I am a student too.” 我 …… 是学生。

71. Which sentence says “We are all students”?

- A. 我们都是学生。
- B. 我们是学生都。
- C. 都我们是学生。

72. True or false? In 他们也都是老师, 也 comes before 都. If false, correct it.

73. Build: “He and she both like cats.”

Put in order: 都 / 喜欢 / 他和她 / 猫。

74. Introduce yourself and two friends. Say one thing that is true for you too, and one thing that is true for all of you. Use 也 and 都. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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■ 10. 呢 – “And you?” and “Where is …?”

75. Complete: “I’m fine. And you?” 我很好，你 ……?

76. You can’t find your phone. Which question fits?

- A. 呢我的手机?
- B. 我的手机呢?
- C. 我的手机吗?

77. True or false? 你呢吗? is a correct way to say “And you?” If false, correct it.

78. Build: “I’m a student. And you?”

Put in order: 呢 / 我是学生，/ 你 / ?

79. Have a short exchange with a new classmate. Say your name and where you are from, and ask the same back with 呢. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

80. Choose the right word for each gap. 我 …… 林安。我 …… 学生。

- A. 叫 … 叫
- B. 是 … 叫
- C. 叫 … 是
- D. 是 … 是

81. Which question is correct?

- A. 你叫什么名字吗?
- B. 你叫什么名字?
- C. 你是什么吗?

82. Complete with 也 or 都: 我是学生，他 …… 是学生。我们 …… 是学生。

83. Your friend asks 你好吗? You are well. Answer and ask back with 呢.

84. Find and fix the problem. At a first meeting, a classmate gives her name with 我是林安. Is that wrong? Which sentence says clearly that Lin An is her name?

85. Use it yourself. Greet a new partner, give a name, ask their name and say that you are a student.

Answers and explanations

Mark your work, then correct each mistake in your own words.

■ 1. Greet, thank and say goodbye

1. *Script:* 再见

C. Goodbye

再见 means goodbye; 谢谢 thanks someone and 对不起 apologises.

2. C. 不客气。

不客气 is the usual reply to thanks.

3. 谢

谢谢 repeats the same character.

4. True.

谢谢 can acknowledge kindness, help, or a compliment.

5. (1) C: 你好 = meeting someone; (2) D: 谢谢 = receiving help; (3) B: 对不起 = bumping into someone; (4) A: 再见 = leaving

Choose the phrase for the social action, not its individual characters.

6. 你好。谢谢。再见。

The situation specifies arrival, help, then departure.

7. C. Thank someone for help.

Receiving help calls for thanks. You will learn the Mandarin phrase next; this check asks about the situation, not prior Mandarin knowledge.

8. B. 不客气。

You provided help and received thanks, so 不客气 fits. 对不起 would apologise; 再见 would take leave. Reverse the roles and the person receiving help uses 谢谢.

9. A. Wang Li thanks Lin An; Lin An acknowledges the thanks.

Wang Li receives the pen and says 谢谢. Lin An replies 不客气. Track the named speakers, not just the order of names in the opening sentence. 谢谢 is thanks, not an apology.

10. Model answer: One possible first exchange: A：你好！B：你好！A：谢谢！B：不客气！A：再见！B：再见！If the middle event changes to a collision, A can say 对不起。The reply to that apology is outside this lesson; do not assume 不客气 answers every courtesy phrase.

How to revise: Check the social action and who is speaking. If you thanked the helper with 不客气, swap the two thanks roles. If you used 谢谢 for the collision, replace it with 对不起. Written comparison checks phrase choice; actual speaking needs your spoken attempt.

Check your answer:

- Write the new exchange in Mandarin; English situation notes may support it.

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- Use 你好 for arrival and 再见 for leaving.
- Let the person receiving help say 谢谢 and the helper reply 不客气.
- Change the collision phrase to 对不起 rather than reusing the thanks pair.

■ 2. Decline an invitation politely

11. *Script:* 我不去

C. I am not going.

不 before 去 makes the reply negative.

12. 不

我不去 is person + 不 + verb.

13. A. 去。

Repeating 去 confirms the action.

14. False.

没有 can mean do not have now as well as deny that an action happened.

15. (1) A: 去 = go; (2) C: 不去 = not go; (3) B: 不好意思 = sorry / excuse me

Use the whole phrase 不好意思 to soften the refusal.

16. 不好意思，我不去。谢谢。

The prompt sets the order of these three courtesy actions.

17. C. To check a yes-or-no possibility.

Final 吗 turns the preceding proposition into a yes/no check in these patterns. Here the proposition concerns going, so listen for 去 rather than automatically replying 是.

18. B. 不好意思，我不去。谢谢。

我不去 states the refusal; 不好意思 softens it and 谢谢 acknowledges the invitation. 我去 would confirm going, and 是，我是学生 answers a different identity question.

19. A. Wang Li will go; Lin An declines and gives thanks.

王力 says 我去, so Wang Li will go. 林安 says 我不去, so Lin An declines; 谢谢 adds thanks without cancelling 不. Follow each named speaker and keep the negative attached to 去.

20. Model answer: One possible exchange: A：你去吗？B：不好意思，我不去。谢谢。If B changes the decision, the short positive reply can be 去。The change is from 不去 to 去, rather than replacing the refusal with an identity reply.

How to revise: Circle 去 or 不去 in each reply. Check those words against the intended decision before checking courtesy. If a polite reply accidentally agrees, restore 不. If you replied 不是, return to the action verb. Written comparison does not establish natural spoken delivery.

Check your answer:

- Write the invitation question and both replies in Mandarin.
- Use 你去吗？ for the practised action check.

- Keep 不 before 去 in the refusal and use courtesy without changing its meaning.
- Remove the negative when the decision changes; do not substitute 是 for the action reply.

■ 3. Say your name and ask for theirs

21. *Script:* 我叫王力

A. 王力

The name after 叫 is 王力, Wáng Lì.

22. 名字

什么名字 means what name.

23. B. 我叫林安。

我叫林安 introduces the speaker's name; 我是学生 gives an identity.

24. True.

These Chinese names put the family name before the given name.

25. (1) B: 我 = I; (2) C: 你 = you; (3) A: 名字 = name

我 is the speaker and 你 is the person addressed.

26. 你好。你叫什么名字？我叫林安。

The order follows the situation given.

27. B. The name you use.

A name request needs a name. Your role and departure time answer different questions. The next steps teach the Mandarin frame.

28. A. 我叫林安。

The answerer refers to themself with 我, and the given role is 林安. 你叫林安 describes the listener; 我叫王力 changes the name on the role card.

29. A. B's name.

B says 我叫王力, so 王力 is B's name. The 我 in A's earlier turn refers to A, not to the same speaker throughout the dialogue. Track each turn before assigning a name.

30. Model answer: One possible exchange: A：你好！你叫什么名字？B：我叫李明。After switching roles, the other person can answer 我叫王力。Different fictional names are valid; each answerer supplies their own name.

How to revise: Underline who speaks each turn. If a reply starts 你叫, check whether it describes the listener instead of introducing the answerer. If you supplied an identity, replace it with a name. Compare written frames here; pronunciation needs an actual spoken attempt.

Check your answer:

- Write the question and replies in Mandarin.
- Use 你叫什么名字？ to request the listener's name.
- Use 我叫 plus the current answerer's name.

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- After switching roles, change the name to fit the new speaker rather than changing 我 to 你.

■ 4. Say who someone is

31. *Script:* 她不是老师

A. She is not a teacher.

不是 denies the identity: she is not a teacher.

32. 不

The completed sentence is 我不是老师.

33. C. 不是，我是学生。

Deny the wrong identity with 不是 and give the true one.

34. True.

Chinese does not require an indefinite article in this identity pattern.

35. (1) C: 学生 = student; (2) B: 老师 = teacher; (3) A: 不是 = is not

Learn words as useful units; 不是 is the negative form in these identity sentences.

36. 她不是老师。

Person + 不是 + identity gives 她不是老师.

37. C. The identity student.

Student gives an identity. Lin An and a surname/given-name pair give names. The lesson introduces 是 for this identity pattern.

38. B. 我不是老师。我是学生。

我不是老师 denies the wrong role and 我是学生 states the given role. The other pairs assign the opposite identity. Check the word after 不是 separately from the word after 是.

39. A. A is a teacher; B is a student.

A states 我是老师. B denies 老师 and then supplies 学生 as the actual identity. Do not drop 不 or treat a denied identity as the speaker's actual role.

40. Model answer: First roles: A：我是学生。我不是老师。B：我是老师。我不是学生。After swapping: A：我是老师。我不是学生。B：我是学生。我不是老师。The speaker can still use 我; the role words change.

How to revise: Check each pair rather than only counting 不. If the two sentences assign and deny the same role, revise the role words to fit your card. A denial alone leaves the actual identity open; include the requested positive sentence. Written self-review does not assess pronunciation.

Check your answer:

- Write the identity and denial sentences in Mandarin.
- Use person + 是 + identity to state a role.
- Put 不 immediately before 是 in the denial.

- Keep each stated role consistent with the denied alternative, then revise both after the swap.

■ 5. Ask a yes-or-no question

41. 吗

Statement + 吗 = yes-or-no question.

42. B. 不是，我是老师。

不是 = no; then give the right identity.

43. D. 你叫什么名字?

什么 asks for information, with no 吗.

44. False.

A question with 什么 takes no 吗: 你叫什么名字?

45. 不去。

Answer with the verb: 去 / 不去.

46. 她是老师吗?

Statement order, 吗 at the end.

47. C. a student

B says 不是 (not a teacher), then 我是学生.

■ 6. Ask what and who

48. *Script:* 这是谁

C. A person's identity

谁 asks who the person is.

49. 谁

谁 asks for a person.

50. B. 这是书。

这是书 supplies the thing requested: a book.

51. True.

谁是老师? asks which person is a teacher; 谁 replaces the subject.

52. (1) B: 这是什么? = 这是书。; (2) C: 这是谁? = 这是林安。; (3) A: 你叫什么名字? = 我叫王力。

Each answer supplies the information requested by the question.

53. 谁是老师?

The person slot is first: 谁是老师? .

54. A. 我叫李明。

我叫李明 supplies a name. 是 only confirms a proposition and 我不是老师 denies an identity. Different question types need different information.

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55. C. 谁是老师?

谁 replaces 高文 in 高文是老师, giving 谁是老师? 高文是谁? asks who Gao Wen is instead, while 这是什么? asks about a thing. Match the unknown slot, not just the presence of 谁.

56. C. 高文是老师。

The account assigns 老师 to 高文, so 高文是老师 supplies the requested person. 王力 has the different role 学生. 这是书 answers a different kind of question.

57. Model answer: One possible scene: 李明是学生。王力是老师。这是书。Person pair: 谁是老师? 王力是老师。Thing pair: 这是什么? 这是书。After swapping roles, 李明是老师 answers the same person question. Other consistent fictional names are valid.

How to revise: Replace 谁 or 什么 with your answer and check that the resulting statement matches the scene. If it names the wrong person, reread the role facts. If it supplies a thing for a person request, change the answer type. Written review supports question choice; speech still needs actual speaking.

Check your answer:

- Write the scene, questions and replies in Mandarin.
- Use 谁 for the missing person and 什么 for the missing thing.
- Place the question word in the slot occupied by the requested information.
- Answer with that information rather than only 是, and revise the person answer after the role swap.

■ 7. Meet a new classmate

58. 是

是 links you to an identity.

59. B. 你叫什么名字?

叫 + name answers a name question.

60. A. 你是老师吗?

不是 answers a 是 … 吗 question.

61. True.

我叫林安，你呢? = and you?

62. 你好！我叫林安。

Greeting, then 我叫 + name.

63. A. 高文

高文 says 我是老师.

64. A：你叫什么名字? B：我叫王力。

Name question, then 我叫 + name.

■ 8. 的 – saying whose something is

65. 的

Owner (我) + 的 + thing (书).

66. B. 我妈妈

For family, 的 is usually dropped, and the owner still comes first.

67. True.

True. 谁的 asks who something belongs to.

68. 这是老师的电话。

Owner + 的 + thing.

69. Model answer: 这是我的书。那是我的杯子。这是我妈妈的手机。

Check your answer:

- The owner comes before 的 in each sentence.
- I kept 的 before objects such as 书 and 杯子.
- I dropped 的 between 我 and a family word (我妈妈).
- I tried asking 这是谁的? and answering it.

■ 9. 也 and 都 – also, all and both

70. 也

也 goes after the subject and before the verb.

71. A. 我们都是学生。

The group (我们) comes first, then 都 before the verb.

72. True.

True. When both appear, the order is 也都.

73. 他和她都喜欢猫。

The group comes first, then 都 + verb.

74. Model answer: 我也是学生。我们都喜欢喝茶。

Check your answer:

- 也 and 都 come before the verb.
- The group comes before 都.
- If I used both words, 也 came first.
- I tried a negative version (我们都不忙).

■ 10. 呢 – "And you?" and "Where is ...?"

75. 呢

Person + 呢 asks the same question about them.

76. B. 我的手机呢?

Thing + 呢 asks where something you expected to see is.

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77. False.

False. 呢 already makes the question, so do not add 吗.

78. 我是学生，你呢?

Statement first, then person + 呢.

79. Model answer: 我叫李明，我是中国人。你呢?

Check your answer:

- I made a statement first, then asked back with 呢.
- I did not add 吗 after 呢.
- My partner's answer gave full information, not just 呢.
- I tried asking where something is with thing + 呢.

■ Scripts and models for section 7

Listening script. 你好！我叫王力。我是学生。你叫什么名字? – Hello! My name is Wang Li. I am a student. What is your name?

Reading in English. Hello! My name is Lin An. I am a student. Gao Wen is a teacher.

Speaking model. 你好！我叫林安。你叫什么名字?

■ Mixed practice

80. C. 我叫林安。我是学生。叫 gives a name; 是 says who you are.

81. B. 什么 already asks a question, so it does not take 吗.

82. 他也是学生。我们都是学生。也 adds one more person (also); 都 covers the whole group (all).

83. 我很好，你呢? 呢 asks the same question back without repeating it.

84. 我是林安 is not wrong: it says who you are. 我叫林安 says clearly that Lin An is your name. Use 是 for what you are: 我是学生.

85. Model answer. 你好! 我叫林安。你叫什么名字? 我是学生。叫 gives the name, 是 gives what you are, and 什么 already makes a question, so no 吗.

Review later. Tomorrow, change the name and the job and say the four sentences without looking.

Dates, time and event information

HSK 1

To meet someone you need a day and a time. This handout teaches the numbers you need for clock times, the days of the week, and the two questions 星期几 (which day?) and 几点 (what time?). In Chinese the time comes before the action: 我明天三点去学校.

Arrange a time to meet

Ask the day and time, then agree when to meet.

Key sentences

- **明天星期几?** *Míngtiān xīngqī jǐ?* – What day is it tomorrow?
- **明天星期三。** *Míngtiān xīngqīsān.* – Tomorrow is Wednesday.
- **你几点去学校?** *Nǐ jǐ diǎn qù xuéxiào?* – What time are you going to school?
- **我三点半去。** *Wǒ sān diǎn bàn qù.* – I'm going at half past three.

How it works

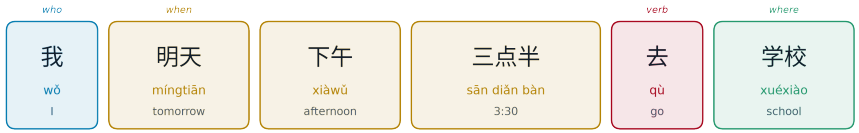
Numbers. Build them like a calculator: 十一 (10 + 1 = 11), 二十 (2 × 10 = 20), 二十三 (2 × 10 + 3 = 23).

Days. 星期 + number: 星期一 Monday, 星期二 Tuesday … 星期六 Saturday. Sunday is 星期天 (or 星期日).

Clock times. number + 点: 三点 (3:00), 三点半 (3:30). Add 上午, 下午 or 晚上 before the time when it is not clear: 下午四点.

Word order. Time words go **before** the verb, never at the end: 我**明天三点**去学校. The order is: who – when – (where) – what.

Time comes before the verb: day, part of day, clock



Watch out

- 星期几 asks the day; 几点 asks the clock time. Answer the one you were asked.
- *wrong:* 我去学校三点 → 我三点去学校.

Words in context

- **明天** míngtiān – tomorrow. 我明天去学校。
- **星期三** xīngqīsān – Wednesday. 明天是星期三。
- **几点** jǐ diǎn – what time. 你几点去?
- **半** bàn – half. 三点半。
- **学校** xuéxiào – school. 我去学校。

Reading

明天是星期三。王力三点去学校。林安三点半去学校。

Speaking

Ask a partner the day and time of a fictional meeting. They suggest Wednesday at four; confirm it.

Practice

Cover the teaching pages before you answer. The answers are at the end.

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. When is the meeting?

- A. Wednesday at 4 p.m.
- B. Thursday at 4 p.m.
- C. Wednesday at 3:30

2. Reading. Who goes to school later?

- A. 林安
- B. Both at the same time
- C. 王力

3. Complete "What time are you going?": 你 …… 去?

4. Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- (1) 明天
- (2) 星期三
- (3) 几点
- (4) 半
- (5) 学校
- A. school
- B. half
- C. what time
- D. tomorrow
- E. Wednesday

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5. Write a two-line meeting note: the weekday and time, then the place. Change at least one detail from the reading. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. Someone asks 星期几? 星期 means week and 几 asks which number here. Which kind of reply answers this question?

- A. 五个人 – five people
- B. 星期五 – Friday
- C. 五点 – five o'clock

7. A message says 星期六下午两点半在公园见 – meet in the park on Saturday at 2:30 in the afternoon. First separate weekday from clock time. Which reply answers 几点见 – at what time shall we meet?

- A. 下午两点半 – 2:30 in the afternoon
- B. 公园 – the park
- C. 星期六 – Saturday

8. Read: 林安星期二上午八点去学校。王力星期二上午八点半去学校。Which statement follows?

- A. Both go at eight on Tuesday morning.
- B. Wang Li goes half an hour after Lin An.
- C. Lin An goes half an hour after Wang Li.

9. Write a fictional invitation giving a weekday, morning or afternoon, a clock time and a meeting place. Write a reply confirming the time and asking one different detail. Read the invitation and reply aloud or exchange them with a partner. Make your time different from the examples. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

10. Find and fix the problem. A meeting is 星期四下午三点半. Someone asks 几点见? and the answer is 星期四. What is missing?

11. Use it yourself. Arrange to meet at school on Friday at four in the afternoon.

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Answers and explanations

Mark your work, then correct each mistake in your own words.

1. *Script:* 明天星期三，我们下午四点在学校见。

A. Wednesday at 4 p.m.

四点 is four o'clock; 下午 makes it afternoon.

2. A. 林安

三点半 is later than 三点.

3. 几点

几点 asks for clock time.

4. (1) D: 明天 = tomorrow; (2) E: 星期三 = Wednesday; (3) C: 几点 = what time; (4) B: 半 = half; (5) A: 学校 = school

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

5. Model answer: 星期四下午三点半。我们在学校见。

Check your answer:

- The weekday and clock time are identifiable.
- The place is stated.
- The time differs from the reading.

6. B. 星期五 – Friday

星期几 asks the weekday. 五点 supplies a clock time and 五个人 a number of people. The shared number five does not make these details interchangeable.

7. A. 下午两点半 – 2:30 in the afternoon

几点 asks clock time, so 下午两点半 answers it. Saturday and the park are true details but answer which day and where. Preserve 下午 instead of dropping the part of day.

8. B. Wang Li goes half an hour after Lin An.

八点半 is half an hour after 八点 on the same stated Tuesday morning. Wang Li goes later, not Lin An. The account gives going times; it does not supply arrival times or travel duration.

9. Model answer: Possible invitation: 我们星期一上午九点在学校见。Reply: 上午九点，对吗？在学校哪里见？We meet at school on Monday at nine in the morning. Nine in the morning, right? Where in the school? The reply confirms the stated time and asks for a more precise place. Other coherent invitations and questions are valid.

How to revise: If you answered a time question with a weekday, separate the two phrases and try again. Check 半 if you chose a half hour. Compare your own invitation with the reply; do not replace its time with the model's time.

Check your answer:

- Include a weekday and a clock time as separate details.
- Specify morning or afternoon instead of relying on a guess.

- Make the reply confirm the invitation's actual time.
- Ask a relevant follow-up rather than inventing an unstated detail.

If you answered a time question with a weekday, separate the two phrases and try again. Check 半 if you chose a half hour. Compare your own invitation with the reply; do not replace its time with the model's time.

Scripts and models

Listening script. 明天星期三，我们下午四点在学校见。– Tomorrow, Wednesday, we will meet at school at four in the afternoon.

Reading in English. Tomorrow is Wednesday. Wang Li goes to school at three. Lin An goes at half past three.

Speaking model. A: 星期几？几点？ B: 星期三下午四点。A: 好，下午四点见。

Mixed practice

10. 星期四 gives the day, but 几点 asks for the time. Answer 下午三点半: keep 下午 so everyone knows it is 3:30 in the afternoon.

11. Model answer. 我们星期五下午四点在学校见。Day, part of the day, clock time, then place, all before the verb 见.

Review later. Tomorrow, change the day and the time, and answer 星期几 and 几点 separately.

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Objects, quantities and buying

HSK 1

Buying something small needs three things: a number with a measure word (两个苹果), a question about the price (多少钱？) and a way to say what you want (我要……). You will also choose between 几 and 多少 to ask how many, and join two things with 和.

At a glance

- **1.** number + measure word + noun – how many of something: 我要两个苹果。
- **2.** 几 and 多少 – how many and how much: 你要几个?
- **3.** 和 – joining people and things: 我买苹果和香蕉。

1. Buy a small quantity

Ask the price and buy a stated number of things.

Key sentences

- **苹果多少钱?** *Píngguǒ duōshao qián?* – How much are the apples?
- **两个苹果六块钱。** *Liǎng ge píngguǒ liù kuài qián.* – Two apples are six yuan.
- **我要两个苹果和一杯水。** *Wǒ yào liǎng ge píngguǒ hé yì bēi shuǐ.* – I'd like two apples and a glass of water.
- **一共九块钱。** *Yígòng jiǔ kuài qián.* – That's nine yuan altogether.

How it works

Number + measure word + noun. Chinese always puts a measure word between a number and a noun: 两**个**苹果, 一**杯**水, 三**本**书. 个 is the most common one; 杯 (cup, glass) and 本 (for books) are others you will meet often.

两 or 二? Before a measure word, "two" is 两: 两个. 二 is used in counting and in longer numbers: 一、二、三, 二十, 十二.

Buying. 我要 …… (I want / I'd like) is the normal way to order. Ask the price with 多少钱？; the answer uses 块 for yuan.



Watch out

- 我要 (I'd like) is not 我有 (I have).
- *wrong:* 两苹果 → 两个苹果: the measure word cannot be left out.

Words in context

- **苹果** píngguǒ – apple. 我要两个苹果。
- **个** ge – general measure word. 三个苹果。
- **多少钱** duōshao qián – how much money. 多少钱?
- **块** kuài – yuan, spoken. 十块钱。
- **要** yào – want, in this request. 我要水。

Reading

林安要两个苹果和一杯水。两个苹果六块钱，一杯水三块钱。一共九块钱。

Speaking

Be a customer: ask a price, then order three apples. Be the seller and give a price.

2. 几 and 多少 – how many and how much

Form: 几 + measure word · 多少 (+ measure word) · 多少钱?

- **你要几个?** *Nǐ yào jǐ ge?* – How many do you want?
- **你们班有多少学生?** *Nǐmen bān yǒu duōshao xuésheng?* – How many students are in your class?
- **苹果多少钱?** *Píngguǒ duōshao qián?* – How much are the apples?

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How it works. Both words ask "how many", and the answer replaces the question word: 你要几个? – 我要三个。

	几 *jǐ*	多少 *duōshao*
expected number	small, usually under ten	any, often larger
measure word	needed: 几个, 几本	optional: 多少(个)学生
fixed uses	几点? (what time?) 星期几? (which day?) 几岁? (how old, for a child)	多少钱? (how much?)

Prices. Always ask 多少钱? . The answer uses 块 *kuài* for yuan: 十块 (ten yuan).

Watch out

- 几 needs a measure word: 几个人 (*wrong:* 几人).
- The price question is 多少钱 (*wrong:* 几钱).



3. 和 – joining people and things

Form: noun + 和 + noun

- **我买苹果和香蕉。** *Wǒ mǎi píngguǒ hé xiāngjiāo.* – I'm buying apples and bananas.
- **我和你都是学生。** *Wǒ hé nǐ dōu shì xuésheng.* – You and I are both students.
- **我要茶、咖啡和水。** – I'd like tea, coffee and water.

How it works. 和 *hé* joins people and things (nouns and pronouns). In a list, use the list comma 、between items and put 和 before the last one, as in English.

Joining actions. 和 does not join two actions or two sentences. Put the actions side

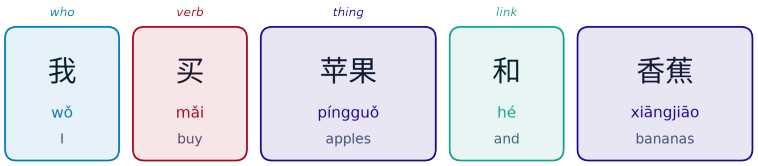
by side, often with 也:

- *wrong:* 我喜欢唱歌和喜欢跳舞。
- **我喜欢唱歌，也喜欢跳舞。** – I like singing, and I like dancing too.

Watch out

- When 和 joins two people as the subject, 都 often follows: 我和他都去.
- Chinese puts 我 first or second freely: 我和你 is normal and not impolite.

和 joins nouns, not actions



two actions take 也 instead: 我喜欢唱歌，也喜欢跳舞。

Practice

Cover the teaching pages before you answer. The answers are at the end.

■ 1. Buy a small quantity

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. What does the customer buy?

- A. Two apples and water
- B. Three apples without water
- C. One apple

2. Reading. How much is Lin An's purchase altogether?

- A. 六块钱
- B. 九块钱
- C. 三块钱

3. Complete "two apples": 两 …… 苹果。

4. Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- (1) 苹果
- (2) 个
- (3) 多少钱
- (4) 块
- (5) 要
- A. apple
- B. want, in this request
- C. how much money
- D. general measure word
- E. yuan, spoken

5. Write a short order for two apples and water. State a fictional total price. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. A customer asks 多少钱? What information should the seller supply?

- A. A destination
- B. A price
- C. A personal name

7. A sign says 一个苹果四块钱 – one apple costs four yuan. You want two. First identify the unit price, then the quantity. Which statement gives the total for your order?

- A. 一个苹果八块钱。
- B. 两个苹果八块钱。
- C. 两个苹果四块钱。

8. At a different stall: 三个苹果十二块钱，一杯水两块钱。A customer orders 我要三个苹果，不要水。What is the total for this order?

- A. 十四块钱 – fourteen yuan
- B. 十二块钱 – twelve yuan
- C. 两块钱 – two yuan

9. Invent a shop sign with a per-apple price from one to five yuan. Write a customer's order for two or three apples and a seller's total. Exclude water explicitly. Read the exchange aloud or try it with a partner, then check your arithmetic and request wording. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 几 and 多少 – how many and how much

10. Complete: "How much is this?" 这个 …… 钱?

11. Which question asks "How many people are in your family?"

- A. 你家有几钱人?
- B. 你家有几人?
- C. 你家有几口人?

12. True or false? 几点? asks what time it is. If false, correct it.

13. Answer: "I want three." (to 你要几个?)

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Put in order: 三 / 要 / 个。/ 我

14. You are buying fruit. Ask how much the apples are, say how many you want, and ask what time the shop closes. Use 几 and 多少. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 和 – joining people and things

15. Complete: “apples and bananas” 苹果 …… 香蕉

16. Which says “I like singing, and I also like dancing”?

- A. 我喜欢唱歌，也喜欢跳舞。
- B. 我喜欢唱歌和喜欢跳舞。
- C. 我和喜欢唱歌跳舞。

17. True or false? In a list of three things, 和 usually goes before the last one. If false, correct it.

18. Build: “Mum and I go to the shop.”

Put in order: 去商店。/ 我 / 和 / 妈妈

19. Say who you live with, three foods you like, and two things you like doing. Use 和. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

20. Choose 几 or 多少: 你有 …… 个弟弟? (you expect one or two) / 这个班有 …… 学生? (about forty)

21. Ask how much one apple costs.

22. Join the two things with 和: I want tea and water.

23. Find and fix the problem. Apples cost five yuan each. A classmate says 我买二个苹果. Correct the phrase and work out the price.

24. Use it yourself. Ask for three apples and a bottle of water, then ask the price.

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Answers and explanations

Mark your work, then correct each mistake in your own words.

■ 1. Buy a small quantity

1. *Script:* 我要三个苹果，不要水。三个苹果九块钱。

B. Three apples without water

三个苹果 gives the quantity; 不要水 excludes water.

2. B. 九块钱

Six yuan plus three yuan is nine.

3. 个

The measure word 个 sits between 两 and 苹果.

4. (1) A: 苹果 = apple; (2) D: 个 = general measure word; (3) C: 多少钱 = how much money; (4) E: 块 = yuan, spoken; (5) B: 要 = want, in this request

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

5. Model answer: 我要两个苹果和一杯水。一共十块钱。

Check your answer:

- Use a number and measure word with 苹果.
- Include both requested items.
- Label the price as a total.

6. B. A price

多少钱 asks how much money. A name or place does not answer that question; revisit the price phrase if you chose either.

7. B. 两个苹果八块钱。

Four yuan per apple times two apples is eight yuan for the pair. The first option keeps the one-apple price while changing the quantity; the third changes the unit price rather than stating your two-apple order.

8. B. 十二块钱 – twelve yuan

The three apples have the stated group price 十二块钱, twelve yuan. 不要水 excludes water. Fourteen adds the rejected water; two counts only that rejected drink. Use this stall’s facts, not an earlier example’s price.

9. Model answer: One possible sign: 一个苹果两块钱。Customer: 我要三个苹果，不要水。Seller: 三个苹果六块钱。The sign sets two yuan each, so three cost six. Different prices and quantities are valid if their total is consistent.

How to revise: Check the request, quantity and arithmetic separately. If the total is wrong, calculate from your own sign again; if the order reports possession, replace 有 with the intended request frame. This self-check does not assess pronunciation.

Check your answer:

- State a per-apple price before calculating.

- Use 要 for the order and 不要水 to exclude water.
- Use a quantity and 个 before 苹果.
- Make the total match your own sign and quantity.

Check the request, quantity and arithmetic separately. If the total is wrong, calculate from your own sign again; if the order reports possession, replace 有 with the intended request frame. This self-check does not assess pronunciation.

■ 2. 几 and 多少 – how many and how much

10. 多少

Prices are asked with 多少钱.

11. C. 你家有几口人?

几 needs a measure word; 口 is the measure word for family members.

12. True.

True. 几 is used for clock times and dates as well as small numbers.

13. 我要三个。

The number replaces 几, and the measure word stays.

14. Model answer: 苹果多少钱? 我要五个。你们几点关门?

Check your answer:

- I asked the price with 多少钱.
- My 几 questions have a measure word or are about time.
- My answer put the number where the question word was.
- I tried another version with a bigger number using 多少.

■ 3. 和 – joining people and things

15. 和

和 joins two nouns.

16. A. 我喜欢唱歌，也喜欢跳舞。

To join two actions, use a comma and 也. 和 joins nouns.

17. True.

True. 茶、咖啡和水 – the other items are separated by 、.

18. 我和妈妈去商店。

Person + 和 + person, then the action.

19. Model answer: 我和爸爸妈妈住。我喜欢米饭、面条和饺子。我喜欢看书，也喜欢唱歌。

Check your answer:

- I used 和 only between people or things.
- In my list, 和 comes before the last item.

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- I joined my two activities with 也, not 和.
- I tried another version with different people or foods.

■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 我要三个苹果，不要水。三个苹果九块钱。– I want three apples, not water. Three apples cost nine yuan.

Reading in English. Lin An wants two apples and one cup of water. The apples cost six yuan and the water three: nine yuan altogether.

Speaking model. A: 三个苹果多少钱? B: 九块钱。A: 我要三个苹果。

■ Mixed practice

20. 你有几个弟弟? 这个班有多少学生? Use 几 for a small number you expect to be under ten, with a measure word. Use 多少 for bigger numbers; it does not need a measure word.

21. 一个苹果多少钱? 多少钱 asks the price; put the thing you are asking about first.

22. 我要茶和水。和 joins nouns (people and things). It does not join two sentences.

23. Say 我买两个苹果: before a measure word like 个, use 两 for two. Two apples cost ten yuan (十块钱). 二 is used when counting and in numbers like 二十.

24. Model answer. 我要三个苹果和一瓶水。多少钱? 个 counts the apples and 瓶 counts the bottle of water.

Review later. Tomorrow, buy two different things and use the right measure word for each.

Weather, places and location

HSK 1

Talk about the weather and say where things are. An adjective comes straight after the subject, usually with 很 (今天很冷); 在 tells you where something is (学校在医院旁边). Then 太 …… 了 and 不太 let you say that something is too much, or not very.

At a glance

- **1.** 很 + adjective / 在 + place – describe weather / say where something is: 今天很冷。学校在医院旁边。
- **2.** 太 …… 了 and 不太 – too, so, and not very: 今天太热了!

1. Describe weather and location

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

Key sentences

- **今天天气怎么样?** *Jīntiān tiānqì zěnmeyàng?* – What's the weather like today?
- **今天下雨，很冷。** *Jīntiān xià yǔ, hěn lěng.* – It's raining today and it's cold.
- **学校在哪里?** *Xuéxiào zài nǎli?* – Where is the school?
- **学校在医院旁边。** *Xuéxiào zài yīyuàn pángbiān.* – The school is next to the hospital.

How it works

Describing. An adjective follows the subject directly, without 是: 今天很冷 (today is cold). 很 is normally added; here it is a neutral link, not a strong "very". Without 很, the sentence sounds like a comparison (今天冷，昨天热).

Where something is. thing + 在 + place: 学校在医院旁边. To ask, put 哪里 where the place would be: 学校在哪里? 旁边 means "beside"; the place it is beside comes first: 医院旁边 (beside the hospital).



Watch out

- *wrong:* 今天是冷 → 今天很冷.
- *wrong:* 他是学校 → 他在学校: 在 gives a place, 是 gives an identity.

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?

Reading

今天下雨，很冷。林安不去公园。她去学校。学校在医院旁边。

Speaking

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

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2. 太 …… 了 and 不太 – too, so, and not very

Form: 太 + adjective + 了 · 不太 + adjective

- **今天太热了！** *Jīntiān tài rè le!* – It's too hot today!
- **太好了！** *Tài hǎo le!* – Great!
- **今天不太冷。** *Jīntiān bú tài lěng.* – It's not very cold today.

How it works. 太 …… 了 shows strong feeling. With a negative word it complains ("too …"): 太贵了 (too expensive), 太远了 (too far). With a positive word it praises ("so …"): 太漂亮了 (so beautiful). The 了 is part of the pattern; without it the sentence sounds unfinished.

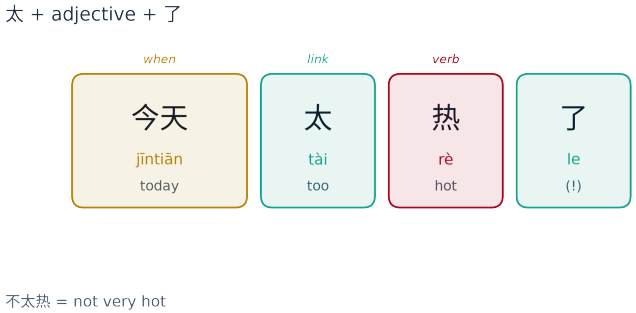
不太 + adjective is the opposite: it softens and means "not very": 不太忙, 不太好. It takes no 了.

The weather scale

太热了	很热	不太热	不热
far too hot	hot	not very hot	not hot

Watch out

- Keep the 了: 太热了 (*wrong:* 太热).
- 不太 means "not very"; it is gentler than 不.
- 太 cannot be used in comparisons: say 他比我高 (*wrong:* 他比我太高).



Practice

Cover the teaching pages before you answer. The answers are at the end.

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1. Describe weather and location

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. Where is the park in the recording?

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

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

3. Complete "The school is beside the hospital": 学校 …… 医院旁边。

4. Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- (1) 冷
- (2) 热
- (3) 下雨
- (4) 旁边
- (5) 哪里
- A. beside
- B. where
- C. rain
- D. hot
- E. cold

5. Write one weather sentence and one location sentence using a different place order. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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

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

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.

9. 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 your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 太 …… 了 and 不太 – too, so, and not very

10. Complete: “It’s too expensive.” 太贵 ……。

11. It is a little cold, but not much. Which fits?

- A. 今天太冷了。
- B. 今天不太冷了。
- C. 今天不太冷。

12. True or false? 太好了！ can mean “Great!” If false, correct it.

13. Build: “It’s too hot today!”

Put in order: 热 / 今天 / 了！ / 太

14. Your friend shows you a photo of a beautiful lake. What do you say?

- A. 太远了！
- B. 不太漂亮。
- C. 太漂亮了！

15. Which sentence is correct for “This is too expensive!”?

- A. 这个不太贵了！
- B. 这个太贵。
- C. 这个太贵了！

16. Talk about today with a friend. Complain about one thing, praise one thing, and say one thing is not very bad. Use 太 …… 了 and 不太. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

17. Which sentence says “It is too hot today!”?

- A. 今天是热。
- B. 今天太热了！
- C. 今天热太。

18. Say where the school is: the school / beside the hospital.

19. Make it gentler: 今天很冷 → “Today is not very cold.”

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20. Find and fix the problem. A classmate wants to say that his friend is at school and writes 他是学校. Correct the sentence.

21. Use it yourself. Say that it is cold today and that you are at home.

Answers and explanations

Mark your work, then correct each mistake in your own words.

■ 1. Describe weather and location

1. *Script:* 今天很热，不下雨。公园在学校旁边。

C. Beside the school

公园在学校旁边 gives the park's location.

2. A. It is cold and raining

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

3. 在

在 introduces the location.

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.

5. Model answer: 今天很热。医院在学校旁边。

Check your answer:

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

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.

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.

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.

9. Model answer: 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 your answer:

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- 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.

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.

■ 2. 太 …… 了 and 不太 – too, so, and not very

10. 了

了 at the end completes 太 …… 了.

11. C. 今天不太冷。

不太 + adjective means "not very", with no 了. 太冷了 means it is too cold; 不太冷了 adds a change, "it is no longer very cold".

12. True.

True. With a positive word, 太 …… 了 praises.

13. 今天太热了！

太 + adjective + 了.

14. C. 太漂亮了！

With a positive word, 太 …… 了 praises. 太远了 complains, and 不太漂亮 says "not very beautiful".

15. C. 这个太贵了！

太 …… 了 keeps its 了. 这个太贵 sounds unfinished, and 不太贵 means "not very expensive".

16. Model answer: 今天太热了！这个西瓜太好吃了。学校不太远。

Check your answer:

- My 太 sentences end with 了.
- My 不太 sentence has no 了.
- I used 太 …… 了 once to complain and once to praise.
- I tried another version with different adjectives.

■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 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 in English. It is raining today, and it is cold. 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。

Mixed practice

17. B. 太 + adjective + 了 says "too …". An adjective does not need 是.

18. 学校在医院旁边。在 + place says where something is.

19. 今天不太冷。不太 + adjective means "not very".

20. Write 他在学校. 在 says where someone is. 他是学校 would mean he is a school.

21. Model answer. 今天很冷。我在家。An adjective comes straight after the subject, usually with 很; 在 + place says where you are.

Review later. Tomorrow, describe the weather and say where you are, using two new words.

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Meals and traditional foods

HSK 1

Ordering food and drink. 想吃 and 想喝 say what you would like; 在吃 says what someone is eating right now. Then 了 tells you that an action has happened: 我吃了一碗面条.

At a glance

- **1.** 想 + verb – would like to …: 王力想吃饺子。
- **2.** 了 – saying an action has happened: 我吃了一碗面条。

1. Choose food and a drink

Ask what someone wants to eat and drink.

Key sentences

- **你想吃什么？** *Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?* – What would you like to eat?
- **我想吃饺子。** *Wǒ xiǎng chī jiǎozi.* – I'd like dumplings.
- **你喝茶还是喝水？** *Nǐ hē chá háishi hē shuǐ?* – Would you like tea or water?
- **我在吃饭。** *Wǒ zài chī fàn.* – I'm eating (right now).

How it works

想 + verb says what you would like to do: 想吃 (would like to eat), 想喝 (would like to drink). It is softer than 要.

在 + verb says an action is happening now: 我在吃饭 (I'm eating). Compare: 我想吃饺子 (a wish) and 我在吃饺子 (happening now).

Answering a choice. 还是 offers two options. Answer with the one you choose, not with 是: 你喝茶还是喝水？– 我喝茶。

想 + verb: what you would like



Watch out

- Answer 吃什么? with the food: 我想吃米饭, not just 想.
- 想 can also mean "miss" (我想你), but before 吃 or 喝 it always means "would like".

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?

Reading

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。

Speaking

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

2. 了 – saying an action has happened

Form: verb + 了 · 没 + verb · …… 了吗?

- **我吃了一碗面条。** *Wǒ chī le yì wǎn miàntiáo.* – I ate a bowl of noodles.
- **你吃饭了吗?** *Nǐ chī fàn le ma?* – Have you eaten?

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- **我还没吃。** *Wǒ hái méi chī.* – I haven't eaten yet.

How it works. 了 *le* after a verb says that the action has happened. When you say how much, 了 goes straight after the verb, before the amount: 买**了**两个苹果 (bought two apples).

Questions. Add 吗: 你吃饭了吗? People also use this as a friendly greeting around mealtimes. The answer is 吃了 (yes) or 没吃 / 还没吃 (no / not yet).

The negative. To say an action did not happen, use 没 *méi* and **drop** 了: 我没去, "I didn't go" (*wrong:* 我没去了).

了 is not a past tense. Habits in the past do not take it: 我小时候每天吃米饭 (I ate rice every day as a child). 了 is about an action being completed, not about time.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我没吃了 → 我没吃.
- *wrong:* 我每天吃了米饭 → 我每天吃米饭.

Done: verb + 了 · not done: 没 + verb



没 already says it did not happen, so no 了: 我没吃。

Practice

Cover the teaching pages before you answer. The answers are at the end.

■ 1. Choose food and a drink

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. Which drink does the speaker choose?

- A. 水
- B. 茶
- C. 米饭

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

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

3. Complete "What would you like to eat?": 你想吃 ……?

4. Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- (1) 吃
- (2) 喝
- (3) 饺子
- (4) 水
- (5) 想
- A. drink
- B. dumplings
- C. would like to
- D. eat
- E. water

5. Write a lunch choice: one food and one drink. Then state the place you eat. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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

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

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?

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- 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.

9. 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 your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 了 – saying an action has happened

10. Complete: "I bought two apples." 我买 …… 两个苹果。

11. "I went to school." Which sounds complete?

- A. 我去了学校。
- B. 我去学校了。
- C. 我了去学校。
- D. 我去学校。

12. Build: "Have you eaten?"

Put in order: 吃饭 / 吗? / 了 / 你

13. You have not eaten yet. Which reply fits?

- A. 我没吃了。
- B. 我还没吃。
- C. 我不吃了吗。

14. True or false? 我每天吃了米饭 is the normal way to describe a daily habit. If false, correct it.

15. A friend asks what you did this morning. Say two things you did and one thing you did not do. Use 了. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

16. Choose: 我 …… 吃饺子 (I would like to eat dumplings) / 我 …… 吃饺子 (I am eating dumplings now).

17. A friend asks 你吃了吗? You have eaten. Reply.

18. Find and fix the problem. A friend asks 你喝茶还是水? A classmate answers 是. Why is that not an answer?

19. Use it yourself. Ask politely for a cup of tea and say that you do not want coffee.

Answers and explanations

Mark your work, then correct each mistake in your own words.

■ 1. Choose food and a drink

1. *Script:* 我想吃米饭，不想吃饺子。我喝茶。

B. 茶

我喝茶 identifies tea as the drink.

2. C. Drink water

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

3. 什么

什么 asks for the food.

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.

5. Model answer: 我想吃饺子，喝水。我在学校吃饭。

Check your answer:

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

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.

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.

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.

9. Model answer: 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 your answer:

- Ask for the missing food and drink information.

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- 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.

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.

■ 2. 了 – saying an action has happened

10. 了

了 comes right after the verb when an amount follows.

11. B. 我去学校了。

A short object with no amount: put 了 at the end, 我去学校了。

12. 你吃饭了吗?

Verb + 了 + 吗 asks whether an action has happened.

13. B. 我还没吃。

The negative uses 没 and drops 了; 还 adds "yet".

14. False.

False. Habits do not take 了 – 我每天吃米饭.

15. Model answer: 我吃了一个苹果，喝了一杯茶。我没去学校。

Check your answer:

- My completed actions have 了 right after the verb.
- My negative uses 没 with no 了.
- I did not add 了 to a daily habit.
- I tried asking …… 了吗? and answering it.

■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 我想吃米饭，不想吃饺子。我喝茶。– I want rice, not dumplings. I drink tea.

Reading in English. 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。

■ Mixed practice

16. 我想吃饺子。我在吃饺子。想 is a wish; 在 + verb is an action happening now.

17. 我吃了。了 after the verb says the action has happened.

18. The question asks you to choose, so 是 (yes) does not answer it. Say 我喝茶 or 我喝水.

19. Model answer. 请给我一杯茶。我不要咖啡。杯 counts cups; 不要 says what you do not want.

Review later. Tomorrow, ask a partner a 还是 question about food and answer one yourself.

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Travel, destinations and simple directions

HSK 1

Say where you are going, when you leave and how you travel. Chinese puts the time first, then the action: 我明天八点去上海. 坐火车 is how you travel; 去上海 is where to. Ask 去哪里 for a place and 怎么去 for a way of travelling.

State a destination and departure time

Say where you are going, when, and how.

Key sentences

- **你明天去哪里?** *Nǐ míngtiān qù nǎli?* – Where are you going tomorrow?
- **我明天去上海。** *Wǒ míngtiān qù Shànghǎi.* – I'm going to Shanghai tomorrow.
- **你怎么去?** *Nǐ zěnme qù?* – How are you getting there?
- **我坐火车去，八点出发。** *Wǒ zuò huǒchē qù, bā diǎn chūfā.* – I'm taking the train; I leave at eight.

How it works

The order of a travel sentence. who – when – how – go – where:

who	when	how	go	where
我	明天八点	坐火车	去	上海

No future ending. Chinese does not change the verb for the future. 明天 already tells you when: 我明天去.

Two questions. 去哪里? asks for a place; 怎么去? asks for a way of travelling (坐火车, 坐车, 走路). 坐 literally means "sit", so it is used for vehicles you ride in.



> **Watch out**
>
> - *wrong:* 我去上海明天 → 我明天去上海.
> - 去 is setting off; 到 is arriving. 八点去 does not say when you arrive.

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。

Reading

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。

Speaking

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

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Practice

Cover the teaching pages before you answer. The answers are at the end.

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. What is the departure time?

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

2. Reading. Where is Wang Li today?

- A. 上海
- B. 学校
- C. On the train

3. Complete "Where are you going?": 你去 ……?

4. Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

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

5. Write a travel plan with a time, method, and destination. Change the time from the reading. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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

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

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.

9. 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 your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

10. Find and fix the problem. A note says 我明天三点去学校. Does it say the person arrives at three? Explain.

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

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Answers and explanations

Mark your work, then correct each mistake in your own words.

1. *Script:* 我明天九点坐火车去上海。

B. Nine

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

2. B. 学校

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

3. 哪里

去哪里 asks the destination.

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.

5. Model answer: 我明天十点坐火车去上海。

Check your answer:

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

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.

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.

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.

9. Model answer: 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 your answer:

- 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.

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.

Scripts and models

Listening script. 我明天九点坐火车去上海。– Tomorrow I take a train to Shanghai at nine.

Reading in English. 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。

Mixed practice

10. No. It says the person goes to school at three tomorrow, so three is when they leave or set off. To give the arrival time, use 到: 三点到学校.

11. Model answer. 我八点从家出发，八点半到学校。出发 is leaving; 到 is arriving. Each time goes before its own verb.

Review later. Tomorrow, describe a different trip with a leaving time and an arrival time.

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Needs, wellbeing and leisure

HSK 1

Say how you feel, what you need and what you can do, and answer a friend kindly. You will meet 不舒服 (feel unwell), 想 (would like), and the difference between 会 (a skill you have learned) and 能 (possible in this situation).

Express a need and respond kindly

Say how you feel and what you would like to do.

Key sentences

- **我不舒服。** *Wǒ bù shūfu.* – I don't feel well.
- **我想休息一下。** *Wǒ xiǎng xiūxi yíxià.* – I'd like to rest for a bit.
- **你会游泳吗？** *Nǐ huì yóuyǒng ma?* – Can you swim?
- **我会游泳，但是今天不能去。** *Wǒ huì yóuyǒng, dànshì jīntiān bù néng qù.* – I can swim, but I can't go today.

How it works

会 or 能? Both translate as "can", but they mean different things.

会 *huì*	能 *néng*
a skill you have learned	possible or allowed in this situation
我会游泳 (I know how to swim)	今天能游泳吗？(Can we swim today?)

Feelings and needs. 不舒服 (not well), 累 (tired), 饿 (hungry) describe how you feel; 想 + verb says what you would like to do about it.

Answering kindly. Show you understand, then suggest something: 你累了？休息一下吧。



■ Watch out

- 我会游泳 means you have the skill, not that you are going swimming now.
- 想休息 is a wish; it does not mean you have already rested.

■ Words in context

- **不舒服** bù shūfu – feel unwell. 我不舒服。
- **休息** xiūxi – rest. 我想休息。
- **游泳** yóuyǒng – swim. 我会游泳。
- **会** huì – know how to. 你会游泳吗?
- **能** néng – can in the situation. 你今天能去吗?

■ Reading

林安会游泳，但是今天不舒服。她今天不去游泳，想在家休息。

■ Speaking

Ask a partner whether they can go today. In a fictional role, say you feel unwell and want to rest.

Practice

Cover the teaching pages before you answer. The answers are at the end.

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. What does the speaker want?

- A. To rest
- B. To learn swimming
- C. To go to school

2. Reading. Does the text say Lin An lacks swimming skill?

- A. It does not mention swimming
- B. Yes
- C. No

3. Complete "I want to rest": 我想 ……。

4. Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- (1) 不舒服
- (2) 休息
- (3) 游泳
- (4) 会
- (5) 能
- A. feel unwell
- B. know how to
- C. rest
- D. swim
- E. can in the situation

5. Write two sentences contrasting a skill and today's possibility. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. 我想休息。想 means want to and 休息 means rest. Which statement follows from this sentence alone?

- A. The speaker cannot swim.
- B. The speaker is already asleep.
- C. The speaker wants to rest.

7. 我会游泳，但是游泳池今天不开门，所以今天不能去。游泳池 means swimming pool; 今天不开门 means it is closed today; 所以 means so. First locate the reason. Why can the speaker not go today?

- A. The speaker says that swimming is forbidden everywhere.
- B. The pool is closed today.
- C. The speaker has never learned to swim.

8. Read: 林安会骑自行车。今天她要在家等老师，不能和朋友一起去。骑自行车 means ride a bicycle, 等 wait and 一起 together. Which interpretation fits?

- A. She cannot ride a bicycle and is waiting at home for her friends.
- B. She can ride a bicycle but cannot join today because her bicycle is broken.
- C. She can ride a bicycle but today must wait at home for the teacher.

9. Invent a fictional person who knows how to do an activity but cannot join it today. Write the skill, a specific circumstance and a wish. A partner asks whether they can go; give a relevant reply without claiming the skill has disappeared. Read or speak the exchange, then check the meaning. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

10. Find and fix the problem. A friend says 我想喝水. A classmate reports that the friend has already had a drink. What is wrong with the report?

11. Use it yourself. Tell a friend you are tired and would like to rest. Then answer kindly when a friend says they are hungry.

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Answers and explanations

Mark your work, then correct each mistake in your own words.

1. *Script:* 我会游泳，但是今天不能去。我想休息。

A. To rest

我想休息 states the wish directly.

2. C. No

林安会游泳 says she has the skill; today's condition prevents the activity.

3. 休息

休息 names the action wanted.

4. (1) A: 不舒服 = feel unwell; (2) C: 休息 = rest; (3) D: 游泳 = swim; (4) B: 会 = know how to; (5) E: 能 = can in the situation

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

5. Model answer: 我会游泳。今天我不能去，想休息。

Check your answer:

- Use 会 for the skill.
- Use 今天 to locate the situation.
- State the wish clearly.

6. C. The speaker wants to rest.

想休息 expresses a wish. It supplies no evidence of sleep or swimming ability. Return to the difference between wanting an action and reporting it as happening if you chose either extra claim.

7. B. The pool is closed today.

The stated reason is the pool's closure today. 我会游泳 explicitly supplies the skill, and no universal ban is stated. A present obstacle and an absent learned skill are different claims.

8. C. She can ride a bicycle but today must wait at home for the teacher.

会骑自行车 gives the learned skill. 在家等老师 supplies today's commitment; 不能和朋友一起去 says she cannot join her friends. No broken bicycle is stated, and the person she waits for is the teacher, not the friends.

9. Model answer: Possible account: 我会游泳。今天我要在家等老师，不能去。我想明天去。Partner: 你今天能去吗? Reply: 今天不能去，我要在家等老师。The skill, today's commitment and tomorrow's wish are separate. Other coherent activities and circumstances are valid.

How to revise: If the reason is missing, add your invented circumstance explicitly. If your sentences contradict each other, distinguish knowing how from being able to join today. Use a fictional situation; this self-review checks meaning and organisation, not pronunciation or medical knowledge.

Check your answer:

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- State a learned skill with 会 in this context.
- Name a circumstance that explains today's constraint.
- State a wish without presenting it as a completed event.
- Answer the partner's actual question; avoid inventing a diagnosis or unstated fact.

If the reason is missing, add your invented circumstance explicitly. If your sentences contradict each other, distinguish knowing how from being able to join today. Use a fictional situation; this self-review checks meaning and organisation, not pronunciation or medical knowledge.

■ Scripts and models

Listening script. 我会游泳，但是今天不能去。我想休息。– I know how to swim, but cannot go today. I want to rest.

Reading in English. Lin An knows how to swim, but feels unwell today. She does not go swimming and wants to rest at home.

Speaking model. A: 你今天能去吗? B: 我不舒服，想休息。A: 好。

■ Mixed practice

10. 想喝水 means she would like to drink; it does not say she has drunk. The wish has not happened yet.

11. Model answer. 我累了，想休息一下。— 你饿了? 我们去吃饭吧。累了 says how you feel, 想 says what you would like, and 吧 makes a friendly suggestion.

Review later. Tomorrow, say one thing you would like to do and one thing you can do (会).

School, study and work routines

HSK 1

Read a school timetable and say what a place has. 有 means “have” or “there is”; its negative is always 没有, never 不有. That leads to the two ways of saying “not”: 不 for habits, wishes and the future, and 没 for things that did not happen.

At a glance

- **1.** Place + 有 / 没有 + thing – there is / there is not: 学校有图书馆，没有游泳池。
- **2.** 不 and 没 – two ways to say “not”: 我今天不去。

1. Read a timetable and say what exists

Find a lesson time and describe a school facility.

Key sentences

- **中文课几点开始?** *Zhōngwén kè jǐ diǎn kāishǐ?* – What time does the Chinese lesson start?
- **星期一，中文课九点开始。** *Xīngqīyī, Zhōngwén kè jiǔ diǎn kāishǐ.* – On Monday, Chinese starts at nine.
- **学校有图书馆吗?** *Xuéxiào yǒu túshūguǎn ma?* – Does the school have a library?
- **有。学校没有游泳池。** *Yǒu. Xuéxiào méiyǒu yóuyǒngchí.* – Yes. The school has no swimming pool.

How it works

Place + 有 + thing says what a place has, or what is there: 学校有图书馆 (the school has a library / there is a library at the school). The negative is always 没有.

Reading a timetable. Find the day first, then the subject, then the time beside it. Answer only the detail you were asked: 几点 needs a time.

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Watch out

- *wrong:* 学校不有游泳池 → 学校没有游泳池.
- Short answers repeat the verb: 有。/ 没有。

Words in context

- **中文课** Zhōngwén kè – Chinese lesson. 中文课九点开始。
- **开始** kāishǐ – begin. 九点开始。
- **有** yǒu – have / there is. 学校有图书馆。
- **没有** méiyǒu – do not have / there is no. 学校没有游泳池。
- **图书馆** túshūguǎn – library. 我去图书馆。

Reading

星期一，中文课九点开始，数学课十点开始。学校有图书馆，没有游泳池。

Speaking

Ask when a fictional Chinese class starts. Then ask about a library and reply with 有 or 没有.

2. 不 and 没 – two ways to say “not”

Form: 不 + verb / adjective · 没 (有) + verb · 没有 + noun

- **我今天不去。** *Wǒ jīntiān bú qù.* – I’m not going today.
- **我昨天没去。** *Wǒ zuótiān méi qù.* – I didn’t go yesterday.
- **我没有钱。** *Wǒ méiyǒu qián.* – I don’t have any money.

How it works. Chinese has two words for “not”, and they do different jobs.

不 *bù*	没 *méi*
now, the future, habits and wishes	an action that did not happen
我不喝咖啡 (I don’t drink coffee)	我没喝咖啡 (I didn’t drink the coffee)
before adjectives: 不忙	the negative of 有: 没有
before 是: 不是	never before 是

Pronunciation. 不 becomes *bú* before a fourth tone: 不去 *bú qù*, 不是 *bú shì*.

Watch out

- The negative of 有 is always 没有: *wrong:* 我不有 → 我没有.
- 是 always takes 不: *wrong:* 我没是学生 → 我不是学生.
- 明天 (tomorrow) takes 不: 我明天不去, because it has not happened yet.



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Practice

Cover the teaching pages before you answer. The answers are at the end.

■ 1. Read a timetable and say what exists

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. When does Chinese begin in the recording?

- A. Monday at nine
- B. Tuesday at nine
- C. Tuesday at ten

2. Reading. Which facility is absent in the reading?

- A. The swimming pool
- B. The library
- C. The classrooms

3. Complete “The school has no swimming pool”: 学校 …… 游泳池。

4. Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- (1) 中文课
- (2) 开始
- (3) 有
- (4) 没有
- (5) 图书馆
- A. have / there is
- B. library
- C. do not have / there is no
- D. Chinese lesson
- E. begin

5. Write a small timetable note and one sentence about a facility. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. 学校没有游泳池。学校 means school and 游泳池 means swimming pool. Which claim follows from 没有 here?

- A. The school has no swimming pool.
- B. The school has two pools.
- C. The pool opens at nine.

7. 星期四，数学课八点开始，中文课十点开始。星期四 means Thursday, 数学课 mathematics, 中文课 Chinese and 开始 begins. First match the requested subject to its time. When does Chinese begin?

- A. Thursday at ten
- B. Wednesday at ten

- C. Thursday at eight

8. Read: 星期五，中文课九点开始。学校有图书馆，没有游泳池。图书馆 means library and 游泳池 swimming pool. Which claim is supported?

- A. Chinese begins at nine on Friday; the school has a library but no pool.
- B. Chinese begins at nine on Friday; the library also opens at nine.
- C. Chinese begins at nine on Friday; the school has a library and a pool.

9. Create a short fictional timetable for two different subjects on one weekday. Give different start times, then state one facility the school has and one it lacks. Ask a partner one timetable question and one facility question, or write both replies. Leave finishing times unknown unless you explicitly add them. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 不 and 没 – two ways to say “not”

10. Build: “I don’t drink coffee.”

Put in order: 不 / 咖啡。/ 喝 / 我

11. Complete: “I don’t have money.” 我 …… 有钱。

12. He didn’t come to class yesterday. Which fits?

- A. 他昨天不来。
- B. 他昨天没是来。
- C. 他昨天没来。

13. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 他不来。
- (2) 他没来。
- (3) 我不吃肉。
- (4) 我没吃饭。
- A. He isn’t coming.
- B. I don’t eat meat.
- C. He didn’t come.
- D. I haven’t eaten.

14. True or false? In 不是, 不 is pronounced bú. If false, correct it.

15. “I didn’t buy it.” Which is correct?

- A. 我没买了。
- B. 我不买了。
- C. 我没买。
- D. 我不买。

16. Tell a friend one thing you never do, one thing you did not do yesterday, and one thing you do not have. Use 不 and 没. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

17. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 学校不有游泳池。
- B. 学校没有游泳池。
- C. 学校没是游泳池。

18. Choose 不 or 没: 我明天 …… 去学校。/ 我昨天 …… 去学校。

19. Ask when the Chinese lesson starts.

20. Find and fix the problem. A notice says 学校有图书馆，没有游泳池. A classmate thinks it means a pupil owns a library. Correct the reading.

21. Use it yourself. Describe one thing your school has and one thing it does not have.

Answers and explanations

Mark your work, then correct each mistake in your own words.

■ 1. Read a timetable and say what exists

1. *Script:* 星期二，中文课十点开始。学校有游泳池。

C. Tuesday at ten

星期二 and 十点 are both needed.

2. A. The swimming pool

没有游泳池 explicitly states there is no swimming pool.

3. 没有

没有 is the ordinary negative of 有.

4. (1) D: 中文课 = Chinese lesson; (2) E: 开始 = begin; (3) A: 有 = have / there is; (4) C: 没有 = do not have / there is no; (5) B: 图书馆 = library

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

5. Model answer: 星期三，中文课十点开始。学校有图书馆。

Check your answer:

- State the weekday and subject.
- State a clock time.
- Use 有 or 没有 for the facility.

6. A. The school has no swimming pool.

没有 negates the existence of a pool at the school. It does not supply an opening time or a positive quantity. Check the negative phrase before looking for a facility detail.

7. A. Thursday at ten

中文课 is linked to 十点, ten, on the stated Thursday. Eight belongs to mathematics. Wednesday is not the day in this timetable. Match both the day and subject before taking a time.

8. A. Chinese begins at nine on Friday; the school has a library but no pool.

中文课九点开始 gives the lesson's start, not the library's opening time. 有图书馆 states a library is present; 没有游泳池 states the pool is absent. Preserve both the relevant time and the negative facility statement.

9. Model answer: Possible notice: 星期二，中文课八点开始，数学课十点开始。学校有图书馆，没有游泳池。Questions and replies: 中文课几点开始？八点。学校有游泳池吗？没有。Other subjects, times and facilities can work if the questions and replies match.

How to revise: If you chose the neighbouring subject's time, pair each subject and time before answering again. If the facility answer reverses presence and absence, check 有 versus 没有. Make a fresh notice after correcting the specific error.

Check your answer:

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- Attach a distinct start time to each subject on the named day.
- Use 有 and 没有 for the two facility statements.
- Answer the questions from your own notice rather than an earlier example.
- Distinguish lesson start times from opening or finishing times that are not supplied.

If you chose the neighbouring subject's time, pair each subject and time before answering again. If the facility answer reverses presence and absence, check 有 versus 没有. Make a fresh notice after correcting the specific error.

■ 2. 不 and 没 – two ways to say "not"

10. 我不喝咖啡。

A habit or preference is negated with 不 before the verb.

11. 没

有 is always negated with 没.

12. C. 他昨天没来。

An action that did not happen in the past takes 没.

13. (1) A: 他不来。= He isn't coming.; (2) C: 他没来。= He didn't come.; (3) B: 我不吃肉。= I don't eat meat.; (4) D: 我没吃饭。= I haven't eaten.

不 = choices, habits and plans; 没 = it did not happen.

14. True.

True. 是 is fourth tone, so 不 changes to bú.

15. C. 我没买。

Did not happen → 没, and no 了 after 没. (我不买了 = I won't buy it after all.)

16. Model answer: 我不喝咖啡。我昨天没去学校。我没有猫。

Check your answer:

- I used 不 for a habit or preference.
- I used 没 for something that did not happen.
- I negated 有 with 没.
- I said 不 as bú before a fourth tone.

■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 星期二，中文课十点开始。学校有游泳池。– On Tuesday, Chinese starts at ten. The school has a swimming pool.

Reading in English. On Monday, Chinese starts at nine and mathematics at ten. The school has a library but no swimming pool.

Speaking model. A: 中文课几点开始？B: 九点。A: 学校有图书馆吗？B: 有。

Mixed practice

17. B. The negative of 有 is always 没有.

18. 我明天不去学校。我昨天没去学校。不 says no to a plan or habit; 没 says something did not happen.

19. 中文课几点开始? 几点 asks for the clock time.

20. When a place comes first, 有 means "there is": the school has a library. 没有 says it has no swimming pool. Nobody owns anything here.

21. Model answer. 我们学校有食堂，没有游泳池。The place comes first, then 有 or 没有.

Review later. Tomorrow, describe your classroom with 有 and 没有, then say one thing you have with 我有.

Listen for the referent and read for the relationship

HSK 1

Short notices give you who, how many, where and when. Read the question first, then find the one word that answers it. Finding a word you know is not enough: check that it answers the question you were asked.

Find details in a short notice

Distinguish people, quantities, places, and times in short messages.

Key sentences

- **桌子上有两个杯子。** *Zhuōzi shang yǒu liǎng ge bēizi.* – There are two cups on the table.
- **桌子上有几本书?** *Zhuōzi shang yǒu jǐ běn shū?* – How many books are on the table?
- **林安的书在学校。** *Lín Ān de shū zài xuéxiào.* – Lin An's books are at school.

How it works

Read for one kind of detail. Before you read or listen, look at the question and decide what you need: who (谁), how many (几), where (哪里, 在 ……) or when (几点, 星期几). Then find only that detail.

Two patterns for place.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
place + 上 + 有 + thing	桌子上有杯子	what is on the table
thing + 在 + place	书在学校	where the book is

上 follows the place noun: 桌子上 (on the table).



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■ Watch out

- A familiar word is not always the answer: check that it answers *your* question.
- Measure words change with the noun: 两个杯子, 三本书.

■ Words in context

- **桌子** zhuōzi – table. 桌子上有书。
- **上** shàng – on / above. 桌子上。
- **杯子** bēizi – cup. 两个杯子。
- **书** shū – book. 三本书。
- **本** běn – measure word for books. 两本书。

■ Reading

桌子上有两个杯子和三本书。林安的书在学校。王力下午三点去学校。

■ Speaking

Describe a fictional table with two cups and one book. Ask a partner how many cups they heard.

Practice

Cover the teaching pages before you answer. The answers are at the end.

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. How many cups are in the recording?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. None

2. Reading. Which quantity belongs to books in the reading?

- A. Two
- B. Four
- C. Three

3. Complete "three books": 三 …… 书。

4. Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- (1) 桌子
- (2) 上
- (3) 杯子
- (4) 书
- (5) 本
- A. measure word for books
- B. on / above
- C. table
- D. book
- E. cup

5. Write a new table description with different quantities. Ask one detail question about it. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. 桌子上有三个杯子。桌子上 means on the table, 三个 means three and 杯子 means cups. Which question can this message answer directly?

- A. Who bought the cups?
- B. How many cups are on the table?
- C. When does school begin?

7. 桌子上有四个杯子和两本书。桌子上 means on the table, 四个杯子 four cups and 两本书 two books. First attach each number to its noun. How many books are there?

- A. Six
- B. Two
- C. Four

8. Read: 椅子上有一包茶，桌子上没有茶。王力的书在学校。椅子 means chair and 包 counts packets here. Which claim is supported?

- A. Tea is on the chair; Wang Li is at school.
- B. Tea is on the chair; Wang Li's book is at school.
- C. Tea is on the table; Wang Li's book is at school.

9. Write a new short message with two object quantities, two locations and a person's travel time. Ask one quantity question and one location question that can be answered from the message. Then state one fact about ownership or a person's location that the message leaves unknown. Read the message aloud or exchange questions with a partner. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

10. Find and fix the problem. A notice says 星期二下午两点，教室见. A pupil plans to come on Wednesday morning. Which two details are wrong?

11. Use it yourself. Write a notice for a meeting in the library on Thursday at three in the afternoon.

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Answers and explanations

Mark your work, then correct each mistake in your own words.

1. *Script:* 桌子上有三个杯子，没有书。

B. Three

三个杯子 gives three cups; the reading described a different scene.

2. C. Three

三本书 is three books; 两个杯子 refers to cups.

3. 本

本 is the measure word for books in this phrase.

4. (1) C: 桌子 = table; (2) B: 上 = on / above; (3) E: 杯子 = cup; (4) D: 书 = book; (5) A: 本 = measure word for books

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

5. Model answer: 桌子上有三个杯子和两本书。几个杯子?

Check your answer:

- State the place.
- Use 个 with cups and 本 with books.
- Ask a quantity question.

6. B. How many cups are on the table?

The message supplies the number and location of cups. It supplies no purchaser, owner or school time. Recognising a number is useful only when it is attached to the requested object.

7. B. Two

两本书 gives two books. Four counts cups; six adds different object types and does not answer the book question. Use the requested noun as well as the number.

8. B. Tea is on the chair; Wang Li's book is at school.

椅子上有一包茶 locates a packet of tea on the chair, while 桌子上没有茶 excludes it from the table. 王力的书 locates Wang Li's book, not Wang Li himself, at school. Distinguish the object from its owner.

9. Model answer: Possible message: 桌子上有三本书。椅子上有两个杯子。林安下午五点去学校。Questions: 桌子上有几本书? 杯子在哪里? Replies: 三本。在椅子上。The message does not say who owns the cups or where Lin An is before her trip. Other coherent quantities and locations are valid.

How to revise: If a number or place came from the wrong clause, mark the noun and its detail together before trying again. Check negative statements before claiming an object is present. Use new objects or numbers after correcting the mismatch.

Check your answer:

- Keep each quantity attached to its object.

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- Keep the two locations and travel time distinct.
- Make both questions answerable from the exact message.
- Identify an unknown fact without inferring a person's location from an object's location.

If a number or place came from the wrong clause, mark the noun and its detail together before trying again. Check negative statements before claiming an object is present. Use new objects or numbers after correcting the mismatch.

Scripts and models

Listening script. 桌子上有三个杯子，没有书。– There are three cups on the table and no books.

Reading in English. There are two cups and three books on the table. Lin An's book is at school. Wang Li goes to school at three in the afternoon.

Speaking model. A: 桌子上有两个杯子和一本书。B: 几个杯子? A: 两个。

Mixed practice

10. 星期二 is Tuesday, not Wednesday, and 下午两点 is two in the afternoon, not the morning. The place, 教室 (classroom), is right.

11. Model answer. 星期四下午三点，图书馆见。Day, time, place: check each one against the plan.

Review later. Tomorrow, swap notices with a partner and ask each other one exact question about the details.