

Complete a message with the right character

HSK 2

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

Use the sentence meaning and pronunciation to choose a character.

Before you start: Recall 在 location statements and 再 for again or then. These two characters share the same pronunciation in the examples, so the surrounding meaning must guide the choice.

■ Build the meaning

Characters with similar sounds can have different meanings: 在 zài locates something; 再 zài can mean again or then.

To complete a message, check the whole sentence, the pinyin cue, and the role of the missing word. Guessing from sound alone is not enough.

Same sound, different character: let the meaning choose

who	verb	where
我 wǒ I	在 zài am at	学校 xuéxiào school
请 qǐng please	再 zài again	说一遍 shuō yí biàn say it once
	when	

■ Work through a decision

Compare 我在学校 with 请明天再来. In the first, 学校 is the place after the location word 在. In the second, 明天 sets tomorrow and 再来 asks someone to come again then. The shared sound alone cannot choose the character; identify what the missing word contributes to its whole sentence.

Compare: The 在 in 现在 is part of the word meaning now, while 再见 is the

conventional farewell. Do not decide by matching one English gloss to every occurrence of the sound. For a new word, check the whole word and situation rather than replacing every occurrence of that sound with one character.

■ Useful words in context

- 在 zài – at / in. 我在学校。
- 再 zài – again / then. 请再说一遍。
- 见 jiàn – see. 明天见。
- 这里 zhèlǐ – here. 我在这里。
- 字 zì – character. 这个字怎么读?

■ Listen before reading the script

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

■ Read a different account

林安写: “我在学校。请明天再来。明天下午三点见。”她检查了时间和地点, 然后发出消息。

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

■ Speak with a partner

Ask a partner how to read 在, then say a sentence with it. Explain in English how 再 differs.

Check the distinction: A correct pinyin sound does not guarantee the correct character. This authored practice is separate from the official sample with quarantined writing-key numbering.

Learn step by step · Practise and review.

Practice without the models

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

■ Complete a message with the right character

0701.1 Listening. Where is the speaker?

- A. At the library
- B. At school
- C. At the park

0701.2 Reading. Which character in the message means “again”?

- A. 见
- B. 在
- C. 再

0701.3 Choose zài for location: 我 学校。

0701.4 Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- 1. 在
- 1. 再
- 1. 见
- 1. 这里
- 1. 字
- A. at / in
- B. here
- C. again / then
- D. see
- E. character

0701.5 Write a two-line message giving your location and tomorrow's meeting time. Check 在 and 再 carefully.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

0701.6 Complete "I am at school": 我 ____ 学校。Choose between 在, used for a location, and 再, again or then.

- A. Either character gives the same meaning
- B. 在
- C. 再

0701.7 Complete "Please say it again": 请 ____ 说一遍。说一遍 means say once. First decide whether the missing character locates a person or requests repetition.

- A. 再
- B. Either character has the same function here
- C. 在

0701.8 Read both sentences and choose the characters that fit: 我 ____ 家。请下午 ____ 来。家 means home and 下午 afternoon.

- A. 在; 再
- B. 再; 在
- C. 在; 在

0701.9 Use Mandarin for the new sentences or dialogue. You may explain your reasoning in English. Write a new short message locating yourself somewhere and asking the reader to come again at a stated time. Use both 在 and 再. Read it aloud, then explain how the written context distinguishes the two characters despite the shared

sound.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A message intended as See you tomorrow reads 明天件. What needs correction, even if the input letters were jian?

R2. Use it yourself. Write a short note thanking a friend and confirming a meeting tomorrow.

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

Answers and explanations

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

■ Complete a message with the right character

0701.1 A. At the library

在图书馆 names the current location.

0701.2 C. 再

再 in 明天再来 means come again tomorrow.

0701.3 在

在 locates the speaker; 再 would mean again or then.

0701.4 1-A: 在 = at / in; 2-C: 再 = again / then; 3-D: 见 = see; 4-B: 这里 = here; 5-E: 字 = character

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

0701.5 One possible response: 我在学校。明天下午四点见。

Check meaning and form:

- Use 在 for the current location.
- Give tomorrow's time.
- Check the characters, not only pinyin.

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

0701.6 B. 在

在 introduces the location 学校. 再 does not express being at school in this sentence. Shared pronunciation does not make the written characters interchangeable.

0701.7 A. 再

再 requests another saying. 请再说一遍 is the repetition request; 在 would not supply that meaning in this frame. Use the function of the phrase rather than the shared sound.

0701.8 A. 在; 再

我在家 is a location statement. 请下午再来 requests another visit in the afternoon. 在 supplies location and 再 repetition; the shared sound alone does not select the written character.

0701.9 One possible response: Possible message: 我在图书馆。请明天上午再来。图书馆 means library. 在 gives the current location, while 再 requests another visit tomorrow morning. Other places and times can work. This is written word choice, not proof of handwriting quality or pronunciation.

How to revise: If the characters are swapped, identify the place phrase and the repetition request before rewriting. Read the revised message for meaning; a correct spoken

syllable alone does not verify the written choice.

Check meaning and form:

- Use 在 for the intended location statement.
- Use 再 for the repeat-visit request.
- Make the return time explicit and coherent.
- Explain both choices from meaning, not sound alone.
- Write or speak the requested sentences, questions or dialogue in Mandarin; optional English reasoning does not replace them.

If the characters are swapped, identify the place phrase and the repetition request before rewriting. Read the revised message for meaning; a correct spoken syllable alone does not verify the written choice.

■ Listening script and meaning

我在图书馆。明天下午四点见。

I am at the library. See you tomorrow at four in the afternoon.

■ Reading meaning

Lin An writes that she is at school and asks the reader to come again tomorrow, meeting at three in the afternoon. She checks the time and place before sending.

■ Speaking model

A: 这个字怎么读? B: zài。 A: 我在学校。

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

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. Write 明天见。件 is a different character with a different role. Matching a typed syllable does not guarantee the intended word.

R2. One possible response. 谢谢你! 我们明天见。Check 谢, 明, 天 and 见 in the intended words. Other messages are valid if the thanks and meeting are clear.

Recall later. Tomorrow, type the note, then write it without the keyboard candidates.