Course Companion

HSK 2

Every topic handout in one volume

全部专题讲义合集

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Personal descriptions, requests and forms of address

HSK 2

Speak to people politely and ask them to do things. Put the surname before the title (王老师), ask permission with 可以 …… 吗, and ask or tell someone not to do something with 请 and 别. Three smaller patterns make requests softer: 有点儿 and 一点儿 (a bit), 让 (ask or let someone do something) and 一下 (just a moment).

At a glance

- **1.** 请 / 可以 …… 吗 / 别 – please / may I …? / don't: 请进。我可以进来吗?
- **2.** 有点儿 and 一点儿 – "a bit": 这个汤有点儿咸。
- **3.** 让 – asking or letting someone do something: 妈妈让我买水果。
- **4.** 一下 and doubled verbs – "just a moment": 我可以看一下吗?

1. Address someone and make a request

Use a suitable title and ask permission politely.

Key sentences

- **王老师，对不起，我来晚了。** *Wáng lǎoshī, duìbuqǐ, wǒ lái wǎn le.* – Teacher Wang, I'm sorry I'm late.
- **我可以进来吗?** *Wǒ kěyǐ jìnlai ma?* – May I come in?
- **可以，请进。** *Kěyǐ, qǐng jìn.* – Yes, please come in.
- **请别说话。** *Qǐng bié shuōhuà.* – Please don't talk.

How it works

Addressing people. The surname comes first, then the title: 王老师 (Teacher Wang), 李医生 (Doctor Li). Chinese students call teachers 老师 rather than by name.

Three kinds of request

Purpose	Pattern	Example
ask permission	我可以 …… 吗?	我可以进来吗?
ask politely	请 + verb	请进。请坐。
ask someone not to	(请) 别 + verb	请别说话。

可以 … 吗: ask permission politely



■ Watch out

- *wrong:* 老师王 → 王老师.
- 你不说话 is a statement (“you don’t talk”). To ask, say 请别说话.

■ Words in context

- **老师** lǎoshī – teacher. 王老师。
- **可以** kěyǐ – may / can with permission. 我可以进来吗?
- **进来** jìnlái – come in. 请进来。
- **别** bié – do not, instruction. 别说话。
- **晚** wǎn – late. 我来晚了。

■ Reading

林安来晚了。她说：“ 王老师，对不起。我可以进来吗？ ” 王老师说：“ 可以，请进来。别说话。 ”

■ Speaking

Address Teacher Li, ask to come in, and respond when permission is given.

2. 有点儿 and 一点儿 – “a bit”

Form: 有点儿 + adjective · adjective + 一点儿 · 一点儿 + noun

- **这个汤有点儿咸。** *Zhège tāng yǒudiǎnr xián.* – This soup is a bit salty.
- **可以便宜一点儿吗?** *Kěyǐ piányi yìdiǎnr ma?* – Could it be a bit cheaper?
- **我想喝一点儿水。** *Wǒ xiǎng hē yìdiǎnr shuǐ.* – I’d like a little water.

- **我一点儿也不累。** *Wǒ yìdiǎnr yě bú lèi.* – I'm not tired at all.

How it works. Both mean "a bit", but the position changes the job.

有点儿 + adjective	adjective + 一点儿
comments on how things are now	compares, or asks for a change
usually something unwanted	often in requests
有点儿贵 (a bit expensive)	便宜一点儿 (a bit cheaper)
有点儿累 (a bit tired)	快一点儿 (a bit faster)

Before a noun, 一点儿 means "a little": 一点儿水. With 也不 or 都不 it means "not at all": 一点儿也不冷.

Watch out

- To ask for a lower price, say 便宜一点儿. *wrong:* 有点儿便宜 says "it's a bit cheap".
- 有点儿 sounds negative, so *wrong:* 有点儿好 is odd. Say 很好 or 不错.

有点儿 + adjective: a mild complaint



asking for a change uses adjective + 一点儿: 便宜一点儿吗?

3. 让 – asking or letting someone do something

Form: A + 让 + B + verb · 不让 · 让我 ……

- **妈妈让我买水果。** *Māma ràng wǒ mǎi shuǐguǒ.* – Mum asked me to buy fruit.
- **让我看看。** *Ràng wǒ kànkan.* – Let me have a look.
- **他不让我去。** *Tā bú ràng wǒ qù.* – He won't let me go.
- **谁让你来的?** *Shéi ràng nǐ lái de?* – Who asked you to come?

How it works. 让 *ràng* means that someone asks, tells or allows another person to do something. The person who does the action comes straight after 让, then the action: 老师 + 让 + 我们 + 读书.

Questions. 谁 replaces the person who asked (谁让你来的?); 什么 replaces the action (老师让我们做什么?).

Saying no. 不 goes before 让: 他不让我去 (he doesn't allow me to go).

Watch out

- *wrong:* 妈妈让买我水果 → 妈妈让我买水果: the person goes directly after 让.
- 让 reports a request; it does not say the action is done. 妈妈让我买水果 does not mean you have bought it.

A 让 B + verb: someone asks someone to act



4. 一下 and doubled verbs – "just a moment"

Form: verb + 一下 · doubled verb (看看, 试试, 休息休息)

- **我可以看一下吗?** *Wǒ kěyǐ kàn yíxià ma?* – May I have a quick look?
- **请等一下。** *Qǐng děng yíxià.* – Please wait a moment.
- **你试试这件衣服。** *Nǐ shìshi zhè jiàn yīfu.* – Try this jacket on.
- **我介绍一下我的朋友。** *Wǒ jièshào yíxià wǒ de péngyou.* – Let me introduce my friend.

How it works. Both patterns make an action short and light: "have a look", "give it a try", "just a moment". They make requests softer and friendlier.

- 一下 *yíxià* follows the verb, and the object comes after it: 看一下这本书.
- A one-syllable verb doubles with a light second syllable: 看看, 试试, 问问. A two-syllable verb doubles as a whole: 介绍介绍, 休息休息.

Watch out

- Use one or the other: *wrong:* 看看一下 → 看看 or 看一下.
- These patterns are for short, casual actions. For a whole year of study, say 学习一年 (*wrong:* 学习一下).

Verb + 一下 softens a request



a doubled verb does the same job: 你试试这件衣服。

Practice

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

■ 1. Address someone and make a request

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

- A. To leave
- B. To come in
- C. To sit here

2. Reading. What does the teacher ask Lin An not to do?

- A. Speak
- B. Sit
- C. Enter

3. Complete "May I come in?": 我 …… 进来吗?

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

- (1) 老师
- (2) 可以
- (3) 进来
- (4) 别
- (5) 晚

- A. teacher
- B. may / can with permission
- C. do not, instruction
- D. late
- E. come in

5. Write a polite request to sit here, using a surname and title. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. 我可以进来吗? 可以 means may or can, and 进来 means come in. In a classroom entrance situation, what is the speaker doing?

- A. Giving their name
- B. Asking permission to enter
- C. Announcing that the teacher must leave

7. A teacher replies 可以，请进来。别说话。可以 permits entry, 请进来 means please come in and 别说话 means do not talk. First separate permission from the restriction. Which action is allowed?

- A. Entering while continuing a loud conversation
- B. Entering, with an instruction not to talk
- C. Leaving immediately because entry is refused

8. 王老师 says 现在不能进来，请在门口等一下。门口 means doorway and 等 wait. What should the visitor understand?

- A. The visitor can enter now but should wait briefly inside.
- B. The visitor cannot enter now and should wait at the doorway.
- C. The visitor cannot enter now and must never return.

9. Write or speak a fictional classroom exchange: address a teacher appropriately, ask permission for a specific action, and give a reply that permits it with one condition or asks the visitor to wait. Explain which action is allowed and which is restricted. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 有点儿 and 一点儿 – “a bit”

10. At a market: “Can it be a bit cheaper?” 可以便宜 …… 吗?

11. You feel slightly tired after class. Which fits?

- A. 我有点儿累。
- B. 我一点儿累。
- C. 我累一点儿。

12. True or false? 一点儿也不冷 means “not cold at all”. If false, correct it.

13. Build: “Please speak a bit more slowly.”

Put in order: 一点儿。/ 说 / 请 / 慢

14. You are buying a jacket. It is a little too big and a little expensive. Say one sentence about each problem and one request, then write them in Chinese. Use 有点儿 and 一点儿. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 让 – asking or letting someone do something

15. Complete: “The teacher asks us to read.” 老师 …… 我们读书。

16. Which sentence says “He won’t let me go”?

- A. 他让不我去。
- B. 他不让我去。
- C. 他让我不去。

17. True or false? 妈妈让我买水果 tells us that I have already bought the fruit. If false, correct it.

18. Build: “Who asked you to come?”

Put in order: 让 / 你 / 来的? / 谁

19. Tell a friend about two things your parents ask you to do at home, and one thing they do not let you do. Use 让. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. 一下 and doubled verbs – “just a moment”

20. Complete: “Please wait a moment.” 请等 ……。

21. Which sentence is natural for “Let me introduce my friend”?

- A. 我介绍一下我的朋友。
- B. 我一下介绍我的朋友。
- C. 我介绍我的朋友一下一下。

22. True or false? 试试 and 试一下 can both mean “try (briefly)”. If false, correct it.

23. Build: “Try this jacket on.”

Put in order: 衣服。/ 你 / 这件 / 试试

24. In a shop you want to look at a bag, try on a jacket and ask the assistant to wait. Say three short requests, then write them in Chinese. Use 一下 and doubled verbs. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

25. Choose 有点儿 or 一点儿: 这个汤 …… 咸。/ 请说慢 ……。

26. Ask your teacher, Teacher Wang, if you may come in.

27. Say “Mum asked me to buy fruit” with 让.

28. Make the request softer with 一下：请等。

29. Find and fix the problem. In a quiet library, a classmate says 你不说话 to ask someone to be quiet. Make it a clear request.

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30. Use it yourself. Ask a classmate to wait a moment, then ask them not to open the door.

Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. Address someone and make a request

1. *Script:* 李老师，我可以坐这里吗?

C. To sit here

坐这里 asks to sit here, not to enter.

2. A. Speak

别说话 is a negative instruction about speaking.

3. 可以

可以 …… 吗 asks permission.

4. (1) A: 老师 = teacher; (2) B: 可以 = may / can with permission; (3) E: 进来 = come in; (4) C: 别 = do not, instruction; (5) D: 晚 = late

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

5. Model answer: 王老师，我可以坐这里吗?

Check your answer:

- Put the surname before 老师.
- Use 可以 and 吗.
- State the action requested.

6. B. Asking permission to enter

可以 … 吗 asks whether entry is allowed in this situation. It is a request for permission, not proof that permission has been granted. Wait for the reply.

7. B. Entering, with an instruction not to talk

可以，请进来 allows entry, while 别说话 restricts talking. Entry permission does not cancel the following instruction. The teacher has not refused entry.

8. B. The visitor cannot enter now and should wait at the doorway.

现在不能进来 refuses entry now, and 请在门口等一下 asks the visitor to wait at the doorway. It does not permit immediate entry or establish a permanent ban. Keep the time limit and the requested waiting place.

9. Model answer: Possible exchange: 李老师，我可以进来吗? 可以，请进来。别说话。The visitor may enter but is instructed not to talk. A different title or action can work when suited to the fictional person and situation.

How to revise: If you treated the question as an approval, locate the reply and revise. If you dropped a negative instruction, identify its verb and state what must not happen. Compare the intended meaning; written self-review cannot judge your tone or pronunciation.

Check your answer:

- Use a form of address appropriate to the imagined person.

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- Ask permission for a named action.
- Make the reply's permission or refusal clear.
- Keep any condition or restriction separate from the allowed action.

If you treated the question as an approval, locate the reply and revise. If you dropped a negative instruction, identify its verb and state what must not happen. Compare the intended meaning; written self-review cannot judge your tone or pronunciation.

■ 2. 有点儿 and 一点儿 – "a bit"

10. 一点儿

To ask for a change, put 一点儿 after the adjective – 便宜一点儿.

11. A. 我有点儿累。

A mild unwanted feeling uses 有点儿 before the adjective. 累一点儿 would compare or ask for more tiredness.

12. True.

True. 一点儿 with 也不 means "not at all".

13. 请说慢一点儿。

Request + verb + adjective + 一点儿 asks for a small change.

14. Model answer: 这件衣服有点儿大，也有点儿贵。可以便宜一点儿吗?

Check your answer:

- I used 有点儿 before 大 and 贵 to describe the problems now.
- My request puts 一点儿 after the adjective (便宜一点儿 or 小一点儿).
- I did not use 有点儿 to ask for a change.
- I tried another version with a different item or problem.

■ 3. 让 – asking or letting someone do something

15. 让

让 + person + action reports a request.

16. B. 他不让我去。

不 goes before 让 to say he does not allow it. 他让我不去 means he told me not to go.

17. False.

False. 让 reports the request; it does not say the action has been done.

18. 谁让你来的?

谁 replaces the person who asked; the person told comes after 让.

19. Model answer: 妈妈让我做饭，爸爸让我洗衣服。他们不让我晚上玩手机。

Check your answer:

- Each request has the person directly after 让, then the action.
- My "not allowed" sentence puts 不 before 让.

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- I described requests, not finished actions.
- I tried another version with a different person, such as 老师 or 朋友.

■ 4. 一下 and doubled verbs – "just a moment"

20. 一下

一下 after the verb makes the action short and polite.

21. A. 我介绍一下我的朋友。

一下 follows the verb directly, and the object comes after it.

22. True.

True. A doubled verb and verb + 一下 give the same light, brief meaning.

23. 你试试这件衣服。

A doubled verb comes before its object.

24. Model answer: 我可以看一下这个包吗？我试试这件衣服。请等一下。

Check your answer:

- Each request uses 一下 or a doubled verb once, not both.
- Any object comes after 一下 or after the doubled verb.
- My requests sound polite and brief.
- I tried another version with different items.

■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 李老师，我可以坐这里吗？ – Teacher Li, may I sit here?

Reading in English. Lin An arrives late. She apologises to Teacher Wang and asks to come in. The teacher permits her and asks her not to talk.

Speaking model. A: 李老师，我可以进来吗？B: 可以，请进来。A: 谢谢。

■ Mixed practice

25. 这个汤有点儿咸。请说慢一点儿。有点儿 goes before an adjective and often complains; 一点儿 goes after an adjective and means "a little more".

26. 王老师，我可以进来吗？The surname comes before the title, and 可以 …… 吗 asks permission.

27. 妈妈让我买水果。让 + person + action: someone asks or lets that person do it.

28. 请等一下。一下 after a verb makes the action short and the request gentler.

29. 你不说话 sounds like a statement ("you don't talk"). To ask someone not to do something, use 请别说话 or 请不要说话.

30. Model answer. 请等一下。请别开门。一下 makes the first request short and gentle; 别 asks someone not to do something.

Review later. Tomorrow, turn two 不 statements into polite 别 requests.

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Events, objects and shopping comparisons

HSK 2

Compare two things before you buy, and talk about what has already happened. A 比 B + adjective compares two things; 最 picks out the most and 第 counts first, second, third. 已经 …… 了 and 还没 …… 呢 say "already" and "not yet", and 是 …… 的 asks and tells how, when or where something that already happened was done.

At a glance

- **1.** A 比 B + adjective – A is more … than B: 这个比那个贵。
- **2.** 已经 …… 了 and 还没 …… 呢 – already and not yet: 电影已经开始了。
- **3.** 最 and 第 – the most, and first, second, third: 第一个手机最便宜。
- **4.** 是 …… 的 – how, when and where it happened: 你是怎么来的?

1. Compare two things before buying

Describe a difference and ask about the preferred item.

Key sentences

- **红色的杯子比蓝色的贵。** *Hóngsè de bēizi bǐ lánsè de guì.* – The red cup is more expensive than the blue one.
- **蓝色的更便宜。** *Lánsè de gèng piányi.* – The blue one is even cheaper.
- **红色的比蓝色的贵五块钱。** – The red one costs five yuan more than the blue one.
- **但是我更喜欢红色。** *Dànshì wǒ gèng xǐhuan hóngsè.* – But I like red better.

How it works

A 比 B + adjective means "A is more … than B". The adjective follows 比 B directly; 很 and 非常 are not used there. To say by how much, add the difference at the end: 贵五块钱.

更 means "even more" or "more": 更便宜, 更喜欢.

Colour + 的 stands for "the … one": 红色的 (the red one).

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A 比 B + adjective



no 很 inside a 比 sentence: 这个比那个贵 (not 很贵)

Watch out

- *wrong:* 这个比那个很贵 → 这个比那个贵.
- Check the numbers before you choose the adjective: the cheaper item takes 便宜.

Words in context

- **比** bǐ – than, comparison. 这个比那个贵。
- **贵** guì – expensive. 这个很贵。
- **便宜** piányi – cheap / inexpensive. 那个更便宜。
- **颜色** yánsè – colour. 你喜欢什么颜色?
- **但是** dànshì – but. 便宜，但是太小。

Reading

红色的杯子二十块钱，蓝色的杯子十五块钱。红色的比蓝色的贵，但是林安更喜欢红色。

Speaking

Compare two fictional cups by price. Ask which colour a partner prefers.

2. 已经 …… 了 and 还没 …… 呢 – already and not yet

Form: 已经 + verb / state + 了 · 还没 + verb + 呢

- **电影已经开始了。** *Diànyǐng yǐjīng kāishǐ le.* – The film has already started.
- **已经十点了。** *Yǐjīng shí diǎn le.* – It's already ten o'clock.
- **他已经学了两年汉语了。** – He has been studying Chinese for two years (and still is).
- **我还没吃饭呢。** *Wǒ hái méi chī fàn ne.* – I haven't eaten yet.

How it works. 已经 *yǐjīng* (already) goes before the verb, and 了 closes the sentence.

It says something has happened by now, often sooner than expected. With a time or age it says a point has been reached: 已经十点了, 他已经二十岁了.

With a length of time and two 了 (学了两年汉语了), the action is still going on.

Not yet. The opposite is 还没 …… 呢. Do not combine 已经 with 没.

Questions. 你已经买票了吗? or 你买票了没有?

Watch out

- *wrong:* 开始已经了 → 已经开始了.
- *wrong:* 我已经没吃 → 我还没吃呢.

已经 … 了: it has already happened



3. 最 and 第 – the most, and first, second, third

Form: 最 + adjective / verb · 第 + number (+ measure word + noun)

- **第一个手机最便宜。** *Dì yī ge shǒujī zuì piányi.* – The first phone is the cheapest.
- **我最喜欢苹果。** *Wǒ zuì xǐhuan píngguǒ.* – I like apples best.
- **这是我第一次来北京。** *Zhè shì wǒ dì yī cì lái Běijīng.* – This is my first time in Beijing.

How it works.

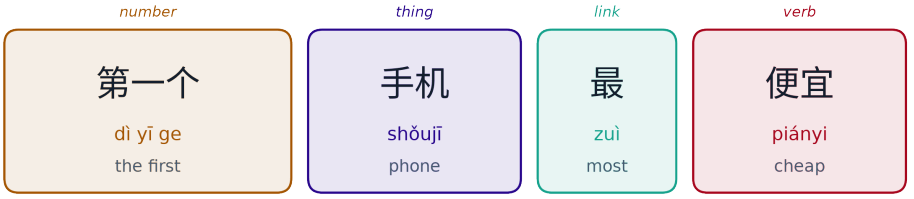
- 最 *zuì* means "the most" and picks one out of a group: 最好 (best), 最便宜 (cheapest), 最喜欢 (like most). No 比 is needed.
- 第 *dì* turns a number into an order: 第一 (first), 第二 (second), 第三天 (the third day). Keep the measure word before the noun: 第二个学生, 第三本书.

三个学生	第三个学生
three students	the third student

Watch out

- After 第, "two" is 二: 第二 (*wrong:* 第两).
- 第一次 means "the first time": 我第一次吃饺子.

最 = the most · 第 + number = the …th



4. 是 …… 的 – how, when and where it happened

Form: (是) + when / how / where / with whom + verb + 的

- **你是怎么来的?** *Nǐ shì zěnme lái de?* – How did you get here?
- **我是坐飞机来的。** *Wǒ shì zuò fēijī lái de.* – I came by plane.
- **你是在哪儿买的?** *Nǐ shì zài nǎr mǎi de?* – Where did you buy it?
- **我不是昨天来的。** *Wǒ bú shì zuótiān lái de.* – I didn't come yesterday.

How it works. Use 是 …… 的 when everyone already knows that something happened, and you want to ask or tell a detail of it: when, how, where or with whom. The detail goes right after 是; 的 follows the verb.

了	是 …… 的
reports that it happened: 他来了	stresses a detail of a known event: 他是昨天来的

In speech 是 is often left out (我昨天来的), but 的 must stay. The negative puts 不 before 是.

Watch out

- 是 …… 的 is only for the past. A plan is *wrong:* 我是明天去的 → 我明天去.
- *wrong:* 我是坐飞机来 → keep the 的.

是 ... 的 highlights how or when it happened



Practice

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

■ 1. Compare two things before buying

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

- A. That cup
- B. They cost the same
- C. This cup

2. Reading. Why might Lin An still choose the red cup?

- A. She prefers its colour
- B. The text says blue is broken
- C. It is cheaper

3. Complete “This is more expensive than that”: 这个 …… 那个贵。

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

- (1) 比
- (2) 贵
- (3) 便宜
- (4) 颜色
- (5) 但是
- A. but

- B. colour
- C. cheap / inexpensive
- D. than, comparison
- E. expensive

5. Write a comparison and then a preference. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. 红色的比蓝色的贵。红色 means red, 蓝色 blue and 贵 expensive. Which cup costs more?

- A. They must cost the same
- B. The blue cup
- C. The red cup

7. A red notebook costs thirty yuan and a blue notebook twenty. First identify the higher price. Which sentence preserves the relation? 贵 means expensive and 便宜 inexpensive.

- A. 红色的比蓝色的便宜。
- B. 红色的比蓝色的贵。
- C. 蓝色的比红色的贵。

8. Read: 大杯子二十块钱，小杯子十五块钱。林安更喜欢小杯子。杯子 means cup. Which account preserves cost and preference?

- A. The small cup costs less; Lin An prefers the small cup.
- B. The small cup costs more; Lin An prefers the small cup.
- C. The small cup costs less; Lin An prefers the large cup.

9. Invent two items with different prices. Write one 比 comparison and a fictional customer's preference. Ask which item costs more and which the customer prefers. Give a possible preference that does not simply follow the price. Speak the questions and replies or write both roles. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 已经 …… 了 and 还没 …… 呢 – already and not yet

10. Complete: "I have already eaten." 我 …… 吃饭了。

11. A friend asks if you have bought the tickets. You have not. Which reply fits?

- A. 我已经没买了。
- B. 我买已经了。
- C. 我还没买呢。

12. True or false? 他已经学了两年汉语了 suggests he is still studying Chinese now. If false, correct it.

13. Build: "The film has already started."

Put in order: 电影 / 开始 / 已经 / 了。

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14. Your friend is checking a party plan. Say two things you have already done and one you have not done yet. Use 已经 …… 了 and 还没 …… 呢. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 最 and 第 – the most, and first, second, third

15. Complete: "the second student" …… 二个学生

16. Which sentence says "I like apples the most"?

- A. 我喜欢最苹果。
- B. 我比喜欢苹果。
- C. 我最喜欢苹果。

17. True or false? 三个学生 and 第三个学生 mean the same thing. If false, correct it.

18. Build: "This is my first time in Beijing."

Put in order: 这是 / 来北京。/ 第一次 / 我

19. Describe three dishes in a restaurant. Say which one is the cheapest, which one you like most, and that it is your first time here. Use 最 and 第. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. 是 …… 的 – how, when and where it happened

20. Complete: "I came yesterday." 我是昨天来 ……。

21. Build: "I came by plane."

Put in order: 来的。/ 我 / 坐飞机 / 是

22. Match each sentence to the detail it stresses.

- (1) 我是昨天来的。
- (2) 我是坐火车来的。
- (3) 我是在北京买的。
- (4) 我是跟妈妈一起来的。
- A. with whom
- B. where
- C. how
- D. when

23. You want to know where your friend bought her bag. Which question fits?

- A. 你是在哪儿买的?
- B. 你在哪儿买是的?
- C. 你买的在哪儿是?

24. Your friend is at the door. You tell your mum the news: "Xiao Wang is here!" Which fits?

- A. 小王来了!

- B. 小王来的了!
- C. 小王是来的!
- D. 小王是来了的!

25. "I didn't come by plane." Which is correct?

- A. 我不是坐飞机来的。
- B. 我不坐飞机来的。
- C. 我没是坐飞机来的。
- D. 我是不坐飞机来的。

26. True or false? 我是明天坐飞机去的 is a good way to describe a plan for tomorrow. If false, correct it.

27. A classmate asks about your last trip. Say when you went, how you travelled and who you went with. Use 是 …… 的. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

28. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 这个比那个很贵。
- B. 这个比那个贵。
- C. 这个比那个是贵。

29. Choose 已经 …… 了 or 还没 …… 呢: The film has already started. / The film has not started yet.

30. Your friend arrived yesterday. Ask how they came.

31. Say "the first phone is the cheapest".

32. Find and fix the problem. A big bag costs eighty yuan and a small bag fifty. A classmate says 小的比大的贵. Correct the comparison.

33. Use it yourself. Choose one of the bags and give one reason for and one reason against.

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Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. Compare two things before buying

1. *Script:* 这个杯子十块钱，那个十五块钱。这个比那个便宜。

C. This cup

十块 is less than 十五块, so 这个 is cheaper.

2. A. She prefers its colour

更喜欢红色 states a preference despite the higher price.

3. 比

比 introduces the comparison standard.

4. (1) D: 比 = than, comparison; (2) E: 贵 = expensive; (3) C: 便宜 = cheap / inexpensive; (4) B: 颜色 = colour; (5) A: 但是 = but

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

5. Model answer: 红色的比蓝色的贵，但是我更喜欢红色。

Check your answer:

- Make the comparison direction clear.
- Give a preference separately.
- Use 但是 only where it marks a contrast.

6. C. The red cup

The item before 比 is described as more expensive than the comparison item after 比. Reversing them reverses the claim; the sentence does not establish anyone's preference.

7. B. 红色的比蓝色的贵。

Thirty exceeds twenty, so the red notebook is more expensive. The other options reverse the price relation. Check both the order of the items and the adjective.

8. A. The small cup costs less; Lin An prefers the small cup.

The small cup costs fifteen versus twenty for the large one, so it costs less. 更喜欢小杯子 names Lin An's preference for the small cup. The other choices change either the price relation or the preferred item; her reason is not stated.

9. Model answer: Possible account: 红色的杯子二十块钱，蓝色的十五块钱。红色的比蓝色的贵，但是我更喜欢红色。The red cup costs more but the speaker prefers it. The preference may differ for another person; the account does not state why.

How to revise: If your adjective contradicts the prices, compare the numbers again and reverse either the item order or the adjective as needed. If you inferred preference from price, add an explicit preference statement instead.

Check your answer:

- Keep both prices and the comparison consistent.

- Put the compared items in the intended order around 比.
- Name whose preference is being described.
- Avoid inventing a reason or a rule for all customers.

If your adjective contradicts the prices, compare the numbers again and reverse either the item order or the adjective as needed. If you inferred preference from price, add an explicit preference statement instead.

■ 2. 已经 …… 了 and 还没 …… 呢 – already and not yet

10. 已经

已经 comes before the verb, and 了 ends the sentence.

11. C. 我还没买呢。

"Not yet" is 还没 + verb + 呢. 已经 does not combine with 没 for this meaning.

12. True.

True. With a length of time and a final 了, the action has gone on for two years and continues.

13. 电影已经开始了。

Subject + 已经 + verb + 了.

14. Model answer: 我已经买水果了，也已经打电话了。我还没做饭呢。

Check your answer:

- My "already" sentences put 已经 before the verb and end with 了.
- My "not yet" sentence uses 还没 + verb + 呢.
- I did not combine 已经 with 没.
- I tried another version with different tasks or a time (已经八点了).

■ 3. 最 and 第 – the most, and first, second, third

15. 第

第 before a number makes an ordinal; the measure word 个 still comes before the noun.

16. C. 我最喜欢苹果。

最 goes before the verb 喜欢. No 比 is needed when you pick out the most.

17. False.

False. 三个学生 is a quantity (three students); 第三个学生 is an order (the third student).

18. 这是我第一次来北京。

第一次 means "the first time" and comes before the action.

19. Model answer: 第一个菜最便宜。我最喜欢第三个菜。这是我第一次来这儿。

Check your answer:

- I used 最 before an adjective or 喜欢 to pick one out.

- My ordinal numbers use 第 + number + measure word.
- I used 第二, not 第两.
- I tried another version with different items, such as phones or books.

■ 4. 是 …… 的 – how, when and where it happened

20. 的

是 …… 的 frames the detail 昨天; 的 comes after the verb 来.

21. 我是坐飞机来的。

是 + how (坐飞机) + verb + 的.

22. (1) D: 我是昨天来的。= when; (2) C: 我是坐火车来的。= how; (3) B: 我是在北京买的。= where; (4) A: 我是跟妈妈一起来的。= with whom

The detail sits between 是 and the verb.

23. A. 你是在哪儿买的?

是 + where (在哪儿) + verb + 的 asks about the place of a past action.

24. A. 小王来了!

News that something happened → 了. 是 …… 的 is for a detail (when, how, where, with whom) of known news.

25. A. 我不是坐飞机来的。

不 goes before 是, and 是 cannot be dropped in the negative.

26. False.

False. 是 …… 的 is for actions that have already happened. For a plan, say 我明天坐飞机去.

27. Model answer: 我是上个月去的。我是坐火车去的，是跟我哥哥去的。

Check your answer:

- Each sentence puts the detail after 是 and 的 after the verb.
- I described a trip that has already happened.
- If I dropped 是, I kept 的.
- I tried another version with a different trip or detail.

■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 这个杯子十块钱，那个十五块钱。这个比那个便宜。– This cup costs ten yuan and that one fifteen. This one is cheaper.

Reading in English. The red cup costs twenty yuan and the blue one fifteen. Red is more expensive, but Lin An prefers red.

Speaking model. A: 红色的比蓝色的贵。你喜欢什么颜色？B: 我喜欢蓝色。

■ Mixed practice

28. B. After A 比 B, put the adjective directly; 很 and 是 do not go there.

29. 电影已经开始了。电影还没开始呢。

30. 你是怎么来的？是 …… 的 asks about the way an action that already happened was done.

31. 第一个手机最便宜。第 + number counts order; 最 + adjective means “the most”.

32. Fifty is less than eighty, so say 小的比大的便宜, or turn it round: 大的比小的贵.

33. Model answer. 我要小的。小的比大的便宜，但是放不下我的书。The small one is cheaper, but it cannot hold my books.

Review later. Tomorrow, compare two other things, then swap A and B and change the adjective.

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Weather, describing places and directions

HSK 2

Give and follow directions. 从 …… 到 …… gives the start and the end of a route, 先 …… 再 …… puts the steps in order, and 往 and 向 point the way. 离 tells you how far one place is from another, and 着 describes a state that continues, like a door that is open.

At a glance

- **1.** 从 …… 到 …… / 先 …… 再 …… – from … to … / first … then …: 从学校到医院，先向右走，再向左转。
- **2.** 离 – near to, far from, and time until: 我家离学校很近。
- **3.** 着 – describing a continuing state: 门开着，灯也开着。
- **4.** 往 – giving directions: 往前走，到路口往左拐。

1. Understand a route and repair confusion

Follow simple directions and ask for clarification.

Key sentences

- **从学校到医院怎么走？** *Cóng xuéxiào dào yīyuàn zěnme zǒu?* – How do I get from the school to the hospital?
- **先向右走，再向左转。** *Xiān xiàng yòu zǒu, zài xiàng zuǒ zhuǎn.* – First go right, then turn left.
- **医院在图书馆旁边。** – The hospital is next to the library.
- **对不起，请再说一遍。** *Duìbuqǐ, qǐng zài shuō yí biàn.* – Sorry, could you say that again?

How it works

从 A 到 B gives the start and the end of a route. **先 …… 再 ……** puts steps in order: 先 is the first step, 再 the next. **向左 / 向右** + 走 or 转 gives the direction.

Checking you understood. If you miss a step, ask 请再说一遍 (please say it once more), then repeat the route back: 先向右走，再向左转，对吗?

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先 … 再 …: first … then …



Watch out

- The order of 先 and 再 is the order of the actions.
- 从学校到医院 describes a route; it does not say where the hospital is.

Words in context

- **从** cóng – from. 从学校出发。
- **到** dào – to / arrive. 到医院。
- **左** zuǒ – left. 向左转。
- **右** yòu – right. 向右转。
- **再** zài – then / again after. 先走，再转。

Reading

从学校到医院，先向右走，再向左转。医院在图书馆旁边。林安听不清，问：“请再说一遍。”

Speaking

Give two-step directions. Your partner asks you to repeat the final turn.

2. 离 – near to, far from, and time until

Form: A + 离 + B + 近 / 远 · A 离 B 有 + distance · 离 + event + 还有 + time

- **我家离学校很近。** *Wǒ jiā lí xuéxiào hěn jìn.* – My home is very close to school.
- **医院离这儿不远。** *Yīyuàn lí zhèr bù yuǎn.* – The hospital isn't far from here.
- **我家离学校有两公里。** – My home is two kilometres from school.
- **离考试还有三天。** *Lí kǎoshì hái yǒu sān tiān.* – There are three days left until the exam.

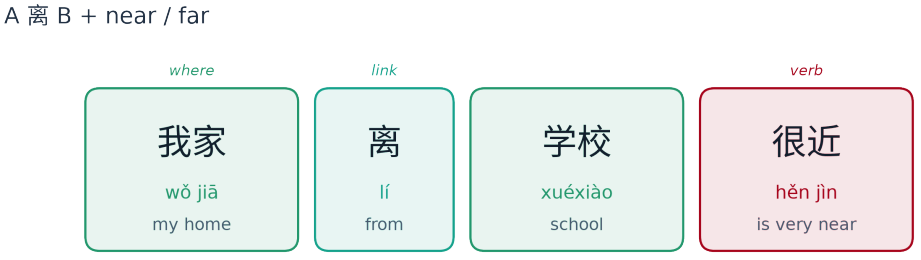
How it works. 离 *lí* measures the gap between two points. The first is the topic, the second is the reference point. To ask, use 远吗: 你家离学校远吗? The same pattern measures time until an event: 离 + event + 还有 + time.

离 or 从?

离	从 …… 到 ……
distance between two places	a route or journey
我家离学校很近	从我家到学校要十分钟

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我家离学校是近 → 我家离学校很近.
- 离 does not mark a starting point: *wrong:* 离北京出发 → 从北京出发.



3. 着 – describing a continuing state

Form: verb + 着 · place + verb + 着 + thing · verb_1 + 着 + verb_2

- **门开着，灯也开着。** *Mén kāizhe, dēng yě kāizhe.* – The door is open and the lights are on.
- **桌子上放着一本书。** *Zhuōzi shang fàngzhe yì běn shū.* – There's a book lying on the table.
- **他笑着说：“你好！”** *Tā xiàozhe shuō: “Nǐ hǎo!”* – He said hello with a smile.
- **我们坐着吃饭吧。** – Let's eat sitting down.

How it works. 着 *zhe* after a verb describes a state that continues, the result that stays after an action. 开门 is the action of opening; 门开着 is the door standing open.

- **Describing a room or picture:** place + verb + 着 + thing: 墙上写着名字 (names are written on the wall).
- **How someone does something:** verb_1 + 着 + verb_2: 笑着说 (say smiling), 坐着吃 (eat sitting).

着 or 在? 着 is a state; 在 / 正在 + verb is an action in progress: 他在看书 (he is reading).

Watch out

- The negative uses 没: 门没开着 (*wrong:* 门不开着).



4. 往 – giving directions

Form: 往 + direction / place + movement verb · 到 + place + 往 …… 拐

- **往前走，到路口往左拐。** *Wǎng qián zǒu, dào lùkǒu wǎng zuǒ guǎi.* – Go straight on and turn left at the crossing.
- **先往前走，再往右拐。** – First go straight, then turn right.
- **这辆车往北京开。** *Zhè liàng chē wǎng Běijīng kāi.* – This bus is heading for Beijing.

How it works. 往 *wǎng* means "towards". The direction comes straight after it, then the movement verb: 往前走, 往左拐, 往上看. Common directions: 前后左右, 东西南北, 上下.

Giving directions. Join steps with 先 …… 再 ……, and use 到 + place for where the next step happens: 到银行往左拐 (turn left when you reach the bank).

Watch out

- 往 comes before the verb: *wrong:* 拐往左 → 往左拐.
- 往 shows direction, not arrival. 往北京开 = heading for Beijing; 到北京了 = arrived in Beijing.

往 + direction + verb



Practice

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

■ 1. Understand a route and repair confusion

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. What is the final turn in the recording?

- A. Left
- B. Right
- C. No turn

2. Reading. Where is the hospital in the reading?

- A. Inside the school
- B. Beside the station
- C. Beside the library

3. Complete "first go, then turn": 先走，…… 转。

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

- (1) 从
- (2) 到
- (3) 左
- (4) 右
- (5) 再
- A. from
- B. then / again after
- C. left
- D. to / arrive
- E. right

5. Write a two-step route with a starting point and destination. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. 先向左转，再向右转。向左转 means turn left and 向右转 turn right. Which action comes first?

- A. Turn left
- B. Turn right
- C. Both turns happen at once

7. A route says 从图书馆到商店，先向左走，再向右转。图书馆 means library, 商店 shop, 向左走 go left and 向右转 turn right. First identify the start, then the first action. Which pair is correct?

- A. Start at the library; turn right first
- B. Start at the shop; turn right first
- C. Start at the library; go left first

8. Read: 从学校到图书馆，先向右走，再向左转。图书馆在商店旁边。图书馆 means library and 商店 shop. Which statement preserves order and reference place?

- A. The route goes right then left; the library is beside the shop.
- B. The route goes right then left; the school is beside the shop.
- C. The route goes left then right; the library is beside the shop.

9. Create a short fictional route with a start, destination and two ordered actions. Give it to a partner, who repeats the sequence or asks for clarification. Add one location statement about the destination and name one practical route detail you have not supplied. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 离 – near to, far from, and time until

10. Complete: "My home is very close to the school." 我家 …… 学校很近。

11. You want to say how long the trip from home to school takes. Which fits?

- A. 离我家到学校是十分钟。
- B. 我家离学校要十分钟从。
- C. 从我家到学校要十分钟。

12. True or false? 离考试还有三天 means "There are three days left until the exam." If false, correct it.

13. Build: "Is your home far from school?"

Put in order: 离 / 远吗? / 你家 / 学校

14. Describe where you live for a new friend. Say if your home is near or far from school and a shop, and how many days are left until the holiday. Use 离. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 着 – describing a continuing state

15. Complete: “The door is open.” 门开 ……。

16. Which sentence describes a book lying on the table?

- A. 一本书放桌子上着。
- B. 桌子上一本书放着。
- C. 桌子上放着一本书。

17. True or false? 门不开着 is the usual way to say “The door is not open”. If false, correct it.

18. Build: “Let’s eat sitting down.”

Put in order: 坐着 / 吧。/ 吃饭 / 我们

19. Describe your desk or bedroom to a friend on the phone. Say what is on the desk, what is on the wall and whether the window is open. Use 着. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. 往 – giving directions

20. Complete: “Turn left.” …… 左拐。

21. Which says “First go straight, then turn right”?

- A. 先往前走，再往右拐。
- B. 先走往前，再拐往右。
- C. 往前先走，往右再拐。

22. True or false? 这辆车往北京开 means the bus has already arrived in Beijing. If false, correct it.

23. Build: “Turn left when you reach the bank.”

Put in order: 往左 / 拐。/ 到 / 银行

24. A visitor asks you the way from your school gate to a nearby shop. Give two or three steps. Use 往. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

25. Choose 离 or 从: 我家 …… 学校很近。/ …… 学校到医院要十分钟。

26. Say “The door is open” (it stays open).

27. Tell a visitor: go straight, then turn left at the crossing.

28. Find and fix the problem. Directions say 先到车站，再坐地铁. Someone takes the metro first. What went wrong?

29. Use it yourself. Tell a visitor to go straight on, turn left at the next crossing, and ask again if unsure.

Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. Understand a route and repair confusion

1. *Script:* 先向左走，再向右转。医院在学校旁边。

B. Right

再向右转 is the second action.

2. C. Beside the library

医院在图书馆旁边 gives the stated location.

3. 再

再 marks the following action.

4. (1) A: 从 = from; (2) D: 到 = to / arrive; (3) C: 左 = left; (4) E: 右 = right; (5) B: 再 = then / again after

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

5. Model answer: 从学校到医院，先向左走，再向右转。

Check your answer:

- Name the starting point and destination.
- Use 先 and 再 to order actions.
- State a direction for each step.

6. A. Turn left

先 marks the first action, left; 再 introduces the later right turn. Spotting a familiar direction without its sequence marker can reverse the route.

7. C. Start at the library; go left first

从图书馆 gives the start and 先向左走 the first action. 到商店 is the destination, not the start. The right turn follows 再, so it is later.

8. A. The route goes right then left; the library is beside the shop.

先向右走 comes before 再向左转. The last sentence locates the library beside the shop, not the school. One incorrect choice reverses the actions; the other gives the destination's location to the starting place.

9. Model answer: Possible route: 从学校到商店，先向左走，再向右转。商店在医院旁边。Partner: 请再说一遍。Reply: 先向左走，再向右转。The route does not give distance or walking time. This is a fictional language task, not navigation instructions for a real journey.

How to revise: If repetition reverses the route, match each direction with 先 or 再 and repeat again. If a detail is unclear, ask for it explicitly. Do not treat an invented real-world layout as evidence from your short description.

Check your answer:

- Name a start and a distinct destination with 从 … 到 ….

- Keep the actions ordered with 先 … 再 ….
- Make repetition preserve the same directions.
- Distinguish a location statement from an unstated distance or travel time.

If repetition reverses the route, match each direction with 先 or 再 and repeat again. If a detail is unclear, ask for it explicitly. Do not treat an invented real-world layout as evidence from your short description.

■ 2. 离 – near to, far from, and time until

10. 离

离 links the two places when you describe their distance.

11. C. 从我家到学校要十分钟。

A route or journey uses 从 …… 到 ……. 离 describes distance between two places, not a starting point.

12. True.

True. 离 + event + 还有 + time gives the time remaining.

13. 你家离学校远吗?

Place + 离 + reference place + 远吗 asks about distance.

14. Model answer: 我家离学校很近，离商店有点儿远。离放假还有五天。

Check your answer:

- My distance sentences use A 离 B + 近/远 with no 是 before the adjective.
- My time sentence uses 离 + event + 还有 + time.
- I did not use 离 for a route from one place to another.
- I tried another version with different places.

■ 3. 着 – describing a continuing state

15. 着

Verb + 着 shows the open state continues.

16. C. 桌子上放着一本书。

Place + verb + 着 + thing is the pattern for describing a scene.

17. False.

False. The negative of verb + 着 uses 没 – 门没开着.

18. 我们坐着吃饭吧。

Verb1 + 着 + verb2 shows how the second action is done.

19. Model answer: 桌子上放着两本书，墙上写着我的名字。窗户开着。

Check your answer:

- My scene sentences use place + verb + 着 + thing.
- I used 着 for states, not for a quick action.

- Any negative uses 没, not 不.
- I tried another version with a different room or picture.

■ 4. 往 – giving directions

20. 往

往 + direction comes before the movement verb.

21. A. 先往前走，再往右拐。

先 …… 再 …… orders the steps, and 往 + direction comes before each verb.

22. False.

False. 往 shows the direction the bus is heading; arrival would be 到北京了.

23. 到银行往左拐。

到 + place marks where the next step happens, then 往 + direction + verb.

24. Model answer: 先往前走，到路口往右拐，再往前走五分钟就到了。

Check your answer:

- Each step puts 往 + direction before the verb.
- I ordered the steps with 先 …… 再 …… or marked a turning point with 到.
- I did not use 往 to say we have arrived.
- I tried another version with a different destination.

■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 先向左走，再向右转。医院在学校旁边。– First go left, then turn right. The hospital is beside the school.

Reading in English. From school to the hospital, first go right, then turn left. The hospital is beside the library. Lin An asks for repetition because she cannot hear clearly.

Speaking model. A: 先向右走，再向左转。B: 请再说一遍。A: 再向左转。

■ Mixed practice

25. 我家离学校很近。从学校到医院要十分钟。离 measures the distance between two places; 从 marks where a route starts.

26. 门开着。着 after a verb describes a state that continues.

27. 一直往前走，到路口往左拐。往 + direction points the way.

28. 先 marks the first step and 再 the next one: first go to the station, then take the metro.

29. Model answer. 一直往前走，到下一个路口往左拐。不清楚的话，可以再问。

Review later. Tomorrow, give a two-step route and ask a partner to repeat it back to you.

Meals, leisure, experience and advice

HSK 2

Talk about experiences and actions. 过 says you have done something before; 正在 says you are doing it now; 要 …… 了 says it is about to happen. 次 counts how many times, 得 comments on how well something is done, and 一边 …… 一边 …… describes two actions at the same time.

At a glance

- **1.** verb + 过 / 正在 + verb – have done before / doing now: 王力去年去过上海。
- **2.** 得 – saying how well something is done: 你唱得很好!
- **3.** 要 …… 了 – about to happen: 要下雨了，我们回家吧。
- **4.** 一边 …… 一边 …… – doing two things at once: 他一边听音乐，一边做作业。
- **5.** 次 – counting how many times: 我去过两次上海。

1. Talk about an experience and a current action

Distinguish having done something before from doing it now.

Key sentences

- **你去过上海吗?** *Nǐ qù guo Shànghǎi ma?* – Have you ever been to Shanghai?
- **我去年去过。** *Wǒ qùnián qù guo.* – I went there last year.
- **我没去过上海。** *Wǒ méi qù guo Shànghǎi.* – I've never been to Shanghai.
- **你在做什么? — 我正在看书。** *Wǒ zhèngzài kàn shū.* – What are you doing? – I'm reading.

How it works

Verb + 过 tells about an experience: something you have done at least once. The negative is 没 + verb + 过: 没去过 (have never been).

正在 + verb describes an action in progress right now: 我正在学习.

我去过上海	我正在去上海
experience: I have been there	in progress: I'm on my way now

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> ■ **Watch out**
>
> - *wrong:* 我不去过 → 我没去过.
> - 过 is about experience, so it often goes with 以前 or 去年, not with 现在.

■ **Words in context**

- **过** guo – experience marker. 我去过上海。
- **正在** zhèngzài – in the process of. 我正在学习。
- **去年** qùnián – last year. 我去年去过上海。
- **学习** xuéxí – study. 我正在学习中文。
- **以前** yǐqián – before. 我以前去过。

■ **Reading**

王力去年去过上海。林安没去过上海。今天王力正在学习中文，林安正在看书。

■ **Speaking**

Ask whether a partner has been to a city, then ask what they are doing now.

2. 得 – saying how well something is done

Form: verb + 得 + comment · (verb +) object + verb + 得 + comment

- **你唱得很好！** *Nǐ chàng de hěn hǎo!* – You sang really well!
- **他跑得很快。** *Tā pǎo de hěn kuài.* – He runs fast.

- **她说汉语说得很好。 / 她汉语说得很好。** – She speaks Chinese very well.
- **我写得不好。** *Wǒ xiě de bù hǎo.* – I don't write well.

How it works. 得 *de* links an action to a comment on how it is done. The comment is usually 很 + adjective. Ask with 怎么样: 他说得怎么样? – 他说得很好。

With an object. The object cannot go between the verb and 得. Either say the verb twice (说汉语说得很好) or put the object first (汉语说得很好).

The negative. 不 goes after 得, before the adjective: 写得不好.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 她说得汉语很好 → 她汉语说得很好.
- *wrong:* 他很快跑 → 他跑得很快: the comment comes after 得.
- *wrong:* 我不写得好 → 我写得不好.



3. 要 …… 了 – about to happen

Form: (快 / 就) 要 + verb + 了

- **要下雨了，我们回家吧。** *Yào xià yǔ le, wǒmen huí jiā ba.* – It's about to rain; let's go home.
- **火车要开了。** *Huǒchē yào kāi le.* – The train is about to leave.
- **快到了。** *Kuài dào le.* – We're nearly there.
- **我们明天就要考试了。** – We have the exam tomorrow.

How it works. 要 …… 了 says something will happen very soon. The final 了 is part of the pattern. 快要 …… 了 and 快 …… 了 stress that it is very close; 就要 …… 了 can take a time word.

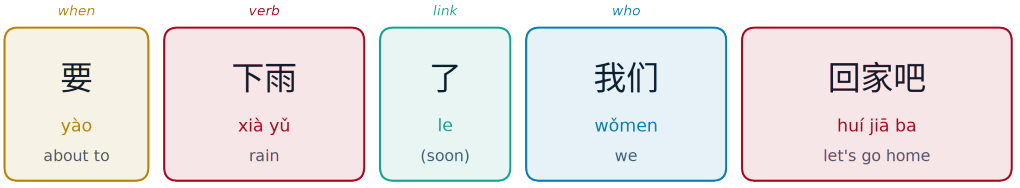
Pattern	Time word possible?	Example
要 …… 了	no	要下雨了
快 (要)…… 了	no	快到了
就要 …… 了	yes	明天就要考试了

Answering. 电影要开始了吗? – 要开始了。/ 还没呢。

Watch out

- Keep the 了: without it, 我要考试 sounds like "I'm going to take an exam" (a plan).
- *wrong:* 明天快要考试了 → 明天就要考试了.

要 … 了: it is about to happen



4. 一边 …… 一边 …… – doing two things at once

Form: subject + 一边 + verb$_1$, 一边 + verb$_2$

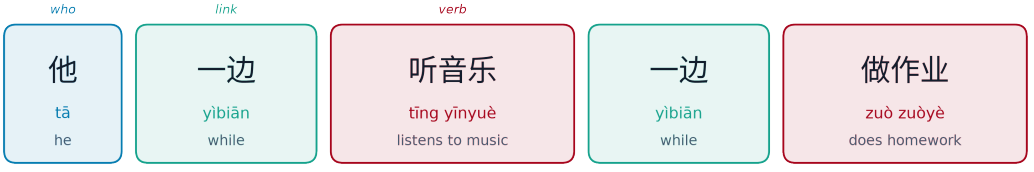
- **他一边听音乐，一边做作业。** *Tā yìbiān tīng yīnyuè, yìbiān zuò zuòyè.* – He does his homework while listening to music.
- **妈妈一边做饭，一边唱歌。** – Mum sings while she cooks.
- **我们边走边说吧。** – Let's talk as we walk.

How it works. 一边 …… 一边 …… describes two actions done at the same time by the same person. The subject comes once, at the start, and each 一边 goes straight before its own verb. In quick speech, 边 …… 边 …… is also common.

Watch out

- Only actions, not states or feelings: *wrong:* 一边很高兴，一边很累.
- *wrong:* 一边吃饭看电视一边 → 一边吃饭，一边看电视.

一边 A，一边 B: two actions at once



5. 次 – counting how many times

Form: verb (+ 过 / 了) + number + 次 (+ object)

- **我去过两次上海。 / 我去过上海两次。** – I've been to Shanghai twice.
- **我看了三次。** *Wǒ kàn le sān cì.* – I watched it three times.
- **我找过他两次。** *Wǒ zhǎo guo tā liǎng cì.* – I've looked for him twice.
- **你去过几次北京?** – How many times have you been to Beijing?

How it works. 次 *cì* counts how many times an action happens. It comes **after** the verb (and after 过 or 了). "Two times" is 两次.

Where does the object go?

Object	Position	Example
a place	before or after 次	去过两次上海 / 去过上海两次
a pronoun	before 次	找过他两次

第一次 means "the first time": 这是我第一次吃饺子.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我两次去过 → 我去过两次.
- *wrong:* 找过两次他 → 找过他两次.



Practice

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

■ 1. Talk about an experience and a current action

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

- A. Swimming
- B. Reading

- C. Travelling to Shanghai

2. Reading. Who has not been to Shanghai?

- A. 王力
- B. Both
- C. 林安

3. Complete "I have been to Shanghai": 我去 …… 上海。

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

- (1) 过
- (2) 正在
- (3) 去年
- (4) 学习
- (5) 以前
- A. study
- B. before
- C. last year
- D. in the process of
- E. experience marker

5. Write one experience sentence and one current-action sentence. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. 我没去过上海。没去过 means have not been to. Which claim is supported?

- A. The speaker has not had the experience of going to Shanghai.
- B. The speaker has never heard the name Shanghai.
- C. The speaker is travelling there now.

7. 林安去年学过游泳，现在正在看书。去年 means last year, 学过游泳 has studied swimming and 正在看书 is reading now. First identify the current-action marker. What is she doing now?

- A. The sentence says she cannot read
- B. Taking a swimming lesson
- C. Reading

8. Read: 王力没去过北京。今天他正在学校学习中文。Which account preserves the experience and current activity?

- A. He has visited Beijing before and is studying at school now.
- B. He has not visited Beijing and is studying in Beijing now.
- C. He has not visited Beijing and is studying Chinese at school now.

9. Invent a fictional person with one earlier travel or learning experience and a different current activity. Write the account, then ask a partner one question about the

experience and one about now. Say which facts about skill or future plans remain unknown. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 得 – saying how well something is done

10. Complete: “He runs very fast.” 他跑 …… 很快。

11. Which sentence says “She speaks Chinese very well”?

- A. 她说得汉语很好。
- B. 她说汉语说得很好。
- C. 她很好说汉语得。

12. True or false? In 我写得不好, the 不 goes after 得 and before the adjective. If false, correct it.

13. Build: “How well did he sing?”

Put in order: 他 / 怎么样? / 唱 / 得

14. A classmate has just given a short talk in Chinese. Say one sentence praising how they spoke and one about something you do not do well, then write both in Chinese. Use 得. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 要 …… 了 – about to happen

15. Complete: “It’s about to rain.” 要下雨 ……。

16. Which says “We have the exam tomorrow”?

- A. 我们明天快要考试了。
- B. 我们要明天考试了吗。
- C. 我们明天就要考试了。

17. True or false? 火车要开了 means the train left some time ago. If false, correct it.

18. Build: “We are nearly there.”

Put in order: 快 / 我们 / 了。/ 到

19. You are on a train with a friend. Say the train is about to arrive, that it is about to rain, and that you have a class tomorrow. Use 要 …… 了. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. 一边 …… 一边 …… – doing two things at once

20. Complete: “eat while watching TV” 一边吃饭，…… 看电视

21. Which sentence says “Mum sings while she cooks”?

- A. 一边妈妈做饭，一边唱歌。
- B. 妈妈一边做饭，一边唱歌。
- C. 妈妈一边做饭唱歌一边。

22. True or false? 他一边很高兴，一边很累 is a natural sentence. If false, correct it.

23. Build: “He does his homework while listening to music.”

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Put in order: 他 / 一边 / 做作业。/ 一边听音乐

24. Describe two habits from your evening routine where you do two things at once. Use 一边 …… 一边 ……. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 5. 次 – counting how many times

25. Complete: “I watched it three times.” 我看了三 ……。

26. Which says “I have looked for him twice”?

- A. 我找过他两次。
- B. 我找过两次他。
- C. 我两次找过他。

27. True or false? 去过两次上海 and 去过上海两次 are both acceptable. If false, correct it.

28. Build: “How many times have you been to Beijing?”

Put in order: 去过 / 几次 / 北京? / 你

29. Tell a friend about places or films you have been to or seen more than once, and something you are doing for the first time. Use 次. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

30. Choose 过, 正在 or 要 …… 了: 我去 …… 北京。/ 我 …… 看书。/ 火车 …… 开 ……。

31. Where does 两次 go? 我去过 / 上海 / 两次

32. Which sentence comments on how well someone sings?

- A. 你唱很好。
- B. 你唱得很好。
- C. 你很好唱。

33. Find and fix the problem. 我去过北京 is translated as “I am going to Beijing now”. Correct the translation.

34. Use it yourself. Say you have been to Beijing before, but now you are reading at home.

Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. Talk about an experience and a current action

1. *Script:* 我以前去过上海。现在我正在看书。

B. Reading

现在 and 正在看书 identify the current action.

2. C. 林安

林安没去过上海 denies her experience.

3. 过

过 after 去 marks the experience in this pattern.

4. (1) E: 过 = experience marker; (2) D: 正在 = in the process of; (3) C: 去年 = last year; (4) A: 学习 = study; (5) B: 以前 = before

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

5. Model answer: 我去过上海。现在我正在学习中文。

Check your answer:

- Use 过 for the experience.
- Use 正在 for the ongoing action.
- Do not imply an experience is happening now.

6. A. The speaker has not had the experience of going to Shanghai.

没去过 denies that travel experience. It does not deny knowing the place's name or establish a current journey. Keep the stated experience separate from general knowledge.

7. C. Reading

现在正在看书 identifies current reading. The swimming study belongs to the earlier experience. Studying swimming earlier does not by itself establish her current proficiency.

8. C. He has not visited Beijing and is studying Chinese at school now.

没去过北京 denies the travel experience. 正在学校学习中文 gives the current activity and school setting. The first choice drops the experience negation; the second replaces the current school location with Beijing.

9. Model answer: Possible account: 我去年去过上海。现在我正在看书。Questions: 你去过上海吗？你现在在做什么？Replies: 去过。正在看书。This does not state a future trip or reading ability level. Other coherent experiences and current activities are valid.

How to revise: If your reply places the person in the earlier travel city now, return to the current-action clause. If a negative experience statement became a permanent inability, revise that unsupported inference.

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Check your answer:

- Use an experience frame for the earlier event.
- Use a current-action frame with a clearly different activity.
- Answer each question from the relevant clause.
- Avoid inferring proficiency or a future plan from experience alone.

If your reply places the person in the earlier travel city now, return to the current-action clause. If a negative experience statement became a permanent inability, revise that unsupported inference.

■ 2. 得 – saying how well something is done

10. 得

得 links the action 跑 to the description 很快.

11. B. 她说汉语说得很好。

With an object, repeat the verb – 说汉语 + 说得很好. The object cannot sit between 得 and 很好, and the description must follow 得.

12. True.

True. The negative comments on the result, so 不 comes after 得 – 写得不好 means "write badly".

13. 他唱得怎么样?

Subject + verb + 得 + 怎么样 asks how well the action was done.

14. Model answer: 你说汉语说得很好。我写汉字写得不好。

Check your answer:

- My first sentence uses verb + 得 + description to praise how the classmate spoke.
- If I named an object (汉语, 汉字), I repeated the verb or put the object before the verb.
- I tried a second version with a different action, such as 跑, 唱 or 做.

■ 3. 要 …… 了 – about to happen

15. 了

The final 了 is required in 要 …… 了.

16. C. 我们明天就要考试了。

With a time word such as 明天, use 就要 …… 了. 快要 does not take a time word.

17. False.

False. 要 …… 了 means the train is about to leave.

18. 我们快到了。

快 + verb + 了 says something is very close to happening.

19. Model answer: 火车快要到了。要下雨了。我们明天就要上课了。

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Check your answer:

- Each sentence ends with 了.
- My sentence with a time word uses 就要 …… 了.
- I talked only about things that have not happened yet.
- I tried another version with a different event.

■ 4. 一边 …… 一边 …… – doing two things at once

20. 一边

Each action takes its own 一边.

21. B. 妈妈一边做饭，一边唱歌。

The subject comes once at the start, and each 一边 sits directly before its verb.

22. False.

False. 一边 …… 一边 joins actions, not states or feelings such as 高兴 and 累.

23. 他一边听音乐一边做作业。

Subject + 一边 + verb1, 一边 + verb2.

24. Model answer: 我一边吃饭，一边看手机。我妹妹一边做作业，一边听音乐。

Check your answer:

- Each sentence has one subject and two actions joined by 一边 …… 一边.
- Each 一边 comes directly before its verb.
- I joined actions, not feelings or states.
- I tried another version with a different person.

■ 5. 次 – counting how many times

25. 次

次 after the number counts the times an action happened.

26. A. 我找过他两次。

A pronoun object comes before 次, and the count follows the verb.

27. True.

True. With a place name, the count can come before or after the place.

28. 你去过几次北京?

Verb + 过 + 几次 + place asks how many times.

29. Model answer: 我去过三次北京。这个电影我看了两次。这是我第一次学汉字。

Check your answer:

- Each count puts the number + 次 after the verb.
- I used 两次, not 二次.
- I used 第一次 for “the first time”.
- I tried another version with a pronoun object (找过他两次).

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■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 我以前去过上海。现在我正在看书。– I have been to Shanghai before. Now I am reading.

Reading in English. Wang Li has been to Shanghai, last year. Lin An has not. Today Wang Li is studying Chinese and Lin An is reading.

Speaking model. A: 你去过上海吗? B: 没去过。A: 你现在在做什么? B: 我正在看书。

■ Mixed practice

30. 我去过北京 (experience)。我正在看书 (happening now)。火车要开了 (about to happen).

31. 我去过两次上海。The number of times usually follows 过 and comes before a place.

32. B. Verb + 得 + comment says how well the action is done.

33. 过 marks an experience: "I have been to Beijing (before)". For an action happening now, use 正在: 我正在去北京的路上.

34. Model answer. 我去过北京，现在正在家看书。过 for the experience, 正在 for what is happening now.

Review later. Tomorrow, say one thing you have done (过) and one thing you are doing now (正在).

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Family, learning history, school and work

HSK 2

Describe your family and explain why people do things. 有 introduces family members, 因为 …… 所以 …… links a reason and a result, 就 and 才 show that something happened earlier or later than expected, and 给 means to, for or give.

At a glance

- **1.** 有 / 因为 …… 所以 …… – have / because … so …: 我有一个姐姐。
- **2.** 就 and 才 – earlier or later than expected: 他七点就来了。
- **3.** 给 – to, for, and give: 我给奶奶打电话，也给她买了一个礼物。

1. Describe a family and explain a custom

Give basic family information and describe a festival activity.

Key sentences

- **我有一个姐姐。** *Wǒ yǒu yí ge jiějie.* – I have an older sister.
- **春节，姐姐回家了。** *Chūnjié, jiějie huí jiā le.* – At the Spring Festival, my sister came home.
- **因为家人在一起，所以大家很高兴。** *Yīnwèi jiārén zài yìqǐ, suǒyǐ dàjiā hěn gāoxìng.* – Because the family is together, everyone is happy.
- **春节你们家做什么？** – What does your family do at the Spring Festival?

How it works

Family. 有 + number + 个 + family word: 我有两个弟弟. 姐姐 is an older sister, 妹妹 a younger one; 哥哥 and 弟弟 are older and younger brothers.

因为 …… 所以 …… links a reason and a result. Chinese often uses both words where English uses only “because” or “so”. You may also use just one of them.

Talking about customs. Describe what *your* family does, then ask: 你们家呢? Families celebrate in different ways.

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Talk about family and a festival



Watch out

- 因为 introduces the reason; 所以 introduces the result. Do not swap them.

Words in context

- **姐姐** jiějie – older sister. 我有一个姐姐。
- **家人** jiārén – family members. 我和家人吃饭。
- **春节** Chūnjié – Spring Festival. 春节我们在家。
- **因为** yīnwèi – because. 因为姐姐回家了。
- **所以** suǒyǐ – so / therefore. 所以我们一起吃饭。

Reading

春节，林安的姐姐回家了。因为家人在一起，所以大家很高兴。晚上他们吃饺子。

Speaking

Describe one fictional family activity during a festival. Ask what another family does, without assuming the same custom.

2. 就 and 才 – earlier or later than expected

Form: time + 就 + verb + 了 · time + 才 + verb

- **他七点就来了。** *Tā qī diǎn jiù lái le.* – He came as early as seven.
- **她九点才来。** *Tā jiǔ diǎn cái lái.* – She didn't come until nine.
- **我学了一个月就会说了。** – After only a month I could speak.
- **我学了一年才会说。** – It took me a whole year before I could speak.

How it works. Both words go after the time and before the verb, and both show the speaker's view of the time.

就 *jiù*	才 *cái*
earlier or faster than expected	later or slower than expected
usually ends with 了	no 了
七点就来了	九点才来

Watch out

- *wrong:* 她九点才来了 → 她九点才来.
- *wrong:* 就七点来了 → 七点就来了: the time comes first.



3. 给 – to, for, and give

Form: 给 + person + verb · A + 给 + person + thing

- **我给奶奶打电话。** *Wǒ gěi nǎinai dǎ diànhuà.* – I phone Grandma.
- **妈妈给我做饭。** *Māma gěi wǒ zuò fàn.* – Mum cooks for me.
- **他给我一本书。** *Tā gěi wǒ yì běn shū.* – He gives me a book.
- **你给谁买的?** *Nǐ gěi shéi mǎi de?* – Who did you buy it for?

How it works. 给 *gěi* has two jobs.

- As a verb it means "give": 给 + person + thing (他给我一本书).

- Before another verb, 给 + person shows who receives the action or benefits from it: 给奶奶打电话 (phone Grandma), 给我写信 (write to me), 给我做饭 (cook for me). The 给 phrase comes **before** the main verb, unlike English "to Grandma".

Negatives and wishes. 不, 没, 想 and 要 go before 给: 我没给他写信, 我想给她买花.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 打电话奶奶 → 给奶奶打电话.
- *wrong:* 我给他没写信 → 我没给他写信.

给 + person + verb: do something for someone



给 can also be the verb itself: 他给我一本书。

Practice

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

■ 1. Describe a family and explain a custom

1. Listening. A partner reads the script for this question from the answers aloud. Why does the family call the sister?

- A. She is not at home
- B. She cooked dumplings
- C. She is a teacher

2. Reading. What causes the family's happiness in the reading?

- A. They buy a phone
- B. They are together
- C. The school opens

3. Complete the result marker: 因为家人在一起，…… 大家很高兴。

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

- (1) 姐姐
- (2) 家人

- (3) 春节
- (4) 因为
- (5) 所以
- A. family members
- B. Spring Festival
- C. so / therefore
- D. older sister
- E. because

5. Write a family activity and one reason-result sentence. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

6. 我有一个姐姐。一个 means one and 姐姐 means older sister. Which information is supplied?

- A. Every family has an older sister.
- B. The sister will return tomorrow.
- C. The speaker has one older sister.

7. 因为哥哥明天要上班，所以今天回家。哥哥 means older brother, 明天要上班 must go to work tomorrow, and 今天回家 goes home today. First locate 因为, the reason marker. Why does he go home today?

- A. Because everyone always returns home on this date
- B. Because the account says he dislikes the family
- C. Because he must work tomorrow

8. Read: 林安有两个弟弟。今年春节，一个弟弟回家，另一个在学校。晚上家人一起吃米饭。弟弟 means younger brother and 另一个 the other. Which account fits this family?

- A. One brother returns, the other is at school; the family eats rice.
- B. Both brothers return home; the family eats rice together that evening.
- C. One brother returns, the other is at school; the family eats dumplings.

9. Invent a fictional family gathering. Give a relationship and quantity, describe one activity, and explain one choice with 因为 … 所以 …. Ask a partner a question about that family. State why the account does not establish a custom for everyone. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 就 and 才 – earlier or later than expected

10. Class starts at 8. “She didn’t come until nine.” 她九点 …… 来。

11. Class starts at 8 and he arrives at 7. Which fits?

- A. 他就七点来了。
- B. 他七点才来了。
- C. 他七点就来了。

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12. True or false? 我学了一年才会说 suggests that learning to speak took a long time. If false, correct it.

13. Build: "After only a month of study I could speak."

Put in order: 就会说 / 学了一个月 / 我 / 了。

14. Tell a friend about this morning. Say one thing that happened earlier than usual and one thing that happened later than you expected. Use 就 and 才. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 给 – to, for, and give

15. Complete: "I phone Grandma." 我 …… 奶奶打电话。

16. Which says "I didn't write to him"?

- A. 我给他没写信。
- B. 我给没他写信。
- C. 我没给他写信。

17. True or false? 他给我一本书 can mean "He gives me a book." If false, correct it.

18. Build: "Who did you buy it for?"

Put in order: 给谁 / 买 / 的? / 你

19. Tell a friend what you did for your family last weekend and one thing you want to do for a friend. Use 给. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

20. Choose 就 or 才: The lesson starts at eight. 他七点 …… 来了。/ 他九点 …… 来。

21. Say "I phoned Grandma" with 给.

22. Link reason and result: it is the Spring Festival / my sister came home.

23. Find and fix the problem. A classmate reads 因为春节，家人回来了 as proof that every family in China does exactly the same thing. What is the sentence really about?

24. Use it yourself. Describe what a family does at the Spring Festival, then ask a partner about their family.

Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. Describe a family and explain a custom

1. *Script:* 春节我和家人吃米饭。姐姐不在家，所以我们给她打电话。

A. She is not at home

不在家 is given as the reason for calling.

2. B. They are together

因为家人在一起 states the cause.

3. 所以

所以 introduces the consequence.

4. (1) D: 姐姐 = older sister; (2) A: 家人 = family members; (3) B: 春节 = Spring Festival; (4) E: 因为 = because; (5) C: 所以 = so / therefore

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

5. Model answer: 姐姐回家了。因为家人在一起，所以我们很高兴。

Check your answer:

- Name the people or relationship.
- Give a specific activity.
- Keep the reason and result in the intended direction.

6. C. The speaker has one older sister.

The sentence gives one relationship and quantity for this speaker. It supplies neither a rule for other families nor a return plan.

7. C. Because he must work tomorrow

明天要上班 is the reason after 因为. No universal custom or dislike is stated. Today and tomorrow belong to different parts of the explanation.

8. A. One brother returns, the other is at school; the family eats rice.

The text separates one brother returning home from the other being at school, and names 米饭, rice, for the meal. The first choice moves both brothers home; the second changes the food. No rule about other families is established.

9. Model answer: Possible account: 我有一个姐姐。因为姐姐明天要上班，所以我们今天一起吃饭。Question: 你们为什么今天一起吃饭？Reply: 因为姐姐明天要上班。This family chooses today because of the work schedule; other families may choose differently.

How to revise: If the reason merely repeats the choice, supply the circumstance that explains it. If you wrote everyone does this, narrow the account to the people whose practice you actually described.

Check your answer:

- Keep the named family relationship and quantity consistent.

- Give a specific activity for this fictional family.
- Make the reason explain the stated choice.
- Avoid turning one household's practice into a universal cultural rule.

If the reason merely repeats the choice, supply the circumstance that explains it. If you wrote everyone does this, narrow the account to the people whose practice you actually described.

■ 2. 就 and 才 – earlier or later than expected

10. 才

才 marks a later-than-expected time and takes no 了.

11. C. 他七点就来了。

Earlier than expected uses 就 after the time, with 了 at the end.

12. True.

True. 才 marks that it took longer than expected.

13. 我学了一个月就会说了。

Time + 就 + verb + 了 shows it happened quickly.

14. Model answer: 我今天六点就起床了。公共汽车八点才来。

Check your answer:

- My early event uses time + 就 + verb + 了.
- My late event uses time + 才 + verb, without 了.
- 就 and 才 come after the time and before the verb.
- I tried another version with a length of time (学了一年才会).

■ 3. 给 – to, for, and give

15. 给

给 + person comes before the verb to show who receives the call.

16. C. 我没给他写信。

The negative 没 goes before 给, not before the main verb.

17. True.

True. On its own, 给 is the verb "give", followed by the person and then the thing.

18. 你给谁买的?

给 + 谁 comes before the verb to ask who benefits.

19. Model answer: 上个周末我给妈妈做饭了，也给爸爸打电话了。我想给朋友买一本书。

Check your answer:

- 给 + person comes before each main verb (给妈妈做饭).
- 想, 要, 不 or 没 come before 给.

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- I used 给 for the person who receives or benefits.
- I tried another version using 给 as the verb “give”.

■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 春节我和家人吃米饭。姐姐不在家，所以我们给她打电话。– At Spring Festival I eat rice with my family. My sister is not at home, so we call her.

Reading in English. At Spring Festival, Lin An’s older sister comes home. Everyone is happy because the family is together. In the evening they eat dumplings.

Speaking model. A: 春节你们做什么？B: 我们一起吃饭。你们呢?

■ Mixed practice

20. 他七点就来了 (early)。他九点才来 (late). 就 shows earlier than expected; 才 shows later.

21. 我给奶奶打电话。给 + person comes before the verb when you do something to or for them.

22. 因为是春节，所以姐姐回家了。

23. It gives the reason why this family came home: it is the Spring Festival. It says nothing about every family.

24. Model answer. 我们家过年的时候一起吃饭。你们家呢？呢 asks the same question back.

Review later. Tomorrow, describe one family custom and ask a partner about theirs.

Festivals, reasons, contrasts and choices

HSK 2

Give reasons, make suggestions and offer choices. 为什么 asks why and 因为 answers; 吧 turns a sentence into a friendly suggestion. 虽然 …… 但是 …… admits one fact and then contrasts it, and 还是 and 或者 are the two words for "or": 还是 in questions, 或者 in statements.

At a glance

- **1.** 为什么 / 因为 / …… 吧 – why / because / let's …: 下雨了，我们在家学习吧。
- **2.** 虽然 ……，但是 …… – although: 虽然这双鞋很贵，但是很好看。
- **3.** 还是 and 或者 – two ways to say "or": 你喝茶还是喝咖啡?

1. Give a reason and make a suggestion

Explain a change of plan and respond with a suggestion.

Key sentences

- **你为什么不去公园?** *Nǐ wèishénme bú qù gōngyuán?* – Why aren't you going to the park?
- **因为下雨了。** *Yīnwèi xià yǔ le.* – Because it has started raining.
- **我们明天一起去吧。** *Wǒmen míngtiān yìqǐ qù ba.* – Let's go together tomorrow.
- **好，明天去。** – OK, tomorrow then.

How it works

为什么 asks for a reason; answer with **因为 + reason**. Give the reason, not just the decision again.

吧 at the end of a sentence makes a friendly suggestion: 我们走吧 (let's go). It turns an order into an invitation.

下雨了 – this 了 shows a new situation: it is raining now (and was not before).

因为 gives the reason, 吧 makes a suggestion



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■ **Watch out**

- 吧 is a suggestion, not a past or future marker.
- Answer 为什么 with 因为 ……, not with 所以 …….

■ **Words in context**

- **为什么** wèishénme – why. 你为什么不去?
- **因为** yīnwèi – because. 因为下雨了。
- **吧** ba – suggestion particle here. 明天去吧。
- **一起** yìqǐ – together. 我们一起去。
- **下雨** xià yǔ – rain. 下雨了。

■ **Reading**

今天下雨了。王力不去公园。林安问:“ 为什么? ”他说:“ 因为下雨了。我们明天一起去吧。”

■ **Speaking**

Say why a fictional trip cannot happen today. Suggest a new time and let your partner accept or decline.

2. 虽然 ……，但是 …… – although

Form: 虽然 A，但是 B

- **虽然这双鞋很贵，但是很好看。** *Suīrán zhè shuāng xié hěn guì, dànshì hěn hǎokàn.* – Although these shoes are expensive, they look great.
- **他虽然很忙，但是每天都学习。** – Although he is busy, he studies every day.
- **虽然下雨了，但是我们还是去了公园。** – It rained, but we still went to the park.

How it works. 虽然 *suīrán* introduces a fact you accept; 但是 *dànshì* gives the point that goes against it. Chinese normally uses both words, where English uses only “although” or only “but”. 可是 is a spoken alternative to 但是, and 还是 or 也 in the second half stresses “still”.

虽然 may come before or after the subject; 但是 always starts the second half.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 虽然下雨了，所以 ……: 所以 gives a result, not a contrast.
- 虽然 is for facts. For “even if” (something that might happen), use 即使 …… 也 …… (HSK 4).

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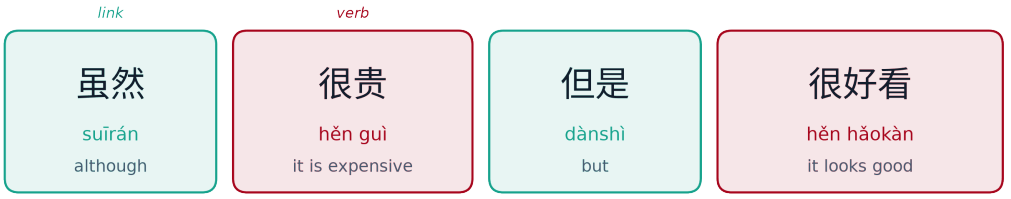
虽然 …，但是 …: although …, (but) …



3. 还是 and 或者 – two ways to say “or”

Form: A 还是 B? · A 或者 B

- **你喝茶还是喝咖啡?** *Nǐ hē chá háishi hē kāfēi?* – Would you like tea or coffee?
- **我们坐公共汽车或者坐出租车。** – We’ll take the bus or a taxi.
- **星期六或者星期天都可以。** – Saturday or Sunday are both fine.

How it works. Chinese has two words for “or”.

还是 *háishi*	**或者 *huòzhě***
in a question	in a statement
asks someone to choose	either is fine
no 吗 at the end	

Answering a 还是 question. Give your choice (我喝茶), or say 都可以 (either is fine) or 都不要 (neither).

Watch out

- *wrong:* 你喝茶还是喝咖啡吗? → no 吗: the sentence is already a question.
- *wrong:* 你喝茶或者咖啡? when you want a choice → use 还是.

还是 offers a choice in a question



还是 is for questions; a statement uses 或者

Practice

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

■ 1. Give a reason and make a suggestion

1. Why aren't you going? 你 …… 不去?

2. 你为什么不去公园? Choose the best answer.

- A. 公园很大。
- B. 我不去公园。
- C. 因为下雨了。

3. Which sentence makes a friendly suggestion?

- A. 我们明天去吗?
- B. 我们明天去吧。
- C. 我们明天去。
- D. 我们明天不去。

4. True or false? 我们星期六去吧 shows that everyone has agreed. If false, correct it.

5. A: 今天我有事，不能去。我们星期六去吧。B: 星期六我也不能去。Will they go on Saturday?

- A. Yes
- B. Today
- C. No

6. Say in Chinese: “It’s very hot today. Let’s go in the evening.”

7. Because I have no time today.

Put in order: 没有 / 今天 / 时间。/ 因为

■ 2. 虽然 ……，但是 …… – although

8. Complete: “Although I’m tired, I’m happy.” 虽然很累，…… 很高兴。

9. It rained, but you still went to the park. Which fits?

- A. 虽然下雨了，但是我们还是去了公园。
- B. 虽然下雨了，所以我们去了公园。
- C. 但是下雨了，虽然我们去了公园。

10. True or false? 他虽然很忙，但是每天都学习 is correct, with 虽然 after the subject. If false, correct it.

11. Build: “Although these shoes are expensive, they look great.”

Put in order: 这双鞋很贵，/ 很好看。/ 但是 / 虽然

12. Describe something you did recently that had a downside but was still worth it. Say two sentences with 虽然 …… 但是, then write them in Chinese. Use 虽然 ……，但是 ……. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 还是 and 或者 – two ways to say “or”

13. Complete the question: “Tea or coffee?” 你喝茶 …… 喝咖啡?

14. Which statement says “You can come on Saturday or Sunday”?

- A. 你可以星期六或者星期天来。
- B. 你可以星期六还是星期天来。
- C. 你可以星期六还是星期天来吗?

15. True or false? 你喝茶还是喝咖啡吗? is correct. If false, correct it.

16. Build: “We’ll take the bus or a taxi.”

Put in order: 坐出租车。/ 坐公共汽车 / 我们 / 或者

17. Your friend asks 你喝茶还是喝咖啡? You are happy with either. Which reply fits?

- A. 都可以。
- B. 还是。
- C. 或者。

18. Plan a weekend with a friend. Ask one choice question and make one statement offering two options. Use 还是 and 或者. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

19. Choose 还是 or 或者: 你喝茶 …… 咖啡？ / 茶 …… 咖啡都可以。

20. Join with 虽然 …… 但是 ……: the shoes are expensive / they look good.

21. Make a suggestion: it is raining, so let us study at home.

22. Find and fix the problem. A message says 因为下雨，所以我们在家学习吧. What is the reason and what is the suggestion?

23. Use it yourself. Suggest going to the library because it is noisy at home.

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Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. Give a reason and make a suggestion

1. 为什么

为什么 asks for a reason.

2. C. 因为下雨了。

Answer with 因为 + reason, not the decision again.

3. B. 我们明天去吧。

吧 turns a statement into a suggestion.

4. False.

It is a suggestion; the other person can say no.

5. C. No

B can't go on Saturday either.

6. 今天很热，我们晚上去吧。

Reason, then suggestion with 吧.

7. 因为今天没有时间。

因为 + reason.

■ 2. 虽然 ……，但是 …… – although

8. 但是

但是 (or 可是) gives the contrasting point after 虽然.

9. A. 虽然下雨了，但是我们还是去了公园。

虽然 pairs with 但是 for a contrast. 所以 shows a result, and 但是 cannot come before 虽然.

10. True.

True. 虽然 can come before or after the subject.

11. 虽然这双鞋很贵，但是很好看。

虽然 + accepted fact, 但是 + contrasting point.

12. Model answer: 虽然昨天很冷，但是我们还是去爬山了。这本书虽然有点儿难，但是很有意思。

Check your answer:

- Each sentence pairs 虽然 with 但是 or 可是.
- The second part contrasts with the first.
- I did not pair 虽然 with 所以.
- I tried a version with 虽然 after the subject.

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■ 3. 还是 and 或者 – two ways to say "or"

13. 还是

In a question that asks for a choice, "or" is 还是.

14. A. 你可以星期六或者星期天来。

In a statement, use 或者. 还是 belongs in a question asking someone to choose.

15. False.

False. A 还是 question already asks something, so it does not take 吗.

16. 我们坐公共汽车或者坐出租车。

In a statement, 或者 joins the options.

17. A. 都可以。

都可以 means "either is fine". 还是 and 或者 only join choices; on their own they do not answer.

18. Model answer: 我们星期六去还是星期天去？我们可以去看电影或者去公园。

Check your answer:

- My question uses 还是 and has no 吗.
- My statement uses 或者.
- Each option is a complete choice the listener can pick.
- I tried another version and answered it with 都可以.

■ Scripts and models for section 1

Listening script. 今天很热。我不去公园。我们晚上去吧。– It is hot today. I am not going to the park. Let's go in the evening.

Reading in English. It has started raining today. Wang Li does not go to the park. He explains the rain and suggests going together tomorrow.

Speaking model. A: 因为下雨了，我们明天去吧。B: 好，明天去。

■ Mixed practice

19. 你喝茶还是咖啡？茶或者咖啡都可以。还是 asks someone to choose; 或者 lists possibilities in a statement.

20. 虽然这双鞋很贵，但是很好看。

21. 下雨了，我们在家学习吧。吧 makes the suggestion friendly.

22. The rain is the reason; studying at home is the suggestion. 吧 makes it a friendly suggestion: "let's …".

23. Model answer. 家里有点儿吵，我们去图书馆学习吧。You can also say 因为家里有点儿吵，所以 ……, but one of the two words is often enough.

Review later. Tomorrow, give a different reason and make a suggestion that fits it.

Build characters and use pinyin in a sentence

HSK 2

Characters that sound the same can mean different things: 在 zài says where, 再 zài means again. To complete a message, read the whole sentence, look at the pinyin, and decide what job the missing word does. Sound alone will not tell you.

Complete a message with the right character

Use the sentence meaning and pronunciation to choose a character.

Key sentences

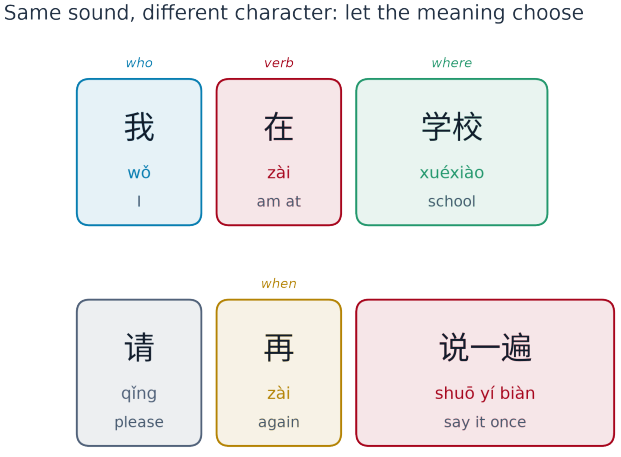
- **我在学校。** *Wǒ zài xuéxiào.* – I'm at school.
- **请明天再来。** *Qǐng míngtiān zài lái.* – Please come again tomorrow.
- **明天下午三点见。** *Míngtiān xiàwǔ sān diǎn jiàn.* – See you at three tomorrow afternoon.

How it works

Many characters share a sound. 在 and 再 are both *zài*, but they do different jobs:

在 *zài*	**再 *zài***
at, in (a place); 在 + verb = doing now	again, then (a later action)
我在学校。我在看书。	请再说一遍。明天再来。

Choosing the right character. Read the whole sentence and ask what the missing word does: does it give a place, or a repeated / later action? Then check the pinyin and the shape. When typing, read the character the keyboard offers before you send.



■ Watch out

- *wrong:* 明天在来 → 明天再来.
- 见 (see) and 件 (a measure word) are both *jiàn*: 明天见.

■ 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?

■ Reading

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。

■ Speaking

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

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. Where is the speaker?

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

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

- A. 见
- B. 在
- C. 再

3. Choose zài for location: 我 …… 学校。

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

- (1) 在
- (2) 再
- (3) 见
- (4) 这里
- (5) 字

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- A. at / in
- B. here
- C. again / then
- D. see
- E. character

5. Write a two-line message giving your location and tomorrow's meeting time. Check 在 and 再 carefully. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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

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

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

9. 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 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 message meant as "See you tomorrow" says 明天件. What is wrong, even though jian is the right sound?

11. Use it yourself. Write a short note thanking a friend and confirming that you will meet tomorrow.

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Answers and explanations

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

1. *Script:* 我在图书馆。明天下午四点见。

A. At the library

在图书馆 names the current location.

2. C. 再

再 in 明天再来 means come again tomorrow.

3. 在

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

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.

5. Model answer: 我在学校。明天下午四点见。

Check your answer:

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

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.

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.

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.

9. Model answer: 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 your answer:

- Use 在 for the intended location statement.

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- Use 再 for the repeat-visit request.
- Make the return time explicit and coherent.
- Explain both choices from meaning, not sound alone.

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.

■ Scripts and models

Listening script. 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 in English. 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。

■ Mixed practice

10. It should be 明天见. 件 is a measure word for clothes and matters; 见 means see or meet. The same sound can be written with different characters.

11. Model answer. 谢谢你! 我们明天见。Check 谢, 明, 天 and 见 before you send it.

Review later. Tomorrow, write the note by hand, then type it and check every character.