

HSK 2 · Festivals, Reasons, Contrasts and Choices

Level-two connectors and plans; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Choices, reasons, concessions

Two “or”s, two connector pairs, and 先 再 for the plan — the grammar of explaining yourself.

还是 asks; 或者 states

还是 — the choice question

你吃米饭还是面条？(Nǐ chī mǐfàn háishì miàntiáo?) — Will you eat rice or noodles?

或者 — the statement

米饭或者面条都行。(Mǐfàn huòzhě miàntiáo dōu xíng.) — Rice or noodles, either is fine.

因为 所以 / 虽然 但是

The two pairs

因为下雨，所以我们坐公交车。(Yīnwèi xiàyǔ, suǒyǐ wǒmen zuò gōngjiāochē.) —
Because it's raining, we're taking the bus.

虽然今天很冷，但是我们想去看朋友。(Suīrán jīntiān hěn lěng, dànshì wǒmen xiǎng
qù kàn péngyou.) — Although it's cold today, we still want to visit friends.

The festival plan

- 1 **Three ingredients** Date, people, activity: 春节 (Spring Festival), 全家 (whole family), 吃饺子 (eat dumplings).
- 2 **The assembled plan** 春节我们全家吃饺子。 — At Spring Festival my whole family eats dumplings.
- 3 **The order inside** 先 再 lines up the day's actions.
- 4 **The honesty rule** One family's traditions are not universal — describe your own.

Decision

Date, people, activity — a plan a listener can picture.

Watch out: the or-s do not swap

- 还是 belongs to questions; 或者 belongs to statements.
- Swapping them is the classic error of this topic.

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Which “or” lives in an alternative question? (2) Which pair concedes then keeps the plan?

- A. 或者; 因为 所以
- B. 还是; 虽然 但是
- C. 还是; 因为 所以
- D. 或者; 虽然 但是