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.
- 因为 …… 所以 …… reasons; 虽然 …… 但是 …… concedes.

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.

Quick check

Your turn

Which “or” goes in a question that offers a choice?

A. 或者
B. 还是

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair concedes a problem but keeps the plan?

A. 因为 …… 所以 ……
B. 虽然 …… 但是 ……