

Particles, nouns & numbers

HSK 3

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.

Time / Verb + 以前 (before ...)

■ Before you go to bed

- Your doctor gives you advice about a good night's sleep.
- 睡觉以前别看手机。 – “Don't look at your phone before going to bed.”

■ Time / Verb phrase + 以前

- X + 以前 = “before X”. Unlike English, 以前 comes after the time or action: 八点以前, 上课以前.
- The whole phrase usually comes before the main verb: 你八点以前来吧.

你八点以前来吧。

nǐ bā diǎn yǐ qián lái ba

Word guide: 你 – you; 八点 – eight o'clock; 以前 – before; 来 – come.

... 以前: before ...

when	not	verb
睡觉以前 shuìjiào yǐqián before bed	别 bié don't	看手机 kàn shǒujī look at your phone

■ Deadlines and order

- 星期五以前要交作业。 – “The homework must be handed in before Friday.”
- 吃饭以前要洗手。 – “Wash your hands before you eat.” 前 alone can replace 以前 in short phrases: 饭前, 睡前.

吃饭以前要洗手。

chī fàn yǐ qián yào xǐ shǒu

Word guide: 吃饭 – eat; 以前 – before; 要 – must; 洗手 – wash hands.

■ 以前 comes last

- Put 以前 after what it refers to: 上课以前, not 以前上课 (which means “in the past, I attended class”).
- The 以前 phrase goes before the main verb, not at the end: 我十点以前回家, not 我回家十点以前.

■ 以前 versus 前

- 以前 works after any time or action: 三天以前, 出国以前.
- 前 is shorter and fixed in some phrases: 三天前, 睡前, 饭前. Both mean “before” here.

我三天前到北京。

wǒ sān tiān qián dào Běi jīng

Word guide: 我 – I; 三天 – three days; 前 – ago; 到 – arrived in; 北京 – Beijing.

■ Recap

- **Time / action + 以前** = before ...; it follows what it refers to.
- The phrase sits before the main verb. 前 is a shorter form: 三天前, 睡前.

Practise this pattern step by step.

以前, ... (in the past, ...)

■ How things used to be

- Your grandmother looks at old photos of her village with dirt roads and no cars.
- 以前这儿没有路, 现在有很多车了。 – “There used to be no road here; now there are lots of cars.”

■ 以前, ... = “in the past, ...”

- 以前 at the start of the sentence (or after the subject) = “before, in the past”, often contrasted with 现在.
- It describes a past habit or state: 我以前住在上海 – “I used to live in Shanghai.”

我以前住在上海。

wǒ yǐ qián zhù zài Shàng hǎi

Word guide: 我 – I; 以前 – used to; 住 – live; 在 – in; 上海 – Shanghai.

以前 ... 现在 ...: then and now

when	not		verb
以前 yǐqián in the past	这儿没有路 zhèr méiyǒu lù there was no road here	现在 xiànzài now	有很多车了 yǒu hěn duō chē le there are many cars

■ Then and now

- 他以前不喜欢吃辣的，现在很喜欢。 – “He didn’t use to like spicy food; now he loves it.”
- The contrast with 现在 is very common; often no 了 is needed for a past habit.

他以前不喜欢吃辣的。

tā yǐ qián bù xǐ huan chī là de

Word guide: 他 – he; 以前 – used to; 不 – not; 喜欢 – like; 吃 – eat; 辣 – spicy; 的 – food.

■ Which 以前 is it?

- Alone at the front or after the subject, 以前 = “in the past”: 以前我不会做饭。
- After a time or action, it = “before”: 上课以前 – “before class”. Check what comes before it.

■ 以前 versus 过去 and 原来

- 过去 also means “in the past”, a little more formal: 过去这里是一个小村子。
- 原来 = “originally”, stressing that it later changed: 他原来是老师，后来当了作家。

他原来是老师。

tā yuán lái shì lǎo shī

Word guide: 他 – he; 原来 – originally; 是 – was; 老师 – a teacher.

■ Recap

- 以前, ... = in the past, used to ...; often contrasted with 现在.
- X + 以前 = before X. 过去 = in the past (formal); 原来 = originally.

Practise this pattern step by step.

刚才 (a moment ago)

■ A missed call

- You come back from the shower and see your roommate pointing at your phone.
- 刚才有人给你打电话了。 – “Someone called you a moment ago.”

■ 刚才 is a time word

- 刚才 = “just now, a moment ago”. Like 昨天 or 今天, it can stand before or after the subject.
- 刚才我在洗澡 / 我刚才在洗澡 – “I was in the shower just now.”

我刚才在洗澡。

wǒ gāng cái zài xǐ zǎo

Word guide: 我 – I; 刚才 – just now; 在 – (ongoing); 洗澡 – take a shower.

刚才: a moment ago



■ Actions, states and the negative

- Action: 你刚才去哪儿了? – “Where did you go just now?”
- State or negative: 刚才很安静 – “It was quiet a moment ago.” 刚才我没听见 – “I didn’t hear just now.”

你刚才去哪儿了?

nǐ gāng cái qù nǎr le

Word guide: 你 – you; 刚才 – just now; 去 – go; 哪儿 – where.

■ 刚才 is only minutes ago

- Use 刚才 for a moment ago in the same situation; for “recently” over days, use 最近 or 刚.
- 刚才 can go first in the sentence; 刚 cannot: 刚才他来了 ✓, 刚他来了 ×.

■ 刚才 versus 刚

- 刚 is an adverb before the verb: 他刚走 – “He has just left.”
- 刚才 is a time word: 他刚才走了 – “He left a moment ago.” Both are common; only 刚才 works with adjectives and 没.

他刚走。

tā gāng zǒu

Word guide: 他 – he; 刚 – just; 走 – leave.

■ Recap

- 刚才 = a moment ago; a time word that can start the sentence.
- It works with actions, adjectives and 没. 刚 is the adverb “just” before a verb.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Time / Verb + 时 (when ...)

■ When I was little

- You are telling a friend a story from your childhood about learning to swim.
- 我小的时候常常去河边游泳。 – “When I was little, I often went swimming by the river.”

■ Time / Verb phrase + 时 (的时候)

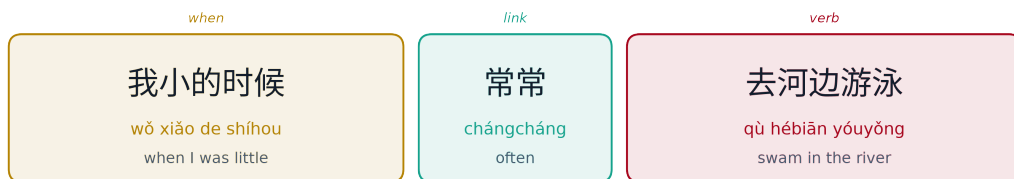
- X + 的时候 = “when X”. The spoken form is 的时候; the shorter 时 is more written: 上课时, 下雨时.
- Like 以前, 时 comes after what it refers to.

上课时, 请关手机。

shàng kè shí qǐng guān shǒu jī

Word guide: 上课 – in class; 时 – when; 请 – please; 关 – turn off; 手机 – your phone.

... 的时候: when ...



■ Spoken 的时候

- 我到家的时候, 他已经睡了。 – “When I got home, he was already asleep.”
- 你有空的时候给我打电话。 – “Call me when you have time.”

我到家的时候, 他已经睡了。

wǒ dào jiā de shí hòu tā yǐ jīng shuì le

Word guide: 我 – I; 到 – arrive; 家 – home; 的时候 – when; 他 – he; 已经 – already; 睡 – sleep.

■ Order and the right word

- 时 / 的时候 goes after the clause: 下雨的时候, not 时候下雨.
- In a “when” clause, do not use 什么时候 (that asks “when?”): 我到家的时候, not 我什么时候到家.

■ 时 versus 的时候

- Use 的时候 in conversation: 吃饭的时候别说话.
- 时 suits signs, writing and short fixed phrases: 用餐时请勿吸烟 – “No smoking while dining.”

吃饭的时候别说话。

chī fàn de shí hou bié shuō huà

Word guide: 吃饭 – eat; 的时候 – when; 别 – don’t; 说话 – talk.

■ Recap

- **X + 的时候 / 时** = when X; it follows the clause it belongs to.
- 的时候 is spoken, 时 is more written. 什么时候 asks a question; it is not “when” in a statement.

Practise this pattern step by step.

以后 (after / in the future)

■ After graduation

- A friend in her final year asks what you plan to do once you finish university.
- 大学毕业以后，我想去国外工作。 – “After I graduate, I want to work abroad.”

■ Time / Verb phrase + 以后

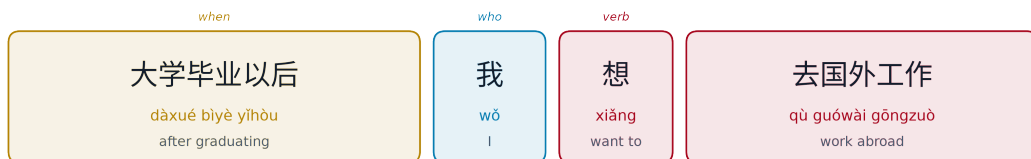
- **X + 以后** = “after X”: 下课以后, 吃了饭以后, 三天以后.
- Like 以前, it follows what it refers to, and the phrase comes before the main verb.

下课以后，我们去食堂吧。

xià kè yǐ hòu wǒ men qù shí táng ba

Word guide: 下课 – class ends; 以后 – after; 我们 – we; 去 – go to; 食堂 – the canteen.

... 以后: after ...



■ 以后 alone: from now on, in the future

- At the start of a sentence, 以后 = “in the future, from now on”: 以后我不迟到了。
– “I won’t be late again from now on.”
- 以后 here refers to time after now, not after a past event.

以后我不迟到了。

yǐ hòu wǒ bù chí dào le

Word guide: 以后 – from now on; 我 – I; 不 – not; 迟到 – be late.

■ After what?

- Put 以后 after the event: 吃饭以后, not 以后吃饭 (which would mean “eat in the future”).
- For the next step in a past story, prefer 后来 or 然后, not a bare 以后: 我先去了银行, 然后去了超市.

■ 以后 versus 后

- 后 is the shorter form in fixed phrases: 饭后, 三天后, 毕业后.
- 以后 is more common in speech and after longer clauses: 你到了以后给我打电话.

你到了以后给我打电话。

nǐ dào le yǐ hòu gěi wǒ dǎ diàn huà

Word guide: 你 – you; 到 – arrive; 以后 – after; 给 – to; 我 – me; 打 – make; 电话 – a call.

■ Recap

- X + 以后 = after X; 以后, ... alone = in the future, from now on.
- For “and then” in a past story, use 然后 or 后来.

Practise this pattern step by step.

... , 后来 ... (afterwards / later – past)

■ How the story ended

- You are telling a friend about a classmate who moved to Shenzhen two years ago.
- 他去了深圳, 后来在那儿开了一家公司。 – “He went to Shenzhen, and later he started a company there.”

■ ..., 后来 ... (afterwards, later on)

- 后来 = “afterwards, later on”, for what happened next in a past story.
- It starts the second clause, after a comma: 我们先是同学, 后来成了好朋友.

我们先是同学, 后来成了好朋友。

wǒ men xiān shì tóng xué hòu lái chéng le hǎo péng you

Word guide: 我们 – we; 先 – first; 是 – were; 同学 – classmates; 后来 – later; 成 –

became; 好朋友 – good friends.

后来: later (in a past story)

verb	when	
他去了深圳 tā qù le Shēnzhèn he went to Shenzhen	后来 hòulái later	在那儿开了一家公司 zài nàr kāi le yì jiā gōngsī opened a company there

■ Asking what happened next

- 后来呢? – “And then what happened?” A natural way to keep a story going.
- 后来怎么样了? – “How did it turn out in the end?”

后来怎么样了?

hòu lái zěnn me yàng le

Word guide: 后来 – later; 怎么样 – how.

■ Past stories only

- 后来 is only for the past. For “later” in a plan, use 以后 or 然后: 我们以后再说.
- It stands alone as a time word; it is not added after an event: 毕业以后, not 毕业后来.

■ 后来 versus 然后

- 然后 links steps closely, one after another, in the past or future: 先洗手, 然后吃饭.
- 后来 jumps forward in a story, often with a gap of time: 他小时候很瘦, 后来长胖了.

他小时候很瘦, 后来长胖了。

tā xiǎo shí hou hěn shòu hòu lái zhǎng pàng le

Word guide: 他 – he; 小时候 – as a child; 很 – very; 瘦 – thin; 后来 – later; 长 – grow; 胖 – fat.

■ Recap

- ..., 后来 ... = afterwards, later on, in a past story; 后来呢? = And then?
- Not for plans (use 以后 / 然后), not after an event (毕业以后).

Practise this pattern step by step.

Approximating with sequential numbers

■ About how many?

- Your teacher asks how many people came to the club meeting. You did not count exactly.
- 来了七八个人。 – “Seven or eight people came.”

■ Two neighbouring numbers

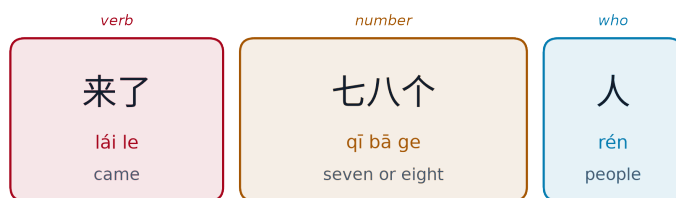
- **Two numbers side by side** = “about, roughly”: 三四个, 五六天, 七八个人. The measure word follows both.
- Use numbers that are next to each other, smaller first.

我去了三四次。

wǒ qù le sān sì cì

Word guide: 我 – I; 去 – go; 三四 – three or four; 次 – times.

七八 / 二十多: roughly how many



■ 几 and 多 for “-something” and “over”

- 十几 / 几十: 十几个 = “a dozen or so (11–19)”, 几十个 = “dozens”.
- **Number + 多**: 二十多个人 = “twenty-odd people”, 一百多块 = “a hundred and something yuan”.

这件衣服一百多块。

zhè jiàn yī fu yì bǎi duō kuài

Word guide: 这 – this; 件 – (measure word); 衣服 – clothes; 一百 – a hundred; 多 – and more; 块 – yuan.

■ Where the measure word goes

- The measure word comes after both numbers: 三四个人, not 三个四个人.
- With 多 and round tens, 多 goes before the measure word: 二十多个, not 二十个多 (for amounts under ten, 多 follows the measure word: 三个多小时).

■ 左右 and 差不多

- 左右 after a number = “around”: 三十岁左右 – “around thirty years old”.
- 差不多 before a number = “about, nearly”: 差不多五十个人.

他三十岁左右。

tā sān shí suì zuǒ yòu

Word guide: 他 – he; 三十 – thirty; 岁 – years old; 左右 – around.

■ Recap

- Neighbouring numbers (三四个, 七八天) = about; 十几 = 11–19; 几十 = dozens; 二十多 = twenty-odd.
- The measure word follows; 左右 after or 差不多 before a number also mean “about”.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Big numbers: 万 / 亿

■ How many people live there?

- You read that the city of Chongqing has about thirty million people and wonder how to say it.
- 重庆有三千多万人。 – “Chongqing has over thirty million people.”

■ Count in 万 (ten thousand)

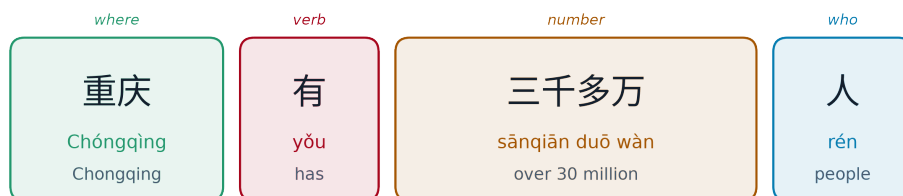
- 万 = 10,000. Chinese groups big numbers in fours: 一万 (10,000), 十万 (100,000), 一百万 (1,000,000), 一千万 (10,000,000).
- 两万五千 = 25,000; 三十万 = 300,000.

这辆车十五万块。

zhè liàng chē shí wǔ wàn kuài

Word guide: 这 – this; 辆 – (measure word); 车 – car; 十五万 – 150,000; 块 – yuan.

Big numbers count in 万 (10 000)



■ 亿 (a hundred million)

- 亿 = 100,000,000: 中国有十四亿人 – “China has 1.4 billion people.”
- 十亿 = one billion; 一百亿 = ten billion.

中国有十四亿人。

Zhōng guó yǒu shí sì yì rén

Word guide: 中国 – China; 有 – has; 十四亿 – 1.4 billion; 人 – people.

■ Don't count in thousands

- 100,000 is 十万, not 一百千: Chinese has no “hundred thousand” unit, so regroup by fours.
- A million is 一百万, not 一万万; 一万万 is an old word for 一亿.

■ Converting quickly

- Move four places for 万: 2,000,000 → 200|0000 → 两百万.
- Move eight places for 亿: 300,000,000 → 3|0000|0000 → 三亿.

两百万人。

liǎng bǎi wàn rén

Word guide: 两百万 – two million; 人 – people.

■ Recap

- 万 = 10,000 and 亿 = 100,000,000; group large numbers in fours.
- 十万 = 100,000, 一百万 = a million, 十亿 = a billion.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Times to the minute (点 ... 分)

■ When does the train leave?

- You are buying a train ticket and the clerk tells you the departure time.
- 火车八点二十五分开。 – “The train leaves at 8:25.”

■ Number + 点 + Number + 分

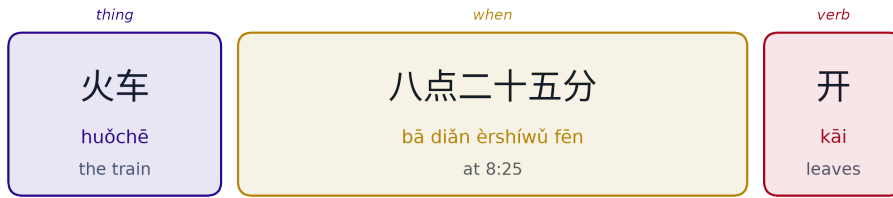
- X 点 Y 分 = X:Y. 八点二十五分 = 8:25. In speech 分 is often dropped after ten minutes: 八点二十五.
- For 1–9 minutes, add 零 (líng): 八点零五分 = 8:05.

现在是三点零五分。

xiàn zài shì sān diǎn líng wǔ fēn

Word guide: 现在 – now; 是 – is; 三点 – three o'clock; 零 – zero; 五分 – five minutes.

点 + 分: clock time



■ 半, 刻 and 差

- 半 = half past: 七点半 = 7:30. 刻 = quarter: 九点一刻 = 9:15, 九点三刻 = 9:45.
- 差 = "to": 差五分十点 = five to ten (9:55).

我们七点半见面吧。

wǒ men qī diǎn bàn jiàn miàn ba

Word guide: 我们 – we; 七点半 – half past seven; 见面 – meet.

■ The time comes before the verb

- Put the clock time before the verb: 我七点起床, not 我起床七点.
- Say 两点 for 2:00, not 二点.

■ Morning, afternoon, evening

- Add the part of the day first: 早上六点, 下午三点, 晚上十点.
- 下午两点一刻 – "2:15 p.m." The larger unit always comes first.

下午两点一刻。

xià wǔ liǎng diǎn yí kè

Word guide: 下午 – afternoon; 两点 – two o'clock; 一刻 – a quarter.

■ Recap

- X 点 Y 分; 零 for 1–9 minutes; 半 = :30, 一刻 = :15, 三刻 = :45; 差 = to.
- Part of the day first (下午两点), time before the verb, 两点 not 二点.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Telling the hour (Number + 点)

■ An early start

- Your new school timetable starts much earlier than you are used to.
- 我们早上七点上课。 – "We start class at seven in the morning."

■ Number + 点 (o'clock)

- **Number + 点** = o'clock: 一点, 三点, 十二点. Ask with **几点**: 现在几点? – “What time is it?”
- 2 o'clock is **两点**, never 二点.

现在几点?

xiàn zài jǐ diǎn

Word guide: 现在 – now; 几点 – what time.

The time goes before the verb



■ Saying when something happens

- 你几点下班? – “What time do you finish work?” 我六点下班。 – “I finish at six.”
- Part of the day goes first: 晚上九点, 中午十二点.

我晚上九点睡觉。

wǒ wǎn shang jiǔ diǎn shuì jiào

Word guide: 我 – I; 晚上 – in the evening; 九点 – nine o'clock; 睡觉 – go to bed.

■ Order matters

- The time goes before the verb: 我六点下班, not 我下班六点.
- Use 两点 for 2 o'clock, not 二点.

■ 点 versus 小时

- 点 is a point on the clock: 三点 = 3 o'clock.
- 小时 is a length of time: 三个小时 = three hours. 我三点开始, 学了三个小时。

我学了三个小时。

wǒ xué le sān gè xiǎo shí

Word guide: 我 – I; 学 – study; 三个 – three; 小时 – hours.

■ Recap

- **Number + 点** = o'clock; 几点 asks the time; 2:00 = 两点.
- Part of the day first, time before the verb; 小时 measures a length of time.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 着 (ongoing state)

■ The door is open

- You come home and notice the door open and the lights on.
- **门开着, 灯也亮着。** – “The door is open, and the lights are on too.” 着 describes a state that continues.

■ Verb + 着 = an ongoing state

- **Verb + 着** describes a state that lasts: 开着 (is open), 穿着 (is wearing), 坐着 (is sitting).
- Negate with 没: 门没开着 – “The door isn’t open.”

她穿着一件红衣服。

tā chuān zhe yí jiàn hóng yī fu

Word guide: 她 – she; 穿 – wear; 着 – (ongoing); 一 – a; 件 – (measure word); 红 – red; 衣服 – top.

Verb + 着: a lasting state



■ Doing one thing while in a state

- **Verb1 + 着 + Verb2**: the first state goes on while the second action happens:
他笑着说: “没关系。” – “He said with a smile, ‘It doesn’t matter.’”
- **我们坐着聊天。** – “We sat and chatted.”

他笑着说: 没关系。

tā xiào zhe shuō méi guān xi

Word guide: 他 – he; 笑 – smile; 着 – (while); 说 – say; 没关系 – it doesn’t matter.

■ State, not progress

- 着 describes a state; for an action in progress, use 在: 他在开门 (he is opening the door) vs 门开着 (the door is open).
- Negate with 没, not 不: 灯没亮着.

■ 着 versus 在

- **在 + Verb** = in the middle of doing: 他在穿衣服 – “He’s getting dressed.”
- **Verb + 着** = the resulting state: 他穿着一件白衬衫 – “He’s wearing a white shirt.”

他在穿衣服。

tā zài chuān yī fu

Word guide: 他 – he; 在 – (in progress); 穿 – put on; 衣服 – clothes.

■ Recap

- **Verb + 着** = an ongoing state (门开着); **V1 着 + V2** = do V2 while in state V1.
- **在 + Verb** = action in progress. Negate 着 with 没.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Sentence-final 了 (change of state)

■ It’s started raining

- You were about to go out, but you look out of the window and see rain.
- **下雨了!** – “It’s raining (now)!” The final 了 says the situation has changed.

■ Sentence + 了 = something has changed

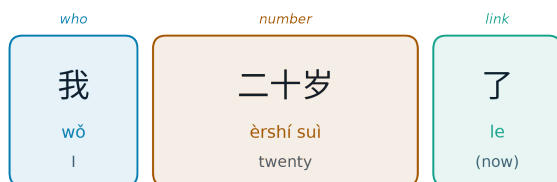
- **了 at the end of a sentence** announces a new situation: 天冷了 (it has turned cold), 我饿了 (I’m hungry now).
- It is not a past tense; it marks a change from before.

天冷了。

tiān lěng le

Word guide: 天 – the weather; 冷 – cold.

Sentence-final 了: a new situation



■ New facts, new plans, new ages

- 我二十岁了。 – “I’m twenty now.” 他不来了。 – “He’s not coming any more.”
- With 快 or 要: 快到了。 – “We’re almost there.”

他不来了。

tā bù lái le

Word guide: 他 – he; 不 – not; 来 – come.

■ Not just “past”

- A past habit with no change takes no 了: 我以前常常去, not 我以前常常去了.
- 不 ... 了 = no longer: 我不喝咖啡了 means “I’ve stopped drinking coffee”, not “I didn’t drink coffee”.

■ Final 了 versus verb 了

- Verb + 了 marks a completed action: 我吃了一个苹果 – “I ate an apple.”
- Final 了 marks a change: 我不饿了 – “I’m not hungry any more.” Some sentences have both.

我吃了一个苹果。

wǒ chī le yí gè píng guǒ

Word guide: 我 – I; 吃 – eat; 一个 – an; 苹果 – apple.

■ Recap

- **Sentence-final 了** = a new situation, a change: 下雨了, 我饿了, 他不来了.
- 不 ... 了 = no longer; 快 ... 了 = soon. It is not a simple past tense.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Questions with 呢 (and you? / where?)

■ Meeting a new classmate

- A new classmate tells you she comes from Chengdu, then waits for you to say where you are from.
- 我是成都人, 你呢? – “I’m from Chengdu. And you?”

■ Noun + 呢? = “What about ...?”

- X + 呢? asks the same question again about X: 我很好, 你呢? – “I’m fine, and you?”
- The question is understood from what was just said, so it can be very short.

我很好, 你呢?

wǒ hěn hǎo nǐ ne

Word guide: 我 – I; 很 – very; 好 – well; 你 – you; 呢 – (and ...?).

呢 asks the same question back

verb	question word
我是成都人 wǒ shì Chéngdū rén I'm from Chengdu	你呢 nǐ ne and you?

■ Where is it? 呢 on its own

- With no context, **Noun + 呢?** asks where something is: 我的钥匙呢? – “Where are my keys?”
- 呢 also softens a question-word question: 你在干什么呢? – “What are you up to?”

我的钥匙呢?

wǒ de yào shì ne

Word guide: 我 – my; 钥匙 – keys; 呢 – (where?).

■ 呢 and 吗 are different

- Do not put 呢 on a yes-no question: 你是老师吗? , not 你是老师呢?
- Do not add 吗 to a question-word question: 你去哪儿? or 你去哪儿呢? , not 你去哪儿吗?

■ 呢 for an ongoing action

- At the end of a statement, 呢 can mark something still going on: 他在睡觉呢。 – “He’s sleeping (right now).”
- It often goes with 在 or 着: 外面下着雨呢 – “It’s raining out.”

他在睡觉呢。

tā zài shuì jiào ne

Word guide: 他 – he; 在 – (in progress); 睡觉 – sleep.

■ Recap

- **X + 呢?** = and X? / what about X?; with no context, where is X?
- Not on yes-no questions (use 吗). After 在 + verb, 呢 marks an ongoing action.

Practise this pattern step by step.

的 / 得 / 地 (the three “de”)

■ Three characters, one sound

- A friend texts you about a classmate who runs fast, but writes the wrong “de” and the sentence looks odd.
- **他跑得很快。** – “He runs fast.” 的, 得 and 地 are all read de, but each has its own job.

■ 的 before a noun

- **的** links a description or owner to a noun: 我的书, 漂亮的衣服, 昨天买的東西.
- Test: is the next word a noun (or is the noun left out)? Then it is 的.

这是我昨天买的书。

zhè shì wǒ zuó tiān mǎi de shū

Word guide: 这 – this; 是 – is; 我 – my; 昨天 – yesterday; 买 – bought; 的 – (that); 书 – book.

的 · 得 · 地: three characters, one sound

link	verb	how
漂亮的 piàoliang de beautiful (+ noun)	跑得很快 pǎo de hěn kuài runs fast	认真地学 rènzhen de xué studies seriously

■ 地 before a verb, 得 after a verb

- **地** links a manner to the verb that follows: 认真地学习, 慢慢地走.
- **得** follows a verb and introduces how well or how much: 跑得很快, 说得很好, 累得不想动.

她说得很流利。

tā shuō de hěn liú lì

Word guide: 她 – she; 说 – speaks; 很 – very; 流利 – fluently.

■ The quick test

- Look at what follows: a noun → 的; a verb → 地; and after a verb, a description of the result → 得.
- Typing tip: in 跑得很快 the verb 跑 is before the particle, so it must be 得, not 的.

■ One sentence, two particles

- 他高兴地说，他考得很好。 – “He said happily that he had done well in the exam.”
- 我喜欢吃妈妈做的菜。 – “I love the food my mum makes.” Here the 的 phrase describes 菜.

他高兴地说，他考得很好。

tā gāo xìng de shuō tā kǎo de hěn hǎo

Word guide: 他 – he; 高兴 – happily; 说 – said; 他 – he; 考 – test; 很 – very; 好 – well.

■ Recap

- 的 + noun (我的书), 地 + verb (认真地学), verb + 得 + result (跑得很快).
- All are read de; choose by what comes before and after.

Practise this pattern step by step.

有的 (some / some..., others...)

■ Not everyone agrees

- Your class votes on a trip. Some want the beach, others want the mountains.
- 有的同学想去海边，有的想去爬山。 – “Some classmates want to go to the beach; others want to go hiking.”

■ 有的 + Noun

- 有的 + noun = “some (of them)”: 有的人, 有的书, 有的时候. It stands before the subject noun.
- Repeat it to contrast groups: 有的 ..., 有的 ...

有的人喜欢喝茶。

yǒu de rén xǐ huan hē chá

Word guide: 有的 – some; 人 – people; 喜欢 – like; 喝 – drinking; 茶 – tea.

有的 ..., 有的 ...: some ..., others ...

who		verb	
有的同学 yǒude tóngxué some classmates	想去海边 xiǎng qù hǎibiān want the seaside	有的 yǒude others	想去爬山 xiǎng qù pá shān want to climb

■ 有的 ...，有的 ... and 有的时候

- 这些书有的很有意思，有的很无聊。 – “Some of these books are interesting; some are boring.”
- 有的时候 (often 有时候) = sometimes: 我有时候走路上班。

我有时候走路上班。

wǒ yǒu shí hòu zǒu lù shàng bān

Word guide: 我 – I; 有时候 – sometimes; 走路 – walk; 上班 – to work.

■ 有的 goes before the subject

- Put 有的 in subject position: 有的人不喜欢, not 我不喜欢有的人 for “some people don’t like it”.
- With an object you know, put the topic first: 这些菜，有的我没吃过 – “Some of these dishes I haven’t tried.”

■ 有的 versus 一些

- 一些 = “some, a few” and can go in object position: 我买了一些水果.
- 有的 picks out part of a group, usually as the subject, often in contrast: 有的贵，有的便宜.

我买了一些水果。

wǒ mǎi le yì xiē shuǐ guǒ

Word guide: 我 – I; 买 – bought; 一些 – some; 水果 – fruit.

■ Recap

- 有的 + noun = some (of a group), in subject position; 有的 ..., 有的 ... = some..., others....
- 有时候 = sometimes. For “some” as an object, use 一些.

Practise this pattern step by step.

半 (half / and a half)

■ Half a cake left

- After the party, your mum looks at the table and counts what is left.
- 还有半个蛋糕和一个半西瓜。 – “There’s half a cake and one and a half watermelons left.”

■ 半 + measure word (half a ...)

- 半 + measure word + noun = half a ...: 半个苹果, 半杯水, 半年.
- 半 comes before the measure word, with no 一 in front.

我喝了半杯牛奶。

wǒ hē le bàn bēi niú nǎi

Word guide: 我 – I; 喝 – drank; 半 – half; 杯 – a glass; 牛奶 – of milk.

半个 · 一个半: half and one and a half

<i>verb</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>link</i>	
还有	半个蛋糕	和	一个半西瓜
<i>hái yǒu</i> there's still	<i>bàn ge dāngāo</i> half a cake	<i>hé</i> and	<i>yí ge bàn xīguā</i> 1½ watermelons

■ Number + measure word + 半 (... and a half)

- **Number + measure word + 半** = ... and a half: 一个半小时 (an hour and a half), 两年半 (two and a half years).
- With time: 三点半 = half past three.

我等了一个半小时。

wǒ děng le yí gè bàn xiǎo shí

Word guide: 我 – I; 等 – waited; 一个 – one; 半 – and a half; 小时 – hours.

■ Where 半 goes

- Half a ... : 半 before the measure word (半个小时). ... and a half: 半 after it (一个半小时).
- Do not say 一半个 or 一个半小时: say 半个 and 一个半小时.

■ 一半 = half of something

- 一半 is a noun: half (of a whole): 一半的学生是女生。 – “Half of the students are girls.”
- 我只吃了一半 – “I only ate half (of it).”

一半的学生是女生。

yí bàn de xué shēng shì nǚ shēng

Word guide: 一半 – half; 学生 – students; 是 – are; 女生 – girls.

■ Recap

- 半 + MW = half a ...; **Number + MW + 半** = ... and a half; **X 点半** = half past X.
- 一半 = half of something, a noun.

Practise this pattern step by step.

以后 vs 然后 vs 后来 (then / after)

■ Telling your day in order

- You describe last Saturday: shopping, then lunch, and much later a surprise phone call.
- 我先去买东西，然后吃了午饭。后来，我的老朋友给我打电话了。 – “First I went shopping, then I had lunch. Later on, an old friend phoned me.”

■ Three words for “after”

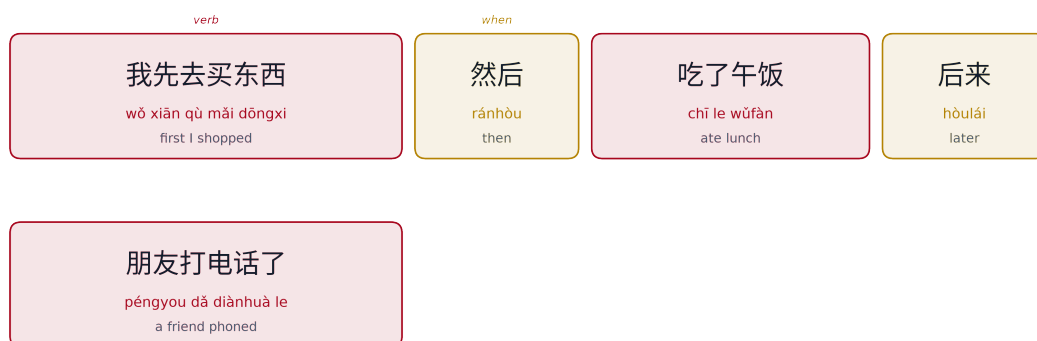
- 以后 follows an event (吃饭以后) or, alone, means “in the future” (以后再说).
- 然后 links the next step, in the past or future (先洗手，然后吃饭). 后来 jumps forward in a past story only.

先洗手，然后吃饭。

xiān xǐ shǒu rán hòu chī fàn

Word guide: 先 – first; 洗手 – wash hands; 然后 – then; 吃饭 – eat.

先 → 然后 → 后来: tell it in order



■ Choosing by the situation

- Plan: 我们先吃饭，然后去看电影。 – “Let’s eat first, then see a film.” (以后 / 然后, not 后来)
- Story: 我们是大学同学，后来结婚了。 – “We were classmates at university, and later we got married.”

我们是大学同学，后来结婚了。

wǒ men shì dà xué tóng xué hòu lái jié hūn le

Word guide: 我们 – we; 是 – were; 大学 – university; 同学 – classmates; 后来 – later; 结婚 – marry.

■ Two common slips

- 后来 is never for the future: 我们以后见, not 我们后来见.
- 后来 is never added after an event: 下课以后, not 下课后来.

■ 以后 after a clause

- 我到了以后给你打电话。 – “I’ll call you after I arrive.”
- 然后 cannot do this job: it starts the next clause instead: 我到了, 然后给你打电话。

我到了以后给你打电话。

wǒ dào le yǐ hòu gěi nǐ dǎ diàn huà

Word guide: 我 – I; 到 – arrive; 以后 – after; 给 – to; 你 – you; 打 – make; 电话 – a call.

■ Recap

- 以后 = after X / in the future; 然后 = and then (next step, any time); 后来 = later on (past stories only).
- Plans use 然后 or 以后, never 后来.

Practise this pattern step by step.

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.

■ Time / Verb + 以前 (before ...)

0501.1 Complete: “Please come back before ten.” 请十点 回来。

0501.2 Which says “Turn off the light before you leave.”?

- A. 走以前关灯。
- B. 走关灯以前。
- C. 以前走关灯。
- D. 关灯走以前。

0501.3 Build: “The homework must be handed in before Friday.”

Arrange all chunks: 以前 / 星期五 / 作业。 / 要交

0501.4 三天前 and 三天以前 both mean “three days ago”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0501.5 Your doctor gives you advice about a good night’s sleep. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 以前, ... (in the past, ...)

0502.1 Complete: “I used to be very shy.” 我 很害羞。

0502.2 Match each sentence to its meaning.

- 1. 以前我不喝咖啡。
- 1. 喝咖啡以前, 我先吃早饭。
- A. Before drinking coffee I eat breakfast.
- B. I didn't use to drink coffee.

0502.3 Build: “He didn't use to like spicy food.”

Arrange all chunks: 不喜欢 / 吃辣的。 / 他 / 以前

0502.4 原来 stresses that the situation later changed.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0502.5 Your grandmother looks at old photos of her village with dirt roads and no cars. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 刚才 (a moment ago)

0503.1 Complete: “It was raining just now; now it has stopped.” 在下雨, 现在停了。

0503.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 刚才他很忙。
- B. 他很刚忙。
- C. 他忙刚才很。
- D. 刚他很忙。

0503.3 Build: “Where did you go just now?”

Arrange all chunks: 去哪儿 / 了? / 刚才 / 你

0503.4 刚才 is a good choice for “I moved house recently.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0503.5 You come back from the shower and see your roommate pointing at your phone. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Time / Verb + 时 (when ...)

0504.1 Complete: “When I got home, he was already asleep.” 我到家, 他已经睡了。

0504.2 Which says “Call me when you have time.”?

- A. 你什么时候有空给我打电话。
- B. 你有空的时候给我打电话。
- C. 你给我打电话有空的时候。
- D. 时候你有空给我打电话。

0504.3 Build: “In class, please turn off your phone.”

Arrange all chunks: 请关 / 手机。 / , / 上课时

0504.4 时 is more common than 的时候 in everyday conversation.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0504.5 You are telling a friend a story from your childhood about learning to swim. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 以后 (after / in the future)

0505.1 Complete: “Call me after you arrive.” 你到了 给我打电话。

0505.2 What does 以后我会早点儿睡 mean?

- A. I used to go to bed early.
- B. I went to bed early afterwards.
- C. From now on I’ll go to bed earlier.
- D. I went to bed after eating.

0505.3 Build: “After I graduate from university, I want to work abroad.”

Arrange all chunks: 大学毕业 / 去国外工作。 / , 我想 / 以后

0505.4 以后吃饭 means “after eating”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0505.5 A friend in her final year asks what you plan to do once you finish university. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ ... , 后来 ... (afterwards / later – past)

0506.1 Complete the story: “At first I didn’t like him, but later we became friends.”
开始我不喜欢他， 我们成了朋友。

0506.2 Which fits a plan? “Let’s eat first, then go shopping.”

- A. 我们后来吃饭，先去买东西。
- B. 我们先吃饭，然后去买东西。
- C. 我们先吃饭，后来去买东西。
- D. 我们吃饭后来，去买东西。

0506.3 Ask to continue a story: “And how did it turn out?”

Arrange all chunks: 怎么样 / 后来 / 了?

0506.4 他小时候很瘦，后来长胖了 describes a change with a gap of time.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0506.5 You are telling a friend about a classmate who moved to Shenzhen two years ago. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Approximating with sequential numbers

0507.1 Complete: “There are a dozen or so students in the class.” 班里有 个学生。

0507.2 Which says “five or six days”?

- A. 五个六天
- B. 六五天
- C. 五天六天
- D. 五六天

0507.3 Match each phrase to its meaning.

- 1. 二十多个
- 1. 几十个
- 1. 三十岁左右
- 1. 七八个
- A. seven or eight
- B. twenty-odd
- C. around thirty years old
- D. dozens

0507.4 Build: “Seven or eight people came.”

Arrange all chunks: 人。 / 来了 / 个 / 七八

0507.5 Your teacher asks how many people came to the club meeting. You did not count exactly. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ **Big numbers: 万 / 亿**

0508.1 Write 50,000 in Chinese:

0508.2 How do you say 100,000?

- A. 一万
- B. 一百万
- C. 十万
- D. 一百千

0508.3 Match the numbers.

- 1. 一万
- 1. 一百万
- 1. 一亿
- 1. 十亿
- A. 1,000,000,000
- B. 1,000,000
- C. 10,000
- D. 100,000,000

0508.4 一千万 means ten million.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0508.5 You read that the city of Chongqing has about thirty million people and wonder how to say it. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ **Times to the minute (点 ... 分)**

0509.1 Write 10:30 with 半: 十点

0509.2 What time is 差十分九点?

- A. 10:09
- B. 8:50
- C. 9:10
- D. 9:50

0509.3 Build: "I get up at a quarter past six."

Arrange all chunks: 早上 / 六点一刻 / 我 / 起床。

0509.4 8:05 is said 八点五分 with no 零.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0509.5 You are buying a train ticket and the clerk tells you the departure time. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Telling the hour (Number + 点)

0510.1 Ask: "What time is it now?" 现在 点?

0510.2 How do you say "2 o'clock in the afternoon"?

- A. 下午两点
- B. 下午二点
- C. 下午两个小时
- D. 两点下午

0510.3 Build: "I go to bed at nine in the evening."

Arrange all chunks: 九点 / 晚上 / 我 / 睡觉。

0510.4 三点 and 三个小时 mean the same.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0510.5 Your new school timetable starts much earlier than you are used to. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Verb + 着 (ongoing state)

0511.1 Complete: "The window is open." 窗户开

0511.2 Which says "He is opening the door" (the action in progress)?

- A. 他在开门。
- B. 他开着门了。
- C. 门在开着。
- D. 门开着。

0511.3 Build: "He said with a smile..."

Arrange all chunks: 笑着 / 说。 / 他

0511.4 The negative of 门开着 is 门不开着。

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0511.5 You come home and notice the door open and the lights on. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ **Sentence-final 了 (change of state)**

0512.1 The light turns green: "It's green now, let's go." 绿灯, 走吧。

0512.2 What does 我不抽烟了 mean?

- A. I've quit smoking.
- B. I don't want to smoke.
- C. I'm smoking now.
- D. I didn't smoke.

0512.3 Build: "We're almost there."

Arrange all chunks: 到 / 快 / 我们 / 了。

0512.4 我以前常常去了 is correct for a past habit.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0512.5 You were about to go out, but you look out of the window and see rain. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ **Questions with 呢 (and you? / where?)**

0513.1 Complete: "I like tea. What about you?" 我喜欢喝茶, 你

0513.2 Which question is correct?

- A. 你去哪儿吗?
- B. 你是学生呢?
- C. 你是学生吗呢?
- D. 你是学生吗?

0513.3 Said while searching your bag, 我的手机呢? means "Where's my phone?"

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0513.4 Build: "He's sleeping right now."

Arrange all chunks: 呢。 / 在 / 他 / 睡觉

0513.5 A new classmate tells you she comes from Chengdu, then waits for you to say where you are from. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 的 / 得 / 地 (the three “de”)

0514.1 Complete: “She sings very well.” 她唱 很好。

0514.2 Fill the gaps: 我 ____ 朋友慢慢 ____ 走过来。

- A. 地 ... 得
- B. 得 ... 的
- C. 的 ... 地
- D. 的 ... 得

0514.3 Match each phrase to its particle.

- 1. 漂亮 ____ 衣服
- 1. 认真 ____ 工作
- 1. 写 ____ 很好
- A. 得
- B. 地
- C. 的

0514.4 In 妈妈做的菜, 的 is correct because 菜 is a noun.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0514.5 A friend texts you about a classmate who runs fast, but writes the wrong “de” and the sentence looks odd. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 有的 (some / some..., others...)

0515.1 Complete: “Some students live at school.” 学生住在学校。

0515.2 Which says “I bought some apples.”?

- A. 我有的买了苹果。
- B. 我买了一些苹果。
- C. 有的我买了苹果。
- D. 我买了有的苹果。

0515.3 Build: “Some of these books are interesting; some are boring.”

Arrange all chunks: 有的很有意思 / 有的很无聊。 / 这些书 / ,

0515.4 有时候 means “sometimes”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0515.5 Your class votes on a trip. Some want the beach, others want the mountains. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly

in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 半 (half / and a half)

0516.1 Complete: "The film is two and a half hours long." 电影有两个 小时。

0516.2 Which says "half an hour"?

- A. 小时半
- B. 一个半小时
- C. 一半个小时
- D. 半个小时

0516.3 Match each phrase to its meaning.

- 1. 半年
- 1. 一年半
- 1. 一半
- 1. 三点半
- A. half past three
- B. half a year
- C. half (of it)
- D. a year and a half

0516.4 一个半小时 is the usual way to say "an hour and a half".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0516.5 After the party, your mum looks at the table and counts what is left. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 以后 vs 然后 vs 后来 (then / after)

0517.1 A recipe: "Wash the vegetables, then cut them." 先洗菜, ... 切菜。

0517.2 Which says "See you later" (in the future)?

- A. 我们见后来。
- B. 我们后来见。
- C. 我们然后见以后。
- D. 我们以后见。

0517.3 Match each word to its use.

- 1. 以后

- 1. 然后
- 1. 后来
- A. the next step
- B. later on in a past story
- C. after an event / in the future

0517.4 Build: “I’ll call you after I arrive.”

Arrange all chunks: 到了以后 / 打电话。 / 给你 / 我

0517.5 You describe last Saturday: shopping, then lunch, and much later a surprise phone call. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A learner writes 他认真得学习 but wants to say he studies carefully. Repair the character and give the post-verb alternative.

R2. Use it yourself. Write a message with a precise time and an event that happens after you arrive home.

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.

■ Time / Verb + 以前 (before ...)

0501.1 以前

Time + 以前 = before that time.

0501.2 A. 走以前关灯。

Action + 以前, then the main verb.

0501.3 星期五以前要交作业。

Time + 以前 + verb phrase.

0501.4 True.

前 is a shorter form of 以前 after a time.

0501.5 One possible response: 睡觉以前别看手机。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Put 以前 after what it refers to: 上课以前, not 以前上课 (which means “in the past, I attended class”).
- The 以前 phrase goes before the main verb, not at the end: 我十点以前回家, not 我回家十点以前.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 以前, ... (in the past, ...)

0502.1 以前

Subject + 以前 + description = used to be.

0502.2 1-B: 以前我不喝咖啡。= I didn't use to drink coffee.; 2-A: 喝咖啡以前, 我先吃早饭。= Before drinking coffee I eat breakfast.

Alone, 以前 means “in the past”; after an action it means “before”.

0502.3 他以前不喜欢吃辣的。

Subject + 以前 + verb phrase.

0502.4 True.

原来 = originally (and then it changed).

0502.5 One possible response: 以前这儿没有路, 现在有很多车了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Alone at the front or after the subject, 以前 = “in the past”: 以前我不会做饭.
- After a time or action, it = “before”: 上课以前 – “before class”. Check what comes before it.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 刚才 (a moment ago)

0503.1 刚才

刚才 is a time word that can start the sentence.

0503.2 A. 刚才他很忙。

刚才 can describe a state a moment ago; 刚 cannot go before an adjective.

0503.3 你刚才去哪儿了?

Subject + 刚才 + verb phrase.

0503.4 False.

刚才 is only a moment ago; recently is 最近 (or 刚搬家).

0503.5 One possible response: 刚才有人给你打电话了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Use 刚才 for a moment ago in the same situation; for “recently” over days, use 最近 or 刚.
- 刚才 can go first in the sentence; 刚 cannot: 刚才他来了 ✓, 刚他来了 ×.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Time / Verb + 时 (when ...)

0504.1 的时候

Clause + 的时候 = when.

0504.2 B. 你有空的时候给我打电话。

The 的时候 clause comes first; 什么时候 asks “when?”.

0504.3 上课时, 请关手机。

Clause + 时, then the request.

0504.4 False.

的时候 is the usual spoken form; 时 is more written.

0504.5 One possible response: 我小的时候常常去河边游泳。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 时 / 的时候 goes after the clause: 下雨的时候, not 时候下雨.
- In a “when” clause, do not use 什么时候 (that asks “when?”): 我到家的时候, not 我什么时候到家.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 以后 (after / in the future)

0505.1 以后

Event + 以后 = after that event.

0505.2 C. From now on I'll go to bed earlier.

以后 alone at the start refers to the future.

0505.3 大学毕业以后, 我想去国外工作。

Event + 以后, then the main clause.

0505.4 False.

After eating is 吃饭以后; 以后吃饭 means “eat in the future”.

0505.5 One possible response: 大学毕业以后, 我想去国外工作。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Put 以后 after the event: 吃饭以后, not 以后吃饭 (which would mean “eat in the future”).
- For the next step in a past story, prefer 后来 or 然后, not a bare 以后: 我先去了银行, 然后去了超市.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ ... , 后来 ... (afterwards / later – past)

0506.1 后来

后来 introduces what happened later in a past story.

0506.2 B. 我们先吃饭, 然后去买东西。

后来 is only for past stories; a plan uses 然后.

0506.3 后来怎么样了?

后来怎么样了?

0506.4 True.

后来 jumps forward in a past story.

0506.5 One possible response: 他去了深圳, 后来在那儿开了一家公司。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 后来 is only for the past. For “later” in a plan, use 以后 or 然后: 我们以后再说.
- It stands alone as a time word; it is not added after an event: 毕业以后, not 毕业后来.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Approximating with sequential numbers

0507.1 十几

十几 = between eleven and nineteen.

0507.2 D. 五六天

Two neighbouring numbers, smaller first, then the measure word or noun.

0507.3 1-B: 二十多个 = twenty-odd; 2-D: 几十个 = dozens; 3-C: 三十岁左右 = around thirty years old; 4-A: 七八个 = seven or eight

多, 几, 左右 and neighbouring numbers all give approximate amounts.

0507.4 来了七八个人。

Neighbouring numbers + measure word + noun.

0507.5 One possible response: 来了七八个人。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The measure word comes after both numbers: 三四个人, not 三个四个人.

- With 多 and round tens, 多 goes before the measure word: 二十多个, not 二十个多 (for amounts under ten, 多 follows the measure word: 三个多小时).
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Big numbers: 万 / 亿

0508.1 五万

50,000 = $5 \times 10,000$ = 五万.

0508.2 C. 十万

100,000 = $10 \times 10,000$ = 十万.

0508.3 1-C: 一万 = 10,000; 2-B: 一百万 = 1,000,000; 3-D: 一亿 = 100,000,000; 4-A: 十亿 = 1,000,000,000

Chinese groups large numbers in fours.

0508.4 True.

$1,000 \times 10,000 = 10,000,000$.

0508.5 One possible response: 重庆有三千多万人。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 100,000 is 十万, not 一百千: Chinese has no “hundred thousand” unit, so regroup by fours.
- A million is 一百万, not 一万万; 一万万 is an old word for 一亿.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Times to the minute (点 ... 分)

0509.1 半

半 after 点 = half past.

0509.2 B. 8:50

差十分九点 = ten minutes to nine.

0509.3 我早上六点一刻起床。

Subject + part of the day + time + verb.

0509.4 False.

For 1–9 minutes add 零: 八点零五分.

0509.5 One possible response: 火车八点二十五分开。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Put the clock time before the verb: 我七点起床, not 我起床七点.
- Say 两点 for 2:00, not 二点.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Telling the hour (Number + 点)

0510.1 几

几点 asks the hour.

0510.2 A. 下午两点

Part of the day first, and 2:00 is 两点.

0510.3 我晚上九点睡觉。

Subject + part of the day + time + verb.

0510.4 False.

三点 is 3 o'clock; 三个小时 is three hours.

0510.5 One possible response: 我们早上七点上课。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The time goes before the verb: 我六点下班, not 我下班六点.
- Use 两点 for 2 o'clock, not 二点.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Verb + 着 (ongoing state)

0511.1 着

Verb + 着 describes the continuing state.

0511.2 A. 他在开门。

An action in progress takes 在 + Verb; 门开着 is the state.

0511.3 他笑着说。

V1 + 着 + V2.

0511.4 False.

着 is negated with 没: 门没开着.

0511.5 One possible response: 门开着, 灯也亮着。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 着 describes a state; for an action in progress, use 在: 他在开门 (he is opening the door) vs 门开着 (the door is open).
- Negate with 没, not 不: 灯没亮着.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Sentence-final 了 (change of state)

0512.1 了

Final 了 announces the change.

0512.2 A. I've quit smoking.

不 ... 了 = no longer.

0512.3 我们快到了。

快 + verb + 了 = about to.

0512.4 False.

A past habit with no change takes no 了.

0512.5 One possible response: 下雨了!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- A past habit with no change takes no 了: 我以前常常去, not 我以前常常去了.
- 不 ... 了 = no longer: 我不喝咖啡了 means “I've stopped drinking coffee”, not “I didn't drink coffee”.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Questions with 呢 (and you? / where?)

0513.1 呢

X + 呢 repeats the question about X.

0513.2 D. 你是学生吗?

Yes-no questions take 吗; 呢 does not make a yes-no question.

0513.3 True.

With no earlier question, Noun + 呢 asks where something is.

0513.4 他在睡觉呢。

在 + verb + 呢 marks an action in progress.

0513.5 One possible response: 我是成都人, 你呢?

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Do not put 呢 on a yes-no question: 你是老师吗? , not 你是老师呢?
- Do not add 吗 to a question-word question: 你去哪儿? or 你去哪儿呢? , not 你去哪儿吗?
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 的 / 得 / 地 (the three “de”)

0514.1 得

After a verb, 得 introduces how well.

0514.2 C. 的 ... 地

我的朋友 (before a noun) and 慢慢地走 (before a verb).

0514.3 1-C: 漂亮 ___ 衣服 = 的; 2-B: 认真 ___ 工作 = 地; 3-A: 写 ___ 很好 = 得

Noun → 的; following verb → 地; after a verb → 得.

0514.4 True.

The 的 phrase describes the noun 菜.

0514.5 One possible response: 他跑得很快。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Look at what follows: a noun → 的; a verb → 地; and after a verb, a description of the result → 得.

- Typing tip: in 跑得很快 the verb 跑 is before the particle, so it must be 得, not 的.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 有的 (some / some..., others...)

0515.1 有的

有的 + noun in subject position.

0515.2 B. 我买了一些苹果。

In object position, “some” is 一些.

0515.3 这些书有的很有意思，有的很无聊。

Topic, then 有的 ..., 有的

0515.4 True.

有 (的) 时候 = sometimes.

0515.5 One possible response: 有的同学想去海边，有的想去爬山。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Put 有的 in subject position: 有的人不喜欢, not 我不喜欢有的人 for “some people don’t like it”.
- With an object you know, put the topic first: 这些菜，有的我没吃过 – “Some of these dishes I haven’t tried.”
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 半 (half / and a half)

0516.1 半

Number + MW + 半 + noun = two and a half hours.

0516.2 D. 半个小时

半 + MW + noun.

0516.3 1-B: 半年 = half a year; 2-D: 一年半 = a year and a half; 3-C: 一半 = half (of it); 4-A: 三点半 = half past three

半 before the MW is “half a”; after it, “and a half”; 一半 is the noun.

0516.4 False.

Say 一个半小时.

0516.5 One possible response: 还有半个蛋糕和一个半西瓜。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Half a ... : 半 before the measure word (半个小时). ... and a half: 半 after it (一个半小时).
- Do not say 一半个 or 一个半小时: say 半个 and 一个半小时.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 以后 vs 然后 vs 后来 (then / after)

0517.1 然后

然后 links the next step.

0517.2 D. 我们以后见。

后来 is only for past stories; 以后 can refer to the future.

0517.3 1-C: 以后 = after an event / in the future; 2-A: 然后 = the next step; 3-B: 后来 = later on in a past story

Each “after” word has its own job.

0517.4 我到了以后给你打电话。

Clause + 以后 + main clause.

0517.5 One possible response: 我先去买东西，然后吃了午饭。后来，我的老朋友给我打电话了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 后来 is never for the future: 我们以后见, not 我们后来见.
- 后来 is never added after an event: 下课以后, not 下课后来.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 他认真地学习 uses 地 before the verb; 他学得很认真 uses 得 after the verb. 的 normally links a modifier to a noun, as in 认真的学生.

R2. One possible response. 我下午两点十分回家, 到家以后给你打电话。The clock time is 2:10 p.m.; 以后 follows the arrival event. Do not confuse 十分 with a degree adverb in this time phrase.

Recall later. Later, distinguish 的, 地 and 得 in three new noun/action/comment phrases.