

Conjunctions & conditions

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.

A 或者 B (or – in statements)

■ Either day is fine

- A friend wants to meet this weekend and asks which day suits you. Both are free.
- 星期六或者星期天都可以。 – “Saturday or Sunday are both fine.”

■ A 或者 B (in statements)

- 或者 = “or” in statements, offers and suggestions: 你可以坐地铁或者打车。
- It can join nouns, verbs or whole clauses.

你可以坐地铁或者打车。

nǐ kě yǐ zuò dì tiě huò zhě dǎ chē

Word guide: 你 – you; 可以 – can; 坐 – take; 地铁 – the subway; 或者 – or; 打车 – take a taxi.

或者: or (in a statement)



■ Choices, alternatives, either-way

- 你明天或者后天给我打电话吧。 – “Call me tomorrow or the day after.”
- 周末我常常看书，或者去公园散步。 – “At weekends I often read, or go for a walk in the park.”

周末我常常看书，或者去公园散步。

zhōu mò wǒ cháng cháng kàn shū huò zhě qù gōng yuán sàn bù

Word guide: 周末 – at weekends; 我 – I; 常常 – often; 看书 – read; 或者 – or; 去 – go to; 公园 – the park; 散步 – walk.

■ Not for questions

- To ask “A or B?”, use 还是: 你喝茶还是咖啡? , not 你喝茶或者咖啡?
- 或者 does not mean “and”: 我买了苹果和香蕉 (both), not 苹果或者香蕉.

■ 或者 ... 或者 ...

- Repeated, it lists alternatives: 或者你来, 或者我去, 都行。 – “Either you come or I go – either is fine.”
- 也可以 often follows: 坐火车也可以.

或者你来, 或者我去。

huò zhě nǐ lái huò zhě wǒ qù

Word guide: 或者 – either; 你 – you; 来 – come; 或者 – or; 我 – I; 去 – go.

■ Recap

- A 或者 B = A or B in statements and suggestions; 或者 ... 或者 ... = either ... or ...
- Questions use 还是; “and” is 和.

Practise this pattern step by step.

那么 ... (then / in that case)

■ The cinema is full

- A friend says the cinema is fully booked tonight. You quickly suggest another plan.
- 那么, 我们明天去吧。 – “In that case, let’s go tomorrow.”

■ 那么 / 那 = “then, in that case”

- At the start of a reply, 那么 (spoken: 那) draws a conclusion from what was just said.
- It often leads to a suggestion or a question: 那你打算怎么办?

那你打算怎么办?

nà nǐ dǎ suàn zěn me bàn

Word guide: 那 – then; 你 – you; 打算 – plan; 怎么办 – what to do.

那么 / 那: in that case



■ In conversation

- A: 我不太饿。B: 那我们喝杯咖啡吧。 – “Then let’s just have a coffee.”
- After 如果: 如果你不喜欢, 那么就换一个吧。 – “If you don’t like it, then change it.”

如果你不喜欢, 那么就换一个吧。

rú guǒ nǐ bù xǐ huan nà me jiù huàn yí gè ba

Word guide: 如果 – if; 你 – you; 不 – don’t; 喜欢 – like; 那么 – then; 就 – (then); 换 – change; 一个 – one.

■ Two different 那么

- At the start of a clause, 那么 = “then, in that case”.
- Before an adjective, 那么 = “so”: 那么贵. Check its position.

■ 那么 versus 所以

- 所以 gives a result of a cause: 下雨了, 所以我没去.
- 那么 responds to what someone else said, often with a suggestion: A: 下雨了。B: 那么我们别去了。

下雨了, 所以我没去。

xià yǔ le suǒ yǐ wǒ méi qù

Word guide: 下雨 – rain; 所以 – so; 我 – I; 没 – didn’t; 去 – go.

■ Recap

- 那么 / 那, ... = then, in that case; it reacts to what was just said.
- 如果 ..., 那么 (就)... is common. 那么 + Adj = so.

Practise this pattern step by step.

跟 + Person + Verb (with someone)

■ Who are you going with?

- Your mum asks about your plans for the holiday.
- 我跟朋友一起去云南。 – “I’m going to Yunnan with friends.”

■ Subject + 跟 + Person + (一起) + Verb

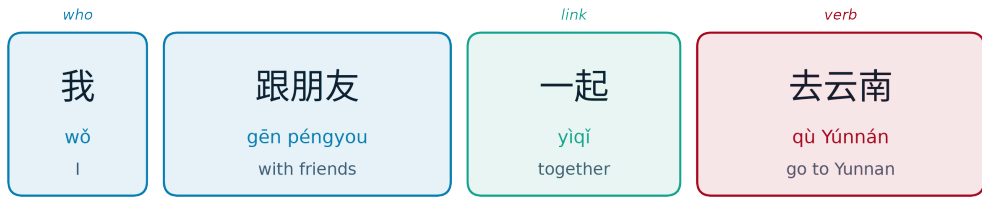
- 跟 + person = “with”, placed before the verb. 一起 (together) often follows: 跟他一起吃饭.
- 和 works the same way: 我和同学一起学习.

我跟朋友一起去云南。

wǒ gēn péng you yì qǐ qù Yún nán

Word guide: 我 – I; 跟 – with; 朋友 – friends; 一起 – together; 去 – go to; 云南 – Yunnan.

跟 + person + 一起: together with



■ Talking to someone

- 跟 also marks who you talk to: 我想跟你说一件事。 – “I want to tell you something.”
- 你跟老师说了吗? – “Have you told the teacher?”

我想跟你说一件事。

wǒ xiǎng gēn nǐ shuō yí jiàn shì

Word guide: 我 – I; 想 – want; 跟 – to; 你 – you; 说 – tell; 一件事 – something.

■ 跟 goes before the verb

- “With friends” comes before the verb: 跟朋友去, not 去跟朋友 (unless 跟 means “and” between two nouns).
- Put 不 or 没 before 跟: 我不跟他去 – “I won’t go with him” – not 我跟他不去.

■ 跟 as “and”

- Between two nouns, 跟 = “and”: 我跟他都是学生 – “He and I are both students.”
- Before a verb phrase, 跟 + person = “with”.

我跟他都是学生。

wǒ gēn tā dōu shì xué sheng

Word guide: 我 – I; 跟 – and; 他 – he; 都 – both; 是 – are; 学生 – students.

■ Recap

- 跟 + person + (一起) + Verb = do it with someone; 跟 + person + 说 = tell someone.
- 跟 comes before the verb; negatives go before 跟. Between nouns, 跟 = and.

Practise this pattern step by step.

A 还是 B? (or – in questions)

■ Tea or coffee?

- A waiter asks what you would like to drink.
- 您喝茶还是喝咖啡? – “Would you like tea or coffee?”

■ A 还是 B? (choice question)

- A 还是 B? asks someone to choose; no 吗 is needed.
- It can join nouns, verbs or clauses: 你今天去还是明天去?

你今天去还是明天去?

nǐ jīn tiān qù hái shì míng tiān qù

Word guide: 你 – you; 今天 – today; 去 – go; 还是 – or; 明天 – tomorrow; 去 – go.

还是: or (in a question)

who	verb	question word	
您 nín you	喝茶 hē chá drink tea	还是 háishi or	喝咖啡 hē kāfēi drink coffee

■ 是 ... 还是 ...

- With 是: 你是老师还是学生? – “Are you a teacher or a student?”
- 我们坐地铁还是打车? – “Shall we take the subway or a taxi?”

你是老师还是学生?

nǐ shì lǎo shī hái shì xué sheng

Word guide: 你 – you; 是 – are; 老师 – a teacher; 还是 – or; 学生 – a student.

■ No 吗 with 还是

- 还是 already makes a question: 你喝茶还是咖啡? , not 你喝茶还是咖啡吗?
- In a statement, “or” is 或者: 茶或者咖啡都可以.

■ 还是 in “I don’t know whether ...”

- After 不知道 or 决定, 还是 keeps its “whether ... or” meaning: 我不知道他来还是不来。 – “I don’t know whether he’s coming or not.”
- 还是 can also mean “had better”: 还是走吧 – “We’d better go.”

我不知道他来还是不来。

wǒ bù zhī dào tā lái hái shì bù lái

Word guide: 我 – I; 不 – don’t; 知道 – know; 他 – he; 来 – comes; 还是 – or; 不 – not; 来 – come.

■ Recap

- **A 还是 B?** = A or B? (a choice question, no 吗).
- In statements use 或者; 不知道 A 还是 B = don't know whether A or B.

Practise this pattern step by step.

关于 + Topic (about / regarding)

■ A book about China

- In the library you find a book that explains Chinese history for beginners.
- **这是一本关于中国历史的书。** – “This is a book about Chinese history.”

■ 关于 + topic

- **关于 + topic** = “about, regarding”. Before a noun it takes 的: 关于中国的书.
- At the start of a sentence it introduces the topic: 关于这个问题, 我们明天再讨论.

关于这个问题, 我们明天再讨论。

guān yú zhè ge wèn tí wǒ men míng tiān zài tǎo lùn

Word guide: 关于 – about; 这个 – this; 问题 – question; 我们 – we; 明天 – tomorrow; 再 – then; 讨论 – discuss.

关于 ...的 + noun: about ...



■ Topics of talks, books and news

- **我看了一个关于熊猫的节目。** – “I watched a programme about pandas.”
- **关于考试的时间, 老师还没说。** – “The teacher hasn't said anything yet about the exam time.”

我看了一个关于熊猫的节目。

wǒ kàn le yí ge guān yú xióng māo de jié mù

Word guide: 我 – I; 看 – watched; 一个 – a; 关于 – about; 熊猫 – pandas; 节目 – programme.

■ Placement

- A 关于 phrase describing a noun needs 的: 关于中国的书, not 关于中国书.
- As a topic, 关于 ... comes first, before the subject: 关于这件事, 我不知道, not 我关于这件事不知道.

■ 关于 versus 对

- 关于 introduces a topic: 关于环境的文章 – “an article about the environment”.
- 对 shows the target of an attitude: 他对中国文化很感兴趣 – “He’s very interested in Chinese culture.”

他对中国文化很感兴趣。

tā duì Zhōng guó wén huà hěn gǎn xìng qù

Word guide: 他 – he; 对 – in; 中国 – Chinese; 文化 – culture; 很 – very; 感兴趣 – interested.

■ Recap

- 关于 + **topic** (+ 的 + **noun**) = about ...; as a topic marker it starts the sentence.
- 对 marks the target of feelings (对 ... 感兴趣), not the topic of a book or talk.

Practise this pattern step by step.

直到 ... , ... 才 ... (all the way until)

■ Waiting until midnight

- You stayed up for your sister’s flight to land; she only messaged you at midnight.
- 我一直等到十二点, 她才给我发消息。 – “I waited right up until twelve before she messaged me.”

■ 直到 + time / event, ... 才 ...

- 直到 + **time/event** = “right up until”; the result follows with 才: something happened only then.
- 直到 often comes first: 直到昨天, 我才知道这件事.

直到昨天, 我才知道这件事。

zhí dào zuó tiān wǒ cái zhī dào zhè jiàn shì

Word guide: 直到 – not until; 昨天 – yesterday; 我 – I; 才 – only then; 知道 – knew; 这件事 – this.

一直 ... 到 ..., 才 ...: until

who	when		verb
我 wǒ I	一直等到十二点 yìzhí děng dào shíèr diǎn waited till midnight	她 tā she	才给我发消息 cái gěi wǒ fā xiāoxi only then texted

■ Late discoveries and long waits

- 直到毕业, 他才明白老师的话。 – “It wasn’t until he graduated that he understood what the teacher meant.”
- With 一直 ... 到: 雨一直下到晚上。 – “The rain kept falling until the evening.”

雨一直下到晚上。

yǔ yì zhí xià dào wǎn shàng

Word guide: 雨 – the rain; 一直 – continuously; 下 – fall; 到 – until; 晚上 – the evening.

■ Use 才 for the delayed result

- The result clause takes 才 (it was late): 直到十点他才来, not 直到十点他就来了.
- This short result model uses 才知道. Do not infer from it that 了 is impossible in all other 才 constructions.

■ 直到 versus 到

- 到 alone after a verb gives the end point: 我们玩到十点 – “We played until ten.”
- 直到 stresses how long it took before something finally happened.

我们玩到十点。

wǒ men wán dào shí diǎn

Word guide: 我们 – we; 玩 – play; 到 – until; 十点 – ten o’clock.

■ Recap

- 直到 + time/event, Subject + 才 + Verb = not until then did ...
- 才 highlights the delayed result in this model. Verb + 到 + time gives an endpoint; 了 is not universally banned with 才.

Practise this pattern step by step.

向 + Direction / Person + Verb (towards)

■ Which way?

- You are lost in an old town, and a shopkeeper points down the street.
- 你向前走, 然后向右拐。 – “Walk forward, then turn right.”

■ 向 + direction / person + Verb

- 向 + direction = towards: 向前走, 向左拐, 向东开.
- 向 + person = to, towards someone: 向老师问好 – “say hello to the teacher”.

向左拐。

xiàng zuǒ guǎi

Word guide: 向 – towards; 左 – the left; 拐 – turn.

向 + direction + verb



■ Actions aimed at people

- 我向他借了一本书。 – “I borrowed a book from him.”
- 我们应该向她学习。 – “We should learn from her.”

我们应该向她学习。

wǒ men yīng gāi xiàng tā xué xí

Word guide: 我们 – we; 应该 – should; 向 – from; 她 – her; 学习 – learn.

■ 向 goes before the verb

- Put 向 + direction before the verb: 向右拐, not 拐向右 in everyday directions.
- “Borrow from someone” is 向 + person + 借, not 借向 + person.

■ 向 versus 往

- 往 also means “towards” for movement: 往前走, 往左拐. In directions the two are interchangeable.
- Only 向 works with people: 向他道歉 – “apologise to him”, not 往他道歉.

我向他道歉。

wǒ xiàng tā dào qiàn

Word guide: 我 – I; 向 – to; 他 – him; 道歉 – apologise.

■ Recap

- 向 + direction + Verb = towards (向前走); 向 + person + Verb = to/from someone (向他借, 向她学习).
- 往 = towards in directions only; people take 向.

Practise this pattern step by step.

只要 ... , 就 ... (as long as)

■ If the weather holds

- A friend is worried about tomorrow’s picnic. You only need one thing to go right.
- 只要不下雨, 我们就去野餐。 – “As long as it doesn’t rain, we’ll go on the picnic.”

■ 只要 + condition, 就 + result

- 只要 A, 就 B = “as long as A, then B”: A is enough for B to happen.
- 只要 opens the first clause; 就 comes after the subject of the second.

只要你努力, 就能学好。

zhǐ yào nǐ nǚ lì jiù néng xué hǎo

Word guide: 只要 – as long as; 你 – you; 努力 – work hard; 就 – then; 能 – can; 学好 – learn well.

只要 ..., 就 ...: as long as

link	not	who	verb
只要 zhǐ yào as long as	不下雨 bú xià yǔ it doesn't rain	我们 wǒmen we	就去野餐 jiù qù yěcān will picnic

■ Encouragement and easy conditions

- 只要每天练习, 你的中文就会越来越好。 – “As long as you practise every day, your Chinese will keep improving.”
- 只要有时间, 我就去看你。 – “Whenever I have time, I’ll come and see you.”

只要有时间, 我就去看你。

zhǐ yào yǒu shí jiān wǒ jiù qù kàn nǐ

Word guide: 只要 – as long as; 有 – have; 时间 – time; 我 – I; 就 – then; 去 – go; 看 – see; 你 – you.

■ 就 after the subject

- Put 就 after the subject of the second clause: 只要你来, 我就高兴, not 就我高兴.
- 只要 means the condition is enough; for “only if” (a necessary condition), use 只有 ... 才 ...

■ 只要 ... 就 versus 只有 ... 才

- 只要 A 就 B: A is sufficient, it is easy: 只要有钱就能买.
- 只有 A 才 B: A is the only way: 只有努力, 才能成功。 – “Only through hard work can you succeed.”

只有努力, 才能成功。

zhǐ yǒu nǚ lì cái néng chéng gōng

Word guide: 只有 – only if; 努力 – work hard; 才 – only then; 能 – can; 成功 – succeed.

■ Recap

- 只要 A, (Subject) 就 B = as long as A, then B (A is enough).
- 就 follows the subject. A necessary condition uses 只有 ... 才 ...

Practise this pattern step by step.

... , 才 ... (only then / only after)

■ Only after you finish

- Your parents have one rule about screen time on school nights.
- 你做完作业，才能玩游戏。 – “You can only play games after you finish your homework.”

■ Condition, Subject + 才 + Verb

- A, 才 B = “only after / only if A, B”: B depends on A happening first.
- 才 follows the subject of the second clause and often goes with 能 or 会: 才能, 才会.

你做完作业，才能玩游戏。

nǐ zuò wán zuò yè cái néng wán yóu xì

Word guide: 你 – you; 做完 – finish; 作业 – homework; 才 – only then; 能 – can; 玩 – play; 游戏 – games.

..., 才 ...: only then



■ Effort before a result

- 你多说，才能说好。 – “Only by speaking a lot will you speak well.”
- 我问了他三次，他才告诉我。 – “I asked him three times before he told me.”

我问了他三次，他才告诉我。

wǒ wèn le tā sān cì tā cái gào su wǒ

Word guide: 我 – I; 问 – asked; 他 – him; 三次 – three times; 他 – he; 才 – only then; 告诉 – told; 我 – me.

■ Place 才 before the result predicate

- Put 才 after the subject of the result: 他才告诉我, not 才他告诉我.
- The simple result model here is 他才告诉我. Other contexts can allow 了; the whole construction matters.

■ Stronger with 只有

- Adding 只有 explicitly makes this a necessary condition: 只有做完作业, 才能玩游戏。
- Without 只有, ... 才 ... still implies the condition must come first.

只有做完作业, 才能玩。

zhǐ yǒu zuò wán zuò yè cái néng wán

Word guide: 只有 – only if; 做完 – finish; 作业 – homework; 才 – only then; 能 – can; 玩 – play.

■ Recap

- A, Subject + 才 (能/会) + B = only after / only if A, B.
- 才 follows the subject in this frame; 只有 makes the condition necessary, without guaranteeing the result by itself.

Practise this pattern step by step.

只有 ... , 才 ... (only if)

■ The only way in

- The building door needs a code, and only residents know it.
- 只有知道密码, 才能进去。 – “Only if you know the code can you get in.”

■ 只有 A, 才 B

- 只有 A, 才 B = “only if A, (then) B”: A is the one and only condition.
- 才 goes after the subject of the second clause, often with 能 or 会.

只有多练习, 才能说好。

zhǐ yǒu duō liàn xí cái néng shuō hǎo

Word guide: 只有 – only if; 多 – a lot; 练习 – practise; 才 – only then; 能 – can; 说好 – speak well.

只有 ..., 才 ...: only if

<i>link</i> 只有 <i>zhǐyǒu</i> only if	<i>verb</i> 知道密码 <i>zhīdao mìmǎ</i> you know the password	才 <i>cái</i> then	能进去 <i>néng jìnqu</i> can you get in
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■ Only this person, only this way

- With a person: **只有他才知道答案。** – “Only he knows the answer.”
- With a method: **只有坐飞机, 才能今天到。** – “Only by flying can we arrive today.”

只有他才知道答案。

zhǐ yǒu tā cái zhī dào dá àn

Word guide: 只有 – only; 他 – he; 才 – (then); 知道 – knows; 答案 – the answer.

■ 才, not 就

- Pair 只有 with 才: 只有你去, 他才会去, not 只有你去, 他就会去.
- Put 才 after the subject: 他才会去, not 才他会去.

■ 只有 ... 才 versus 只要 ... 就

- 只有 A 才 B: A is necessary – no A, no B.
- 只要 A 就 B: A is enough – easy: **只要有护照, 就能买票。** – “All you need is a passport to buy a ticket.”

只要有护照, 就能买票。

zhǐ yào yǒu hù zhào jiù néng mǎi piào

Word guide: 只要 – as long as; 有 – have; 护照 – a passport; 就 – then; 能 – can; 买票 – buy a ticket.

■ Recap

- 只有 A, 才 B = only if A, B (A is necessary).
- 只要 A, 就 B = as long as A, B (A is enough). 只有 pairs with 才, 只要 with 就.

Practise this pattern step by step.

除了 ... 都 / 还 (except / besides)

■ Everyone except me

- Your whole class went to the concert, but you were ill at home.
- **除了我, 大家都去了。** – “Everyone went except me.”

■ 除了 A (以外), 都 ... = except A

- 除了 A, (B) 都 ... = “except for A, all ...”: A is left out of the group.
- 以外 can follow A: 除了我以外. The 都 is needed in this meaning.

除了星期天, 我每天都上班。

chú le xīng qī tiān wǒ měi tiān dōu shàng bān

Word guide: 除了 – except; 星期天 – Sunday; 我 – I; 每天 – every day; 都 – all; 上班 – work.

除了 ..., 都 ...: except



■ 除了 A, 还 / 也 ... = besides A

- 除了 A, 还 B = “besides A, also B”: A is included and more is added.
- 除了中文, 他还会说日语。 – “Besides Chinese, he can also speak Japanese.”

除了中文, 他还会说日语。

chú le Zhōng wén tā hái huì shuō Rì yǔ

Word guide: 除了 – besides; 中文 – Chinese; 他 – he; 还 – also; 会 – can; 说 – speak; 日语 – Japanese.

■ 都 excludes, 还 adds

- 除了我, 大家都去了 = I did not go. 除了我, 小李也去了 = Xiao Li went as well as me.
- Put 都 / 还 / 也 after the subject of the second clause: 大家都去了, not 都大家去了.

■ With a verb phrase

- 除了 can take an action: 周末除了看书, 我还喜欢跑步。 – “At weekends, besides reading, I also like running.”
- 他除了吃就是睡。 – “All he does is eat and sleep.” (except eating, it is sleeping)

他除了吃就是睡。

tā chú le chī jiù shì shuì

Word guide: 他 – he; 除了 – apart from; 吃 – eating; 就是 – it’s just; 睡 – sleeping.

■ Recap

- 除了 A (以外), 都 ... = except A (A is left out).
- 除了 A (以外), 还 / 也 ... = besides A (A plus more).

Practise this pattern step by step.

如果 ... 的话 (if ...)

■ A trip that depends on the weather

- You are planning a trip to the Great Wall but the forecast is uncertain.
- 如果明天下雨的话, 我们就在家看电影。 – “If it rains tomorrow, we’ll stay home and watch a film.”

■ 如果 + condition + 的话

- 如果 ... 的话 = “if ...”. 的话 closes the condition; either word may be dropped in speech.
- 如果下雨, 下雨的话, 如果下雨的话 all mean “if it rains”.

下雨的话, 我就不去了。

xià yǔ de huà wǒ jiù bú qù le

Word guide: 下雨 – rain; 的话 – if; 我 – I; 就 – then; 不 – not; 去 – go.

如果 ... 的话, 就 ...: if



■ Offers and advice

- 你有问题的话, 可以问我。 – “If you have any questions, you can ask me.”
- 如果你累了的话, 就休息一下。 – “If you’re tired, have a rest.”

你有问题的话, 可以问我。

nǐ yǒu wèn tí de huà kě yǐ wèn wǒ

Word guide: 你 – you; 有 – have; 问题 – questions; 的话 – if; 可以 – can; 问 – ask; 我 – me.

■ The condition comes first

- Put the 如果 clause before the result: 如果你有时间, 来找我, not 来找我如果你有时间 (English order).
- 的话 goes at the end of the condition, not after the result.

■ 要是 in speech

- 要是 is a spoken “if”: 要是你不想去的话, 就别去了。
- It works with 的话 and 就 exactly like 如果.

要是你不想去, 就别去了。

yào shì nǐ bù xiǎng qù jiù bié qù le

Word guide: 要是 – if; 你 – you; 不 – don’t; 想 – want to; 去 – go; 就 – then; 别 – don’t; 去 – go.

■ Recap

- 如果 / 要是 ... (的话), (就) ... = if ..., then ...; either 如果 or 的话 may be dropped.
- The condition comes first, 的话 closes it.

Practise this pattern step by step.

如果 ... , 就 ... (if ..., then ...)

■ If the tickets are cheap

- You and a friend are checking flights for the holiday.
- 如果机票便宜, 我们就去海南。 – “If the plane tickets are cheap, we’ll go to Hainan.”

■ 如果 A, (Subject) 就 B

- 如果 A, 就 B = “if A, then B”. 就 links the result to the condition.
- 就 goes after the subject of the result clause: 如果你来, 我就很高兴.

如果你来, 我就很高兴。

rú guǒ nǐ lái wǒ jiù hěn gāo xìng

Word guide: 如果 – if; 你 – you; 来 – come; 我 – I; 就 – then; 很 – very; 高兴 – happy.

如果 ..., 就 ...: if ..., then ...



■ Plans, warnings, advice

- Warning: 如果你不快点儿, 就会迟到。 – “If you don’t hurry, you’ll be late.”
- Advice: 如果你不舒服, 就去看医生吧。 – “If you’re not well, go and see a doctor.”

如果你不快点儿, 就会迟到。

rú guǒ nǐ bù kuài diǎnr jiù huì chí dào

Word guide: 如果 – if; 你 – you; 不 – don’t; 快 – hurry; 点儿 – a bit; 就 – then; 会 – will; 迟到 – be late.

■ 就 after the subject

- Subject first, then 就: 我就去, not 就我去.
- Do not use 所以 for “then” after 如果: 如果下雨, 我就不去, not 如果下雨, 所以我不去.

■ 如果 versus 因为

- 如果 is a possibility that may or may not happen: 如果下雨, 我就不去.
- 因为 is a fact that already holds: 因为下雨, 所以我没去.

因为下雨, 所以我没去。

yīn wèi xià yǔ suǒ yǐ wǒ méi qù

Word guide: 因为 – because; 下雨 – it rained; 所以 – so; 我 – I; 没 – didn’t; 去 – go.

■ Recap

- 如果 A, Subject + 就 + B = if A, then B.
- 就 follows the subject; 如果 pairs with 就, 因为 with 所以.

Practise this pattern step by step.

不但 ... , 而且 ... (not only ... but also)

■ Not only cheap

- You are recommending a new restaurant to a friend who is hard to please.
- 这家饭馆不但便宜, 而且很好吃。 – “This restaurant isn’t only cheap, it’s also delicious.”

■ 不但 A, 而且 B

- 不但 A, 而且 B = “not only A, but also B”: B adds a further, often stronger, point.
- 而且 can be followed by 还 or 也: 而且还很好吃.

她不但会唱歌, 而且会跳舞。

tā bú dàn huì chàng gē ér qiě huì tiào wǔ

Word guide: 她 – she; 不但 – not only; 会 – can; 唱歌 – sing; 而且 – but also; 会 – can; 跳舞 – dance.

不但 ..., 而且 ...: not only ..., but also ...

where	verb	link	
这家饭馆 zhè jiā fànguǎn this restaurant	不但便宜 búdàn piányi is not only cheap	而且 érqiě but also	很好吃 hěn hǎochī tasty

■ One subject or two

- Same subject: subject first, then 不但: 他不但聪明, 而且很努力。 – “He’s not only clever but also hard-working.”
- Different subjects: 不但 before the first subject: 不但我喜欢, 而且我朋友也喜欢。 – “Not only do I like it, my friend does too.”

不但我喜欢, 而且我朋友也喜欢。

bú dàn wǒ xǐ huan ér qiě wǒ péng you yě xǐ huan

Word guide: 不但 – not only; 我 – I; 喜欢 – like it; 而且 – but also; 我 – my; 朋友 – friend; 也 – too; 喜欢 – likes it.

■ Where 不但 goes

- One subject: 他不但聪明, not 不但他聪明.
- Two subjects: 不但我喜欢, 而且他也喜欢 – 不但 goes before the first subject.

■ 而且 alone, and 不仅

- 而且 can stand alone to add a point: 天气很冷, 而且下雪了 – “It’s cold, and it’s snowing too.”
- 不仅 is a more written synonym of 不但: 不仅 ... 而且

天气很冷, 而且下雪了。

tiān qì hěn lěng ér qiě xià xuě le

Word guide: 天气 – the weather; 很 – very; 冷 – cold; 而且 – and also; 下雪 – snow.

■ Recap

- 不但 A, 而且 B = not only A, but also B.
- One subject: after it; two subjects: before the first. 而且 can stand alone; 不仅 is more formal.

Practise this pattern step by step.

还是 vs 或者 (or: question vs statement)

■ Asking or offering?

- A waiter asks, “Rice or noodles?” You answer, “Either is fine.”
- 米饭还是面条? — 米饭或者面条都可以。 – “Rice or noodles? – Rice or noodles, either is fine.”

■ 还是 asks, 或者 states

- 还是 = “or” in a question that asks someone to choose: 你喝茶还是咖啡?
- 或者 = “or” in a statement or suggestion: 你可以喝茶或者咖啡。

你可以喝茶或者咖啡。

nǐ kě yǐ hē chá huò zhě kā fēi

Word guide: 你 – you; 可以 – can; 喝 – drink; 茶 – tea; 或者 – or; 咖啡 – coffee.

还是 asks; 或者 offers



■ Hidden questions

- After 不知道, 想知道 or 决定, use 还是: 我不知道他去还是不去。 – “I don’t know whether he’s going or not.”
- 我还没决定去北京还是去上海。 – “I haven’t decided whether to go to Beijing or Shanghai.”

我还没决定去北京还是去上海。

wǒ hái méi jué dìng qù Běi jīng hái shì qù Shàng hǎi

Word guide: 我 – I; 还 – still; 没 – haven’t; 决定 – decided; 去 – go to; 北京 – Beijing; 还是 – or; 去 – go to; 上海 – Shanghai.

■ The quick test

- Is someone being asked to choose (even indirectly)? Use 还是. Is a possibility being offered? Use 或者.
- Never add 吗 to a 还是 question: 你去还是不去? , not 你去还是不去吗?

■ 还是 = had better

- 还是 also means “had better”, with no choice involved: 太晚了, 我们还是回家吧。
– “It’s late; we’d better go home.”
- Read the context: two options to choose from, or a recommendation?

太晚了, 我们还是回家吧。

tài wǎn le wǒ men hái shì huí jiā ba

Word guide: 太 – too; 晚 – late; 我们 – we; 还是 – had better; 回家 – go home.

■ Recap

- 还是 = or in direct and hidden questions (不知道 A 还是 B); 或者 = or in statements.
- 还是 + suggestion = had better.

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.

■ A 或者 B (or – in statements)

0701.1 Complete: “You can pay in cash or by card.” 你可以付现金 刷卡。

0701.2 Which asks “Do you want tea or coffee?”

- A. 你要茶或者咖啡?
- B. 你要茶和咖啡?
- C. 你要茶或者咖啡吗还是?
- D. 你要茶还是咖啡?

0701.3 Build: “Call me tomorrow or the day after.”

Arrange all chunks: 给我 / 明天或者后天 / 你 / 打电话吧。

0701.4 我买了苹果或者香蕉 means “I bought apples and bananas.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0701.5 A friend wants to meet this weekend and asks which day suits you. Both are free. 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.

■ 那么 ... (then / in that case)

0702.1 A: "I'm not free today." B: "Then let's meet tomorrow." 我们明天见吧。

0702.2 In 这件衣服那么贵, what does 那么 mean?

- A. or
- B. because
- C. then
- D. so

0702.3 Build: "If you don't like it, then change it."

Arrange all chunks: 就换 / , 那么 / 一个吧。 / 如果你不喜欢

0702.4 那么 at the start of a reply usually responds to what someone else has just said.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0702.5 A friend says the cinema is fully booked tonight. You quickly suggest another plan. 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.

■ 跟 + Person + Verb (with someone)

0703.1 Complete: "I play basketball with my brother." 我 哥哥一起打篮球。

0703.2 Which says "I won't go with him."?

- A. 我跟他不去。
- B. 我去不跟他。
- C. 我不跟他去。
- D. 我跟不他去。

0703.3 Build: "I want to tell you something."

Arrange all chunks: 我想 / 说 / 跟你 / 一件事。

0703.4 In 我跟他都是学生, 跟 means "and".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0703.5 Your mum asks about your plans for the holiday. 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 还是 B? (or – in questions)

0704.1 Ask: “Are you going today or tomorrow?” 你今天去 明天去?

0704.2 Which question is correct?

- A. 你是中国人或者韩国人?
- B. 你是中国人还是韩国人?
- C. 你是中国人还是韩国人吗?
- D. 你是中国人吗还是韩国人?

0704.3 Build: “Shall we take the subway or a taxi?”

Arrange all chunks: 坐地铁 / 还是 / 打车? / 我们

0704.4 我不知道他来还是不来 is correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0704.5 A waiter asks what you would like to drink. 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.

■ 关于 + Topic (about / regarding)

0705.1 Complete: “I want to buy a book about cooking.” 我想买一本 做饭的书。

0705.2 “She is very interested in music.” Which word fits? 她 _____ 音乐很感兴趣。

- A. 向
- B. 对
- C. 跟
- D. 关于

0705.3 Build: “I watched a programme about pandas.”

Arrange all chunks: 关于熊猫的 / 一个 / 节目。 / 我看了

0705.4 关于中国书 is a correct phrase for “a book about China”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0705.5 In the library you find a book that explains Chinese history for beginners. 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.

■ 直到 ... , ... 才 ... (all the way until)

0706.1 Complete: “It wasn’t until yesterday that I knew.” 直到昨天，我 知道。

0706.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 直到十一点，他才睡觉。
- B. 他才直到十一点睡觉。
- C. 直到十一点，他就睡觉了。
- D. 直到十一点，他才睡觉了。

0706.3 Build: “The rain kept falling until the evening.”

Arrange all chunks: 一直 / 晚上。 / 下到 / 雨

0706.4 我们玩到十点 means “We played until ten.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0706.5 You stayed up for your sister’s flight to land; she only messaged you at midnight. 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.

■ 向 + Direction / Person + Verb (towards)

0707.1 Complete: “Turn left at the crossroads.” 到了路口 左拐。

0707.2 Which says “I want to apologise to her.”?

- A. 我想她向道歉。
- B. 我想道歉向她。
- C. 我想向她道歉。
- D. 我想往她道歉。

0707.3 Build: “I borrowed a book from him.”

Arrange all chunks: 借了 / 我 / 一本书。 / 向他

0707.4 往前走 and 向前走 both mean “walk forward”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0707.5 You are lost in an old town, and a shopkeeper points down the street. 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.

■ 只要 ... , 就 ... (as long as)

0708.1 Complete: “As long as you ask, he will help you.” 只要你问, 他 会帮你。

0708.2 Which pair fits “Only by taking a taxi can you get there in time”? ____ 打车, 你 ____ 来得及。

- A. 因为 ... 所以
- B. 只有 ... 才
- C. 虽然 ... 但是
- D. 只要 ... 就

0708.3 Build: “Whenever I have time, I’ll come and see you.”

Arrange all chunks: 只要有时间 / 去看你。 / , / 我就

0708.4 只要你来, 就我很高兴 has the correct word order.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0708.5 A friend is worried about tomorrow’s picnic. You only need one thing to go right. 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.

■ ... , 才 ... (only then / only after)

0709.1 Complete: “You can only go out after you’ve eaten.” 你吃了饭, ... 能出去。

0709.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 我等了很久, 他才来。
- B. 我等了很久, 他来我才。
- C. 我等了很久, 才他来。
- D. 我等了很久, 他来才。

0709.3 Build: “I asked him three times before he told me.”

Arrange all chunks: , / 我问他三次 / 他才 / 告诉我。

0709.4 只有做完作业, 才能玩游戏 makes finishing homework necessary, without proving it is sufficient by itself.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0709.5 Your parents have one rule about screen time on school nights. 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.

■ 只有 ... , 才 ... (only if)

0710.1 Complete: “Only if you rest well will you get better quickly.” 只有好好休息, ... 能快点好。

0710.2 “All you need is a student card to get in for free.” Which pair fits? ____ 有学生证, ____ 能免费进去。

- A. 只要 ... 就
- B. 只有 ... 才
- C. 只有 ... 就
- D. 只要 ... 才

0710.3 Build: “Only he knows the answer.”

Arrange all chunks: 才 / 知道 / 只有他 / 答案。

0710.4 只有你去, 他就会去 is the standard pairing.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0710.5 The building door needs a code, and only residents know 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.

■ 除了 ... 都 / 还 (except / besides)

0711.1 Complete: “Besides tea, I also drink coffee.” 除了茶, 我 喝咖啡。

0711.2 In 除了小王, 我们都喜欢吃辣的, does Xiao Wang like spicy food?

- A. Yes, and so do the others.
- B. Yes, he likes it most.
- C. The sentence does not say.
- D. No, he is the exception.

0711.3 Build: “I work every day except Sunday.”

Arrange all chunks: 除了星期天 / 我每天 / 都上班。 / ,

0711.4 除了中文, 他还会说日语 means he speaks both Chinese and Japanese.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0711.5 Your whole class went to the concert, but you were ill at home. 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.

■ 如果 ... 的话 (if ...)

0712.1 Complete: “If you have time, come to my place.” 你有时间, 来我家吧。

0712.2 Which sentence has natural Chinese word order?

- A. 我们去公园, 如果明天天气好的话。
- B. 如果明天天气好的话, 我们去公园。
- C. 的话明天天气好, 我们去公园。
- D. 我们如果去公园的话, 明天天气好。

0712.3 Build: “If you have any questions, you can ask me.”

Arrange all chunks: 的话 / 问我。 / 你有问题 / , 可以

0712.4 要是 is a spoken word for “if”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0712.5 You are planning a trip to the Great Wall but the forecast is uncertain. 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.

■ 如果 ... , 就 ... (if ..., then ...)

0713.1 Complete: “If you come, I’ll cook for you.” 如果你来, 我 给你做饭。

0713.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 下雨如果, 我就不去。
- B. 如果下雨, 就我不去。
- C. 如果下雨, 我就不去。
- D. 如果下雨, 所以我不去。

0713.3 Build: “If you’re not well, go and see a doctor.”

Arrange all chunks: , / 看医生吧。 / 如果你不舒服 / 就去

0713.4 因为下雨 describes a possibility; 如果下雨 describes a fact.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0713.5 You and a friend are checking flights for the holiday. 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.

■ 不但 ... , 而且 ... (not only ... but also)

0714.1 Complete: “He not only speaks Chinese, but also speaks French.” 他不但会说中文, ... 会说法语。

0714.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他不但很高, 很帅而且。

- B. 他很高不但，而且很帅。
- C. 不但他很高，而且很帅。
- D. 他不但很高，而且很帅。

0714.3 Build: “Not only do I like it, my friend does too.”

Arrange all chunks: , / 而且我朋友 / 也喜欢。 / 不但我喜欢

0714.4 而且 can be used on its own to add a point.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0714.5 You are recommending a new restaurant to a friend who is hard to please. 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.

■ 还是 vs 或者 (or: question vs statement)

0715.1 Suggest: “We can take the bus or walk.” 我们可以坐公交车 走路。

0715.2 Which fits? 我不知道他是老师 _____ 学生。

- A. 和
- B. 而且
- C. 还是
- D. 或者

0715.3 Match each sentence to what 还是 / 或者 does.

- 1. 你去还是我去?
- 1. 你去或者我去都行。
- 1. 我们还是走吧。
- A. asks someone to choose
- B. had better
- C. offers either option

0715.4 你去还是不去吗? is correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0715.5 A waiter asks, “Rice or noodles?” You answer, “Either is fine.” 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 question offers tea or coffee, but a learner asks 你喝茶或者咖啡吗 and expects a choice. Make the choice question explicit.

R2. Use it yourself. Write one sufficient-condition sentence about having time and one necessary-condition sentence about having a ticket.

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.

■ A 或者 B (or – in statements)

0701.1 或者

A statement offering alternatives uses 或者.

0701.2 D. 你要茶还是咖啡?

An “A or B?” question uses 还是.

0701.3 你明天或者后天给我打电话吧。

Time A 或者 time B + verb phrase.

0701.4 False.

或者 is “or”; “and” is 和.

0701.5 One possible response: 星期六或者星期天都可以。

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.
- To ask “A or B?”, use 还是: 你喝茶还是咖啡? , not 你喝茶或者咖啡?
- 或者 does not mean “and”: 我买了苹果和香蕉 (both), not 苹果或者香蕉.
- 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.

■ 那么 ... (then / in that case)

0702.1 那

那 (么) at the start of a reply = in that case.

0702.2 D. so

Before an adjective, 那么 = so.

0702.3 如果你不喜欢, 那么就换一个吧。

如果 ..., 那么就 ...

0702.4 True.

It draws a conclusion from the situation just described.

0702.5 One possible response: 那么, 我们明天去吧。

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.

- At the start of a clause, 那么 = “then, in that case”.
- Before an adjective, 那么 = “so”: 那么贵. Check its position.
- 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.

■ 跟 + Person + Verb (with someone)

0703.1 跟

跟 + person + 一起 + verb.

0703.2 C. 我不跟他去。

The negative goes before 跟.

0703.3 我想跟你说一件事。

跟 + person + 说.

0703.4 True.

Between two nouns, 跟 joins them.

0703.5 One possible response: 我跟朋友一起去云南。

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.
- “With friends” comes before the verb: 跟朋友去, not 去跟朋友 (unless 跟 means “and” between two nouns).
- Put 不 or 没 before 跟: 我不跟他去 – “I won’t go with him” – not 我跟他不去.
- 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.

■ A 还是 B? (or – in questions)

0704.1 还是

还是 joins the choices in a question.

0704.2 B. 你是中国人还是韩国人?

还是 questions take no 吗.

0704.3 我们坐地铁还是打车?

A 还是 B?

0704.4 True.

After 不知道, 还是 means “whether ... or”.

0704.5 One possible response: 您喝茶还是喝咖啡?

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.
- 还是 already makes a question: 你喝茶还是咖啡? , not 你喝茶还是咖啡吗?
- In a statement, “or” is 或者: 茶或者咖啡都可以.
- 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.

■ 关于 + Topic (about / regarding)

0705.1 关于

关于 + topic + 的 + noun.

0705.2 B. 对

对 ... 感兴趣 marks the target of interest.

0705.3 我看了一个关于熊猫的节目。

关于 + topic + 的 + noun.

0705.4 False.

The 关于 phrase needs 的 before the noun: 关于中国的书.

0705.5 One possible response: 这是一本关于中国历史的书。

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 关于 phrase describing a noun needs 的: 关于中国的书, not 关于中国书.
- As a topic, 关于 ... comes first, before the subject: 关于这件事, 我不知道, not 我关于这件事不知道.
- 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.

■ 直到 ... , ... 才 ... (all the way until)

0706.1 才

直到 ... 才

0706.2 A. 直到十一点, 他才睡觉。

直到十一点, 他才睡觉 is right: 直到 ... 才 means “not until”, and 才 takes no final 了. 就 would mean “as early as”, which contradicts 直到.

0706.3 雨一直下到晚上。

一直 + Verb + 到 + time.

0706.4 True.

Verb + 到 + time gives the end point.

0706.5 One possible response: 我一直等到十二点，她才给我发消息。

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 result clause takes 才 (it was late): 直到十点他才来, not 直到十点他就来了.
- This short result model uses 才知道. Do not infer from it that 了 is impossible in all other 才 constructions.
- 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.

■ 向 + Direction / Person + Verb (towards)

0707.1 向

向/往 + direction + verb.

0707.2 C. 我想向她道歉。

With people, only 向 works, before the verb.

0707.3 我向他借了一本书。

向 + person + 借.

0707.4 True.

In directions 往 and 向 are interchangeable.

0707.5 One possible response: 你向前走，然后向右拐。

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 向 + direction before the verb: 向右拐, not 拐向右 in everyday directions.
- “Borrow from someone” is 向 + person + 借, not 借向 + person.
- 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.

■ 只要 ... , 就 ... (as long as)

0708.1 就

只要 ..., 就 ...

0708.2 B. 只有 ... 才

The only way is 只有 ... 才 ...

0708.3 只要有时间, 我就去看你。

只要 + condition, subject + 就 + result.

0708.4 False.

就 follows the subject: 我就很高兴.

0708.5 One possible response: 只要不下雨, 我们就去野餐。

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 就 after the subject of the second clause: 只要你来, 我就高兴, not 就我高兴.
- 只要 means the condition is enough; for “only if” (a necessary condition), use 只有 ... 才 ...
- 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.

■ ... , 才 ... (only then / only after)

0709.1 才

Condition, then 才 + 能 + result.

0709.2 A. 我等了很久, 他才来。

才 follows the result-clause subject and precedes 来. These models do not impose a general ban on 了.

0709.3 我问他三次, 他才告诉我。

Effort, then subject + 才 + result.

0709.4 True.

Only if A, B makes A necessary for B. Other conditions can also apply.

0709.5 One possible response: 你做完作业, 才能玩游戏。

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 才 after the subject of the result: 他才告诉我, not 才他告诉我.

- The simple result model here is 他才告诉我. Other contexts can allow 了; the whole construction matters.
- 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.

■ 只有 ... , 才 ... (only if)

0710.1 才

只有 pairs with 才.

0710.2 A. 只要 ... 就

A student card is enough, so 只要 ... 就 ...

0710.3 只有他才知道答案。

只有 + person + 才 + verb.

0710.4 False.

只有 pairs with 才: 他才会去.

0710.5 One possible response: 只有知道密码, 才能进去。

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.
- Pair 只有 with 才: 只有你去, 他才会去, not 只有你去, 他就会去.
- Put 才 after the subject: 他才会去, not 才他会去.
- 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.

■ 除了 ... 都 / 还 (except / besides)

0711.1 还

除了 ... 还 ... adds to A.

0711.2 D. No, he is the exception.

除了 ... 都 ... leaves Xiao Wang out of the group.

0711.3 除了星期天, 我每天都上班。

除了 A, subject + 都 + verb.

0711.4 True.

还 adds to what 除了 introduced.

0711.5 One possible response: 除了我, 大家都去了。

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.
- 除了我，大家都去了 = I did not go. 除了我，小李也去了 = Xiao Li went as well as me.
- Put 都 / 还 / 也 after the subject of the second clause: 大家都去了, not 都大家去了.
- 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.

■ 如果 ... 的话 (if ...)

0712.1 的话

的话 closes the condition.

0712.2 B. 如果明天天气好的话，我们去公园。

The condition comes first.

0712.3 你有问题的话，可以问我。

Condition + 的话, then the result.

0712.4 True.

要是 ... (的话) works like 如果.

0712.5 One possible response: 如果明天下雨的话，我们就在家看电影。

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 如果 clause before the result: 如果你有时间，来找我, not 来找我如果你有时间 (English order).
- 的话 goes at the end of the condition, not after the result.
- 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.

■ 如果 ... , 就 ... (if ..., then ...)

0713.1 就

如果 ..., subject + 就 ...

0713.2 C. 如果下雨，我就不去。

如果 pairs with 就, placed after the subject.

0713.3 如果你不舒服，就去看医生吧。

如果 + condition, 就 + advice.

0713.4 False.

It is the other way round: 因为 = a fact, 如果 = a possibility.

0713.5 One possible response: 如果机票便宜, 我们就去海南。

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.
- Subject first, then 就: 我就去, not 就我去.
- Do not use 所以 for “then” after 如果: 如果下雨, 我就不去, not 如果下雨, 所以我不去.
- 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.

■ 不但 ... , 而且 ... (not only ... but also)

0714.1 而且

不但 A, 而且 B.

0714.2 D. 他不但很高, 而且很帅。

With one subject, 不但 follows the subject.

0714.3 不但我喜欢, 而且我朋友也喜欢。

Two subjects: 不但 before the first.

0714.4 True.

天气很冷, 而且下雪了.

0714.5 One possible response: 这家饭馆不但便宜, 而且很好吃。

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.
- One subject: 他不但聪明, not 不但他聪明.
- Two subjects: 不但我喜欢, 而且他也喜欢 – 不但 goes before the first subject.
- 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.

■ 还是 vs 或者 (or: question vs statement)

0715.1 或者

A statement offering options uses 或者.

0715.2 C. 还是

After 不知道, the hidden question takes 还是.

0715.3 1-A: 你去还是我去? = asks someone to choose; 2-C: 你去或者我去都行。= offers either option; 3-B: 我们还是走吧。= had better

还是 asks or recommends; 或者 states options.

0715.4 False.

A 还是 question takes no 吗.

0715.5 One possible response: 米饭还是面条? — 米饭或者面条都可以。

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.
- Is someone being asked to choose (even indirectly)? Use 还是. Is a possibility being offered? Use 或者.
- Never add 吗 to a 还是 question: 你去还是不去? , not 你去还是不去吗?
- 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.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 你喝茶还是咖啡? 还是 offers the alternatives directly. A 吗 question with 或者 can ask whether one of the options is wanted, a different question.

R2. One possible response. 只要有时间, 我就去。只有有票, 才能进去。The first treats time as sufficient for going; the second makes a ticket necessary for entry, without guaranteeing entry by itself.

Recall later. Later, explain why 只要 and 只有 cannot simply exchange their paired result words.