Course Companion

HSK 3

Every topic handout in one volume

全部专题讲义合集

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Describing & degree

HSK 3

Ways to describe people and things, and to say how much. Some patterns make an adjective stronger (极了, 多 …… 啊, 这么), some soften it (比较) or make it vivid (doubled adjectives), some join two qualities (又 …… 又 ……) and two show change (越来越, 越 …… 越 ……). The particles 的 and 地 attach descriptions to nouns and verbs.

At a glance

How much? Degree

- **1.** Adjective + 极了 – extremely: 这个菜好吃极了!
- **2.** 这么 / 那么 + Adjective – so …: 今天怎么这么热!
- **3.** 多 + Adjective + 啊! – how …!: 这儿的风景多美啊!
- **4.** Subject + 比较 + Adjective – fairly, rather: 工作比较忙，不过同事都很好。

Describing nouns and actions

- **5.** Doubling adjectives – AA / AABB: 她有一双大大的眼睛。
- **6.** Adjective + 的 + Noun – describing a noun: 我的是那个红色的大包。
- **7.** Adjective + 地 + Verb – making an adverb: 奶奶慢慢地走过马路。

Two qualities and change

- **8.** 又 … 又 … – both … and …: 这件衣服又便宜又好看。
- **9.** 越来越 – more and more: 我的家乡越来越漂亮了。
- **10.** 越 … 越 … – the more …, the more …: 雨越下越大。

1. Adjective + 极了 (extremely)

Form: subject + adjective + 极了

- **这个菜好吃极了！** *Zhège cài hǎochī jí le!* – This dish is absolutely delicious!
- **听到这个消息，我高兴极了。** *Tīngdào zhège xiāoxi, wǒ gāoxìng jí le.* – I was overjoyed to hear the news.
- **我喜欢极了。** *Wǒ xǐhuan jí le.* – I absolutely love it.
- A: **外面冷吗?** B: **冷极了！** – "Is it cold outside?" "Freezing!"

How it works. 极了 *jí le* pushes an adjective to its top degree: "extremely", "absolutely". It closes the clause, after the adjective. It works with feelings (高兴, 累) and a few feeling verbs (喜欢).

很 + adjective	非常 + adjective	adjective + 极了
neutral description	strong; speech and writing	spoken, exclamatory reaction
天气很好	天气非常好	天气好极了!

Watch out

- 极了 already gives the degree, so no 很 or 非常: *wrong:* 很好极了 → 好极了.
- It goes after the adjective: *wrong:* 极了冷 → 冷极了.

Adjective + 极了: extremely



2. 这么 / 那么 + Adjective (so …)

Form: 这么 / 那么 + adjective

- **今天怎么这么热！** *Jīntiān zěnme zhème rè!* – How come it's so hot today!
- **这双鞋这么便宜！** *Zhè shuāng xié zhème piányi!* – These shoes are so cheap!
- **那儿的冬天那么冷，你怎么受得了？** – The winters there are so cold; how do you stand it?
- **我没有他那么高。** *Wǒ méiyǒu tā nàme gāo.* – I'm not as tall as him.

How it works. Both mean "so …" and stand directly before the adjective, in the place of 很.

这么 *zhème*	**那么 *nàme***
here and now, what you can see or feel	over there, earlier, or already mentioned
你的箱子怎么这么重?	那儿的山那么漂亮

They often come with 怎么 (surprise: 怎么这么贵) and with 没有 comparisons (我没有他那么高).

Watch out

- One degree word only: *wrong:* 这么很热 → 这么热.
- Before the adjective: *wrong:* 远那么 → 那么远.

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怎么这么 + adjective: surprise



3. 多 + Adjective + 啊! (how …!)

Form: 多 + adjective + 啊!

- **这儿的风景多美啊！** *Zhèr de fēngjǐng duō měi a!* – How beautiful the view is here!
- **你的中文说得多好啊！** *Nǐ de Zhōngwén shuō de duō hǎo a!* – How well you speak Chinese!
- **今天多热啊！** – How hot it is today!

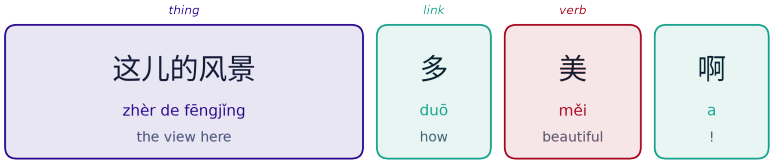
How it works. 多 …… 啊! is an exclamation, "How … !". 多 goes before a bare adjective and 啊 closes the sentence. It sounds warm and admiring.

多 + adjective + 啊!	**太 + adjective + 了!**	**多 + adjective?**
admiring exclamation	strong reaction, often "too"	a question about amount
多美啊!	太贵了!	多远? How far?

Watch out

- No 很 inside: *wrong:* 多很漂亮啊 → 多漂亮啊.
- Keep 啊 and "！ ". Without them, 这个公园多大? asks "How big is the park?"

多 + adjective + 啊: how …!



4. Subject + 比较 + Adjective (fairly, rather)

Form: subject + 比较 + adjective · 比较 + verb + object (compare)

- **工作比较忙，不过同事都很好。** *Gōngzuò bǐjiào máng, búguò tóngshì dōu hěn hǎo.* – Work is fairly busy, but my colleagues are nice.
- **比较远，我们打车吧。** *Bǐjiào yuǎn, wǒmen dǎ chē ba.* – It's rather far; let's take a taxi.
- **我比较喜欢喝茶。** – I prefer tea.
- **我们比较一下这两个手机。** – Let's compare these two phones.

How it works. Before an adjective, 比较 *bǐjiào* means "fairly, rather". It takes the place of 很 and gives a moderate, polite answer; nothing else is being compared. Before 喜欢 it means "prefer".

With an object, 比较 is the verb "to compare". Tell the two apart by position.

Watch out

- 比较 never goes inside an A 比 B comparison: *wrong:* 他比我比较高 → 他比我高.
- Do not stack degree words: *wrong:* 很比较忙 → 比较忙.

比较 softens; 不过 adds a turn



5. Doubling adjectives (AA / AABB)

Form: AA(的) · AABB(的 / 地)

- **她有一双大大的眼睛。** *Tā yǒu yì shuāng dàdà de yǎnjing.* – She has big, big eyes.
- **房间干干净净的。** *Fángjiān gāngānjìngjìng de.* – The room is spotless.
- **孩子们高高兴兴地回家了。** – The children went home happily.

How it works. Doubling an adjective makes a description vivid, and adds degree.

Adjective	Doubled	Example
大, 红, 慢 (one syllable)	AA	大大的眼睛, 红红的苹果, 慢慢地走
干净, 高兴, 清楚 (AB)	AABB	干干净净, 高高兴兴, 清清楚楚

Before a noun add 的; before a verb add 地. In AA forms, the second syllable is often said lightly.

Watch out

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- Doubling already adds degree, so no 很: *wrong:* 很大大的眼睛 → 大大的眼睛.
- A two-syllable adjective doubles each syllable: *wrong:* 干净干净 → 干干净净.
- Doubled forms describe; they are not negated: *wrong:* 不干干净净 → 不干净.

A doubled adjective + 的 paints a picture



6. Adjective + 的 + Noun (describing a noun)

Form: adjective + 的 + noun · adjective + 的 (the … one)

- **我的是那个红色的大包。** *Wǒ de shì nàge hóngsè de dà bāo.* – Mine is that big red bag.
- **他是我很好的朋友。** *Tā shì wǒ hěn hǎo de péngyou.* – He is a very good friend of mine.
- **这是一本很有意思的书。** – This is a very interesting book.
- **大的还是小的？— 我要红的。** – The big one or the small one? – I want the red one.

How it works. In Chinese the description always comes **before** the noun, and 的 links them.

Needs 的	Usually no 的
很 + adjective: 很好的朋友	common one-syllable pairs: 好人, 新车
two syllables: 干净的房间	大城市, 红茶

When the noun is clear, adjective + 的 stands alone: 我要新的，不要旧的.

Watch out

- Keep 的 after 很 + adjective: *wrong:* 很好朋友 → 很好的朋友.
- *wrong:* 衣服漂亮的 → 漂亮的衣服 (the description goes first).

Describer + 的 can stand for the thing



7. Adjective + 地 + Verb (making an adverb)

Form: subject + adjective + 地 + verb

- **奶奶慢慢地走过马路。** *Nǎinai mànmàn de zǒuguò mǎlù.* – Grandma walks slowly across the road.
- **她安静地看书。** *Tā ānjìng de kàn shū.* – She reads quietly.
- **他小心地打开盒子。** – He opened the box carefully.

How it works. 地 *de* turns a description into the *way* an action is done, like English "-ly". The description comes **before** the verb. Doubled adjectives (高高兴兴地) and short phrases (很快地, 非常认真地) work too.

Three particles called *de*.

的	地	得
before a noun	before a verb	after a verb
认真的学生	认真地学习	学得很认真
a serious student	studies seriously	studies seriously (comment)

Watch out

- *wrong:* 他学习认真地 → 他认真地学习 or 他学得很认真.
- Write 地 before a verb, not 的: *wrong:* 高兴的说 → 高兴地说.

Adjective + 地 + verb: how it was done



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8. 又 … 又 … (both … and …)

Form: subject + 又 + A + 又 + B

- **这件衣服又便宜又好看。** *Zhè jiàn yīfu yòu piányi yòu hǎokàn.* – This jacket is both cheap and good-looking.
- **她的房间又大又干净。** *Tā de fángjiān yòu dà yòu gānjìng.* – Her room is big and clean.
- **孩子们又唱又跳。** *Háizimen yòu chàng yòu tiào.* – The children sang and danced.
- **我又累又饿。** – I'm tired and hungry.

How it works. 又 …… 又 …… says two qualities or actions are true at the same time. Each 又 goes straight before its own adjective or verb. The two point the same way: both good (又快又好) or both bad (又累又饿).

Compare. 很便宜，也很好看 lists two facts one after the other; 又便宜又好看 presents them together as one picture.

Watch out

- 和 cannot join two adjectives after the subject: *wrong:* 便宜和好看 → 又便宜又好看.
- No 很 inside the pattern: *wrong:* 又很高又很大 → 又高又大.
- 又便宜又难看 sounds odd unless you are joking: the qualities clash.

又 A 又 B: both … and …



9. 越来越 (more and more)

Form: subject + 越来越 + adjective / feeling verb (+ 了)

- **我的家乡越来越漂亮了。** *Wǒ de jiāxiāng yuèláiyuè piàoliang le.* – My hometown is getting more and more beautiful.
- **天气越来越冷了。** *Tiānqì yuèláiyuè lěng le.* – It's getting colder and colder.
- **我越来越喜欢这个城市了。** – I like this city more and more.
- **他越来越会做饭了。** – He's getting better and better at cooking.

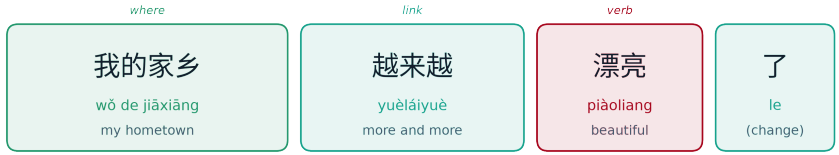
How it works. 越来越 *yuèláiyuè* says a quality keeps growing over time. It goes after the subject, before a bare adjective or a feeling verb (喜欢, 想) or ability verb

(会). The final 了 is common because the sentence reports a change.

Watch out

- No degree word after it: *wrong:* 越来越很好 → 越来越好.
- The subject comes first: *wrong:* 越来越他高 → 他越来越高.
- 越来越 is change over time. To link two things ("the more A, the more B"), use 越 A 越 B.

越来越 + adjective: more and more



10. 越 … 越 … (the more …, the more …)

Form: 越 + A + 越 + B · subject_1 越 A, subject_2 越 B

- **雨越下越大。** *Yǔ yuè xià yuè dà.* – The rain is getting heavier and heavier.
- **你越练习，说得越好。** *Nǐ yuè liànxí, shuō de yuè hǎo.* – The more you practise, the better you speak.
- **天越冷，人越少。** *Tiān yuè lěng, rén yuè shǎo.* – The colder it gets, the fewer people there are.
- **我越想越生气。** – The more I think about it, the angrier I get.

How it works. 越 A 越 B means "the more A, the more B": B grows as A increases. Each 越 goes before a verb or adjective. With one subject the pattern is short (他越说越快); with two, each subject comes before its own 越.

越来越	越 A 越 B
growth over time alone	growth tied to something else
天气越来越冷	越想越生气

Watch out

- No 很 after 越: *wrong:* 越说越很快 → 越说越快.
- *wrong:* 越天冷，越人少 → 天越冷，人越少.

越 A 越 B: the more A, the more B



Practice

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

■ 1. Adjective + 极了 (extremely)

1. Complete the reaction to a great film: 这个电影好看 ……！

2. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 天气很好极了。
- B. 天气非常好极了。
- C. 天气极了好。
- D. 天气好极了。

3. True or false? A friend asks 外面冷吗? Replying 冷极了! is natural spoken Chinese. If false, correct it.

4. Build: "I was overjoyed when I heard the news."

Put in order: 极了。 / 听到这个消息， / 我 / 高兴

5. The shop has a huge sale and you are delighted with the prices. Which reaction fits best?

- A. 太便宜了，我不买。
- B. 这里的东西很便宜极了。
- C. 这里的东西便宜极了!
- D. 这里的东西有点便宜。

6. Your friend has cooked for you, and the food is far better than "quite good". Use Adjective + 极了. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 这么 / 那么 + Adjective (so …)

7. You are holding a heavy suitcase: 你的箱子怎么 …… 重?

8. A friend describes her hometown far away. Which fits best? "The mountains there are so beautiful."

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- A. 那儿的山这么很漂亮。
- B. 那儿的山很那么漂亮。
- C. 那儿的山漂亮那么。
- D. 那儿的山那么漂亮。

9. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 这个字应该这么写。
- (2) 你别那么说!
- (3) 这么多人!
- A. Don't say it like that!
- B. This character should be written like this.
- C. So many people!

10. True or false? 这么很热 is correct because 这么 and 很 both mean "very". If false, correct it.

11. Build: "I am not as tall as him."

Put in order: 我 / 他 / 没有 / 那么 / 高。

12. You step outside in July and it is much hotter than you expected. Use 这么 / 那么 + Adjective. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 多 + Adjective + 啊! (how ...!)

13. Exclaim: "How nice the weather is!" 天气 …… 好啊!

14. Which one asks a question instead of exclaiming?

- A. 这个公园多大?
- B. 这个公园多漂亮啊!
- C. 这个公园多大啊!
- D. 这儿多安静啊!

15. Build: "How well you speak Chinese!"

Put in order: 你的中文 / 说得 / 啊! / 多好

16. True or false? 多很漂亮啊! is correct. If false, correct it.

17. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 这个箱子多重?
- (2) 这个箱子多重啊!
- (3) 你家离学校多远?
- A. How far is your home from school?
- B. How heavy is this suitcase?
- C. This suitcase is so heavy!

18. You reach the top of a mountain and the whole city lies below you. Use 多 + Adjective + 啊!. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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■ 4. Subject + 比较 + Adjective (fairly, rather)

19. A moderate answer: "Today is fairly cold." 今天 …… 冷。

20. Build: "It is rather far; let's take a taxi."

Put in order: 打车吧。/ 比较远 / ， / 我们

21. Build: "The room is fairly small, but it is very clean."

Put in order: 房间 / 不过 / 比较小，/ 很干净。

22. Which sentence says "He is taller than me."?

- A. 他比我高。
- B. 他比我比较高。
- C. 他很比我高。
- D. 他比较我高。

23. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 这家饭馆比较贵。
- (2) 我们比较一下价格。
- (3) 我比较喜欢夏天。
- A. Let's compare the prices.
- B. I prefer summer.
- C. This restaurant is rather expensive.

24. A friend asks how your new job is. It is fine, but you would not call it amazing. Use Subject + 比较 + Adjective. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 5. Doubling adjectives (AA / AABB)

25. Match each adjective to its doubled form.

- (1) 高兴
- (2) 干净
- (3) 慢
- (4) 漂亮
- A. 漂漂亮亮
- B. 干干净净
- C. 慢慢
- D. 高高兴兴

26. True or false? 干净 can be doubled as 干净干净 to describe a room. If false, correct it.

27. Double 清楚 (clear): 老师把问题说得 …… 的。

28. "The little boy's hands are all dirty." Which is correct?

- A. 她的手冷冷的。
- B. 她的手冷冷地。

- C. 她的手很冷冷的。
- D. 她的手冷冷。

29. Build: “Please speak slowly.”

Put in order: 慢慢 / 请 / 说。

30. Which means “Let’s go out and have some fun”?

- A. 我们出去高高兴兴吧!
- B. 我们出去很高兴吧!
- C. 我们出去高兴兴吧!
- D. 我们出去高兴高兴吧!

31. Which phrase is correct?

- A. 红红的苹果
- B. 不红红的苹果
- C. 很红红的苹果
- D. 红红红的苹果

32. You are describing a child’s drawing: big eyes, a round face, a very tidy room. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 6. Adjective + 的 + Noun (describing a noun)

33. Complete: “He is a very good friend.” 他是我很好 …… 朋友。

34. Build: “This is a very interesting book.”

Put in order: 很有意思的 / 书。/ 一本 / 这是

35. Build: “This is the food Mum made.”

Put in order: 做的 / 这是 / 妈妈 / 菜。

36. Which phrase is correct?

- A. 衣服漂亮的
- B. 漂亮很的衣服
- C. 很漂亮的衣服
- D. 很漂亮衣服

37. True or false? In a shop, 我要红的 can mean “I want the red one.” If false, correct it.

38. At the station a lost-property officer asks which bag is yours. You need more than “a bag”. Use Adjective + 的 + Noun. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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■ 7. Adjective + 地 + Verb (making an adverb)

39. Fill in the particle: 她安静 …… 看书。

40. Build: “Grandma walks slowly across the road.”

Put in order: 走过 / 奶奶 / 马路 / 。/ 慢慢地

41. “He opened the door quietly.” Which is correct?

- A. 他轻地开了门。
- B. 他开了门轻轻地。
- C. 他轻轻的开了门地。
- D. 他轻轻地开了门。

42. True or false? 他学习认真地。is a correct way to say “He studies seriously.” If false, correct it.

43. Choose the particle for both blanks: 他高兴 ___ 说: “ 我考得 ___ 很好! ”

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

44. Your grandmother crosses the busy road carefully; your little brother does his homework seriously for once. Use Adjective + 地 + Verb. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 8. 又 … 又 … (both … and …)

45. Complete: “The noodles here are both tasty and cheap.” 这儿的面条 …… 好吃 …… 便宜。(write the word that fills both blanks)

46. Build: “Her room is both big and clean.”

Put in order: 又大 / 又干净 / 她的房间 / 。

47. Which sentence keeps both halves pointing the same way?

- A. 这个手机又便宜又好用。
- B. 这个手机又贵又好用。
- C. 这个手机又便宜又不好用。
- D. 这个手机又很便宜又很好用。

48. Which sentence is natural?

- A. 他又高又帅。
- B. 他高和帅。
- C. 他又很高又很帅。
- D. 他又高帅。

49. True or false? 这件衣服便宜和好看 is a correct way to say “This item of clothing is cheap and good-looking.” If false, correct it.

50. You found a jacket that looks great and costs very little, and you want to say both at once. Use 又 … 又 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 9. 越来越 (more and more)

51. Complete: “Your Chinese is getting better and better.” 你的中文 …… 好了。

52. Build: “I like this city more and more.”

Put in order: 这个城市了。 / 越来越 / 我 / 喜欢

53. “More and more people are learning to swim.” Which is correct?

- A. 人越来越很多学游泳。
- B. 越来越多的人学游泳。
- C. 越来越人多学游泳。
- D. 很越来越多的人学游泳。

54. Build: “I like this game less and less.”

Put in order: 不喜欢 / 我 / 这个游戏了。 / 越来越

55. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 东西很越来越贵了。
- B. 东西越来越贵了。
- C. 越来越东西贵了。
- D. 东西越来越很贵了。

56. True or false? 越来越 links two different things, as in “the more you practise, the better you get.” If false, correct it.

57. You go back to your hometown after five years: more cars, more tall buildings, more people. Use 越来越. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 10. 越 … 越 … (the more …, the more …)

58. Complete: “The more he eats, the fatter he gets.” 他越吃 …… 胖。

59. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 越天热，越人多。
- B. 天热越，人多越。
- C. 天越热，人越多。
- D. 天越热，人越很多。

60. Build: “The more you practise, the better you speak.”

Put in order: 说得 / ， / 你越练习 / 越好。

61. True or false? 越想越生气 means “the more I think about it, the angrier I get.” If false, correct it.

62. You are waiting for the rain to stop, but it only gets heavier. Use 越 … 越 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

63. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 这个菜很好吃极了！
- B. 这个菜好吃极了！
- C. 这个菜极了好吃！

64. Choose 越来越 or 越 …… 越 ……: 天气 …… 热了。 / 雨 …… 下 …… 大。

65. Choose 的 or 地: 奶奶慢慢 …… 走过马路。 / 我要那个红色 …… 包。

66. Describe a jacket that is both cheap and good-looking.

67. Find and fix the problem. A friend loves the meal and says 这个菜很好吃极了. Correct the sentence.

68. Use it yourself. Say that a room is getting quieter and quieter, and that a friend is both kind and patient.

Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. Adjective + 极了 (extremely)

1. 极了

好看极了 = "absolutely brilliant". 极了 follows the adjective directly.

2. D. 天气好极了。

极了 follows a bare adjective. 很 and 非常 would add a second degree word, and 极了 never comes first.

3. True.

Adj + 极了 is typical of spoken reactions. In a formal report 非常冷 would be more usual.

4. 听到这个消息，我高兴极了。

Time clause first, then Subject + Adjective + 极了: 听到这个消息，我高兴极了。

5. C. 这里的东西便宜极了！

极了 = extremely, a happy reaction. 有点 sounds like a complaint, and 很 cannot stand before 极了.

6. Model answer: 这个菜好吃极了！

Check your answer:

- No 很 or 非常 in front: say 好极了, not 很好极了, because 极了 already carries the degree.
- 极了 never comes before the adjective: 冷极了, not 极了冷.

■ 2. 这么 / 那么 + Adjective (so …)

7. 这么

The suitcase is right here, so 这么 + 重 = "so heavy".

8. D. 那儿的山那么漂亮。

那么 + Adj, with no extra 很; 那么 suits a distant place.

9. (1) B: 这个字应该这么写。= This character should be written like this.; (2) A: 你别那么说！= Don't say it like that!; (3) C: 这么多人！= So many people!

这么 / 那么 before a verb = this way / that way; 这么多 = so many.

10. False.

这么 already supplies the degree, so 很 is left out: 这么热.

11. 我没有他那么高。

A + 没有 + B + 那么 + Adj.

12. Model answer: 今天怎么这么热！

Check your answer:

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- Do not add 很 as well: 这么热, not 这么很热, since 这么 already gives the degree.
- Place 这么 or 那么 before the adjective, not after it: 那么远, not 远那么.

■ 3. 多 + Adjective + 啊! (how …!)

13. 多

多 + Adj + 啊 = "How … !"

14. A. 这个公园多大?

Without 啊 and the exclamation mark, 多大? asks "How big is it?"

15. 你的中文说得多好啊！

Verb + 得 + 多 + Adj + 啊.

16. False.

多 already gives the degree, so the adjective stays bare: 多漂亮啊！

17. (1) B: 这个箱子多重? = How heavy is this suitcase?; (2) C: 这个箱子多重啊！= This suitcase is so heavy!; (3) A: 你家离学校多远? = How far is your home from school?

With 啊 and ！ it is an exclamation; with ？ it asks how much.

18. Model answer: 这儿的风景多美啊！

Check your answer:

- No 很 inside: 多美啊, not 多很美啊; 多 already carries the degree.
- Keep 啊 and the exclamation mark. Without them, 多 + Adj often becomes a question: 多远? – "How far is it?"

■ 4. Subject + 比较 + Adjective (fairly, rather)

19. 比较

比较 + Adj = fairly cold.

20. 比较远，我们打车吧。

比较 + Adj, then the suggestion.

21. 房间比较小，不过很干净。

比较 + a plain fact, then 不过 + the good side.

22. A. 他比我高。

A 比 B + Adj. The adverb 比较 does not go inside a 比 comparison.

23. (1) C: 这家饭馆比较贵。= This restaurant is rather expensive.; (2) A: 我们比较一下价格。= Let's compare the prices.; (3) B: 我比较喜欢夏天。= I prefer summer.

Before an adjective or a liking verb, 比较 means "rather"; with an object such as 价格 it is the verb "compare".

24. Model answer: 工作比较忙，不过同事都很好。

Check your answer:

- In a 比 comparison, 比较 cannot appear before the adjective: 他比我高, not 他比我比较高.
- Do not stack it with 很: 比较忙, not 很比较忙 or 比较很忙.

■ 5. Doubling adjectives (AA / AABB)

25. (1) D: 高兴 = 高高兴兴; (2) B: 干净 = 干干净净; (3) C: 慢 = 慢慢; (4) A: 漂亮 = 漂漂亮亮

One syllable gives AA; two syllables give AABB.

26. False.

Adjectives double as AABB: 干干净净. ABAB is for verbs (休息休息).

27. 清清楚楚

A two-syllable adjective AB doubles as AABB, so 清楚 becomes 清清楚楚.

28. A. 她的手冷冷的。

At the end of the sentence a doubled adjective takes 的: 冷冷的.

29. 请慢慢说。

慢慢 + verb, a friendly request.

30. D. 我们出去高兴高兴吧!

Used as a verb ("do it a bit"), 高兴 doubles as ABAB: 高兴高兴.

31. A. 红红的苹果

AA + 的 + noun. Doubling already means "very", so no 很, and no 不.

32. Model answer: 她有一双大大的眼睛。

Check your answer:

- I can explain what doubling adds, rather than only naming it.
- No 很 or 不 in front of a doubled adjective.
- A doubled adjective before a noun or at the end has 的: 大大的眼睛, 脸红红的.

■ 6. Adjective + 的 + Noun (describing a noun)

33. 的

很 + Adj needs 的 before the noun.

34. 这是一本很有意思的书。

Number + measure word + description + 的 + noun.

35. 这是妈妈做的菜。

The whole description (妈妈做) comes before 的 + noun.

36. C. 很漂亮的衣服

Description + 的 + noun, and 很 + Adj keeps 的.

37. True.

When the noun is clear from context, Adj + 的 stands for "the … one".

38. Model answer: 我的是那个红色的大包。

Check your answer:

- Keep 的 after 很 + Adj: 很好的朋友, not 很好朋友.
- The description goes before the noun, never after: 漂亮的衣服, not 衣服漂亮的 (that is a separate sentence pattern).

■ 7. Adjective + 地 + Verb (making an adverb)

39. 地

Adjective + 地 + Verb. 安静地看书 = "read quietly".

40. 奶奶慢慢地走过马路。

Subject + Adjective + 地 + Verb + Object.

41. D. 他轻轻地开了门。

A one-syllable adjective is doubled before 地: 轻轻地.

42. False.

地 + description must come before the verb (他认真地学习), or use 得 after it (他学得很认真).

43. D. 地 … 得

高兴地说 (地 before the verb) and 考得很好 (得 after the verb).

44. Model answer: 奶奶慢慢地走过马路。

Check your answer:

- 地 comes before the verb: 认真地学习. After the verb you need 得: 他学得很认真.
- Write 地, not 的, between the description and the verb; both are read de.

■ 8. 又 … 又 … (both … and …)

45. 又

又好吃又便宜 – 又 before each quality.

46. 她的房间又大又干净。

Subject + 又 A + 又 B.

47. A. 这个手机又便宜又好用。

Cheap and easy to use are both good points, and there is no 很 inside the pattern.

48. A. 他又高又帅。

又 + Adj + 又 + Adj with no 很. 和 does not join two adjectives in the predicate.

49. False.

和 joins nouns, not two adjectives used as the predicate. Use 又便宜又好看.

50. Model answer: 这件衣服又便宜又好看。

Check your answer:

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- Use two qualities with the same direction: 又便宜又好看 is natural; 又便宜又难看 sounds odd unless you are joking.
- No 很 inside the pattern: 又高又大, not 又很高又很大.

■ 9. 越来越 (more and more)

51. 越来越

越来越 + Adj + 了 reports a growing change.

52. 我越来越喜欢这个城市了。

Subject + 越来越 + feeling verb + object + 了.

53. B. 越来越多的人学游泳。

越来越多 comes before the noun, usually with 的: 越来越多的人. No 很 before 越来越.

54. 我越来越不喜欢这个游戏了。

不 goes after 越来越: 越来越不喜欢.

55. B. 东西越来越贵了。

东西越来越贵了 is right: 越来越 goes after the subject and takes a bare adjective. Adding 很 (越来越很贵, 很越来越贵) is wrong, and 越来越 cannot come before the subject.

56. False.

That is 越 A 越 B. 越来越 has one quality that grows over time.

57. Model answer: 我的家乡越来越漂亮了。

Check your answer:

- No 很 or 非常 after 越来越: 越来越好, not 越来越很好.
- 越来越 comes after the subject and before the adjective: 他越来越高, not 越来越他高.

■ 10. 越 … 越 … (the more …, the more …)

58. 越

越 A 越 B.

59. C. 天越热，人越多。

天越热，人越多 is right: each 越 comes after its own subject (天, 人) and before a bare adjective. Do not put 越 before the subject, or add 很.

60. 你越练习，说得越好。

Subject + 越 + verb, then 越 + result.

61. True.

越 A 越 B links growth in B to A.

62. Model answer: 雨越下越大。

Check your answer:

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- No 很 after 越: 越来越好 and 越说越快, not 越说越很快.
- Each 越 sits after its own subject: 天越冷，人越少, not 越天冷，越人少.

■ Mixed practice

63. B. 极了 follows the adjective and already means “extremely”, so 很 is not used.

64. 天气越来越热了。雨越下越大。越来越 + adjective shows change over time; 越 A 越 B links two things that change together.

65. 奶奶慢慢地走过马路 (地 before a verb)。我要那个红色的包 (的 before a noun).

66. 这件衣服又便宜又好看。又 A 又 B joins two qualities of the same thing.

67. Say 这个菜好吃极了！极了 already means “extremely”, so it cannot be used with 很. 这个菜很好吃 is also correct, but weaker.

68. Model answer. 房间越来越安静了。她又热情又耐心。越来越 shows change over time; 又 …… 又 …… joins two qualities.

Review later. Tomorrow, use a new adjective with 极了, with 越来越 and with 又 …… 又 …….

Adverbs – time, focus & frequency

HSK 3

Adverbs that say when, how often and how much. They come before the verb and change how the listener hears the whole sentence. The hardest choices come in pairs: 才 or 就 (late or early), 又 or 再 (again in the past or the future), 刚 or 刚才, and 有点 or 一点.

At a glance

Time and sequence

- **1.** 终于 – finally, at last: 火车终于来了!
- **2.** 先 … ，再 … – first …, then …: 你先放衣服，再按这个按钮。
- **3.** 一边 … 一边 … – doing two things at once: 爷爷一边喝茶一边看报纸。
- **4.** 一直 – all along, continuously: 今天一直在下雨。
- **5.** Duration + 没 + Verb + 了 – how long you haven't …: 我三天没吃肉了。
- **6.** 刚 vs 刚才 – just now: adverb vs time-word: 她刚才出去了。

How often

- **7.** 总是 – always – a habit: 爸爸早上总是先喝一杯咖啡。
- **8.** 老是 – always – a complaint: 你老是不洗碗!
- **9.** 又 + Verb + 了 – again, in the past: 他又迟到了。
- **10.** 再 vs 又 – again: future vs past: 我今年又去了长城，明年还想再去。

How much

- **11.** 几乎 – nearly, almost: 我几乎忘了今天有考试。
- **12.** 只 – only: 我只要一碗面条。
- **13.** 才 + Number – only – a small amount: 他才十岁，钢琴就弹得这么好!
- **14.** 有点 vs 一点 – a bit too… vs a little …er: 这双鞋有点小，有大一点的吗?

Early or late

- **15.** Time + 才 – not until – lateness: 他十二点才回家。
- **16.** 才 vs 就 – late vs early: 小李八点半就到了，小王九点半才到。

1. 终于 (finally, at last)

Form: subject + 终于 + verb (+ 了)

- **火车终于来了!** *Huǒchē zhōngyú lái le!* – The train has finally come!
- **他学了三年，终于考上了大学。** *Tā xuéle sān nián, zhōngyú kǎoshàngle dàxué.* – After three years of study, he finally got into university.
- **我终于找到了我的钥匙。** – I finally found my keys.

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- **他忙了一个月，终于病倒了。** – After a month of overwork, he finally fell ill.

How it works. 终于 *zhōngyú* means "at last": a result arrives after a long wait, effort or process. It goes after the subject, before the verb, and the sentence usually has 了 because the result has now happened. The result can be good or bad news.

终于	最后
a long wait reaches its end	the last step in an order
等了两个小时，电影终于开始了	我们先吃饭，最后去看电影

Watch out

- For "lastly" in a list of steps, use 最后, not 终于.
- In ordinary speech, 终于 goes after the subject: *wrong:* 终于他来了 → 他终于来了.



2. 先 … ，再 … (first …, then …)

Form: subject + 先 + verb$_1$，再 + verb$_2$

- **你先放衣服，再按这个按钮。** *Nǐ xiān fàng yīfu, zài àn zhège ànniǔ.* – First put the clothes in, then press this button.
- **你先休息一下，再做作业。** *Nǐ xiān xiūxi yíxià, zài zuò zuòyè.* – Rest a bit first, then do your homework.
- **我们先买票，再进去。** – Let's buy tickets first, then go in.

How it works. 先 …… 再 …… gives the order of steps in plans, suggestions and instructions. Both are adverbs: each goes before its own verb, after the subject. It stresses that the second step waits for the first: 你先想好，再回答.

For a longer list, add 然后: 先洗手，然后做饭，再吃饭.

Still to come	Already happened
先 …… 再 ……	先 …… 然后 ……
我们先吃饭，再看电影。	我昨天先去了银行，然后去了超市。

Watch out

- 再 is for steps still to come. Past steps take 然后.
- 先 goes after the subject: *wrong:* 先我走 → 我先走.

先 …，再 …: first, then



3. 一边 … 一边 … (doing two things at once)

Form: subject + (一) 边 + verb$_1$ + (一) 边 + verb$_2$

- **爷爷一边喝茶一边看报纸。** *Yéye yìbiān hē chá yìbiān kàn bàozhǐ.* – Grandpa reads the paper while drinking tea.
- **我们边走边聊。** *Wǒmen biān zǒu biān liáo.* – We chatted as we walked.
- **他一边哭一边说。** – He spoke through his tears.

How it works. One person does two actions at the same moment. The subject comes once, before the first 一边, and each 一边 stands before its own verb. Use activities that can last: 听, 看, 走, 聊, 吃. With one-syllable verbs, 边 …… 边 …… is common.

一边 …… 一边 ……	又 …… 又 ……
two actions at the same moment	two qualities, or a lively scene
一边唱一边跳	又唱又跳, 又便宜又好看

Watch out

- Actions only, not roles or states: *wrong:* 一边是学生一边是老师.
- *wrong:* 一边他吃一边看 → 他一边吃一边看.

一边 …一边 …: two actions at once



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4. 一直 (all along, continuously)

Form: subject + 一直 + verb / adjective

- **今天一直在下雨。** *Jīntiān yìzhí zài xià yǔ.* – It's been raining non-stop all day.
- **我一直想去中国。** *Wǒ yìzhí xiǎng qù Zhōngguó.* – I've always wanted to go to China.
- **他一直住在上海。** – He has always lived in Shanghai.
- **一直往前走，就到了。** – Go straight ahead and you're there.

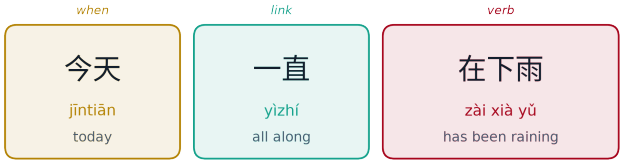
How it works. 一直 *yìzhí* means "without a break": an action or state continues over a whole period, often up to now. It goes before the verb or adjective and often combines with 在 or 很: 一直在等, 一直很忙. With 没 or 不 it means "the whole time … not": 他一直没来 (he still hasn't come). In directions, 一直 means "straight".

一直	总是 / 经常
one continuous stretch	the same thing again and again
一直在下雨	他经常去健身房

Watch out

- *wrong:* 他在工作一直 → 他一直在工作: 一直 goes before the verb.

一直: without a break



5. Duration + 没 + Verb + 了 (how long you haven't …)

Form: subject + length of time + 没 + verb (+ object) + 了

- **我三天没吃肉了。** *Wǒ sān tiān méi chī ròu le.* – I haven't eaten meat for three days.
- **我们好久没见了！** *Wǒmen hǎojiǔ méi jiàn le!* – We haven't seen each other for ages!
- **他两个星期没来上课了。** – He hasn't come to class for two weeks.

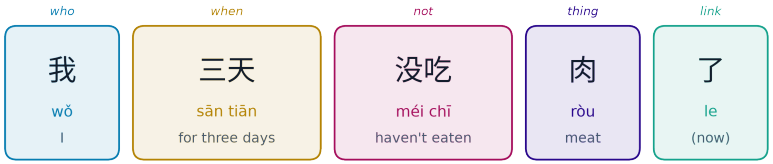
How it works. To say how long something has *not* happened, the length of time comes **before** 没. The final 了 says the gap lasts up to now.

Did it for a time	Haven't done it for a time
time after the verb	time before 没
我学了两年中文。	我两年没说中文了。
I studied Chinese for two years.	I haven't spoken Chinese for two years.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 没吃肉三天了 → 三天没吃肉了.
- Keep the final 了: 我一个星期没给家里打电话了.

Time span + 没 + verb + 了: not for that long



6. 刚 vs 刚才 (just now: adverb vs time-word)

Form: subject + 刚 + verb · 刚才 (time word) + clause

- **我刚到家。** *Wǒ gāng dào jiā.* – I've just got home.
- **她刚才出去了。** *Tā gāngcái chūqu le.* – She went out a moment ago.
- **刚才有人给你打电话。** – Someone called you just now.
- **刚才很热，现在好多了。** – It was hot a moment ago; it's much better now.

How it works. The two words look alike but do different jobs.

刚 *gāng*	刚才 *gāngcái*
adverb: right before the verb	time word, like 昨天
cannot start the sentence	can start the sentence
"just": can stretch (刚来北京一个月)	only a few minutes ago
usually no 了: 我刚到	了 as normal: 他刚才走了
actions only	also states and negatives: 刚才很忙

Watch out

- *wrong:* 刚我吃饭 → 我刚吃饭 or 刚才我吃饭了.
- *wrong:* 刚很热 → 刚才很热.

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刚才: a moment ago (a time word)



7. 总是 (always – a habit)

Form: subject (+ time) + 总是 + verb

- **爸爸早上总是先喝一杯咖啡。** *Bàba zǎoshang zǒngshì xiān hē yì bēi kāfēi.* – Dad always has a coffee first thing.
- **她总是第一个到教室。** *Tā zǒngshì dì yī ge dào jiàoshì.* – She's always the first to class.
- **他周末总是去爬山。** – At weekends he always goes hiking.
- **这里的冬天总是很冷。** – Winters here are always cold.

How it works. 总是 *zǒngshì* reports a habit, something that happens every time. It goes before the verb, after the subject and time words.

总是	老是	一直
neutral habit	habit + complaint	one unbroken stretch
他总是七点起床	你老是迟到!	雨一直在下

"Never" is 从来不. 他从来不喝酒 (he never drinks); 总是不 is rarely right.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 他迟到总是 → 他总是迟到.

总是: always



8. 老是 (always – a complaint)

Form: subject + 老是 + verb (or 不 / 没 + verb)

- **你老是不洗碗！** *Nǐ lǎoshì bù xǐ wǎn!* – You never wash the dishes!
- **我的电脑老是出问题。** *Wǒ de diànnǎo lǎoshì chū wèntí.* – My computer keeps having problems.
- **我老是忘记带伞。** – I keep forgetting my umbrella.
- **他老是坐错车。** – He keeps getting on the wrong train.

How it works. 老是 *lǎoshì* means "always, keep on doing", with annoyance or worry. It sits in the same place as 总是, before the verb or before 不 / 没. It is spoken and emotional, so it doesn't suit a neutral report.

总是	老是
neutral fact about a habit	a complaint about a habit
他总是坐地铁上班。	他老是坐错车。

Watch out

- 老是 comes before 不: *wrong:* 你不老是听 → 你老是不听.
- A neutral report (a factory opens at eight every day) takes 总是.



9. 又 + Verb + 了 (again, in the past)

Form: subject (+ time) + 又 + verb + 了

- **他又迟到了。** *Tā yòu chídào le.* – He's late again.
- **昨天下雨，今天又下雨了。** *Zuótiān xià yǔ, jīntiān yòu xià yǔ le.* – It rained yesterday, and it's raining again today.
- **她又买了一双鞋。** – She bought another pair of shoes.
- **明天又是星期一了。** – Tomorrow is Monday again.

How it works. 又 *yòu* says the same thing has happened once more. It goes after the subject and any time word, before the verb, and 了 marks the repeat as done. It often carries a feeling: surprise, annoyance or amusement.

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又 can also look ahead to a repeat that is certain to come round, such as a day of the week.

Watch out

- A repeat that has already happened takes 又: *wrong:* 他昨天再来了 → 他昨天又来了.
- A planned or requested repeat takes 再: 请再说一遍.



10. 再 vs 又 (again: future vs past)

Form: 又 + verb + 了 (again, done) · 再 + verb (again, still to come)

- **我今年又去了长城，明年还想再去。** *Wǒ jīnnián yòu qùle Chángchéng, míngnián hái xiǎng zài qù.* – I went to the Great Wall again this year, and I want to go again next year.
- **请再说一遍。** *Qǐng zài shuō yí biàn.* – Please say it again.
- **欢迎你下次再来！** – Come again next time!
- **他上个星期又感冒了，医生说下个月再来检查。** – He caught a cold again last week; the doctor said to come back for a check next month.

How it works.

又 *yòu*	再 *zài*
a repeat that has happened	a repeat still to come
他又迟到了	明天再来
also a certain repeat: 明天又是周末了！	plans, requests, suggestions

再 can also mean "then, later": 我们明天再讨论吧. 还想再 shows a wish to repeat: 我还想再吃一碗.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 他昨天再来了 → 他昨天又来了.
- For a plan or request: *wrong:* 明天又来 → 明天再来.

又: again (done) · 再: again (still to come)



11. 几乎 (nearly, almost)

Form: 几乎 + verb / adjective / 每 / 所有 / 没

- **我几乎忘了今天有考试。** *Wǒ jīhū wàngle jīntiān yǒu kǎoshì.* – I almost forgot there was a test today.
- **他几乎每天都跑步。** *Tā jīhū měi tiān dōu pǎobù.* – He runs almost every day.
- **几乎所有的学生都来了。** – Almost all the students came.
- **我几乎没睡觉。** – I hardly slept at all.

How it works. 几乎 *jīhū* means "almost, nearly". Put it directly before the part that is "almost": 几乎每天, 几乎所有的, 几乎没有. With 没 or 不 it means "hardly": 他几乎不说话.

差不多 also means "almost" and is more common in everyday speech, especially with numbers and times: 差不多十点了.

Watch out

- With 都, 几乎 comes first: *wrong:* 我们都几乎去过 → 我们几乎都去过.
- 几乎 goes before the verb, not after it.

几乎: almost



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12. 只 (only)

Form: subject + 只 + verb · 只有 + person / thing

- **我只要一碗面条。** *Wǒ zhǐ yào yì wǎn miàntiáo.* – I only want a bowl of noodles.
- **我只有十块钱。** *Wǒ zhǐ yǒu shí kuài qián.* – I only have ten yuan.
- **昨天我只睡了五个小时。** – Yesterday I only slept five hours.
- **只有她知道答案。** *Zhǐyǒu tā zhīdào dá'àn.* – Only she knows the answer.

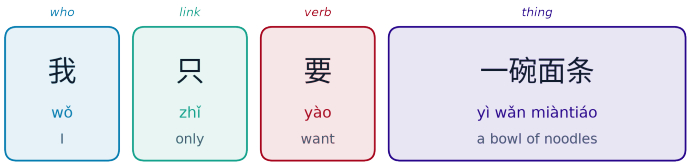
How it works. 只 *zhǐ* ("only") goes **before the verb**, even when English puts "only" next to the object: 我只喝茶 (I only drink tea).

只 + verb	只有 + noun
limits the action or amount	limits the person or thing
我只会说一点儿中文	只有小王来了

Watch out

- 只 cannot stand before the subject: *wrong:* 只我去了 → 只有我去了.
- *wrong:* 我喝了只一杯 → 我只喝了一杯.

只: only



13. 才 + Number (only – a small amount)

Form: 才 + number (+ measure word) · 才 + verb + number

- **他才十岁，钢琴就弹得这么好！** *Tā cái shí suì, gāngqín jiù tán de zhème hǎo!* – He's only ten, and he plays the piano this well!
- **这个包才二十块！** *Zhège bāo cái èrshí kuài!* – This bag is only twenty yuan!
- **我才学了三个月中文。** – I've only studied Chinese for three months.
- **现在才七点，再睡一会儿吧。** – It's only seven; sleep a bit longer.

How it works. Before a number, 才 means "only": the speaker finds the amount small, the age young or the time early. With a verb, 才 goes before the verb: 我才喝了一杯.

才 + time	time + 才 + verb
“it’s only …”	“not until …”
现在才九点。	他九点才起床。

只 also means “only”, but it is neutral (我只有十块钱); 才 adds surprise (他才十岁!).

Watch out

- The position decides the meaning. Before the number: “only”. After the time: “not until”.

才 + number: only (less than expected)



14. 有点 vs 一点 (a bit too… vs a little …er)

Form: 有点 (儿) + adjective · adjective + 一点 (儿)

- **这双鞋有点小，有大一点的吗?** *Zhè shuāng xié yǒudiǎn xiǎo, yǒu dà yìdiǎn de ma?* – These shoes are a bit small; do you have a slightly bigger pair?
- **这个有点贵，能便宜一点吗?** – It’s a bit expensive; could you make it a little cheaper?
- **你说得有点快，请说慢一点。** – You speak a bit fast; please speak a little more slowly.

How it works. A natural pattern is to complain with 有点, then ask for a change with 一点.

有点 + adjective	adjective + 一点
“a bit (too) …”: a complaint	“a little more …”: compare or request
有点贵, 有点累, 有点不舒服	便宜一点, 快一点, 大一点的

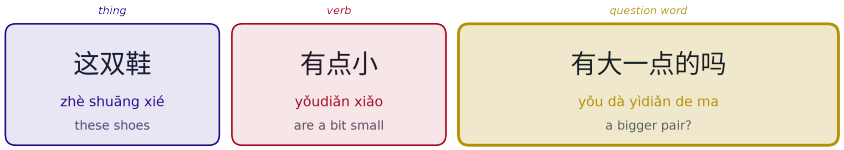
一点 before a noun means “a little of”: 一点水.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 贵有点 → 有点贵; *wrong:* 一点便宜 → 便宜一点.
- 有点 + a pleasant word sounds odd: *wrong:* 她有点漂亮 → 她很漂亮.

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有点 complains; adjective + 一点 asks for a change



15. Time + 才 (not until – lateness)

Form: subject + time / event + 才 + verb

- **他十二点才回家。** *Tā shí'èr diǎn cái huí jiā.* – He didn’t get home until twelve.
- **电影九点才开始。** *Diànyǐng jiǔ diǎn cái kāishǐ.* – The film didn’t start until nine.
- **他吃了药才睡着。** – He only fell asleep after taking medicine.
- **我学了三年才敢说中文。** – I studied for three years before I dared to speak Chinese.

How it works. 才 *cái* after a time means “not until”: the speaker finds it late, or the process long. The time (or the event that had to happen first) comes before 才, and 才 stands right before the verb. In this simple pattern for a late event, the sentence normally has no final 了.

The opposite is 就 for “early”: 他六点就回家了. The same clock time can take 才 or 就, depending on what was expected.

Watch out

- Word order changes the meaning: 九点才起床 (didn’t get up until nine) but 才九点 (it’s only nine).

才: not until (later than expected)



16. 才 vs 就 (late vs early)

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

- **小李八点半就到了，小王九点半才到。** *Xiǎo Lǐ bā diǎn bàn jiù dào le, Xiǎo Wáng jiǔ diǎn bàn cái dào.* – Li was there by 8.30; Wang didn't arrive until 9.30.
- **他看了一遍就懂了。** *Tā kànle yí biàn jiù dǒng le.* – He understood after reading it once.
- **我看了三遍才懂。** *Wǒ kànle sān biàn cái dǒng.* – I only understood after reading it three times.

How it works. Both words follow the time or effort and stand before the verb. They show how the speaker judges it.

就 *jiù*	才 *cái*
earlier, sooner, easier than expected	later, slower, harder than expected
past sentences usually end with 了	the simple late model has no final 了
他六点就起床了	他九点才起床

It depends on the expectation. A pupil who usually gets up at eight: 他七点就起床了. A farmer who usually gets up at five: 他七点才起床.

Watch out

- The time comes first: *wrong:* 就六点起床了 → 六点就起床了.

就: early · 才: late



小王九点半才到。 — Xiao Wang did not arrive until 9:30.

Practice

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

■ 1. 终于 (finally, at last)

1. Complete: "After a week of rain, the sun has finally come out." 下了一个星期的雨，太阳 …… 出来了。

2. "First we went to the museum, and lastly we went shopping." Which word fills the gap? 我们先去了博物馆，_____ 去买东西。

- A. 又
- B. 终于
- C. 一直
- D. 最后

3. Build: "I finally found my keys."

Put in order: 我的钥匙。 / 终于 / 我 / 找到了

4. True or false? 终于 can only introduce good news. If false, correct it.

5. In the phone story, why does the writer use 终于 in the last sentence?

- A. Because the phone was cheap.
- B. Because buying the phone came after a lot of trouble.
- C. Because 终于 always comes after 最后.
- D. Because it is the fourth shop in a list.

6. The train was delayed and you have been waiting on the platform since six. At eight it pulls in. Use 终于. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 先 … ，再 … (first …, then …)

7. Complete the plan: "Let's buy tickets first, then go in." 我们先买票，…… 进去。

8. Which describes what you did yesterday?

- A. 先我昨天去银行，再去超市。
- B. 我昨天先去银行，再去超市了。
- C. 我昨天再去银行，先去超市。
- D. 我昨天先去了银行，然后去了超市。

9. Build: "Rest a bit first, then do your homework."

Put in order: 你先 / ，再 / 做作业。 / 休息一下

10. True or false? 先我走 is the normal way to say "I'll go first." If false, correct it.

11. A friend is staying with you and asks how to use the washing machine. Use 先 … ，再 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 一边 … 一边 … (doing two things at once)

12. Complete: "She sings while she cooks." 她 …… 做饭一边唱歌。

13. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他一边吃饭一边看手机。

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- B. 他一边是医生一边是老师。
- C. 一边他吃饭一边看手机。
- D. 他吃饭一边看手机一边。

14. Build: "We chatted as we walked."

Put in order: 我们 / 边聊。/ 边走

15. True or false? 一边 … 一边 … and 又 … 又 … are always interchangeable. If false, correct it.

16. Every morning your grandfather reads the paper while he drinks his tea. Use 一边 … 一边 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. 一直 (all along, continuously)

17. Complete: "He has been busy the whole time." 他 …… 很忙。

18. Build: "I have always wanted to go to China."

Put in order: 一直 / 去中国。/ 想 / 我

19. "Every time we meet, he is late." Which word fits? 他 _____ 迟到。

- A. 一下
- B. 一直到
- C. 一共
- D. 总是

20. Build: "We studied until eleven o'clock."

Put in order: 我们 / 十一点。/ 学习到 / 一直

21. "She goes to the gym every Monday and Friday." Which adverb fits best?

- A. 才
- B. 经常
- C. 一直
- D. 又

22. True or false? In directions, 一直走 means "keep turning". If false, correct it.

23. You look out of the window at 6 p.m. The rain started in the morning and has not stopped once. Use 一直. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 5. Duration + 没 + Verb + 了 (how long you haven't …)

24. Complete: "I haven't phoned home for a week." 我一个星期没给家里打电话 ……。

25. Build: "We haven't seen each other for ages!"

Put in order: 我们 / 好久 / 了！/ 没见

26. Build: "I haven't seen a film for a month."

Put in order: 了。/ 一个月 / 没看电影 / 我

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27. Which says "He hasn't slept for two days."?

- A. 他没两天睡觉。
- B. 他没睡觉两天了。
- C. 他睡觉两天没了。
- D. 他两天没睡觉了。

28. True or false? In 我学了两年中文, the duration comes after the verb because the sentence is positive. If false, correct it.

29. Your friend is on a vegetable diet and is starting to miss dumplings. Use Duration + 没 + Verb + 了. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 6. 刚 vs 刚才 (just now: adverb vs time-word)

30. Complete: "What did you say just now?" …… 你说什么?

31. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 刚我到家。
- B. 我到家刚。
- C. 我刚到家。
- D. 刚很冷。

32. True or false? 刚才很忙 is correct, but 刚很忙 is not. If false, correct it.

33. Build: "Someone called you just now."

Put in order: 刚才 / 给你 / 有人 / 打电话。

34. You knock on your friend's door; her roommate says she left a few minutes ago. Use 刚 or 刚才. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 7. 总是 (always – a habit)

35. Complete: "She always walks to school." 她 …… 走路去学校。

36. Build: "At weekends he always goes hiking."

Put in order: 周末 / 去爬山。/ 他 / 总是

37. Li Ming takes the metro once or twice a year. Which sentence fits?

- A. 李明经常坐地铁。
- B. 李明一直坐地铁。
- C. 李明总是坐地铁。
- D. 李明很少坐地铁。

38. Which says "He never eats meat."?

- A. 他一直吃肉。
- B. 他总是吃肉。
- C. 他吃肉总是不。
- D. 他从来不吃肉。

39. Match each sentence to what it expresses.

- (1) 他总是七点起床。
- (2) 你老是迟到！
- (3) 雨一直在下。
- A. a complaint about a habit
- B. a neutral habit
- C. one continuous stretch of time

40. Your father starts every day the same way, whatever the weather. Use 总是. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 8. 老是 (always – a complaint)

41. Complain: "You keep playing on your phone!" 你 …… 玩手机！

42. A news report says the factory opens at eight every day. Which adverb suits the neutral report?

- A. 老是
- B. 才
- C. 又
- D. 总是

43. Build: "I keep forgetting to bring an umbrella."

Put in order: 我 / 老是 / 带伞。/ 忘记

44. True or false? 你不老是听 is the right way to say "You never listen." If false, correct it.

45. Your roommate leaves dirty dishes in the sink, and it is the third time this week. Use 老是. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 9. 又 + Verb + 了 (again, in the past)

46. Complete: "My phone is broken again." 我的手机 …… 坏了。

47. Build: "She bought another pair of shoes."

Put in order: 一双鞋。/ 又 / 买了 / 她

48. "He didn't come to class again." Which is correct?

- A. 他又来没上课。
- B. 他没来又上课。
- C. 他又没来上课。
- D. 他没又来上课。

49. Build: "Why are you late again?"

Put in order: 迟到了？ / 你 / 怎么 / 又

50. Which says "He came again yesterday."?

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- A. 他昨天又来了。
- B. 他昨天再来了。
- C. 昨天他来了又。
- D. 他又昨天来了。

51. True or false? 明天又是星期一了 is correct, even though it is about tomorrow. If false, correct it.

52. Your classmate arrived late on Monday, and on Tuesday the teacher sighs when the door opens at 8:20. Use 又 + Verb + 了. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 10. 再 vs 又 (again: future vs past)

53. Ask politely: "Please try again." 请 …… 试一次。

54. Build: "Don't forget your keys again!"

Put in order: 再 / 忘了 / 带钥匙！ / 别

55. You look out of the window, annoyed: "It's raining again!" …… 下雨了！

56. Build: "Come again next time!"

Put in order: 下次 / 再 / 欢迎你 / 来！

57. What does 我们吃了饭再走 mean?

- A. We ate and left again.
- B. Let's eat first, then go.
- C. We will eat again before we go.
- D. We left without eating.

58. True or false? 明天又是星期五了 is correct. If false, correct it.

59. Fill both gaps: 他上个星期 ___ 感冒了，医生说下个月 ___ 来检查。

- A. 再 … 再
- B. 又 … 又
- C. 再 … 又
- D. 又 … 再

60. You visited the Great Wall last year. This year you went again, and next year you want to go once more. Use 再 or 又. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 11. 几乎 (nearly, almost)

61. Complete: "She goes to the library almost every day." 她 …… 每天都去图书馆。

62. True or false? 我几乎没睡觉 means "I hardly slept at all." If false, correct it.

63. Build: "Almost all the students came."

Put in order: 都 / 几乎 / 所有的学生 / 来了。

64. 29 of the 30 students passed the test. Which sentence fits?

- A. 一半的学生通过了考试。
- B. 几乎没有学生通过考试。
- C. 学生们都考得不好。
- D. 学生们几乎都通过了考试。

65. Which says "We have almost all been there."?

- A. 我们去过几乎都。
- B. 我们都几乎去过。
- C. 我们几乎都去过。
- D. 几乎我们去过都。

66. You stayed up late and only remembered the test at breakfast. Use 几乎. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 12. 只 (only)

67. Complete: "I only drink green tea." 我 …… 喝绿茶。

68. Which says "Only Xiao Wang came."?

- A. 只小王来了。
- B. 小王只来了。
- C. 小王来了只。
- D. 只有小王来了。

69. Build: "Yesterday I only slept five hours."

Put in order: 昨天 / 只 / 睡了五个小时。/ 我

70. True or false? 我喝了只一杯咖啡 is correct. If false, correct it.

71. "Only when you finish your homework can you play games." 只有做完作业，你 …… 能玩游戏。

72. At a noodle shop your friend orders three dishes. You are not hungry. Use 只. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 13. 才 + Number (only – a small amount)

73. Complete with surprise: "This bag is only twenty yuan!" 这个包 …… 二十块!

74. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 现在才九点。
- (2) 他九点才起床。
- (3) 我才喝了一杯。
- A. He didn't get up until nine.
- B. It's only nine o'clock.
- C. I've only had one glass.

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75. Build: "I've only studied Chinese for three months."

Put in order: 三个月中文。/ 学了 / 才 / 我

76. True or false? 他才十岁 sounds more surprised than 他十岁. If false, correct it.

77. A boy at the piano competition plays better than adults, and everyone is surprised by his age. Use 才 + Number. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 14. 有点 vs 一点 (a bit too… vs a little …er)

78. Complain: "The soup is a bit salty." 汤 …… 咸。

79. Ask for change: "Could you walk a little faster?"

- A. 你能一点快走吗?
- B. 你能走有点快吗?
- C. 你能走快一点吗?
- D. 你能有点快走吗?

80. Build: "It's a bit expensive; can you make it a little cheaper?"

Put in order: 能便宜 / 一点吗? / 这个有点贵 / ,

81. True or false? 她有点漂亮 is a natural compliment. If false, correct it.

82. The shoes fit badly and you want to ask for another size. Use 有点 or 一点. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 15. Time + 才 (not until – lateness)

83. Complete: "The film didn't start until nine." 电影九点 …… 开始。

84. Build: "He only fell asleep after taking medicine."

Put in order: 他 / 才 / 吃了药 / 睡着。

85. True or false? 他六点就回家了 and 他六点才回家 give opposite impressions of the same time. If false, correct it.

86. "I didn't finish my homework until eleven." Which is correct?

- A. 我十一点才写完作业了。
- B. 我才十一点写完作业。
- C. 我十一点才写完作业。
- D. 我十一点写完才作业。

87. What does 现在才九点 mean?

- A. It's only nine o'clock now.
- B. It didn't happen until nine.
- C. It's not nine yet.
- D. It's already nine.

88. The party was supposed to end at ten. Your brother walked in at midnight. Use Time + 才. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 16. 才 vs 就 (late vs early)

89. The train was due at ten but arrived at eleven. 火车十一点 …… 到。

90. Build: “He got up as early as six.”

Put in order: 他 / 就 / 起床了。/ 六点

91. Class starts at 8:00. Your classmate, usually late, arrived at 7:30 today. What do you say?

- A. 他今天才七点半到了。
- B. 他今天七点半就到。
- C. 他今天七点半才到。
- D. 他今天七点半就到了。

92. “I asked three times before he agreed.” Which word fits? 我问了三次他 _____ 同意。

- A. 都
- B. 才
- C. 就
- D. 也

93. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 她十七岁就上大学了。
- (2) 他三十五岁才学开车。
- (3) 他看了一遍就懂了。
- (4) 我看了三遍才懂。
- A. He didn’t learn to drive until thirty-five.
- B. She went to university at only seventeen.
- C. I only understood after three readings.
- D. He understood after one reading.

94. True or false? 他十点才起床了 is the normal way to say “He didn’t get up until ten.” If false, correct it.

95. The meeting starts at nine. Li arrived at 8:30; Wang strolled in at 9:30. Use 才 or 就. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

96. The film started at seven. Choose 就 or 才: 他六点半 …… 到了。/ 他八点 …… 到。

97. Choose 又 or 再: 他昨天 …… 来了。/ 欢迎你明天 …… 来。

98. Choose 总是 or 老是: a neutral habit / a complaint. 爸爸早上 …… 喝咖啡。/ 你 …… 不洗碗!

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99. Which sentence says “I haven’t eaten meat for three days”?

- A. 我没吃肉三天了。
- B. 我三天没吃肉了。
- C. 我三天不吃肉。

100. Find and fix the problem. The meeting was at eight and your friend arrived at ten. A classmate says 他十点就到了 to complain that he was late. Correct it.

101. Use it yourself. Say that he came again yesterday, and that you will come again tomorrow.

Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. 终于 (finally, at last)

1. 终于

A long wait ends, so 终于 + verb + 了.

2. D. 最后

最后 marks the last step in a sequence; there is no long wait here.

3. 我终于找到了我的钥匙。

Subject + 终于 + Verb + 了 + object.

4. False.

It reports any outcome reached after a long process, e.g. 他终于病倒了.

5. B. Because buying the phone came after a lot of trouble.

终于 marks a result that came after a long wait or effort; 最后 only gives the order.

6. Model answer: 火车终于来了!

Check your answer:

- It needs a long wait or process before it; it does not mean "at the end of a list". For "lastly", use 最后.
- Put 终于 after the subject, before the verb: 他终于来了, not 终于他来了 in ordinary speech.

■ 2. 先 ... ，再 ... (first ..., then ...)

7. 再

先 … 再 … orders future steps.

8. D. 我昨天先去了银行，然后去了超市。

For past events use 先 … 然后 … with 了; 再 is for steps still to come.

9. 你先休息一下，再做作业。

先 + verb 1, 再 + verb 2.

10. False.

先 goes after the subject: 我先走.

11. Model answer: 你先放衣服，再按这个按钮。

Check your answer:

- 再 is for steps still to come. For what already happened, use 先 … 然后 / 又 …: 我先吃了饭，然后去看电影了.
- Put 先 after the subject: 我先走, not 先我走.

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■ 3. 一边 ... 一边 ... (doing two things at once)

12. 一边

一边 A 一边 B – the first 一边 goes before 做饭.

13. A. 他一边吃饭一边看手机。

Subject + 一边 action + 一边 action. 是 is not an action that can run alongside another.

14. 我们边走边聊。

The short form 边 … 边 … fits one-syllable verbs.

15. False.

一边 … 一边 … joins two simultaneous actions; 又 … 又 … usually joins two qualities.

16. Model answer: 爷爷一边喝茶一边看报纸。

Check your answer:

- Use action verbs that can happen together; 一边是学生一边是老师 is wrong. For two roles, use 既 … 又 … or 也.
- Keep one subject before the first 一边: 他一边吃一边看, not 一边他吃一边看.

■ 4. 一直 (all along, continuously)

17. 一直

一直 + Adj = continuously in that state.

18. 我一直想去中国。

Subject + 一直 + 想 + verb phrase.

19. D. 总是

Being late happens again and again, so 总是 (every time). 一下, 一直到 and 一共 do not fit here.

20. 我们一直学习到十一点。

一直 + verb + 到 + time = until that time.

21. B. 经常

Repeated visits are frequent, not continuous, so 经常 (or 总是) fits; 一直 means without a break.

22. False.

一直走 means "go straight (ahead)".

23. Model answer: 今天一直在下雨。

Check your answer:

- 一直 means without interruption; for something done again and again, use 总是 or 经常.
- Put 一直 before the verb, not at the end of the sentence: 他一直在工作, not 他在工作一直.

■ 5. Duration + 没 + Verb + 了 (how long you haven't ...)

24. 了

The final 了 shows the gap lasts until now.

25. 我们好久没见了!

Subject + duration + 没 + verb + 了.

26. 我一个月没看电影了。

Duration + 没 + verb + object + 了.

27. D. 他两天没睡觉了。

Duration + 没 + verb + 了.

28. True.

A positive duration follows the verb; a negative gap puts the duration before 没.

29. Model answer: 我三天没吃肉了。

Check your answer:

- Keep the final 了 when the gap lasts up to now: 我三天没吃肉了 means it is still true today.
- Put the duration before 没: 三天没吃肉了, not 没吃肉三天了.

■ 6. 刚 vs 刚才 (just now: adverb vs time-word)

30. 刚才

Only the time word 刚才 can start the sentence.

31. C. 我刚到家。

刚 stands right before the verb; it cannot start the sentence, and it is not used for a past state like 很忙.

32. True.

刚才 can describe a state a moment ago; 刚 usually goes before a verb and is not used for a past state like 很忙.

33. 刚才有人给你打电话。

刚才 + 有人 + 给 + person + 打电话.

34. Model answer: 她刚才出去了。

Check your answer:

- 刚 never starts the sentence: 我刚吃饭, not 刚我吃饭. 刚才 may come first: 刚才我吃饭了.
- 刚 + verb usually has no 了: 我刚到. 刚才 sentences take 了 normally: 他刚才走了.

■ 7. 总是 (always – a habit)

35. 总是

A habit takes 总是 before the verb.

36. 他周末总是去爬山。

Subject + time word + 总是 + verb phrase.

37. D. 李明很少坐地铁。

Once or twice a year is rarely: 很少.

38. D. 他从来不吃肉。

"Never" as a habit is 从来不 + verb.

39. (1) B: 他总是七点起床。= a neutral habit; (2) A: 你老是迟到! = a complaint about a habit; (3) C: 雨一直在下。= one continuous stretch of time

总是 states a habit, 老是 complains about it, 一直 describes something unbroken.

40. Model answer: 爸爸早上总是先喝一杯咖啡。

Check your answer:

- 总是 goes before the verb, never at the end: 他总是迟到, not 他迟到总是.
- "Never" is not 总是不 in most cases; use 从来不: 他从来不喝酒 – "He never drinks."

■ 8. 老是 (always – a complaint)

41. 老是

老是 + verb for an irritating habit.

42. D. 总是

总是 states a neutral habit; 老是 would sound like a complaint.

43. 我老是忘记带伞。

Subject + 老是 + verb phrase.

44. False.

老是 comes before 不: 你老是不听.

45. Model answer: 你老是不洗碗!

Check your answer:

- Use 老是 for something irritating or worrying; for a neutral habit (他总是七点起床) choose 总是.
- 老是 goes before the verb (or before 不 / 没): 你老是不听, not 你不老是听.

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■ 9. 又 + Verb + 了 (again, in the past)

46. 又

The breakage has already happened again, so 又 + Verb + 了.

47. 她又买了一双鞋。

Subject + 又 + Verb + 了 + object.

48. C. 他又没来上课。

又 goes before 没: 又没来.

49. 你怎么又迟到了?

怎么 + 又 + verb + 了: the annoyed "why … again?".

50. A. 他昨天又来了。

Subject + time + 又 + verb + 了.

51. True.

又 can describe a repetition that is certain to come, such as the days of the week.

52. Model answer: 他又迟到了。

Check your answer:

- For something that has already happened again, use 又: 他又来了, not 他再来了.
- 又 stands before the verb, after the subject and any time word: 他昨天又迟到了.

■ 10. 再 vs 又 (again: future vs past)

53. 再

A request for a future repeat takes 再.

54. 别再忘了带钥匙!

A warning about the future: 别 + 再 + verb.

55. 又

It has already started again, and you are tired of it: 又 … 了.

56. 欢迎你下次再来!

Time word + 再 + verb for a future repeat.

57. B. Let's eat first, then go.

Here 再 means "then, after that", not "again".

58. True.

又 can look ahead for a repeat that is certain to come.

59. D. 又 … 再

The cold already came back (又); the check-up is still to come (再).

60. Model answer: 我今年又去了长城，明年还想再去。

Check your answer:

- Past repetition: 又, not 再: 他昨天又来了, not 他昨天再来了.

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- Future plan or request: 再, not 又: 明天再来, not 明天又来 (unless it is a predictable repeat).

■ 11. 几乎 (nearly, almost)

61. 几乎

几乎 + 每天都 = almost every day.

62. True.

几乎 + 没 = almost not, i.e. hardly.

63. 几乎所有的学生都来了。

几乎 + 所有的 + noun + 都 + verb.

64. D. 学生们几乎都通过了考试。

29 of 30 is almost all: 几乎都.

65. C. 我们几乎都去过。

几乎 comes before 都.

66. Model answer: 我几乎忘了今天有考试。

Check your answer:

- Put 几乎 before the part that is "almost": 几乎每天, 几乎没有, 几乎都. Not after the verb.
- With 都, 几乎 comes first: 我们几乎都去过, not 我们都几乎去过.

■ 12. 只 (only)

67. 只

只 goes before the verb 喝.

68. D. 只有小王来了。

To limit a person, use 只有 + noun. 小王只来了 would mean he only came (and did nothing else).

69. 昨天我只睡了五个小时。

Time + subject + 只 + verb + 了 + duration.

70. False.

只 goes before the verb: 我只喝了一杯咖啡.

71. 才

只有 + condition, 才 + result.

72. Model answer: 我只要一碗面条。

Check your answer:

- "Only I went" is 只有我去了, not 只我去了: before a noun or the subject, use 只有.
- Keep 只 before the verb, not after it: 我只喝了一杯, not 我喝了只一杯.

■ 13. 才 + Number (only – a small amount)

73. 才

才 + number shows the amount is smaller than expected.

74. (1) B: 现在才九点。= It's only nine o'clock.; (2) A: 他九点才起床。= He didn't get up until nine.; (3) C: 我才喝了一杯。= I've only had one glass.

Before a number, 才 means "only"; after a time and before the verb, it means "not until".

75. 我才学了三个月中文。

才 goes before the verb that carries the small amount.

76. True.

才 adds the feeling that the age is surprisingly young.

77. Model answer: 他才十岁，钢琴就弹得这么好!

Check your answer:

- 才 before the number = "only that much": 才九点 – "it's only nine".
- 才 after the time, before the verb = "not until": 九点才起床 – "didn't get up until nine". Same word, different position.

■ 14. 有点 vs 一点 (a bit too... vs a little ...er)

78. 有点

有点 + Adj for something slightly unwelcome.

79. C. 你能走快一点吗?

Verb + Adj + 一点 asks for "a little more …".

80. 这个有点贵，能便宜一点吗?

有点 + Adj (complaint), then Adj + 一点 (request).

81. False.

有点 usually goes with unwelcome qualities. Say 她很漂亮.

82. Model answer: 这双鞋有点小，有大一点的吗?

Check your answer:

- 有点 goes before the adjective: 有点贵, not 贵有点.
- 一点 goes after the adjective: 便宜一点, not 一点便宜 (一点 before a noun means "a little of": 一点水).

■ 15. Time + 才 (not until – lateness)

83. 才

Time + 才 + verb = later than expected.

84. 他吃了药才睡着。

Action first, then 才 + result.

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85. True.

就 presents six as early; 才 presents it as late.

86. C. 我十一点才写完作业。

Time + 才 + verb, and no 了: 我十一点才写完作业。

87. A. It's only nine o'clock now.

才 + a number with no verb after it = only.

88. Model answer: 他十二点才回家。

Check your answer:

- I can explain that 才 makes the time sound late.
- The time comes before 才, and there is no 了 at the end.

■ 16. 才 vs 就 (late vs early)

89. 才

Eleven is later than the expected ten, so 才 (and no 了).

90. 他六点就起床了。

Time + 就 + verb + 了.

91. D. 他今天七点半就到了。

Earlier than expected → 就 … 了.

92. B. 才

Three requests means more effort than expected, so 才.

93. (1) B: 她十七岁就上大学了。= She went to university at only seventeen.; (2) A: 他三十五岁才学开车。= He didn't learn to drive until thirty-five.; (3) D: 他看了一遍就懂了。= He understood after one reading.; (4) C: 我看了三遍才懂。= I only understood after three readings.

就 = early / easy; 才 = late / hard.

94. False.

In this simple sentence 才 takes no 了: 他十点才起床。

95. Model answer: 小李八点半就到了，小王九点半才到。

Check your answer:

- I can explain that 就 / 才 show the speaker's expectation, not only the time.
- My 就 sentence ends with 了; my 才 sentence has no 了.
- 就 and 才 stand after the time word and before the verb.

■ **Mixed practice**

96. 他六点半就到了 (early)。他八点才到 (late). 才 does not take 了 in this pattern.

97. 他昨天又来了。欢迎你明天再来。又 is for a repeat that already happened; 再 is for one still to come.

98. 爸爸早上总是喝咖啡。你老是不洗碗！Both mean "always", but 老是 usually complains.

99. B. The length of time comes before 没 + verb, and 了 closes the sentence.

100. Say 他十点才到. 才 shows that ten was late; 就 would show that he came early.

101. Model answer. 他昨天又来了。我们明天再来。又 for a repeat that has happened, 再 for one that will happen.

Review later. Tomorrow, make one sentence with 才 for something late and one with 才 for a small number.

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Verbs, ability & complements

HSK 3

Verbs that do more work. Some verbs make other people act (让, 叫, 请, 使) or give advice (应该). Some patterns say how long an action lasted (Verb + 了 + time). The largest group are complements: short words after the verb that say where the action goes (来/去), whether you can do it (得/不), whether it is finished (完/好/错) and whether it continues (下去).

At a glance

Making, letting and advising

- **1.** 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 – make / let / ask someone do: 妈妈不让我晚上出去。
- **2.** 应该 / 该 – should, ought to: 你应该多带一点水。
- **3.** 没办法 + Verb – no way to / can't: 商店都关门了，我没办法买蛋糕。

Seeming, feeling and judging

- **4.** 看起来 – looks / seems: 这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。
- **5.** 难 + Verb – unpleasant to …: 这个汤太难喝了！
- **6.** 很 + Verb – feeling verbs with 很: 我很喜欢吃中国菜。
- **7.** 经过 – after going through: 经过三年的努力，她终于赢了比赛。

How long, or just a little

- **8.** Verb + 了 + Duration – did for a length of time: 我等了你一个小时！
- **9.** Verb + 了 + Duration + 了 – have been …-ing: 我等了你两个小时了！
- **10.** Verb reduplication – do a bit / give it a try: 我可以试试这件衣服吗?

Complements after the verb

- **11.** Result complements 完 / 好 / 错 / 见 / 懂 / 到 – how it turned out: 作业我做完了！
- **12.** Direction complement 来 / 去 – toward / away: 他出去了。
- **13.** Potential complement 得 / 不 – can / can't do it: 老师说得太快，我听不懂。
- **14.** Verb + 下去 – keep …-ing: 说下去，后来怎么样了?

1. 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

Form: A + 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 + B + verb

- **妈妈不让我晚上出去。** *Māma bú ràng wǒ wǎnshang chūqu.* – Mum won't let me go out in the evening.
- **妈妈叫我去买菜。** *Māma jiào wǒ qù mǎi cài.* – Mum told me to go and buy vegetables.
- **我想请你吃饭。** *Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī fàn.* – I'd like to treat you to a meal.

- **这个消息让我很高兴。** – This news made me very happy.

How it works. In all four, B is the person who receives the first verb and does the second.

Verb	Meaning	Example
让	let, allow; make (a feeling)	不让我去, 让我很高兴
叫	tell (spoken)	叫我去买菜
请	invite, ask politely; treat	请老师吃饭
使	cause (formal, written)	运动使人健康

Watch out

- *wrong:* 妈妈让去我 → 妈妈让我去.
- The position of 不 changes the meaning: 不让我去 = won't let me go; 让我不去 = tells me not to go.



2. 应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

Form: subject + (不) 应该 / 该 + verb · 该 + verb + 了 · 该 + person + 了

- **你应该多带一点水。** *Nǐ yīnggāi duō dài yìdiǎn shuǐ.* – You should take some more water.
- **你不应该这么晚睡觉。** – You shouldn't go to bed so late.
- **十二点了，我该走了。** *Shí'èr diǎn le, wǒ gāi zǒu le.* – It's twelve; I should be going.
- **该你了。** – Your turn.

How it works. 应该 *yīnggāi* gives advice or a duty: "should, ought to". 该 is the short spoken form. Both go after the subject, before the verb.

- **该 + verb + 了**: it's time to do it.
- **该 + person (+ 了)**: it's someone's turn.
- **A confident guess**: 他应该已经到家了 (he should be home by now). The context tells you whether it is advice or a guess.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 应该你休息 → 你应该休息.
- "Shouldn't" is 不应该: *wrong:* 你应该不去 → 你不应该去.



3. 没办法 + Verb (no way to / can't)

Form: subject + 没办法 + verb · 没办法。(reply)

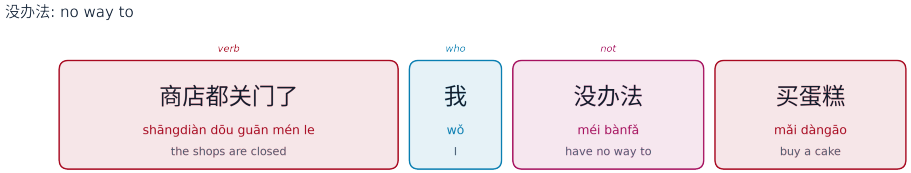
- **商店都关门了，我没办法买蛋糕。** *Shāngdiàn dōu guān mén le, wǒ méi bànfǎ mǎi dàngāo.* – The shops are all shut; there's no way I can buy a cake.
- **对不起，我没办法帮你。** – Sorry, there's no way I can help you.
- A: **下雨了，比赛取消了。** B: **没办法。** – "It's raining, the match is off." "Nothing we can do."
- **我一点儿办法都没有。** – I'm completely out of ideas.

How it works. 没办法 *méi bànfǎ* + verb means the situation stops you: "there's no way to …". On its own, it is a reply: "Oh well, nothing can be done."

没办法	不会	不能
the situation blocks you	you lack the skill	general "can't", not allowed
我没办法联系他	我不会游泳	这里不能抽烟

Watch out

- Keep 没: *wrong:* 不办法 → 没办法.



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4. 看起来 (looks / seems)

Form: subject + 看起来 / 听起来 / 吃起来 / 用起来 + description

- **这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。** *Zhège dàngāo kàn qǐlai hěn hǎochī.* – This cake looks delicious.
- **这个主意听起来不错。** *Zhège zhǔyi tīng qǐlai búcuò.* – That idea sounds good.
- **这个菜吃起来有点辣。** – This dish tastes a bit spicy.
- **这个手机用起来很方便。** – This phone is easy to use.

How it works. Sense verb + 起来 gives an impression from that sense: 看 (looks), 听 (sounds), 吃 (tastes), 用 (is … to use). It goes before the description, which is usually 很 + adjective. It reports an impression, not a fact you have checked: a cake can look good and taste bad.

看起来 / 看上去	好像
from what you can see	a guess or a feeling, not from looks
她看上去很年轻	他好像生病了

Watch out

- Pick the right sense: a plan on the phone 听起来很有意思; it does not 看起来.

看起来: it looks ...



5. 难 + Verb (unpleasant to …)

Form: 难 + sense verb (unpleasant) · 难 + other verb (hard to)

- **这个汤太难喝了！** *Zhège tāng tài nánhē le!* – This soup tastes awful!
- **这个颜色很难看。** *Zhège yánsè hěn nánkàn.* – This colour is ugly.
- **这个字很难写。** – This character is hard to write.
- **他的问题很难回答。** – His question is hard to answer.

How it works. With a sense verb, 难 means “unpleasant to the senses”. These words work like adjectives (很难看, 太难听了), and each has an opposite with 好.

难 word	Meaning	Opposite
难吃 / 难喝	tastes bad (food / drink)	好吃 / 好喝
难看	ugly	好看
难听	sounds unpleasant	好听
难闻	smells bad	好闻

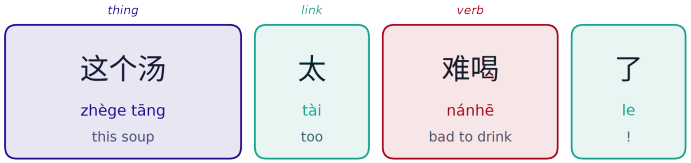
With most other verbs, 难 means “difficult to”: 难写, 难回答. 难受 is a feeling: unwell or upset.

不好吃 is milder (“not tasty”) than 难吃 (“awful”).

Watch out

- 难吃 means it tastes bad, not that it is hard to eat; 难看 means ugly, not hard to see.

难 + verb: hard to ... (tastes, writes ...)



6. 很 + Verb (feeling verbs with 很)

Form: subject + 很 / 非常 + feeling verb (+ object)

- **我很喜欢吃中国菜。** *Wǒ hěn xǐhuan chī Zhōngguó cài.* – I really like Chinese food.
- **我很想家。** *Wǒ hěn xiǎng jiā.* – I miss home a lot.
- **我非常担心他。** – I'm extremely worried about him.
- **我们都很希望你能来。** – We all very much hope you can come.

How it works. Verbs of feeling and wanting take degree words, just like adjectives: 很喜欢, 很想, 很担心, 很希望, 很爱. The degree word goes right before the verb.

- **很想 + verb**: really want to: 我很想去看看.
- **很会 + verb**: be good at: 他很会做饭.

Watch out

- Ordinary action verbs do not take 很: *wrong:* 很吃, *wrong:* 很跑. Say 吃得很多, 跑得很快.
- *wrong:* 喜欢很这本书 → 很喜欢这本书.

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很 / 非常 + feeling verb: how much



7. 经过 (after going through)

Form: 经过 + process, result · 经过 + place (pass through)

- **经过三年的努力，她终于赢了比赛。** *Jīngguò sān nián de nǔlì, tā zhōngyú yíngle bǐsài.* – After three years of hard work, she finally won the race.
- **经过检查，医生说没什么大问题。** – After the check-up, the doctor said it was nothing serious.
- **我每天经过这个公园。** *Wǒ měi tiān jīngguò zhège gōngyuán.* – I pass this park every day.
- **这趟车经过北京吗?** – Does this train go through Beijing?

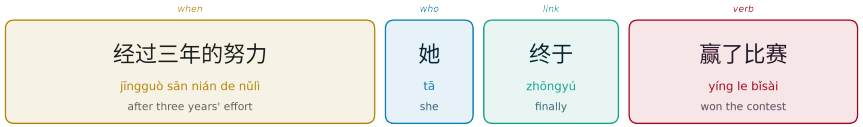
How it works. 经过 + a process (effort, study, discussion, a check) comes first; the result follows in the second clause, often with 终于. The process is usually a noun phrase: 经过一年的学习, 经过大家的讨论. As a plain verb, 经过 means "pass by, go through" a place.

经过	通过	以后
going through a process	the means used	simply "after" a time
经过多次试验	通过朋友，我找到了工作	下课以后

Watch out

- *wrong:* 经过下课 → 下课以后: a class ending is not a process.

经过 + effort, (终于) result



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8. Verb + 了 + Duration (did for a length of time)

Form: verb + 了 + length of time (+ object) · verb + object + verb + 了 + length of time

- **我等了你一个小时!** *Wǒ děngle nǐ yí ge xiǎoshí!* – I waited for you for an hour!
- **我昨天睡了十个小时。** – I slept for ten hours yesterday.
- **他学了三年中文。/ 他学中文学了三年。** *Tā xuéle sān nián Zhōngwén.* – He studied Chinese for three years.

How it works. How long an action lasted comes **after** the verb, as in English. Verb + 了 + duration with no final 了 reports a period that is over: 我在北京住了两年 (I lived there for two years, then left).

Where does the object go?

Object	Pattern	Example
a noun	duration before it, or repeat the verb	学了三年中文 / 学中文学了三年
a person (你, 他)	before the duration	等了你一个小时

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我两年学了 → 我学了两年.
- *wrong:* 我学了中文两年 → 我学了两年中文.
- In the negative, the time moves to the front: 三天没吃肉了.

Verb + 了 + time span: how long



9. Verb + 了 + Duration + 了 (have been ...-ing)

Form: (已经) + verb + 了 + length of time (+ object) + 了

- **我等了你两个小时了!** *Wǒ děngle nǐ liǎng ge xiǎoshí le!* – I've been waiting for you for two hours!
- **他在这儿工作了十年了。** *Tā zài zhèr gōngzuòle shí nián le.* – He has worked here for ten years (and still does).
- **我已经等了一个小时了。** – I've already been waiting an hour.

- **你学中文学了多长时间了？** – How long have you been learning Chinese?

How it works. The final 了 says the period lasts up to now and may go on.

One 了: finished	Two 了: still going
我在这儿住了五年。	我在这儿住了五年了。
I lived here for five years.	I've lived here for five years.

已经 in front stresses how long it has been; it does not change the meaning.

Watch out

- The duration still follows the verb: *wrong:* 三年学了了 → 学了三年了.

Verb + 了 + time span + 了: and still going



10. Verb reduplication (do a bit / give it a try)

Form: VV · V 一 V · ABAB · V 了 V (done)

- **我可以试试这件衣服吗？** *Wǒ kěyǐ shìshi zhè jiàn yīfu ma?* – Could I try this jacket on?
- **让我看看。** *Ràng wǒ kànkan.* – Let me have a look.
- **我们讨论讨论这个问题吧。** – Let's talk this over a bit.
- **他看了看表，就走了。** – He glanced at his watch and left.

How it works. A doubled verb means "do it a little, give it a try". It sounds softer and friendlier: 你尝尝 is gentler than 你尝. The second syllable is said lightly.

Verb	Doubled	Done
one syllable: 看	看看 / 看一看	看了看
two syllables: 休息	休息休息	休息了一下

Watch out

- Verbs double as ABAB, adjectives as AABB: *wrong:* 休休息息 → 休息休息.
- Doubling already means "a bit": *wrong:* 看看一会儿 → 看看 or 看一会儿.

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A doubled verb: try a little



11. Result complements 完 / 好 / 错 / 见 / 懂 / 到 (how it turned out)

Form: verb + 好 / 完 / 错 (+ 了) · 没 + verb + result

- **作业我做完了！** *Zuòyè wǒ zuòwán le!* – I've finished my homework!
- **饭做好了，快来吃吧！** *Fàn zuòhǎo le, kuài lái chī ba!* – Dinner's ready, come and eat!
- **对不起，我打错电话了。** – Sorry, I dialled the wrong number.
- **这本书我还没看完。** – I haven't finished reading this book yet.

How it works. A result word after the verb tells how the action ended. 了 normally follows the pair.

Result	Meaning	Example
完	finished, nothing left	吃完了
好	done properly, ready	准备好了吗?
错	done wrongly	写错了, 看错了

做完 says the job is over (maybe badly); 做好 says it is done well and ready.

Watch out

- Negate with 没 and drop 了: *wrong:* 我不做完了 → 我还没做完.
- Nothing comes between the verb and its result: *wrong:* 做作业完 → 做完作业.

Verb + 完 / 好: the result is reached



12. Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)

Form: verb + 来 / 去 · verb + place + 来 / 去

- **请进来！** *Qǐng jìnlai!* – Please come in!
- **他出去了。** *Tā chūqu le.* – He's gone out.
- **快进教室来！** – Come into the classroom, quick!
- **请把书拿来。** – Please bring the book here.

How it works. 来 means movement **towards** the speaker; 去 means **away** from the speaker. They combine with direction verbs.

Towards the speaker	Away from the speaker
进来, 出来, 上来, 下来	进去, 出去, 上去, 下去
回来, 过来	回去, 过去

The speaker's position decides. If you are upstairs, your friend 上来 (comes up). If you are downstairs, your friend 上去 (goes up).

Places and things. A place goes **between** the verb and 来 / 去: 回家去, 进教室来. A thing can go after: 带来了一本书 / 带了一本书来.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 进来教室 → 进教室来.



13. Potential complement 得 / 不 (can / can't do it)

Form: verb + 得 + result (can) · verb + 不 + result (can't)

- **老师说得太快，我听不懂。** *Lǎoshī shuō de tài kuài, wǒ tīng bu dǒng.* – The teacher talks too fast; I can't understand.
- **字太小了，我看不清楚。** *Zì tài xiǎo le, wǒ kàn bu qīngchu.* – The writing is too small; I can't see it clearly.
- **这么多菜，我们吃不完。** – With this much food, we can't finish it.
- **你听得懂吗?** – Can you understand?

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How it works. 得 or 不 between a verb and its result says whether the result is *possible*. It is about ability or circumstances, not permission.

Can	Can't	Meaning
听得懂	听不懂	(can't) understand by listening
看得见	看不见	(can't) see
买得到	买不到	(can't) get hold of
吃得完	吃不完	(can't) finish eating
来得及	来不及	there is (no) time

Questions. 你听得懂吗? or 你听得懂听不懂?

Watch out

- *wrong:* 不听懂 → 听不懂: 不 goes between the verb and the result.
- 听不懂 = can't understand (it is beyond me); 没听懂 = didn't understand this time: 我没听懂，请再说一遍.



14. Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)

Form: verb + 下去 (keep going) · verb + 不下去 (can't go on)

- **说下去，后来怎么样了?** *Shuō xiaqu, hòulái zěnmeyàng le?* – Keep going: what happened next?
- **学中文不容易，但是你要坚持下去。** – Learning Chinese isn't easy, but you must keep going.
- **这样下去不行。** *Zhèyàng xiaqu bù xíng.* – It can't go on like this.
- **我听不下去了。** – I can't bear to listen any more.

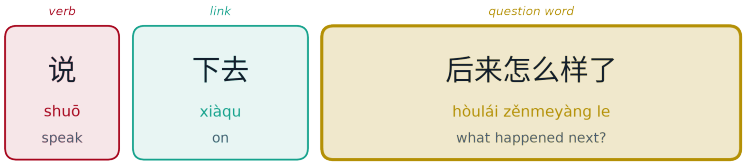
How it works. After a verb, 下去 means "continue from now on". It is not about moving down: 读下去 = keep reading. It often comes with 继续, 要, 想 or 能: 我想在这儿住下去.

下去	起来
continues something already going	starts something new
唱下去 (keep singing)	唱起来 (start singing)
坚持下去	大家都笑起来了

Watch out

- When everyone suddenly starts laughing, it is 笑起来, not 笑下去.

Verb + 下去: keep going



Practice

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

■ 1. 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

1. Complete: “My dad doesn’t let me play games.” 爸爸不 …… 我玩游戏。

2. You invite your teacher to dinner. Which verb is most polite? 我想 ___ 老师吃饭。

- A. 叫
- B. 使
- C. 让
- D. 请

3. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 爸爸让我用他的电脑。
- (2) 老师让我们再读一遍。
- (3) 让我想想。
- A. The teacher made us read it again.
- B. Let me think.
- C. Dad lets me use his computer.

4. Build: “This news made me very happy.”

Put in order: 让 / 我 / 很高兴。/ 这个消息

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5. True or false? 妈妈不让我去 and 妈妈让我不去 mean exactly the same. If false, correct it.

6. Your mum said: “Don’t go!” How do you report it?

- A. 妈妈不要让去我。
- B. 妈妈让我不要去。
- C. 妈妈让不我去。
- D. 妈妈让去我不要。

7. You want to go out tonight, but your parents have other ideas. Use 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

8. Advise: “You should see a doctor.” 你 …… 去看医生。

9. What does 该你了 mean?

- A. It’s your turn.
- B. You should be careful.
- C. You’ve arrived.
- D. You’re probably right.

10. Build: “It’s twelve; I should be going.”

Put in order: ， / 走了。/ 十二点了 / 我该

11. At the airport desk: without a passport you cannot fly. What does the worker say?

- A. 你该带护照了。
- B. 你必须带护照。
- C. 你最好带护照。
- D. 你可以带护照。

12. True or false? 你应该早点儿告诉我! can mean “You should have told me earlier!” If false, correct it.

13. True or false? In 他应该已经到家了, 应该 is advice to him. If false, correct it.

14. Your friend is going hiking at noon in 35 degrees with one small bottle of water. Use 应该 / 该. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 没办法 + Verb (no way to / can’t)

15. Complete: “The phone has no signal; I can’t call you.” 手机没有信号，我 …… 给你打电话。

16. Build: “Sorry, there’s no way I can help you.”

Put in order: ， 我 / 没办法 / 对不起 / 帮你。

17. True or false? 没办法 can be a complete reply meaning “nothing can be done”. If false, correct it.

18. Your friend lost the key to the classroom. You want to help. What do you say?

- A. 没办法，你回家吧。
- B. 别着急，我们一起想办法。
- C. 你没办法想。
- D. 我不会办法。

19. Which says "I can't swim (I never learned)."?

- A. 我游泳没办法。
- B. 我不办法游泳。
- C. 我没办法游泳。
- D. 我不会游泳。

20. Your friend asks you to buy a cake on the way home, but every bakery has closed for the holiday. Use 没办法 + Verb. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. 看起来 (looks / seems)

21. Complete: "You look very happy today." 你今天 …… 很高兴。

22. Your friend describes a plan on the phone. You say: "That sounds interesting." Which fits?

- A. 听起来很有意思。
- B. 用起来很有意思。
- C. 看起来很有意思。
- D. 吃起来很有意思。

23. Match each sense verb to its meaning.

- (1) 看起来
- (2) 听起来
- (3) 吃起来
- (4) 用起来
- A. tastes
- B. sounds
- C. is … to use
- D. looks

24. Build: "This cake looks delicious."

Put in order: 很 / 好吃。/ 这个蛋糕 / 看起来

25. A cake in the bakery window has thick cream and fresh strawberries. You haven't tasted it yet. Use 看起来. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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■ 5. 难 + Verb (unpleasant to …)

26. Complete: "This colour is ugly." 这个颜色很 ……。

27. Match each word to its meaning.

- (1) 难吃
- (2) 难听
- (3) 难写
- (4) 难受
- A. sounds unpleasant
- B. hard to write
- C. feel unwell
- D. tastes bad

28. Build: "His question is hard to answer."

Put in order: 很 / 回答。/ 他的问题 / 难

29. "His home is easy to find." 他家很 …… 找。

30. Your friend's mum asks how her soup is. It is too salty for you. What is the kindest answer?

- A. 我不喝难喝的汤。
- B. 很好喝，就是有点儿咸。
- C. 这个汤太难喝了!
- D. 这个汤难喝极了。

31. Which is the mildest way to say the food is not good?

- A. 不好吃。
- B. 太难吃了。
- C. 难吃极了。
- D. 很难吃。

32. You try the canteen's new soup. It is salty and cold. Use 难 + Verb. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 6. 很 + Verb (feeling verbs with 很)

33. Complete: "I miss my mum very much." 我 …… 想我妈妈。

34. Build: "We all very much hope you can come."

Put in order: 很希望 / 你 / 能来。/ 我们都

35. Your host asks if you like spicy food. You don't, but you want to be polite. What do you say?

- A. 我一点儿也不喜欢。
- B. 我很不吃辣的。
- C. 我不太喜欢吃辣的。

- D. 我最喜欢吃辣的。

36. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他很喜欢米饭。
- B. 他很吃米饭。
- C. 他米饭很喜欢吃很。
- D. 他喜欢很米饭。

37. True or false? 他很会做饭 means "He is very good at cooking." If false, correct it.

38. A new friend asks whether you like Chinese food. You really do. Use 很 + Verb. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 7. 经过 (after going through)

39. Complete: "After a check-up, the doctor said it was nothing serious." …… 检查，医生说没什么大问题。

40. Which word fits? "After class, let's play basketball." 下课 _____，我们去打篮球吧。

- A. 终于
- B. 经过
- C. 通过
- D. 以后

41. Build: "I pass this park every day."

Put in order: 每天 / 经过 / 这个公园。/ 我

42. True or false? 通过朋友，我找到了工作 stresses the means (a friend) rather than a long process. If false, correct it.

43. Match each English phrase to the Chinese.

- (1) after class
- (2) after a year of study
- (3) through a teacher's introduction
- A. 通过老师的介绍
- B. 下课以后
- C. 经过一年的学习

44. A runner who trained every morning for three years has just won her first marathon. Use 经过. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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■ 8. Verb + 了 + Duration (did for a length of time)

45. Complete: "I slept for ten hours yesterday." 我昨天睡 …… 十个小时。

46. "I studied for two hours at seven o'clock." Which is correct?

- A. 我七点两个小时学习了。
- B. 我学习了七点两个小时。
- C. 我七点学习了两个小时。
- D. 我两个小时七点学习了。

47. Build: "I waited for you for an hour."

Put in order: 我 / 等了 / 一个小时。/ 你

48. Which says "She studied piano for five years."?

- A. 她学钢琴五年了学。
- B. 她学了钢琴五年。
- C. 她五年学了钢琴。
- D. 她学了五年钢琴。

49. True or false? 我在北京住了两年 can describe a stay that has ended. If false, correct it.

50. Your friend was very late for lunch, and now she asks how long you waited. Use Verb + 了 + Duration. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 9. Verb + 了 + Duration + 了 (have been …-ing)

51. You still live here: "I've lived here for five years." 我在这儿住了五年 ……。

52. Build: "I've already been waiting for an hour."

Put in order: 等了 / 一个小时了。/ 已经 / 我

53. "I haven't played basketball for a month." Which is correct?

- A. 我没打篮球一个月了。
- B. 我没打了一个月篮球。
- C. 我一个月没打篮球了。
- D. 我打了一个月篮球了。

54. Build: "It is two years since my sister graduated."

Put in order: 了。/ 两年 / 我姐姐 / 毕业

55. Which sentence means the person still works at the bank?

- A. 他三年在银行工作。
- B. 他在银行工作了三年了。
- C. 他在银行三年工作了。
- D. 他在银行工作了三年。

56. True or false? 我学了三年中文 and 我学了三年中文了 mean exactly the same. If false, correct it.

57. Your friend phones to ask where you are. You are still in the café where you have been since two o'clock. Use Verb + 了 + Duration + 了. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 10. Verb reduplication (do a bit / give it a try)

58. Double the verb 看 to say "Let me have a look." 让我 ……。

59. True or false? 你尝尝 sounds softer than 你尝. If false, correct it.

60. "Let's go for a little swim." Which is correct?

- A. 我们去游一游泳泳吧。
- B. 我们去游游泳吧。
- C. 我们去游泳泳吧。
- D. 我们去游泳游泳吧。

61. Which is the correct doubled form of 休息?

- A. 休息息
- B. 休休息息
- C. 休息休息
- D. 休休息

62. Build: "He glanced at his watch and left."

Put in order: ，就 / 看了看表 / 他 / 走了。

63. You see a jacket you like in a shop and want to try it before deciding. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 11. Result complements 完 / 好 / 错 / 见 / 懂 / 到 (how it turned out)

64. True or false? 我找了我的钥匙 tells you that I found my keys. If false, correct it.

65. Complete: "I've eaten up all the dumplings." 饺子我都吃 …… 了。

66. Match each phrase to its meaning.

- (1) 听懂了
- (2) 看见了
- (3) 买到了
- (4) 写错了
- A. understood it
- B. wrote it wrongly
- C. managed to buy it
- D. saw it

67. Your essay is not perfect, but you have written the last sentence. Which fits best?

- A. 我的作文没写完。
- B. 我的作文写完了，但是不太好。

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- C. 我的作文写错了。
- D. 我的作文写好了，可以交了。

68. Which says "I haven't finished reading this book yet."?

- A. 这本书我还没看完。
- B. 这本书我还看没完。
- C. 这本书我还没看完了。
- D. 这本书我还不看完了。

69. Build: "Are you ready?"

Put in order: 准备好 / 了 / 吗? / 你

70. Which is correct?

- A. 我完做作业了。
- B. 我做作业了完。
- C. 我做作业完了。
- D. 我做完作业了。

71. Your mum asks about your homework before you go out to play. Use Result complements 完 / 好 / 错 / 见 / 懂 / 到. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 12. Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)

72. You are inside the room and call to your friend at the door: "Come in!" 进 ……!

73. Build: "Come into the classroom, quick!"

Put in order: 快 / 来! / 教室 / 进

74. You are in the classroom. A student runs in. Which sentence fits?

- A. 一个学生进跑来了。
- B. 一个学生跑来进了。
- C. 一个学生跑进来了。
- D. 一个学生跑进去了。

75. You are on the ground floor talking about your friend upstairs: "He went up." Which fits?

- A. 他来上了。
- B. 他上去了。
- C. 他上来了。
- D. 他去上了。

76. True or false? 他进来教室了 is correct. If false, correct it.

77. A friend knocks at your door; later your little brother runs off to play outside. Use Direction complement 来 / 去. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 13. Potential complement 得 / 不 (can / can't do it)

78. The words on the board are too small: "I can't see clearly." 我看 …… 清楚。

79. Match each form to its meaning.

- (1) 找不到
- (2) 做得完
- (3) 听不懂
- (4) 看得见
- A. can't understand
- B. can finish
- C. can't find
- D. can see

80. You forgot your key: "I can't get in." 我进 …… 去。

81. The museum guard says photos are not allowed. Which fits?

- A. 这里不能拍照片。
- B. 这里拍得到照片。
- C. 这里拍不见照片。
- D. 这里不拍得照片。

82. Build: "I can't understand what he says."

Put in order: 我 / 他说的话。/ 听不懂

83. You missed one word your friend just said. What do you say?

- A. 对不起，我听不懂，请再说一遍。
- B. 对不起，我听懂不，请再说一遍。
- C. 对不起，我不听懂，请再说一遍。
- D. 对不起，我没听懂，请再说一遍。

84. True or false? 我听他的话不懂 is correct. If false, correct it.

85. Your teacher speaks quickly at the start of a new course, and your friend wonders if you follow. Use Potential complement 得 / 不. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 14. Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)

86. Encourage: "Keep reading!" 读 ……！

87. Everyone suddenly started laughing. Which fits? 大家都笑 _____ 了。

- A. 过去
- B. 下去
- C. 上去
- D. 起来

88. Build: "It can't go on like this."

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Put in order: 下去 / 不行。/ 这样

89. True or false? In 说下去, 下去 means the speaker walks downstairs. If false, correct it.

90. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 你看起来很累。
- (2) 这个主意听起来很好。
- (3) 我想起来他的名字了。
- (4) 你说下去吧。
- A. This idea sounds good.
- B. I have remembered his name.
- C. Go on, keep talking.
- D. You look tired.

91. You are halfway through a story and your listener is hooked. Use Verb + 下去. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

92. Choose: 我等了你一个小时 or 我等了你一个小时了. You are still waiting.

93. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 我做作业完了。
- B. 我做完作业了。
- C. 我完做作业了。

94. The teacher speaks too fast and you cannot understand. Say it with a potential complement.

95. Choose 让 or 应该: Mum does not …… me go out at night. / You …… take more water.

96. Find and fix the problem. A student wants to say "I have finished the homework" and writes 我做作业完了. Correct the sentence.

97. Use it yourself. Say you have studied Chinese for two years, that you can understand this sentence, but that yesterday you did not understand a letter.

Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

1. 让

不让 + person + verb = not allow someone to do something.

2. D. 请

请 is the polite "invite / treat".

3. (1) C: 爸爸让我用他的电脑。= Dad lets me use his computer.; (2) A: 老师让我们再读一遍。= The teacher made us read it again.; (3) B: 让我想想。= Let me think.

让 can mean let or make; the situation decides.

4. 这个消息让我很高兴。

Cause + 让 + person + feeling.

5. False.

不让我去 refuses permission; 让我不去 tells me not to go. The focus differs.

6. B. 妈妈让我不要去。

An instruction not to go: 让 + person + 不要 + verb.

7. Model answer: 妈妈不让我晚上出去。

Check your answer:

- Keep the order A + 让 + B + Verb: 妈妈让我去, not 妈妈让去我.
- Negate the first verb to refuse permission: 不让我去 = "won't let me go"; 让我不去 changes the meaning to "tell me not to go".

■ 2. 应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

8. 应该

应该 + verb gives advice.

9. A. It's your turn.

该 + person = it's that person's turn.

10. 十二点了，我该走了。

该 + verb + 了 = it's time to.

11. B. 你必须带护照。

There is no choice, so 必须 (must). 可以 and 最好 are only suggestions.

12. True.

Chinese uses the same 应该 for "should have"; the situation shows it is about the past.

13. False.

Here 应该 is a confident guess: "he should be home by now."

14. Model answer: 你应该多带一点水。

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Check your answer:

- 应该 goes after the subject and before the verb: 你应该休息, not 应该你休息.
- Put 不 before 应该 to say "shouldn't": 你不应该去, not 你应该不去.

■ 3. 没办法 + Verb (no way to / can't)

15. 没办法

The situation blocks the call, so 没办法 + verb.

16. 对不起，我没办法帮你。

Subject + 没办法 + verb phrase.

17. True.

It is a common short reply when a situation cannot be changed.

18. B. 别着急，我们一起想办法。

想办法 = think of a way; it offers help.

19. D. 我不会游泳。

A skill you have not learned takes 不会.

20. Model answer: 商店都关门了，我没办法买蛋糕。

Check your answer:

- 没办法 means the situation blocks you; for a skill you lack, use 不会: 我不会游泳.
- Keep 没 (not 不): 没办法, not 不办法.

■ 4. 看起来 (looks / seems)

21. 看起来

看起来 + Adj reports how someone looks.

22. A. 听起来很有意思。

You heard the plan, so 听起来.

23. (1) D: 看起来 = looks; (2) B: 听起来 = sounds; (3) A: 吃起来 = tastes; (4) C: 用起来 = is … to use

Sense verb + 起来 = comes across as … to that sense.

24. 这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。

Subject + 看起来 + 很 + Adj.

25. Model answer: 这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。

Check your answer:

- 看起来 gives what you see, so it does not prove the cake tastes good; tasting is 吃起来.
- For a guess that is not based on looks (he seems to have left), use 好像: 他好像走了.

■ 5. 难 + Verb (unpleasant to …)

26. 难看

难看 = unpleasant to look at, ugly.

27. (1) D: 难吃 = tastes bad; (2) A: 难听 = sounds unpleasant; (3) B: 难写 = hard to write; (4) C: 难受 = feel unwell

With sense verbs 难 means unpleasant; with other verbs it means hard to do; 难受 is a feeling.

28. 他的问题很难回答。

Topic + 很 + 难 + verb.

29. 好

With a verb that is not a sense, 好 + verb = easy to …: 好找.

30. B. 很好喝，就是有点儿咸。

Start with the good side and soften the problem with 有点儿.

31. A. 不好吃。

不好吃 is milder than 难吃.

32. Model answer: 这个汤太难喝了！

Check your answer:

- 难吃 means it tastes bad, not that it is hard to eat; 难看 means ugly, not hard to see.
- 难受 is a feeling: "feel unwell, upset": 我头疼，很难受.

■ 6. 很 + Verb (feeling verbs with 很)

33. 很

Feeling verbs such as 想 take 很.

34. 我们都很希望你能来。

都 + 很 + feeling verb + clause.

35. C. 我不太喜欢吃辣的。

不太喜欢 is a soft, polite no.

36. A. 他很喜欢米饭。

很 + feeling verb is correct; an action verb such as 吃 does not take 很.

37. True.

很会 + verb = be good at doing it.

38. Model answer: 我很喜欢吃中国菜。

Check your answer:

- Ordinary action verbs do not take 很: 很吃, 很跑, 很去 are wrong. Say 吃得很多, 跑得很快.
- Put 很 before the verb, not the object: 很喜欢这本书, not 喜欢很这本书.

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■ 7. 经过 (after going through)

39. 经过

经过 + process (the check-up), then the result.

40. D. 以后

A simple point in time takes 以后; 经过 needs a process.

41. 我每天经过这个公园。

As a verb, 经过 takes the place as its object.

42. True.

通过 = by means of; 经过 = after going through a process.

43. (1) B: after class = 下课以后; (2) C: after a year of study = 经过一年的学习; (3) A: through a teacher's introduction = 通过老师的介绍

A plain time → 以后 (after the event); a long process → 经过; a helper or way → 通过.

44. Model answer: 经过三年的努力，她终于赢了比赛。

Check your answer:

- 经过 needs a process that leads somewhere; for a simple "after (a time)", use 以后: 下课以后, not 经过下课.
- Put 经过 + process first and the result second: 经过检查，医生说没问题.

■ 8. Verb + 了 + Duration (did for a length of time)

45. 了

Verb + 了 + duration.

46. C. 我七点学习了两个小时。

The point in time (七点) goes before the verb; the length of time (两个小时) after it.

47. 我等了你一个小时。

A pronoun object comes before the duration.

48. D. 她学了五年钢琴。

The duration goes between 了 and the noun object.

49. True.

With no final 了, the period is reported as complete.

50. Model answer: 我等了你一个小时！

Check your answer:

- Duration after the verb: 我学了两年, not 我两年学了.
- With a noun object, do not put the duration last: 我学了两年中文 or 我学中文学了两年, not 我学了中文两年.

■ 9. Verb + 了 + Duration + 了 (have been ...-ing)

51. 了

The final 了 shows it continues up to now.

52. 我已经等了一个小时了。

已经 + verb + 了 + duration + 了.

53. C. 我一个月没打篮球了。

For time without doing something, the time goes before 没: 一个月没打篮球了. 打了一个月篮球了 means you have been playing for a month.

54. 我姐姐毕业两年了。

With a one-off verb like 毕业, the time goes after the verb: 毕业两年了.

55. B. 他在银行工作了三年了。

Two 了 = still going.

56. False.

The first is a finished period; the second continues up to now.

57. Model answer: 我等了你两个小时了!

Check your answer:

- Two 了 = still going: 住了两年了 (I still live here). One 了 = finished: 住了两年 (I moved away).
- The duration still goes after the verb: 学了三年了, not 三年学了了.

■ 10. Verb reduplication (do a bit / give it a try)

58. 看看

VV or V 一 V makes it a light "have a look".

59. True.

Doubling makes an invitation light and friendly.

60. B. 我们去游游泳吧。

游泳 is verb + object, so only the verb doubles: 游游泳 (AAB).

61. C. 休息休息

Two-syllable verbs repeat as ABAB.

62. 他看了看表，就走了。

V 了 V for a brief completed action.

63. Model answer: 我可以试试这件衣服吗?

Check your answer:

- Two-syllable verbs repeat as ABAB (休息休息), not AABB (休休息息); AABB is for adjectives (干干净净).
- Doubling adds "a bit", so do not add a duration as well: 看看, or 看一会儿, not 看看一会儿.

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■ 11. Result complements 完 / 好 / 错 / 见 / 懂 / 到 (how it turned out)

64. False.

找 is only the action (look for). Found = 找到: 我找到了我的钥匙。

65. 完

吃完 = eaten up, finished.

66. (1) A: 听懂了 = understood it; (2) D: 看见了 = saw it; (3) C: 买到了 = managed to buy it; (4) B: 写错了 = wrote it wrongly

The result word tells how the action ended.

67. B. 我的作文写完了，但是不太好。

完 = finished, nothing left, even if it is not good. 写好 would mean done properly.

68. A. 这本书我还没看完。

没 + verb + result, with no 了.

69. 你准备好了吗?

准备 + 好 + 了 + 吗.

70. D. 我做完作业了。

The result follows the verb directly; the object comes after: 做完作业.

71. Model answer: 作业我做完了!

Check your answer:

- Negate with 没 and drop 了: 我还没做完, not 我不做完了.
- Nothing comes between the verb and its result: 做完作业, not 做作业完.

■ 12. Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)

72. 来

Movement towards the speaker takes 来.

73. 快进教室来!

Verb + place + 来.

74. C. 一个学生跑进来了。

How (跑) + which way (进) + 来, because the student comes towards you.

75. B. 他上去了。

He moved away from you (upwards), so 上去.

76. False.

The place goes before 来: 他进教室来了.

77. Model answer: 请进来!

Check your answer:

- Choose by where the speaker is: you are upstairs → 上来 (come up); you are downstairs → 上去 (go up).

- A place word never comes after 来/去: 进教室来, not 进来教室.

■ 13. Potential complement 得 / 不 (can / can't do it)

78. 不

Verb + 不 + result = can't. 看不清楚 = can't see clearly.

79. (1) C: 找不到 = can't find; (2) B: 做得完 = can finish; (3) A: 听不懂 = can't understand; (4) D: 看得见 = can see

Verb + 得/不 + result says whether the result is possible.

80. 不

进去 → 进不去 = can't get in.

81. A. 这里不能拍照片。

A rule (not allowed) → 不能 + verb. V 不 R is for a result you can't reach.

82. 我听不懂他说的话。

The object follows the whole phrase 听不懂.

83. D. 对不起，我没听懂，请再说一遍。

This time only → 没听懂. 听不懂 would mean you can't understand them at all.

84. False.

The object comes after the whole phrase: 我听不懂他的话。

85. Model answer: 老师说得太快，我听不懂。

Check your answer:

- 不 goes between the verb and the result: 听不懂, not 不听懂.
- Ask with both forms: 你听得懂听不懂? or 你听得懂吗?

■ 14. Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)

86. 下去

Verb + 下去 = continue doing it.

87. D. 起来

Starting a new action takes 起来; 下去 continues an action already going.

88. 这样下去不行。

这样下去 + 不行.

89. False.

Here 下去 means "continue".

90. (1) D: 你看起来很累。= You look tired.; (2) A: 这个主意听起来很好。= This idea sounds good.; (3) B: 我想起来他的名字了。= I have remembered his name.; (4) C: 你说下去吧。= Go on, keep talking.

看起来 = looks, 听起来 = sounds, 想起来 = remember, 下去 = keep on.

91. Model answer: 说下去，后来怎么样了?

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Check your answer:

- In this pattern 下去 means "continue", not physical movement down: 读下去 = keep reading.
- With 不 for "can't go on": 我听不下去了 – "I can't bear to listen any more."

■ Mixed practice

92. 我等了你一个小时了。The second 了 says the waiting has lasted until now and is still going on.

93. B. The result 完 follows the verb directly, then comes the object.

94. 老师说得太快，我听不懂。听不懂 means "cannot understand by listening".

95. 妈妈不让我晚上出去。你应该多带一点水。让 lets or makes someone act; 应该 gives advice.

96. Write 我做完作业了. The result 完 comes straight after the verb 做, and the object follows. 我把作业做完了 is also correct.

97. Model answer. 我学了两年中文。这个句子我看得懂，可是昨天那封信我没看懂。看得懂 says you are able to understand; 没看懂 reports one time you did not.

Review later. Tomorrow, make one sentence with a potential complement (得/不) and one with a result (完/好/错).

Comparisons

HSK 3

Comparing two things. 比 says one is more than the other; 没有 says one is less; 跟 …… 一样 says they are the same; 有 says one is as … as the other. Add 更 or 还 for "even more" and 多了 for "much more". Always keep the same feature in both halves and check which thing comes first.

At a glance

Same or different

- **1.** A 跟 / 和 B 一样 – the same as: 哥哥跟弟弟一样高。
- **2.** N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj – as … as: 他快有我这么高了!
- **3.** 没 (有) comparisons – not as … as: 弟弟没有哥哥高。
- **4.** 跟 … 比 (起来) – compared with …: 跟上海比，这儿安静多了。

How big is the difference?

- **5.** 比 … 更 / 还 – even more than: 她很高，她妹妹比她还高。
- **6.** 比 … Adj + 多了 – much more than: 坐飞机比坐火车快多了。

1. A 跟 / 和 B 一样 (the same as)

Form: A + 跟 / 和 + B + (不) 一样 (+ adjective)

- **哥哥跟弟弟一样高。** *Gēge gēn dìdi yíyàng gāo.* – The older brother is as tall as the younger one.
- **今天跟昨天一样冷。** *Jīntiān gēn zuótiān yíyàng lěng.* – Today is as cold as yesterday.
- **我的想法跟你的不一样。** – My idea is different from yours.
- **我们买了一样的衣服。** – We bought the same clothes.

How it works. A 跟 B 一样 says A and B are the same. Add an adjective to say in what way: 一样高, 一样忙, 一样贵. 跟 and 和 both work; 跟 is more common in speech. Before a noun, 一样的 means "the same": 一样的衣服.

Negatives and questions. 不 goes before 一样: 跟他不一样 (different from him). Ask with 吗 or 一样不一样: 北京的冬天跟上海的一样冷吗?

A 跟 B 一样 + adjective	A 比 B + adjective
equal	one is more
哥哥跟弟弟一样高	哥哥比弟弟高

Watch out

- *wrong:* 不跟他一样 → 跟他不一样.
- *wrong:* 一样很高 → 一样高.

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A 跟 B 一样 + adjective: as … as



2. N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj (as … as)

Form: A + 有 + B + (这么 / 那么) + adjective

- **他快有我这么高了!** *Tā kuài yǒu wǒ zhème gāo le!* – He's almost as tall as me!
- **这个西瓜有篮球那么大。** *Zhège xīguā yǒu lánqiú nàme dà.* – This watermelon is as big as a basketball.
- **你的家乡有哈尔滨那么冷吗?** – Is your hometown as cold as Harbin?
- **我的中文已经有他那么好了。** – My Chinese is already as good as his.

How it works. A 有 B + adjective says A *reaches* B's level. It is common in questions and with 快 or 已经. The negative is the familiar 没有: 他没有我高.

A 跟 B 一样 + adjective	A 有 B 那么 + adjective
the two are equal	A reaches B's level
他跟我一样高	他有我这么高吗?

Watch out

- The adjective stays bare: *wrong:* 有他很高 → 有他那么高.

A 有 B (这么) + adjective: as … as



3. 没 (有) comparisons (not as ... as)

Form: A + 没 (有) + B + (那么 / 这么) + adjective

- **弟弟没有哥哥高。** *Dìdi méiyǒu gēge gāo.* – The younger brother isn't as tall as the older one.
- **我的中文没有你那么好。** *Wǒ de Zhōngwén méiyǒu nǐ nàme hǎo.* – My Chinese isn't as good as yours.
- **地铁没有高铁快。** – The subway isn't as fast as the high-speed train.

How it works. A 没有 B + adjective means "A is not as … as B". It is the usual negative of a 比 comparison. 那么 or 这么 before the adjective adds force.

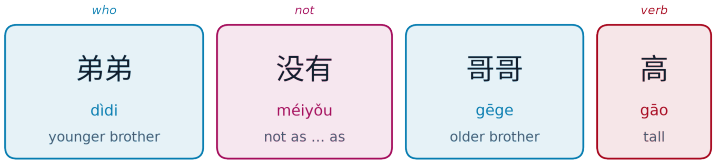
Positive	Negative
哥哥比弟弟高。	弟弟没有哥哥高。
The older brother is taller.	The younger brother isn't as tall.

Swap A and B, use 没有, and keep the same adjective.

Watch out

- The adjective stays bare: *wrong:* 没有他很高 → 没有他高.
- 不比 is a different idea ("not more … than", used to argue). The plain negative of 比 is 没有.

A 没有 B + adjective: not as ... as



4. 跟 ... 比 (起来) (compared with ...)

Form: 跟 / 和 + B + 比 (起来), A + adjective (+ 多了 / 一点)

- **跟上海比，这儿安静多了。** *Gēn Shànghǎi bǐ, zhèr ānjìng duō le.* – Compared with Shanghai, it's much quieter here.
- **跟去年比，今年的夏天热多了。** – Compared with last year, this summer is much hotter.
- **和北京比，广州暖和得多。** – Compared with Beijing, Guangzhou is much warmer.
- **我跟我哥哥比起来，还是比较矮。** – Compared with my brother, I'm still rather short.

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How it works. 跟 B 比 (起来) sets the comparison first, usually at the start of the sentence with a comma; the comment on A follows with a bare adjective and an amount (多了, 一点). It can also follow the subject.

A 比 B + adjective	跟 B 比，A + adjective
one tight sentence	sets the scene first
这儿比上海安静。	跟上海比，这儿安静多了。

Watch out

- Don't use 比 twice: *wrong:* 比安静多了 → 安静多了.
- *wrong:* 比跟上海 → 跟上海比.

跟 A 比，B + adjective + 多了



5. 比 ... 更 / 还 (even more than)

Form: A + 比 + B + 更 / 还 + adjective

- **她很高，她妹妹比她还高。** *Tā hěn gāo, tā mèimei bǐ tā hái gāo.* – She's tall, and her sister is even taller.
- **这个比那个更便宜。** *Zhège bǐ nàge gèng piányi.* – This one is even cheaper than that one.
- **这个菜比那个还辣！** – This dish is even spicier than that one!
- **我喜欢茶，但我更喜欢咖啡。** – I like tea, but I like coffee even more.

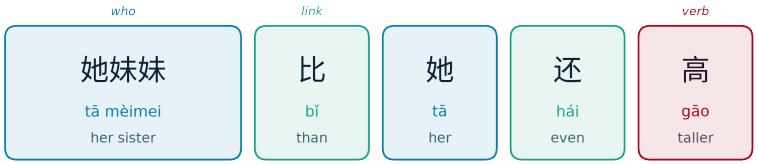
How it works. 更 or 还 means "even more": B is already like this, and A goes further. The order is 比 + B, then 更 / 还, then the bare adjective.

更 *gèng*	还 *hái*
neutral, common in writing	surprised or emphatic, in speech
also works without 比: 我更喜欢咖啡	needs the 比 phrase

Watch out

- No 很 or 非常 in a 比 sentence: *wrong:* 比他很高 → 比他更高.
- *wrong:* 更比我忙 → 比我更忙.

A 比 B 还 + adjective: even more



6. 比 ... Adj + 多了 (much more than)

Form: A + 比 + B + adjective + 多了 / 得多 / 一点 / exact amount

- **坐飞机比坐火车快多了。** *Zuò fēijī bǐ zuò huǒchē kuài duō le.* – Flying is much faster than taking the train.
- **今天比昨天热一点。** *Jīntiān bǐ zuótiān rè yìdiǎn.* – Today is a bit hotter than yesterday.
- **他比我大三岁。** *Tā bǐ wǒ dà sān suì.* – He's three years older than me.
- **妹妹比我小两岁。** – My sister is two years younger than me.

How it works. In a 比 sentence, *how much* more always comes **after** the adjective.

After the adjective	Meaning
多了 / 得多	much more (多了 is more spoken)
一点 / 一些	a little more
三岁, 十块	by an exact amount

多了 also works without 比 to report a change: 我的病好多了 (I'm much better now).

Watch out

- *wrong:* 多快了 or *wrong:* 很快多了 → 快多了.
- *wrong:* 他比我三岁大 → 他比我大三岁.

比 + adjective + 多了 / 一点: by how much



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Practice

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

■ 1. A 跟 / 和 B 一样 (the same as)

1. Complete: "This bag costs the same as that one." 这个包跟那个包 …… 贵。

2. Build: "Today is as cold as yesterday."

Put in order: 一样 / 今天 / 冷。/ 跟昨天

3. Build: "My sister likes music as much as I do."

Put in order: 妹妹 / 一样 / 喜欢音乐。/ 跟我

4. "The child sleeps like a little cat." 孩子睡得 …… 小猫一样。

5. Which says "My answer is different from yours."?

- A. 我的答案跟你的没一样。
- B. 我的答案跟不你的一样。
- C. 我的答案跟你的一样不。
- D. 我的答案跟你的不一样。

6. True or false? 哥哥跟弟弟一样高 means the older brother is taller. If false, correct it.

7. Two classmates are exactly the same height, and a new teacher keeps mixing them up. Use A 跟 / 和 B 一样. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj (as ... as)

8. Ask: "Is your hometown as cold as Harbin?" 你的家乡 …… 哈尔滨那么冷吗?

9. Build: "This watermelon is as big as a basketball."

Put in order: 那么大。/ 这个西瓜 / 有 / 篮球

10. Build: "How heavy is your suitcase?"

Put in order: 你的箱子 / 重? / 有 / 多

11. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他这么有我高。
- B. 他有高我这么。
- C. 他有我很高。
- D. 他有我这么高。

12. True or false? The negative of 他有我高 is 他没有我高. If false, correct it.

13. Your nephew was tiny last year; now he reaches your shoulder. Use N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 没 (有) comparisons (not as ... as)

14. Complete: “The subway isn’t as fast as the high-speed train.” 地铁 …… 高铁快。

15. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 我没有忙他。
- B. 我没有他很忙。
- C. 我没有他那么忙。
- D. 我不有他忙。

16. Build: “My Chinese isn’t as good as yours.”

Put in order: 你 / 那么好。/ 我的中文 / 没有

17. True or false? 哥哥比弟弟高 and 弟弟没有哥哥高 describe the same situation. If false, correct it.

18. In the model, which sentence says the hometown has fewer people than Beijing?

- A. 空气比北京好。
- B. 冬天跟北京一样冷。
- C. 人也没有北京那么多。
- D. 我的家乡比北京小。

19. Two brothers stand back to back. The younger one is shorter, and he does not like it. Use 没. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. 跟 ... 比 (起来) (compared with ...)

20. Complete: “Compared with last month, I’m much busier.” …… 上个月比，我忙多了。

21. Build: “Compared with Beijing, Guangzhou is much warmer.”

Put in order: 暖和得多。/ ， / 广州 / 和北京比

22. “Compared with last month, I am a little busier.” Which is correct?

- A. 跟上个月比，我比忙一点儿。
- B. 跟上个月比，我忙一点儿。
- C. 跟上个月比，我很忙一点儿。
- D. 跟上个月比，我一点儿忙。

23. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 跟北京比，上海热一点。
- B. 比跟北京，上海热一点。
- C. 跟北京比，上海比热一点。
- D. 跟北京，上海比热一点。

24. True or false? 跟上海比，这儿安静多了 and 这儿比上海安静多了 compare the same two places. If false, correct it.

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25. A friend from Shanghai is visiting your small town and finds everything slower and quieter. Use 跟 … 比. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 5. 比 ... 更 / 还 (even more than)

26. Complete: “This one is even cheaper than that one.” 这个比那个 …… 便宜。

27. True or false? 她妹妹比她还高 implies that she is already quite tall. If false, correct it.

28. “Of the three, this one is the cheapest.” 这三个里，这个 …… 便宜。

29. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他比我非常聪明。
- B. 他比我很聪明。
- C. 他比我更聪明。
- D. 他更比我聪明。

30. Build: “I like tea, but I like coffee even more.”

Put in order: ，但我 / 我喜欢茶 / 更喜欢 / 咖啡。

31. Your friend is already tall, but her younger sister, only fourteen, is taller still. Use 比 … 更 / 还. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 6. 比 ... Adj + 多了 (much more than)

32. Complete: “This room is much bigger than that one.” 这个房间比那个大 ……。

33. Build: “Today is a bit hotter than yesterday.”

Put in order: 比昨天 / 今天 / 热 / 一点。

34. Build: “How much heavier is this bag than that one?”

Put in order: 这个包 / 比那个 / 多少? / 重

35. Which says “My sister is two years younger than me.”?

- A. 妹妹两岁比我小。
- B. 妹妹比我小两岁。
- C. 妹妹比我两岁小。
- D. 妹妹比我很小两岁。

36. True or false? 我的病好多了 needs 比 to be correct. If false, correct it.

37. You are choosing how to get from Beijing to Guangzhou. The train takes eight hours, the plane three. Use 比 … Adj + 多了. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

38. Xiao Wang is 1.80 m, Xiao Li 1.70 m. Which sentence is true?

- A. 小王没有小李高。
- B. 小李没有小王高。
- C. 小李比小王高。

39. Choose 更 or 很: 她很高，她妹妹比她 …… 高。

40. Say "Flying is much faster than taking the train."

41. Say "My brother is as tall as me."

42. Find and fix the problem. A is taller than B. A classmate writes A 没有 B 高. What does that sentence really say?

43. Use it yourself. Say this room is much quieter than that one, then say the same fact with 没有.

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Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. A 跟 / 和 B 一样 (the same as)

1. 一样

A 跟 B 一样 + Adj. 一样贵 = "equally expensive".

2. 今天跟昨天一样冷。

A + 跟 B + 一样 + Adj.

3. 妹妹跟我一样喜欢音乐。

A 跟 B 一样 + verb: 一样喜欢 = like just as much.

4. 像

像 + B + 一样 = like B.

5. D. 我的答案跟你的不一样。

不 is placed right before 一样.

6. False.

一样高 means the same height. "Taller" needs 比: 哥哥比弟弟高.

7. Model answer: 哥哥跟弟弟一样高。

Check your answer:

- 不 goes before 一样: 跟他不一样, not 不跟他一样 for "different from him".
- No 很 before the adjective after 一样: 一样高, not 一样很高.

■ 2. N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj (as ... as)

8. 有

A 有 B 那么 + Adj asks whether A reaches B's level.

9. 这个西瓜有篮球那么大。

A + 有 + B + 那么 + Adj.

10. 你的箱子有多重?

有 + 多 + adjective asks for the amount.

11. D. 他有我这么高。

他有我这么高 is right: A 有 B (这么) + bare adjective, "as tall as me". 很 is not used in a comparison, and 这么 comes before the adjective.

12. True.

没有 is the negative of the 有 comparison.

13. Model answer: 他快有我这么高了!

Check your answer:

- No 很: 有他那么高, not 有他很高.

- The negative is 没有, which you know already: 他没有我高 – "He isn't as tall as me."

■ 3. 没 (有) comparisons (not as ... as)

14. 没有

A 没有 B + Adj = A is not as Adj as B.

15. C. 我没有他那么忙。

我没有他那么忙 is right: A 没有 B (那么) + bare adjective. 很 cannot go before the adjective in a comparison, 不有 is never used, and the adjective must follow B.

16. 我的中文没有你那么好。

A + 没有 + B + 那么 + Adj.

17. True.

Both say the older brother is taller.

18. C. 人也没有北京那么多。

A 没有 B 那么多 = A does not have as many as B.

19. Model answer: 弟弟没有哥哥高。

Check your answer:

- No 很 or 非常 before the adjective: 没有他高, not 没有他很高.
- 不比 is a different idea ("not more … than", often in an argument); the plain negative of 比 is 没有.

■ 4. 跟 ... 比 (起来) (compared with ...)

20. 跟

跟 / 和 + B + 比 sets up the comparison.

21. 和北京比，广州暖和得多。

和 B 比, then A + Adj + 得多.

22. B. 跟上个月比，我忙一点儿。

一点儿 comes after the adjective, with no 很 and no second 比.

23. A. 跟北京比，上海热一点。

After 跟 B 比, the comment is a plain adjective, with no second 比.

24. True.

Both say this place is much quieter than Shanghai.

25. Model answer: 跟上海比，这儿安静多了。

Check your answer:

- After 跟 B 比, the comment uses a plain adjective (+ 多了 / 一点): 安静多了, not 比安静多了.
- Keep 跟 before B: 跟上海比, not 比跟上海.

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■ 5. 比 ... 更 / 还 (even more than)

26. 更

比 B + 更 / 还 + Adj.

27. True.

还 / 更 = even more, so the person compared with is already tall.

28. 最

最 + adjective = the most; no 比 is needed.

29. C. 他比我更聪明。

更 follows the 比 phrase; 很 and 非常 do not go in a 比 sentence.

30. 我喜欢茶，但我更喜欢咖啡。

更 can work without 比 when the comparison is clear.

31. Model answer: 她很高，她妹妹比她还高。

Check your answer:

- Use 更 or 还 for "even more", never 很 or 非常: 比他更高, not 比他很高.
- 更 / 还 go after the 比 phrase, before the adjective: 比我更忙, not 更比我忙.

■ 6. 比 ... Adj + 多了 (much more than)

32. 多了

Adj + 多了 / 得多 = much more.

33. 今天比昨天热一点。

A 比 B + Adj + 一点.

34. 这个包比那个重多少?

A 比 B + adjective + 多少? asks for the amount.

35. B. 妹妹比我小两岁。

The exact difference follows the adjective.

36. False.

多了 can describe a change on its own: "much better now".

37. Model answer: 坐飞机比坐火车快多了。

Check your answer:

- Say 快多了, not 多快了 or 很快多了: the degree follows the adjective.
- Put an exact difference after the adjective: 大三岁, not 三岁大 in a 比 sentence.

■ Mixed practice

38. B. A 没有 B + adjective says A is less than B.

39. 她妹妹比她更高 (or 还高). 很 never follows 比 in a comparison.

40. 坐飞机比坐火车快多了。多了 after the adjective means "much more".

41. 哥哥跟我一样高。跟 …… 一样 + adjective says the two are the same.

42. It says A is not as tall as B, the opposite. Write A 比 B 高, or B 没有 A 高.

43. Model answer. 这个房间比那个房间安静多了。那个房间没有这个房间安静。 Note that 没有 does not say how big the difference is.

Review later. Tomorrow, compare two classmates' heights in three ways: 比, 没有 and 跟 …… 一样.

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Time words, numbers & particles

HSK 3

Small words that place events in time, count things and tell the time, and three particles that change what a sentence means (着, 了 and 呢). Most mistakes here are about order: the time word comes before the verb, and 以前 / 以后 come after the event they mark.

At a glance

Before, after and when

- **1.** Time / Verb + 以前 – before …: 睡觉以前别看手机。
- **2.** 以前，… – in the past, …: 以前这儿没有路，现在有很多车了。
- **3.** 刚才 – a moment ago: 刚才有人给你打电话了。
- **4.** Time / Verb + 时 – when …: 我小的时候常常去河边游泳。
- **5.** 以后 – after / in the future: 大学毕业以后，我想去国外工作。
- **6.** … ，后来 … – afterwards / later – past: 他去了深圳，后来在那儿开了一家公司。
- **7.** 以后 vs 然后 vs 后来 – then / after: 我先去买东西，然后吃了午饭。

Numbers and the clock

- **8.** Telling the hour – Number + 点: 我们早上七点上课。
- **9.** Times to the minute – 点 … 分: 火车八点二十五分开。
- **10.** 半 – half / and a half: 还有半个蛋糕和一个半西瓜。
- **11.** Approximating with sequential numbers: 来了七八个人。
- **12.** Big numbers – 万 / 亿: 重庆有三千多万人。

Particles

- **13.** Verb + 着 – ongoing state: 门开着，灯也亮着。
- **14.** Sentence-final 了 – change of state: 他是老师。
- **15.** Questions with 呢 – and you? / where?: 我是成都人，你呢?
- **16.** 的 / 得 / 地 – the three "de": 他跑的很快。
- **17.** 有的 – some / some…, others…: 有的同学想去海边，有的想去爬山。

1. Time / Verb + 以前 (before …)

Form: time / action + 以前 + main verb

- **睡觉以前别看手机。** *Shuìjiào yǐqián bié kàn shǒujī.* – Don't look at your phone before bed.
- **星期五以前要交作业。** *Xīngqīwǔ yǐqián yào jiāo zuòyè.* – The homework must be handed in before Friday.

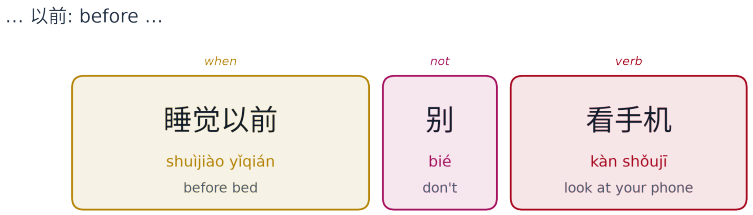
- **吃饭以前要洗手。** – Wash your hands before you eat.
- **三天以前 / 三天前** – three days ago

How it works. Unlike English "before", 以前 *yǐqián* comes **after** the time or action it refers to: 八点以前, 上课以前. The whole phrase goes before the main verb: 你八点以前来吧.

In short fixed phrases, 前 alone does the same job: 饭前, 睡前, 三天前.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 以前上课 → 上课以前. 以前 at the front means "in the past" (next section).
- *wrong:* 我回家十点以前 → 我十点以前回家.



2. 以前，... (in the past, ...)

Form: 以前 (+ subject) ...，现在 ... · subject + 以前 + verb

- **以前这儿没有路，现在有很多车了。** *Yǐqián zhèr méiyǒu lù, xiànzài yǒu hěn duō chē le.* – There used to be no road here; now there are lots of cars.
- **我以前住在上海。** *Wǒ yǐqián zhù zài Shànghǎi.* – I used to live in Shanghai.
- **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.

How it works. On its own at the start, or after the subject, 以前 means "in the past, used to". It describes a past habit or state, often in contrast with 现在. A past habit usually needs no 了.

Which 以前? Look at what comes before it.

以前 alone	after a time or action
"in the past"	"before"
以前我不喝咖啡。	喝咖啡以前，我先吃早饭。

过去 is a slightly more formal "in the past". 原来 means "originally", stressing that things later changed: 他原来是老师，后来当了作家.

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3. 刚才 (a moment ago)

Form: 刚才 + subject + ... · subject + 刚才 + ...

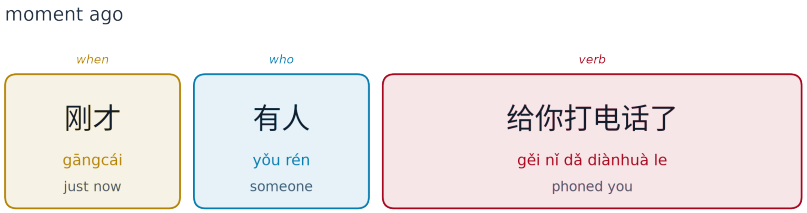
- **刚才有人给你打电话了。** *Gāngcái yǒu rén gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà le.* – Someone called you a moment ago.
- **你刚才去哪儿了?** *Nǐ gāngcái qù nǎr le?* – Where did you go just now?
- **刚才在下雨，现在停了。** – It was raining a moment ago; now it's stopped.
- **刚才我没听见。** – I didn't hear just now.

How it works. 刚才 *gāngcái* is a time word for "a moment ago", in the same situation. Like 昨天 or 今天, it goes before or after the subject. It works with actions, states (刚才很安静) and negatives (刚才我没听见).

刚才	刚	最近
minutes ago	"just", before the verb	recently, over days
他刚才走了	他刚走	我最近搬家了

Watch out

- 刚 cannot start a sentence: *wrong:* 刚他来了 → 刚才他来了.
- For "I moved house recently", use 最近, not 刚才.



4. Time / Verb + 时 (when …)

Form: clause + 的时候 (spoken) / 时 (written), main clause

- **我小的时候常常去河边游泳。** *Wǒ xiǎo de shíhou chángcháng qù hébiān yóuyǒng.* – When I was little, I often went swimming by the river.
- **我到家的时候，他已经睡了。** *Wǒ dào jiā de shíhou, tā yǐjīng shuì le.* – 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.
- **上课时，请关手机。** – Please turn off your phone in class.

How it works. Like 以前 and 以后, "when" comes **after** what it refers to. Use 的时候 in conversation. 时 is shorter and suits signs, writing and fixed phrases: 用餐时请勿吸烟 (no smoking while dining).

Watch out

- *wrong:* 时候下雨 → 下雨的时候.
- 什么时候 asks "when?"; it does not make a "when" clause: *wrong:* 我什么时候到家，他已经睡了 → 我到家的时候 ……

… 的时候: when …



5. 以后 (after / in the future)

Form: time / action + 以后 + main clause · 以后 (from now on) + clause

- **大学毕业以后，我想去国外工作。** *Dàxué bìyè yǐhòu, wǒ xiǎng qù guówài gōngzuò.* – After I graduate, I want to work abroad.
- **你到了以后给我打电话。** *Nǐ dàole yǐhòu gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà.* – Call me after you arrive.
- **以后我不迟到了。** – From now on, I won't be late.
- **以后我会早点儿睡。** – From now on I'll go to bed earlier.

How it works. After an event, 以后 *yǐhòu* means "after": 下课以后, 吃了饭以后, 三天以后. Alone at the start, it means "in the future, from now on". 后 is the short form in fixed phrases: 饭后, 毕业后.

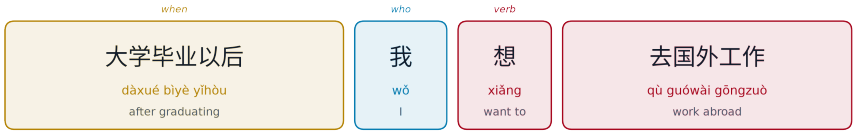
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以后	后来	然后
after X; from now on	later, in a past story	next step, past or future
毕业以后	后来他开了一家公司	先洗手，然后吃饭

Watch out

- *wrong:* 以后吃饭 means "eat in the future". "After eating" is 吃饭以后.

… 以后: after …



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

Form: past event, 后来 + what happened next

- **他去了深圳，后来在那儿开了一家公司。** *Tā qùle Shēnzhèn, hòulái zài nàr kāile yì jiā gōngsī.* – He went to Shenzhen and later started a company there.
- **开始我不喜欢他，后来我们成了朋友。** – At first I didn't like him, but later we became friends.
- **他小时候很瘦，后来长胖了。** – He was thin as a child, but later he put on weight.
- **后来呢？ / 后来怎么样了？** – And then? / How did it turn out?

How it works. 后来 *hòulái* jumps forward in a past story, often over a gap of time. It starts the second clause, after a comma. 后来呢? keeps a story going.

后来	然后
past stories only	past or future
a jump forward in time	the next step, close behind
后来长胖了	我们先吃饭，然后去买东西

Watch out

- For a plan, use 以后 or 然后: *wrong:* 我们后来再说 → 我们以后再说.
- 后来 is never added after an event: *wrong:* 毕业后来 → 毕业以后.

后来: later (in a past story)



7. 以后 vs 然后 vs 后来 (then / after)

Form: event + 以后 · 先 ……，然后 …… · past story，后来 ……

- **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.
- **我们先吃饭，然后去看电影。** – Let's eat first, then see a film.
- **我们是大学同学，后来结婚了。** – We were classmates at university, and later we got married.
- **我到了以后给你打电话。** – I'll call you after I arrive.

How it works. Three words for "after", each with its own job.

Word	Job	Past or future
以后	after an event (下课以后); alone: from now on	both
然后	the next step, close behind	both
后来	a jump forward in a story	past only

然后 starts the next clause; it cannot follow an event the way 以后 does: 我到了以后 …… or 我到了，然后 …….

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我们后来再见 → 我们以后再见.
- *wrong:* 下课后来 → 下课以后.

先 → 然后 → 后来: tell it in order



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8. Telling the hour (Number + 点)

Form: (part of day +) number + 点 + verb · 几点?

- **我们早上七点上课。** *Wǒmen zǎoshang qī diǎn shàngkè.* – We start class at seven in the morning.
- **现在几点?** *Xiànzài jǐ diǎn?* – What time is it?
- **你几点下班? — 我六点下班。** – What time do you finish work? – At six.
- **我晚上九点睡觉。** – I go to bed at nine in the evening.

How it works. Number + 点 *diǎn* = o'clock. Ask with 几点. The part of the day comes first (早上, 中午, 下午, 晚上), then the hour, then the verb.

点	小时
a point on the clock	a length of time
三点 (3 o'clock)	三个小时 (three hours)

我三点开始，学了三个小时: I started at three and studied for three hours.

Watch out

- 2 o'clock is *wrong:* 二点 → 两点.
- *wrong:* 我下班六点 → 我六点下班.

The time goes before the verb



9. Times to the minute (点 … 分)

Form: (part of day +) number + 点 + number + 分 + verb

- **火车八点二十五分开。** *Huǒchē bā diǎn èrshíwǔ fēn kāi.* – The train leaves at 8.25.
- **我早上六点一刻起床。** *Wǒ zǎoshang liù diǎn yí kè qǐchuáng.* – I get up at a quarter past six.
- **下午两点半见。** – See you at 2.30 p.m.

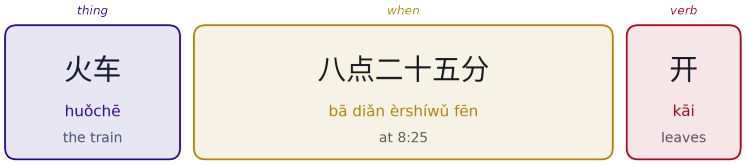
How it works. The larger unit always comes first: part of the day, then the hour, then the minutes. After ten minutes, 分 is often dropped in speech (八点二十五).

Time	Chinese
8.05	八点零五 (分)
7.30	七点半
9.15	九点一刻
9.45	九点三刻
9.55	差五分十点 (five to ten)
8.50	差十分九点

Watch out

- For 1–9 minutes, add 零: *wrong:* 八点五分 → 八点零五分.
- The time goes before the verb: *wrong:* 我起床七点 → 我七点起床.
- 2.00 is 两点, never *wrong:* 二点.

点 + 分: clock time



10. 半 (half / and a half)

Form: 半 + measure word (half a) · number + measure word + 半 (and a half) · 一半 (half of it)

- **还有半个蛋糕和一个半西瓜。** *Hái yǒu bàn ge dàngāo hé yí ge bàn xīguā.* – There's half a cake and one and a half watermelons left.
- **电影有两个半小时。** – The film is two and a half hours long.
- **一半的学生是女生。** – Half of the students are girls.
- **我只吃了一半。** – I only ate half.

How it works. Where 半 goes changes the meaning.

Pattern	Meaning	Example
半 + measure word	half a …	半个小时, 半杯水, 半年
number + measure word + 半	… and a half	一个半小时, 一年半
一半	half (of a whole)	我只吃了一半
hour + 半	half past	三点半

Watch out

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- No 一 before 半 in "half a": *wrong:* 一半个 → 半个.
- *wrong:* 一个小时半 → 一个半小时.

半个 · 一个半: half and one and a half



11. Approximating with sequential numbers

Form: two neighbouring numbers + measure word · 十几 / 几十 · number + 多 · number + 左右

- **来了七八个人。** *Láile qī-bā ge rén.* – Seven or eight people came.
- **班里有十几个学生。** *Bān li yǒu shíjǐ ge xuésheng.* – There are a dozen or so students in the class.
- **他三十岁左右。** – He's around thirty.
- **我等了三个多小时。** – I waited over three hours.

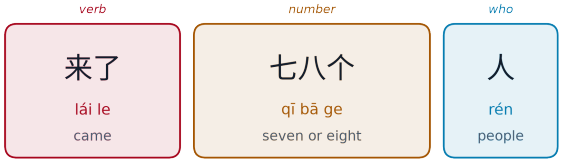
How it works. Chinese has several ways to give a rough number.

Pattern	Meaning	Example
two neighbouring numbers, smaller first	about	三四个, 五六天
十几	eleven to nineteen	十几个
几十	dozens	几十个
round ten + 多 + measure word	-odd, over	二十多个人, 一百多块
number under ten + measure word + 多	a bit over	三个多小时
number + 左右	around	三十岁左右
差不多 + number	nearly	差不多五十个人

Watch out

- The measure word comes after both numbers: *wrong:* 三个四个人 → 三四个人.
- *wrong:* 二十个多 → 二十多个.

七八 / 二十多: roughly how many



12. Big numbers: 万 / 亿

Form: 万 (10,000) · 亿 (100,000,000)

- **重庆有三千多万人。** *Chóngqìng yǒu sānqiān duō wàn rén.* – Chongqing has over thirty million people.
- **中国有十四亿人。** *Zhōngguó yǒu shísì yì rén.* – China has 1.4 billion people.
- **这辆车两万五千块。** – This car costs 25,000 yuan.

How it works. English groups big numbers in threes (thousand, million); Chinese groups them in **fours**, with 万 and 亿.

Number	Chinese	Think of it as
10,000	一万	1 | 0000
100,000	十万	10 | 0000
1,000,000	一百万	100 | 0000
10,000,000	一千万	1000 | 0000
100,000,000	一亿	1 | 0000 | 0000
1,000,000,000	十亿	10 | 0000 | 0000

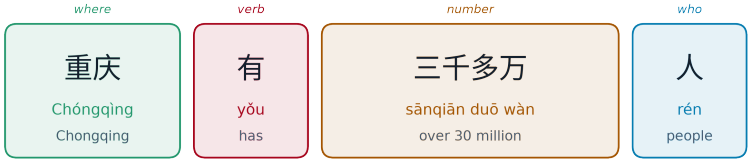
Converting. Mark off four digits from the right for 万, eight for 亿: 2,000,000 → 200|0000 → 两百万.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 一百千 → 十万 (there is no "hundred thousand" unit).
- *wrong:* 一万万 → 一百万 for a million.

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Big numbers count in 万 (10 000)



13. Verb + 着 (ongoing state)

Form: verb + 着 (state) · verb_1 + 着 + verb_2 · 没 + verb + 着

- **门开着，灯也亮着。** *Mén kāizhe, dēng yě liàngzhe.* – The door is open, and the lights are on.
- **他穿着一件白衬衫。** *Tā chuānzhe yí jiàn bái chènshān.* – He's wearing a white shirt.
- **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.

How it works. 着 *zhe* after a verb describes a state that lasts: open, on, wearing, sitting. As verb_1 + 着 + verb_2, the first state continues while the second action happens.

在 + verb	verb + 着
in the middle of the action	the state that results
他在开门 (he is opening the door)	门开着 (the door is open)
他在穿衣服 (he is getting dressed)	他穿着白衬衫 (he is wearing a white shirt)

Watch out

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

Verb + 着: a lasting state



14. Sentence-final 了 (change of state)

Form: sentence + 了 (a new situation) · 不 + verb + 了 (no longer)

- **下雨了！** *Xià yǔ le!* – It's raining (now)!
- **我二十岁了。** *Wǒ èrshí suì le.* – I'm twenty now.
- **我不喝咖啡了。** *Wǒ bù hē kāfēi le.* – I've stopped drinking coffee.
- **我们快到了。** – We're almost there.

How it works. 了 at the end of a sentence announces that the situation has changed: 天冷了 (it's turned cold), 他不来了 (he's not coming any more), 绿灯了 (it's green now). It is not a past tense.

Verb + 了	Sentence + 了
a completed action	a change of situation
我吃了一个苹果。	我不饿了。
I ate an apple.	I'm not hungry any more.

Some sentences have both.

Watch out

- A past habit with no change takes no 了: *wrong:* 我以前常常去了 → 我以前常常去.
- 我不抽烟了 means "I've quit smoking", not "I didn't smoke".

Sentence-final 了: a new situation



15. Questions with 呢 (and you? / where?)

Form: noun + 呢? · question word … 呢? · 在 + verb … 呢。

- **我是成都人，你呢？** *Wǒ shì Chéngdū rén, nǐ ne?* – I'm from Chengdu. And you?
- **我的钥匙呢？** *Wǒ de yàoshi ne?* – Where are my keys?
- **你在干什么呢？** – What are you up to?
- **他在睡觉呢。** *Tā zài shuìjiào ne.* – He's asleep right now.

How it works. 呢 *ne* has three common jobs.

Use	Example	Meaning
asks the same question back	我很好，你呢?	And you?
alone, with no context	我的手机呢?	Where's my phone?
softens a question-word question	你去哪儿呢?	Where are you off to?
marks something still going on	外面下着雨呢。	It's raining out.

Watch out

- A yes-no question takes 吗, not 呢: *wrong:* 你是老师呢? → 你是老师吗?
- 吗 changes a question word's meaning: 你去哪儿吗? asks "Are you going anywhere?"

呢 asks the same question back



16. 的 / 得 / 地 (the three "de")

Form: 的 + noun · 地 + verb · verb + 得 + comment

- **我喜欢吃妈妈做的菜。** *Wǒ xǐhuan chī māma zuò de cài.* – I love the food Mum makes.
- **我的朋友慢慢地走过来。** *Wǒ de péngyou mànmàn de zǒu guòlai.* – My friend walks slowly over.
- **他跑得很快。** *Tā pǎo de hěn kuài.* – He runs fast.
- **他高兴地说，他考得很好。** – He said happily that he had done well in the exam.

How it works. All three are read *de*. Choose by what is next to them.

Character	Look at	Example
的	a noun follows (or is left out)	漂亮的衣服, 昨天买的东西
地	a verb follows	认真地工作, 慢慢地走
得	a verb comes before; a comment on the result follows	写得很好, 累得不想动

The quick test. In 跑得很快, the verb 跑 comes before the particle, so it must be

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得.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 跑的很快 → 跑得很快; *wrong:* 认真的学习 → 认真地学习.



17. 有的 (some / some..., others...)

Form: 有的 + noun …, 有的 … · 有 (的) 时候

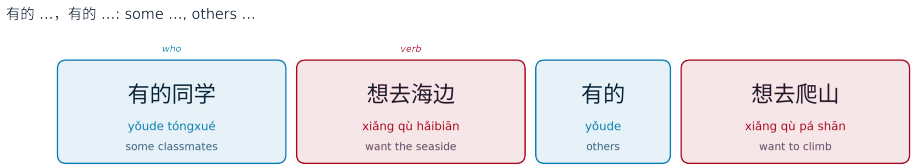
- **有的同学想去海边，有的想去爬山。** *Yǒude tóngxué xiǎng qù hǎibiān, yǒude xiǎng qù pá shān.* – Some classmates want to go to the beach; others want to go hiking.
- **这些书有的很有意思，有的很无聊。** – Some of these books are interesting; some are boring.
- **我有时候走路上班。** *Wǒ yǒu shíhou zǒulù shàngbān.* – Sometimes I walk to work.

How it works. 有的 *yǒude* picks out part of a group: "some (of them)". It stands in the subject position, and is often repeated for contrast: 有的贵，有的便宜. With a known group, put the group first as the topic: 这些菜，有的我没吃过.

有的	一些
part of a group, usually the subject	"some, a few", also as the object
有的人不喜欢	我买了一些苹果

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我不喜欢有的人 for "some people don't like it" → 有的人不喜欢.



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Practice

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

■ 1. Time / Verb + 以前 (before …)

1. Complete: "Please come back before ten." 请十点 …… 回来。

2. Build: "The homework must be handed in before Friday."

Put in order: 以前 / 星期五 / 作业。/ 要交

3. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 下课以后，我去打球。
- (2) 以前我不会游泳。
- (3) 以后我想去中国工作。
- (4) 吃饭以前要洗手。
- A. In the future I want to work in China.
- B. I couldn't swim in the past.
- C. After class, I go and play ball.
- D. Wash your hands before eating.

4. 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。

5. True or false? 三天前 and 三天以前 both mean "three days ago". If false, correct it.

6. Your doctor gives you advice about a good night's sleep. Use Time / Verb + 以前. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 以前，… (in the past, …)

7. Complete: "I used to be very shy." 我 …… 很害羞。

8. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 以前我不喝咖啡。
- (2) 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.

9. Build: "He didn't use to like spicy food."

Put in order: 不喜欢 / 吃辣的。/ 他 / 以前

10. True or false? 原来 stresses that the situation later changed. If false, correct it.

11. True or false? In the model, 我以前很怕说汉语 means the writer is still afraid of

speaking Chinese. If false, correct it.

12. Your grandmother looks at old photos of her village with dirt roads and no cars. Use 以前, …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 刚才 (a moment ago)

13. Complete: "It was raining just now; now it has stopped." …… 在下雨，现在停了。

14. 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。

15. Build: "Where did you go just now?"

Put in order: 去哪儿 / 了? / 刚才 / 你

16. True or false? 刚才 is a good choice for "I moved house recently." If false, correct it.

17. Build: "I had only just left home when it started to rain."

Put in order: 就下雨 / 了。/ 天 / 我刚出门，

18. "He only started working here two weeks ago." Which is correct?

- A. 他刚来这儿工作两个星期。
- B. 他刚才在这儿工作两个星期。
- C. 他刚才两个星期来这儿工作。
- D. 他两个星期刚才来这儿工作。

19. You come back from the shower and see your roommate pointing at your phone. Use 刚才. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. Time / Verb + 时 (when …)

20. Complete: "When I got home, he was already asleep." 我到家 ……，他已经睡了。

21. 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。

22. Build: "In class, please turn off your phone."

Put in order: 请关 / 手机。/ ， / 上课时

23. True or false? 时 is more common than 的时候 in everyday conversation. If false, correct it.

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24. In the story, what does 那时候 refer to?

- A. The time when the writer was a child.
- B. The time when they moved to the city.
- C. The time of the exam.
- D. Right now.

25. You are telling a friend a story from your childhood about learning to swim. Use Time / Verb + 时. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 5. 以后 (after / in the future)

26. Complete: "Call me after you arrive." 你到了 …… 给我打电话。

27. 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.

28. Build: "After I graduate from university, I want to work abroad."

Put in order: 大学毕业 / 去国外工作。/ ，我想 / 以后

29. True or false? 以后吃饭 means "after eating". If false, correct it.

30. Pick the word for each gap.

- (1) 先坐地铁，_____ 换公共汽车。
- (2) 他去年去了国外，_____ 我们就再也没见过面。
- (3) 吃完饭 _____，我们去散步吧。
- A. 后来
- B. 以后
- C. 然后

31. A friend in her final year asks what you plan to do once you finish university. Use 以后. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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

32. 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。

33. 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。

34. Ask to continue a story: "And how did it turn out?"

Put in order: 怎么样 / 后来 / 了?

35. True or false? 他小时候很瘦，后来长胖了 describes a change with a gap of time. If false, correct it.

36. Put the story in order.

Put in order: 先跟老师学，然后自己练习。/ 以前我不会游泳。/ 最后我终于学会了！/ 后来我参加了一个游泳班。

37. You are telling a friend about a classmate who moved to Shenzhen two years ago. Use … ，后来 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 7. 以后 vs 然后 vs 后来 (then / after)

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

39. Which says "See you again some time" (in the future)?

- A. 我们再见后来。
- B. 我们后来再见。
- C. 我们然后见以后。
- D. 我们以后再见。

40. Match each word to its use.

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

41. Build: "I'll call you after I arrive."

Put in order: 到了以后 / 打电话。/ 给你 / 我

42. You describe last Saturday: shopping, then lunch, and much later a surprise phone call. Use 以后 or 然后 or 后来. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 8. Telling the hour (Number + 点)

43. Ask: "What time is it now?" 现在 …… 点?

44. 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

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

Put in order: 九点 / 晚上 / 我 / 睡觉。

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46. True or false? 三点 and 三个小时 mean the same. If false, correct it.

47. Your new school timetable starts much earlier than you are used to. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 9. Times to the minute (点 … 分)

48. Write 10:30 with 半: 十点 ……

49. What time is 差十分九点?

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

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

Put in order: 早上 / 六点一刻 / 我 / 起床。

51. True or false? 8:05 is said 八点五分 with no 零. If false, correct it.

52. You are buying a train ticket and the clerk tells you the departure time. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 10. 半 (half / and a half)

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

54. Which says "half an hour"?

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

55. Match each phrase to its meaning.

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

56. True or false? 一个小时半 is the usual way to say "an hour and a half". If false, correct it.

57. After the party, your mum looks at the table and counts what is left. Use 半. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 11. Approximating with sequential numbers

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

59. Which says “five or six days”?

- A. 五个六天
- B. 六五天
- C. 五天六天
- D. 五六天

60. Match each phrase to its meaning.

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

61. Build: “Seven or eight people came.”

Put in order: 人。 / 来了 / 个 / 七八

62. Your teacher asks how many people came to the club meeting. You did not count exactly. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 12. Big numbers: 万 / 亿

63. Write 50,000 in Chinese: ……

64. How do you say 100,000?

- A. 一万
- B. 一百万
- C. 十万
- D. 一百千

65. Match the numbers.

- (1) 一万
- (2) 一百万
- (3) 一亿
- (4) 十亿
- A. 1,000,000,000
- B. 1,000,000
- C. 10,000
- D. 100,000,000

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66. True or false? 一千万 means ten million. If false, correct it.

67. You read that the city of Chongqing has about thirty million people and wonder how to say it. Use Big numbers: 万 / 亿. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 13. Verb + 着 (ongoing state)

68. “The window is open.” 窗户开 ……。

69. “The TV isn’t on.”

- A. 电视没开着。
- B. 电视不开着。
- C. 电视着没开。
- D. 电视开不着。

70. Match each phrase to the picture description.

- (1) 戴着帽子
- (2) 拿着一本书
- (3) 站着
- (4) 穿着白衬衫
- A. holding a book
- B. wearing a white shirt
- C. standing
- D. wearing a hat

71. Build: “He said with a smile …”

Put in order: 笑着 / 说 …… / 他

72. Which sentence means “She is putting on her coat (right now)”?

- A. 她穿大衣着。
- B. 她穿着大衣。
- C. 她在穿大衣。
- D. 她没穿着大衣。

73. True or false? 灯不亮着 is the correct way to say “The light isn’t on.” If false, correct it.

74. Look around the room you are in, or at a photo. Describe two people or things in Chinese with Verb + 着 (穿着, 戴着, 拿着, 坐着, 开着). Then compare with the model. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 14. Sentence-final 了 (change of state)

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

76. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 他是医生。
- (2) 他是医生了。
- (3) 我不喝茶。
- (4) 我不喝茶了。
- A. I don't drink tea.
- B. I've stopped drinking tea.
- C. He's a doctor.
- D. He's become a doctor.

77. 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.

78. Build: "We're almost there."

Put in order: 到 / 快 / 我们 / 了。

79. Your friend asks 你吃饭了吗? You haven't eaten yet. What do you say?

- A. 我没吃了。
- B. 我还没吃。
- C. 我不吃了。
- D. 我吃了没。

80. Which sentence says you are **still** learning Chinese after three years?

- A. 我三年学汉语。
- B. 我学了三年汉语了。
- C. 我学三年了汉语。
- D. 我学了三年汉语。

81. True or false? 我以前常常去了 is correct for a past habit. If false, correct it.

82. You were about to go out, but you look out of the window and see rain. Use Sentence-final 了. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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

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

84. Which question is correct?

- A. 你吗是学生?
- B. 你是学生呢?
- C. 你是学生吗呢?
- D. 你是学生吗?

85. True or false? Said while searching your bag, 我的手机呢? means "Where's my phone?" If false, correct it.

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

Put in order: 呢。/ 在 / 他 / 睡觉

87. A new classmate tells you she comes from Chengdu, then waits for you to say where you are from. Use Questions with 呢. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 16. 的 / 得 / 地 (the three "de")

88. Match each phrase to its particle.

- (1) 漂亮 ___ 衣服
- (2) 认真 ___ 工作
- (3) 写 ___ 很好
- A. 得
- B. 地
- C. 的

89. True or false? In 妈妈做的菜, 的 is correct because 菜 is a noun. If false, correct it.

90. Fill the gaps: 我 ___ 朋友慢慢 ___ 走过来。

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

91. Complete: "She sings very well." 她唱 …… 很好。

92. Which says "He writes characters well"?

- A. 他写得字很好。
- B. 他很好地写字得。
- C. 他写字写得很好。
- D. 他写字得很好。

93. Build: "My brother doesn't swim fast."

Put in order: 游 / 我弟弟 / 得 / 不快。

94. Fix the message: 他认真 ___ 做作业，做 ___ 很快。

- A. 地 … 的
- B. 的 … 的

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- C. 地 … 得
- D. 得 … 地

95. A friend texts you about a classmate who runs fast, but writes the wrong "de" and the sentence looks odd. Use 的 / 得 / 地. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 17. 有的 (some / some..., others...)

96. Complete: "Some students live at school." …… 学生住在学校。

97. 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。

98. Build: "Some of these books are interesting; some are boring."

Put in order: 有的很有意思 / 有的很无聊。/ 这些书 / ,

99. True or false? 有时候 means "sometimes". If false, correct it.

100. Your class votes on a trip. Some want the beach, others want the mountains. Use 有的. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

101. Choose 然后 or 后来: 我先去买东西，…… 吃午饭。/ 他去了深圳，…… 在那儿开了一家公司。

102. Which sentence says "before you go to sleep"?

- A. 以前睡觉
- B. 睡觉以前
- C. 以前的睡觉

103. Choose 的, 得 or 地: 他跑 …… 很快。/ 他认真 …… 学习。/ 他是认真 …… 学生。

104. Write the time 8:25.

105. Find and fix the problem. A classmate writes 他认真得学习 for "he studies carefully". Correct the sentence and give a second way to say it.

106. Use it yourself. Write a message saying you will be home at ten past two and will phone after you get home.

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Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. Time / Verb + 以前 (before ...)

1. 以前

Time + 以前 = before that time.

2. 星期五以前要交作业。

Time + 以前 + verb phrase.

3. (1) C: 下课以后，我去打球。= After class, I go and play ball.; (2) B: 以前我不会游泳。= I couldn't swim in the past.; (3) A: 以后我想去中国工作。= In the future I want to work in China.; (4) D: 吃饭以前要洗手。= Wash your hands before eating.

After an action, 以前 / 以后 = before / after it; on their own, they mean in the past / in the future.

4. A. 走以前关灯。

Action + 以前, then the main verb.

5. True.

前 is a shorter form of 以前 after a time.

6. Model answer: 睡觉以前别看手机。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 2. 以前，... (in the past, ...)

7. 以前

Subject + 以前 + description = used to be.

8. (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".

9. 他以前不喜欢吃辣的。

Subject + 以前 + verb phrase.

10. True.

原来 = originally (and then it changed).

11. False.

以前 = in the past; the next sentence with 现在 shows that things have changed.

12. Model answer: 以前这儿没有路，现在有很多车了。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 3. 刚才 (a moment ago)

13. 刚才

刚才 is a time word that can start the sentence.

14. A. 刚才他很忙。

刚才 can describe a state a moment ago; 刚 is not used for a past state like 很忙.

15. 你刚才去哪儿了?

Subject + 刚才 + verb phrase.

16. False.

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

17. 我刚出门，天就下雨了。

刚 A，(subject) 就 B: B happens right after A.

18. A. 他刚来这儿工作两个星期。

刚 + verb + time span = only that long since; 刚才 means minutes ago.

19. Model answer: 刚才有人给你打电话了。

Check your answer:

- 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 ×.

■ 4. Time / Verb + 时 (when ...)

20. 的时候

Clause + 的时候 = when.

21. 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?”.

22. 上课时，请关手机。

Clause + 时, then the request.

23. False.

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

24. A. The time when the writer was a child.

那时候 points back to the time just mentioned: 小时候.

25. Model answer: 我小的时候常常去河边游泳。

Check your answer:

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- 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.

■ 5. 以后 (after / in the future)

26. 以后

Event + 以后 = after that event.

27. C. From now on I’ll go to bed earlier.

以后 alone at the start refers to the future.

28. 大学毕业以后，我想去国外工作。

Event + 以后, then the main clause.

29. False.

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

30. (1) C: 先坐地铁，_____ 换公共汽车。= 然后; (2) A: 他去年去了国外，**我们就再也没见过面。= 后来; (3) B: 吃完饭**，我们去散步吧。= 以后

然后 = the next step; 后来 = later, in a past story; X 以后 = after X.

31. Model answer: 大学毕业以后，我想去国外工作。

Check your answer:

- 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.

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

32. 后来

后来 introduces what happened later in a past story.

33. B. 我们先吃饭，然后去买东西。

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

34. 后来怎么样了?

后来怎么样了?

35. True.

后来 jumps forward in a past story.

36. 以前我不会游泳。后来我参加了一个游泳班。先跟老师学，然后自己练习。最后我终于学会了!

以前 → 后来 → 先 … 然后 → 终于: how it was, what changed, the steps, the result.

37. Model answer: 他去了深圳，后来在那儿开了一家公司。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 7. 以后 vs 然后 vs 后来 (then / after)

38. 然后

然后 links the next step.

39. D. 我们以后再见。

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

40. (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.

41. 我到了以后给你打电话。

Clause + 以后 + main clause.

42. Model answer: 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 your answer:

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

■ 8. Telling the hour (Number + 点)

43. 几

几点 asks the hour.

44. A. 下午两点

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

45. 我晚上九点睡觉。

Subject + part of the day + time + verb.

46. False.

三点 is 3 o’clock; 三个小时 is three hours.

47. Model answer: 我们早上七点上课。

Check your answer:

- 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.

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■ 9. Times to the minute (点 … 分)

48. 半

半 after 点 = half past.

49. B. 8:50

差十分九点 = ten minutes to nine.

50. 我早上六点一刻起床。

Subject + part of the day + time + verb.

51. False.

For 1–9 minutes add 零: 八点零五分.

52. Model answer: 火车八点二十五分开。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 10. 半 (half / and a half)

53. 半

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

54. D. 半个小时

半 + MW + noun.

55. (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.

56. False.

Say 一个半小时.

57. Model answer: 还有半个蛋糕和一个半西瓜。

Check your answer:

- 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 一个小时半: say 半个 and 一个半小时.

■ 11. Approximating with sequential numbers

58. 十几

十几 = between eleven and nineteen.

59. D. 五六天

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

60. (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.

61. 来了七八个人。

Neighbouring numbers + measure word + noun.

62. Model answer: 来了七八个人。

Check your answer:

- 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).

■ 12. Big numbers: 万 / 亿

63. 五万

50,000 = 5 × 10,000 = 五万.

64. C. 十万

100,000 = 10 × 10,000 = 十万.

65. (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.

66. True.

1,000 × 10,000 = 10,000,000.

67. Model answer: 重庆有三千多万人。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 13. Verb + 着 (ongoing state)

68. 着

Verb + 着 = a lasting state.

69. A. 电视没开着。

Negate 着 with 没.

70. (1) D: 戴着帽子 = wearing a hat; (2) A: 拿着一本书 = holding a book; (3) C: 站着 = standing; (4) B: 穿着白衬衫 = wearing a white shirt

戴 is for glasses and hats; 穿 for clothes; 拿 for holding.

71. 他笑着说 ……

V1 着 + V2 = do V2 in the manner of V1.

72. C. 她在穿大衣。

An action in progress → 在 + verb. 她穿着大衣 = she is wearing a coat (the state).

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73. False.

着 takes 没: 灯没亮着。

74. Model answer: 我妹妹坐着看电视，她手里拿着一个苹果。窗户开着。

Check your answer:

- Each sentence describes a state that lasts, not a single quick action.
- I used 戴 for glasses or hats and 穿 for clothes.
- Any negative uses 没, not 不.
- I tried one V1 着 + V2 sentence, such as 坐着看书.

■ 14. Sentence-final 了 (change of state)

75. 了

Final 了 announces the change.

76. (1) C: 他是医生。= He's a doctor.; (2) D: 他是医生了。= He's become a doctor.; (3) A: 我不喝茶。= I don't drink tea.; (4) B: 我不喝茶了。= I've stopped drinking tea.

了 at the end adds "this is new".

77. A. I've quit smoking.

不 … 了 = no longer.

78. 我们快到了。

快 + verb + 了 = about to.

79. B. 我还没吃。

Not yet = 还没 + verb, with no 了. 我不吃了 would mean "I won't eat any more".

80. B. 我学了三年汉语了。

Verb 了 + duration + final 了 = so far, and still going.

81. False.

A past habit with no change takes no 了: 我以前常常去。

82. Model answer: 下雨了!

Check your answer:

- My final 了 marks something new or changed, not just "the past".
- With 还没 I used no 了: 还没吃, not 没吃了.

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

83. 呢

X + 呢 repeats the question about X.

84. D. 你是学生吗?

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

85. True.

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

86. 他在睡觉呢。

在 + verb + 呢 marks an action in progress.

87. Model answer: 我是成都人，你呢?

Check your answer:

- Do not put 呢 on a yes-no question: 你是老师吗？, not 你是老师呢?
- To ask "where?", use 你去哪儿? or 你去哪儿呢？. With 吗 the question word changes meaning: 你去哪儿吗？ asks "Are you going anywhere?"

■ 16. 的 / 得 / 地 (the three "de")

88. (1) C: 漂亮 ___ 衣服 = 的; (2) B: 认真 ___ 工作 = 地; (3) A: 写 ___ 很好 = 得

Before a noun → 的; before a verb → 地; after a verb → 得.

89. True.

妈妈做 describes the noun 菜, so 的.

90. C. 的 … 地

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

91. 得

After a verb, 得 introduces how well.

92. C. 他写字写得很好。

With an object, say the verb twice: 写字 + 写得很好. (他字写得很好 is also right.)

93. 我弟弟游得不快。

不 goes after 得: 游得不快.

94. C. 地 … 得

认真地 + verb 做; then after the verb 做 comes 得 + how fast.

95. Model answer: 他跑得很快。

Check your answer:

- After a verb and before 很 I wrote 得: 跑得很快, not 跑的很快.
- If my verb had an object, I said the verb twice: 说汉语说得很好.

■ 17. 有的 (some / some..., others...)

96. 有的

有的 + noun in subject position.

97. B. 我买了一些苹果。

In object position, "some" is 一些.

98. 这些书有的很有意思，有的很无聊。

Topic, then 有的 …，有的 ….

99. True.

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有 (的) 时候 = sometimes.

100. Model answer: 有的同学想去海边，有的想去爬山。

Check your answer:

- 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."

■ Mixed practice

101. 我先去买东西，然后吃午饭。他去了深圳，后来在那儿开了一家公司。然后 is the next step in a sequence; 后来 is "later on" in a past story.

102. B. 以前 comes after the event it marks.

103. 他跑得很快。他认真地学习。他是认真的学生。得 after a verb, 地 before a verb, 的 before a noun.

104. 八点二十五（分）。The hour comes first with 点, then the minutes.

105. Write 他认真地学习: 地 comes before a verb. Or put the comment after the verb with 得: 他学得很认真. 的 comes before a noun: 认真的学生.

106. Model answer. 我下午两点十分到家，到家以后给你打电话。以后 comes after the event it follows: 到家以后.

Review later. Tomorrow, write three phrases, one each with 的, 得 and 地.

Sentence patterns: 把, 被 & question words

HSK 3

Sentence patterns that change the usual word order. 把 brings the object before the verb to show what happens to it; 被 makes the sentence passive. Place + verb + 着 says what is somewhere. Question words such as 什么 and 谁 can also mean "every" (谁都), "whatever" (想吃什么就吃什么) or "something" (你要买点儿什么吗), and 一 …… 也不 means "not even one".

At a glance

把 and 被

- **1.** 把 sentences – do something to the object: 请把门关上。
- **2.** 被 sentences – the passive: 我的自行车被人偷了!
- **3.** Place + Verb + 着 + Noun – existential: 墙上挂着一张地图。

Question words with new jobs

- **4.** Question Word + 都 – every / all: 谁都喜欢她。
- **5.** 想 + QW + 就 + QW – whatever you like: 你想吃什么就吃什么。
- **6.** Question words as "some- / any-": 你要买点儿什么吗?

Not even one

- **7.** 一 … 也 / 都 … 不 / 没 – not even one: 我一块钱也没有了。

1. 把 sentences (do something to the object)

Form: subject + 把 + object + verb + result / direction / place / 了

- **请把门关上。** *Qǐng bǎ mén guānshang.* – Please shut the door.
- **我把作业做完了。** *Wǒ bǎ zuòyè zuòwán le.* – I've finished the homework.
- **他把书放在桌子上。** – He put the book on the table.
- **我把这个句子翻译成英文了。** – I translated this sentence into English.

How it works. 把 *bǎ* brings the object forward, before the verb, to say what happens to it: it is moved, changed or finished. The object is usually something both speakers can identify (the door, the homework). The verb **cannot stand alone**: something must follow it.

After the verb	Example
a result	把饭吃完了
a direction	把垃圾拿出去
a place	把书放在桌子上
成 + new form	把句子翻译成英文

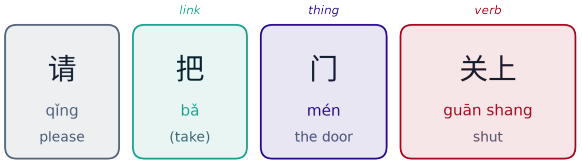
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Negatives and 别. 没, 不 and 别 go before 把: 我没把钥匙带来; 别把手机忘在家里!

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我把饭吃 → 我把饭吃完了.
- *wrong:* 我把钥匙没带来 → 我没把钥匙带来.
- Feeling and knowing verbs (喜欢, 知道) do not take 把.

把 + thing + verb + result: what was done to it



2. 被 sentences (the passive)

Form: receiver + 被 (+ doer) + verb + result / 了

- **我的自行车被人偷了!** *Wǒ de zìxíngchē bèi rén tōu le!* – My bike has been stolen!
- **他被老师批评了。** *Tā bèi lǎoshī pīpíng le.* – He was told off by the teacher.
- **蛋糕被弟弟吃完了。** – The cake was eaten up by my little brother.
- **我的手机没被拿走。** – My phone wasn't taken.

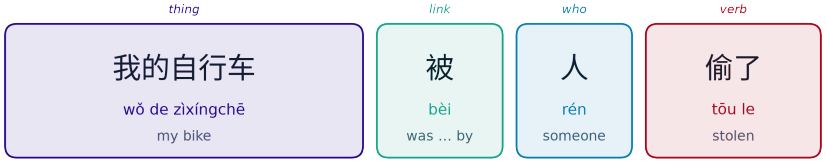
How it works. 被 *bèi* makes a passive: the subject *receives* the action. The doer follows 被 or is left out. As with 把, the verb needs something after it. 被 sentences often report something unwelcome.

把	被
starts with the doer	starts with the receiver
弟弟把蛋糕吃完了。	蛋糕被弟弟吃完了。

Watch out

- *wrong:* 自行车被偷 → 自行车被偷了.
- 没 goes before 被: *wrong:* 被没偷 → 没被偷.

Thing + 被 (+ doer) + verb: it had something done to it



3. Place + Verb + 着 + Noun (existential)

Form: place + verb + 着 + (number + measure word) + noun

- **墙上挂着一张地图。** *Qiáng shang guàzhe yì zhāng dìtú.* – There's a map hanging on the wall.
- **桌子上放着一本书。** *Zhuōzi shang fàngzhe yì běn shū.* – There's a book lying on the table.
- **门口站着很多人。** – There are lots of people standing at the door.
- **书上写着他的名字。** – His name is written on the book.

How it works. This pattern describes what is in a place and *how* it is there: hanging (挂), lying (放, 躺), standing (站), sitting (坐), written (写). The place comes first, without 在. The thing is usually new to the listener: 一张, 很多.

有	verb + 着
only says it exists there	also shows how it is there
墙上有一张地图	墙上挂着一张地图

Watch out

- *wrong:* 在墙上挂着一张画 → 墙上挂着一张画.
- *wrong:* 桌子上放着那本书 → 桌子上放着一本书 (that book is already known; say 那本书在桌子上).

Place + verb + 着 + thing: what is there



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4. Question Word + 都 (every / all)

Form: question word + 都 / 也 + (不 / 没) + verb · 哪 + measure word + noun + 都

- **谁都喜欢她。** *Shéi dōu xǐhuan tā.* – Everyone likes her.
- **他什么也没说。** *Tā shénme yě méi shuō.* – He didn't say anything.
- **周末我哪儿都不想去。** – I don't want to go anywhere this weekend.
- **哪个菜都好吃。** – Every dish is delicious.

How it works. A question word + 都 means "every-, any-"; with 不 or 没 it means "no-".

Question word	+ 都 + verb	+ 都 / 也 + 不 / 没
谁	everyone	nobody
什么	everything	nothing
哪儿	everywhere	nowhere
什么时候	any time	never

The question word moves **before** 都 and the verb. In the negative, 也 and 都 both work.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我吃什么都 → 我什么都吃.

Question word + 都 / 也: everyone, nothing



5. 想 + QW + 就 + QW (whatever you like)

Form: (subject) 想 + verb + question word, 就 + verb + same question word

- **你想吃什么就吃什么。** *Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme jiù chī shénme.* – Eat whatever you like.
- **你想坐哪儿就坐哪儿。** – Sit wherever you like.
- **你什么时候有空，就什么时候来。** – Come whenever you're free.
- **谁想去谁去。** – Whoever wants to go can go.

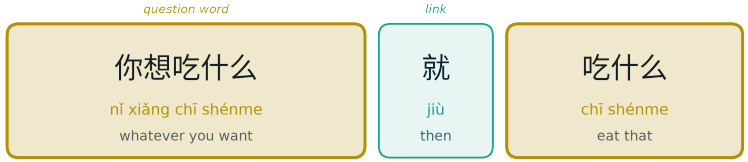
How it works. The same question word appears in both halves and refers to the same thing: whatever, wherever, whenever, whoever. The verb usually repeats too. It is a statement, not a question.

随便 says "as you like" on its own (A: 吃什么? B: 随便). The question-word pattern says exactly what is free: 想买多少就买多少 (buy as many as you want).

Watch out

- Use the same word twice: *wrong:* 想吃什么就吃哪个 → 想吃什么就吃什么.
- No 吗 and no question mark.

What ... 就 what: whatever you like



6. Question words as "some- / any-"

Form: question word in a 吗 question · 不 + verb + 什么 · 好像 / 可能 + 什么

- **你要买点儿什么吗?** *Nǐ yào mǎi diǎnr shénme ma?* – Do you want to buy anything?
- **有谁给我打电话吗?** *Yǒu shéi gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà ma?* – Did anyone call me?
- **他好像有什么事。** – He seems to have something on his mind.
- **我不想吃什么。** – I don't feel like eating anything in particular.

How it works. In a 吗 question, a question word stops asking and means "some-, any-": 什么 = anything, 谁 = anyone, 哪儿 = anywhere. The same happens after 不, 好像 and 可能.

Question	Meaning
你去哪儿了?	Where did you go?
你去哪儿了吗?	Did you go anywhere?

不 + verb + 什么	什么都不 + verb
not much, nothing in particular (soft)	nothing at all (total)
我不想吃什么	我什么都不想吃

什么 in a 吗 question: anything



7. 一 ... 也 / 都 ... 不 / 没 (not even one)

Form: 一 + measure word + noun + 也 / 都 + 没 / 不 + verb · 一点儿也不 + adjective

- **我一块钱也没有了。** *Wǒ yí kuài qián yě méiyǒu le.* – I don't have a single yuan left.
- **我一个人也不认识。** *Wǒ yí ge rén yě bú rènshi.* – I don't know a single person.
- **他今天一口饭都没吃。** – He hasn't eaten a single mouthful today.
- **今天一点儿也不冷。** – It isn't cold at all today.

How it works. This is a strong negative: "not even one". The "one" phrase moves **before** the verb, after the subject. 也 and 都 both work; 也 is slightly more common in speech.

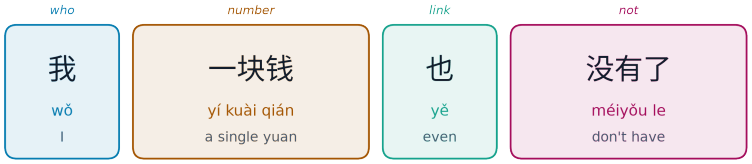
没	不
it did not happen	habits, wishes, refusals
我一本书也没买	我一口也不想吃

With an adjective, use 一点儿也不: 一点儿也不累.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 我没买一本书也 → 我一本书也没买.

一 + measure + noun + 也 + 没 / 不: not a single one



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Practice

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

■ 1. 把 sentences (do something to the object)

1. Complete: “I’ve finished the homework.” 我 …… 作业做完了。

2. Match each 把 sentence to what comes after its verb.

- (1) 请把垃圾拿出去。
- (2) 他把书放在桌子上了。
- (3) 请把那本书给我。
- (4) 我把这句话翻译成英文了。
- A. a new form
- B. a place
- C. a direction
- D. a person

3. Which sentence is complete and correct?

- A. 我把吃饭完了。
- B. 我把饭吃完了。
- C. 我把饭吃。
- D. 我吃把饭完了。

4. Which says “I parked the car at the door”?

- A. 我把门口停车了。
- B. 我车把停在门口了。
- C. 我把车停在门口了。
- D. 我停车在门口了。

5. Build: “Please move the chairs outside.”

Put in order: 请 / 搬到 / 外面。/ 把椅子

6. True or false? 我把钥匙没带来 is the correct word order. If false, correct it.

7. Put 应该 in the right place: “You should finish your homework first.” 你 …… 先把作业写完。

8. Which sentence is wrong?

- A. 别把手机忘在家里!
- B. 请把门关上。
- C. 我把他喜欢。
- D. 我把那本书看完了。

9. It is cold, and your little brother has left the door wide open again. Use 把 sentences. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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■ 2. 被 sentences (the passive)

10. Complete: “My wallet was stolen.” 我的钱包 …… 偷了。

11. Build: “The cake was eaten up by my little brother.”

Put in order: 吃完 / 了。/ 被弟弟 / 蛋糕

12. Turn into a 被 sentence: 小狗把我的鞋咬坏了。(“The puppy chewed up my shoe.”)

- A. 我的鞋被小狗咬坏了。
- B. 我的鞋把小狗咬坏了。
- C. 被小狗我的鞋咬坏了。
- D. 小狗被我的鞋咬坏了。

13. True or false? 弟弟把蛋糕吃完了 and 蛋糕被弟弟吃完了 describe the same event. If false, correct it.

14. Your mum calls from the kitchen: “Dinner is ready!” Which is the natural Chinese?

- A. 被饭做好了!
- B. 饭被妈妈做好了!
- C. 饭做好了!
- D. 饭被做好了!

15. Which says “My phone wasn’t taken”?

- A. 我的手机被拿走没。
- B. 我的手机被没拿走。
- C. 没我的手机被拿走。
- D. 我的手机没被拿走。

16. True or false? 我的自行车被偷。is a complete sentence. If false, correct it.

17. You come out of the library and your bike is gone. Use 被 sentences. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. Place + Verb + 着 + Noun (existential)

18. Complete: “There’s a cat lying on the bed.” 床上躺 …… 一只猫。

19. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 墙上挂着一张画。
- B. 墙上挂一张画着。
- C. 一张画挂着墙上。
- D. 在墙上挂着一张画。

20. Build: “There are lots of people standing at the door.”

Put in order: 很多 / 站着 / 门口 / 人。

21. True or false? 墙上挂着一张地图 says how the map is there, not only that it exists. If false, correct it.

22. You are writing to a friend about your new flat and want to say what is in it. Use Place + Verb + 着 + Noun. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. Question Word + 都 (every / all)

23. Complete: "Everyone knows him." 谁 …… 认识他。

24. Which says "I don't want to eat anything."?

- A. 什么我不想都吃。
- B. 我不想吃什么都。
- C. 我都什么不想吃。
- D. 我什么都不想吃。

25. Build: "He didn't say anything."

Put in order: 说。/ 什么 / 也没 / 他

26. True or false? 哪个菜都好吃 means "every dish is delicious". If false, correct it.

27. A new teacher has just started at your school, and every student is talking about her. Use Question Word + 都. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 5. 想 + QW + 就 + QW (whatever you like)

28. Complete: "Buy whatever you want." 你想买什么就买 ……。

29. Which says "Sit wherever you like."?

- A. 你哪儿想坐就坐。
- B. 你想坐哪儿就坐什么。
- C. 你想坐哪儿就坐哪儿吗?
- D. 你想坐哪儿就坐哪儿。

30. Build: "Whoever wants to go can go."

Put in order: 谁 / 去。/ 谁 / 想去

31. True or false? 想买多少就买多少 means "buy as many as you want". If false, correct it.

32. You take a visiting friend to dinner and want her to order anything she likes. Use 想 + QW + 就 + QW. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 6. Question words as "some- / any-"

33. What does 你周末去哪儿了吗? mean?

- A. Did you go anywhere at the weekend?
- B. You went everywhere at the weekend.
- C. Why didn't you go out at the weekend?
- D. Where did you go at the weekend?

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34. Complete: "Did anyone call me?" 有 …… 给我打电话吗?

35. Build: "Do you want to eat anything?"

Put in order: 什么 / 想吃 / 你 / 吗?

36. True or false? 我不想吃什么 is stronger than 我什么都不想吃. If false, correct it.

37. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 你去哪儿?
- (2) 你去哪儿吗?
- (3) 我哪儿都去。
- (4) 我哪儿都不去。
- A. Are you going anywhere?
- B. I'll go anywhere.
- C. Where are you going?
- D. I'm not going anywhere.

38. Your friend is going to the shop and offers to bring something back for you. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 7. 一 … 也 / 都 … 不 / 没 (not even one)

39. Complete: "I didn't buy a single book." 我一本书 …… 没买。

40. Turn 我没看电影 into "I didn't watch a single film."

Put in order: 没看。/ 我 / 也 / 一部电影

41. True or false? 我一口也不想吃 means "I don't want to eat a single bite." If false, correct it.

42. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 我一杯水也没喝。
- B. 我没喝一杯水也。
- C. 一杯水我喝也没。
- D. 我一杯水没也喝。

43. Build: "It isn't cold at all today."

Put in order: 一点儿 / 也不 / 冷。/ 今天

44. At the end of the month your wallet is completely empty. Use 一 … 也 / 都 … 不 / 没. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

45. Which sentence is correct?

- A. 我把这本书喜欢。

- B. 我把书放在桌子上了。
- C. 我把书。

46. Turn into a 被 sentence: 有人偷了我的自行车。

47. Say “Everyone likes her” with a question word.

48. Say “I don’t have a single yuan left.”

49. Find and fix the problem. A classmate says 我把这本书喜欢. Why does 把 not work here?

50. Use it yourself. Say that he put the book on the table, then that later the book was taken away (you do not know by whom).

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Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. 把 sentences (do something to the object)

1. 把

Subject + 把 + thing + verb + result: 我把作业做完了。

2. (1) C: 请把垃圾拿出去。= a direction; (2) B: 他把书放在桌子上了。= a place; (3) D: 请把那本书给我。= a person; (4) A: 我把这句话翻译成英文了。= a new form

出去 is a direction, 在 + place a place, 给 + person a person, 成 + 英文 a new form.

3. B. 我把饭吃完了。

The verb after 把 needs something after it, here the result 完 and 了.

4. C. 我把车停在门口了。

With 在 + place after the verb, the object moves in front with 把: 把车停在门口.

5. 请把椅子搬到外面。

把 + thing + verb + 到 + place.

6. False.

没 goes before 把: 我没把钥匙带来。

7. 应该

Words like 应该, 想 and 要 come before 把, just like 没 and 别.

8. C. 我把他喜欢。

喜欢 does nothing to the person, so it never takes 把: 我喜欢他。

9. Model answer: 请把门关上。

Check your answer:

- My verb after 把 has something after it: a result, a direction, a place, 给 + person or 了.
- Any 没, 别 or 想 stands before 把, not after it.

■ 2. 被 sentences (the passive)

10. 被

Receiver + 被 + verb + 了.

11. 蛋糕被弟弟吃完了。

Receiver + 被 + doer + verb + result + 了.

12. A. 我的鞋被小狗咬坏了。

The receiver (我的鞋) comes first, then 被 + the doer (小狗), then the verb and result.

13. True.

Both say the brother ate the cake; they start from different points.

14. C. 饭做好了!

Neutral “is done / is ready” needs no 被. Just put the thing first: 饭做好了。

15. D. 我的手机没被拿走。

没 goes before 被.

16. False.

The verb needs something after it: 我的自行车被偷了。

17. Model answer: 我的自行车被人偷了!

Check your answer:

- My sentence starts with what was affected, then 被 (+ who did it), then the verb with 了 or a result.
- Any 没 or 别 stands before 被.

■ 3. Place + Verb + 着 + Noun (existential)

18. 着

Place + Verb + 着 + noun.

19. A. 墙上挂着一张画。

The place starts the sentence, without 在.

20. 门口站着很多人。

Place + Verb + 着 + noun.

21. True.

挂着 shows it is hanging; 有 would only say it exists.

22. Model answer: 墙上挂着一张地图。

Check your answer:

- Do not start with 在: 墙上挂着一张画, not 在墙上挂着一张画.
- The noun is usually new and unspecific (一张, 很多): 桌子上放着一本书, not 桌子上放着那本书.

■ 4. Question Word + 都 (every / all)

23. 都

QW + 都 + verb = every-.

24. D. 我什么都不想吃。

QW + 都 + 不 + verb.

25. 他什么也没说。

Subject + QW + 也 + 没 + verb.

26. True.

哪个 + noun + 都 = any/every one of them.

27. Model answer: 谁都喜欢她。

Check your answer:

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- The QW moves before 都 / 也: 我什么都吃, not 我吃什么都.
- In the negative, 也 and 都 both work: 什么也不想吃 / 什么都不想吃.

■ 5. 想 + QW + 就 + QW (whatever you like)

28. 什么

The same question word repeats.

29. D. 你想坐哪儿就坐哪儿。

想 + V + 哪儿，就 + V + 哪儿, as a statement.

30. 谁想去谁去。

QW + 想 + V, QW + V.

31. True.

多少 repeats: as much/many as you want.

32. Model answer: 你想吃什么就吃什么。

Check your answer:

- Use the same question word in both halves: 想吃什么就吃什么, not 想吃什么就吃哪个.
- This is a statement, not a question: no 吗 and no question mark.

■ 6. Question words as “some- / any-”

33. A. Did you go anywhere at the weekend?

With 吗, 哪儿 becomes “anywhere”.

34. 谁

In a 吗 question, 谁 = anyone (有人 also works).

35. 你想吃什么吗?

QW + 吗 = anything?

36. False.

什么都不 is the total negative; 不 … 什么 is softer.

37. (1) C: 你去哪儿? = Where are you going?; (2) A: 你去哪儿吗? = Are you going anywhere?; (3) B: 我哪儿都去。= I’ll go anywhere.; (4) D: 我哪儿都不去。= I’m not going anywhere.

吗 makes a yes / no question; 都 makes every- or (with 不) no-.

38. Model answer: 你要买点儿什么吗?

Check your answer:

- 你买什么? asks “What are you buying?”; 你买什么吗? asks “Are you buying anything?”
- 不 + Verb + 什么 is a mild “not much / nothing in particular”, weaker than 什么都不.

■ 7. 一 … 也 / 都 … 不 / 没 (not even one)

39. 也

一 + MW + noun + 也/都 + 没 + verb.

40. 我一部电影也没看。

一 + measure word + noun moves before the verb, then 也 + 没.

41. True.

不想 = don't want; the 一 phrase makes it total.

42. A. 我一杯水也没喝。

The "one" phrase goes before 也 + 没 + verb.

43. 今天一点儿也不冷。

一点儿也不 + adjective.

44. Model answer: 我一块钱也没有了。

Check your answer:

- Move the "one" phrase before the verb: 我一本书也没买, not 我没买一本书也.
- Choose 没 for something that did not happen, 不 for a habit, wish or refusal: 一口也不想吃.

■ Mixed practice

45. B. 把 needs an action that does something to the object, with a result such as 放在桌子上.

46. 我的自行车被（人）偷了。The person who did it may be left out.

47. 谁都喜欢她。Question word + 都 means "everyone / everything".

48. 我一块钱也没有了。一 + measure word + noun + 也/都 + 没 means "not even one".

49. 把 needs an action that does something to the object, with a result: 把书放在桌子上. 喜欢 is a feeling, so say 我喜欢这本书.

50. Model answer. 他把那本书放在桌子上了。后来，那本书被拿走了。A 被 sentence can leave out who did it.

Review later. Tomorrow, describe one thing you did with 把 and one thing that happened to you with 被.

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Conjunctions, conditions & prepositions

HSK 3

Words that join ideas. Some give conditions (如果, 只要, 只有), some choose between options (或者, 还是), some add or exclude (不但 …… 而且, 除了) and some give a purpose (为了). Prepositions such as 跟, 关于 and 向 tell you with whom, about what and in which direction. Most of these come in pairs, so learn the second half with the first.

At a glance

Conditions

- **1.** 如果 … ，就 … – if …, then …: 如果机票便宜，我们就去海南。
- **2.** 如果 … 的话 – if …: 如果明天下雨的话，我们就在家看电影。
- **3.** 只要 … ，就 … – as long as: 只要不下雨，我们就去野餐。
- **4.** 只有 … ，才 … – only if: 只有知道密码，才能进去。
- **5.** … ，才 … – only then / only after: 你做完作业，才能玩游戏。
- **6.** 直到 … ，… 才 … – all the way until: 我一直等到十二点，她才给我发消息。
- **7.** 那么 … – then / in that case: 那么，我们明天去吧。

Or

- **8.** A 或者 B – or – in statements: 星期六或者星期天都可以。
- **9.** A 还是 B? – or – in questions: 您喝茶还是喝咖啡?
- **10.** 还是 vs 或者 – or: question vs statement: 米饭还是面条?

Adding, excluding and purpose

- **11.** 不但 … ，而且 … – not only … but also: 这家饭馆不但便宜，而且很好吃。
- **12.** 除了 … 都 / 还 – except / besides: 除了我，大家都去了。
- **13.** 为了 – in order to / for the sake of: 为了考上好大学，她每天五点起床学习。

With, about and towards

- **14.** 跟 + Person + Verb – with someone: 我跟朋友一起去云南。
- **15.** 关于 + Topic – about / regarding: 这是一本关于中国历史的书。
- **16.** 向 + Direction / Person + Verb – towards: 你向前走，然后向右拐。

1. 如果 … ，就 … (if …, then …)

Form: 如果 A，(subject +) 就 + B

- **如果机票便宜，我们就去海南。** *Rúguǒ jīpiào piányi, wǒmen jiù qù Hǎinán.* – If the plane tickets are cheap, we'll go to Hainan.
- **如果你不快点儿，就会迟到。** – If you don't hurry, you'll be late.
- **如果你不舒服，就去看医生吧。** – If you're not well, go and see a doctor.

How it works. 就 links the result to the condition: "if A, then B". It goes **after** the subject of the result clause: 如果你来，我就给你做饭. The pattern is used for plans, warnings and advice.

如果	因为
a possibility	a fact that already holds
如果下雨，我就不去。	因为下雨，所以我没去。

Watch out

- *wrong:* 就我去 → 我就去.
- *wrong:* 如果下雨，所以我不去 → 如果下雨，我就不去.



2. 如果 … 的话 (if …)

Form: 如果 / 要是 + condition + (的话), (就) + result

- **如果明天下雨的话，我们就在家看电影。** *Rúguǒ míngtiān xià yǔ dehuà, wǒmen jiù zài jiā kàn diànyǐng.* – If it rains tomorrow, we'll stay home and watch a film.
- **你有问题的话，可以问我。** *Nǐ yǒu wèntí dehuà, kěyǐ wèn wǒ.* – If you have any questions, you can ask me.
- **要是你不想去的话，就别去了。** – If you don't want to go, don't.

How it works. 的话 *dehuà* closes the "if" clause. Either 如果 or 的话 can be dropped in speech: 如果下雨, 下雨的话 and 如果下雨的话 all mean "if it rains". 要是 *yàoshi* is a spoken "if" and works the same way.

The condition comes first, unlike English, where "if" can come second.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 来找我如果你有时间 → 如果你有时间，来找我.
- 的话 goes at the end of the condition, not after the result.



3. 只要 … ，就 … (as long as)

Form: 只要 + condition, (subject +) 就 + result

- **只要不下雨，我们就去野餐。** *Zhǐyào bú xià yǔ, wǒmen jiù qù yěcān.* – As long as it doesn't rain, we'll go on the picnic.
- **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.

How it works. 只要 *zhǐyào* says the condition is **enough**: if A happens, B follows. 只要 opens the first clause; 就 goes after the subject of the second clause.

只要 A，就 B	只有 A，才 B
A is enough (easy)	A is the only way (necessary)
只要有钱就能买	只有努力，才能成功

Watch out

- *wrong:* 只要你来，就我很高兴 → 只要你来，我就很高兴.



4. 只有 … ，才 … (only if)

Form: 只有 + condition, (subject +) 才 + verb

- **只有知道密码，才能进去。** *Zhǐyǒu zhīdào mìmǎ, cái néng jìnqu.* – Only if you know the code can you get in.
- **只有坐飞机，才能今天到。** – Only by flying can we arrive today.

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- **只有他才知道答案。** *Zhǐyǒu tā cái zhīdào dá'àn.* – Only he knows the answer.

How it works. 只有 *zhǐyǒu* A，才 B says A is **necessary**: without A, no B. A can be a condition, a method or a person. 才 goes after the subject of the second clause, often with 能 or 会.

只有 A，才 B	只要 A，就 B
A is the only way	A is enough
只有努力，才能成功	只要有护照，就能买票

Watch out

- 只有 pairs with 才: *wrong:* 只有你去，他就会去 → 只有你去，他才会去.
- *wrong:* 才他会去 → 他才会去.

只有 …，才 …: only if



5. … ，才 … (only then / only after)

Form: condition / effort，subject + 才 (+ 能 / 会) + verb

- **你做完作业，才能玩游戏。** *Nǐ zuòwán zuòyè, cái néng wán yóuxì.* – You can only play games after you finish your homework.
- **你多说，才能说好。** *Nǐ duō shuō, cái néng shuōhǎo.* – 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.
- **我等了很久，他才来。** – I waited a long time before he came.

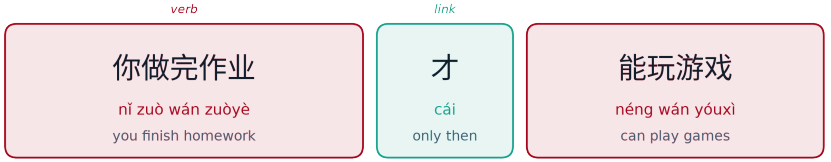
How it works. 才 in the second clause says B happens **only after, or only if**, A: the condition had to come first, or took a lot of effort. 才 goes after the subject of the second clause, often with 能 or 会. Adding 只有 at the start makes the condition explicitly necessary: 只有做完作业，才能玩游戏.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 才他告诉我 → 他才告诉我.

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…，才 …: only then



6. 直到 … ，… 才 … (all the way until)

Form: 直到 + time / event，subject + 才 + verb · verb + 到 + time

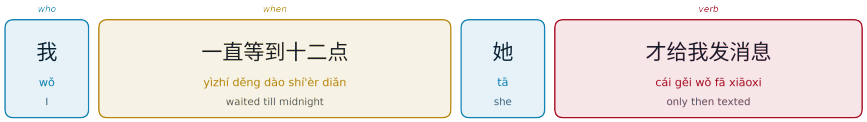
- **我一直等到十二点，她才给我发消息。** *Wǒ yìzhí děngdào shí'èr diǎn, tā cái gěi wǒ fā xiāoxi.* – I waited right up until twelve before she messaged me.
- **直到昨天，我才知道这件事。** *Zhídào zuótiān, wǒ cái zhīdào zhè jiàn shì.* – It wasn't until yesterday that I found out.
- **直到毕业，他才明白老师的话。** – It wasn't until he graduated that he understood what the teacher meant.
- **雨一直下到晚上。** – The rain kept falling until the evening.

How it works. 直到 *zhídào* means "right up until". It stresses how long it took before something finally happened, so the result clause takes 才 (late). 到 after a verb simply gives the end point: 我们玩到十点.

Watch out

- The delayed result takes 才, not 就: *wrong:* 直到十点他就来了 → 直到十点他才来.

一直 … 到 …，才 …: until



7. 那么 … (then / in that case)

Form: (A says something.) 那么 / 那 + suggestion or question · 如果 ……，那么 (就)……

- **那么，我们明天去吧。** *Nàme, wǒmen míngtiān qù ba.* – In that case, let's go tomorrow.
- A: **我不太饿。** B: **那我们喝杯咖啡吧。** – "I'm not very hungry." "Then let's just have a coffee."
- **如果你不喜欢，那么就换一个吧。** – If you don't like it, then change it.

How it works. At the start of a reply, 那么 (spoken: 那) means "then, in that case". It draws a conclusion from what was just said, and leads to a suggestion or a question: 那你打算怎么办?

那么 at the start	那么 before an adjective
then, in that case	so
那么我们别去了	这件衣服那么贵

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

那么 / 那: in that case



8. A 或者 B (or – in statements)

Form: A 或者 B (statements) · 或者 A，或者 B

- **星期六或者星期天都可以。** *Xīngqīliù huòzhě xīngqītiān dōu kěyǐ.* – Saturday or Sunday are both fine.
- **你可以付现金或者刷卡。** – You can pay in cash or by card.
- **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.
- **或者你来，或者我去，都行。** – Either you come or I go; either is fine.

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How it works. 或者 *huòzhě* is "or" in statements, offers and suggestions. It joins nouns, verbs or clauses. 都可以 or 也可以 often follows.

或者	还是	和
"or" in a statement	"or" in a question	"and"
茶或者咖啡都可以	你要茶还是咖啡?	我买了苹果和香蕉

Watch out

- *wrong:* 你喝茶或者咖啡? → 你喝茶还是咖啡?

或者: or (in a statement)



9. A 还是 B? (or – in questions)

Form: (是) A 还是 B? · 不知道 + A 还是 B

- **您喝茶还是喝咖啡?** *Nín hē chá háishi hē kāfēi?* – Would you like tea or coffee?
- **你是老师还是学生?** *Nǐ shì lǎoshī háishi xuésheng?* – Are you a teacher or a student?
- **我们坐地铁还是打车?** – Shall we take the subway or a taxi?
- **我不知道他来还是不来。** – I don't know whether he's coming or not.

How it works. A 还是 B? asks someone to choose. It joins nouns, verbs or whole clauses: 你今天去还是明天去? After 不知道 or 决定, it means "whether … or". 还是 on its own before a verb can also mean "had better": 还是走吧 (we'd better go).

Watch out

- 还是 already makes the question: *wrong:* 你喝茶还是咖啡吗? → no 吗.
- In a statement, "or" is 或者: 茶或者咖啡都可以.

还是: or (in a question)



10. 还是 vs 或者 (or: question vs statement)

Form: A 还是 B? (choose) · A 或者 B (either) · 还是 + verb (had better)

- **米饭还是面条? — 米饭或者面条都可以。** *Mǐfàn háishi miàntiáo? – Mǐfàn huòzhě miàntiáo dōu kěyǐ.* – Rice or noodles? – Either is fine.
- **我还没决定去北京还是去上海。** – I haven't decided whether to go to Beijing or Shanghai.
- **我们可以坐公交车或者走路。** – We can take the bus or walk.
- **太晚了，我们还是回家吧。** – It's late; we'd better go home.

How it works. Is someone being asked to choose, even indirectly? Use 还是. Is a possibility being offered? Use 或者.

还是	或者
a question: 你去还是我去?	a statement: 你去或者我去都行
a hidden question after 不知道, 决定: 我不知道他是老师还是学生	an offer or suggestion

还是 + verb with no choice means "had better".

Watch out

- Never add 吗 to a 还是 question: *wrong:* 你去还是不去吗?

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还是 asks; 或者 offers



11. 不但 … ，而且 … (not only … but also)

Form: subject + 不但 A，而且 (还 / 也) B · 不但 subject_1 A，而且 subject_2 也 B

- **这家饭馆不但便宜，而且很好吃。** *Zhè jiā fànguǎn búdàn piányi, érqiě hěn hǎochī.* – This restaurant isn't only cheap, it's delicious too.
- **他不但会说中文，而且会说法语。** – He speaks not only Chinese but also French.
- **不但我喜欢，而且我朋友也喜欢。** – Not only do I like it, my friend does too.

How it works. 不但 …… 而且 …… adds a further, often stronger, point. 还 or 也 can follow 而且. 而且 can also stand alone to add a point: 天气很冷，而且下雪了. 不仅 is a more written word for 不但.

Where does 不但 go?

One subject	Two subjects
after the subject	before the first subject
他不但聪明，而且很努力	不但我喜欢，而且他也喜欢

Watch out

- With one subject: *wrong:* 不但他聪明 → 他不但聪明.

不但 …，而且 …: not only …, but also …



12. 除了 … 都 / 还 (except / besides)

Form: 除了 A (以外)，B 都 … (except) · 除了 A，subject + 还 / 也 … (besides)

- **除了我，大家都去了。** *Chúle wǒ, dàjiā dōu qù le.* – Everyone went except me.
- **除了星期天，我每天都上班。** – I work every day except Sunday.
- **除了中文，他还会说日语。** *Chúle Zhōngwén, tā hái huì shuō Rìyǔ.* – Besides Chinese, he can also speak Japanese.
- **周末除了看书，我还喜欢跑步。** – At weekends, besides reading, I also like running.

How it works. The word in the second clause decides the meaning.

除了 A，…… 都	除了 A，…… 还 / 也
A is left out	A is included, more is added
除了我，大家都去了 (I didn't go)	除了我，小李也去了 (we both went)

以外 after A is optional. 除了 can also take an action: 除了看书. 他除了吃就是睡 means "All he does is eat and sleep".

Watch out

- 都, 还 and 也 go after the subject: *wrong:* 都大家去了 → 大家都去了.

除了 …，都 …: except



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13. 为了 (in order to / for the sake of)

Form: 为了 + goal，action · action + 是为了 + goal

- **为了考上好大学，她每天五点起床学习。** *Wèile kǎoshàng hǎo dàxué, tā měi tiān wǔ diǎn qǐchuáng xuéxí.* – To get into a good university, she gets up at five every day to study.
- **为了省钱，我自己做饭。** *Wèile shěng qián, wǒ zìjǐ zuò fàn.* – To save money, I cook for myself.
- **我学中文是为了去中国工作。** – I'm learning Chinese so that I can work in China.

How it works. 为了 *wèile* gives a **goal**: "in order to, for the sake of". It usually starts the sentence, and the action follows. The goal can be a verb phrase or a noun: 为了健康, 为了孩子. To explain the purpose after the action, use 是为了.

为了	因为
looks forward to a goal	looks back at a cause
为了省钱，我自己做饭	因为没钱，我自己做饭

Watch out

- *wrong:* 为了下雨，我没去 → 因为下雨，我没去.

为了 + goal: in order to



14. 跟 + Person + Verb (with someone)

Form: subject + 跟 / 和 + person + (一起) + verb

- **我跟朋友一起去云南。** *Wǒ gēn péngyou yìqǐ qù Yúnnán.* – I'm going to Yunnan with friends.
- **我想跟你说一件事。** *Wǒ xiǎng gēn nǐ shuō yí jiàn shì.* – I want to tell you something.

- **你跟老师说了吗?** – Have you told the teacher?
- **我跟他都是学生。** – He and I are both students.

How it works. 跟 + person goes **before** the verb and means "with". 一起 often follows: 跟他一起吃饭. With 说, 跟 marks who you talk to. Between two nouns, 跟 simply means "and".

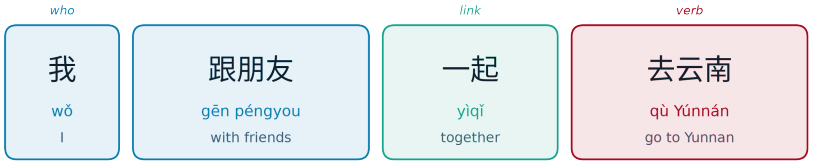
Negatives. 不 or 没 go before 跟.

我不跟他去。	我跟他不去。
I won't go with him.	He and I are not going.

Watch out

- *wrong:* 去跟朋友 → 跟朋友去.

跟 + person + 一起: together with



15. 关于 + Topic (about / regarding)

Form: 关于 + topic + 的 + noun · 关于 + topic, comment

- **这是一本关于中国历史的书。** *Zhè shì yì běn guānyú Zhōngguó lìshǐ de shū.* – This is a book about Chinese history.
- **我看了一个关于熊猫的节目。** – I watched a programme about pandas.
- **关于这个问题，我们明天再讨论。** – We'll discuss this question again tomorrow.
- **关于考试的时间，老师还没说。** – The teacher hasn't said anything yet about the exam time.

How it works. 关于 *guānyú* means "about, regarding". Before a noun it takes 的. At the start of a sentence, it introduces the topic before the subject.

关于	对
the topic of a talk, book or text	the target of a feeling or attitude
关于环境的文章	他对中国文化很感兴趣

Watch out

- *wrong:* 关于中国书 → 关于中国的书.

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- *wrong:* 我关于这件事不知道 → 关于这件事，我不知道.

关于 ...的 + noun: about ...



16. 向 + Direction / Person + Verb (towards)

Form: 向 + direction + verb · 向 + person + verb

- **你向前走，然后向右拐。** *Nǐ xiàng qián zǒu, ránhòu xiàng yòu guǎi.* – Walk forward, then turn right.
- **我向他借了一本书。** *Wǒ xiàng tā jièle yì běn shū.* – I borrowed a book from him.
- **我们应该向她学习。** – We should learn from her.
- **我想向她道歉。** – I want to apologise to her.

How it works. 向 *xiàng* means "towards". It goes **before** the verb. With a direction it gives the way to move (向前走, 向左拐, 向东开); with a person it marks who the action is aimed at (向老师问好, 向他借, 向她道歉).

往	向
towards (movement)	towards (movement) and to / from a person
往前走 = 向前走	向他道歉 (*wrong:* 往他道歉)

Watch out

- *wrong:* 拐向右 → 向右拐.

向 + direction + verb



Practice

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

■ 1. 如果 … ，就 … (if …, then …)

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

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。

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

Put in order: ， / 看医生吧。/ 如果你不舒服 / 就去

4. True or false? 因为下雨 describes a possibility; 如果下雨 describes a fact. If false, correct it.

5. You and a friend are checking flights for the holiday. Use 如果 … ， 就 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 2. 如果 … 的话 (if …)

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

7. 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。

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

Put in order: 的话 / 问我。/ 你有问题 / ， 可以

9. True or false? 要是 is a spoken word for “if”. If false, correct it.

10. You are planning a trip to the Great Wall but the forecast is uncertain. Use 如果 … 的话. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 3. 只要 … ，就 … (as long as)

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

12. 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

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

Put in order: 只要有时间 / 去看你。/ ， / 我就

14. True or false? 只要你来，就我很高兴 has the correct word order. If false, correct it.

15. A friend is worried about tomorrow’s picnic. You only need one thing to go right. Use 只要 … ， 就 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 4. 只有 … ，才 … (only if)

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

17. “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

18. Build: “Only he knows the answer.”

Put in order: 才 / 知道 / 只有他 / 答案。

19. True or false? 只有你去，他就会去 is the standard pairing. If false, correct it.

20. The building door needs a code, and only residents know it. Use 只有 … ， 才 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 5. … ，才 … (only then / only after)

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

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

Put in order: 他 / 我问了他三次，/ 才 / 告诉我。

23. “We waited an hour before the bus came.” Which is correct?

- A. 我们等了一个小时，车才来。
- B. 我们才等了一个小时，车来。
- C. 我们等了一个小时，才车来。
- D. 我们等了一个小时，车才来了。

24. Match each sentence to its meaning.

- (1) 你做完作业就可以玩。
- (2) 你做完作业才能玩。
- A. You can play only after your homework is done.
- B. Once your homework is done you can play.

25. True or false? 才他告诉我 is the right word order. If false, correct it.

26. Your parents have one rule about screen time on school nights. Use … ，才 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 6. 直到 … ，… 才 … (all the way until)

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

28. 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。

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

Put in order: 一直 / 晚上。/ 下到 / 雨

30. True or false? 我们玩到十点 means “We played until ten.” If false, correct it.

31. You stayed up for your sister’s flight to land; she only messaged you at midnight. Use 直到 … ，… 才 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 7. 那么 … (then / in that case)

32. A: “I’m not free today.” B: “Then let’s meet tomorrow.” …… 我们明天见吧。

33. In 这件衣服那么贵, what does 那么 mean?

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

34. Build: “If you don’t like it, then change it.”

Put in order: 就换 / ，那么 / 一个吧。/ 如果你不喜欢

35. True or false? 那么 at the start of a reply usually responds to what someone else has just said. If false, correct it.

36. A friend says the cinema is fully booked tonight. You quickly suggest another plan. Use 那么 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 8. A 或者 B (or – in statements)

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

38. 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?

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

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Put in order: 给我 / 明天或者后天 / 你 / 打电话吧。

40. True or false? 我买了苹果或者香蕉 means “I bought apples and bananas.” If false, correct it.

41. A friend wants to meet this weekend and asks which day suits you. Both are free. Use A 或者 B. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 9. A 还是 B? (or – in questions)

42. Ask: “Are you going today or tomorrow?” 你今天去 …… 明天去?

43. 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?

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

Put in order: 坐地铁 / 还是 / 打车? / 我们

45. True or false? 我不知道他来还是不来 is correct. If false, correct it.

46. A waiter asks what you would like to drink. Use A 还是 B?. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 10. 还是 vs 或者 (or: question vs statement)

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

48. Which fits? 我不知道他是老师 _____ 学生。

- A. 和
- B. 而且
- C. 还是
- D. 或者

49. Match each sentence to what 还是 / 或者 does.

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

50. True or false? 你去还是不去吗? is correct. If false, correct it.

51. A waiter asks, “Rice or noodles?” You answer, “Either is fine.” Use 还是 or 或者. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

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

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

53. 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。

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

Put in order: ， / 而且我朋友 / 也喜欢。/ 不但我喜欢

55. True or false? 而且 can be used on its own to add a point. If false, correct it.

56. You are recommending a new restaurant to a friend who is hard to please. Use 不但 … ， 而且 …. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 12. 除了 … 都 / 还 (except / besides)

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

58. 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.

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

Put in order: 除了星期天 / 我每天 / 都上班。/ ，

60. True or false? 除了中文，他还会说日语 means he speaks both Chinese and Japanese. If false, correct it.

61. Your whole class went to the concert, but you were ill at home. Use 除了 … 都 / 还. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 13. 为了 (in order to / for the sake of)

62. Complete: “To save money, I cook myself.” …… 省钱，我自己做饭。

63. Which word fits? “Because it rained, the match was cancelled.” _____ 下雨，比赛取消了。

- A. 所以
- B. 是为了
- C. 因为
- D. 为了

64. Build: “I’m learning Chinese so that I can work in China.”

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Put in order: 工作。/ 去中国 / 我学中文 / 是为了

65. True or false? 为了 looks forward to a goal, 因为 looks back at a cause. If false, correct it.

66. Your roommate gets up at five every morning during the exam season. Use 为了. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 14. 跟 + Person + Verb (with someone)

67. Complete: “I play basketball with my brother.” 我 …… 哥哥一起打篮球。

68. 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。

69. Build: “I want to tell you something.”

Put in order: 我想 / 说 / 跟你 / 一件事。

70. True or false? In 我跟他都是学生, 跟 means “and”. If false, correct it.

71. Your mum asks about your plans for the holiday. Use 跟 + Person + Verb. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 15. 关于 + Topic (about / regarding)

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

73. “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

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

Put in order: 关于熊猫的 / 一个 / 节目。/ 我看了

75. True or false? 关于中国书 is a correct phrase for “a book about China”. If false, correct it.

76. In the library you find a book that explains Chinese history for beginners. Use 关于 + Topic. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

■ 16. 向 + Direction / Person + Verb (towards)

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

78. 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。

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

Put in order: 借了 / 我 / 一本书。/ 向他

80. True or false? 往前走 and 向前走 both mean “walk forward”. If false, correct it.

81. You are lost in an old town, and a shopkeeper points down the street. Use 向 + Direction / Person + Verb. Write your answer in Chinese, then say it aloud.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

82. Choose 只要 or 只有: …… 不下雨，我们就去野餐。/ …… 知道密码，才能进去。

83. Choose 还是 or 或者: 你要米饭 …… 面条？ / 星期六 …… 星期天都可以。

84. Say “Everyone went except me.”

85. Say “To get into a good university, she gets up at five.”

86. Find and fix the problem. You want a friend to choose between tea and coffee, but you ask 你喝茶或者咖啡吗? What does that question really ask, and how do you fix it?

87. Use it yourself. Write one sentence where having time is enough, and one where a ticket is needed.

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Answers and explanations

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

■ 1. 如果 … ，就 … (if …, then …)

1. 就

如果 …，subject + 就 ….

2. C. 如果下雨，我就不去。

如果 pairs with 就, placed after the subject.

3. 如果你不舒服，就去看医生吧。

如果 + condition, 就 + advice.

4. False.

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

5. Model answer: 如果机票便宜，我们就去海南。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 2. 如果 … 的话 (if …)

6. 的话

的话 closes the condition.

7. B. 如果明天天气好的话，我们去公园。

The condition comes first.

8. 你有问题的话，可以问我。

Condition + 的话, then the result.

9. True.

要是 …(的话) works like 如果.

10. Model answer: 如果明天下雨的话，我们就在家看电影。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 3. 只要 … ，就 … (as long as)

11. 就

只要 …，就 ….

12. B. 只有 … 才

The only way is 只有 … 才 ….

13. 只要有时间，我就去看你。

只要 + condition, subject + 就 + result.

14. False.

就 follows the subject: 我就很高兴.

15. Model answer: 只要不下雨，我们就去野餐。

Check your answer:

- 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 ….

■ 4. 只有 … ，才 … (only if)

16. 才

只有 pairs with 才.

17. A. 只要 … 就

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

18. 只有他才知道答案。

只有 + person + 才 + verb.

19. False.

只有 pairs with 才: 他才会去.

20. Model answer: 只有知道密码，才能进去。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 5. … ，才 … (only then / only after)

21. 才

Condition, then 才 + 能 + result.

22. 我问了他三次，他才告诉我。

Effort first, then subject + 才 + result.

23. A. 我们等了一个小时，车才来。

Subject 车 + 才 + verb, with no 了 at the end.

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24. (1) B: 你做完作业就可以玩。= Once your homework is done you can play.; (2) A: 你做完作业才能玩。= You can play only after your homework is done.

就 = then, easily; 才 = only then, not before.

25. False.

才 goes after the subject: 他才告诉我。

26. Model answer: 你做完作业，才能玩游戏。

Check your answer:

- I can explain that 才 means "only then, not before".
- 才 stands after the subject of the second clause, often with 能 or 会.

■ 6. 直到 … ，… 才 … (all the way until)

27. 才

直到 … 才 ….

28. 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 this simple 才 pattern takes no final 了. 就 would mean "as early as", which contradicts 直到.

29. 雨一直下到晚上。

一直 + Verb + 到 + time.

30. True.

Verb + 到 + time gives the end point.

31. Model answer: 我一直等到十二点，她才给我发消息。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 7. 那么 … (then / in that case)

32. 那

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

33. D. so

Before an adjective, 那么 = so.

34. 如果你不喜欢，那么就换一个吧。

如果 …，那么就 ….

35. True.

It draws a conclusion from the situation just described.

36. Model answer: 那么，我们明天去吧。

Check your answer:

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

■ 8. A 或者 B (or – in statements)

37. 或者

A statement offering alternatives uses 或者.

38. D. 你要茶还是咖啡?

An "A or B?" question uses 还是.

39. 你明天或者后天给我打电话吧。

Time A 或者 time B + verb phrase.

40. False.

或者 is "or"; "and" is 和.

41. Model answer: 星期六或者星期天都可以。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 9. A 还是 B? (or – in questions)

42. 还是

还是 joins the choices in a question.

43. B. 你是中国人还是韩国人?

还是 questions take no 吗.

44. 我们坐地铁还是打车?

A 还是 B?

45. True.

After 不知道, 还是 means "whether … or".

46. Model answer: 您喝茶还是喝咖啡?

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 10. 还是 vs 或者 (or: question vs statement)

47. 或者

A statement offering options uses 或者.

48. C. 还是

After 不知道, the hidden question takes 还是.

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49. (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.

50. False.

A 还是 question takes no 吗.

51. Model answer: 米饭还是面条? — 米饭或者面条都可以。

Check your answer:

- 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?

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

52. 而且

不但 A，而且 B.

53. D. 他不但很高，而且很帅。

With one subject, 不但 follows the subject.

54. 不但我喜欢，而且我朋友也喜欢。

Two subjects: 不但 before the first.

55. True.

天气很冷，而且下雪了.

56. Model answer: 这家饭馆不但便宜，而且很好吃。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 12. 除了 … 都 / 还 (except / besides)

57. 还

除了 … 还 … adds to A.

58. D. No, he is the exception.

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

59. 除了星期天，我每天都上班。

除了 A，subject + 都 + verb.

60. True.

还 adds to what 除了 introduced.

61. Model answer: 除了我，大家都去了。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 13. 为了 (in order to / for the sake of)

62. 为了

为了 + goal, then the action.

63. C. 因为

Rain is a cause, not a goal, so 因为.

64. 我学中文是为了去中国工作。

Action + 是为了 + goal.

65. True.

That is the key difference.

66. Model answer: 为了考上好大学，她每天五点起床学习。

Check your answer:

- 为了 gives a goal; for a cause, use 因为: 因为下雨，我没去, not 为了下雨.
- In careful speech, put 为了 first or use 是为了 after the action: 他每天跑步是为了健康.

■ 14. 跟 + Person + Verb (with someone)

67. 跟

跟 + person + 一起 + verb.

68. C. 我不跟他去。

The negative goes before 跟. 我跟他不去 means "he and I are not going", a different message.

69. 我想跟你说一件事。

跟 + person + 说.

70. True.

Between two nouns, 跟 joins them.

71. Model answer: 我跟朋友一起去云南。

Check your answer:

- "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, which means "he and I are not going".

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■ 15. 关于 + Topic (about / regarding)

72. 关于

关于 + topic + 的 + noun.

73. B. 对

对 … 感兴趣 marks the target of interest.

74. 我看了一个关于熊猫的节目。

关于 + topic + 的 + noun.

75. False.

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

76. Model answer: 这是一本关于中国历史的书。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ 16. 向 + Direction / Person + Verb (towards)

77. 向

向/往 + direction + verb.

78. C. 我想向她道歉。

With people, only 向 works, before the verb.

79. 我向他借了一本书。

向 + person + 借.

80. True.

In directions 往 and 向 are interchangeable.

81. Model answer: 你向前走，然后向右拐。

Check your answer:

- 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.

■ Mixed practice

82. 只要不下雨，我们就去野餐。只有知道密码，才能进去。只要 pairs with 就 (enough for); 只有 pairs with 才 (needed for).

83. 你要米饭还是面条？星期六或者星期天都可以。还是 in questions; 或者 in statements.

84. 除了我，大家都去了。除了 … 都 excludes; 除了 … 还 adds.

85. 为了考上好大学，她每天五点起床。为了 gives the purpose first.

86. With 吗 it asks “Would you like tea or coffee (anything to drink)?” and expects yes or no. To make your friend choose, ask 你喝茶还是咖啡?

87. Model answer. 只要有时间，我就去。只有有票，才能进去。只要 …… 就 means enough for; 只有 …… 才 means needed for.

Review later. Tomorrow, explain to a partner why 只要 goes with 就 and 只有 goes with 才.

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Say it aloud: stories, comparisons and reasons

HSK 3

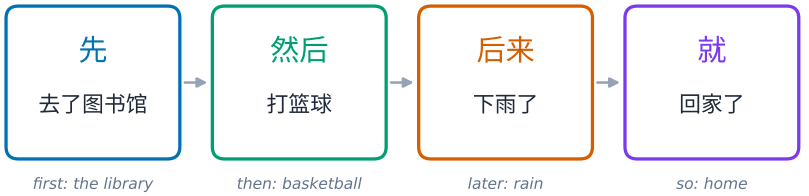
Tell a story someone can follow

A classmate asks what happened on Saturday. Give a short answer with a beginning, an event and an outcome. Time words help organise it, but a story does not need a surprise or a fixed number of verbs.

星期六我先去了图书馆，然后和朋友打篮球。后来下雨了，我们就回家了。

Xīngqīliù wǒ xiān qù le túshūguǎn, ránhòu hé péngyou dǎ lánqiú. Hòulái xià yǔ le, wǒmen jiù huí jiā le.

On Saturday I first went to the library, then played basketball with friends. Later it rained, so we went home.



先 and 然后 order activities; 后来 moves a past story forward. The rain explains going home. The listener does not need every detail of the day. Retell this with a different activity and an outcome that still follows from the facts.

Compare the same feature

地铁比公交车快。 The metro is faster than the bus.

公交车没有地铁快。 The bus is not as fast as the metro.

The standard follows 比 or 没有. To make the difference large, say 地铁比公交车快多了; to make it small, say 快一点儿. In this simple comparison use a bare adjective, rather than 比公交车很快. A speed comparison does not establish which option is cheaper or more comfortable.

Give a reason without inventing it

因为下雨了，所以我们回家了。 Because it rained, we went home.

因为 and 所以 may appear together, but either can be omitted when the relation is clear. Both are not compulsory in every answer. Compare **下雨了，我们就回家了**: the order and 就 also connect the events. State a reason supported by the story.

Work through a follow-up

A partner asks **为什么不坐公交车？** Why not take the bus?

今天时间不多。地铁比公交车快，所以我想坐地铁。 There is little time today. The metro is faster than the bus, so I want to take the metro.

This answers the actual question. It does not need a story if the comparison and reason are enough. If the partner asks **多少钱？**, give a price or say you do not know; do not repeat the speed comparison as if it supplied a fare.

Practise interaction

Prepare key words rather than a full script. Speak for about half a minute, let a partner ask one follow-up, and answer it. This is a classroom practice duration, not an official test limit. If alone, record an answer, pause, and give yourself a different question.

Check whether the events are in order, the compared feature is clear, and the reason fits the outcome. Ask a listener to comment on clarity and pronunciation. Different sentences can achieve the same task.

Practice

1. Put the story in order with 先, 然后, 后来: 我们回家了 / 我去了商店 / 下雨了 / 我和朋友喝了咖啡.
2. Fill the gap: 这个苹果 _ _ 那个苹果大。
3. Make the difference large: 今天比昨天冷。
4. Rewrite with 没有, keeping the meaning: 我的房间比你的房间小。(Start: 我的房间 ……)
5. Find the mistake: 地铁比公交车很快。
6. A partner asks 你为什么没去打篮球? Give a reason in one sentence.

Mixed practice

These questions mix the patterns and use new situations.

7. Find and fix the problem. A classmate says that every spoken reason needs both 因为 and 所以. Correct the rule.

8. Use it yourself. Tell a weekend story with three events, then answer the question why one plan changed.

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Answers and explanations

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

Practice answers

1. **我先去了商店，然后和朋友喝了咖啡。后来下雨了，我们就回家了。** The rain explains going home, so it comes before it.
2. **比**: 这个苹果比那个苹果大。
3. **今天比昨天冷多了。** (or 冷得多)
4. **我的房间没有你的房间大。** With 没有, use the adjective of the bigger side.
5. Remove 很: **地铁比公交车快。** Use 快多了 or 快一点儿 to show how much.
6. For example: **因为下雨了，所以我没去打篮球。** or **下雨了，我就没去。**

Mixed practice

7. You may use both, but one is often enough when the link is clear: 因为下雨了，我们回家了 and 下雨了，所以我们回家了 are both natural.

8. Model answer. 我先去了公园，然后看见天快黑了，就回家了。— 为什么？— 因为天快黑了，我想早点儿回家。

Review later. Tomorrow, retell the story with one event changed and answer a question you did not prepare.