

Not only... but also...

HSK 4

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

不但 / 不仅 ... , 而且 / 还 / 也 ... (not only ... but also)

■ More than one talent

- You are introducing a new classmate who is a strong student and a great athlete.
- 他不仅学习好, 而且篮球打得也很好。 – “Not only is he a good student, he’s also great at basketball.”

■ 不但 / 不仅 A, 而且 / 还 / 也 B

- 不但 / 不仅 A, 而且 B = not only A, but also B; B adds a further, often stronger point.
- 而且 can combine with 还 / 也: 而且还会唱歌. 不仅 is a little more formal.

她不仅会说英语, 而且会说法语。

tā bù jǐn huì shuō Yīng yǔ ér qiě huì shuō Fǎ yǔ

Word guide: 她 – she; 不仅 – not only; 会 – can; 说 – speak; 英语 – English; 而且 – but also; 会 – can; 说 – speak; 法语 – French.

不仅 ..., 而且 ...: not only ... but also



■ Two subjects

- With different subjects, 不但 / 不仅 go before the first subject: 不仅学生喜欢他, 老师也喜欢他。 – “Not only do the students like him, the teachers do too.”
- With one subject, they follow it: 他不但聪明, 而且很努力。

不仅学生喜欢他, 老师也喜欢他。

bù jǐn xué shēng xǐ huan tā lǎo shī yě xǐ huan tā

Word guide: 不仅 – not only; 学生 – students; 喜欢 – like; 他 – him; 老师 – teachers; 也 – also; 喜欢 – like; 他 – him.

■ Placement with one or two subjects

- One subject: subject first, then 不但: 他不但 Two subjects: 不但 first: 不但他 ..., 而且我也
- The two points go the same direction; for a contrast use 但是.

■ 不但不 ..., 反而 ...

- 不但不 A, 反而 B = not only not A, but (contrary to expectation) B: 吃了药, 病不但没好, 反而更重了.
- This variant reverses expectations instead of adding a point.

病不但没好, 反而更重了。

bìng bú dàn méi hǎo fǎn ér gèng zhòng le

Word guide: 病 – the illness; 不但 – not only; 没 – didn't; 好 – get better; 反而 – instead; 更 – even more; 重 – serious.

■ Recap

- 不但 / 不仅 A, 而且 / 还 / 也 B = not only A, but also B.
- One subject: after it; two subjects: before the first. 不但不 ... 反而 ... reverses expectation.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

Choose a pattern, cover its teaching examples, and attempt its questions. Use the labels to find feedback in the separate key.

■ 不但 / 不仅 ... , 而且 / 还 / 也 ... (not only ... but also)

2601.1 Complete: “This phone is not only cheap but also good quality.” 这个手机不仅便宜, ... 质量很好。

2601.2 Which sentence is correct for two subjects?

- A. 学生不仅喜欢他, 老师也喜欢他。
- B. 不仅学生喜欢他, 也老师喜欢他。
- C. 学生喜欢他不仅, 老师也喜欢他。
- D. 不仅学生喜欢他, 老师也喜欢他。

2601.3 Build: “The illness not only didn't improve, it got worse.”

Arrange all chunks: , / 病不但没好 / 更重了。 / 反而

2601.4 With one subject, 不但 comes after the subject.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2601.5 You are introducing a new classmate who is a strong student and a great athlete. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model,

then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A learner uses 不但他会中文，而且英文 too. Repair the sentence and keep the same subject.

R2. Use it yourself. Describe a library that is quiet and also conveniently located, with 不仅.

Write your responses before opening the key. Compare meaning as well as form; a different valid answer need not copy the model.

Answers and explanations

Check after your attempt. For open tasks, compare the message and the stated criteria, then revise one detail.

■ 不但 / 不仅 ... , 而且 / 还 / 也 ... (not only ... but also)

2601.1 而且

不仅 ... 而且

2601.2 D. 不仅学生喜欢他, 老师也喜欢他。

With two subjects, 不仅 comes before the first one.

2601.3 病不但没好, 反而更重了。

不但不/没 ..., 反而

2601.4 True.

True. With one subject, 不但 comes after it: 他不但聪明, 而且很努力. With two different subjects, 不但 comes before the first subject.

2601.5 One possible response: 他不仅学习好, 而且篮球打得也很好。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- One subject: subject first, then 不但: 他不但 Two subjects: 不但 first: 不但他 ..., 而且我也
- The two points go the same direction; for a contrast use 但是.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

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

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 他不但会中文, 而且会英文。The shared subject can precede 不但; the two clauses should be parallel. Chinese and English are the languages he can use.

R2. One possible response. 这家图书馆不仅安静, 而且交通方便。Both claims need to be true in the situation; the connector adds emphasis but does not supply evidence for either.

Recall later. Tomorrow, add one supported second point without repeating the first in different words.