Say it aloud: opinions, plans and suggestions

HSK 4

Choose a study plan together

Your class is deciding whether to revise alone or in a group. State a view, explain a reason, acknowledge a drawback and suggest a next step. These are useful choices for organising a turn, not compulsory stages of every Mandarin answer.

我觉得一起复习比较好，因为遇到问题可以互相帮助。不过，人太多可能会很吵。不如我们三个人一组，先试一次吧。

Wǒ juéde yìqǐ fùxí bǐjiào hǎo, yīnwèi yùdào wèntí kěyǐ hùxiāng bāngzhù. Búguò, rén tài duō kěnéng huì hěn chǎo. Bùrú wǒmen sān ge rén yì zǔ, xiān shì yí cì ba.

I think revising together is better because we can help each other with problems. However, too many people might be noisy. How about trying groups of three first?

Match the connector to its job

Job	Example	What it adds
View	我觉得这个办法不错。	the speaker's judgment
Additional point	而且大家可以互相帮助。	another supporting point
Qualification	不过，需要先约好时间。	a limitation or drawback
Suggestion	不如先试一次吧。	a possible next step

认为 can also be used in speech, and 觉得 is not banned from a serious answer. Their suitability depends on tone and context; they are not a simple spoken/formal switch.

State an intention or preparation

我打算下周开始复习。 I intend to start revising next week.

我准备下周开始复习。 I plan to start revising next week.

我正在准备考试。 I am preparing for the exam.

准备 can express a plan or the activity of getting ready. 正在 and the following phrase clarify the third example. A plan can be genuine without an explicit time, but adding one makes arrangements easier to follow.

Suggest without assuming permission

不如坐地铁吧。 How about taking the metro?

你应该早点休息。 You should rest earlier.

最好提前买票。 It would be best to buy tickets in advance.

These are different ways of advising, not a fixed scale of politeness. Relationship, wording and intonation matter. 不如 can introduce a suggestion even when no earlier alternative was spoken aloud. 吧 often softens a suggestion, but does not automatically make a demand polite.

Respond to a practical objection

A partner says **可是我星期三没空。** But I am not free on Wednesday.

那我们星期四再一起复习，星期三先自己看书。 Then let's revise together on Thursday; on Wednesday we can read on our own first.

The reply changes the arrangement instead of ignoring the objection. Practise with a different unavailable day. Check that the final date is clear and the reason remains relevant.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A learner says 不如 cannot begin a suggestion unless another option was already spoken, and 准备 always means preparation has begun. Repair both rules.

R2. Use it yourself. Recommend a group study plan, acknowledge one drawback and respond when a partner is busy on your chosen day.

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.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 不如 can introduce a suggestion with an implicit alternative. 准备 can express intention, as in 我准备明天走, or active preparation, as in 我正在准备考试. Context selects the reading.

R2. One possible response. 我觉得一起复习有帮助，不过需要约好时间。不如星期四试一次吧。星期四没空？那星期五怎么样？The response adapts to the objection rather than repeating a fixed speech.

Recall later. Later, give a suggestion without a script and answer a new practical objection.