

HSK 4 Grammar 05: Conjunctions

HSK 4 conjunctions and the means-to-goal 来, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The join must match the relationship

Conjunctions join two ideas — and HSK 4 tests whether the join matches the relationship.

不过: the gentlest “but”

A small snag you cannot step over

这件衣服我很喜欢，不过有点贵。(Zhè jiàn yīfu wǒ hěn xǐhuan, búguò yǒudiǎn guì.)
— I really like this outfit, but it's a bit pricey.

我喜欢他，可是他不喜欢我。(Wǒ xǐhuan tā, kěshì tā bù xǐhuan wǒ.) — I like him,
but he doesn't like me.

而: contrast in two set frames

- 1 **Frame one** 不是 A 而是 B — “not A but rather B”.
- 2 **Frame two** 是 A 而不是 B — “A, not B”.
- 3 **A worked sentence** 后悔的人不是你，而是我自己。(Hòuhuǐ de rén bú shì nǐ, érshì wǒ zìjǐ.) — The one who will regret it isn't you — it's me myself.
- 4 **The study tip** Master the two frames and most uses of 而 click into place.

Decision

而 links related clauses with a contrast — elegant, semi-written, common in speech inside its frames.

Try it: the nice hotel

Your turn

Compliment a hotel, then add a small snag about distance. Which ending fits the gentlest register?

- A. 这家酒店挺好的，不过有点儿远。
- B. 这家酒店挺好的，而是有点儿远。
- C. 这家酒店挺好的，于是有点儿远。
- D. 这家酒店挺好的，另外有点儿远。

于是: storytelling “and so”

- 1 **The relationship** A cause and the action it triggered — “and so, thereupon”.
- 2 **The tense** Past narration: it pairs with 了, and often with 就.
- 3 **The worked sentence** 昨天突然下雨了, 于是我们取消了野餐。(Zuótiān tūrán xià yǔ le, yúshì wǒmen qǔxiāo le yěcān.) — It suddenly rained yesterday, so we cancelled the picnic.
- 4 **The boundary** For timeless cause and effect, use 所以 / 因此 instead.

Decision

于是 narrates completed events — not future plans.

还有, 另外, 再说: three ways to add

Word	Job, register
还有	The casual afterthought — “oh, and also...”, after a full stop
另外	A separate extra point, more formal; the clause likes 还 / 也
再说	A clinching extra reason behind a decision — “besides, anyway”

Try it: turning down the invite

- 1 **Give the first reason** 我那天要考试。(Wǒ nà tiān yào kǎoshì.) — I have an exam that day.
- 2 **Choose the clincher** 再说 — it backs the decision with one more reason.
- 3 **Add it** 再说, 那个电影我早就看过了。(Zàishuō, nàge diànyǐng wǒ zǎo jiù kàn guo le.) — Besides, I saw that film ages ago.
- 4 **Check the job each word did** First reason, then clincher: a polite, complete refusal.

Decision

还有 would be an afterthought; 另外 a separate point; 再说 seals the no.

用 / 通过 ... 来: means to goal

The how, then the why

很多年轻人用手机 APP 来点外卖。(Hěn duō niánqīngrén yòng shǒujī APP lái diǎn wàimài.) — Lots of young people use phone apps to order takeaway.

我们应该想办法来解决这个问题。(Wǒmen yīnggāi xiǎng bànfǎ lái jiějué zhège wèntí.) — We should find a way to solve this problem.

Choosing the right join

Join	Relationship
不过	Light contrast, gentlest but
可是 / 但是	Plain contrast; 但是 pairs with 虽然
于是	Consequence inside a past story
所以 / 因此	Timeless cause and effect
还有 / 另外 / 再说	Afterthought; separate point; clinching reason
用 X 来 V	Means to goal

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Can 虽然 and 但是 both appear in one Chinese sentence? (2) In 用手机来点外卖, 来 means what?

- A. No; “come”
- B. Yes; “in order to”
- C. Yes; “come”
- D. No; “in order to”