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.

- The “but” family, the “and-so” chain, the “another thing” set.
- Plus the means-to-goal bridge 用/通过 … 来.

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 xiàyǔ 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.

并且: adding a second point

Two points, one sentence

他通过了考试，并且拿到了奖学金。— He passed the exam and also won a scholarship.

我们讨论并且通过了这个计划。— We discussed and approved the plan.

Notice

并且 joins clauses or verbs, not nouns: 苹果和香蕉, not 苹果并且香蕉.

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

Quick check

Your turn

Can 虽然 and 但是 appear in the same Chinese sentence?

A. no

B. yes

Check yourself

Your turn

In 用手机来点外卖, what does 来 mean?

A. “come”

B. “in order to”