HSK 4 Grammar 26: "Not only ... but also ..."

HSK 4 不但/不仅/不只 frames, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

One meaning, a wardrobe of frames

> Not only A, but also B: pick any front word (不但 / 不仅 / 不只) and any back word (而且 / 还 / 也) — but B must top A.

- Mix and match freely.
- The escalation is the real rule.

The frame: front button, A, back button, B

A coat with two buttons

王师傅不但会开车，还会修车。(Wáng shīfu búdàn huì kāichē, hái huì xiūchē.) — Master Wang not only drives — he can repair cars too.

我们不仅完成了任务，而且提前了十天。(Wǒmen bùjǐn wánchéng le rènwu, érqiě tíqián le shí tiān.) — We not only finished the task, but did so ten days early.

Two buttoning rules

1. **Rule one: B escalates** Drives → and repairs; finished → ten days early. More of the same is not escalation.
2. **Rule two: a new subject sits after the conjunction** 我不但去了，而且他也去了。— Not only did I go, he went too.
3. **Watch out** Keep both halves; casual English may drop one, Chinese says the whole thing.
4. **Try it** 她不但会做中国菜，而且会做意大利菜。— She not only cooks Chinese food, but Italian too.

Decision

Front word, A, back word, B — with B a real step up.

The escalation ladder

Sentence	A	B (must top A)
王师傅不但会开车，还会修车。	Drives	Repairs — the rarer skill
我们不仅完成了，而且提前了十天。	Finished	Ten days early
这本书不但有意思，还有用。	Interesting	Useful — it lasts

Quick check

Your turn

What is wrong with 他不但高，而且很高?

A. nothing

B. the second part doesn't add anything

Check yourself

Your turn

When the second clause has a new subject, where does it go?

A. before 而且
B. after 而且