

HSK 5 Grammar 9: Sentence Patterns — Focus & Existence

HSK 5 focus and existence patterns; classroom examples, not official exam items.

要不是(的话): counterfactual

- 1 **The frame** 要不是 + the thing that DID happen + (的话), + the bad result that DIDN'T.
- 2 **Worked sentence** 要不是你提醒我, 我就忘了带钥匙。 — If you hadn't reminded me, I would have forgotten my keys.
- 3 **(的话) is optional** It softens the counterfactual — a spoken hedging touch.
- 4 **The boundary** 要不是 is not 要不 ... 吧 (plan B). It always says what DIDN'T happen.

Decision

要不是 = “if it were not for” — the bad result did NOT happen because the named thing DID.

多亏（了）：thanks to

Crediting a good outcome

多亏了你，我才没迷路。Thanks to you, I didn't get lost.

多亏了天气预报，我们带了伞。Thanks to the weather forecast, we brought umbrellas.

(仅仅) 是 而已: merely

Downplaying with 而已

我仅仅是好奇而已。 — I'm merely curious.

这只是个建议而已。 — It's just a suggestion.

将: will / about to

将 is the formal “will / be going to” — written register, common in news and formal announcements.

Practice check

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) 要不是你提醒我 — did the reminding happen? (2) 将 is what register?

- A. No; casual
- B. Yes; formal/written
- C. Yes; casual
- D. No; formal/written

Check yourself

Every answer traces to the pattern's own job: 要不是 is counterfactual, 多亏 credits, 而已 minimises, 将 formalises.