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.

- Formal/written equivalent of 会 or 要.
- Common in news headlines and official notices.

Practice check

Your turn

要不是你提醒我，我就忘了 – did you remind me?

A. no

B. yes

Practice check: part 2

Your turn

What register is 将?

A. casual

B. 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.

- The handout answers walk through every practice item.
- Each pattern's register tells you where it belongs.