HSK 6 Grammar 5: 是否, 与否, 之, 嘛, 呗

HSK 6 是否, 与否, 之, 嘛 and 呗, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Written particles, spoken particles

Word	Register	Job
是否	formal writing	'whether' before a verb or adjective
与否	formal writing	'or not' after a verb or adjective
之	written	a literary link between nouns in set phrases
嘛	spoken	states something as obvious
呗	spoken, casual	'then just ...' — the obvious next step

Use the evidence

A form asks whether your number is correct; a friend says the next step is obvious. Different particles, different jobs.

是否 + verb or adjective

Formal — 是否

报名表上请注明你是否需要住宿。

委员会将审查该项目是否符合规定。

Chat — 是不是

你是不是需要住宿？

Verb or adjective + 与否

1. **A topic, then a comment** 录用与否，由人力资源部另行通知。
2. **With an adjective** 这个解释合理与否，还要看证据。
3. **Opposite order** 是否合理 starts with 是否; 合理与否 ends with 与否.

Decision

与否 turns the yes-no idea into a topic you can comment on; 吗 would ask someone to answer.

Noun + 之 + noun — set phrases

Phrase	Meaning
意料之中 · 意料之外	as expected · unexpected
当务之急	the most urgent task
不足之处	a weak point
三分之一	one third

Use the evidence

之 is the literary partner of 的. 我的书 is normal; 我之书 is not.

嘛 — of course

嘛 — states the obvious

都十一月了嘛，当然要穿厚一点。

图书馆九点关门嘛。

吗 — asks

图书馆九点关门吗？

呗 — then just do it

A shrug and the easy next step

雨下得这么大，就改成线上开会呗。

老板今天不在，这份表明天再交呗。

Notice

嘛 presses a fact you should already see; 呗 lets a decision go. With a teacher or a boss, 呗 may sound too casual.

Your turn: obvious or asking?

Your turn

Lin texts a friend, impatient, not asking: the library closes at nine, and everyone knows. Which line fits?

A. 图书馆九点关门吗
B. 图书馆九点关门嘛
C. 图书馆是否九点关门

Your turn: 是否 or 与否?

Your turn

请核对名单 _____ 准确。(before the adjective) · 方便 _____，请在周五前回复。(after it)

A. 是否 · 与否
B. 与否 · 是否
C. 是否 · 是否

Answers: register and position

1. **The library** 图书馆九点关门嘛。A statement of the obvious.
2. **The checklist** 请核对名单是否准确。方便与否，请在周五前回复。
3. **No seats** 没位子就回宿舍吃呗。
4. **Formal note** 请问暖气是否已经修好？

Decision

调查的不足之处 is the set phrase for a survey's weak points.

Check yourself

Your turn

A formal email to a professor: whether you can attend depends on the train. Which sentence fits?

A. 我能否参加，要看火车是否准时。
B. 我参加呗，要看火车准时嘛。
C. 我能参加吗，要看火车准时呗。