

Conjunctions

HSK 3 Grammar

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

A 或者 B (or – in statements)

■ A statement offers two acceptable drinks

- You say either tea or coffee is acceptable.
- 茶或者咖啡都行。 – 或者 presents alternatives in a statement.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **A 或者 B (or – in statements)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

我喝茶或者咖啡。

wǒ hē chá huò zhě kā fēi

Word guide: 我 – I; 喝 – drink; 茶 – tea; 或者 – or; 咖啡 – coffee.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 茶或者咖啡都行。: 或者 presents alternatives in a statement.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- For a direct alternative question use 还是: 你喝茶还是咖啡? .
- A yes-or-no question can contain 或者, as in 茶或者咖啡都可以吗? ; questions are not all the same type.

■ Use the distinction

- 或者 presents alternatives in a statement.
- For a direct alternative question use 还是: 你喝茶还是咖啡? . A yes-or-no question can contain 或者, as in 茶或者咖啡都可以吗? ; questions are not all the same type.

■ Try it with help closed

You say either tea or coffee is acceptable. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 茶或者咖啡都行。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- For a direct alternative question use 还是: 你喝茶还是咖啡? .
- A yes-or-no question can contain 或者, as in 茶或者咖啡都可以吗? ; questions are not all the same type.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

那么 ... (then / in that case)

■ A reply follows a new piece of information

- A friend says everything is ready, so you suggest leaving.
- **那么我们走吧。** – 那么 introduces a response based on what was just said.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **那么 ... (then / in that case)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

那么我们走吧。

nà me wǒ men zǒu ba

Word guide: 那么 – then; 我们 – we; 走 – go.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **那么我们走吧。**: 那么 introduces a response based on what was just said.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- This use means in that case, not degree as in 那么高.
- It does not itself indicate an exact future time; 那我们走吧 is a common shorter reply.

■ Use the distinction

- 那么 introduces a response based on what was just said.
- This use means in that case, not degree as in 那么高. It does not itself indicate an exact future time; 那我们走吧 is a common shorter reply.

■ Try it with help closed

A friend says everything is ready, so you suggest leaving. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 那我们走吧。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- This use means in that case, not degree as in 那么高.
- It does not itself indicate an exact future time; 那我们走吧 is a common shorter reply.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

跟 + Person + Verb (with someone)

■ A conversation has a partner

- You talk with a friend rather than talk only about the friend.
- 我跟朋友聊天。 – 跟朋友 identifies the conversation partner.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 跟 + Person + Verb (with someone). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

我跟朋友聊天。

wǒ gēn péng you liáo tiān

Word guide: 我 – I; 跟 – with; 朋友 – friends; 聊天 – chat.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 我跟朋友聊天。: 跟朋友 identifies the conversation partner.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 关于朋友的话题 means a topic about friends.
- 跟 in this use can often be replaced by 和; another 跟 in 跟着他走 means follow him, a different construction.

■ Use the distinction

- 跟朋友 identifies the conversation partner.
- 关于朋友的话题 means a topic about friends. 跟 in this use can often be replaced by 和; another 跟 in 跟着他走 means follow him, a different construction.

■ Try it with help closed

You talk with a friend rather than talk only about the friend. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 我跟朋友聊天。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 关于朋友的话题 means a topic about friends.
- 跟 in this use can often be replaced by 和; another 跟 in 跟着他走 means follow him, a different construction.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

A 还是 B? (or – in questions)

■ A direct choice question asks for an option

- You ask a guest which of two drinks they prefer.
- 你喝茶还是咖啡? – 还是 connects the alternatives the guest should choose between.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **A 还是 B? (or – in questions)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

你喝茶还是咖啡?

nǐ hē chá hái shì kā fēi

Word guide: 你 – you; 喝 – drink; 茶 – tea; 还是 – or; 咖啡 – coffee.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 你喝茶还是咖啡? : 还是 connects the alternatives the guest should choose between.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- This is an alternative question, so no final 吗 is needed in the basic frame.
- 还是 also means still or had better in other uses; punctuation alone cannot determine every meaning.

■ Use the distinction

- 还是 connects the alternatives the guest should choose between.
- This is an alternative question, so no final 吗 is needed in the basic frame. 还是 also means still or had better in other uses; punctuation alone cannot determine every meaning.

■ Try it with help closed

You ask a guest which of two drinks they prefer. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 你喝茶还是咖啡?

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- This is an alternative question, so no final 吗 is needed in the basic frame.
- 还是 also means still or had better in other uses; punctuation alone cannot determine every meaning.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.