基本句型

Ref Hsk3 Grammar

Place + 动词 + 着 + 名词—saying what's where

To paint **what is where**, Chinese runs **place —verb —着—thing**: "(at the place) there sits / lies / hangs a ⋯." The verb tells you *how* the thing is positioned (lying, standing, hanging). A close cousin is **Place + 是 + thing**, meaning "all there is at the place is ⋯."

Structure: `Place + Verb + 着 + Noun Phrase`

{zh: 桌子上 |zhuō zi shàng|on the table / 放 |fàng|lies / 着 |zhe / 一本 |yì běn|a / 书 |shū|book / 。}

There's a book lying on the table.

{zh: 大厅里 |dà tīng lǐ|in the hall / 站 |zhàn|are standing / 着 |zhe / 一些 |yì xiē|some / 警察 |jǐng chá|police / 。}

Some police are standing in the hall.

Remember: the **place comes first** (the camera pans to a spot), then the verb + 着 freezes how the thing sits there. English starts with "there's a ⋯"; Chinese starts with the *location*.

Watch out

- The verb is **stative** (放, 站, 坐, 挂) —it describes a position, not an active action.
- The 是 version says the place holds *only* that: 墙上都是照片 ("the wall is all photos").

想 + 疑问词 + 就 + 疑问词—"do whatever you like"

Echo a question word on both sides of **就** and you get "(do) **whatever / wherever / whenever** you like." The **same** question word appears twice —once setting the choice, once cashing it in.

Structure: 想 `+ Verb + QW +` 就 `+ Verb + QW`

{zh: 想 |xiǎng|want / 吃 |chī|eat / 什么 |shén me|what / 就 |jiù|then / 吃 |chī|eat / 什么 |shén me|whatever / 。}

Eat whatever you want.

{zh: 想 |xiǎng|want / 去 |qù|go / 哪儿 |nǎr|where / 就 |jiù|then / 去 |qù|go / 哪儿 |nǎr|wherever / 。}

Go wherever you like.

Remember: the **same question word both times** —什么⋯就⋯什么, 谁⋯就⋯谁, 哪儿⋯就⋯哪儿. Read it as "whatever you pick, that's what you get." It's the language of total freedom.

Watch out

- Keep the question word identical on both sides —mixing 什么 with 哪儿 breaks it.

疑问词 + 都 / 也—"every / any"

A question word + **都** (or 也) sweeps over **all** cases —"everyone, anything, anywhere." Add a 不 / 没 and it flips to the total negative: "none, nothing, nowhere."

Structure: `Question Word + 都 / 也 + Predicate`

{zh: 谁 |shéi|everyone / 都 |dōu|all / 喜欢 |xǐ huan|likes / 美食 |měi shí|good food / 。}

Everyone loves good food.

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 什么 |shén me|anything / 都 |dōu|at all / 不 |bù|don't / 想 |xiǎng|want / 吃 |chī|to eat / 。}

I don't want to eat anything.

Remember: question word + 都 = "all / every"; add 不 / 没 = "none / nothing." 谁都喜欢 ("everyone likes") → 谁都不信 ("nobody believes"). 也 stands in for 都, especially in negatives (什么也没说, "said nothing").

Watch out

- The question word here is *not* asking anything —it's the indefinite "any," swept up by 都 / 也.

越来越 + 形容词—"more and more"

越来越 before an adjective (or verb) means a quality **keeps climbing as time passes** —"more and more ⋯." Literally "more-comes-more." It usually closes with 了 to mark the change in motion.

Structure: `Subject + 越来越 + Adjective + 了`

{zh: 天气 |tiān qì|the weather / 越来越 |yuè lái yuè|more and more / 冷 |lěng|cold / 了 |le / 。}

The weather is getting colder and colder.

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 越来越 |yuè lái yuè|more and more / 不 |bù|don't / 相信 |xiāng xìn|trust / 他 |tā|him / 了 |le / 。}

I trust him less and less.

Remember: 越来越 = "**more-comes-more**" —one thing changing over *time*. Its look-alike 越⋯越⋯(previous file) links *two* things ("the more A, the more B"). Time → 越来越; pairing → 越⋯越⋯.

Watch out

- With a **negative** verb, English flips to "less and less": 越来越不懂 ("understand less and less").

疑问词—”some / a certain”

A bare question word can quietly mean a vague **”some / a certain”** —哪儿 (”somewhere”), 谁 (”someone”), 什么 (”something”), 什么时候 (”sometime”). It isn’t a question at all; tone and small cues (过, 点儿, 吧) flag the difference.

Structure: `Question Word (used as "some")`

{zh: 这个人 |zhè ge rén|this person / 我 |wǒ|I / 在 |zài / 哪儿 |nǎr|somewhere / 见过 |jiàn guo|have met / 。}

I’ve met this person somewhere before.

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|we / 应该 |yīng gāi|should / 做 |zuò|do / 点儿 |diǎnr|a bit of / 什么 |shén me|something / 。}

We should do something.

Remember: a question word with no rising ”question” tone = ”some.” 谁 (”who?”) vs 谁 (”someone”); 什么 (”what?”) vs 什么 (”something”). Cues like 过, 点儿, or 吧 confirm the ”some” reading —什么时候…吧 = ”sometime,” not ”when?”.

Watch out

- Context does the work —there’s no extra word; only the falling tone and the cues distinguish ”some” from a real question.

为了—”in order to, for the sake of”

为了 spells out a **purpose** or beneficiary —”in order to, for the sake of.” It usually opens the sentence (”In order to X, …”), or appears as ”…是为了…” (”the reason is to …”).

Structure: 为了 `+ Purpose` , `Subject + Action` · `Action +` 是为了 `+ Purpose`

{zh: 为了 |wèi le|for the sake of / 钱 |qián|money / , 他 |tā|he / 什么 |shén me|anything / 都 |dōu|at all / 愿意 |yuàn yì|is willing / 做 |zuò|to do / 。}

For money, he’ll do anything.

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 这么 |zhè me / 做 |zuò|did this / 是 |shì / 为了 |wèi le|in order to / 帮 |bāng|help / 你 |nǐ|you / 。}

I did all this in order to help you.

Remember: 为了 = the goal you’re aiming AT (forward-looking); 因为 = the cause you’re coming FROM (backward-looking). ” 为了 health, I exercise” (purpose) vs ” 因为 I’m ill, I rest” (reason). The 了 here is glued into the word —not the aspect particle.

Watch out

- The 为了 phrase usually sits at the **front** of the sentence.