

Conjunctions

HSK 4 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.

不过 (a softer “but”)

■ A qualification can change a purchase decision

- An item is good but costs more than you want.
- **东西不错，不过有点贵。** – 不过 introduces the price qualification to the positive assessment.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **不过 (a softer “but”)**. 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.

东西不错，不过有点贵。

dōng xi bú cuò bú guò yǒu diǎn guì

Word guide: 东西 – the thing; 不错 – nice; 不过 – but; 有点 – a bit; 贵 – expensive.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **东西不错，不过有点贵。**: 不过 introduces the price qualification to the positive assessment.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 不过 is often conversational, but its force depends on the argument and tone.
- It is not always weaker than 但是 in every situation.

■ Use the distinction

- 不过 introduces the price qualification to the positive assessment.
- 不过 is often conversational, but its force depends on the argument and tone. It is not always weaker than 但是 in every situation.

■ Try it with help closed

An item is good but costs more than you want. 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: 东西不错，不过有点贵。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 不过 is often conversational, but its force depends on the argument and tone.
- It is not always weaker than 但是 in every situation.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

于是 (thereupon / and so)

■ An event leads to a reaction

- Rain starts and a group responds by returning home.
- 下雨了，于是我们回家了。 – 于是 connects the rain to the subsequent response.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 于是 (thereupon / and so). 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.

下雨了，于是我们回家了。

xià yǔ le yú shì wǒ men huí jiā le

Word guide: 下雨 – rain; 于是 – and so; 我们 – we; 回家 – go home.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 下雨了，于是我们回家了。: 于是 connects the rain to the subsequent response.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- It often advances a narrative, while 所以 commonly expresses a conclusion.
- These functions overlap; 于是 is more than a purely chronological then.

■ Use the distinction

- 于是 connects the rain to the subsequent response.
- It often advances a narrative, while 所以 commonly expresses a conclusion. These functions overlap; 于是 is more than a purely chronological then.

■ Try it with help closed

Rain starts and a group responds by returning home. 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: 下雨了，于是我们回家了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- It often advances a narrative, while 所以 commonly expresses a conclusion.
- These functions overlap; 于是 is more than a purely chronological then.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

还有 (also / and / what's more)

■ Add an item without replacing the first

- You bought books and also pens.
- 我买了书，还有笔。 – 还有 adds pens to the previously named books.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 还有 (also / and / what's more). 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.

我买了书，还有笔。

wǒ mǎi le shū hái yǒu bǐ

Word guide: 我 – I; 买 – buy; 书 – books; 还有 – also; 笔 – pens.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 我买了书，还有笔。: 还有 adds pens to the previously named books.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 还 can also mean remaining or still in other frames.
- Here the added item does not cancel the earlier purchase.

■ Use the distinction

- 还有 adds pens to the previously named books.
- 还 can also mean remaining or still in other frames. Here the added item does not cancel the earlier purchase.

■ Try it with help closed

You bought books and also pens. 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: 我买了书，还有笔。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 还 can also mean remaining or still in other frames.
- Here the added item does not cancel the earlier purchase.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

另外 (besides / in addition)

■ Add a separate issue

- After discussing one matter, you raise one more.
- 另外，我还有一件事。 – 另外 signals a distinct additional point.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 另外 (besides / in addition). 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.

另外，我还有一件事。

lìng wài wǒ hái yǒu yí jiàn shì

Word guide: 另外 – besides; 我 – I; 还 – still; 有 – have; 一 – one; 件 – (measure word); 事 – matter.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 另外, 我还有一件事。: 另外 signals a distinct additional point.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 另外一个 uses the word to identify another item instead.
- The connector does not automatically express opposition to the previous point.

■ Use the distinction

- 另外 signals a distinct additional point.
- 另外一个 uses the word to identify another item instead. The connector does not automatically express opposition to the previous point.

■ Try it with help closed

After discussing one matter, you raise one more. 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: 另外, 我还有一件事。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 另外一个 uses the word to identify another item instead.
- The connector does not automatically express opposition to the previous point.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

再说 (besides / what's more)

■ An extra reason differs from postponing speech

- You reject a purchase because it is expensive and you dislike it.
- 太贵了, 再说我也不喜欢。 – 再说 adds a further reason supporting rejection.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 再说 (besides / what's more). 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.

太贵了, 再说我也不喜欢。

tài guì le zài shuō wǒ yě bù xǐ huan

Word guide: 太 – too; 贵 – expensive; 再说 – besides; 我 – I; 也 – also; 不 – not; 喜欢 – like.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **太贵了，再说我也不喜欢。**：再说 adds a further reason supporting rejection.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 以后再说 instead means discussing it later.
- The whole construction distinguishes the connector from the literal verb phrase.

■ Use the distinction

- 再说 adds a further reason supporting rejection.
- 以后再说 instead means discussing it later. The whole construction distinguishes the connector from the literal verb phrase.

■ Try it with help closed

You reject a purchase because it is expensive and you dislike it. 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: 太贵了，再说我也不喜欢。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 以后再说 instead means discussing it later.
- The whole construction distinguishes the connector from the literal verb phrase.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

可是 / 但是 (two words for “but”)

■ Wanting and availability can conflict

- You want to go but lack time.
- **我想去，但是没时间。** – 但是 connects the desire with an obstacle to fulfilling it.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **可是 / 但是** (two words for “but”). 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.

我想去，但是没时间。

wǒ xiǎng qù dàn shì méi shí jiān

Word guide: 我 – I; 想 – want; 去 – go; 但是 – but; 没 – don’t have; 时间 – time.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **我想去，但是没时间。**: 但是 connects the desire with an obstacle to fulfilling it.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 可是 also fits this ordinary contrast.
- Register preferences do not make one the only correct answer in every but-sentence.

■ Use the distinction

- 但是 connects the desire with an obstacle to fulfilling it.
- 可是 also fits this ordinary contrast. Register preferences do not make one the only correct answer in every but-sentence.

■ Try it with help closed

You want to go but lack time. 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: 我想去，但是没时间。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 可是 also fits this ordinary contrast.
- Register preferences do not make one the only correct answer in every but-sentence.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

而 (whereas / and yet)

■ Compare two preferences without asserting a quarrel

- One person prefers tea and another prefers coffee.
- 他喜欢茶，而我喜欢咖啡。 – 而 balances the contrasting preferences.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 而 (whereas / and yet). 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.

他喜欢茶，而我喜欢咖啡。

tā xǐ huan chá ér wǒ xǐ huan kā fēi

Word guide: 他 – he; 喜欢 – like; 茶 – tea; 而 – whereas; 我 – I; 喜欢 – like; 咖啡 – coffee.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 他喜欢茶，而我喜欢咖啡。: 而 balances the contrasting preferences.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The contrast is between preferences, not proof of an argument.
- 而 can also join an additional description rather than always opposing the first clause.

■ Use the distinction

- 而 balances the contrasting preferences.
- The contrast is between preferences, not proof of an argument. 而 can also join an additional description rather than always opposing the first clause.

■ Try it with help closed

One person prefers tea and another prefers coffee. 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: 他喜欢茶，而我喜欢咖啡。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The contrast is between preferences, not proof of an argument.
- 而 can also join an additional description rather than always opposing the first clause.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

用 / 通过 ... 来 ... (by means of ...)

■ Connect the means to the intended use

- A phone serves as the tool for paying.
- 我们用手机来付钱。 – 来 connects the phone's use with the payment action.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 用 / 通过 ... 来 ... (by means of ...). 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.

我们用手机来付钱。

wǒ men yòng shǒu jī lái fù qián

Word guide: 我们 – we; 用 – use; 手机 – phone; 来 – to; 付钱 – pay.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 我们用手机来付钱。: 来 connects the phone's use with the payment action.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- This 来 is not movement towards the speaker.
- Naming a method does not by itself report successful payment; intentions and results differ.

■ Use the distinction

- 来 connects the phone's use with the payment action.
- This 来 is not movement towards the speaker. Naming a method does not by itself report successful payment; intentions and results differ.

■ Try it with help closed

A phone serves as the tool for paying. 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: 我们用手机来付钱。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- This 来 is not movement towards the speaker.
- Naming a method does not by itself report successful payment; intentions and results differ.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.