# 连词

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

## 不过—a softer "but"

**不过** means "but, however" —the gentlest of the "but" family, lighter and chattier than 但是 / 可是. It often just tacks a small qualification onto something otherwise positive.

**Structure:** ……，不过……

{zh: 这件 |zhè jiàn|this / 衣服 |yī fu|outfit / 我 |wǒ|I / 很 |hěn|really / 喜欢 |xǐ huan|like / ，不过 |bú guò|but / 有点 |yǒu diǎn|a bit / 贵 |guì|pricey / 。}

*I really like this outfit, but it's a bit pricey.*

{zh: 这家 |zhè jiā|this / 餐厅 |cān tīng|restaurant / 我 |wǒ|I / 没 |méi|haven't / 去过 |qù guo|been to / ，不过 |bú guò|but / 听说 |tīng shuō|I hear / 不错 |bú cuò|it's good / 。}

*I've never been to this restaurant, but I hear it's good.*

**Remember: 不过 = the lightest "but"** —不 (not) 过 (get past), a small snag you can't quite step over. Softer than 但是 / 可是, and very conversational.

**Watch out**

- 不过 can also mean "only, merely" in other contexts (不过是个误会, "it's only a misunderstanding").

## 于是—"and so, thereupon"

**于是** chains a cause to the action it **triggers** —"and so, thereupon." The second event follows straight from the first. It's a **storytelling, past-tense** word, usually with 了, and often with 就.

**Structure:** ……，于是……+ 了

{zh: 昨天 |zuó tiān|yesterday / 突然 |tū rán|suddenly / 下雨 |xià yǔ|rained / 了 |le / ，于是 |yú shì|and so / 我们 |wǒ men|we / 取消 |qǔ xiāo|cancelled / 了 |le / 野餐 |yě cān|the picnic / 。}

*It suddenly rained yesterday, so we cancelled the picnic.*

{zh: 票 |piào|the tickets / 卖光 |mài guāng|sold out / 了 |le / ，于是 |yú shì|so / 我们 |wǒ men|we / 买 |mǎi|bought / 了 |le / 黄牛票 |huáng niú piào|scalped tickets / 。}

*The tickets sold out, so we bought scalped ones.*

**Remember: 于是 = past-tense "and so"** —it narrates "X happened, *whereupon* Y followed." For a timeless, logical cause→effect ("because X, therefore Y"), use 所以 / 因此 instead.

**Watch out**

- It belongs to narration of completed events —it pairs with 了 (and often 就), not with future plans.

## 还有—"also, and another thing"

**还有** tacks on a further point as an **afterthought** —"also, plus, and another thing." It tends to open a fresh sentence after a comma or full stop, the spoken "oh, and⋯".

**Structure:** ⋯⋯。还有，⋯⋯

{zh: 你 |nǐ|you / 需要 |xū yào|need to / 吃药 |chī yào|take medicine / 。还有 |hái yǒu|also / ，要 |yào|should / 多 |duō|more / 休息 |xiū xi|rest / 。}

*You need to take medicine. Also, get plenty of rest.*

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 要 |yào|want / 大杯 |dà bēi|a large / ，不要 |bú yào|no / 冰 |bīng|ice / ，还有 |hái yǒu|and / ，少 |shǎo|easy on the / 放 |fàng / 糖 |táng|sugar / 。}

*Large, no ice —and go easy on the sugar.*

**Remember: 还有 = "oh, and also⋯"** —the casual afterthought, literally "still have (more to say)." Order-a-coffee energy: one more thing, then one more.

**Watch out**

- It's informal —for a weightier "in addition," reach for 另外.

## 另外—"in addition, besides"

**另外** brings in a **separate, additional** point —"in addition, besides." It's a notch more formal than 还有 and usually teams up with 还 / 也 in the clause it adds. (It also means "another, separate.")

**Structure:** ⋯⋯。另外，`(Subject)` 还 / 也⋯⋯

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 没 |méi|don't have / 时间 |shí jiān|time / 参加 |cān jiā|to join / 。另外 |lìng wài|besides / ，我 |wǒ|I / 也 |yě|also / 不太 |bú tài|not really / 感兴趣 |gǎn xìng qù|interested / 。}

*I don't have time to join. Besides, I'm not really interested.*

{zh: 这个 |zhè ge|this / 航班 |háng bān|flight / 经常 |jīng cháng|often / 晚点 |wǎn diǎn|delayed / 。另外 |lìng wài|in addition / ，飞机餐 |fēi jī cān|the meals / 也 |yě|also / 很 |hěn|very / 难吃 |nán chī|bad / 。}

*This flight is often late. On top of that, the food is awful too.*

**Remember: 另外 = a SEPARATE extra point** (另 = "other / separate") —more formal than 还有, and it likes a 还 / 也 to echo it. It also means "another (separate) one": 另外一个人.

**Watch out**

- The added clause usually carries 还 / 也—另外，我也⋯, not a bare 另外，我⋯.

# 再说—"besides, what's more"

**再说** piles on an extra, often **clinching** reason to back a decision —"besides, what's more, anyway." It's the "and another thing⋯" that seals the argument.

**Structure:** ⋯⋯，再说⋯⋯

{zh: 太 |tài|too / 远 |yuǎn|far / 了 |le / ，再说 |zài shuō|besides / 我 |wǒ|I / 也 |yě|also / 没 |méi|have no / 时间 |shí jiān|time / 。}

*It's too far —besides, I've no time anyway.*

{zh: 别 |bié|don't / 买 |mǎi|buy it / 了 |le / ，再说 |zài shuō|anyway / 你 |nǐ|you / 也 |yě / 不 |bù|don't / 缺 |quē|need it / 。}

*Don't buy it —anyway, you don't need it.*

**Remember: 再说 = "and what's MORE⋯"** —it adds a reason that clinches what you just said. Don't confuse it with the 再说 in 先⋯再说 ("do X first, deal with it later").

**Watch out**

- It reinforces a *decision* —it adds backing, not just a neutral extra fact.

# 可是 / 但是—"but"

**可是** and **但是** are the bread-and-butter words for "but." 但是 is a shade more **formal** and emphatic; 可是 a touch softer. Otherwise they swap freely, and both happily follow 虽然 ("although").

**Structure:** `Statement ，可是 / 但是 + Contrary Statement`

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 喜欢 |xǐ huan|like / 他 |tā|him / ，可是 |kě shì|but / 他 |tā|he / 不 |bù|doesn't / 喜欢 |xǐ huan|like / 我 |wǒ|me / 。}

*I like him, but he doesn't like me.*

{zh: 这个 |zhè ge|this / 工作 |gōng zuò|job / 很 |hěn|very / 累 |lèi|tiring / ，但是 |dàn shì|but / 我 |wǒ|I / 很 |hěn|really / 喜欢 |xǐ huan|like it / 。}

*This job is tiring, but I really like it.*

**Remember: 但是 = firmer/formal, 可是 = softer/casual** —twins otherwise. Both pair with 虽然 (虽然⋯但是⋯), and Chinese happily keeps *both* halves, unlike English ("Although⋯but⋯" is fine in Chinese).

**Watch out**

- Don't drop the 但是 after 虽然—Chinese likes the matching pair where English uses only one.

## 而—joining contrasting ideas

**而** links two related clauses, often pointing up a **contrast** —"but rather, while, and yet." It's an elegant, semi-written connector. Learn it through its two workhorse frames: **不是 A 而是 B** and **是 A 而不是 B**.

**Structure:** `Sentence 1 + 而 + Sentence 2` · 不是 `A` ， 而是 `B`

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|we / 是 |shì|are / 来 |lái|here to / 办事 |bàn shì|work / 的 |de / ， 而 |ér|not / 不是 |bú shì / 来 |lái|to / 玩 |wán|have fun / 的 |de / 。}

*We're here to work, not to have fun.*

{zh: 后悔 |hòu huǐ|regret it / 的 |de / 人 |rén|the one to / 不是 |bú shì|isn't / 我 |wǒ|me / ， 而是 |ér shì|but / 你 |nǐ|you / 自己 |zì jǐ|yourself / 。}

*The one who'll regret it isn't me —it's you.*

**Remember:** learn **而** through its frames: **不是 A 而是 B** = "not A but (rather) B"; **是 A 而不是 B** = "A, not B." Master those two and most uses of 而 click into place.

**Watch out**

- It's formal/literary in flavour but common in speech too, especially in those set frames.

## 用 / 通过…来 + 动词—"(use X) to do Y"

The **来** here is a tiny bridge from a **method to its purpose** —"(use / by means of X) to do Y." It typically follows 用 or 通过 + a method, then 来 + the goal.

**Structure:** 用 / 通过 `+ Method +` 来 `+ Verb Phrase`

{zh: 很多 |hěn duō|many / 年轻人 |nián qīng rén|young people / 用 |yòng|use / 手机 |shǒu jī|phone / APP / 来 |lái|to / 点 |diǎn|order / 外卖 |wài mài|takeaway / 。}

*Lots of young people use phone apps to order takeaway.*

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|we / 应该 |yīng gāi|should / 想 |xiǎng|find / 办法 |bàn fǎ|a way / 来 |lái|to / 解决 |jiě jué|solve / 这个 |zhè ge|this / 问题 |wèn tí|problem / 。}

*We should find a way to solve this problem.*

**Remember: 来 = "in order to"** —it joins the *means* (用/通过 X) to the *goal* (来 + verb). "Use the app **来** order food." The first half is the how, the 来 half is the why.

**Watch out**

- The 来 is optional but it makes the "so as to" link explicit and natural.