

Particles

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.

Statement + 吗 (yes/no confirmation)

■ Ask without deciding the answer beforehand

- You ask a friend whether they are full after lunch.
- 你吃饱了吗?** – 吗 turns the statement about being full into a yes/no question.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Statement + 吗 (yes/no confirmation)**. 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.

你吃饱了吗?

nǐ chī bǎo le ma

Word guide: 你 – you; 吃饱 – full.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **你吃饱了吗?** : 吗 turns the statement about being full into a yes/no question.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The question need not imply a particular expected answer.
- A direct alternative question such as 喝茶还是咖啡 uses a different form.

■ Use the distinction

- 吗 turns the statement about being full into a yes/no question.
- The question need not imply a particular expected answer. A direct alternative question such as 喝茶还是咖啡 uses a different form.

■ Try it with help closed

You ask a friend whether they are full after lunch. 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: 你吃饱了吗?

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The question need not imply a particular expected answer.
- A direct alternative question such as 喝茶还是咖啡 uses a different form.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

... 吧, ... ; ... 吧, ... (weighing options)

■ Neither option is straightforward

- Going costs time, while declining feels awkward.
- 去吧, 没时间; 不去吧, 不好意思。** – The speaker weighs drawbacks on both sides of the choice.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **... 吧, ... ; ... 吧, ... (weighing options)**. 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.

去吧, 没时间。

qù ba méi shí jiān

Word guide: 去 – go; 没 – no; 时间 – time.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **去吧, 没时间; 不去吧, 不好意思。**: The speaker weighs drawbacks on both sides of the choice.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- Each 吧 floats an option here.
- This is different from an ordinary command or the suggestion 走吧.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker weighs drawbacks on both sides of the choice.
- Each 吧 floats an option here. This is different from an ordinary command or the suggestion 走吧.

■ Try it with help closed

Going costs time, while declining feels awkward. 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: 去吧，没时间；不去吧，不好意思。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Each 吧 floats an option here.
- This is different from an ordinary command or the suggestion 走吧.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Sentence-final 的 (modal: certainty)

■ Reassurance expresses confidence, not proof

- You reassure a worried friend about an improving situation.
- **别担心，会好的。** – Final 的 adds a confident, reassuring tone.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Sentence-final 的 (modal: certainty)**. 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.

别担心，会好的。

bié dān xīn huì hǎo de

Word guide: 别 – don't; 担心 – worry; 会 – will; 好 – fine.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **别担心，会好的。**: Final 的 adds a confident, reassuring tone.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The speaker can still be mistaken.
- This 的 is not the possessive modifier in 我的书.

■ Use the distinction

- Final 的 adds a confident, reassuring tone.
- The speaker can still be mistaken. This 的 is not the possessive modifier in 我的书.

■ Try it with help closed

You reassure a worried friend about an improving situation. 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: 别担心，会好的。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The speaker can still be mistaken.
- This 的 is not the possessive modifier in 我的书.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.