

”But” Statements

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.

尽管 ... , 但是 ... (although)

■ Concede a fact while keeping the conclusion

- Rain did not stop a group from going.
- 尽管下雨，但是我们还是去了。 – The group went despite the conceded rain.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 尽管 ... , 但是 ... (although). 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.

尽管下雨，但是我们还是去了。

jǐn guǎn xià yǔ dàn shì wǒ men hái shì qù le

Word guide: 尽管 – although; 下雨 – rain; 但是 – but; 我们 – we; 还是 – still; 去 – go.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 尽管下雨，但是我们还是去了。: The group went despite the conceded rain.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 尽管 is similar to 虽然 in this frame.
- 尽管 also occurs in permission such as 有问题尽管问, so it is not always a concessive connector.

■ Use the distinction

- The group went despite the conceded rain.
- 尽管 is similar to 虽然 in this frame. 尽管 also occurs in permission such as 有问题尽管问, so it is not always a concessive connector.

■ Try it with help closed

Rain did not stop a group from going. 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: 尽管下雨，但是我们还是去了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 尽管 is similar to 虽然 in this frame.
- 尽管 also occurs in permission such as 有问题尽管问, so it is not always a concessive connector.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

倒 (actually / on the contrary)

■ A contrary opinion can be favourable

- Others criticise an idea, but you find it good.
- 我倒觉得不错。 – 倒 signals a different assessment from the expectation.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 倒 (actually / on the contrary). 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.

我倒觉得不错。

wǒ dào jué de bú cuò

Word guide: 我 – I; 倒 – actually; 觉得 – think; 不错 – not bad.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 我倒觉得不错。: 倒 signals a different assessment from the expectation.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 倒 here is read dào and marks contrast.
- It need not be sarcastic or state an objectively bad result.

■ Use the distinction

- 倒 signals a different assessment from the expectation.
- 倒 here is read dào and marks contrast. It need not be sarcastic or state an objectively bad result.

■ Try it with help closed

Others criticise an idea, but you find it good. 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.

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- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

却 + Predicate (however / yet)

■ A predicate can be an adjective

- Someone is tired but happy.
- 他很累，却很开心。 – 却 marks the contrast before the adjective predicate 很开心.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **却 + Predicate (however / 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.

他很累，却很开心。

tā hěn lèi què hěn kāi xīn

Word guide: 他 – he; 很 – very; 累 – tired; 却 – yet; 很 – very; 开心 – happy.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 他很累，却很开心。: 却 marks the contrast before the adjective predicate 很开心.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- When a subject is expressed in the second clause, 却 normally follows it.
- An omitted repeated subject allows 却 at the start of that clause, as in this example.

■ Use the distinction

- 却 marks the contrast before the adjective predicate 很开心.
- When a subject is expressed in the second clause, 却 normally follows it. An omitted repeated subject allows 却 at the start of that clause, as in this example.

■ Try it with help closed

Someone is tired but happy. 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: 他很累，却很开心。

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- When a subject is expressed in the second clause, 却 normally follows it.
- An omitted repeated subject allows 却 at the start of that clause, as in this example.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.