

# Sentence Patterns

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

## 连 + 动词 + 都 + 不 / 没 + 动词 — “didn’t even”

Repeat a verb around 连…都 + 不 / 没 to stress that the most basic action **didn’t even** happen — “didn’t even ….” Add 就 for “without even …ing, (then) ….”

**Structure:** 连 + Verb + 都 + 不 / 没 + (same) Verb (, 就……)

{zh: 这个人 |zhè ge rén|this person / 我 |wǒ|I / 连 |lián|even / 见 |jiàn|met / 都 |dōu / 没 |méi|haven’t / 见过 |jiàn guo|met / 。 }

*I’ve never even met this person.*

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 连 |lián|even / 说 |shuō|say / 都 |dōu / 不 |bù|didn’t / 说 |shuō|say / 就 |jiù|just / 走 |zǒu|left / 了 |le / 。 }

*He left without even saying a word.*

**Remember:** 连…都 + the verb REPEATED maxes the emphasis 一见都没见过 (“never even met”). Tack on 就 for “without even …ing, then…”: 连问都不问就走了 (“left without even asking”).

### Watch out

- The repeat is what does the work — 连见都没见过, not 连都没见过.

## 为…而… — “for the sake of”

为 A 而 B ties a **purpose** to the action done for it — “do B for the sake of A.” It’s formal; the everyday swap is 为 → 为了. Negate with 不为…而….

**Structure:** Subject + 为 + Goal + 而 + Action

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|we / 为 |wèi|for / 梦想 |mèng xiǎng|our dreams / 而 |ér / 努力 |nǔ lì|strive / 。 }

*We strive for our dreams.*

{zh: 不要 |bú yào|don’t / 为了 |wèi le|for / 别人 |bié rén|other people / 而 |ér / 活 |huó|live / 。 }

*Don’t live for other people.*

**Remember:** 为 (goal) 而 (action) = “for the sake of …, (one) does …”. 而 elegantly bridges the *why* to the *what*. It’s the formal cousin of 为了; in speech you’d more often just say 为了.

### Watch out

- This 为 reads *wèi* (“for”) — the goal comes first, the action after 而.

## 任何 + 名词 + 都 / 也 — “any (at all)”

任何 means “any (at all), whatsoever”; with 都 / 也 it sweeps over **every** case — “any …at all.” It takes no 的, and it’s more emphatic and formal than 什么.

**Structure:** 任何 + Noun + 都 / 也 + Predicate

{zh: 任何 |rèn hé|any / 人 |rén|person / 都 |dōu|at all / 不 |bù|can’t / 能 |néng / 说服 |shuō fú|persuade / 他 |tā|him / 。 }

*No one at all can persuade him.*

{zh: 这里 |zhè lǐ|here / 任何 |rèn hé|any / 车 |chē|vehicle / 都 |dōu|at all / 不 |bù|can’t / 可以 |kě yǐ / 通过 |tōng guò|pass / 。 }

*No vehicle at all may pass here.*

**Remember:** 任何 = emphatic “any whatsoever” + 都 / 也 — and NO 的 (任何人, not 任何的人). It’s the stronger, more formal sibling of 什么 (任何人 hits harder than 谁/什么人).

**Watch out**

- It always wants a 都 / 也 to complete the sweep — 任何人都…, not a bare 任何人….

## 既…又 / 也… — “both …and …”

既 A 又 B stacks two qualities that **both** hold — “both …and ….” A and B should match in form (both adjectives, ideally both the same length). It’s a more formal version of 又…又….

**Structure:** 既 + A + 又 / 也 + B

{zh: 这家 |zhè jiā|this / 餐厅 |cān tīng|restaurant / 既 |jì|both / 便宜 |pián yi|cheap / 又 |yòu|and / 好吃 |hǎo chī|tasty / 。 }

*This restaurant is both cheap and tasty.*

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 做 |zuò|does / 事情 |shì qing|things / 既 |jì|both / 快 |kuài|fast / 又 |yòu|and / 好 |hǎo|well / 。 }

*He does things both quickly and well.*

**Remember:** 既 A 又 B = “both A and B,” and A and B should **MATCH** (same length/type) — 既便宜又好吃, 既快又好. It’s the dressed-up 又…又…; 既 opens, 又 / 也 follows.

**Watch out**

- Mismatched halves read awkwardly — keep A and B parallel (both two-syllable, both adjectives).

## 在…上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边—locations

在 + place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边 says **where** something sits relative to an object. The position word comes **after** the place noun —English "on the table" becomes 在桌子上 ("at table-on"). Big places (countries, cities) need no position word.

**Structure:** 在 + Location + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边

{zh: 你 |nǐ|your / 的 |de / 手机 |shǒu jī|phone / 在 |zài|is in / 包 |bāo|the bag / 里 |lǐ / 吗 |ma / ? }

*Is your phone in the bag?*

{zh: 超市 |chāo shì|the supermarket / 在 |zài|is / 我家 |wǒ jiā|my house / 旁边 |páng biān|next to / 。 }

*The supermarket is next to my house.*

**Remember: the position word comes AFTER the place** —在桌子上, 在包里, 在床下—the mirror of English "on/in the …". And **big places take no position word:** 在中国 (never 在中国里).

### Watch out

- A bare 在桌子 is incomplete —you need the 上 / 里 / 下 to anchor it.