

Not only... but also...

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.

不但 / 不仅 ... , 而且 / 还 / 也 ... (not only ... but also)

■ Add another fact without making it stronger

- A person speaks Chinese and also English.
- 他不但会中文，还会英文。 – The second ability is added to the first.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 不但 / 不仅 ... , 而且 / 还 / 也 ... (not only ... but also). 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.

他不但会中文，还会英文。

tā bú dàn huì Zhōng wén hái huì Yīng wén

Word guide: 他 – he; 不但 – not only; 会 – can; 中文 – Chinese; 还 – also; 会 – can; 英文 – English.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 他不但会中文，还会英文。: The second ability is added to the first.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The added point need not be stronger or more positive.
- 而且, 还 and 也 require suitable word order and are not freely swapped in every sentence position.

■ Use the distinction

- The second ability is added to the first.
- The added point need not be stronger or more positive. 而且, 还 and 也 require suitable word order and are not freely swapped in every sentence position.

■ Try it with help closed

A person speaks Chinese and also English. 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: 他不但会中文，还会英文。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The added point need not be stronger or more positive.
- 而且, 还 and 也 require suitable word order and are not freely swapped in every sentence position.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.