

Adverbs

HSK 6 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.

Verb + 得 + 倒 + Adj (a pointed note)

■ A suggestion meets a practical obstacle

- A friend says that moving all the desks will be easy, but has not offered to help.
- 你说得倒容易，谁来搬呢？ – The speaker challenges the easy claim by asking who will do the work.

A suggestion meets a practical obstacle

SITUATION

A friend says that moving all the desks will be easy, but has not offered to help.

SPEAKER MEANING

The speaker challenges the easy claim by asking who will do the work.

CHECK THE LIMIT

倒 can mark a contrast with an expectation; it does not force every following compliment to be sarcastic.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- Verb + 得 + 倒 + Adj (a pointed note): 你说得倒轻松!; 他想得倒美。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

你说得倒容易。

nǐ shuō de dào róng yì

Word guide: 你 – you; 说 – say; 倒 – (actually); 容易 – easy.

- In the opening situation: 你说得倒容易，谁来搬呢？
- The speaker challenges the easy claim by asking who will do the work.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 倒 can mark a contrast with an expectation; it does not force every following compliment to be sarcastic.
- 你做得倒不错 can be sincere surprise.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 你说倒得容易 needs repair here. Write 你说得倒容易 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The speaker challenges the easy claim by asking who will do the work. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 倒 can mark a contrast with an expectation; it does not force every following compliment to be sarcastic. 你做得倒不错 can be sincere surprise.

■ Try it with help closed

A friend says that moving all the desks will be easy, but has not offered to help. 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: 你说得倒容易，谁来搬呢？

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 倒 can mark a contrast with an expectation; it does not force every following compliment to be sarcastic.
- 你做得倒不错 can be sincere surprise.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

很是 + Adj (a formal “very”)

■ Choose the voice of a written report

- A report describes the team's reaction after the results arrive.
- 大家对结果很是满意。 – The report expresses strong satisfaction in a slightly literary voice.

Choose the voice of a written report

SITUATION

A report describes the team's reaction after the results arrive.

SPEAKER MEANING

The report expresses strong satisfaction in a slightly literary voice.

CHECK THE LIMIT

Plain 很满意 works in ordinary conversation.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- **很是 + Adj (a formal “very”):** 大家很是高兴。; 老师对他的进步很是满意。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

大家很是高兴。

dà jiā hěn shì gāo xìng

Word guide: 大家 – everyone; 很是 – very; 高兴 – pleased.

- In the opening situation: 大家对结果很是满意。
- The report expresses strong satisfaction in a slightly literary voice.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- Plain 很满意 works in ordinary conversation.
- 大家是很高兴 can also be grammatical: 是 stresses agreement, often before a contrast.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 大家很是了满意 needs repair here. Write 大家很是满意 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The report expresses strong satisfaction in a slightly literary voice. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- Plain 很满意 works in ordinary conversation. 大家是很高兴 can also be grammatical: 是 stresses agreement, often before a contrast.

■ Try it with help closed

A report describes the team's reaction after the results arrive. 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: 大家对结果很是满意。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Plain 很满意 works in ordinary conversation.
- 大家是很高兴 can also be grammatical: 是 stresses agreement, often before a contrast.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

足足 + Amount (a full / as much as)

■ A short wait feels unexpectedly long

- You expected a ten-minute queue but waited two hours.
- 我们足足等了两个小时。 – 足足 presents the full two hours as a notable amount.

A short wait feels unexpectedly long

SITUATION

You expected a ten-minute queue but waited two hours.

SPEAKER MEANING

足足 presents the full two hours as a notable amount.

CHECK THE LIMIT

The speaker's expectation matters, not an absolute minimum number.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 足足 + Amount (a full / as much as): 我们足足等了两个小时。; 这条鱼足足有五斤重。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

我足足等了一个小时。

wǒ zú zú děng le yí ge xiǎo shí

Word guide: 我 – I; 足足 – a full; 等 – wait; 一 – one; 个 – (measure word); 小时 – hour.

- In the opening situation: 我们足足等了两个小时。
- 足足 presents the full two hours as a notable amount.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- The speaker's expectation matters, not an absolute minimum number.
- 足足十秒 can feel long when a screen should respond immediately.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 足了足等两个小时 needs repair here. Write 足足等了两个小时 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- 足足 presents the full two hours as a notable amount. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- The speaker's expectation matters, not an absolute minimum number. 足足十秒 can feel long when a screen should respond immediately.

■ Try it with help closed

You expected a ten-minute queue but waited two hours. 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: 我们足足等了两个小时。

- 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's expectation matters, not an absolute minimum number.
- 足足十秒 can feel long when a screen should respond immediately.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

一再 + Verb (again and again)

■ A warning is repeated before departure

- A leader has reminded the group several times to check their equipment.
- 老师一再提醒我们检查装备。 – The reminder has been repeated; this is more than one new reminder.

A warning is repeated before departure

SITUATION

A leader has reminded the group several times to check their equipment.

SPEAKER MEANING

The reminder has been repeated; this is more than one new reminder.

CHECK THE LIMIT

一再 does not mean exactly two or three times.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 一再 + Verb (again and again): 他一再强调这一点。; 我一再提醒过你。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

他一再强调安全。

tā yí zài qiáng diào ān quán

Word guide: 他 – he; 一再 – repeatedly; 强调 – stress; 安全 – safety.

- In the opening situation: 老师一再提醒我们检查装备。
- The reminder has been repeated; this is more than one new reminder.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 一再 does not mean exactly two or three times.
- 又提醒了一次 names one additional occurrence; 一再提醒 summarises a recurring action.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 一了再提醒我们 needs repair here. Write 一再提醒我们 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The reminder has been repeated; this is more than one new reminder. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 一再 does not mean exactly two or three times. 又提醒了一次 names one additional occurrence; 一再提醒 summarises a recurring action.

■ Try it with help closed

A leader has reminded the group several times to check their equipment. 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: 老师一再提醒我们检查装备。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 一再 does not mean exactly two or three times.
- 又提醒了一次 names one additional occurrence; 一再提醒 summarises a recurring action.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

凡是 ... 都 (all / any without exception)

■ Who qualifies for the same benefit?

- A club notice gives a certificate to every person who completes the course.
- 凡是完成课程的人，都能领取证书。 – Completing the course defines the group; every member qualifies.

Who qualifies for the same benefit?

SITUATION

A club notice gives a certificate to every person who completes the course.

SPEAKER MEANING

Completing the course defines the group; every member qualifies.

CHECK THE LIMIT

The group may be defined by a whole clause, not just a bare noun.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 凡是 ... 都 (all / any without exception): 凡是去过的人，都说好。; 凡是他说的话，我都记得。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

凡是学生都可以参加。

fán shì xué shēng dōu kě yǐ cān jiā

Word guide: 凡是 – all; 学生 – students; 都 – all; 可以 – may; 参加 – take part.

- In the opening situation: 凡是完成课程的人，都能领取证书。
- Completing the course defines the group; every member qualifies.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- The group may be defined by a whole clause, not just a bare noun.
- 凡是报名的人 does not include people who never registered.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 凡是了完成课程的人 needs repair here. Write 凡是完成课程的人 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- Completing the course defines the group; every member qualifies. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- The group may be defined by a whole clause, not just a bare noun. 凡是报名的人 does not include people who never registered.

■ Try it with help closed

A club notice gives a certificate to every person who completes the course. 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: 凡是完成课程的人，都能领取证书。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The group may be defined by a whole clause, not just a bare noun.
- 凡是报名的人 does not include people who never registered.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

向来 (always / all along)

■ A reliable colleague has one unusual day

- A colleague is normally punctual, but today has not arrived.
- 他向来准时，今天怎么还没来？ – The speaker contrasts his established record with today's exception.

A reliable colleague has one unusual day

SITUATION

A colleague is normally punctual, but today has not arrived.

SPEAKER MEANING

The speaker contrasts his established record with today's exception.

CHECK THE LIMIT

A long-standing habit can be followed by an exception.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 向来 (always / all along): 他向来守时。; 这家店向来生意很好。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

他向来准时。

tā xiàng lái zhǔn shí

Word guide: 他 – he; 向来 – always; 准时 – punctual.

- In the opening situation: 他向来准时，今天怎么还没来？
- The speaker contrasts his established record with today's exception.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- A long-standing habit can be followed by an exception.
- 向来准时 does not make 今天迟到 grammatically impossible.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 向了来准时 needs repair here. Write 向来准时 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The speaker contrasts his established record with today's exception. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- A long-standing habit can be followed by an exception. 向来准时 does not make 今天迟到 grammatically impossible.

■ Try it with help closed

A colleague is normally punctual, but today has not arrived. 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: 他向来准时，今天怎么还没来？

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- A long-standing habit can be followed by an exception.
- 向来准时 does not make 今天迟到 grammatically impossible.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

果然 (sure enough / as expected)

■ A forecast is confirmed by observation

- The forecast predicted afternoon rain. Rain starts after lunch.
- 天气预报说有雨，下午果然下雨了。 – The event confirms the forecast the speaker already knew.

A forecast is confirmed by observation

SITUATION

The forecast predicted afternoon rain. Rain starts after lunch.

SPEAKER MEANING

The event confirms the forecast the speaker already knew.

CHECK THE LIMIT

居然 would highlight surprise instead.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 果然 (sure enough / as expected): 天气预报说有雨，下午果然下了。；他说会赢，果然赢了。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

我说会下雨，果然下了。

wǒ shuō huì xià yǔ guǒ rán xià le

Word guide: 我 – I; 说 – said; 会 – would; 下雨 – rain; 果然 – sure enough; 下 – fell.

- In the opening situation: 天气预报说有雨，下午果然下雨了。
- The event confirms the forecast the speaker already knew.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 居然 would highlight surprise instead.
- An event is not inherently 果然: the same rain may confirm one person's forecast and surprise another person.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 下午下雨了果然 needs repair here. Write 下午果然下雨了 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The event confirms the forecast the speaker already knew. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 居然 would highlight surprise instead. An event is not inherently 果然: the same rain may confirm one person's forecast and surprise another person.

■ Try it with help closed

The forecast predicted afternoon rain. Rain starts 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: 天气预报说有雨，下午果然下雨了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 居然 would highlight surprise instead.
- An event is not inherently 果然: the same rain may confirm one person's forecast and surprise another person.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

似乎 (it seems / as if)

■ Read a face without claiming certainty

- A colleague is quiet and frowning. You do not know the reason.
- 他似乎不太高兴。 – The speaker cautiously interprets observable behaviour.

Read a face without claiming certainty

SITUATION

A colleague is quiet and frowning. You do not know the reason.

SPEAKER MEANING

The speaker cautiously interprets observable behaviour.

CHECK THE LIMIT

似乎 does not prove the mood or its cause.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 似乎 (it seems / as if): 他似乎不太高兴。; 这个名字我似乎在哪儿听过。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

他似乎不太高兴。

tā sì hū bú tài gāo xìng

Word guide: 他 – he; 似乎 – seems; 不 – not; 太 – very; 高兴 – happy.

- In the opening situation: 他似乎不太高兴。
- The speaker cautiously interprets observable behaviour.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 似乎 does not prove the mood or its cause.
- 似乎很高兴 is equally possible when the observed signs suggest happiness.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 他不太高兴似乎 needs repair here. Write 他似乎不太高兴 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The speaker cautiously interprets observable behaviour. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 似乎 does not prove the mood or its cause. 似乎很高兴 is equally possible when the observed signs suggest happiness.

■ Try it with help closed

A colleague is quiet and frowning. You do not know the reason. 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: 他似乎不太高兴。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 似乎 does not prove the mood or its cause.
- 似乎很高兴 is equally possible when the observed signs suggest happiness.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

偏偏 (of all things / just had to)

■ Rain arrives at the inconvenient moment

- You planned an outdoor event for the only free afternoon, and rain begins then.
- 偏偏这时候下雨。 – The timing clashes with the speaker's plan.

Rain arrives at the inconvenient moment

SITUATION

You planned an outdoor event for the only free afternoon, and rain begins then.

SPEAKER MEANING

The timing clashes with the speaker's plan.

CHECK THE LIMIT

偏偏 also marks deliberate opposition, as in 让他别去, 他偏偏要去.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 偏偏 (of all things / just had to): 我让他别去, 他偏偏要去。; 早不下晚不下, 偏偏这时候下雨。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

我让他别去，他偏偏要去。

wǒ ràng tā bié qù tā piān piān yào qù

Word guide: 我 – I; 让 – told; 他 – him; 别 – don't; 去 – go; 他 – he; 偏偏 – just had to; 要 – insist; 去 – go.

- In the opening situation: 偏偏这时候下雨。
- The timing clashes with the speaker's plan.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 偏偏 also marks deliberate opposition, as in 让他别去，他偏偏要去。
- It does not itself identify whether the clash was accidental or intentional.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 偏了偏这时候下雨 needs repair here. Write 偏偏这时候下雨 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The timing clashes with the speaker's plan. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 偏偏 also marks deliberate opposition, as in 让他别去，他偏偏要去。 It does not itself identify whether the clash was accidental or intentional.

■ Try it with help closed

You planned an outdoor event for the only free afternoon, and rain begins then. 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: 偏偏这时候下雨。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 偏偏 also marks deliberate opposition, as in 让他别去，他偏偏要去。
- It does not itself identify whether the clash was accidental or intentional.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

再 + Adj + 也 (however ..., still ...)

■ A rule survives even extreme busyness

- Someone suggests skipping lunch to finish work. You insist on a break.
- 再忙也要吃饭。 – Eating remains necessary however busy the person becomes.

A rule survives even extreme busyness

SITUATION

Someone suggests skipping lunch to finish work. You insist on a break.

SPEAKER MEANING

Eating remains necessary however busy the person becomes.

CHECK THE LIMIT

This 再 means even at a greater degree, not doing the action again.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 再 + Adj + 也 (however ..., still ...): 再忙也要吃饭。; 再难也要坚持下去。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

再忙也要吃饭。

zài máng yě yào chī fàn

Word guide: 再 – however; 忙 – busy; 也 – still; 要 – must; 吃饭 – eat.

- In the opening situation: 再忙也要吃饭。
- Eating remains necessary however busy the person becomes.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- This 再 means even at a greater degree, not doing the action again.
- 再吃一口 uses a different meaning of 再.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 再忙也了要吃饭 needs repair here. Write 再忙也要吃饭 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- Eating remains necessary however busy the person becomes. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- This 再 means even at a greater degree, not doing the action again. 再吃一口 uses a different meaning of 再.

■ Try it with help closed

Someone suggests skipping lunch to finish work. You insist on a break. 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: 再忙也要吃饭。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- This 再 means even at a greater degree, not doing the action again.
- 再吃一口 uses a different meaning of 再.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

一律 (uniformly / without exception)

■ Read the scope of a shop notice

- A notice says that every item in the clearance area has the same discount.
- 清仓区的商品一律打八折。 – The uniform rule applies to goods in the named area.

Read the scope of a shop notice

SITUATION

A notice says that every item in the clearance area has the same discount.

SPEAKER MEANING

The uniform rule applies to goods in the named area.

CHECK THE LIMIT

打八折 means paying 80% of the price, a 20% reduction.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 一律 (uniformly / without exception): 店内商品一律八折。; 会议期间手机一律关机。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

商品一律打八折。

shāng pǐn yí lǚ dǎ bā zhé

Word guide: 商品 – goods; 一律 – uniformly; 打八折 – 20% off.

- In the opening situation: 清仓区的商品一律打八折。
- The uniform rule applies to goods in the named area.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 打八折 means paying 80% of the price, a 20% reduction.
- 一律 covers its stated group, so this notice says nothing about items outside the area.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 一了律打八折 needs repair here. Write 一律打八折 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The uniform rule applies to goods in the named area. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 打八折 means paying 80% of the price, a 20% reduction. 一律 covers its stated group, so this notice says nothing about items outside the area.

■ Try it with help closed

A notice says that every item in the clearance area has the same discount. 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: 清仓区的商品一律打八折。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 打八折 means paying 80% of the price, a 20% reduction.
- 一律 covers its stated group, so this notice says nothing about items outside the area.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

无非 (nothing but / merely)

■ A simple motive replaces a dramatic guess

- Someone suspects a complicated plan. A friend offers a simpler explanation.
- 他无非是想帮你。 – The friend reduces the motive to wanting to help.

A simple motive replaces a dramatic guess

SITUATION

Someone suspects a complicated plan. A friend offers a simpler explanation.

SPEAKER MEANING

The friend reduces the motive to wanting to help.

CHECK THE LIMIT

This is the speaker's interpretation, not proof of the person's real intention.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 无非 (nothing but / merely): 他这么做, 无非是想帮你。; 大家聊的无非是工作和孩子。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

他无非是想帮你。

tā wú fēi shì xiǎng bāng nǐ

Word guide: 他 – he; 无非 – merely; 是 – is; 想 – want; 帮 – help; 你 – you.

- In the opening situation: 他无非是想帮你。
- The friend reduces the motive to wanting to help.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- This is the speaker's interpretation, not proof of the person's real intention.
- 无非 can describe more than one item: 无非是工作和学习。

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 无了非是想帮你 needs repair here. Write 无非是想帮你 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The friend reduces the motive to wanting to help. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- This is the speaker's interpretation, not proof of the person's real intention. 无非 can describe more than one item: 无非是工作和学习.

■ Try it with help closed

Someone suspects a complicated plan. A friend offers a simpler explanation. 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: 他无非是想帮你。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- This is the speaker's interpretation, not proof of the person's real intention.
- 无非 can describe more than one item: 无非是工作和学习.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

一向 (all along / consistently)

■ A standing preference differs from one meal

- A friend has disliked sweet food for years, not just today.
- 她一向不喜欢甜食。 – The sentence summarises a stable preference across occasions.

A standing preference differs from one meal

SITUATION

A friend has disliked sweet food for years, not just today.

SPEAKER MEANING

The sentence summarises a stable preference across occasions.

CHECK THE LIMIT

一直不喜欢甜食 can also express a lasting preference.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 一向 (all along / consistently): 张老师一向要求严格。; 他一向不喝酒。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

他一向很努力。

tā yí xiàng hěn nǚ lì

Word guide: 他 – he; 一向 – all along; 很 – very; 努力 – hard-working.

- In the opening situation: 她一向不喜欢甜食。
- The sentence summarises a stable preference across occasions.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 一直不喜欢甜食 can also express a lasting preference.
- 一向 is not restricted to people: 这里的 service 一向很好 describes service quality.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 一了向不喜欢甜食 needs repair here. Write 一向不喜欢甜食 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The sentence summarises a stable preference across occasions. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 一直不喜欢甜食 can also express a lasting preference. 一向 is not restricted to people: 这里的 service 一向很好 describes service quality.

■ Try it with help closed

A friend has disliked sweet food for years, not just today. 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: 她一向不喜欢甜食。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 一直不喜欢甜食 can also express a lasting preference.
- 一向 is not restricted to people: 这里的 service 一向很好 describes service quality.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

到时候 (when the time comes)

■ Set a reminder for a known event

- A trip starts next Friday. You will send the meeting point nearer departure.
- 下周五出发, 到时候我把地点发给你。 – The departure provides the time to which 到时候 refers.

Set a reminder for a known event

SITUATION

A trip starts next Friday.
You will send the meeting
point nearer departure.

SPEAKER MEANING

The departure provides the
time to which 到时候 refers.

CHECK THE LIMIT

A reader needs a recoverable
event or time.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 到时候 (when the time comes): 别急, 到时候我提醒你。; 先准备好, 到时候就不慌了。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

别急, 到时候再说。

bié jí dào shí hòu zài shuō

Word guide: 别 – don't; 急 – worry; 到时候 – when the time comes; 再 – then; 说 – talk.

- In the opening situation: 下周五出发, 到时候我把地点发给你。
- The departure provides the time to which 到时候 refers.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- A reader needs a recoverable event or time.
- 到时候 does not always mean postponing a decision; it can schedule a definite action.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 到时候我提醒你 needs repair here. Write 到时候我提醒你 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The departure provides the time to which 到时候 refers. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- A reader needs a recoverable event or time. 到时候 does not always mean postponing a decision; it can schedule a definite action.

■ Try it with help closed

A trip starts next Friday. You will send the meeting point nearer departure. 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: 下周五出发，到时候我把地点发给你。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- A reader needs a recoverable event or time.
- 到时候 does not always mean postponing a decision; it can schedule a definite action.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

何必 (why bother / no need)

■ An unnecessary trip is challenged

- A friend wants to travel across town for a book that can be borrowed next door.
- 楼下就能借到，何必跑那么远？ – The speaker argues that the distant trip is unnecessary.

An unnecessary trip is challenged

SITUATION

A friend wants to travel across town for a book that can be borrowed next door.

SPEAKER MEANING

The speaker argues that the distant trip is unnecessary.

CHECK THE LIMIT

何必 asks rhetorically about necessity.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- **何必 (why bother / no need):** 何必这么客气?; 事情已经过去了, 何必再提?
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

你何必这么客气。

nǐ hé bì zhè me kè qì

Word guide: 你 – you; 何必 – why bother; 这么 – so; 客气 – polite.

- In the opening situation: **楼下就能借到, 何必跑那么远?**
- The speaker argues that the distant trip is unnecessary.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 何必 asks rhetorically about necessity.
- It can sound critical, not always gentle. 为什么跑那么远 can genuinely request the person's reason.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form **何了必跑那么远** needs repair here. Write **何必跑那么远** instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The speaker argues that the distant trip is unnecessary. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 何必 asks rhetorically about necessity. It can sound critical, not always gentle. 为什么跑那么远 can genuinely request the person's reason.

■ Try it with help closed

A friend wants to travel across town for a book that can be borrowed next door. 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: 楼下就能借到，何必跑那么远？

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 何必 asks rhetorically about necessity.
- It can sound critical, not always gentle. 为什么跑那么远 can genuinely request the person's reason.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.