

Conjunctions

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

以免 + 动词短语 — “so as to avoid, lest”

以免 introduces an **unwanted outcome to prevent** — “so as to avoid, in order not to, lest.” (It’s a shortened 以便避免.) The first clause gives a warning; the 以免 clause names the bad result. It needs a **complete verb phrase**, not a bare word.

Structure: Action , 以免 + Undesirable Result

{zh: 这儿 |zhèr|there are / 有 |yǒu / 高压电线 |gāo yā diàn xiàn|high-voltage wires here / , 请 |qǐng|please / 不要 |bú yào|don’t / 靠近 |kào jìn|go near / , 以免 |yǐ miǎn|lest / 发生 |fā shēng|something / 危险 |wēi xiǎn|dangerous happen / 。 }

There are high-voltage wires — please keep away, lest something dangerous happen.

{zh: 你 |nǐ|you / 赶紧 |gǎn jǐn|hurry up and / 走 |zǒu|go / , 以免 |yǐ miǎn|so as not to / 晚 |wǎn|be late / 了 |le / 。 }

Hurry up and go, so you’re not late.

Remember: 以免 = 以 (“so as to”) + 免 (“avoid”) = “lest / so as to avoid.” The 以免 clause names the *bad* thing you’re heading off (小心点, 以免出事). It needs a full verb phrase: 以免晚了 ✓, not 以免晚.

Watch out

- It always introduces the *unwanted* outcome — for a *wanted* purpose, use 以便 (“so as to”).

以及 — “as well as, and”

以及 links **nouns or phrases** (chiefly in writing), often appending less-central items at the end — “as well as, along with, and.” The part **before** 以及 is usually the main one. It can also join clauses. It’s more formal than 和.

Structure: A、B 以及 C

{zh: 听觉 |tīng jué|hearing / 、 视觉 |shì jué|sight / 以及 |yǐ jí|as well as / 触觉 |chù jué|touch / 都 |dōu|are all / 属于 |shǔ yú / 感官 |gǎn guān|senses / 。 }

Hearing, sight, as well as touch are all senses.

{zh: 院子里 |yuàn zi lǐ|the yard / 种着 |zhòng zhe|has growing / 玫瑰 |méi gui|roses / 、 茉莉 |mò lì|jasmine / 以及 |yǐ jí|and / 其他 |qí tā|other / 花草 |huā cǎo|plants /

。 }

The yard has roses, jasmine, and other plants.

Remember: 以及 = a formal “and / as well as,” with the **MAIN** items **before it** and secondary ones after (玫瑰、茉莉 以及其他花草). More formal than 和, and it can also join clauses.

Watch out

- Put the central items *before* 以及 — what follows reads as an add-on.

总之 — “in short, in a word”

总之 **sums up** what came before — “in short, in a word, all in all.” It introduces a wrapping-up conclusion.

Structure: (……,) 总之, ……

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 经常 |jīng cháng|often / 迟到 |chí dào|late / , 工作 |gōng zuò|with work / 也 |yě|also / 不 |bù|not / 负责 |fù zé|responsible / , 总之 |zǒng zhī|in short / , 公司 |gōng sī|the firm / 必须 |bì xū|must / 解雇 |jiě gù|let go of / 他 |tā|him / 。 }

He’s often late and not responsible — in short, the firm has to let him go.

{zh: 不管 |bù guǎn|whatever / 理由 |lǐ yóu|reason / 是 |shì / 什么 |shén me / , 总之 |zǒng zhī|in short / 我 |wǒ|I / 不会 |bú huì|won’t / 再 |zài|again / 相信 |xiāng xìn|trust / 他 |tā|him / 了 |le / 。 }

Whatever his reasons, in short I won’t trust him again.

Remember: 总之 = 总 (“sum up”) + 之 = “in a word, to sum up.” It gathers the scattered points into one bottom line — the verbal “long story short.”

Watch out

- It needs preceding points to gather — it caps an argument, it doesn’t open one.

则 — “whereas, while (contrast)”

则 marks a **contrast between two clauses** — “whereas, while” (the same idea as 却). It’s formal and written, sits at the head of the second clause’s predicate, and often appears with 而.

Structure: Clause 1 , (而) + Subject + 则 + Predicate

{zh: 南方人 |nán fāng rén|southerners / 喜欢 |xǐ huan|like / 吃 |chī|eating / 甜 |tián|sweet / 的 |de / , 北方人 |běi fāng rén|northerners / 则 |zé|whereas / 喜欢 |xǐ huan|like / 吃 |chī|eating / 咸 |xián|salty / 的 |de / 。 }

Southerners like sweet food, whereas northerners like salty.

{zh: 我 |wǒ|my / 老婆 |lǎo po|wife / 习惯 |xí guàn|is used to / 乡村 |xiāng cūn|country / 生活 |shēng huó|life / , 我 |wǒ|I / 则 |zé|whereas / 习惯 |xí guàn|am used to / 城市 |chéng shì|city / 生活 |shēng huó|life / 。 }

My wife is used to country life, whereas I'm used to the city.

Remember: 则 = formal “whereas” — it heads the *second* clause’s predicate (北方人则 ...) to set two cases side by side. It often pairs with 而 (而 ... 则 ...). Same contrast as 却, dressier register.

Watch out

- It sits after the second subject, before the verb — 北方人则喜欢 ..., not 则北方人 ...