

Conjunctions

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.

以免 (so as to avoid)

■ Choose a purpose that avoids trouble

- A form asks you to check the address before sending a parcel.
- 请核对地址，以免寄错。** – Checking is the precaution; sending to the wrong place is the avoided outcome.

Choose a purpose that avoids trouble

SITUATION

A form asks you to check the address before sending a parcel.

SPEAKER MEANING

Checking is the precaution; sending to the wrong place is the avoided outcome.

CHECK THE LIMIT

以免寄错 does not assert that a mistake has already happened.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 以免 (so as to avoid):** 早点出发，以免堵车。; 多穿点，以免感冒。
- 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

早点走，以免堵车。

zǎo diǎn zǒu yǐ miǎn dǔ chē

Word guide: 早点 – earlier; 走 – leave; 以免 – so as to avoid; 堵车 – traffic.

- In the opening situation: **请核对地址，以免寄错。**
- Checking is the precaution; sending to the wrong place is the avoided outcome.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 以免寄错 does not assert that a mistake has already happened.
- Avoid adding a negative automatically: 以免不小心寄错 includes 不小心, but 以免不寄错 reverses the intended risk.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form **请核对地址，寄错以免** needs repair here. Write **请核对地址，以免寄错** 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

- Checking is the precaution; sending to the wrong place is the avoided outcome. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 以免寄错 does not assert that a mistake has already happened. Avoid adding a negative automatically: 以免不小心寄错 includes 不小心, but 以免不寄错 reverses the intended risk.

■ Try it with help closed

A form asks you to check the address before sending a parcel. 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: 请核对地址，以免寄错。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 以免寄错 does not assert that a mistake has already happened.
- Avoid adding a negative automatically: 以免不小心寄错 includes 不小心, but 以免不寄错 reverses the intended risk.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

以及 (as well as / and)

■ A list adds a final item

- A meeting discusses price, quality and after-sales service.
- 会议讨论了价格、质量以及售后服务。** – 以及 links the final named topic to the preceding topics.

A list adds a final item

SITUATION

A meeting discusses price, quality and after-sales service.

SPEAKER MEANING

以及 links the final named topic to the preceding topics.

CHECK THE LIMIT

The final item need not be broader or more important.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- **以及 (as well as / and):** 老师、学生以及家长都来了。; 会议讨论了价格、质量以及售后服务。
- 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

老师、学生以及家长都来了。

lǎo shī xué shēng yǐ jí jiā zhǎng dōu lái le

Word guide: 老师 – teachers; 学生 – students; 以及 – as well as; 家长 – parents; 都 – all; 来 – come.

- In the opening situation: **会议讨论了价格、质量以及售后服务。**
- 以及 links the final named topic to the preceding topics.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- The final item need not be broader or more important.
- 北京、上海以及广州 simply joins three cities. Use commas or 、 to keep the groups readable.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 老师、学生以及了家长 needs repair here. Write 老师、学生以及家长 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

- 以及 links the final named topic to the preceding topics. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- The final item need not be broader or more important. 北京、上海以及广州 simply joins three cities. Use commas or 、 to keep the groups readable.

■ Try it with help closed

A meeting discusses price, quality and after-sales service. 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: 会议讨论了价格、质量以及售后服务。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The final item need not be broader or more important.
- 北京、上海以及广州 simply joins three cities. Use commas or 、 to keep the groups readable.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

总之 (in short / in a word)

■ A summary must follow the evidence

- An event stayed within budget, started on time and received good feedback.
- **总之, 这次活动很成功。** – The sentence draws together the preceding evaluation.

A summary must follow the evidence

SITUATION

An event stayed within budget, started on time and received good feedback.

SPEAKER MEANING

The sentence draws together the preceding evaluation.

CHECK THE LIMIT

总之 does not prevent later detail.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- **总之 (in short / in a word):** 总之, 这次活动很成功。; 衣服、书、药, 总之该带的都带了。
- 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

总之, 我们要努力。

zǒng zhī wǒ men yào nǔ lì

Word guide: 总之 – in short; 我们 – we; 要 – must; 努力 – work hard.

- In the opening situation: **总之, 这次活动很成功。**

- The sentence draws together the preceding evaluation.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 总之 does not prevent later detail.
- A writer may state a summary and then explain it; the issue is whether the summary is justified by the earlier points.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 总之，这次活动很成功 needs repair here. Write 总之，这次活动很成功 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 draws together the preceding evaluation. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 总之 does not prevent later detail. A writer may state a summary and then explain it; the issue is whether the summary is justified by the earlier points.

■ Try it with help closed

An event stayed within budget, started on time and received good feedback. 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: 总之，这次活动很成功。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 总之 does not prevent later detail.
- A writer may state a summary and then explain it; the issue is whether the summary is justified by the earlier points.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

则 (while / whereas – formal contrast)

■ Compare two preferences in parallel

- Two siblings choose different activities for the weekend.
- 哥哥喜欢运动, 弟弟则喜欢读书。 – 则 marks the second preference as a comparison with the first.

Compare two preferences in parallel

SITUATION

Two siblings choose different activities for the weekend.

SPEAKER MEANING

则 marks the second preference as a comparison with the first.

CHECK THE LIMIT

The two clauses need clear corresponding subjects or topics.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 则 (while / whereas – formal contrast): 南方多雨, 北方则比较干燥。; 哥哥爱运动, 弟弟则喜欢安静。
- 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

哥哥爱运动, 弟弟则爱读书。

gē ge ài yùn dòng dì dì zé ài dú shū

Word guide: 哥哥 – older brother; 爱 – love; 运动 – sports; 弟弟 – younger brother; 则 – while; 爱 – love; 读书 – reading.

- In the opening situation: 哥哥喜欢运动, 弟弟则喜欢读书。
- 则 marks the second preference as a comparison with the first.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- The two clauses need clear corresponding subjects or topics.
- 则 also occurs in conditional writing, such as 不进则退; it is not always translated as whereas.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 弟弟喜欢读书则 needs repair here. Write 弟弟则喜欢读书 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

- 则 marks the second preference as a comparison with the first. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- The two clauses need clear corresponding subjects or topics. 则 also occurs in conditional writing, such as 不进则退; it is not always translated as whereas.

■ Try it with help closed

Two siblings choose different activities for the weekend. 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: 哥哥喜欢运动，弟弟则喜欢读书。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The two clauses need clear corresponding subjects or topics.
- 则 also occurs in conditional writing, such as 不进则退; it is not always translated as whereas.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.