Laowai

HSK 4

HSK 3.0 / Grammar

Connect ideas clearly / 67 topics



Open the linked lesson for the full explanation and more examples.

Open this study guide

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Connect ideas clearly

Compare viewpoints, qualify a statement and explain how events relate. Study the whole construction, including the words on either side of its connector.

我们先复习，然后上新课。

Wǒmen xiān fùxí, ránhòu shàng xīn kè.

First we review; then we study a new lesson.

Study this construction

How to use this guide

Read the example, cover the translation and say what the sentence means. Open the linked lesson for the full explanation and additional examples. Where practice is available, the online guide links to it.

Laowai's teaching crosswalk to the 2021 proficiency framework. Vocabulary links use the 2025 examination lists; the grammar selections are study guides, not the official 2025 syllabus.

Topics in this selection

Adjectives - 1 topics

Adverbs and degree - 12 topics

Negation - 1 topics

Numbers, quantities and classifiers - 2 topics

Particles - 4 topics

Conjunctions and complex sentences - 9 topics

Noun phrases - 4 topics

Questions - 1 topics

Prepositions and coverbs - 2 topics

Verb phrases - 11 topics

Modality and auxiliary verbs - 2 topics

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Complements - 1 topics

Sentence structure and word order - 9 topics

Aspect, time and completion - 1 topics

Comparisons - 7 topics

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Adjectives

The Whole and All with 全 (Quán) in Chinese

全 + Noun

全 can present something as a whole or say that a statement covers an entire set. Before suitable nouns, it forms expressions referring to the whole family, country, body, or another established unit.

我们全家都去过北京。

Wǒmen quán jiā dōu qù guo Běijīng.

Our entire family has been to Beijing.

Full lesson and examples →

Adverbs and degree

Just Right and Happen To with 正好 (Zhènghǎo)

Subj. + 正好 + Verb Phrase

正好 can show that circumstances happen to align with another need, event, or expectation. Before a verb phrase, it often presents an action or situation as occurring at a convenient or relevant moment.

我正好要出去，垃圾我来扔吧。

Wǒ zhènghǎo yào chūqù, lājī wǒ lái rēng ba.

I'm just about to leave. I'll take out the trash.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

原来 (Yuánlái): Originally and It Turns Out

Former state with 原来(的) / New information with 原来

原来 can refer to how something was originally or previously. Before a predicate, it establishes an earlier situation, often contrasted with a later change.

你原来的发型也很可爱。

Nǐ yuánlái de fàxíng yě hěn kě'ài.

Your original hairstyle was also very cute.

Full lesson and examples →

Almost Happened with 差点 (Chàdiǎn) in Chinese

Subj. + 差点 + Predicate

差点 before a predicate says that the described outcome came close to happening. In the straightforward affirmative pattern, it did not actually occur.

车差点撞到我。

Chē chàdiǎn zhuàngdào wǒ.

The car almost hit me.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Have Always with 从来都 (Cónglái Dōu) in Chinese

从来 + 都 (是) + Predicate

从来 in an affirmative statement commonly combines with 都 to describe a pattern that has held throughout the relevant period. It can introduce a repeated practice or an enduring way of being.

他从来都这样。

Tā cónglái dōu zhèyàng.

He's always like this.

Full lesson and examples →

As a Result and Ended Up with 结果 (Jiéguǒ)

Reason / Condition ， 结果 + Result

结果 can introduce what followed from a preceding situation or sequence. The background comes first, and 结果 begins the clause giving the outcome.

她穿得很少， 结果感冒了。

Tā chuān de hěn shǎo, jiéguǒ gǎnmào le.

She didn't dress warmly enough, and as a result, she caught a cold.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Each Other in Chinese with 互相 (Hùxiāng)

互相 + Verb Phrase

互相 before a verb phrase shows that participants direct an action toward one another. The subject therefore identifies, or context supplies, at least two relevant participants.

互相帮助

hùxiāng bāngzhù

Help each other

Full lesson and examples →

Enough with 够 (Gòu) Before and After Verbs

Subj. + 够 + Predicate (+ 了)

够 expresses sufficiency relative to a need or standard. Before a verb, it can say that an amount is enough for carrying out that activity.

我们买了很多菜，够吃了。

Wǒmen mǎi le hěn duō cài, gòu chī le.

We bought a lot of food. It's enough for us to eat.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

A Considered Better Choice with 还是 (Háishì)

还是 + Verb

还是 before an action can present it as the preferable choice after alternatives have been considered. The speaker may be revising a plan or recommending the more sensible option in the circumstances.

还是明天去吧。

Háishì míngtiān qù ba.

We'd better go tomorrow.

Full lesson and examples →

Had Better and It Is Best To with 最好 (Zuìhǎo)

Subj. + 最好 + Predicate

最好 can present an action as the best or most advisable course in the circumstances. In this use it appears before the recommended predicate, commonly after the subject.

你最好先休息一下。

Nǐ zuìhǎo xiān xiūxi yīxià.

You'd better get some rest first.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Also All with 也都 (Yě Dōu) in Chinese

也都 + Verb / Adj.

也 and 都 can appear together when an added group shares a situation already mentioned. 也 connects the new statement to earlier information, while 都 indicates that the predicate applies throughout the relevant group. The normal order in this combined pattern is 也 before 都, followed by the predicate.

我很好，我的家人也都很好。

Wǒ hěn hǎo, wǒ de jiārén yě dōu hěn hǎo.

I'm good. So is everyone in my family.

Full lesson and examples →

Quite and Pretty with 挺……的 (Tǐng...De)

挺 + Adj. + 的

挺 before an adjective gives a conversational evaluation of degree, often rendered as “quite,” “rather,” or “pretty.” 的 commonly appears at the end of the descriptive phrase. The construction can express a favorable observation, a reservation, or a plain assessment, depending on the adjective and the situation.

这个老师挺年轻的。

Zhège lǎoshī tǐng niánqīng de.

This teacher is quite young.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

几乎 (Jīhū): Almost All, Hardly Any, and Nearly

Subj. + 几乎 + Verb

几乎 indicates that a statement comes very close to being completely true. Before a phrase containing 每 or 所有, it narrows an otherwise universal claim to almost all members.

几乎每个人都有手机。

Jīhū měi gè rén dōu yǒu shǒujī.

Almost everyone has a cell phone.

Full lesson and examples →

Negation

Emphasizing Negatives with 又不 and 又没

又 + 不 / 没 + Verb

又 before a negative predicate can emphasize a fact that the speaker thinks should already be recognized. It often pushes back against an assumption or argues that another person's response is unnecessary.

问我干吗？我又不知道。

Wèn wǒ gànmá? Wǒ yòu bù zhīdào.

Why ask me? I definitely don't know.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Numbers, quantities and classifiers

Just and Only with 就 (Jiù) for Small Quantities

就 + Subject + Predicate

就 can single out a limited participant or amount. Before a subject, it can identify the only person or thing for which the statement holds.

这件事就我知道。

Zhè jiàn shì jiù wǒ zhīdào.

I'm the only person that knows about this.

Full lesson and examples →

分之 (Fēn Zhī): Chinese Fractions and Percentages

Denominator + 分之 + Numerator

Chinese fractions name the total number of equal parts before naming how many parts are taken. Put the denominator before 分之 and the numerator after it.

我的手机电量只有百分之五了。

Wǒ de shǒujī diànliàng zhǐ yǒu bǎi fēn zhī wǔ le.

My phone only has 5% power left.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Particles

And Things Like That with 什么的 (Shénme De)

Noun 1, Noun 2 + 什么的

什么的 can follow an informal list to indicate other items of the same general kind. The listener is expected to infer the category from what has been named.

我奶奶不吃肉，只吃蔬菜、豆腐什么的。

Wǒ nǎinai bù chī ròu, zhǐ chī shūcài, dòufu shénme de.

My grandma doesn't eat meat. She only eats vegetables, tofu, and so on.

Full lesson and examples →

And So On with 等 and 等等 in Chinese

..... 等 / 等等

等 and 等等 can follow a list to leave room for other members of the same category. They are useful in explanations and more formal descriptions as well as ordinary speech.

西瓜、菠萝、葡萄等等，我都喜欢吃。

Xīguā, bōluó, pútao, děngděng, wǒ dōu xǐhuan chī.

Watermelons, pineapples, grapes, and so on... I like them all.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

嘛 (Ma): Presenting Something as Obvious in Chinese

Statement + 嘛

Sentence-final 嘛 presents a statement as something the speaker considers evident or easy to accept. It can draw attention to shared knowledge, explain a reason, or encourage someone to take an apparently straightforward course of action.

你妹妹很漂亮嘛。

Nǐ mèimei hěn piàoliang ma.

Your sister is obviously pretty.

Full lesson and examples →

Sentence-Final 的 (De): Certainty and Reassurance

.....的

At the end of some statements, 的 expresses the speaker's confidence in what they are saying. It can make a prediction reassuring, a promise firm, or a reminder more emphatic.

他会好的。

Tā huì hǎo de.

He will get better.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Conjunctions and complex sentences

A Softer But with 不过 (Bùguò) in Chinese

..... ，不过 .....

不过 can introduce a contrasting point or qualification after another statement. It often feels conversational and can make a reservation sound less abrupt than a stronger contrast marker.

这件衣服我很喜欢， 不过有点贵。

Zhè jiàn yīfu wǒ hěn xǐhuan, bùguò yǒudiǎn guì.

I like this piece of clothing, but it's a little bit expensive.

Full lesson and examples →

Making Suggestions with 要不 (Yàobù): How About

Reason / Situation，要不 + Suggestion + 吧

要不 can introduce a conversational suggestion that seeks the listener's acceptance. The reason or situation may be explained first, followed by 要不 and the proposed action.

大家都有点累了， 要不休息一会儿吧。

Dàjiā dōu yǒudiǎn lèi le, yàobù xiūxi yīhuìr ba.

Everyone is a little tired. Let's rest for a while.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Adding an Afterthought with 还有 (Háiyǒu)

……，还有，……

还有 can introduce an additional point after information already given. The new material may be another request, reminder, condition, or practical detail.

你需要吃药。 还有，要多休息。

Nǐ xūyào chī yào. Háiyǒu, yào duō xiūxi.

You need to take medicine. Also, you should get more rest.

Full lesson and examples →

In Addition and Separately with 另外 (Lìngwài)

……，另外，……

另外 can introduce another point alongside what has already been said. As a clause connector, it often begins the additional statement, and 还 or 也 may appear later to reinforce the additive relationship.

这个课文太难了，我不想学。 另外，我也没准备。

Zhège kèwén tài nán le, wǒ bù xiǎng xué. Lìngwài, wǒ yě méi zhǔnbèi.

This lesson is too difficult and I don't want to read it. Besides, I didn't prepare for it.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Besides and Moreover with 再说 (Zàishuō)

…… ， 再说 ， ……

再说 can introduce another reason supporting a decision or judgment. The preceding statement establishes the position, and the following clause strengthens it with an additional consideration.

这么晚，别走了。 再说，外面正在下雪。

Zhème wǎn, bié zǒu le. Zàishuō, wàimiàn zhèngzài xiàxuě.

It's so late. Stay. Besides, it's snowing outside.

Full lesson and examples →

来 (Lái) for Purpose: Connecting a Method to an Action

通过 / 用 + Method + 来 + Verb Phrase

来 can connect a way of doing something with the result you want to achieve. The first part identifies the tool, channel, or method; the verb phrase after 来 explains its purpose.

用这种方法来赚钱，真丢人。

Yòng zhè zhǒng fāngfǎ lái zhuànqián, zhēn diūrén.

It's shameful to earn money in this way.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

只要...就 (Zhǐyào...Jiù): As Long As

只要 + sufficient condition，subject + 就 + result

只要 presents a condition that is enough for the result to follow. The speaker may promise a response, describe a dependable relationship, or reassure someone that meeting this requirement will suffice.

只要你真的喜欢， 我就给你买。

Zhǐyào nǐ zhēnde xǐhuan, wǒ jiù gěi nǐ mǎi.

As long as you really like it, I will buy it for you.

Full lesson and examples →

才 (Cái): Only After, Only Then, or Not Until

Prerequisite / time / effort，subject + 才 + result

才 can show that a result becomes possible or occurs only after an important prerequisite. The earlier phrase may describe time spent, money paid, effort invested, or a condition finally met.

我花了八千块才买到了旅游的东西。

Wǒ huā le bā qiān kuài cái mǎi dào le lǚyóu de dōngxi.

Only after spending 8000 RMB was I able to buy all the things for the trip.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

只有...才 (Zhǐyǒu...Cái): Only If

只有 + necessary condition，subject + 才 + result

只有 introduces a condition presented as necessary for an outcome. The result cannot follow without that requirement, according to the speaker's statement.

只有努力才能做好工作。

Zhǐyǒu nǔlì cái néng zuò hǎo gōngzuò.

Only if you work hard is it possible to do a good job.

Full lesson and examples →

Noun phrases

以来 (Yǐlái): Ever Since and Periods Leading Up to Now

Time / Event + 以来，.....

以来 marks a stretch of time beginning at a past point and continuing to the present or another established reference time. Place it after the starting date or event, then explain what has happened across that period.

今年八月以来，这里一直没下过雨。

Jīnnián Bāyuè yǐlái, zhèlǐ yīzhí méi xià guo yǔ.

It hasn't rained since August of this year.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

所有 (Suǒyǒu): All, All Of, and Not All in Chinese

所有 (+ 的) + Noun

所有 refers to the complete set of things or people identified by the following noun phrase. 的 may appear between 所有 and the noun, depending on the expression. The set can be defined by ownership, a location, or another modifier; it does not have to include everything of that kind in the world.

你买了她所有的书?

Nǐ mǎi le tā suǒyǒu de shū?

You've bought all her books?

Full lesson and examples →

之一 (Zhī Yī): Saying One Of in Chinese

Subject + 是 + Group Noun Phrase + 之一

之一 selects one member of a group named before it. Unlike English “one of,” the Chinese expression follows the entire group description.

她是我最好的朋友之一。

Tā shì wǒ zuì hǎo de péngyou zhī yī.

She is one of my best friends.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

另 and 另外: Another, the Other, and the Remaining Ones

另 / 另外 + Number + [Measure Word] + Noun

另 and 另外 distinguish an additional item or a different part of a group from one already mentioned. Follow them with the appropriate number and classifier before the noun.

我有两个手机，一个是小米， 另一个是 iPhone。

Wǒ yǒu liǎng gè shǒujī, yī gè shì Xiǎomǐ, lìng yī gè shì iPhone.

I have two cell phones. One is a Xiaomi, and the other is an iPhone.

Full lesson and examples →

Questions

吗 with Question Words: Embedded Questions in Chinese

Subject + 知道 / 明白 / 能告诉... + Embedded Question + 吗?

吗 asks whether the larger proposition is true. A question word can appear in that proposition when it belongs to an embedded question, rather than directly asking the listener for the missing information.

这是什么?

Zhè shì shénme?

What is this?

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Prepositions and coverbs

为 (Wèi): Acting for Someone or Expressing Concern

Subject + 为 + Person / Group / Cause + Predicate

为 identifies the person, group, or cause toward which an action or feeling is directed. It appears in expressions about working on someone's behalf, preparing something for them, supporting them, or worrying about them.

我们都为你高兴。

Wǒmen dōu wèi nǐ gāoxìng.

We are all happy for you.

Full lesson and examples →

在...上, 在...下, and 在...方面: Abstract Chinese Frames

在 + Topic + 上， Subj. .....

在 combines with location words to frame abstract ideas as well as physical places. 在…上 often names the issue or field in which a comment applies. 在…方面 similarly introduces an aspect of a broader subject, making it useful for discussing skills, work, habits, or differences. These phrases generally appear before the main predicate.

在这个问题上，我们的看法是一样的。

Zài zhège wèntí shàng, wǒmen de kànfǎ shì yīyàng de.

In regards to this problem, our opinions are the same.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Verb phrases

要看 and 得看: Saying It Depends in Chinese

这 / 那 + 要看 / 得看 + Unclear Situation

要看 and 得看 present a factor that will determine an answer or outcome. In conversation, 这 or 那 can stand for the issue already being discussed, followed by the relevant factor.

这得看你的时间。

Zhè děi kàn nǐ de shíjiān.

This depends on when you are available.

Full lesson and examples →

好像 (Hǎoxiàng): Expressing Seems and Tentative Impressions

好像……

好像 introduces an impression that the speaker has not fully confirmed. It can precede a description, an identity statement, or an action, so its use is broader than commenting only on visual appearance.

他好像是英国人。

Tā hǎoxiàng shì Yīngguó rén.

He seems to be British.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

以为 (Yǐwéi): An Assumption That Turns Out to Be Wrong

Subj. + 以为……

以为 introduces an assumption that the speaker now questions, corrects, or treats as mistaken. The following clause states the belief itself, while the surrounding conversation supplies the contrast with reality.

我以为他是德国人。

Wǒ yǐwéi tā shì Déguó rén.

I thought he was German.

Full lesson and examples →

通过 (Tōngguò): Passing, Approval, and Achieving Through a Method

通过 + Agent / Method， ……

通过 can function as a verb describing passage through an opening or across a route. It also means passing a test or gaining approval, where the passage is figurative.

从我家到那儿要通过两座桥。

Cóng wǒ jiā dào nàr yào tōngguò liǎng zuò qiáo.

To get there from my house, you have to cross two bridges.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

来自 (Láizì): Stating an Origin or Source in Chinese

Subject + 来自 + Place / Source

来自 identifies the origin of a person, object, idea, or influence. Put the thing whose origin you are describing before 来自, then name its source afterward.

我来自中国。

Wǒ láizì Zhōngguó.

I come from China.

Full lesson and examples →

算 (Suàn): Counting as Something and Making a Judgment

Subject + (不 +) 算 + Noun / Description (+ 的)

算 makes an assessment about whether something qualifies as a category or reaches a certain standard. A noun after 算 names the category; an adjective evaluates the degree or quality.

她算天才。

Tā suàn tiāncái.

She is considered a genius.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

我来 and 你来: Using 来 to Say Who Will Do It

(让 +) Subj. + 来

来 can stand for an action that is already obvious from the situation. Instead of repeating the full task, name the person who will take it on and add 来.

你来！

Nǐ lái!

You do it!

Full lesson and examples →

少 (Shǎo) Before Verbs: Do Less or Cut Back

少 + Verb

Before a verb, 少 asks for a smaller amount or a lower frequency of the action. It is useful for advice about habits, instructions about quantities, and requests to reduce something excessive.

请少放点盐。

Qǐng shǎo fàng diǎn yán.

Use less salt, please.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

多 (Duō) Before Verbs: Do More or More Often

多 + Verb

多 before a verb increases the amount, frequency, or extent of the action. It appears naturally in encouragement and practical advice, but it can also describe an intention or need when a subject and modal are included.

多吃点。

Duō chī diǎn.

Eat a little more.

Full lesson and examples →

到 (Dào) After a Verb: Continuing Until a Time or Event

(一直 +) Verb + 到 + Time / Event; Verb + Object + Verb + 到 + Endpoint

到 after an activity introduces the point up to which it continues. The endpoint may be a clock time, a date, or an event that brings the activity to a stop.

你们要玩到几点?

Nǐmen yào wán dào jǐ diǎn?

When will you be done playing?

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Separable Verbs in Chinese: Verb-Object Phrases and Word Order

Separable verb: Verb ... [other material] ... Object

Many expressions learned as single verbs contain a verbal part and an object part. This internal structure explains why extra material can appear between their syllables.

我没有时间见面。

Wǒ méiyǒu shíjiān jiànmiàn.

I don't have time to meet.

Full lesson and examples →

Modality and auxiliary verbs

不用 (Bùyòng): Saying There Is No Need to Do Something

Subj. + 不用 + Verb Phrase

不用 says an action is unnecessary. Place it before the verb phrase whose necessity you are denying.

不用谢。

Bùyòng xiè.

You don't need to thank me.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

得 (Děi): Must and Have To in Spoken Chinese

Subject + 得 + Verb Phrase

When pronounced děi, 得 expresses a need to carry out the following action. It is common in conversation when circumstances, duties, or a practical problem make an action necessary.

我们得走了。

Wǒmen děi zǒu le.

We have to leave now.

Full lesson and examples →

Complements

起来 (Qǐlai): Upward Movement, Starting, and Impressions

Verb + 起来

起来 can describe upward movement after an action verb. In these literal uses, the action results in something rising, being lifted, or taking an upright position.

请大家站起来。

Qǐng dàjiā zhàn qǐlái.

Everyone, please stand up.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Sentence structure and word order

连…都…: Saying Even in Chinese

连 + Subj. + 都 (+ 不 / 没) + Verb

连…都… singles out a surprising case that makes the rest of a claim more striking. Put 连 before the focused person, thing, or event, and 都 before the predicate.

这个问题太简单了，连三岁小孩都知道。

Zhège wèntí tài jiǎndān le, lián sān suì xiǎohái dōu zhīdào.

This question is so easy that even a three-year-old kid knows the answer.

Full lesson and examples →

倍 (Bèi): Times as Much and Multiplicative Comparisons

Noun 1 + 是 + Noun 2 + 的 + Number + 倍

倍 expresses a ratio between two quantities. In the 是…的…倍 structure, the number states the total size of the first quantity relative to the second.

他现在的工资是两年前的四倍。

Tā xiànzài de gōngzī shì liǎng nián qián de sì bèi.

His current salary is four times what it was two years ago.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

一点也不 and 一点都不: Not at All in Chinese

Subj. + 一点 + 也 / 都 + 不 + Adj.

一点也不 and 一点都不 deny even a minimal degree of a quality or feeling. Put the expression before the description you want to negate.

那个问题一点儿也不难。

Nàge wèntí yīdiǎnr yě bù nán.

That question isn't difficult at all.

Full lesson and examples →

不知道...好: Not Knowing What Would Be Best to Do

Subject + 不知道 + Embedded Question + (才 +) 好

不知道…好 expresses uncertainty about which action would be appropriate or best in a situation. It is especially useful when the speaker faces a practical choice, feels awkward, or cannot decide how to respond.

我真的不知道怎么办才好。

Wǒ zhēnde bù zhīdào zěnme bàn cái hǎo.

I really don't know what to do about this.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

来说 (Láishuō): For Someone, Generally, and Speaking Broadly

对 + Person + 来说 / 一般 来说

来说 appears in frames that establish how the following comment should be understood. 对…来说 identifies a person or group whose perspective, circumstances, or interests are relevant. The comment need not report their spoken opinion; it may describe what is easy, important, or suitable for them.

对我来说， 中文不容易。

Duì wǒ lái shuō, Zhōngwén bù róngyì.

For me, Chinese is not easy.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

一…就…: As Soon As and Immediate Reactions in Chinese

Subj. + 一 + Event 1，就 + Event 2

一…就… links a triggering event with an action or result that follows promptly. Put 一 before the trigger and 就 before what happens next.



老师一来大家就不说话了。

Lǎoshī yī lái dàjiā jiù bù shuōhuà le.

As soon as the teacher came, everyone stopped talking.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

怪不得 and 难怪: Saying No Wonder in Chinese

Reason， 怪不得 / 难怪 + Observation

怪不得 and 难怪 express that an observation now makes sense in light of a reason. The speaker often learns new information and recognizes how it explains something noticed earlier.

小张请假了， 怪不得今天没有看到他。

Xiǎo Zhāng qǐngjià le, guàibude jīntiān méiyǒu kàndào tā.

Little Zhang asked for vacation time, no wonder I haven't seen him today.

Full lesson and examples →

一...都不 and 一...也没: Not Even One in Chinese

一 + measure word + (noun) + 都 / 也 + 不 / 没 + predicate

A minimal quantity placed before 都 or 也 can strengthen a negative statement to mean not even one. Rather than simply denying that something happened, the speaker emphasizes a total absence of items, words, people, or occasions within the relevant context.

他一句话都没说。

Tā yī jù huà dōu méi shuō.

He didn't say a thing.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

越…越 (Yuè…Yuè): The More, the More or Less

Subject + 越 + predicate 1 + 越 + predicate 2; subject 1 + 越…，subject 2 + 越…

越…越 connects changes in two quantities, activities, or qualities. As the first increases or develops, the second changes correspondingly.

我们越想越生气。

Wǒmen yuè xiǎng yuè shēngqì.

The more we think about it, the angrier we get.

Full lesson and examples →

Aspect, time and completion

一方面…另一方面…: Presenting Two Sides in Chinese

一方面 + Aspect A，(另)一方面 + Aspect B

一方面 introduces one aspect of a situation, and 另一方面 introduces another. The shorter repeated 一方面 is also common.

自己做饭一方面健康，一方面还能省点钱。

Zìjǐ zuòfàn yī fāngmiàn jiànkāng, yī fāngmiàn hái néng shěng diǎn qián.

On one hand, cooking for yourself is healthy; on the other hand, it can also help to save some money.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

Comparisons

常常 vs 经常: Two Ways to Say Often in Chinese

Subject + 常常 / 经常 + Verb Phrase

常常 and 经常 both describe events that occur frequently. In their ordinary adverbial use, they appear after the subject and before the verb phrase, and many sentences allow either choice.

我常常收到垃圾短信。

Wǒ chángcháng shōudào lājī duǎnxìn.

I often receive spam texts.

Full lesson and examples →

人家 vs 别人: Other People and Colloquial Pronoun Uses

人家 vs. 别人

别人 refers to people other than the relevant person or group. 人家 can share that general “other people” meaning, often with a more conversational flavor. In such contexts, the sentence may discuss what others think, say, or do.

我不在乎人家怎么说。

Wǒ bù zàihu rénjia zěnme shuō.

I don't care about what other people say.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

离 vs 从: Distance From and Starting From in Chinese

离 vs. 从

离 measures separation relative to a reference point. It commonly introduces the place from which a distance is assessed, or an event whose remaining time is being considered.

从下个月起，公司会越来越忙。

Cóng xiàge yuè qǐ, gōngsī huì yuèláiyuè máng.

Starting from next month, the company will be busier and busier.

Full lesson and examples →

以后 vs 的时候: After an Event or When It Happens

以后 vs 的时候

以后 places the main event after the situation named before it. It is useful for plans that begin once another event is complete, or changes noticed after an arrival or transition.

下飞机以后给我打电话。

Xià fēijī yǐhòu gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà

Give me a call after you get off the plane.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

才 versus 就: Late, Early, Only, and Already

Time + 才 / 就 + predicate; 才 + time / quantity

才 and 就 often reveal how an event compares with the speaker's expectations. With a time phrase before the verb, 才 can suggest delay or a demanding prerequisite, while 就 can suggest an early or quick result.

我等了两个小时才买到票。

Wǒ děng le liǎng gè xiǎoshí cái mǎi dào piào.

I waited two hours before I could buy the ticket.

Full lesson and examples →

再 versus 又: Two Ways to Say Again in Chinese

再 + intended repeat; 又 + recurring event

再 commonly introduces a repeat that is being requested, planned, or considered, while 又 often presents an event as recurring in the situation being reported. This explains the useful beginner distinction between a future repeat and an already realized repeat.

我们下次再来吧。

Wǒmen xiàcì zài lái ba.

We will come here again next time.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 4 grammar

以后, 然后, and 后来: After, Then, and Later

Event + 以后; action 1，然后 + action 2; past situation，后来 + development

以后, 然后, and 后来 all involve later time, but they organize sentences differently. 以后 can follow an event or time to mean after it, or stand alone for the future. 然后 moves an account or plan to its next step. 后来 introduces a subsequent development in a past narrative, often after some earlier situation has already been established.

我们先复习一下， 然后上新课。

Wǒmen xiān fùxí yīxià, ránhòu shàng xīn kè.

Let's do some review first and then study a new lesson.

Full lesson and examples →

Sources and further study

Lesson reference source: AllSet Learning Chinese Grammar Wiki. Existing attribution remains in each linked article. Teaching selections, editorial explanations and original AI-assisted illustrations: Laowai. This guide reuses the same canonical lesson records as the website and apps.

Chinese Grammar Wiki reference source

Official HSK syllabus and sample questions

Continue with the matching vocabulary list

Download on the App Store