Lesson 205

Vocabulary Summary: Simplified:

句型
Jùxíng
Sentence pattern

Vocabulary Summary: Traditional:

句型
Jùxíng
Sentence pattern

205 Notes (Simplified / Traditional):

Sentence Patterns:

Learning and recognizing these sentence patterns can go a long way towards helping you understand Chinese grammar:

1. Shì de

是, 的 / 是, 的   Is

This pattern is used when we are adding new information to something already known.

a. Nǐ shì cóng nǎlǐ lái de ?

你是从哪里来的 / 你是從哪裡來的   Where are you from

We know this person isn't from here, but we want to know where he's from.

b. Wèi shénme tiānkōng shì lánsè de ?

为什么天空是蓝色的 / 為什麼天空是藍色的   Why is the sky blue

We know the sky is blue, but we want to know why.

2. Suīrán, kěshì

虽然, 可是 / 雖然，可是   Although, but

This pattern is different from English, as it often features a "but" in the second half.

a. Suīrán tā hěn pàng, kěshì tā pǎo de hěn kuài .

虽然他很胖, 可是他跑得很快 / 雖然他很胖，可是他跑得很快
Although he is fat, he can still run quickly

b. Suīrán tā huì zhǔfàn, kěshì tā zhǔ de hěn nán chī .

虽然她会煮饭, 可是她煮得很难吃 / 雖然她會煮飯，可是她煮得很難吃
Although she can cook, what she cooks doesn't taste good

3. Cái, jiù

. 才, 就 / 才，就.   Only, just

This pattern is used when the second event unexpectedly occurs soon after the first one.

a. Wǒ cái gāng shuō dào nǐ, nǐ jiù lái le .

我才刚说到你, 你就来了 / 我才剛說到你，你就來了 .
I was just talking about you when you came

b. Nǐ zuótiān cái mǎi de shǒujī, zěnme xiànzài jiù huài le .

你昨天才买的手机, 怎么现在就坏了 / 你昨天才買的手機，怎麼現在就壞了 .
How come the cell phone you just bought yesterday is already broken

4. Xiān, zài .

先, 再 / 先，再.   First, then

This sentence pattern is used to describe steps that occur one after the other.

a. Xiān zhí zǒu, zài yòu zhuǎn .

先直走, 再右转. / 先直走，再右轉.   First go straight, then turn right

b. Nǐ yào xiān mǎi dàn, zài qù mǎi niúnǎi .

你要先买蛋, 再去买牛奶 / 你要先買蛋，再去買牛奶
You should first buy eggs, then buy some milk .

5. Měi, dōu .

每, 都. / 每，都   Every, all

This pattern describes an event that always occurs during the specified interval.

a. Tā měi yīge zǎoshàng dōu huì qù gōngyuǎn pǎobù .

他每一个早上都会去公园跑步 / 他每一個早上都會去公園跑步
He goes running in the park every morning

b. Měi yīcì gēn tā yuē kàn diànyǐng, tā dōu huì chídào .

每一次跟他约看电影, 他都会迟到 / 每一次跟他約看電影，他都會遲到
Every time I book a time to see a movie with him, he is always late

6. Bǎ .

把./ 把   To take

This pattern is used more often in Chinese than in English.

a. Wǒ gāng gāng bǎ lājī ná qù diū .

我刚刚把垃圾拿去丢. / 我剛剛把垃圾拿去丢   I just threw away the trash

Here the pattern is more literal, and describes the action of taking the trash and throwing it away.

b. Nǐ kěyǐ bǎ tāde diànhuà hàomǎ gěi wǒ ma ?

你可以把他的电话号码给我吗？你可以把他的電話號碼給我嗎
Can you give me his telephone number

Here the pattern is less literal and describes taking the number and giving it.

7. Yī, dōu

.   一, 都./ 一，都.   One, all

This pattern describes not having anything, not even a little.

a. Wǒ yīdiǎn dōu búhuì shuō fǎwén .

我一点都不会说法文./ 我一點都不會說法文   I can't even speak a little French

b. Tā yīge péngyǒu dōu méiyǒu

他一个朋友都没有 / 他一個朋友都沒有   He doesn't have a single friend

8. De shíhòu, zhèngzài .

的时候, 正在./ 的時候，正在   At the time, in the middle of .

This pattern describes an event that is already occurring when another one takes place.

a. Péngyǒu lái de shíhòu, wǒ zhèngzài chīfàn

朋友来的时候, 我正在吃饭./ 朋友來的時候，我正在吃飯.
I was eating when my friend came by .

b. Tā xiàbān de shíhòu, wàimiàn zhèngzài xiàyǔ .

他下班的时候, 外面正在下雨./ 他下班的時候，外面正在下雨
It was raining when he left work

9. De huà .

的话 / 的話   If .

This pattern describes three ways to use "if."

a. Rúguǒ wǒ yǒu kòng, wǒ huì dǎ diànhuà gěi nǐ .

如果我有空, 我会打电话给你 / 如果我有空，我會打電話給你
If I have time, I will call you

b. Rúguǒ yǒu kòng de huà, wǒ huì dǎ diànhuà gěi nǐ .

如果有空的话, 我会打电话给你. / 如果有空的話，我會打電話給你
If I have time, I will call you

c. Yǒu kòng de huà, wǒ huì dǎ diànhuà gěi nǐ

有空的话, 我会打电话给你./ 有空的話，我會打電話給你
If I have time, I will call you