

I. PITFALLS IN VOCABULARY USAGE

Many pitfalls in active usage of the Chinese language arise from improper vocabulary usage, and improper vocabulary usage is often interrelated with grammar. This chapter explores the most common problems of vocabulary usage, especially those that involve grammar, which tend to occur at the basic level, but trip up students at all levels.

1. When a single English word corresponds to two or more different Chinese words, the corresponding Chinese words are often mistaken as "synonyms." While the distinction among the corresponding Chinese words may seem too subtle to the native English speaker, they are very clear and significant to the native Chinese. Therefore, the corresponding Chinese words cannot be used interchangeably.

a. 会～可以～能～可能:

会、可以、能、可能 can all be translated as "can," and they are all auxiliary verbs, but the word "can" in English is not sufficiently "distinct" to reflect the real differences in the meaning of these four words.

会, as auxiliary verb (not as the noun meaning "meeting"), has two meanings: ① it implies an acquired ability, a learned skill (e.g. swimming, driving, speaking a foreign language, etc.); ② meaning "will," indicating prediction (with certainty or at least high probability). 可以 implies that external circumstances (rules and regulations, weather conditions, etc.) make it possible to do something. 能 also implies that circumstances permit something to be done, but it's more inclusive than 可以 in that the circumstances may be "internal" (property of the person, e.g. his health, work schedule, etc.) as well as external. 可能 implies that there is the possibility of something occurring. Examples will make the distinctions among these four words clear.

会 implying learned ability: 她不会说英文。你会开车吗？那个孩子会走路了。
会 in the sense of "will": 你明天会来吗？老师会告诉我们的。今天不会下雨。

可以: 在我们的中心不可可以说英文。十六岁以后才可以开车。
在这个路口不可以左拐。在美国, 自来水是可以喝的。

能: 我们能从清华大学看见西山。这几天我太忙, 不能来看你了。
老师病了, 不能来上课。喝了酒就不能开车!
我现在还不能告诉你。我现在还不能告诉你明天会不会下雨。

可能: 明天可能会下雪。他没来上课, 可能是病了。
放假的时候, 我可能回国, 也可能去旅游。

b. 知道～认识:

知道 implies knowledge of certain facts; 认识 means "knowledge" only the sense of being acquainted with or having familiarity with (someone, some place, some Chinese character, etc.).

知道: 考了入学考试以后才知道要上什么课。
我很喜欢吃这个菜, 可是不知道它叫什么。

认识： 开学以后，你就会认识你的四位老师了。
我就认识简体字，不认识繁体字。
在 I.U.P., 简体字、繁体字，学生都得认识。
如果你不认识那个地方，可以看地图。
我知道他是谁，可是不认识他。

c. 请～问：

问 means to pose a question; 请 means to request (a favor) (often translated as "please...") or to invite (e.g. invite someone to an event).

问： 你应该问老师，别问我。 他问了我很多问题。 老师问了你什么？
有什么不懂的地方，都可以问老师。

请： 请坐！ 请告诉我你的中文姓名。 请别在这里抽烟。
王老师要请我们吃饭。 他们家常常请客。

请问 "may I ask, please ask"： 请问，厕所在哪儿？ 请你问他什么时候能来。

d. 别(的)～那(个) (both translated as "other"):

别(的) (all others)： 我就要这个，别的都不要。
除了英文以外，他还会很多别的外语。
他没出过国，也没有外国朋友，怎么能了解别国的文化呢？

(另外)那(个 or some other measure word) (re two things in juxtaposition, "the other...")：
我就有一个孩子，（另外）那个是我弟弟的孩子。
(另外)那位先生不是我们中心的老师。(The other man is not a teacher at our center)

别人 (singular or plural)：

不能请别人帮你考试。 别人都不知道这件事。
别人的事情，你最好别管。（别 also functions as a verb, meaning "don't"）

e. 听～听见 and 看～看见：见 implies receiving auditory or visual signals/images, whereas 听 and 看 refer to "deploying" one's auditory or visual faculty to receive those signals. "Deploying" one's senses does not necessarily result in receiving the signals/images. So 听 vs. 听见 is equivalent to "listen vs. hear," and 看 vs. 看见 is equivalent to "look vs. see."

听录音很有用。 我们还没听见这个消息呢。
你的声音太小了，我听不见。 我听了，可是没听懂。

你在看什么？ 他病了，所以我想去看看他。
太远了，看不见。 你今天看见他了吗？ 大家都没看见他，也许他没来。
有人说从清华大学能看见西山。我看了，可是没看见呢。
空气好的时候才能从清华大学看见西山。今天空气不好，所以看不见。
我每天都看报。（看 in the sense of "to read"） 那本书我看了，可是没看懂。

- f. 差不多～差一点儿～差一点儿没 (all three are commonly translated as "almost") :

差不多 has two meanings: ① approximately (quantitative), "almost" in the sense of numerical proximity; ② to have almost reached an end point *in prospect*.

我一个月的生活费是差不多一千元。①

I.U.P. 的学生差不多有百分之八十已经大学毕业了。①

他的病差不多好了。②

那本书我差不多看完了，明天就可以还给你了。②

差一点儿 implies that *in retrospect*, an event almost occurred, or an endpoint was almost reached, *but not quite*. So actually, the event did not occur or the endpoint was not reached.

我差一点儿忘了那件事！

(implying: As it turned out, I thought of it the last minute and didn't forget after all.)

他差一点儿撞到前面来的货车。

(implying: He didn't ram into the truck after all, and was saved by the skin of his teeth.)

他去年差一点儿考上大学。今年再努力复习一下，肯定能考上。

(implying: He almost, but not quite, pass the college entrance exam last year.)

差一点儿没 has two meanings:

- ① 差一点儿(same as above) + 没 added to the verb: "almost didn't"

他差一点儿没考上大学。

(implying: He almost didn't - but in fact did - pass the college entrance exam.)

昨天晚上我开车回家的时候，路上太黑了，我差一点儿没看见前面骑车的人。

(implying: I did see the bicyclist after all, and therefore avoided hitting him.)

- ② "Almost, but not quite" This usage is a bit odd, as it means the same thing as 差一点儿, and the opposite of the first meaning of 差一点儿没 above. This usage is quite colloquial and it takes common sense to interpret it correctly. It is recommended that non-natives reserve this rather odd usage for comprehension only.

去年他病得很厉害，差一点儿没死。后来慢慢儿就好了。

(implying: He didn't die after all, although he almost did. 差一点儿没死=差一点儿死了)

那件事，我差一点儿没告诉他。

(I didn't tell him after all, although I almost did. 差一点儿没告诉他=差一点儿告诉他了)

- g. 一点儿～有一点儿：

一点儿 occurs in two contexts:

- ① 一点儿 N (a little bit of N)

请多给我一点儿钱。 你那儿不够，我给你一点儿吧。(the omitted N is understood)

喝咖啡的时候，有人喜欢放一点儿糖。 我喝咖啡连一点儿糖都不放。

When 一点儿 is used in this sense, 有+一点儿 means "to have a little bit of N"

你今天有一点儿时间吗？ 你的这个想法有一点儿问题。

② SV 一点儿 (a little more SV). In this usage, 一点儿 conveys the "degree" of the SV, i.e., the small extent to which something is a certain way. If used in a request (or command), the request is that something be done in a certain way a bit more.
Statements: 她比我高一点儿。 这个做法快一点儿。 他今天好一点儿了。
Requests: 请说慢一点儿。 你能不能来早一点儿? 请大声一点儿说。

有一点儿 - as a single "unit" (rather than as 有+一点儿 "to have a little bit of...", discussed in g.① above) - occurs in the context of 有一点儿 SV. It is a modifier of the SV, meaning "to be a little bit SV."

今天我有一点儿不舒服。 这件事让我有一点儿不好意思。
这门课对我有一点儿难。 他的态度真是有一点儿过分了。

h. 刚~刚刚~刚才 (all three are commonly translated as "just," conveying the brevity of time lapse since the pertinent event):

刚 indicates that an event has just occurred, but the time of the event can be *relative to the past, the present, or even the future*. 刚刚 is simply a more intense form of 刚, conveying even shorter time lapse since the event than 刚. 刚刚 is generally not used when the time of the event is relative to the future.

学生刚到北京，怎么能马上就考试呢？(present)

他刚到北京的时候，一点儿汉语都不会说。(past)

我后天到香港，刚到的头几天肯定会很忙，可能一个星期以后才能给你写信。
(future)

他刚刚到家，还没脱大衣呢。(present)

今天早上他刚刚出门就有人打电话来找他了。(past)

刚 and 刚刚 are adverbs (i.e., they occur before the verb), in contrast to 刚才, which is a movable adverb.

我们刚开学，大家都很忙。 我们刚刚开学，大家都很忙。

but not: 刚我们开学，大家都很忙。 nor: 刚刚我们开学，大家都很忙。

刚才 contrasts with 刚 and 刚刚 in that the timing of the event is *relative only to present*, so 刚才 "just" means more precisely "just a moment ago." 刚才 is a movable adverb (i.e., it can occur before or after the subject of the sentence, as long as it's before the verb), but the preferred position is at the beginning of the sentence before the subject.

刚才有人打电话给你，我告诉了他你很快就会回来。

刚才你不是说你帮我吗？怎么现在又说不行了？

Also acceptable: 你刚才不是说你帮我吗？怎么现在又说不行了？

In the above examples 刚 and 刚刚 are synonyms and are interchangeable, but 刚才 is not interchangeable with 刚 and 刚刚.

i. 还是~或是 (both translated as "or"):

还是 is used in "choice type" questions, in which one of the given options/possibilities is selected in the answer to the question. Thus, we can call 还是 the "exclusive 'or',"

because the answer to the question excludes all but one of the given options/possibilities. In contrast, 或是 can be called the "inclusive 'or'," because the sentence pertains to all the given options/possibilities.

你要喝咖啡还是喝茶？ 咖啡或是茶都可以。什么方便，我就喝什么。
他是中国人还是日本人？ 我想去北美留学。美国或是加拿大都不错。
汽车是进口的还是国产的好？ 目前欧洲或是日本产的汽车都比国产的好。

Sometimes, a sentence containing 还是 is not a question per se, but deeper analysis would reveal that there exists within it an "embedded question."

我不知道他是中国人还是日本人。(embedded question: 他是中国人还是日本人)
现在有法子知道未出生的孩子是男的是女的了。(embedded question: ...是男的是女的)
孩子是男的是女的不要紧，最要紧的是他健康不健康。

j. 怕~恐怕:

怕 is a functionive verb (most often also transitive, i.e. takes an object), meaning "afraid of something), afraid to (do something)". 恐怕 is a movable adverb (i.e. it may be placed before or after the subject of the sentence). Its literal meaning is "afraid *that* ...," but more often it takes on the derived meaning of "perhaps." In this regard, it is similar to the English phrase "I'm afraid that..."

中国学生一般都很怕考大学。 他恐怕考不上大学。or: 恐怕他考不上大学。
我很怕去医院看病。 我最近老觉得很累，恐怕是睡得不够。
他谁都不怕，就怕他的太太。 恐怕他的太太真的很厉害。or: 他的太太恐怕真的很厉害。
已经这么晚了，恐怕所有的饭馆都关门了。

怕 can also function as a SV (adjective), meaning "afraid, scared," in which case it is synonymous with 害怕.

有你和我一起，我就不怕（不害怕）了。

Dentist to the wary patient: 别怕 (or 别害怕)，这个不会很疼，而且很快就完了。

k. 从~离 (both are translated as "from"): 从 indicates the starting point (place or time), whereas 离 means "*distance* from." These two concepts are totally different, even though they share the word "from" in English. 离 can also function as a functionive verb, meaning "to depart from, to distance oneself from," in which case it is synonymous with 离开.

这些学生都是从美国来的吗？ 美国离中国太远了。
从美国坐飞机来中国要几个钟头？ 现在离到达北京的时间还有四个钟头呢。
从今天起，我不再抽烟了。 我觉得离抽烟的人越远越好。

l. 一些、一点儿、几 M~有些、有人、有些人~有的... (all can be translated as "some"): The English word "some" is imprecise and covers multifarious meanings. The correct rendering of "some" into Chinese requires the native English speaker to make some unaccustomed distinctions.

① "Some" meaning "an indefinite amount": 一些、一点儿、几 M

来中国之前我学过一些中文。 今天你喝了一些酒，最好别开车。
 这个菜要放一点儿酒才好吃。 我已经给了他一点儿，可是他说不够。
 我问过几位老师，她们的说法都不一样。
 他的朋友给他介绍过几位小姐，可是他觉得都不合适。

- ② "Some" referring to indefinite person(s) or entity(ies) (singular or plural), "a certain..., certain ones...": 有些、有人、有些人, etc., or simply "一 + a measure word"

有人说王先生已经得到博士了。(a certain person)
有些朋友劝他们别离婚，可是已经太晚了。(certain friends)
有一天，你会成功的。(some day)
 我只知道他在(某)一个中学教书，可是不知道是哪个。(a certain high school)
 她在电话上没说清楚她是谁，好像是(一)个公司的推销员。(a certain company)
 现在有些餐馆已经不用味精(wèijīng MSG)了。(certain restaurants)

A simple measure word (either alone or with 「一」) can convey the idea of a certain someone or something. But when the indefinite thing or person is the sentence subject or starts the sentence, 「有」 is added, making it literally "there is a (certain person or thing)."

- ③ "Some" in the sense of "some of...", i.e., a subset of a class.

我这儿有不少音乐带子，有的是古典音乐，有的是现代的。
 这些带子，有的我喜欢，有的不喜欢。
 But not: 这些带子，我喜欢有的，不喜欢有的。
 这家餐馆，有的菜不错，有的不怎么样。
有的大学是私立的，有的是公立的。

The notion of "subset" is conveyed by 有的, and it must be the subject or topic of a clause (hence, the third example sentence above is incorrect). The full class may be stated explicitly (as in the first two examples), or implied (as in the last two examples).

2. 关于 "concerning..." vs. 对于 "vis-a-vis" (this section reserved for students at higher-level):

The semantic difference between 关于 and 对于 leads to a difference in the way they function grammatically, although both are basically coverbs (cf. Lesson XI). The semantic difference is a subtle but important one. 关于 introduces an entity or event *concerning* which the main action or function of the sentence is about. 对于 introduces an entity or event which is the *object* or *target* of the main action or function of the sentence. Grammatically, the 关于-object phrase occurs in two forms: a) as an adverbial phrase at the beginning of a sentence, setting the stage or background for the main thrust of the sentence; b) as a modifier of a noun. The 对于-object phrase occurs mainly as a movable adverbial phrase (cf. Lesson V), either before or after the subject. When the 对于-object phrase occurs before the subject, it is in effect an adverbial phrase setting the stage or background for the main thrust of the sentence (same as the first usage for 关于). One more point that distinguishes 对于 from 关于 is that 对于 has a "junior cousin" in the coverb 对. 对于-object and 对-object phrases serve the same grammatical function, and

the two are basically synonymous, although 对 is less formal than 对于, and it tends to be used with simple objects and located after the subject. 对于 tends to be used with more complex objects and located in front of the sentence.

关于如何帮助贫民，美国政府提出了一个计划。(adverbial phrase in front of main clause)

美国政府提出了一个关于如何帮助贫民的计划。(phrase modifying a noun)

你有没有一些关于美国社会问题的书可以借给我看？(phrase modifying a noun)

关于美国社会的问题，我实在知道得太少。

对于美国社会的问题，我实在了解得太少。

对于这个计划，你是赞成还是反对？(adverbial phrase in front of main clause)

你对这个计划是赞成还是反对？(sentence-internal coverbial clause)

非法移民对于美国的经济会有什么影响？

非法移民对美国的经济会有什么影响？

对于美国的经济，非法移民会有什么影响？(acceptable, but a bit "odd")

In most cases, the choice between 关于 and 对于 is clear. However, note the similarity in meaning between the two sentences in the second group above. Actually, both 关于 and 对于 are acceptable in both sentences, but native Chinese speakers *tend to favor* one or the other in a given context.

3. The converse of the phenomenon described in #1 is the case of one Chinese word carrying multiple meanings that translate into different words in English. Such cases are generally much easier for the non-native to master than the reverse situation. All one needs to do is to learn the different meanings of the same Chinese word. Some examples of familiar words used in unfamiliar secondary meanings:

算: ¥20 不算太贵。(reckon as) 算了吧！别跟他吵了！(forget it!)

数: 北大和清华是中国数一数二的大学。(to count as)

四个孩子里头，数他最聪明。(to count as)

(数 is used as a verb with its object being the embedded sentence 他最聪明.)

In the above usages, 算 and 数 seem to be synonyms. There is actually this slight difference between them: 数 must imply comparison within a group, whereas 算 does not necessarily imply comparison.

打: to play: 打麻将、打篮球 to fetch (daily necessities): 打水、打油
from (very colloquial): 打明儿起、打哪儿来 to telephone: 打电话
dozen (dá): 一打鸡蛋、一打袜子

4. When corresponding Chinese and English words are semantically the same (carry same meaning) but grammatically different, word-for-word translation from English into Chinese leads to faulty expressions.

都 (adverb) and "all" (adjective):

美国人不都会说英语。 not: 不都美国人会说英语。

老师说的话他都能听懂。 not: 他能听懂都老师说的话。 nor: 他都能听懂老师说的话。

多/少 (adverbs) and "more / less" :

应该多做事，少说话。 not: 应该做多事，说少话。

你的病还没好，应该多 (or 多多) 休息。

你最好少管别人的事。 not: 你最好管别人的事少些。

What's wrong with this sentence? 你应该吃多菜，吃少肉。 Can you fix it?

多少 as adverb, meaning "to some extent, more or less":

中国的大学生多少都会一点外语。

5. Some Chinese words carry certain grammatical restrictions in actual usage. For example, we can say 我的钱不够, but not 我没有够的钱; we can say 我的钱不多, 我没有很多的钱, but not 我没有多的钱 (很多 can be used as a noun modifier, but not 多 alone). This is because certain SV's, including 够 and 多/少, can be used only as the predicate of a sentence, and not as an adjective added in front of nouns. In contrast, the vast majority of SV's in Chinese can be used to modify nouns, so 够 and 多 are unusual in this regard.
6. The concept of "boundedness" in Chinese: Some single-syllable vocabulary items in Chinese are "bound" (not "whole") in that they cannot be used without being attached to something else. In this sense, they are like affixes in English. This category includes some of the most basic words in the Chinese language, e.g. 男、女、多、少、同, and words denoting colors. "Bound" words are made "whole" by the addition of preceding or succeeding elements like 很-、不-、-的。

not: 她的三个孩子都是女。 but: 她的三个孩子都是女的。

not: 我最喜欢的颜色是红。 but: 我最喜欢的颜色是红色。

not: 这两道菜味道完全同。 but: 这两道菜味道完全一样。

OK: 这两道菜味道完全不同。

not: 清华大学有多外国学生。 but: 清华大学有很多外国学生。

"Localizers" are also "bound" words. These include: 里/外; 前/后; 上/下; 中; 左/右; 东/南/西/北. They will be discussed in Lesson IX.

7. Obligatory transitive verbs in Chinese: Many single-syllable verbs in Chinese are "bound," and are made "whole" by the addition of objects. When there is no specific object, a generic object is used to make the single-syllable verb "whole."

吃- : 吃饭、吃点心、吃西餐

not: 我们什么时候吃? but: 我们什么时候吃饭?

教- : 教书、教汉语、教数学、教高中

not: 她现在做生意了, 不教了。 but: 她现在做生意了, 不教书了。

走- : 走路 (走 alone means "to leave")

not: 美国人太懒了, 不喜欢走。 but: 美国人太懒了, 不喜欢走路。

考- : 考试、考大学、考英语

not: 没有人喜欢考。 but: 没有人喜欢考试。

8. Difference in "logic" as reflected in Chinese and English could lead to faulty Anglo-Chinese expressions.

- a. 想/觉得/认为 used with a negative in embedded sentence-objects:

Why are these sentences incorrect? How would you fix them?

我不想中文太难学。 我今天不觉得舒服。

Do these pairs of sentences mean the same thing? If not, how do they differ?

他不认为钱是最重要的。 他认为钱不是最重要的。

你不觉得这件事奇怪吗? 你觉得这件事不奇怪吗?

- b. The first sentence in each of the pairs below is considered faulty by native Chinese. Can you tell what's wrong with them? What is the Chinese logic in each case?

Incorrect (or at least awkward):

他有黑头发。

快去洗你的脸、刷你的牙。

我得做完我的功课才能睡觉。

Correct:

他的头发是黑的。

快去洗脸刷牙。

我得做完功课才能睡觉。

- c. Word order in directional expressions:

Incorrect:

北东、南东

北西、南西

北南

Correct:

东北、东南

西北、西南

南北

Examples:

中国的东南部发展得特别快。

西北、西南都有不少的少数民族。

美国的南北战争是一场非常大的内战。

9. Reduplication:

- a. **Functionive verbs:** single-syllable as well as bisyllabic functionive verbs may be reduplicated to convey the sense of doing something lightly or briefly (i.e. de-intensify). The reduplicated single syllable is always unstressed (e.g. 看看、试试、试试看). The reduplicated bisyllabic functionive verb takes the ABAB form (e.g. 休息休息、打扫打扫, not 休休息息、打打扫扫; the second syllable, even when not reduplicated, is often unstressed already). Reduplicated V-O compounds take the V-V-O form (e.g. 看看书、写写字, not 看书看书、写字写字).
- b. **Stative verbs (adjectives):** reduplicating a SV has the effect of intensifying or vivifying the SV, which is *opposite from reduplicating functionive verbs*. And unlike the reduplicated FV form, reduplicated SV's take the form AABB (e.g. 马马虎虎、啦啦塌塌、白白胖胖).
- c. **Adverbs** may be formed by reduplicating SV's and adding the "suffix" 地 (e.g. 好好儿地、慢慢儿地、轻轻地). When the reduplicated SV consists of just one syllable, the tone of the reduplicated syllable becomes the first tone if its original tone is not already a first tone (e.g. 好好儿地 hǎohāorde; 慢慢儿地 màn mānrde), and an 儿 is sometimes added.
If the reduplicated SV is bisyllabic, it takes the form AABB 地 (e.g. 高高兴兴地), just as the intensifying/vivifying reduplicated SV introduced in b.
- d. All measure words can be reduplicated to convey the meaning of "every...", e.g. 本本、个个、天天。
A *very limited number of nouns* also may be reduplicated to convey the meaning of

"every...", e.g. 人人、家家、事事、even 方方面面 (but not 国国 nor 楼楼房房).

e. Onomatopoeia (including "visual onomatopoeia") is often created by reduplication:

If the expression imitates sound, the reduplication can take either the ABAB or the AABB form, depending on the sound being imitated:

ABAB: 喀喳喀喳、扑通扑通 AABB: 唧唧呱呱

Then there are also alliterative terms like 辟里啪啦, which are partial reduplicatives.

If the expression is a "visual onomatopoeia," designed to vivify the visual image, then the replication takes on the form ABB or ABCC:

ABB: 红通通、胖嘟嘟、脏兮兮、
黑漆漆、黑黝黝、黑蒙蒙 (note that 黑 may be combined with different
"vivifiers" depending on the visual image being conveyed)

ABCC: 可怜兮兮、白雪皑皑

10. Abbreviations: There is a strong tendency in the Chinese language to abbreviate high-frequency terms - particularly names of institutions - and at the same time preserve the strong bisyllabic rhythm in the language. Typically, a four-syllable term formed from two bisyllabic terms would be abbreviated by using the *key component* from each of the constituent bisyllabic terms. The key component is usually - but not always - the first syllable. The great majority of abbreviated terms are proper nouns.

北大：北京大学 清华：清华大学 (not 清大) 北语：北京语言文化大学

人大：人民大学 or 全国人民大会 (People's Congress)

教委：教育委员会 中行：中国银行 (not 中银)

民航：中国人民航空公司 (not 人航) 民办：人民办的 (as in 民办小学)

国贸：国际贸易中心 国营：国家经营

遥控：远程控制 (remote control)

Recognition of abbreviated terms requires knowledge of the full terms (i.e. requisite vocabulary) and an ability to pick out the key component in each constituent term.

The strong bisyllabic rhythm in the Chinese language is manifested in yet another phenomenon that is the opposite of abbreviations, which is the "extensions" of single-syllable words into bisyllabic synonyms, e.g.: 用/使用、书/书籍、船/船只、纸/纸张。

11. In advanced Chinese, and even intermediate Chinese, some rather familiar words or word components take on unfamiliar meanings. Students who have advanced to this level should be alert to this phenomenon. Often, classical Chinese meanings are invoked for words that are quite basic in modern Chinese. Sometimes, a familiar single-character word becomes a component in a compound, and takes on a different meaning in that context.

起 (measure word for incidents): 一起车祸

纸 (measure word for formal documents): 一纸公文、一纸法令

从：服从 (从 means "to follow" in classical Chinese)

他：他人 (他 means "others" in classical Chinese)

就：就业 (就 means "to take up, to approach" in classical Chinese)

就这个问题进行了很详细的调查。(就 means "on the issue of..." in this context)