

## V. ADVERBS

1. Single-syllable non-movable adverbs: The locus of single syllable non-movable adverbs is always after the subject, before the verb or verb phrase.

The most important monosyllabic adverbs are: 都、也、就、才、再、又、还。

Each of the above adverbs has a primary meaning *and* some secondary meanings as well (see later in this section).

Pitfall: If the monosyllabic Chinese adverb is equivalent to an English word that comes at the beginning of a sentence, interference from English tends to mislead the unwary non-native into putting the monosyllabic adverb in front of the sentence.

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| not: 都他们是好学生。         | ✓他们都是好学生。         |
| not: 我喜欢都这些菜          | ✓这些菜我都喜欢。         |
| not: 要是不好吃，就你别吃了。     | ✓要是不好吃，你就别吃了。     |
| not: 他会说日文，也他会说一点儿中文。 | ✓他会说日文，他也会说一点儿中文。 |

2. Movable adverbs (MA): Some bisyllabic adverbs are movable, in the sense that they may occur in front of a sentence (as though they are conjunctions that introduce the sentence), or after the subject before the verb. In fact, some of the movable adverbs are considered conjunctions (连词) by Chinese grammarians, and we may think of them as adverbial conjunctions. Some MA's, while they can occur in both positions, favor the front-of-sentence position.

Movable bisyllabic adverbs:

- 老师也许能告诉你这个字的意思。  
也许老师能告诉你这个字的意思。  
如果老师也不认识这个字，你就不必学它了。  
老师如果也不认识这个字，你就不必学它了。  
我们当然可以给您换一个。  
当然我们可以给您换一个。

Non-movable bisyllabic adverbs:

- 我上课从来不迟到。 but not: 从来我上课不迟到。  
我们已经学到第四课了。 but not: 已经我们学到第四课了。

Much of Chinese grammar at the intermediate and advanced levels consists of the study of movable adverbs, conjunctions, and linking adverbs in pairs. These will be the subject of Lesson XV.

3. Several of the most commonly used monosyllabic adverbs have no counterparts in English, and the same ideas require more complicated constructions in English. To the native Chinese, these adverbs are extremely straightforward, and very rich in meaning (one little syllable carries a lot of weight).

Pitfalls:

- a. Dissimilar linguistic groove in native English speaker's mind. Some Chinese adverbs belong to a different part of speech from English (e.g. 也: "also" often comes in front of English sentences); some have no counterparts in English (e.g. 才).

b. One adverb with more than one meaning (e.g. 再).

c. In some cases, distinction in meaning between two Chinese adverbs is a bit too "subtle" for the non-native, e.g. 再 vs. 又; 也 vs. 跟 and 和 (也 "also" is an adverb, 跟 and 和 are conjunctions that connect nouns or nominal verbs)。

4. 都 "all": totalized object must be predated.

中国人不都会说普通话。 not: 不都中国人会说普通话。

我们都爱吃中国菜。 not: 都我们爱吃中国菜。

中国菜我都爱吃。 not: 我爱吃都中国菜。

What about: 中国菜我们都爱吃。

都 "already" (more colloquial than 已经):

天都黑了，怎么还不回家呢？

人家都快吃完了，他现在才来。(都 can mean two things here.)

都快天亮了，他怎么还没上床呢？

(Why is it OK to use 都 in front of this sentence? Because 天亮 "to become daylight" is a pseudo verb.)

5. 再 "again" (future):

再见！ 请再说一次。 他不会再来了。 青春一去不再回。

再 "in addition, further,...more":

三个不够，你应该再买两个。

他本来今年就该退休了，可是他要再干一年。

三杯酒该够了吧！我看你不能再喝了！

再 "then" (future); not until then. This usage applies to planned future action and the "imperative" (including suggestion, command, request).

现在雨下得太大了。你等雨停了再出去吧。

这两天我太忙，过几天我再和你联系吧。

考完试再来看你，行不行？

她今天心情不好，你最好过几天以后再去找她。

再 with a negative ("no longer, no more"):

我们已经分手了。她不再是我的女朋友了。(This sentence means the same thing as 她不是我的女朋友了, but the "不再" reinforces the idea of change from before.)

孩子大了就不再听父母的话了。

孩子大了就再也不听父母的话了。(stronger than the preceding sentence)

我们都再也不相信他了。

6. 就 "then" (in a sequential order or as a consequence). Contrast this with 再 "then" above.

我们打算先吃饭(然后)就去看电影。

吃了药就会好的。

你长大了就会明白了。(Does this 就 convey "sequential order" or "consequence"?)

就 adverb conveying imminence, temporal brevity/immediacy, or "sooner or faster than expected or is typical":

下个星期就大考了，你怎么还不准备呢？

在 Berlitz 学英文，不到三个月就能学会。

我们认识了以后，很快就结婚了。

他怎么电影看到一半就走了呢？

如果在读大学期间，每年夏天也上课，三年就能毕业了。

就 adverb conveying "sufficiency with a small quantity" (less than expected):

他不那么聪明，一天能学会五个字就不错了。

这里的東西比较便宜。一个人一个月三百块就够了。

就 "only, merely" (synonymous with 只; there are regional preferences for one over the other):

快来啊！大家就等你一个人了。

现在每家就有一个孩子，自然地就会把这些孩子养成小皇帝啦！

In the sense of "only," 就 can even be used in front of a sentence (synonymous with 只有):

就我一个人在家，大家都出去了。

一……就……

他真聪明，一学就会。

有不少大学生一毕业就出国留学了。

一放假，学生就都去旅游了。

就是 "precisely, none other than" (more emphatic than just 是):

看到学生进步就是老师最大的快乐。

我要学中文就是因为在美国太少人了解中国了。

就 coverb meaning "on the issue of, in reference to." This usage is rather formal.

大家就这个问题讨论了很长时间。

那次的国际会议就这篇报导进行了讨论。

就 is also used in compounds in its classical meaning of "engage in, approach," e.g. 就学、就业、就医、就餐、就地实学。

7. 又 "again" (mainly for "completed" action, but the compound 又要 applies to imminent future action):

昨天他又生病了。(compare: 打了针就不再生病了。)

那部电影太好了，不少人看了又看。我只看过一次，有机会我一定会再看一次。

明年他又要去美国了。(compare: 明年他要再去美国。)

这儿春天常下雨，今天又要下雨了。

Compare the meaning of 又 with the meaning of 再 ("again" in the future) in the last two

examples.

又 "moreover, furthermore" (synonymous with 也):

她对人特别好，又非常能干，所以大家都喜欢她。

今天刚考完试，又是星期五，我们去玩儿吧！

又 for emphasis, to drive home a point (that point may be implied or stated), or to contradict someone else's assumption (in the negative when used in this sense):

这样做又有什么好处呢？ (implying that there is no advantage to doing it this way)

又不是我的错，干嘛怪我呢？

我又没说是你的错，你别生气了。

你又不是孩子了，为什么一定要听你妈的呢？

As seen in the above examples, this usage of 又 is often coupled with a rhetorical question, which is also used to drive home a point.

又…又…：

你又不会说英文，在那儿又没有朋友，怎么能在那儿生活呢？

(used with FV's 不会说 and 没有)

我最喜欢来这个餐厅，因为这儿的菜又便宜又好。(used with SV's 便宜 and 好)

"也…也…" is synonymous with "又…又…", but can only be used with FV's (not with SV's), e.g.:

你也不会说英文，在那儿也没有朋友，怎么能在那儿生活呢？

but not: 我最喜欢来这个餐厅，因为这儿的菜也便宜也好。

8. 才: Of all the monosyllabic adverbs, 才 may be the most difficult for native English speakers to master. It is an elegant simple word with no English equivalent!

才 "just, only" (often followed by a quantity, either immediately or following the verb):

现在才八点，还早呢！

这件衣服才卖三十块，太便宜了！（只 or 就 may be used in lieu of 才 here)

我是昨天才来的。

才 conveys the sense of a necessary condition or time without which or before which something cannot occur. It implies that more time or more something is required than expected (opposite of 就, which carries the sense of sooner or less than expected):

这个孩子两岁才会走路。 这个孩子九个月就会走路了。

昨天晚上我学习到一点钟才睡觉。 昨天晚上她九点钟就睡觉了。

五块钱肯定不够，我想要十块钱才够。

才 for emphasis, used in an assertion conveying contradiction against an overt or implied assumption (used with a negative):

（他以为我相信他）我才不相信他呢！

（你别以为她比你小就会听你的）她才不会听你的呢！

你别以为他笨，他才不笨呢！

才 used for emphasis differs from 又 in that 才 carries an overt or implied preconception,

whereas 又 carries a follow-up phrase (even if only implied):

他对我那么不好，我才不做他的朋友呢。  
他又不是我的朋友，我何必要借钱给他呢？

For exercise, add an implied clause, either before or after the given clause:

我又不要你的钱  
我才不要你的钱呢  
她又不会唱歌  
她才不会唱歌呢

The adverb 并 is a synonym of this usage of 才, but it is less colloquial and a bit more formal. The sense of contradiction against a preconception is also not as strong as 才. The meaning of 并 is very similar to the phrase "by no means" in English.

我并不认为这种药对我有好处。 (straight-forward)  
我才不认为这种药对我有好处呢。  
(more expressive, conveys greater sense of contradicting)

#### 9. Contrasting pairs of adverbs:

就 vs. 才: 就 conveys shortness of time or (minimum) sufficient condition; 才 conveys lengthiness of time and necessary condition.

才 vs. 再 (in the sense of not until a certain time): 才 is used in statements of fact; 再 is used in suggestion/command.

再 vs. 又: In the sense of "again," 再 is used with contemplated or future events. 又 is used with events that have already occurred or with "actualized contemplation/planning" of events (e.g. 他明天又要来了。).

#### 10. Adverbs that are equivalent to the "-ly" form in English: Many SV's (adjectives) may be made into adverbs by having the suffix 地 (pronounced *de*, unstressed) attached, e.g.:

高兴地、圆满地、沈默地、平安地 (note: these SV are all bisyllabic)

If the SV from which the adverb is derived is monosyllabic, then it must be reduplicated to become an adverb, e.g.:

好好(儿)地、快快(儿)地、慢慢(儿)地

Two other pronunciation transformations occur when a monosyllabic SV is used adverbially: 儿(-r) is added to the reduplicated syllable and that syllable is changed to the first tone:

好好儿地 hǎohāorde 快快儿地 kuàikuāirde 慢慢儿地 màn mānrde

Bisyllabic SV's may also be reduplicated when used adverbially, e.g. 高高兴兴地、偷偷摸摸地。In any case, these adverbs must be at least two syllables in length (not counting 地). There are additional adverbs of the form AA 地 which are not derived from SV's, e.g. 悄悄地、偷偷地。

Some words may function as either SV or AV (auxiliary verb), with a difference in meaning:

他高兴和我们一起去。	He's glad to go with us.
他高兴地和我们一起去。	He happily went with us.
他高高兴兴地和我们一起去。	He happily went with us.