

Affirmative-negative questions & alternative questions 正反问句和选择问句

Grammar

1. Affirmative-negative question

affirmative	negative	
动词/形容词 (verb/adjective)	不 not	动词/形容词 (verb/adjective)

正反问句是动词或形容词的肯定及否定形式并列构成的疑问句式。一般可以和由疑问语气词“吗”构成的是非疑问句相互转换。

Affirmative-negative questions are formed by juxtaposing the affirmative form of an adjective or verb and its negative form. It can transform to a general question which made of the interrogative particle “吗”.

For example:

Nǐ shì bu shì Zhōngguó rén?

(1) 你 是 不 是 中 国 人?

Are you Chinese?

Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ma?

你 是 中 国 人 吗?

Are you Chinese?

Nǐ qù bu qù túshūguǎn?

(2) 你 去 不 去 图 书 馆?

Are you going to the library?

Nǐ qù túshūguǎn ma?

你 去 图 书 馆 吗?

Are you going to the library?

Mǎlì huì bu huì shuō Zhōngwén?

(3) 玛丽 会 不 会 说 中文?

Can Mary speak Chinese?

Mǎlì huì shuō Zhōngwén ma?

玛丽 会 说 中文 吗?

Can Mary speak Chinese?

Nǐ xǐhuan bu xǐhuan yùndòng?

(4) 你 喜欢 不 喜欢 运动?

Do you like sports?

Nǐ xǐ bu xǐhuan yùndòng?

你 喜 不 喜欢 运动?

Do you like sports?

Nǐ xǐhuan yùndòng ma?

你 喜欢 运动 吗?

Do you like sports?

Wàimiàn lěng bu lěng?

(5) 外面 冷 不 冷?

Is it cold outside?

Wàimiàn lěng ma?

外面 冷 吗?

Is it cold outside?

Notice:

1) 当动词或形容词是双音节词的时候，肯定形式的第二个音节可以被省略。

When the verb or adjective has two characters, the second character in the affirmative part can be omitted.

For example:

Tā piàoliang bu piàoliang?

(1) 她 漂亮 不 漂亮?

Is she beautiful?

Tā piào bu piàoliang?

她 漂 不 漂亮?

Is she beautiful?

Nǐ xīwàng bu xīwàng míngtiān fàngjià?

(2) 你 希望 不 希望 明天 放假?

Do you want to have a holiday tomorrow?

Nǐ xī bu xīwàng míngtiān fàngjià?

你 希 不 希望 明天 放假?

Do you want to have a holiday tomorrow?

Nǐ xūyào bu xūyào zhè běn shū?

(3) 你 需要 不 需要 这 本 书?

Do you need this book?

Nǐ xū bu xūyào zhè běn shū?

你 需 不 需要 这 本 书?

Do you need this book?

2) 正反疑问句得句尾不能加疑问助词“吗”。

The end of affirmative-negative questions should not be added the particle “吗” at the end.

For example:

Nǐ shì bu shì Zhōngguó rén ma?

(1)*你 是 不 是 中 国 人 吗? ×

(Are you Chinese?)

Nǐ chī bu chī píngguǒ ma?

(2)*你 吃 不 吃 苹 果 吗? ×

(Do you want eat apples?)

Nǐ yào bu yào píjiǔ ma?

(3)*你 要 不 要 啤 酒 吗? ×

(Would you like some beer?)

Nǐ jiā yuǎn bu yuǎn ma?

(4)*你 家 远 不 远 吗? ×

(Is your home far?)

3) 当动词是“有”的时候，否定形式是“没有”，而不是“不有”。

When the main verb of a sentence is “有(have)”, the negative form should be “没有(méi yǒu)”, instead of “不有”.

For example:

Nǐ yǒu mèimei ma?

(1) 你 有 妹妹 吗?

Do you have younger sister?

Nǐ yǒu méi yǒu mèimei?

你 有 没 有 妹妹?

Do you have younger sister?

Měiguó yǒu xióngmāo ma?

(2) 美国 有 熊猫 吗?

Does America have pandas?

Měiguó yǒu méi yǒu xióngmāo?

美国 有 没 有 熊猫?

Does America have pandas?

Fùjìn yǒu shāngdiàn ma?

(3) 附近 有 商店 吗?

Is there a shop nearby?

Fùjìn yǒu méi yǒu shāngdiàn?

附近 有 没 有 商店?

Is there a shop nearby?

4) 当动词或形容词受副词修饰时，不能使用动词/形容词+不+动词/形容词格式。

When the questions has an adverb, cannot use affirmative-negative questions.

For example:

Nǐ hěn máng ma?

(1) 你 很 忙 吗? √

Are you very busy?

Nǐ hěn máng bu máng?

* 你 很 忙 不 忙? ×

(Are you very busy?)

Nǐ yě shì Zhōngguó rén ma?

(2) 你也是中国人吗? ✓

Are you also Chinese?

Nǐ yě shì bu shì Zhōngguó rén?

* 你也不是中国人? ✗

(Are you also Chinese?)

Zhèr zhǐ mài kāfēi ma?

(3) 这儿只卖咖啡吗? ✓

Is only coffee sold here?

Zhèr zhǐ mài bu mài kāfēi?

* 这儿只卖不卖咖啡? ✗

(Is only coffee sold here?)

5) 当询问发生在过去的动作时，否定形式应该是“没+动词”，或者在动词前面加“有没有”。

When asking about verbs in the past, the negative form should be “没 + verb”, instead of “不 + verb”. or putting “有没有” in front of the verb.

For example:

zuótiān nǐ qù méi qù kàn diànyǐng?

(1) 昨天你去没去看电影?

Did you go to the cinema yesterday?

zuótiān nǐ yǒu méi yǒu qù kàn diànyǐng?

昨天你有没有去看电影?

Did you go to the cinema yesterday?

nǐ chī méi chī guò liúlián?

(2) 你吃没吃过榴莲?

Have you ever eaten durian?

nǐ yǒu méi yǒu chī guò liúlián?

你有没有吃过榴莲?

Have you ever eaten durian?

nǐ xǐ méi xǐ shǒu?

(3) 你洗没洗手?

Did you wash your hands?

nǐ yǒu méi yǒu xǐ shǒu?

你 有 没 有 洗 手?

Did you wash your hands?

2. Alternative question

“还是”是一个连词，用在疑问句当中，表示选择。：

“还是” is a conjunction, used in a question to connect options.

For example:

Nǐ yào chá hái shì kāfēi?

(1) 你 要 茶 还 是 咖啡?

Would you like tea or coffee?

Tā shì lǎoshī hái shì xuéshēng?

(2) 他 是 老师 还 是 学生?

Is he a teacher or a student?

Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén hái shì Rìběn rén?

(3) 你 是 中国 人 还 是 日本 人?

Are you Chinese or Japanese?

Nǐ xǐhuan chàng gē hái shì tiào wǔ?

(4) 你 喜欢 唱 歌 还 是 跳 舞?

Do you like singing or dancing?

Wǒmen qù túshūguǎn hái shì qù gōngyuán?

(5) 我 们 去 图书馆 还 是 去 公园?

Shall we go to the library or the park?

Notice:

1) 选择问句的句尾不能加疑问助词“吗”。

The end of alternative questions should not be added the particle “吗”。

For example:

Nǐ yào chá háishi kāfēi ma?

(1)*你要茶 还是 咖啡吗? ×

(Would you like tea or coffee?)

Nǐ ài wǒ háishi tā ma?

(2)*你爱我 还是 他吗? ×

(Do you love me or him?)

Jīntiān shì xīngqī sān háishi xīngqī sì ma?

(3)*今天 是 星期三 还是 星期四吗? ×

(Is today Wednesday or Thursday?)

Zhè shì nǐ jiějie háishi nǐ mèimei ma?

(4)*这是你姐姐 还是 你妹妹吗? ×

(Is this your older sister or your younger sister?)

2) 当有三个或三个以上选项的时候, “还是”应该放在后两个选项之间。

When there are three or more options, “还是” must be placed between the last two.

For example:

Nǐ xǐhuan hē hóngchá、lǜchá háishi huāchá?

(1) 你喜欢喝 红茶、 绿茶 还是 花茶?

Do you prefer black tea, green tea or scented tea?

Zhōumò wǒmen qù pá shān、guàng jiē háishi kàn diànyǐng?

(2) 周末 我们去爬山、 逛街 还是 看电影?

Shall we go hiking, go shopping or go to the movies at the weekend?

