

Top usages of the question word "zěn me"

疑问词“怎么”的常用用法

Usages

Part 1: 怎么

“怎么” has two meanings in Chinese. When you stress “怎么”，“怎么” means how in the sentences. When you stress the word after “怎么”，“怎么” means why and how come in the sentences.

zěn me

a. 怎么 how

Nǐ zěn me qù xué xiào?

你 怎么 去 学 校?

How do you go to school?

Zhè ge zì zěn me dú?

这 个 字 怎么 读?

How to read this character?

Nǐ de míng zì zěn me xiě?

你 的 名 字 怎么 写?

How to write your name?

zěn me

b. 怎么 why, how come (Emphasizing the feeling of surprise or astonishment.)

Nǐ zěn me zhè me gāo xìng?

你 怎么 这 么 高 兴?

Why are you so happy?

Tā zěn me kū le?

她 怎么 哭 了?

Why is she crying?

Bà ba zěn me hái méi huí jiā?
爸爸怎么还没回家?
Why hasn't dad come home yet?

Part 2: 不怎么样

when “不怎么样” is used with adjectives, psychological verbs or modal verbs, it means not very; when “不怎么样” is used with action verbs, it means not often.

bù zěn me

a. 不怎么样 not very

Wǒ jīn tiān bù zěn me shū fu.
我今天不怎么样舒服。
I'm not feeling well today.

Wǒ dì di bù zěn me gāo.
我弟弟不怎么样高。
My brother is not very tall.

Wǒ bù zěn me xiǎng chī fàn.
我不怎么样想吃饭。
I don't really feel like eating.

Tā bù zěn me huì shuō Hànyǔ.
他不怎么会说汉语。
He can't speak Chinese very well.

bù zěn me

b. 不怎么样 not often

Wǒ bù zěn me kàn diànyǐng.
我不怎么样看电影。
I don't often watch movies.

Tā bù zěn me chī shuǐguǒ.
他不怎么样吃水果。

He doesn't often eat fruits.

Wǒ gē ge bù zěn me wán yóu xì.

我哥哥不怎么玩游戏。

My brother doesn't often play games.

Part 3: 怎么也/都

zěn me yě/dōu

怎么也/都 no matter how, anyway

Zhè hái zi zěn me yě bú shuì jiào.

这孩子怎么也不睡觉。

The child doesn't sleep anyway.

Nǐ zěn me dōu yīng gāi qù kàn kan tā.

你怎么都应该去看看她。

You should visit her anyway.

Wǒ zěn me yě xué bú huì kāi chē.

我怎么也学不会开车。

I would never learn to drive anyway.

Part 4: 怎么样

zěn me yàng

怎么样 how is it

Nǐ shēn tǐ zěn me yàng?

你身体怎么样？

How are you?

Zhè ge xué xiào zěn me yàng?

这个学校怎么样？

What about this school?

Nǐ Hànyǔ shuō de zěnmeyàng?
你汉语说得怎么样?
How well do you speak Chinese?

Part 5: 不怎么样

bù zěnmeyàng
不怎么样 not very well, not very good

Zhè ge diànyǐng bù zěnmeyàng.
这个电影不怎么样。
This movie is not so good.

Zhè ge fàndiàn de cài bù zěnmeyàng.
这个饭店的菜不怎么样。
The food in this restaurant is not very good.

Tā Hànzì xiě de bù zěnmeyàng.
他汉字写得不怎么样。
He can't write Chinese characters very well.

Part 6: 那又怎么样

nà yòu zěnmeyàng
那又怎么样 so what

Wǒ jīn tiān kàn jiàn Dà wèi le.
A:我今天看见大卫了。
I saw David today.

Nà yòu zěnmeyàng? Wǒ hé tā yǐ jīng fēn shǒu le.
B:那又怎么样? 我和他已经分手了。
So what? I broke up with him already.

Wài miàn xià yǔ le.
A:外面下雨了。

It's raining outside.

Nà yòu zěn me yàng? Fǎn zhèng wǒ yě bù xiǎng chū mén.

B: 那 又 怎 么 样? 反 正 我 也 不 想 出 门。

So what? I don't want to go out anyway.

Part 7: 怎么了

zěn me le

怎 么 了 what's wrong, what's the matter

Nǐ zěn me le?

A: 你 怎 么 了?

What's wrong with you?

Wǒ tóu téng.

B: 我 头 疼。

I have a headache.

Tā zěn me le? Zěn me zhè me bù gāo xìng?

他 怎 么 了? 怎 么 这 么 不 高 兴?

What's wrong with him? Why is he so upset?

Jīn tiān zěn me le? Gōng yuán li zhè me duō rén.

今 天 怎 么 了? 公 园 里 这 么 多 人。

What's wrong today? There are so many people in the park.

Part 8: 怎么办

zěn me bàn

怎 么 办 what to do

Hái zi bù xiǎng qù xué xiào zěn me bàn?

孩 子 不 想 去 学 校 怎 么 办?

What if the child doesn't want to go to school?

Xià yǔ le, zěn me bàn?
下雨了, 怎么办?
It's raining, what to do?

Rú guǒ tā míng tiān bù lái zěn me bàn?
如果他明天不来怎么办?
What if he doesn't come tomorrow?

Part 9: 怎么走

zěn me zǒu
怎么走 how should I go (often used to ask for directions)

Qǐng wèn chāo shì zěn me zǒu?
A: 请问超市怎么走?
Could you please tell me the way to the supermarket?
Wǎng qián zǒu 200 mǐ jiù dào le.
B: 往前走 200 米就到了。
Go ahead 200 meters and you'll be there.

Qǐng wèn yī yuàn zěn me zǒu?
A: 请问医院怎么走?
Could you please tell me the way to the hospital?
Guò hóng lǜ dēng yòu zhuǎn jiù shì.
B: 过红绿灯右转就是。
Pass the traffic light and turn right.

Notice:

“怎么去” can also be used to ask for directions when it is put at the end of the sentence.

Now let's compare the following examples.

Qǐng wèn Hànyǔ xuéxiào zěn me qù?
A: 请问汉语学校怎么去?
Could you please tell me the way to the Chinese language school?

Yì zhí zǒu, rán hòu zuǒ zhuǎn.

B: 一直走, 然后左转。

Go straight, then turn left.

Wǒ men zěn me qù Hànyǔ xuéxiào?

A: 我们怎么去汉语学校?

How do we go to the Chinese language school?

Wǒ men zuò dìtiě qù.

B: 我们坐地铁去。

We take the subway to go.
