



GRAMMAR • CONFIDENT BEGINNER

Fix Common English-to-Mandarin Mistakes

Diagnose and fix literal English transfer involving predicates, 是/有, time and place, classifiers, negation, questions, 了, clause linking, and verb-object chunks.

Wǒ hěn lèi.

我很累。

I am tired.

No 是 before adjective

By the end, you can...

- ✓ Spot an English frame before translating it
- ✓ Repair a sentence by moving or replacing one block
- ✓ Name the Mandarin pattern you will retrieve next time



Confident beginner

50-75 minutes

25 pages

Answer guide

Self-contained print practice. Audio and web tools are optional.



1

Repair 1: adjective predicates

After this page, you can Stop inserting 是 before every English 'be'.

REPAIR

A descriptive adjective can be the predicate



Wǒ hěn máng.

我很忙。

I am busy.

neutral description



Jīntiān hěn lěng.

今天很冷。

It is cold today.

weather



Zhège cài bú là.

这个菜不辣。

This dish is not spicy.

negative



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



2

Repair 1: adjective predicates CONTINUED

After this page, you can Stop inserting 是 before every English 'be'.

REPAIR

Remove the English frame

Repair the intended neutral description.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

我是很累。(I am tired.)

One answer Wǒ hěn lèi.

我很累。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

天气是很热。(The weather is hot.)



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



3

Repair 2: 是 or 有

After this page, you can Separate identity from possession and existence.

CHOOSE

Choose the relationship



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Meaning	Frame	Example
Identify or classify	A 是 B	她是老师。
Possess	A 有 B	她有一本书。
Exist at a place	Place 有 B	桌子上有一本书。



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



4

Repair 2: 是 or 有 CONTINUED

After this page, you can Separate identity from possession and existence.

CHOOSE

Repair the verb

Use 是 or 有 for the intended meaning.

3

WORKED EXAMPLE

我家是四口人。(There are four people in my family.)

One answer Wǒ jiā yǒu sì kǒu rén.

我家有四口人。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

4

桌子上是两杯茶。(There are two cups of tea on the table.)



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



5

Repair 3: time and place

After this page, you can Move the setting before the main action.

∞ MOVE

Set the scene, then act

1

Wǒ míngtiān qù Běijīng.

我明天去北京。

I am going to Beijing tomorrow.

time before action

2

Tā zài xuéxiào xué Zhōngwén.

她在学校学中文。

She studies Chinese at school.

place before action

3

Wǒmen wǎnshang zài jiā chīfàn.

我们晚上在家吃饭。

We eat at home in the evening.

time + place



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



6

Repair 3: time and place CONTINUED

After this page, you can Move the setting before the main action.

 MOVE

Move one block

Repair the neutral beginner order.

5

WORKED EXAMPLE

我喝咖啡早上。

One answer wǒ zǎo shàng hē kā fēi

我早上喝咖啡。

Why it works: 早上我喝咖啡 is also possible.

6

他看书在图书馆。



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



7

Repair 4: quantity needs a classifier

After this page, you can Keep number, measure word, and noun in one block.

INSERT

Number + measure word + noun



sān ge rén

三个人

three people

个



liǎng běn shū

两本书

two books

本



yì bēi chá

一杯茶

a cup of tea

杯



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



8

Repair 4: quantity needs a classifier

CONTINUED

After this page, you can Keep number, measure word, and noun in one block.

 INSERT

Insert the missing classifier

Use 个, 本, or 杯.

7

WORKED EXAMPLE

我有两____中文书。

One answer bēn

本

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

8

请给我一____水。



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



9

Repair 5: negation and questions

After this page, you can Use the right negative and keep question words in their answer slot.

REPAIR

Two repairs



Wǒ jīntiān bú qù.

我今天不去。

I am not going today.

不 for present/future choice



Wǒ zuótiān méi qù.

我昨天没去。

I did not go yesterday.

没 for non-occurrence



Nǐ zhù zài nǎr?

你住在哪儿？

Where do you live?

where answer would go



Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?

你想吃什么？

What would you like to eat?

object slot



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



10

Repair 5: negation and questions

 CONTINUED

After this page, you can Use the right negative and keep question words in their answer slot.

REPAIR

Repair one choice

Rewrite for the stated meaning.

9

WORKED EXAMPLE

我昨天不吃早饭。(I did not eat breakfast yesterday.)

One answer wǒ zuó tiān méi chī zǎo fàn

我昨天没吃早饭。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

10

什么你想喝? (What would you like to drink?)



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



11

Repair 6: 了 is not a past-tense suffix

After this page, you can Use context and viewpoint instead of adding 了 to every past event.

REPAIR

Time word, event viewpoint, new situation



Wǒ zuótiān hěn máng.

我昨天很忙。

I was busy yesterday.

past time, no event 了



Wǒ mǎi le liǎng zhāng piào.

我买了两张票。

I bought two tickets.

bounded event



Xià yǔ le.

下雨了。

It has started raining. / Now it's raining.

new situation



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



12

Repair 6: 了 is not a past-tense suffix CONTINUED

After this page, you can Use context and viewpoint instead of adding 了 to every past event.

REPAIR

Do not force 了

Repair the intended simple description.

11

WORKED EXAMPLE

我昨天是很累了。(I was tired yesterday.)

One answer wǒ zuó tiān hěn lèi

我昨天很累。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



13

Repair 7: do not translate every 'and' as 和

After this page, you can Join nouns and complete ideas with a Mandarin structure that matches what is being linked.

CONNECT

First identify what 'and' joins

和 commonly links nouns or noun phrases. It is not a default translation for every English 'and' between clauses; Mandarin may instead use a pause, 也 or 还, or a connector that states the relationship.



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Job	Natural Mandarin	Why
Two nouns in one phrase	我喜欢茶和咖啡。 Wǒ xǐhuan chá hé kāfēi.	和 links tea and coffee.
Another action, same subject	我喜欢喝茶，也喜欢看书。 Wǒ xǐhuan hē chá, yě xǐhuan kàn shū.	也 adds a second predicate.
Two complete statements	我是学生，我妹妹是老师。 Wǒ shì xuésheng, wǒ mèimei shì lǎoshī.	A pause can link the statements; no filler is required.



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



14

Repair 7: do not translate every 'and' as 和

CONTINUED

After this page, you can Join nouns and complete ideas with a Mandarin structure that matches what is being linked.

 **CONNECT**

Repair the link

Choose or write the smallest repair for the stated meaning.

12

WORKED EXAMPLE

我喜欢茶___咖啡。(I like tea and coffee.)

☒ 和

☐ 吗

☐ 吧

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

13

我住在上海，___在这里工作。(I live in Shanghai and also work here.)

☐ 也

☐ 和

☐ 吗


One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



15

Repair 7: do not translate every 'and' as 和

CONTINUED

After this page, you can Join nouns and complete ideas with a Mandarin structure that matches what is being linked.

 **CONNECT**

Repair the link

Choose or write the smallest repair for the stated meaning.

14

我是学生和我妹妹是老师。(I am a student, and my younger sister is a teacher.)



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



16

Repair 8: verb-object chunks

After this page, you can Notice when a familiar activity already contains an object and choose a new frame for a person or specific thing.

REFRAME

Keep the chunk or replace its object



Wǒ xiǎng jiàn Lǐ Míng. / Wǒ xiǎng gēn Lǐ Míng jiànmiàn.

我想见李明。 / 我想跟李明见面。

I want to meet Li Ming.

见 takes the person; 见面 keeps 面 and introduces the person with 跟



Wǒ chīfàn. / Wǒ chī miàntiáo.

我吃饭。 / 我吃面条。

I eat / have a meal. / I eat noodles.

Replace 饭 when naming the food



Tā chàngē. / Tā chàng Yīngwén gē.

她唱歌。 / 她唱英文歌。

She sings. / She sings English songs.

歌 is already the object of 唱



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



17

Repair 8: verb-object chunks CONTINUED

After this page, you can Notice when a familiar activity already contains an object and choose a new frame for a person or specific thing.

REFRAME

Choose the complete frame

Repair the activity without stacking two objects after one verb.

15

WORKED EXAMPLE

I want to meet Teacher Wang.



我想见王老师。



我想见面王老师。



我想王老师见面。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

16

我明天____李明见面。

☐ 跟☐ 把☐ 吗

One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



18

Repair 8: verb-object chunks CONTINUED

After this page, you can Notice when a familiar activity already contains an object and choose a new frame for a person or specific thing.

REFRAME

Choose the complete frame

Repair the activity without stacking two objects after one verb.

17

我想吃饭面条。(I want to eat noodles.)

18

她喜欢唱歌英文歌。(She likes singing English songs.)



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



19

Your personal repair log

After this page, you can Turn one correction into a reusable retrieval cue.

LOG

Four-step repair



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

My original line	Smallest repair	Pattern name	Fresh example



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



20

Your personal repair log CONTINUED

After this page, you can Turn one correction into a reusable retrieval cue.

 LOG

Cold retry

19

Close the workbook. Recreate one repaired sentence with a new person, time, place, or object.

Success looks like Uses the same Mandarin pattern in a meaningfully changed example.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



21

Check your work

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

1

我是很累。(I am tired.)

Wǒ hěn lèi.

我很累。

2

天气是很热。(The weather is hot.)

tiān qì hěn rè

天气很热。

3

我家是四口人。(There are four people in my family.)

Wǒ jiā yǒu sì kǒu rén.

我家有四口人。

4

桌子上是两杯茶。(There are two cups of tea on the table.)

zhuō zi shàng yǒu liǎng bēi chá

桌子上有两杯茶。

5

我喝咖啡早上。

wǒ zǎo shàng hē kā fēi

我早上喝咖啡。

Why: 早上我喝咖啡 is also possible.

6

他看书在图书馆。

tā zài tú shū guǎn kàn shū

他在图书馆看书。

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



22

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

7

我有两____中文书。

běn

本

8

请给我一____水。

bēi

杯

9

我昨天不吃早饭。(I did not eat breakfast yesterday.)

wǒ zuó tiān méi chī zǎo fàn

我昨天没吃早饭。

10

什么你想喝? (What would you like to drink?)

Nǐ xiǎng hē shénme?

你想喝什么?

11

我昨天是很累了。(I was tired yesterday.)

wǒ zuó tiān hěn lèi

我昨天很累。

12

我喜欢茶____咖啡。(I like tea and coffee.)

hé

和

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



23

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

13

我住在上海，____在这里工作。(I live in Shanghai and also work here.)

yě

也

14

我是学生和我妹妹是老师。(I am a student, and my younger sister is a teacher.)

wǒ shì xué shēng · wǒ mèi mei shì lǎo shī

我是学生，我妹妹是老师。

Why: A pause links the two complete statements; no general 'and' filler is required.

15

I want to meet Teacher Wang.

wǒ xiǎng jiàn wáng lǎo shī

我想见王老师。

16

我明天____李明见面。

gēn

跟

17

我想吃饭面条。(I want to eat noodles.)

wǒ xiǎng chī miàn tiáo

我想吃面条。

18

她喜欢唱歌英文歌。(She likes singing English songs.)

tā xǐ huan chàng yīng wén gē

她喜欢唱英文歌。

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



24

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

19

Close the workbook. Recreate one repaired sentence with a new person, time, place, or object.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

Tā wǎnshang zài túshūguǎn kàn shū.

她晚上在图书馆看书。

Success criteria: Uses the same Mandarin pattern in a meaningfully changed example.

Second attempt

Cover the model. Recreate it from memory, change one useful detail, and note the repair you want to revisit.

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.