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Survival Chinese - 42 Essential Sentence Patterns

1.

shì... de

是...的

is used to emphasize information (usually past events)

Note: 是/shì is often dropped by native speakers as understood in positive sentences, but cannot be dropped in a negative sentence.

Examples:

wǒ gēn wǒ nǚpéngyou shì zài wǎngshàng rènshi de。

我跟我女朋友是在网上认识的。 I met my girlfriend online.

是/shì is often dropped in positive sentences

wǒ gēn wǒ nǚpéngyou (shì) zài wǎngshàng rènshi de。 我 跟我 女朋友 (是) 在 网上 认识 的。 I met my girlfriend online.

是/shì can't be dropped in a negative sentence

wǒ gēn wǒ nǚpéngyou bùshì zài wǎngshàng rènshi de。 我跟我女朋友不是在网上认识的。 I didn't meet my girlfriend online.

2.

suīrán ..., dànshì... 虽然 ...,但是... although..., but...

Note: In English, the "but" is usually dropped, but in Chinese, it is never dropped.

Examples:

suīrán wǒ hěn gāo, dànshì wǒ bùhuì dǎ lánqiú。 虽然 我 很 高, 但是 我 不会 打 篮球。 Although I am very tall, I can't play basketball. suīrán wǒ hěn è,dànshì wǒ bùxiǎng chī dōngxi。 虽然 我很饿,但是 我不想 吃 东西。 Although I am very hungry, I don't want to eat.

3.

rúguǒ..., jiù... 如果..., 就... If..., then...

Examples:

rúguǒ míngtiān bù xiàyǔ, wǒmen jiù qù páshān。
如果 明天 不下雨,我们就去爬山。
If tomorrow doesn't rain, we will go hike a mountain.

rúguǒ nǐ bù quèdìng, jiù chá yīxià zìdiǎn。 如果 你 不 确定, 就 查 一下 字典。 If you are not sure, check a dictionary.

4.

yī ... jiù... — ... 就... as soon as

Examples:

```
wǒ yī tǎngxià jiù shuìzháo le。
```

我一躺下就睡着了。

As soon as I lied down, I fell asleep.

wǒ yī gàosu tā, tā jiù shēngqì le.

我一告诉她,她就生气了。

As soon as I told her, she became angry.

5.

gēn... yīyàng ...

跟... 一样 ...

be the same as

Examples:

nǐ gēn wǒ xiǎng de yīyàng。

你跟我想的一样。

Your thinking is the same as mine.

zhèlǐ de tiānqì gēn wǒ lǎojiā de bù yīyàng。

这里的天气跟我老家的不一样。

The weather here is not the same as in my hometown.

When using an adjective or a verb, place it after "一样/ yīyàng". wǒ gēn nǐ yīyàng pà lěng。

我跟你一样怕冷。

I hate the cold as much as you do.

6.

(Place A) + lí + (Place B) ... yuǎn/ jìn

(Place A) + 离 + (Place B) ... 远/近

is used to express whether place A is far or near from place B.

Examples:

wǒ jiā lí dìtiězhàn hěn yuǎn。

我家离地铁站很远。

My home is far away from the subway.

wǒ de xuéxiào lí chāoshì hěn jìn。

我的学校离超市很近。

My school is very close to the supermarket.

7.

(Place A) + Ií + (Place B) (you) duō yuan?

(Place A) + 离 + (Place B) (有) 多 远?

How far away is Place A from Place B?

Note: 有 is sometimes dropped.

Examples:

zhèlĭ lí zuìjìn de dìtiězhàn yǒu duō yuǎn?

这里离 最近 的 地铁站 有 多 远?

How far away is the nearest subway from here?

有/yǒu is sometimes dropped.

nǐ jiā lí chāoshì (yǒu) duō yuǎn?

你 家离 超市 (有)多 远?

How far away is your home from the supermarket?

8.

yīnwèi..., suŏyi...

因为..., 所以...

because..., therefore...

Examples:

yīnwèi zuówăn méi shuì hǎo, suǒyǐ xiànzài yǒudiǎn kùn。

因为 昨晚 没 睡 好, 所以 现在 有点 困。

I feel a little sleepy, because I didn't sleep well last night.

yīnwèi lùshang dǔchē, suǒyǐ wǒ chídào le。

因为 路上 堵车, 所以我迟到了。

I am late because I ran into heavy traffic.

9.

```
lián... dōu...
```

连... 都...

is used to express "even"

Examples:

wǒ tài máng le, lián chīfàn de shíjiān dōu méiyǒu。

我太忙了,连吃饭的时间都没有。

I am so busy that I don't even have time to eat.

tā lián dàxué dōu méi shàng guò。

他连大学都没上过。

He didn't even study at a university.

10.

bùshì..., jiùshì...

不是..., 就是...

if it's not...., then it's ...

Examples:

zhèlĭ de tiānqì bùshì tài lěng, jiùshì tài rè。

这里的 天气 不是太冷, 就是太热。

The weather here is either too cold or too hot.

tā bùshì zài bàngōngshì, jiùshì zài shítáng.

他 不是 在 办公室, 就是 在 食堂。

If he's not in the office, then he is in the cafeteria.

11.

bùdàn... érqiě...

不但... 而且...

not only... but also...

Examples:

zhège dìfang bùdàn hěn lěng, érqiě hěn cháoshī

这个 地方 不但很 冷, 而且很 潮湿。

This place is not only cold, but also humid.

tā bùdàn huì jiǎng yīngwén, érqiě huì jiǎng fǎyǔ。

他不但会讲 英文, 而且会讲法语。

He can not only speak English, but can also speak French.

12.

yībiān... yībiān...

一边... 一边...

is used to express doing two actions simultaneously.

Examples:

wǒ xǐhuan yībiān chīfàn, yībiān kàn diànshì,

我喜欢一边吃饭,一边看电视。

I like to eat while watching TV.

yībiān zǒulù yībiān kàn shǒujī shì hěn wēixiǎn de。

一边 走路 一边看 手机 是很 危险的。

It's very dangerous to look at the phone while walking.

13.

cóng ... qǐ

从... 起

starting from (a certain time)

Examples:

cóng xiànzài qǐ, wǒ yào nǔlì gōngzuò。

从 现在 起, 我要努力工作。

From now on, I am going to work harder.

cóng míngtiān qǐ, wǒ jiù bùyòng shàngbān le。

从 明天 起, 我就 不用 上班 了。

From tomorrow on, I won't need to work.

14.

zhĭyŏu... cái...

只有... 才...

only if...then...

Examples:

zhǐyǒu nǔlì xuéxí, cái néng kǎoshàng dàxué。

只有 努力 学习, 才 能 考上 大学。

Only if you study hard, will you be able to get into a university.

zhǐyǒu zūnzhòng biéren, biéren cái huì zūnzhòng nǐ。

只有 尊重 别人, 别人才会 尊重 你。

Only if you respect other people, will other people respect you.

15.

yòu... yòu

又...又

both... and...

Examples:

wǒ xiànzài yòu lèi yòu è。

我现在又累又饿。

I am tired and hungry now.

nǐ zuò de cài yòu hǎokàn yòu hǎochī。

你做的菜又好看 又好吃。

The dish you cooked looks and tastes great.

16.

```
jìrán... jiù/ yě/ nà...
```

既然... 就/也/那...

since... then...

Examples:

jìrán nǐ bùnéng lái, nà wèishénme bù zǎo shuō?

既然你不能来,那为什么不早说?

Since you couldn't come, why didn't you tell me earlier?

jìrán shēngbìng le, jiù bié qù shàngbān le。

既然 生病 了, 就别去 上班 了。

Since you're sick, then don't go to work.

17.

A bĭ B + adjective

A比B+adjective

A compare to B is ...

Examples:

nánfāng bǐ běifāng nuǎnhuo。

南方 比 北方 暖和。

The south is warmer than the north.

wǒ mèimei bǐ wǒ gāo。

我妹妹比我高。

My younger sister is taller than me.

18.

xiān..., zài...

先..., 再...

first..., then...

Examples:

wǒ xiān kǎolù xià, zài huífù nǐ。

我 先 考虑 下, 再 回复 你。

Let me think about it first, then I will answer you.

wǒ xiǎng xiān xǐ gè zǎo, zài qù chīfàn。

我想 先洗个澡,再去吃饭。

I'd like to take a shower first, then go to eat.

19.

wúlùn/ bùguǎn... dōu/ yě...

无论/不管... 都/也...

no matter..., (result)...

Note: 无论 is more formal than 不管.

Examples:

bùguăn míngtiān tiānqì rúhé, wŏmen dōu yào qù páshān。

不管 明天 天气如何,我们都要去爬山。

No matter how the weather is tomorrow, we will go hiking.

wúlùn rúhé, wǒ yě bùhuì fàngqì zhè cì jīhuì。

无论 如何, 我也不会放弃这次机会。

No matter what, I won't give up this opportunity.

20.

chèn ...(opportunity)

趁 ...(opportunity)

take the opportunity ...

Examples:

chèn huǒchē hái méi lái, wǒ xiān qù shàng gè cèsuǒ。

趁 火车 还没来, 我先去 上个厕所。

Since the train hasn't come yet, I will take the opportunity to go to the restroom.

chèn xiànzài tàiyáng hái méi xiàshān, wŏmen qù hébiān sànsànbù ba。

趁现在太阳还没下山,我们去河边散散步吧。

While the sun is still up, let's go take a walk along the river.

21.

kuài (yào) ... le 快(要)... 了 something is about to happen...

Note: 要 is usually added before the verb.

Examples:

wǒ shǒujī kuài méidiàn le。

我手机 快 没电 了。

My phone's battery is dying.

hǎoxiàng kuàiyào xiàyǔ le。

好像 快要 下雨了。

It seems that it's going to rain.

22.

chúle... yǐwài/ zhīwài, ... dōu... 除了...以外/之外, ...都... except for ... , all...

Note: 以外 and 之外 are interchangeable.

Examples:

chúle nǐ zhīwài, wǒ shéi dōu bù xiāngxìn。

除了你之外,我谁都不相信。 I don't believe anybody except for you.

chúle Eileen yǐwài, dàjiā dōu zài zhèr。 除了 Eileen 以外,大家都在这儿。 Everybody is here except for Eileen.

23.

chúle... yǐwài/ zhīwài, ... hái/ yě... 除了...以外/之外, ...还/也... besides...

Examples:

chúle yīngyǔ yǐwài, nǐ hái huì jiǎng shénme yǔyán? 除了英语 以外,你还会讲什么语言? Beside English, what other languages can you speak?

chúle yīngyǔ zhīwài, wǒ yě huì shuō zhōngwén hé fǎyǔ。 除了 英语 之外, 我 也 会 说 中文 和 法语。 Besides English, I can also speak Chinese and French.

24.

A méiyǒu B + adjective nàme / zhème...
A 没有 B + adjective 那么/这么...
A is not as... as B...

Examples:

jīntiān de tiānqì méiyǒu zuótiān de nàme hǎo。

今天 的 天气 没有 昨天 的 那么 好。

Today's weather is not as good as yesterday's.

zhè tái diànnǎo méiyǒu nà tái diànnǎo nàme guì。

这台 电脑 没有 那台 电脑 那么贵。

This computer is not as expensive as that one.

25.

yǔqí... bùrú...

与其... 不如...

rather than..., it's better...

Examples:

yǔqí měitiān bàoyuàn, bùrú xiǎng bànfǎ gǎibiàn。

与其每天 抱怨, 不如 想 办法 改变。

Rather than complaining everyday, it's better to come up with a way to make a change.

yǔqí měitiān chī kuàicān, bùrú zài jiā zìjǐ zuòfàn

与其 每天 吃 快餐, 不如 在家自己做饭。

Rather than eating fastfood everyday, it's better to cook at home.

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26.
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```
jíshǐ..., yě...
即使..., 也...
even if..., still...
```

Examples:

jíshǐ zài máng yě yào xiūxi。

即使再忙也要休息。

Even if you're busy, you still need to rest.

jíshǐ shì miǎnfèi de, wǒ yě bùyào。

即使是免费的,我也不要。

Even if it's free, I still don't want it.

27.

```
yuèláiyuè... (adjective)
越来越... (adjective)
getting more and more... (adjective)
```

Examples:

xiànzài tiānqì yuèláiyuè lěng le。

现在天气 越来越 冷了。

The weather is getting colder and colder.

wǒ de shìlì xiànzài yuèláiyuè chà le。

我的视力现在 越来越差了。

My eyesight is getting worse and worse.

28.

bùjǐn... hái...

不仅…还…

not only... but also...

Examples:

tā de zhàngfu bùjín důbó hái xùjiù.

她 的 丈夫 不仅 赌博 还 酗酒。

Her husband not only gambles, but also drinks.

chōuyān bùjǐn làngfèi qián, hái duì nǐ de jiànkāng yǒuhài。

抽烟 不仅 浪费 钱, 还对你的 健康 有害。

Smoking is not only a waste of money, but also it's harmful to your health.

29.

jì + A ..., yě + B...

既 + A ..., 也 + B...

both + A... and + B...

Note: A and B can be adjectives, verbs, or short phrases. but, A and B usually are using the same form.

Examples:

zhège dāncí jì shì dòngcí, yě shì xíngróngcí。 这个单词 既是动词,也是 形容词。 This word is both a verb and an adjective.

wǒ jì xǐhuan chī zhūròu, yě xǐhuan chī jīròu。 我既喜欢吃猪肉, 也喜欢吃鸡肉。 I like to eat both, pork and chicken.

30.

verb + le, jiù...
verb + 了,就...
complete one action, then start another

Examples:

wǒ dào le jiù gěi nǐ dǎdiànhuà。 我到了就给你打电话。 I will call you when I arrive.

wŏ xǐ le zǎo jiù qù shuìjiào le。

我洗了澡就去睡觉了。

I took a shower, then I went to sleep.

31.

```
shéi..., shéi jiù...
谁..., 谁就...
whoever...
```

Examples:

míngtiān shéi qichuáng zǎo, shéi jiù mǎi zǎocān。

明天 谁 起床 早, 谁就买早餐。

Whoever gets up early, buys the breakfast.

shéi shū le, shéi jiù mǎidān。

谁 输 了, 谁 就 买单。

Whoever loses, pays the bill.

32.

```
shénme..., jiù... shénme
什么..., 就...什么
whatever...
```

Examples:

nǐ diǎn shénme, wǒ jiù chī shénme。 你点什么,我就吃什么。 I will eat whatever you order. shénme piányi, wǒ jiù mǎi shénme。 什么 便宜, 我 就 买 什么。 I will buy whatever it's cheap.

33.

nǎr..., jiù... nǎr 哪儿..., 就...哪儿 wherever...

Examples:

mǎr nuǎnhuo, wǒmen jiù qù nǎr。 哪儿 暖和, 我们 就去哪儿。 We will go wherever is warm.

nǐ xiǎng qù nǎr, wǒ jiù dài nǐ qù nǎr。 你想去哪儿,我就带你去哪儿。 I will take you to wherever you want to go.

34.

shénme shíhou, ... jiù... shénme shíhou 什么时候, ... 就... 什么时候 whenever...

Examples:

wǒ shénme shíhou fā gōngzī, jiù shénme shíhou jiāo fángzū。 我 什么时候 发 工资, 就 什么时候 交 房租。 I will pay the rent whenever I get paid.

nǐ shénme shíhou dàojiā, wǒ jiù shénme shíhou kāishǐ zuòfàn。你什么时候 到家,我就 什么时候 开始做饭。
I will start cooking whenever you get home.

35.

duōshao..., jiù... duōshao 多少..., 就... 多少 as much as...

几+measure word..., 就... 几+measure word as many as...

Examples:

nǐ xiǎng chī duōshao, jiù chī duōshao.

你想吃多少,就吃多少。

Eat as much as you want.

nǐ yǒu jǐ gè, jiù gěi wǒ jǐ gè。 你有几个,就给我几个。 Give me as many as you have.

36.

```
děng..., zài...
```

等...,再...

wait until..., then...

Examples:

děng dàjiā dōu dàoqí le, wŏmen zài kāishǐ kāihuì。

等 大家都 到齐了,我们再开始开会。

We will wait until everybody is here, then we will start the meeting.

děng nǐ xiàbān le, wǒ zài lái jiē nǐ。

等你下班了,我再来接你。

I will wait until you finish work, then I will come to pick you up.

37.

chúfēi..., (yào) bùrán...

除非..., (要)不然...

unless..., otherwise...

Examples:

chúfēi nǐmen xiān fùkuǎn, yàobùrán wǒmen bù fāhuò。

除非你们先付款, 要不然我们不发货。

Unless you pay first, we won't send the product.

chúfēi nǐ gěi wǒ dǎzhé, yàobùrán wǒ jiù bù mǎi le。 除非你给我打折,要不然我就不买了。 Unless you give me a discount, I won't buy it.

38.

yàome... yàome...

要么... 要么...

either... or...

Examples:

women yaome qù kan dianying, yaome qù guangjie.

我们 要么去看 电影, 要么去 逛街。

We either go see a movie or go shopping.

zhège jiàqī, wŏmen yàome qù shànghǎi, yàome qù běijīng。

这个假期, 我们 要么 去上海, 要么去 北京。

This vacation, we will either go to Shanghai or Beijing.

39.

bùshì..., érshì...

不是..., 而是...

It's not..., rather...

Examples:

wǒ bùshì bù xǐhuan chī lóngxiā, érshì lóngxiā tài guì le。

我不是不喜欢吃龙虾, 而是龙虾太贵了。

It's not that I don't like to eat lobster, it's just that is too expensive.

wǒ bùshì bùxiǎng qù, érshì wǒ zhēnde méiyǒu shíjiān。

我不是不想去, 而是我真的没有时间。

It's not that I don't want to go, it's just that I really don't have the time.

40.

dào... wéizhǐ

到...为止

up till...

Examples:

dào xiànzài wéizhǐ, tāmen yǐjīng jiéhūn shí nián le。

到 现在 为止, 他们 已经 结婚十年了。

Up till now, they have been married for ten years.

dào mùqián wéizhǐ, wǒ háishi bù zhīdào nàtiān fāshēng le shénme。

到目前为止, 我还是不知道那天发生了什么。

Up till now, I still don't know what happened that day.

41.

yīfāngmiàn..., (lìng) yīfāngmiàn

一方面...,(另)一方面

on the one hand..., on the other hand...

Examples:

tā yīfāngmiàn xiǎng jièyān, yīfāngmiàn yòu rěnbuzhù chōuyān。

他 一方面 想 戒烟, 一方面 又 忍不住 抽烟。

On the one hand, he wants to quit smoking, but on the other hand, he can't live without smoking!

tā yīfāngmiàn xiǎng jiǎnféi, yīfāngmiàn yòu bù xǐhuan yùndòng。

她 一方面 想 减肥, 一方面 又 不喜欢 运动。

On the one hand, she wants to lose weight, but on the other hand, she doesn't like to exercise.

42.

yīdàn... jiù...

一旦…就…

once... then...

Examples:

huài xíguàn yīdàn yăngchéng jiù hěn nán gǎidiào。

坏 习惯 一旦 养成 就很难改掉。

Once a bad habit is established, it's hard to get rid of.

yīdàn xǔxià nuòyán, jiù bùyào fǎnhuǐ。

一旦 许下 诺言, 就不要 反悔。

Once you give a promise, you can't go back on your word.

dàjiā hǎo! huānyíng láidào Mandarin Corner, wǒ shì Eileen。 大家好! 欢迎来到Mandarin Corner, 我是Eileen。 Hi everyone! Welcome to Mandarin Corner, I am Eileen.

dāng nǐmen zài gēn zhōngguó péngyou liáotiān shí, 当你们在跟中国朋友聊天时, When you're talking with your Chinese friends,

huìbùhuì jīngcháng yīnwèi cíhuì bùgòu, 会不会经常因为词汇不够, do you often feel that due to your limited vocabulary,

ér wúfǎ biǎodá xiāngduì fùzá de xiǎngfǎ ne?
而无法表达相对复杂的想法呢?
you can't express some complicated thoughts?

duōshù qíngkuàng xià, zhèxiē fùzá de xiǎngfǎ kěyǐ tōngguò 多数情况下,这些复杂的想法可以通过 In most cases, these comlicated thoughts can be expressed yīxiē chángyòng de jùxíng jiégòu lái biǎodá。

一些常用的句型结构来表达。

by using some common sentence patterns.

suǒyǐ zài zhège shìpín zhōng ne,

所以在这个视频中呢,

So in this video,

wǒ jiù gèi dàjiā dàilái le42 gè chángyòng de zhōngwén jùxíng,

我就给大家带来了42个常用的中文句型,

I will present 42 essential Chinese sentence patterns,

lái bāngzhù nǐmen tígāo biǎodá nénglì。

来帮助你们提高表达能力。

to help you improve your ability to express yourself.

nà xiàmian women jiù kāishǐ ba!

那下面我们就开始吧!

Now let's get started!

hǎo, jīntiān de shìpín jiù dào zhèlǐ。

好,今天的视频就到这里。

Alright, that's it for today.

qíshí zhèxiē jùxíng bùshì hěn nán,

其实这些句型不是很难,

Actually, these sentence patterns are not that hard,

dàn xūyào yīdiǎn shíjiān lái liànxí。

但需要一点时间来练习。

but you need to spend some time to practice.

zhǐyǒu tōngguò fǎnfù liànxí,

只有通过反复练习,

Only by practicing,

cái néng zhēnzhèng de zhǎngwò tāmen,

才能真正地掌握它们,

can you then truly master them,

zuìzhōng dádào tuōkǒu'érchū。

最终达到脱口而出。

and eventually become fluent.

hảo, rúguỏ ni xihuan zhège shìpín ne,

好, 如果你喜欢这个视频呢,

If you like this video,

nà jiù qǐng gěi tā diǎn gè zàn, 那就请给它点个赞, please give it a "like",

bìng yǔ nǐ de péngyou men fēnxiǎng, 并与你的朋友们分享, and share it with your friends,

huò zài xiàmian liúyán gàosu wǒmen nǐ duì zhège shìpín de xiǎngfǎ。

或在下面留言告诉我们你对这个视频的想法。 or comment below.

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miǎnfèi xiàzǎi zhège shìpín de PDF héyīn pín wénjiàn。 免费下载这个视频的PDF和音频文件。 at mandarincorner.org (go to "Video Learning Resources" page).

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