

鐵扇公主 Grammar

第一幕：

1. 現在已經秋天了怎麼還這麼熱呢？

In the pattern 已經...了 the particle 了 must follow the adverb 已經.

Examples:

他已經回家了。 He went home already.

我已經二十歲了。 I am already 20 years old.

The expressions:

怎麼還這麼 Adj 呢 – or – 怎麼還 verb 呢

are used when someone finds something hard to accept or understand. This is often followed by a sentence with 已經.

Examples:

你已經二十歲了，怎麼還這麼不懂事呢？

You are already 20; why are you are still so immature?

他已經吃飽飯了，你怎麼還要他吃呢？

He is already full; how come you still want him to eat?

2. 趕路要緊。

The word 要緊 often appears at the end of the sentence to indicate “it is important to...” It is not correct grammar to put 要緊 at the beginning of a sentence.

Examples:

每天運動很要緊。

It is important to exercise everyday.

學中文四聲很要緊。

It is important to acquire the four tones when studying Chinese.

不要緊 can be used with an interrogative structure to indicate “it does not matter whether....”

Examples:

我沒什麼不舒服，吃不吃藥不要緊。

I don't feel too bad. It does not matter whether I take medicine or not.

我喜歡念書，錢多不多不要緊。

I like to study. It is not important whether I make a lot of money or not.

你什麼時候來都不要緊。

It does not matter when you come.

不要緊 can be used alone as a reply to someone's apology.

Example:

A. 對不起我把你的書弄髒了。 B. 不要緊，沒關係。

A. I am sorry, I got your book dirty. B. It does not matter.

3. 反正是我們上西天必定要經過的地方。

反正 is used to refuse a request despite the options given. Use this when you want to indicate that no matter what the conditions, you must decline. For example, if you have a test tomorrow and someone invites you to see a movie and suggests that either morning or afternoon would be a good time for this, you might refuse by saying:

不管上午还是下午看電影，反正我都不能去。

No matter about going to see a movie in the morning or in the afternoon, I won't be able to go anyway.

Another example:

我不管明天的天氣好不好，反正我都得上學。

I don't care whether tomorrow's weather is good or not, I have to go to school anyway.

4. 一根草都不生。

The pattern is 連...都.... where 連 may be omitted. It is used with 一 to stress "not even one."

Examples:

我連一塊錢都沒有。

I don't even have a dollar.

他今天連一口水都沒喝。

Today, he did not even drink a sip of water.

這個月我連一場電影都沒看。

This month, I did not even watch one movie.

5. 一年四季都是熱的

The expression 一年四季 has a plural sense. In a sentence with this expression, the adverb 都 should be used before the verb.

Examples:

他一年四季都穿西裝。

He wears a suit all year round.

在中國南方一年四季都有西瓜可以吃。

In China's South, there is watermelon to eat all year round.

在沙漠一年四季都不下雨。

In the desert, it does not rain all year long.

6. 就是銅頭鐵肺要是經過那個山也得融化成水。

The first pattern is: 就是...也. It means “even if.” The sentence

就是銅頭鐵肺也得融化成水. means “You will melt into liquid even if you have a bronze head and an iron lung.”

This is how to use “even if” in a ‘present fact’ / ‘even if (hypothetical)’ / ‘still would not’ sentence:

我沒有錢 (present fact)。就是我有錢(hypothetical)我也不會買飛機(still would not)。

I don't have money. Even if I did, I would not buy an airplane.

我不喜歡開車(present fact)，就是我有車(hypothetical)我也不開(still would not)。

I don't like to drive. Even if I had a car, I would not drive it.

The construction is similar for sentences with a past fact, instead of a present time fact:

你昨天沒來(past fact)，就是你來了(hypothetical)，我也沒時間跟你說話(still would not)。

You did not come yesterday. Even if you had come, I would not have had time to talk to you.

他沒跟我去看電影(past fact)，就是他去了(hypothetical)，他也不會喜歡那部電影(truth)。

He did not go to see the movie with me. Even if he had gone, he would not have liked the movie.

The second pattern is 要是...就... The sentence 要是經過那個山就會融化成水 means “If you passed by that mountain, you would dissolve into water.”

More examples:

要是你有錢，你就可以買很多東西。

If you have money, you can buy lots of things.

我沒有錢，要是我有錢，我就買一個大房子。

I do not have money. If I had money, I would buy a big house.

要是你不*去*我就不去。 If you do not go, I will not go.
要是你*去*我就不去。 If you go, then I will not go.

In the sentence 就是銅頭鐵肺要是經過那個山也得融化成水 both 要是...就 and 就是...也 are used. Note that the adverb 就 in 要是...就 is omitted.

第二幕：

1. 要不是我跑得快呀，尾巴都燒光了。
要不是... is another subjunctive structure.

Examples:

昨天下*了*大雨，要不是我帶了傘，一定會變成落湯雞。

It was pouring rain yesterday. If I had not had an umbrella, I would have gotten all wet.

我開車的時候沒看見旁邊的車，要不是他按喇叭我一定會撞上他。

When I was driving, I did not see the car beside me. If he had not honked his horn, I would have hit him for sure.

我本來不知道今天有考試，要不是你打電話告訴我，我今天一定會考不好。

I did not know there was a test today. If you hadn't notified me about it, I would have done badly on the test today.

2. In the sentence 尾巴都燒光了 the adverb 都 means “even.” (The word 連 is omitted.)

都 does not mean that the monkey has more than one tail!

3. 這兒的火這樣大，這五穀是從哪兒來的？

The 是...的 pattern is used to ask for information. Use it to ask ‘what, where, who, how, and when’ questions. For example, if you are interrogating someone about money, you might ask the following questions:

你的錢是從哪兒來的？ Where did you get your money?

你的錢是怎麼來的？ How did you get your money?

你的錢是什麼時候賺的？ When did you make your money?

你的錢是誰給你的。 Who gave you your money?

4. 離開這兒有四千多里的路

This pattern is used to indicate the distance from one place to another place. The word 離開 or 離 originally means “to leave” but is used in this pattern to indicate distance.

離開這兒有五里路就是超級市場。

There is a supermarket five miles from here.

我們家離開這兒有三百公尺。

My house is 300 meters from here.

5. 一搵火就熄了。兩搵呢，風就來了，三搵呢，就下雨了。

The pattern 一...就 is also an expression meaning “as soon as... then....”

Note that the subject of the second phrase must appear before 就. It would be wrong to say 一搵就火熄了, 兩搵就風來了, etc.

6. 原來是牛魔王。

The adverb 原來 is used to indicate “it turns out to be”. For example, someone knocks on the door and you wonder who it might be. You open the door to find your friend standing there. You might say: 原來是你啊 to indicate your surprise.

More examples:

我以為他很高，原來他並不高。

I thought he was tall. It turned out that he was not.

我以為中文很難，原來中文很容易。

I thought Chinese was difficult. It turned out that it was easy.

我以為他的生日是昨天，原來是今天。

I thought that yesterday was his birthday. It turned out that it was today.

7. 你既然認識他，跟我一塊去借扇子去。

The adverb 既然 is used when the speaker discovers a new piece of information that leads to a reasonable suggestion or decision. For example, you are wondering how to get to Boston. Your friend who is also going to Boston says that he bought a new car recently. You might say: 既然你有車，我們就開車去吧。 “Since you have a car, we should drive there.”

Another example:

Boss: 這個工作需要一個會說中文的人。

This job needs someone who can speak Chinese.

You: 我會說中文。

I can speak Chinese.

Boss: 既然你會說中文，就給你這個工作吧。
Since you can speak Chinese, then this job is yours.

第三幕：

1. 呆子，每次都是我去打頭陣，這次該你去了。

The sentence 這次該你去了 means “It’s your turn this time.” The verb 該 is used in this construction.

Examples:

A. 今天該誰洗碗？

B. 該我。

A. Today who should wash dishes? B. It’s my turn.

上次他問問題，這次該你了。下次該我。

Last time it was him who asked the questions. This time it is your turn. Next time I will do it.

2. 你是哪兒跑來的野和尚？

This sentence features the 是...的 pattern. The original sentence was: 野和尚是哪兒跑來的？ The subject 你 is put at the beginning to make it more emphatic. The real subject of the sentence, 野和尚, is put at the end.

You can also rephrase the sentence into: 你這個野和尚是哪兒跑來的？

3. 大師兄，還是你去吧。

The pattern 還是...吧 is used to suggest an alternative, either asking someone else to do the action or to suggest doing something else. For example, if someone asks you to sing a song, you might say:

我唱歌唱得不好，還是你唱吧。

I don’t sing well. Why don’t you sing?

我唱歌唱得不好，還是說笑話吧。

I don’t sing well. Let me tell a joke instead.

4. 菩薩，你饒了我吧，放了我吧。

The particle 吧 is used to indicate suggestion.

5. 孫悟空要來借芭蕉扇。

The word “to borrow” in Chinese is 借.

Examples:

我去圖書館借書。

I go to the library to check out books.

我跟小姐借書。	I borrowed books from a lady.
小姐借給我三本書。	The lady lent me three books.
小姐把書借給我。	The lady lent me books.
我去圖書館還書。	I went to the library to return books.
我把書還給圖書館。	I returned books at the library.

6. 你放了我，我就去。

The pattern of this sentence is: 要是...就. 要是 was omitted. Note that the action is not yet completed but the particle 了 is required in 放了我.

7. 害我兒子的仇人

This is a relative clause. Note the word order. You cannot say: 仇人害我兒子. Also, the modifier marker 的 is necessary.

8. 我從來也沒見過你，怎麼會害你兒子啊？

The pattern 從來也沒 verb 過. means you have never done something. In this pattern 也 can be omitted. It is more emphatic than 沒 verb 過.

Example:

我從來沒去過歐洲。 I have never been to Europe.

The pattern can be used when describing a first experience:

我從來沒看過這麼好看的小說。 I have never read such a good novel.

我從來沒吃過這麼好吃的菜。 I have never had such delicious food.

9. 我的兒子紅孩兒不是你收服的嗎？

The original pattern is 是...的 in the affirmative sentence: 我的兒子紅孩兒是你收服的.

Negative form turns the sentence into a rhetorical question, or a question that implies why you disagree with it.

Examples:

A. 紙是中國人發明的。

It was the Chinese who invented paper.

B. 紙不是中國人發明的嗎？為什麼你說是日本人發明的？

Isn't it the Chinese people who invented paper? Why do you say it was invented by the Japanese?

For sentences that do not have the 是...的 pattern, you can use 不是 before the verb and 嗎 at the end of the sentence to make a rhetorical question.

Examples:

A. 中國的首都在北京。The Chinese capital is in Beijing.

B. 中國的首都不是在北京嗎？為什麼你說在上海。

Isn't the Chinese capital in Beijing? Why do you say it is in Shanghai?

A. 他是日本人。He is a Japanese.

B. 他不是日本人嗎？為什麼你說他是韓國人？

Isn't he Japanese? Why do you say that he is a Korean?

10. 既然是被收服了，怎麼說老孫害他呢？

In this pattern, 既然 is followed by a clause that questions a circumstance.

Examples:

既然他很有錢，怎麼住在這麼破的房子里呢？

Since he is rich, why does he live in such a shabby house?

既然你說你關心我，怎麼不給我打電話呢？

Since you said that you cared about me, how come you haven't called me?

11. 伸過頭來，讓我刺幾劍

The original structure would be: 把頭伸過來。The structure 伸過頭來 is more literary and has a more dramatic flavor.

12. 受得住我就把芭蕉扇借給你。

This is an 'if...then' structure where 要是 is omitted.

第四幕：

1. 我被鐵扇公主一搨搨到這兒來的。

This sentence has two patterns. The first one is S1 被 S2 V where S2 is the doer of the action. 被 indicates the passive construction.

If the doer is unknown, then you can omit S2.

Examples:

我的書被他拿走了。 It was him who took my book.

我的書被拿走了。 Somebody took my book.

小弟弟被媽媽罵了。 The little brother was scolded by his mother.

芭蕉扇被偷了。 The fan was stolen.

The second pattern in the sentence is 一 verb verb 到 place. It means the verb motion is effortless and quick. The second verb is followed by a location or by whatever happens to the object.

Examples:

紙被風一吹吹到地上。

A piece of paper was blown by the wind to the floor.

樹葉一掃掃到門外面。

Tree leaves were swept to the outside of the door.

蚊子被我一打打死了。

The mosquito was squashed to death by me in one shot.

2. 大聖你來得巧極了。我有一樣東西送給你。

The expression 來得巧極了 is useful when someone arrives at the right time, as you wish.

To give someone a gift, you can use the phrase: 我有一樣東西送給你. “I have something to give it to you.”

3. 大聖你有了這珠子那鐵扇公主就搵不動你了。

In this ‘if...then’ sentence, the word 要是 is omitted.

The potential verb complement 動 can be used with other verbs.

Examples:

書太重我搬不動。

The books are too heavy for me to move.

車子沒有油了開不動。

The car does not have any gas. It cannot move.

這個牛肉太老了，咬不動。 This beef is too overcooked. I can't chew it.

4. 大師兄不知給風吹到什麼地方了。

This pattern involves the use of 不知道 with an interrogative structure. Note that in English the word “if” would be used. However, in Chinese, it is NOT correct to use 要是 after 不知道.

Examples:

我不知道他喜歡不喜歡吃魚。

I don't know if he likes to eat fish.

我不知道他現在在哪里。

I don't know where he is now.

我不知道我的書在什麼地方。

I don't know where my books are.

我不知道他今天幾點回家。

I don't know what time he will come home today.

The sentence has a passive structure indicated by the word 給, as in 大師兄不知給風吹到什麼地方了. You may also say: 大師兄不知被風吹到什麼地方了. It is also fine to use both: 大師兄不知被風給吹到什麼地方了. Note in this case, 被 goes directly before the S2, and 給 after the S2.

5. 下次輪到你，可不准再偷懶了。

Besides 該你, you can also use the verb 輪 to express that it is someone's turn to do something. When using the verb 輪, the complement 到 must also be used.

The word 可 is used to show the speaker's emphasis. In the sentence 不准再偷懶了 there is a pattern 不准再 verb 了 meaning "not allowed to (verb) anymore."

Examples:

你不准再遲到了。 You are not allowed to come late anymore.

你不准再跟他出去了。 You are not allowed to go out with him anymore.

6. 這次儘管擲，擲得我動一動，就不算是男子漢大丈夫。

In this sentence, the adverb 儘管 is used with a verb to indicate "by all means, do as much as you wish."

Examples:

我的錢很多，你儘管花。

I have a lot of money. You can spend as much as you want.

要是你有問題，儘管問。

If you have any questions, feel free to ask.

今天的菜很多，儘管吃。

There are many dishes today. You can eat as much as you want.

The phrase 擲得我動一動 indicates the result of the action: "if you could move me a little."

The phrase 就不算是男子漢大丈夫 includes an idiomatic expression 男子漢大丈夫, "a real man." The verb 不算是 means "cannot be considered after being evaluated." This is an 'if...then' structure: "If you could move me, I would not be considered a man." Note that the word 要是 is not used.

第五幕：

1. 快把芭蕉扇拿出來給我孫悟空用一用。

In this sentence, there are a series of verbs: 拿出來, 給, and 用. The first action is expressed by the 把 construction. It is used to express a command with a directional complement. The receiver of the object 芭蕉扇 is 我 who is 孫悟空. Verb 用一用 indicates that the purpose of getting the object is to use it. In this structure, V 一 V is a colloquial form.

我把汽水拿出來給大家喝。 I brought out soda for everybody to drink.

他把書拿出來給學生看。 He took out a book for students to read.

2. 孫悟空請你饒了我的命吧。

In this sentence, the phrase 請你饒了我的命吧 is a request, meaning “please do not kill me.”

3. 你把扇子拿出來就是了。

The sentence has a 把 construction for a command. The idiomatic expression 就是了 indicates “just do that like I told you to.”

4. 把嘴張開我就出來了。

This sentence is a “if...then” structure where 要是 is not used. The complement 開 can be used with other verbs.

Examples:

把門打開. Open the door.

把書打開. Open the book.

把燈打開. Turn on the light.

把眼睛睜開 Open your eyes. (The verb 睜 is only used with eyes.)

5. 師父等了好久了，我們快回去吧。

In this sentence there is an action that happened in the past that continues up to the present moment. There are two 了's. The first 了 indicates the action completed. The second 了 indicates that the action is continuing. The phrase 好久 means “for a long time.” If the verb is a verb-object construction, the verb must be repeated and 了 goes after the second verb. Examples:

我學中文學了一年了。

I have been studying Chinese for a year.

我學中文學了一年。（你現在不學中文了。）

I studied Chinese for a year.

我在紐約住了二十年了。

I have been living in NY for 20 years.

我在紐約住了二十年。〔你現在不住在紐約了〕

I lived in NY for 20 years.

第六幕：

This paragraph (examples 1 to 6) is in a more formal, less colloquial style of speech because the Monk is giving a formal lecture.

1. 任何一個人有了這個道理才能免除禍害。

In this sentence, the adverb 任何一個人 is an emphatic and formal way to say: 每個人。It is the same as 不論是誰 “no matter who.”

The sentence 有了這個道理才能免除禍害 is a conditional structure meaning “only...then.”

Examples:

任何一個人有了學問才能賺錢。

Anyone must have smarts in order to make money.

不論是誰有了學問才能賺錢。

No matter who you are, you must have some knowledge in order to make money.

任何一個學生通過考試才能上大學。

Any student has to pass an exam in order to attend college.

不論是哪個學生通過考試才能上大學。

No matter which student, all must pass the exam in order to attend college.

2. 好好的安居樂業，實實在在的過日子。

The verb phrase 安居樂業 ‘peace-live-happy-work’ is a set phrase. It means to have a happy and stable life.

3. 反過來說，要是做人不曉得這個道理，就很像陷在苦海裏一樣。

The expression 反過來說 is useful in presenting an argument. It means “by contrast.”

Note that in the ‘if...then’ sentence, in formal speech, 要是 is not omitted.

The phrase 很像...一樣 means “is the same as.” It is useful when presenting an analogy to support your argument.

4. 一生一世甚至子子孫孫都得不到幸福。

This sentence indicates the consequence of not doing what one should do. The phrase 一生一世 means “all life.” The adverb 甚至 is used to emphasize the impact: 子子孫孫都得不到幸福.

5. 我為什麼要去取經就是因為現在的人都陷在苦海裏了。

This sentence pattern is used to justify why someone is doing something: 我為什麼要...就是因為....

6. 要想成就這些人所以在大唐皇帝面前討下個重大繁難的差事。

This sentence indicates the reason and the purpose of an action. Note that the subject 我 is not used at the beginning.

7. 芭蕉扇借到了沒有？

This is an affirmative form for the resultative complement 借到了. The question form is: 借到了沒有？ The negative form is: 沒借到.

8. 借來了，是不是這個？

借到了 and 借來了 are the same.

9. 現在扇子既然借到了，貧僧師徒就要告辭了。

In this sentence, the adverb 既然 is used to indicate “given this new situation, let’s do....” The action the speaker intends to take is expressed in the second phrase: “to leave the place.”

告辭了 is a polite way to say ‘good-bye.’

10. 我想留聖僧在這兒多住幾天，好不好？

我想 is used to indicate a suggestion or attempt. 好不好 is often used at the end of the sentence after a suggestion to soften the intonation.

The adjective 多 is used here as an adverb. 在這兒多住幾天 means “to stay here for few more days.”

Examples:

這本書你要多看幾次。 You should read this book several more times.

我得多運動。 I have to exercise more.

11. 謝謝諸位的好意。

This is a polite way to refuse someone's suggestion. If the listener is one person, you can say: 謝謝你的好意。

12. 我早走一步就是早一步完成我們的任務。

This is another 'if...then' structure. The adjective 早, put before the verb, functions as an adverb.

13. 那麼就請令高徒先到火焰山，搧滅了火以後，再陪聖僧同行。

The pattern 先... V 了以後...再... uses three adverbs to connect actions in sequence.

Examples:

我先洗手，洗好手以後，再吃飯。

I wash my hands first. After I wash my hands, I eat.

我先學中文，學好中文以後，再學日文。

I will study Chinese first. After I master Chinese, I will study Japanese.

The adverb 那麼就 is used at the beginning of a sentence to indicate “in that case” or “then.”

第七幕：

1. 鐵扇公主拿假的芭蕉扇來騙我。

This sentence has a pattern: 拿 A 來 V. The word 來 indicates purpose. The pattern can be rephrased as 用...來.

Examples:

我用筆來寫字。

I use a pen to write.

他用送我禮物來跟我交朋友。

He makes friends with me by giving me gifts.

我用電腦來做功課。

I use my computer to do homework.

2 我非殺了她不可。

非... 不可 means “must.” It is an extremely emphatic way to express what someone wants to do.

Examples:

我非把中文學會不可。

I must master Chinese.

你不回家你父母非生氣不可。

If you do not go home, your parents will be furious.

2. 我們再想想辦法。

In this sentence, 再 means to do something again.

3. 師兄怎麼你也會上她的當。

In this sentence, 怎麼 means “how come.”

The verb 上當 must be used with a possessive form if the two agents are explicit.

Examples:

我上當了。 I was swindled.

我上了他的當。= 他騙我。 I was swindled by him.

我上了很多次當。 I was swindled many times.

4. 費了那麼多力氣卻弄了一把假的扇子來。

The adverb 卻 is used in the second phrase to indicate something contrary to what one expected.

Examples:

我很喜歡他，他卻不喜歡我。 I like him but he does not like me.

我每天念書卻拿了很壞的成績。 I study everyday but my grades are bad.

The verb 弄 is a general verb that has a variety of meanings.

Examples:

我把車子弄壞了。 I wrecked my car.

他把我的屋子弄亂了。 He messed up my room.

你的頭髮弄得很好。 Your hair-do is nice.

誰可以幫我弄一點午飯來吃？ Who can get me some lunch to eat?

5. 換你去。

The verb 換 means “to change.”

Example:

上次我去，這次換你去。

It was me who went last time, this time it will be your turn.

6. 這倒是一個好辦法。

The adverb 倒是 indicates “on the contrary it might be.”

Examples:

你穿黃色的衣服不好看，穿黑色的倒不錯。

You don't look nice in yellow; however, you look very nice in black.

我今天沒有空，明天倒有空。

I don't have free time today but I will tomorrow.

第八幕：

1. 我們被人說出去會讓你丟臉的。

The verb 會 here indicates a prediction.

Examples:

看太多電視，眼睛會壞的。

Watching too much TV, your eye sight will then be bad.

吃太多糖，牙會壞的。

Eating too much candy, your teeth will then be rotten.

The word 的 used at the end is for emphasis. It is optional.

In the phrase 讓你丟臉, there is a pattern: 讓 someone adj. The adjectives used with this pattern usually indicate mental feelings.

Examples:

考試讓我很緊張。

Taking a test makes me nervous.

他說的話讓我很生氣。

What he said makes me very angry.

在紐約走路讓我很害怕。

Walking in NY City makes me scared.

什麼事情讓你很開心？

What things would make you happy?

在陌生人面前唱歌讓我很不好意思。

To sing in front of strangers makes me embarrassed.

寫錯了名字讓我很丟臉。

I wrote my name incorrectly, which made me lose face.

2. 你先去我隨後就來好不好？

This sentence is a very common phrase to ask someone to go first and then you will follow. The adverbs in the pattern S1 先...S2 隨後就...must appear in this order.

3. 我是從芭蕉洞來找牛魔王的。

In this sentence, the 是...的 pattern is used to indicate a place – 從芭蕉洞 as well as a purpose – 找牛魔王.

4. 那個不要臉的東西竟敢派人來請你.

那個不要臉的東西 “that shameless thing” is a common phrase used to refer to “the other woman” or “mistress.” This phrase is usually said by a woman.

The adverb 竟 means “to someone’s surprise.” The full form is 竟然.

Examples:

他說他是美國人竟不會說英文。

He said he is an American, but surprisingly he can’t speak English.

我去看他，他竟然不在家。

I went to visit him, but unexpectedly he was not home.

5. 外邊有一個豬臉的和尚來請你，差點把我嚇死了。

The adverb 差點 can be used with both positive and negative structures. The meaning of the sentence is the same regardless of the structure used.

Examples:

他差點把我嚇死了。(我沒死) He almost scared me to death.

他差點沒把我嚇死。(我沒死) He almost scared me to death.

6. 真有這回事嗎？待我出去看看。

The phrase 真有這回事嗎？ is a common phrase used when the speaker is strongly suspicious.

The phrase 待我出去看看 is a literary usage. The modern forms are 等我出去看看 or 讓我出去看看。

7. 看在我們以前的交情，我不跟你計較，你回去吧。

The sentence is a common phrase used when two friends are in a disagreement but one person decides not to push the dispute. The phrase 看在 is used at the beginning to mean “looking at” or “owing to.”

To be inflexible about details, or to be pay overly meticulous attention to something, might result in a dispute: A 跟 B 計較.

Examples:

他是小孩，你不要跟他計較。

He is a kid. You do not have to be serious with him.

買東西的時候不要計較是不是名牌，有用就好。

When you buy something you should not pay attention to whether it's a brand name; as long as it's useful, it will be fine.

8. 那個豬臉的和尚是我從前一個朋友，並不是芭蕉洞派來的。

The sentence has a pattern: 是...並不是. The phrase after 並不是 denies what was said by the other person earlier. The phrase after 是 is the speaker's clarification.

Example:

A. 他是中國人嗎？ Is he Chinese?

B. 他是日本人，並不是中國人。 He is Japanese, he is not Chinese.

This pattern can be used with other verbs.

Example:

A. 你喜歡狗嗎？ Do you like dogs?

B. 我喜歡貓，並不喜歡狗。 I like cats, I don't like dogs.

第九幕：

1. 今天是什麼風會把大王吹到這兒來的？

This is a common phrase used for an unexpected guest.

2. 恐怕他要來借芭蕉扇過火焰山。

The adverb 恐怕 is used to indicate "I am afraid that...." It is used at the beginning of a sentence.

Examples:

他很久沒說中文，恐怕已經忘了怎麼說了。

He has not spoken Chinese for a long time. I am afraid that he has forgotten how to speak it.

我想去看他，可是恐怕他不歡迎我。

I would like to visit him but I am afraid that he would not welcome me.

3. 那猴子是害我們孩子的仇人。

There is a relative clause in this sentence. Note that you cannot say: 那猴子是仇人害我們孩子。 Also note that 的 must be used.

4. 早晚來了抓到他讓我們夫妻除除恨。

The word 早晚 is an adverb. It is used before the verb.

Examples:

你每天不睡覺，早晚會生病。

You do not sleep everyday. You will be sick sooner or later.

你把她的狗弄丟了的事早晚會被發現。

The fact that you lost her dog would sooner or later be discovered by her.

5. 那猴子已經來過了。

The particle 了 must be used with the adverb 已經.

6. 弄得我肚子疼得要命.

The verb 弄 is followed by 得 to indicate the degree or result of the following phrase 我肚子疼得要命.

Examples:

他說的話聽得我們很生氣。 Hearing what he said makes us very mad.

我們看電影看得很高興。 We are having a good time watching movies.

In this sentence, there is another degree expression: 要命 “to demand one’s life”. The word 得 is required after the adjective 疼 to indicate the degree.

Examples:

我冷得要命。 I am freezing to death.

這個菜好吃得不得了。 This dish is extremely delicious.

那個房子難看得要命。 That house is extremely ugly.

7. 後來我沒有法子，只好把扇子借給他。

In this sentence, the adverb 只好 indicates an action chosen reluctantly.

Examples:

我想去跑步，但是下雨，我只好在家睡覺。

I want to work but it is raining; therefore I had no choice but to sleep at home.

我不能去法國吃法國菜只好自己做。

I can’t go to France to eat French cuisine; therefore I had no option but to cook it myself.

第十幕：

1. 你晚上去要少喝一點免得回來睡著叫不醒你。

The first phrase in this sentence is a suggestion. The second phrase, following the adverb 免得, is the undesirable result.

Examples:

你出去的時候最好帶傘，免得淋雨。

When you go out, you'd better bring an umbrella to avoid being caught in the rain.

你要每天運動免得生病。

You have to exercise everyday to avoid falling sick.

2. 爺爺的金睛獸不見了。

The phrase 不見了 is a common phrase meaning something is lost.

3. 我要到芭蕉洞去一趟。

The phrase 到 place 去一趟 is a colloquial way to say “to go to a place.”

Examples:

我要到日本去一趟。 I have to make a trip to Japan.

我明天要到郵局去一趟。 I have to go to the Post Office tomorrow.

4. 原來是你們做好了圈套

In this sentence, there is a relative clause in the object position. Note that you cannot say 原來是圈套你們做好了. Also note that the word 的 must be used.

5. 我去去就來的。

This is a common phrase to tell the listener that the speaker will step out and will return soon. Note that the verb 去 is said twice and that the adverb 就 is used to indicate “immediately.” The word 的 is used to indicate emphasis.

第十一幕：

1. 我現在放心了，不怕他們偷我們的寶貝了。

The word 現在 is often used with the particle 了 to indicate a new situation.

2. 他們就是偷了去，不知道把那絲線一拉，三十只猴子也沒有用處啊。

The pattern in this sentence is 就是...也...“even if.” The verb 偷了去 is a colloquial way to say 偷走了.

第十二幕：

1. 事情辦的怎麼樣了？

This question is often used to check the result or progress of a task.

2. 不止扇子到手，鐵扇公主並且還作了我半天的夫妻。

The sentence pattern in this sentence is: 不止...還... (not merely, but also....)

Examples:

我不止會說中文，還會說日文。

I not only can speak Chinese, I can also speak Japanese.

他不止是我的同事，還是我的好朋友。

He is not only my co-worker; he is also my good friend.

3. 扇子拿來給我看看，真有你的。

There are three verbs in this series: 拿來, 給, and 看.

4. 咦，你怎麼會把它縮小？

The particle 咦 is used when the speaker finds something to be strange, or is surprised.

5. 你不要跟我開玩笑。

The pattern is verb A 跟 B 開玩笑. The preposition 跟 should be used.

第十三幕：

1. 白跑了一趟。

In the pattern 白 verb, 白 means “in vain.”

Examples:

這本字典沒有用，白買了。

This dictionary is useless. It is a waste of money.

我吃了藥病還是沒好，藥白吃了。

I took medicine but I still have not recovered. The medicine was useless.

The expression 白吃，白喝 has another meaning: “to eat or drink without paying money.”

Example:

他每天在飯館裏白吃白喝不給錢。

He eats and drinks everyday in the restaurant without paying anything.

2. 我去找牛魔王。他不肯借。後來我又變成老牛的樣子在鐵扇公主那兒把扇子已經騙過來了。誰知道他又變成你的樣子，又給他騙回去了。

In this paragraph, there are a series of events. The adverbs 後來 and 又 are indicators for the transitions of these events.

3. 老牛的本領大，我還被他揍了一頓呢。

In the expression A 被 B 揍了一頓, the word 頓 is used to modify the verb 揍.

4. 呆子，你能辦這樣大的事還嫌被叫呆子嗎？

In this sentence, the word 嫌 indicates that something is not satisfactory.

Examples:

我嫌我不夠高。 I feel that I am not tall enough.

他嫌我說話說得太快。 He thinks that I speak too fast.

5. 要成功一件事情，總是有阻礙，我們要做這樣神聖的事情就要堅定我們的信念。不能因為有一點困難就中途放棄我們的宗旨。你們這次失敗的原因是由於既不同心又不合力。假使你們三個人一條心，合起力量跟牛魔王決鬥事情一定可以成功的。

This paragraph is in a more formal speech style. It contains a few patterns.

The first one is:

不能因為...就; 你們這次失敗的原因是由於; 既不...又不...; 假使...一定可以....

More examples:

不能因為你不喜歡他就說他是壞人。

You can't say that he is a bad guy simply because you don't like him.

你們這次沒有成功的原因是由於準備不夠。

The reason why we did not succeed this time is because we did not spend enough time preparing.

他既不聰明又不用功。

He is neither intelligent nor hard-working.

假使你努力，一定可以成功。

If you work hard, you will be able to succeed.

第十四幕：

1. 奶奶不好了，爺爺給人家抓住了，你快去看看吧。

The expression 不好了 is used to report a disastrous situation.

爺爺給人家抓住了 is a passive structure. 給 can be replaced by 被. The verb complement 住 can be used with other verbs to indicate “stand still.”

Examples:

我開車的時候煞車煞不住。 When I drove, I could not stop the car.

留住他，他是最好的醫生。 Keep him. He is the best physician.

停住，不要動。 Stop. Do not move.

記住，你是我的孩子。 Remember, you are my child.

2. 只要你把扇子交出來，饒你不死。

The pattern in this sentence is: 只要...就... meaning “as long as... then....”

It indicates a simple and minimal condition.

Examples:

只要你道歉我就不跟你計較。

As long as you apologize, I will not go into details with you.

只要你是這個學校的學生就可以上這門課。

As long as you are a student in this school, you can take this course.