

5 Chinese Grammar Points: 刚 vs 刚才, 从来 vs 一直 – HSK 4 Lesson 1

<https://youtu.be/SrIXGkEFCGw>

Part 1

gāng gāngcái
刚 VS 刚才

Dialogue 1:

Wǒ māma ne?

A: 我 妈妈 呢?

Where is my mom?

Nǐ māma gāng chūqu.

B: 你 妈妈 刚 出去。

Your mom just went out.

Dialogue 2:

Nǐ gāngcái qù nǎr le? Wǒ gāng xiǎng gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà ne, nǐ jiù huílai le.

B: 你 刚才 去 哪儿 了? 我 刚 想 给你 打 电话 呢, 你 就 回来 了。

Where did you go just now? I was just about to call you then you come back.

Wǒ gāngcái qù chī wǔfàn le.

C: 我 刚才 去 吃 午饭 了。

I went to lunch just now.

Gāngcái nǐ érzi lái zhǎoguo nǐ.

B: 刚才 你 儿子 来 找过 你。

Your son came to see you just now.

Wǒ zhīdào, wǒ gāng dào fàndiàn, tā jiù gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà le.

C: 我 知道, 我 刚 到 饭店, 他 就 给我 打 电话 了。

I know. He called me when I just got to the restaurant.

Dialogue 3:

Tīng shuō nǐ zuìjìn zài xué kāi chē, xué huì le ma?

B: 听 说 你 最近 在 学 开车, 学 会 了 吗?

I heard you are learning to drive recently. Can you drive now?

Wǒ shàng ge xīngqī gāng kāishǐ xué, hái méi xuéhuì ne.

C: 我 上 个 星期 刚 开始 学, 还 没 学会 呢。

I just started it last week. I can't drive yet.

Wǒ yě xiǎng xué kāi chē, nǐ yǒu shénme jiànyì ma?

B: 我 也 想 学 开 车, 你 有 什 么 建 议 吗?

I also want to learn to drive. Do you have any suggestions?

Nǐ gāng kāishǐ xué de shíhou, qiānwàn bú yào hàipà, yíding yào xiāngxìn nǐde

C: 你 刚 开始 学 的 时候, 千 万 不 要 害 怕, 一 定 要 相 信 你 的
jiàoliàn.

教 练。

When you first start learning, don't be afraid, and trust your coach.

The similarity:

“Gāng” hé “gāngcái” dōu kěyǐ biǎoshì yí jiàn shì fāshēng bù jiǔ.

“刚” 和 “刚才” 都 可 以 表 示 一 件 事 发 生 不 久。

Both “gāng” and “gāngcái” can indicate an action that just happened a short time ago.

The difference:

“Gāng” hé “gāngcái” de cíxìng bù yíyàng.

1. “刚” 和 “刚才” 的 词 性 不 一 样。

“Gāng” and “gāngcái” are different parts of speech.

gāng

(1) 刚 adv. just

“Gāng” shì fùcí, zhǐnéng fàng zài dòngcí de qiánmiàn.

“刚” 是 副 词, 只 能 放 在 动 词 的 前 面。

“Gāng” is an adverb, which can only be used before the verb.

Structure: subject + 刚 + verb (object) (Emphasize that it happened not long ago)

Nǐ māma gāng chūqu.

Eg: 你 妈 妈 刚 出 去。

Your mom just went out.

Bàba gāng dǎ diànhuà lái shuō wǎnshang bù huí jiā chī fàn.

爸爸 刚 打 电话 来 说 晚上 不 回家 吃饭。

Dad just called back saying that he wouldn't come home for dinner tonight.

Wǒ gāng shōudào yóujiàn, wǒ bèi lùqǔ le.

我 刚 收到 邮件, 我 被 录取 了。

I just got the email saying that I was employed.

gāngcái

(2) 刚才 n. just now

“Gāngcái” shì shíjiān míngcí, kěyǐ fàng zài zhǔyǔ qián, yě kěyǐ fàng zài zhǔyǔ hòu.

“刚才”是时间名词, 可以放在主语前, 也可以放在主语后。

Yet “gāngcái” is a noun of time which can be used either before or after the subject.

Structure: 刚才 + subject + verb = subject + 刚才 + verb

(Emphasize what happened just now)

Gāngcái nǐ érzi lái zhǎoguò nǐ.

Eg: 刚才 你 儿子 来 找过 你。

Nǐ érzi gāngcái lái zhǎoguò nǐ.

= 你 儿子 刚才 来 找过 你。

Your son came to see you just now.

Gāngcái bàba dǎ diànhuà lái shuō wǎnshang bù huíjiā chīfàn.

刚才 爸爸 打 电话 来 说 晚上 不 回家 吃饭。

Bàba gāngcái dǎ diànhuà lái shuō wǎnshang bù huíjiā chīfàn.

= 爸爸 刚才 打 电话 来 说 晚上 不 回家 吃饭。

Dad called back just now, saying that he wouldn't come home for dinner tonight.

Gāngcái wǒ shōudào yóujiàn, wǒ bèi lùqǔ le.

刚才 我 收到 邮件, 我 被 录取 了。

Wǒ gāngcái shōudào yóujiàn, wǒ bèi lùqǔ le.

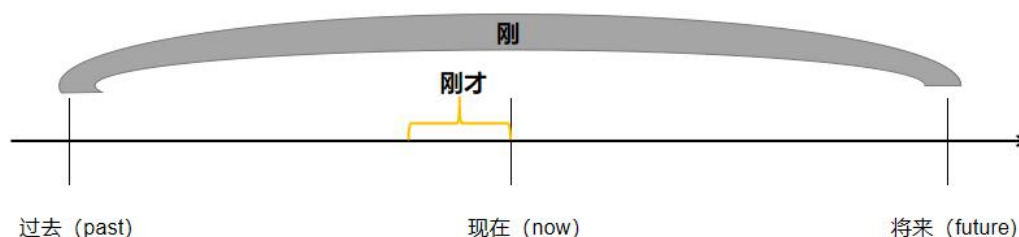
= 我 **刚才** 收到 邮件, 我 被 录取 了。

I received the email just now saying I was accepted.

“Gāng” hé “gāngcái” de yìsi yǒuyìdiǎn bù yíyàng.

2. “刚” 和 “刚才” 的意思 有一点 不一样。

The meaning of “gāng” and “gāngcái” are a little bit different.



“Gāngcái” zhǐ de shì shuōhuà qián bù jiǔ, xiāngduì yú xiànzài de shíjiān

“刚才” 指的是 说话 前 不久, 相对 于 现在 的时间。

“Gāngcái” means that sth. happened just before you speak, very close to the present time (expressing that the time elapsed is really short).

“Gāng” zhǐ de shì shìqíng fāshēng bù jiǔ, kěyǐ shì guòqù, xiànzài hé jiānglái de shíjiān.

“刚” 指的是 事情 发生 不久, 可以是 过去、现在 和 将来 的时间。

“Gāng” means something that happened not long ago, it can be used to indicate the past event, the present event or the future event.

Nǐ gāngcái qù nǎr le?

Eg: A: 你 **刚才** 去 哪儿 了?

Where did you go just now? (Just before I speak)

Wǒ gāngcái qù chī wǔfàn le.

B: 我 **刚才** 去 吃 午饭 了。

I went to lunch just now. (Just before I speak)

Tīng shuō nǐ zuìjìn zài xué kāi chē, xuéhuì le ma?

A: 听 说 你 最近 在 学 开车, 学会 了 吗?

I heard you are learning to drive recently. Can you drive now?

Wǒ shàng ge xīngqī gāng kāishǐ xué, hái méi xuéhuì ne.

B: 我 上 个 星期 刚 开始 学, 还 没 学会 呢。

I just started it last week. I can't drive yet. (past event)

Wǒ māma ne?

A: 我 妈妈 呢?

Where is my mom?

Nǐ māma gāng chūqù.

B: 你 妈妈 刚 出去。

Your mom just went out. (present)

Wǒ yě xiǎng xué kāi chē, nǐ yǒu shénme jiànyì ma?

A: 我 也 想 学 开 车, 你 有 什 么 建 议 吗?

I also want to learn to drive. Do you have any suggestions?

Nǐ gāng kāishǐ xué de shíhou, qiānwàn bú yào hàipà, yíding yào xiāngxìn nǐ de jiàoliàn.

B: 你 刚 开始 学 的 时 候, 千 万 不 要 害 怕, 一 定 要 相 信 你 的 教 练。

When you first start learning, don't be afraid, and trust your coach. (future event)

“Gāngcái” hòumiàn kěyǐ jiā fǒuding cí, “gāng” bù kěyǐ.

3. “刚才” 后面 可以 加 否定 词, “刚” 不 可以。

“Gāngcái” can be followed by a negative word, while “gāng” can not.

Wǒ gāngcái méi chūqu.

Eg: 我 刚才 没 出去。

I didn't go out just now.

Wǒ gāngcái bù xiǎng chī.

我 刚才 不 想 吃。

I didn't want to eat just now.

“Gāng” hái kěyǐ biǎoshì zhèngzhǎo dá dào mǒu zhǒng chéngdù.

4. “刚” 还可以表示正好达到某种程度。

“Gāng” can also mean achieving to a certain degree.

Tā gāng jígé.

Eg: 他 刚 及格。

He just passed the exam.

Zhè shuāng xié bú dà bù xiǎo, gāng héshì.

这 双 鞋 不 大 不 小, 刚 合适。

This pair of shoes is neither big nor small, it just fits.

“Gāng” chángcháng hé “xiǎng, yào” liányòng, biǎoshì mǒu shì jíjiāng fāshēng hái méi

5. “刚” 常常和“想、要”连用, 表示某事即将发生还没发生。

“Gāng” is often used together with “xiǎng, yào” to indicate that something is about to happen but hasn’t happened yet.

Wǒ gāng xiǎng gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà ne, nǐ jiù huí lái le.

Eg: 我 刚 想 给你 打 电话 呢, 你 就 回来 了。

I was just about to call you then you came back.

Wǒ gāng yào chū mén, diànhuà xiǎng le.

我 刚 要 出 门, 电 话 响 了。

I was about to go out then the phone rang.

The conclusion:

| | 刚 adv. just | 刚才 n. just now |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| 相同点 similarity | 表示某件事发生不久 An action took place not long ago | |

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 不同点 difference | 强调某事发生的时间在不久前 Sth. happened NOT LONG AGO | 强调不久前发生了某事 WHAT happened not long ago |
| | 表示某事发生不久（过去、现在、将来） Sth. happened shortly (past /present /future) | 只能表示现在的不久前 Sth. happened just now |
| | 不能加否定词 刚 + a negative word ✗ | 可以加否定词 刚才 + a negative word ✓ |
| 不同点 difference | 表示正好达到某种程度 achieving to a certain degree | ✗ |
| | 刚+想/要 Sth. is about to happen but hasn't happened yet | ✗ |

“Gānggāng” jì kěyǐ biǎoshì “gāng”, yě kěyǐ biǎoshì “gāngcái”.

Note: “刚刚” 既可以表示“刚”，也可以表示“刚才”。

“Gānggāng” can be used to express both “gāng” and “gāngcái”.

Part 2

cónglái yìzhí
从来 VS 一直

The similarity:

“Cónglái” hé “yìzhí” dōu kěyǐ biǎoshì always, all the time.

“从来” 和 “一直” 都可以表示 always, all the time.

Both “cónglái” and “yìzhí” can express always and all the time.

The difference:

“Yìzhí” zhǔyào yǒu sān zhǒng yòngfǎ:

1. “一直” 主要有三种用法:

There are three main usages for “yìzhí”:

Biǎoshì yí ge dòngzuò shùnzhè yí ge fāngxiàng bú biàn.

(1) 表示 一个动作 顺着 一个方向 不变。

It means that an action does not change in one direction.

Yízhí zǒu, qiánmiàn 200 mǐ jiù yǒu yí jiā chāoshì.

Eg: 一直走, 前面 200 米就有一家超市。

Go straight ahead, there is a supermarket 200 meters ahead.

Nǐ yízhí wǎng qián kāi, yíding néng kànjiàn jiāyóuzhàn.

你一直往前开, 一定能看见加油站。

Drive straight ahead, you will see the gas station surely.

Qiángdiào suǒ zhǐ de fànweí.

(2) 强调 所指的 范围。

Emphasizing the scope of the reference.

Cóng xiǎoxué yízhí dào dàxué, tā dōu shì chéngjì zuì hǎo de xuésheng.

Eg: 从 小学 一直到 大学, 他都是 成绩 最好的 学生。

He always was the best student from primary school to university.

Cóng kètīng yízhí dào wòshì, quán dōu shì tā de wánjù.

从 客厅 一直到 卧室, 全都是他的玩具。

His toys were everywhere from the living room to the bedroom.

Biǎoshì dòngzuò xíngwéi huò zhuàngtài chíxù bú biàn.

(3) 表示 动作 行为 或 状态 持续 不变。

Indicate an action or state remains the same.

Tā shàngwǔ yízhí zài kàn diànshì.

Eg: 他 上午 一直在看电视。

He had been watching TV all the time this morning. (Without interruption)

Tā yìzhí kāi chē qù shàngbān.

他 一直 开 车 去 上 班。

He always drives to work. (The same situation continues to happen)

“ Cónglái ” biǎoshì cóng guòqù dào xiànzài dōu shì zhèyàng, duō yòngyú fǒudìng jù zhōng.

2. “从来” 表示 从 过去 到 现在 都是 这样，多 用于 否定 句 中。

“ Cónglái ” indicates something has always been like this from the past to the present. It is usually used in negative sentences.

Tā cónglái méi chí dào guo.

Eg: 他 从来 没 迟 到 过。

He's never been late.

Wǒ cónglái méi xiǎngguo qù xiāngqīn.

我 从来 没 想 过 去 相 亲。

I've never thought about going to a blind date.

Zhǐyǒu zài shǎoshù qíngkuàng xià, “ cónglái ” kěyǐ fàng zài kěndìng jù zhōng.

Note: 只有 在 少数 情况 下，“从来” 可以 放 在 肯定 句 中。

“ Cónglái ” is seldom used in an affirmative sentence.

Zài zhè zhǒng qíngkuàng xià, “ cónglái ” yìbān kěyǐ huànchéng “ yìzhí ”.

在 这 种 情况 下，“从来” 一般 可以 换 成 “一直”。

In this situation, “cónglái” can be replaced with “yìzhí”.

Tā cónglái dōu shì yí ge rén chīfàn.

Eg: 他 从来 都 是 一 个 人 吃 饭。

He always eats alone.

Tā yìzhí dōu shì yí ge rén chīfàn.

他 一直 都 是 一 个 人 吃 饭。

He always eats alone.

Part 3

zài …… shang

(在) …… 上

The explanation:

“Shàng” shì yí ge fāngwèi míngcí, yòng zài míngcí hòumiàn biǎoshì zài wùtǐ de biǎomiàn.

1. “上” 是一个方位名词，用在名词后面表示在物体的表面。

“Shàng” is a noun of locality. It is used after a noun to indicate that sth. is on the surface of another object.

Zhuōzi shang yǒu yí ge píngguǒ.

Eg: 桌子 上 有一个 苹果。

There is an apple on the table.

Qiáng shang yǒu yí fú huà.

墙 上 有一幅画。

There is a picture on the wall.

Tā tǎng zài chuángshang.

他 躺在 床上。

He lies on the bed.

2. “上” 可以用在一些具体或抽象名词后面，表示某种范围或某一方面。

或 某一方面。

“Shàng” can be used after a concrete noun or an abstract noun to indicate a certain scope or a certain aspect.

Wǒ bù xūyào yí ge fǎlǜ shang de zhàngfu.

Eg: 我不需要 一个 法律 上的 丈夫。

I don't need a husband in name only.

Nǐ zài shēnghuó shang yǒu méiyǒu shénme kùnnan?

你 在 生活 上 有 没有 什么 困难?

Do you have any difficulties in life?

Zài zhè jiàn shìqing shang, tā méiyǒu shuōhuǎng.

在 这 件 事情 上, 他 没有 说谎。

He didn't tell the lie in this matter.

Zài Hànyǔ xuéxí shang, nǐ hái yǒu shénme wèntí ma?

在 汉语 学习 上, 你 还 有 什么 问题 吗?

Do you have any questions when learning Chinese?

Part 4

bùjǐn…… hái / yě / érqiě ……

不仅 …… 还/也/而且 ……

Not only …… but also ……

Zhè zǔ guānlián cí biǎoshì dìjìn de guānxi.

这 组 关 联 词 表 示 递 进 的 关 系。

This set of conjunctions means progressive relation.

Dāng liǎng ge fēnjù de zhǔyǔ xiāngtóng shí, “bùjǐn” fàng zài zhǔyǔ hòu,

当 两 个 分 句 的 主 语 相 同 时, “不 仅” 放 在 主 语 后;

“Bùjǐn” is used after the subject when the two clauses have the same subject,

dāng zhǔyǔ bù tóng shí, “bùjǐn” fàng zài zhǔyǔ qián.

当 主 语 不 同 时, “不 仅” 放 在 主 语 前。

and it is used before the first subject when the two clauses have different subjects.

Tā bùjǐn píqi hǎo, hái hěn yōumò.

Eg: 他 不 仅 脾 气 好, 还 很 幽 默。

He is not only good-tempered, but also humorous. (same subject)

Tā bùjǐn zhǎng de piàoliàng, érqiě hěn cōngmíng.

她 **不仅** 长 得 漂亮, **而且** 很 聪明。

She is not only beautiful, but also smart. (same subject)

Bùjǐn nǐ xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng, wǒ yě xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng.

不仅 你 喜欢 看 电影, **也** 喜欢 看 电影。

Not only you, but also I like watching movies. (different subjects)

Part 5

jíshǐ yě

即使 也

even if/even though, still

Zhè zǔ guānlián cí biǎoshì jiǎshè de ràngbù guānxi, yě kěyǐ biǎoshì yǐjīng fāshēng huò cúnzài de shìqing.

这 组 关 联 词 表 示 假 设 的 让 步 关 系, 也 可 以 表 示 已 经 发 生 或 存 在 的 事 情。

This set of conjunctions indicates a hypothetical concession, though it can also indicate something that has already happened or been in existence.

Jíshǐ nǐ xiànzài huílai, yě jiějué bù liǎo wèntí.

Eg: **即使** 你 现在 回来, **也** 解 决 不 了 问 题。

Even if you came back now, it wouldn't solve the problem. (hypothetical concession)

Tā jíshǐ méiyǒu dúguò dàxué, yě bǐ hěn duō dàxué bìyèshēng yōuxiù.

他 **即使** 没 有 读 过 大 学, **也** 比 很 多 大 学 毕 业 生 优 秀。

Even though he didn't go to college, he is still better than many college graduates.

(something that has been in existence)