

Tā gàodào zuìgāo fǎyuàn qù le.

他告到最高法院去了。

(He appealed the case to the Supreme Court.) — zuìgāo 最高 (Supreme).

7. Adverbs

7.1 Categories of Adverbs

Adverbs are used to modify verbs and adjectives. They most ordinarily precede the word they modify, as:

Dàjiā dōu lái xuéxí Hànyǔ Pīnyīn.

大家都来学习汉语拼音。

(Let's all study Hanyu Pinyin.) — dōu 都 (all) modifies lái xuéxí 来学习 (study);

Jīnnián de xiàtiān fēicháng rè.

今年的夏天非常热。

(It's extremely hot this summer.) — fēicháng 非常 (extremely) modifies rè 热 (hot);

Wǒ bù shì Yīngguó rén.

我不是英国人。

(I'm not English.) — bù 不 (not) modifies shì 是 (to be);

Yǐqián wǒ méiyǒu xuéguo Zhōngwén.

以前我没有学过中文。

(I haven't studied Chinese before.) — méiyǒu 没有 (have

not) modifies xuéguo 学过 (to have studied).

Certain adverbs, however, can follow the verb or adjective they modify in the capacity of a complement, as:

Dàjiē shàng de qìchē duō de hěn.

大街上的汽车多得很。

(There are very many cars on the street.) — hěn 很 (very) modifies duō 多 (many);

Zhè jiàn chèn yī piàoliang jí le.

这件衬衣漂亮极了。

(That's a very pretty blouse.) — jí 极 (extremely) modifies piàoliang 漂亮 (pretty).

Adverbs may be divided into seven subcategories, as below, on the basis of meaning. A number of examples are provided for each category. (Note that some adverbs belong to more than one category.)

1) Adverbs expressing time

zhèng 正, zhèngzài 正在 (in the process of);

gāng 刚, gānggāng 刚刚 (just now);

yǐjīng 已经 (already); céngjīng 曾经 (in the past, once);

zǎo 早 (early); jiù 就 (then);

mǎshàng 马上 (right away); yīzhí 一直 (all along);

yǒngyuǎn 永远 (forever); cónglái 从来 (ever; used only in the past tense);

zǒngshì 总是 (always); hūrán 忽然 (suddenly).

2) Adverbs expressing frequency

yòu 又 (again); zài 再 (again);

hái 还 (still; yet); yě 也 (also, too);

lǚcì 屡次, zàisān 再三 (repeatedly);

chángcháng 常常, jīngcháng 经常, shícháng 时常;

wǎngwǎng 往往 (often, frequently);

bùduàn 不断 (constantly).

3) Adverbs expressing scope

dōu 都, quán 全 (all);

tōngtōng 通通 (completely);

gòng 共, yìgòng 一共, zǒnggòng 总共 (in all, altogether);

yìqǐ 一起, yìtóng 一同, yíkuàir 一块儿 (together);

zhǐ 只 (only); jiù 就 (just, exactly);

jǐnjǐn 仅仅, dān 单, guāng 光 (only, merely).

4) Adverbs expressing degree

hěn 很 (very); jí 极 (extremely);

tǐng 挺, guài 怪 (quite, very);

tài 太 (too, very); fēicháng 非常 (extremely);

shífēn 十分 (very, fully); géwài 格外 (especially);

gèng 更, gèngjiā 更加 (even more);

yuèfā 越发 (all the more, even more); zuì 最 (most);

shǎowēi 稍微, lùèwēi 略微 (a bit, slightly);

bǐjiào 比较 (relatively); xiāngdāng 相当 (quite, fairly); duōme 多么 (how).

5) Adverbs expressing mood or tone

xìngkuī 幸亏, hǎozài 好在 (luckily);

jūrán 居然 (unexpectedly); guǒrán 果然 (as expected);

nándào 难到, hécháng 何尝 (used to form rhetorical questions);

jiūjīng 究竟, dàođǐ 到底 (after all, in the end);

yěxǔ 也许 (perhaps); dàgài 大概 (probably);

jiǎnzhí 简直 (simply); fǎnzhèng 反正 (in any case);
míngmíng 明明 (obviously).

6) Adverbs showing spirit or manner

měngrán 猛然, tūrán 突然 (suddenly, abruptly);
yīrán 依然, réngrán 仍然 (still, as before);
zhúbù 逐步 (step by step); zhújiàn 逐渐 (gradually);
qīnzi 亲自 (in person); tèdì 特地 (specially);
hùxiāng 互相 (mutually); yìrán 毅然 (resolutely).

7) Adverbs expressing affirmation and negation

bù 不 (no, not); méi 没 (not to have);
méiyǒu 没有 (have / has not); wěibì 未必 (not necessarily);
yíding 一定, zhǔn 准 (definitely);
bìding 必定 (surely); bìrán 必然 (inevitably).

7.2 Adverb Structure

Adverbs are a type of function word. They usually appear between two notional or “concrete” words in speech or writing, and are easy to distinguish from the words around them. Thus it is usually quite easy to set written forms for adverbs in HP. According to the basic rules of HP orthography, adverbs are written separate from the words around them.

Though the number of adverbs in Chinese was originally quite small, the total number has been and is constantly being increased by the transformation of other parts of speech into adverbs. This phenomenon may be observed in the examples throughout this chapter.

In the following section we will briefly introduce the various structural forms of adverbs and discuss the question of HP or-

thography as it relates to each.

1) Simple adverbs

Simple adverbs are those which cannot be analyzed into smaller meaningful units. All simple adverbs in *Putonghua* are monosyllabic. Some of them have a long history of use, while others are more recent additions, having been transformed from other parts of speech. Below are given some of the most common simple adverbs:

bù 不 (no, not);	dōu 都 (all);
zuì 最 (most);	gèng 更 (even more);
yòu 又 (again);	yě 也 (also, too);
jiù 就 (then, just);	cái 才 (only then);
hěn 很 (very);	tài 太 (very, too);
zhǐ 只 (only);	hái 还 (still, yet);
zài 再 (again);	
gāng 刚 (just now);	
zhèng 正 (in the process of).	

2) Adverbs formed with suffixes

Adverbs may be formed by adding suffixes to monosyllabic adjectives, verbs, nouns, and pronouns. A few of the most widely used suffixes are introduced below, with examples.

-rán 然:

hūrán 忽然 (suddenly): Hūrán tiào chūlái yī zhī lǎohǔ. 忽然跳出来一只老虎。(Suddenly a tiger leaped out.)

tūrán 突然 (suddenly): Tūrán xiàqǐ yǔ lái. 突然下起雨来。(Suddenly it started to rain.)

guǒrán 果然 (as expected): Wèidào guǒrán bùcuò. 味道果然不错。(It tastes fine, just as I thought.)

yīrán 依然 (still): Tā yīrán rúcǐ. 他依然如此。(He's still the same.).

réngrán 仍然 (still): Tā réngrán shì lǎo yàngzi. 他仍然是老样子。(He's still his old self.).

duànrán 断然 (absolutely): Duànrán jùjuéle tā de yāoqiú. 断然拒绝了他的要求。(His demands were absolutely denied.).

xiǎnrán 显然 (obviously): Zhème zuò xiǎnrán bù duì. 这么做显然不对。(It's obviously wrong to do it this way.).

jūrán 居然 (unexpectedly): Wǒ de huànxǐǎng jūrán shíxiàn le. 我的幻想居然实现了。(My fantasy unexpectedly came true.).

dāngrán 当然 (of course): Nǐ dāngrán yīnggāi qù. 你当然应该去。(Of course you should go.).

ǒurán 偶然 (by chance): Wǒ ǒurán yùjiànle tā. 我偶然遇见了她。(I ran into her by chance.).

xīnrán 欣然 (with pleasure): Xīnrán jiēshòule tā de yāoqǐng. 欣然接受了他的邀请。(I accepted his invitation with pleasure.).

-dì 地:

hūdi 忽地 (suddenly): Hūdi guāqile yī zhèn kuángfēng. 忽地刮起了一阵狂风。(Suddenly a gale sprang up.).

tèdì 特地 (specially): Tèdì qù bài fǎng tā. 特地去拜访他。(I'm going specially to pay him a visit.).

-ér 而:

hū'ér 忽而 (by turns, in quick succession): Tā hū'ér xiào, hū'ér kǎo. 她忽而笑, 忽而哭。(She's laughing one min-

ute and crying the next.).
shí'ér 时而 (from time to time): Tiānkōng shí'ér piāoguò jǐ piàn bái yún. 天空时而飘过几片白云。(Clouds floated in the sky from time to time.).

fǎn'ér 反而 (instead, on the contrary): Fēng fǎn'ér yuè lái yuè dà. 风反而越来越大。(The wind just got stronger and stronger.).

-qí 其:
yóuqí 尤其 (in particular): Wǒ xǐhuān huì huà, yóuqí xǐhuān Zhōngguó huà. 我喜欢绘画, 尤其喜欢中国画。(I like paintings, especially Chinese paintings.).

jíqí 极其 (extremely): Shòu dào le jíqí shēn kè de jiàoyù. 受到了极其深刻的教育。(I received a profound lesson.).

-hū 乎:
jīhū 几乎 (almost): Wǒ jīhū shuāi le yī jiǎo. 我几乎摔了一跤。(I nearly fell down.).

sìhū 似乎 (as if, seemingly): Tā sìhū lǎo le hěn duō. 他似乎老了很多。(He seems to have aged a great deal.).

-yǐ 以:
nányǐ 难以 (difficult to): Zhè shì nányǐ xiāngxìn. 这事儿难以相信。(That's really hard to believe.).

zúyǐ 足以 (amply): Zhè zúyǐ shuō míng tā fēicháng yǒnggǎn. 这足以说明他非常勇敢。(This amply proves his courage.).

-qiě 且:
zànqiě 暂且 (for the time being): Nǐ zànqiě zhù jǐ tiān zài shuō. 你暂且住几天再说。(Stay here for a few days first, then we'll see.).

quánqiě 权且 (temporarily): Wūzi tài xiǎo; quánqiě zhù yí wǎnshàng; míngtiān zài xiǎng bànfǎ. 屋子太小, 权且住一晚上, 明天再想办法。(This room is too small. Just spend the night here, and we'll think of something else tomorrow.).

3) Reduplicated adverbs

There are two types of reduplicated adverbs. One type, the more limited in number, is formed by the reduplication of an adverb; the other, more numerous type, is formed by the reduplication of other parts of speech (most commonly monosyllabic adjectives). A few examples of reduplicated adverbs are given below.

gānggāng 刚刚 (just now): gānggāng chīwán fàn 刚刚吃完饭 (just finished eating).

jǐnjǐn 仅仅 (only, merely): jǐnjǐn shuōle yí jù huà 仅仅说了一句话 (only said a few words).

chángcháng 常常 (often): chángcháng qù lǚyóu 常常去旅游 (often goes sightseeing).

shāoshāo 稍稍 (a bit): shāoshāo xiūxi yíxià 稍稍休息一下 (rest for just a minute).

jiànjiàn 渐渐 (gradually): jiànjiàn rèle qǐlái 渐渐热了起来 (gradually got hotter).

tōngtōng 通通 (completely, all): tōngtōng zǒu chūqu 通通走出去 (all walked out).

wǎngwǎng 往往 (often): wǎngwǎng xiědào shēnyè 往往写到深夜 (often writes late into the night).

míngmíng 明明 (obviously): míngmíng shì tā gàn de 明明是他干的 (obviously was his doing).

báibái 白白 (in vain); báibái làngfèi shíjiān 白白浪费时间
(spend a lot of time for nothing).

dàdà 大大 (greatly); dàdà tígāo gōngzuò xiàolǜ 大大提高工作效率
(greatly improve work efficiency).

kuàikuài 快快 (soon); kuàikuài huí lái ba. 快快回来吧。
(Come back soon.).

hǎohǎo 好好 (thoroughly, well); hǎohǎo nǔlì xuéxí 好好努力学习
(really study hard).

tōutōu 偷偷 (stealthily); tōutōu liúzǒu le 偷偷溜走了 (sneaked
away).

cǎocǎo 草草 (hastily); cǎocǎo xiě le yī fēng xìn 草草写了一封信
(hastily scribbled a letter).

wànwàn 万万 (absolutely; used only with the negative); wàn
wàn bù kě cūxīn 万万不可粗心 (must on no
account be careless).

yīyī 一一 (one by one); yīyī jiāyǐ shuōmíng 一一加以说明
(explain one by one).

4) Other adverb forms

There are numerous other forms of adverbs besides those mentioned above. Of these other forms, modifier-modified form and coordinate compound form are largest in number; other forms include verb-object, numeral-measure word, and noun-locational noun. Generally speaking, adverbs of these forms are strongly independent in nature; it is easy to determine their word boundaries and thus unnecessary to analyze internal structure in order to set written forms for them. Some examples of these other forms of adverbs are given below.

gāng 刚 (just now) + cái 才 (just now) → gāngcái 刚才 (just

now) — coordinate compound;

bǐ 比 (to compare) + jiào 较 (to compare) → bǐjiào 比较 (comparatively) — coordinate compound;

shāo 稍 (a little) + wēi 微 (a little) → shāowēi 稍微 (a little) — coordinate compound;

zài 再 (twice) + sān 三 (three times) → zàisān 再三 (repeatedly) — coordinate compound;

qià 恰 (just) + hǎo 好 (good) → qiàhǎo 恰好 (just right) — modifier-modified;

zǒng 总 (total) + gòng 共 (together) → zǒnggòng 总共 (in all) — modifier-modified;

dào 到 (to arrive at) + dǐ 底 (bottom) → dàodǐ 到底 (after all, in the end) — verb-object;

suí 随 (to follow) + biàn 便 (convenience) → suíbiàn 随便 (informally, casually) — verb-object;

shí 十 (ten) + fēn 分 (part) → shífēn 十分 (fully, very) — numeral-measure word;

wàn 万 (ten thousand) + fēn 分 (part) → wànfēn 万分 (extremely) — numeral-measure word;

mǎ 马 (horse) + shàng 上 (on) → mǎshàng 马上 (immediately) — noun-locational noun;

gé 格 (standard, pattern) + wài 外 (outside) → géwài 格外 (especially) — noun-locational noun.

7.3 Adverbs of Negation

The adverbs of negation bù 不 (no, not) and méiyǒu 没有 (not to have, have / has not; often rendered “méi” 没 in speech) occur with high frequency in *Putonghua*. bù 不 is used to negate

verbs(which express actions and states) and adjectives (which express attributes and qualities). méiyǒu 没有 is used with verbs and adjectives to indicate that actions have not yet been performed, states come into being, or attributes appeared.

bù 不 and méiyǒu 没有 are usually written separately from the verbs and adjectives they precede, as in the following sentences:

Tā bù shì Fǎguó rén. 他不是法国人。(He's not French.);

Wǒ bù xǐhuān tiàowǔ. 我不喜欢跳舞。(I don't like to dance.);

Wǒmen bù néng ràng tā qù màoxiǎn. 我们不能让他去冒险。(We can't let him take the risk.);

Nǐ wèishénme bù yuànyì xuéxí Rìyǔ? 你为什么不愿意学习日语。(Why don't you want to study Japanese?);

Tā de dǎnliàng zhēn bù xiǎo! 他的胆量真不小!(He's no coward!);

Zuljīn wǒ bù hěn máng. 最近我不很忙。(I haven't been too busy lately.);

Yiqián wǒ méiyǒu xuéguo Hànyǔ. 以前我没有学过汉语。(I haven't studied Chinese before.);

Zuótiān Běijīng méiyǒu xià xuě. 昨天北京没有下雪。(It didn't snow in Beijing yesterday.);

Tiān hái méiyǒu liàng, nǐ jiù yào zǒu? 天还没有亮, 你就要走?(It's not even light yet, and you're already going?);

Qiú sài hái méiyǒu wán, tiān jiù xiàqǐ yǔ lái le. 球赛还没有完, 天就下起雨来了。(The ball game wasn't over yet when it began to rain.);

Wǒ cónglái méiyǒu gěi tā xiěguo xìn. 我从来没有给他写过信。

(I've never written to him.).

The adverb **bù** 不 is quite complex in usage, and requires some further explanation here.

bù is not normally used before nouns, except in certain proverbs. In such environments, **bù** is written separate from the noun following it:

rén bù rén, guǐ bù guǐ 人不人, 鬼不鬼 (“Neither like a person nor like a ghost”: sneaky, furtive). In this proverb, the verb **xiàng** 象 (to resemble) is omitted.

Certain disyllabic nouns may be modified by **bù** 不. In this environment, the noun takes on the attributes of an adjective. This usage is a fairly recent development in the history of Chinese, but it is already a characteristic feature of the language. In this type of construction, **bù** is written separate from the noun. A few examples of this construction:

bù kēxué 不科学 (unscientific) — **kēxué** 科学 (science). **hěn kēxué** 很科学 (very scientific), **hěn bù kēxué** 很不科学 (very unscientific), and **bù hěn kēxué** 不很科学 (not very scientific) are also allowable formations;

bù wèishēng 不卫生 (unhygienic) — **wèishēng** 卫生 (hygiene). Also: **bù hěn wèishēng** 不很卫生 (not very hygienic);

bù wénmíng 不文明 (uncivilized) — **wénmíng** 文明 (civilization). Also: **bù hěn wénmíng** 不很文明 (not very civilized);

bù lǐmào 不礼貌 (impolite) — **lǐmào** 礼貌 (manners). Also: **bù tài lǐmào** 不太礼貌 (not very polite);

bù xiànshí 不现实 (unrealistic) — **xiànshí** 现实 (reality). Also: **bù tài xiànshí** 不太现实 (not very realistic);

bù zìrán 不自然 (unnatural) — **zìrán** 自然 (nature). Also: **bù**

tài zìrán 不太自然 (not very natural);

bù dào dé 不道德 (immoral) — dào dé 道德 (morality). Also:
bù hěn dào dé 不很道德 (not very ethical).

There are, it should be noted, only a limited number of disyllabic nouns that can be modified by **bù** 不 in this manner.

The discussion above accounts for all the situations in which **bù** 不 is written separate from other elements. Apart from appearing as an independent word, **bù** 不 is also very active as a morpheme in forming longer words. When **bù** 不 acts as a word component, it is written together with other components.

There are several different situations in which **bù** 不 should be so written; they are delineated below.

1) The addition of **bù** 不 causes the other component to become a different part of speech.

bù 不 + guǎn 管 (to mind, bother with; verb) → **bùguǎn** 不管 (regardless of; conjunction);

bù 不 + lùn 论 (to discuss; verb) → **bùlùn** 不论 (regardless of; conjunction);

bù 不 + rán 然 (like that; adjective) → **bùrán** 不然 (otherwise; conjunction);

bù 不 + guò 过 (to cross; verb) → **bùguò** 不过 (but; conjunction);

bù 不 + shì 是 (to be) → **bùshì** 不是 (blame; noun); as in: Wǒ hǎoyì quàn tā, jiéguǒ luò gè bùshì. 我好意劝他，结果落个不是。(I meant well in talking to him, but I just ended up taking the blame.).

2) The meaning of the whole is different from the sum of the meanings of the two components.

bù 不 + duàn 断 (to break) → bùduàn 不断 (unceasing);
bù 不 + xiāo 消 (to disappear) → bùxiāo 不消 (not need to);
bù 不 + zài 在 (to exist) → bùzài 不在 (to pass away, die;
used only in the past tense).

3) The basic meaning of the whole is equal to the sum of the component meanings, but: 1) the whole is conventionally thought of as a single unit, or 2) the second component cannot be used independently.

bù 不 + fáng 妨 (hinder, impede) → bùfáng 不妨 (no harm in, might as well);

bù 不 + xìng 幸 (happy) → bùxìng 不幸 (unfortunately);

bù 不 + jiǔ 久 (a long time) → bùjiǔ 不久 (soon).

The three preconditions for writing bù 不 as part of a larger unit are for the most part conditioned and relative in nature. That is, one must consider the actual linguistic environment in which a bù-compound appears to determine whether it should be written as one unit or two. Compare the sentence pairs below:

Bùguǎn tiānqì duōme lěng, wǒmen měi tiān dōu jiānchí liànxí yóuyǒng.

不管天气多么冷，我们每天都坚持练习游泳。

(No matter how cold the weather is, we always practice swimming every day.) — bùguǎn 不管 (no matter);

Zhè jiàn shì nǐ bù guǎn, ràng wǒ lái guǎn.

这件事你不管，让我来管。

(Don't bother about this affair; let me take care of it.) — bù guǎn 不管 (not bother with).

Wǒ dìdì bù zài Shànghǎi dúshū.

我弟弟不在上海读书。

(My younger brother doesn't study in Shanghai.) — bù zài 不在 (not in / at);

Wǒ zǔmǔ qùnián jiù bùzài le.

我祖母去年就不在了。

(My grandmother passed away last year.) — bùzài 不在 (to pass away).

Zhè gēn tiěsī lāle bàntiān zǒng shì bù duàn.

这根铁丝拉了半天总是不断。

(That iron wire still won't break, even after all this pulling.) — bù duàn 不断 (not break);

Wǒmen yīnggāi bùduàn de tígāo jiàoxué zhìliàng.

我们应该不断地提高教学质量。

(We must constantly improve the quality of education.) — bùduàn 不断 (constantly, unceasingly).

A list of some of the most common compounds in which bù must or may be written as a single unit with other components is here attached. The list is not all-inclusive; other compounds may be found in an orthographic dictionary.

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * bùbì 不必 (not need); | bùcuò 不错 (not bad); |
| * bùdàn 不但 (not only); | bùdé 不得 (must not); |
| bùduàn 不断 (unceasingly); | bùduì 不对 (wrong; abnormal); |
| * bùfáng 不妨 (no harm in); | bùgòu 不够 (insufficient); |
| bùguǎn 不管 (regardless of); | bùguò 不过 (but, however); |

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| * bùjīn 不仅 (not only); | bùjiǔ 不久 (soon, before long); |
| bùkě 不可 (must not); | * bùlài 不赖 (not bad); |
| * bùliào 不料 (unexpectedly) | bùlùn 不论 (regardless of); |
| bùpíng 不平 (injustice); | * bùrán 不然 (otherwise); |
| bùrú 不如 (better to); | * bùshí 不时 (frequently); |
| bùshi 不是 (blame); | bùtuǒ 不妥 (inappropriate); |
| bùxiào 不消 (not need); | bùxīng 不兴 (no good; won't work); |
| * bùxìng 不幸 (unfortunate-ly); | bùyào 不要 (don't) |
| * bùyi 不意 (unexpectedly); | bùyòng 不用 (need not); |
| bùzài 不在 (to pass away); | bùzhǐ 不只 (not only); |
| bùzhǔn 不准 (not to allow); | bùzú 不足 (inadequate); |
| * háobù 毫不 (not at all); | * juébù 决不 (under no circumstances); |
| * wúbù 无不 (without exception); | |
| yàobù 要不 (otherwise); | |
| * bùdéliǎo 不得了 (disastrous; extremely); | |
| * bùdéyǐ 不得已 (to be forced to); | |
| * bùjiàndé 不见得 (not necessarily); | |
| * bùjiúde 不由得 (can't help); | |
| * bābude 巴不得 (to be very eager to); | |
| * duìbuqǐ 对不起 (Excuse me; I'm sorry). | |

In the list above, the words marked with an asterisk must be written as a single unit. The other words may be written as one unit in certain linguistic environments, as two units in others. Owing to limitations of space, the items in this list are not explained in detail; the reader may consult reference works for further details on the appropriate written form for given situations.

7.4 Other Common Adverbs

The remainder of this chapter is devoted to a treatment of some of the most frequently used adverbs of *Putonghua*. These adverbs are divided into twelve sections, roughly according to meaning, for analysis. Usage and written form are discussed for each.

1) **dōu** 都 (all)

dōu is used to indicate all the people or objects within a given scope.

Wǒmen dōu shì Zhōngguó rén.

我们都是中国人。

(We're all Chinese.);

Kè rén men dōu shuì zháo le.

客人们都睡着了。

(The guests have all gone to sleep.).

dōu is written separate from any component that precedes or follows it.

2) **zhǐ** 只 (only) **zhǐ** is used to limit the scope of an action or state, or of the persons or objects involved in that action.

Wǒ zhǐ dǒng Yīngyǔ, bù dǒng Éyǔ.

我只懂英语，不懂俄语。

(I only understand English; I don't understand Russian.);

Zhè běn shū zhǐ yǒu èrbǎi duō yè.

这本书只有二百多页。

(This book only has about two hundred pages.).

When **zhǐ** forms part of a larger word, it is written together with other word components. A few examples:

zhǐdé 只得 (to be forced to, to have to): Méiyǒu bànfǎ, wǒmen zhǐdé zài yěwài sùying. 没有办法, 我们只得在野外宿营。(There's nothing to be done about it; we'll have to camp out tonight.).

zhǐgù 只顾 (merely, simply): Tā zhǐgù zǒulù, háobù kēngshēng. 他只顾走路, 毫不吭声。(He just walked along without uttering a word.).

zhǐguǎn 只管 (by all means): Yǒu shénme hǎochī de, zhǐguǎn nǎlái! 有什么好吃的, 只管拿来! (Whatever there is to eat, bring it out by all means!).

zhǐhǎo 只好 (to have to): Méiyǒu dǎzìjī, wǒ zhǐhǎo yòng bǐ lái xiě. 没有打字机, 我只好用笔来写。(I don't have a typewriter; I'll have to write it out by hand.).

zhǐshì 只是 (just, only): Tā zhǐshì xiào, bù huídá. 她只是笑, 不回答。(She just smiled without answering.).

zhǐyào 只要 (so long as): Zhǐyào xūxīn, jiù néng jìnbù. 只要虚心, 就能进步。(So long as you're open-minded, you're sure to make progress.).

zhǐyǒu 只有 (only, alone): Zhǐyǒu tā lái, wèntí cái néng jiějué. 只有他来, 问题才能解决。(Only if he comes can the problem be solved.) — compare this usage with the two-word construction **zhǐ yǒu** 只有 (only have / has) above.

bùzhǐ 不只 (not only): Bùzhǐ kěyǐ xuéxí, érqiě kěyǐ yánjiū. 不只可以学习, 而且可以研究。(One may not only study but also do research.).

3) **zuì** 最 (most, -est)

zuì expresses degree — specifically, the most extreme degree of some attribute or quality.

Zài gè mén gōngkè zhōng, tā de shùxué chéngjì zuì hǎo.

在各门功课中，他的数学成绩最好。

(His best grades are in mathematics.).

zuì 最 should be written together with other word components when it forms part of a larger word. A few examples:

zuìchū 最初 (first, at first): Wǒ zuìchū hái bù míngbái zhège dào lǐ. 我最初还不明白这个道理。(I didn't understand the logic behind this at first.).

zuìhòu 最后 (finally, in the end): Zuìhòu tā hái shì dāying le. 最后他还是答应了。(He consented in the end.).

zuìjìn 最近 (recently; soon): Zuìjìn wǒ gǎndào shēntǐ bù tài hǎo. 最近我感到身体不太好。(I haven't been feeling too well lately.).

zuìhǎo 最好 (it would be better): Zuìhǎo nǐ bù yào qù. 最好你不要去。(It would be better if you didn't go.).

zuìjiā 最佳 (optimum): zuìjiā chéngjì 最佳成绩 (optimum results).

zuìzhōng 最终 (ultimate): zuìzhōng mùdì 最终目的 (ultimate goal).

4) gèng 更 (even more), bǐjiào 比较 (relatively)

gèng and bǐjiào are used to compare the degree of some attribute or quality between two persons or objects.

Dōng Hú bǐ Xī Hú gèng měi.

东湖比西湖更美。

(East Lake is even more lovely than West Lake.);

Nà piān wénzhāng xiūgǎi yǐhòu, zhǔtí gèng tūchū le.

那篇文章修改以后，主题更突出了。

(The thesis of that paper was more prominent after it was rewritten.);

Jīntiān bǐjiào lěng. 今天比较冷。(It's colder today (than yesterday).) — If yesterday was already quite cold, then it is better to say: Jīntiān bǐ zuótiān gèng lěng. 今天比昨天更冷。(It's even colder today than it was yesterday.).

gèng 更 is written together with other word components when it forms part of a larger word. Examples of this type are relatively few in number:

gèngjiā 更加 (even more): Chuānshàng zhè tiáo qúnzi, tā xiǎn de gèngjiā piàoliang le. 穿上这条裙子，她显得更加漂亮了。(She looks even prettier when she wears that skirt.).

gèngwéi 更为 (even more): Wǒ xīwàng zhè jiàn shì bàn de shì dàjiā gèngwéi mǎnyì. 我希望这件事办得使大家更为满意。(I hope the outcome of this affair will give everyone even greater satisfaction.).

5) hěn 很 (very), tài 太 (extremely; too)

hěn and tài are used to indicate degree. hěn indicates a great degree, tài an extreme or even excessive degree.

Wǒ hěn xǐhuān kàn Jīngjù.

我很喜欢看京剧。

(I very much like to watch Peking opera.);

《Liáo zhī yì》 zhè běn shū hěn bù cuò.

《聊斋志异》这本书很不错。

(*Strange Tales From a Chinese Studio* is quite a good book.);

Wáng jīng lǐ hěn néng bàn shì, tā de gōng sī xiàn zài gǎo de hěn hǎo.

王经理很能办事，他的公司现在搞得很好。

(Manager Wang really knows how to get things done; his company is doing quite well.);

Zhè ge jiā huò huài de hěn!

这个家伙坏得很!

(This guy is a real scoundrel!);

Zhè běn xiǎo shuō xiě de tài hǎo le!

这本小说写得太好了。

(This novel is really well written!);

Sūn Zhōng shān xiān shēng tài wéi dà le.

孙中山先生太伟大了。

(Sun Yat-sen was a truly great man.).

hěn 很 and tài 太 are written separate from the elements preceding and following them in all situations.

6) gāng 刚 (just now), yǐ jīng 已经 (already), céng jīng 曾经 (in the past)

All three of these adverbs are used to describe actions or states relative to time, specifically to a time in the past. gāng 刚 indicates that an action or state happened very recently; yǐ jīng 已

经 and céngjīng 曾经 merely indicate that the action or state has occurred and been completed at some time in the past.

Tā gāng cóng Nánjīng huí lái.

他刚从南京回来。

(He's just returned from Nanjing.);

Wǒ yǐjīng dàxué bì yè le.

我已经大学毕业了。

(I've already graduated from college.);

Tā céngjīng dāngguo sān nián bīng.

他曾经当过三年兵。

(He spent three years in the army.).

gāng 刚 is written as one unit with other word components in the following words:

gāngcái 刚才 (just now): Tā gāngcái chīguo wǎnfàn. 他刚才吃过晚饭。(He has just eaten supper.).

gānghǎo 刚好, also gāngqiǎo 刚巧 (exactly, just): Yī qiāng gānghǎo dǎ zài yěniǎo tóu shàng. 一枪刚好打在野鸟头上。(The shot went right into the bird's head.).

gānggāng 刚刚 : equivalent in meaning to gāng 刚 (just now), but more emphatic.

7) jiù 就 (then), jiāng 将 (in the near future)

jiù 就 and jiāng 将 are used to describe actions or states in relation to time. jiù frequently indicates a future time; jiāng always does so. jiù generally indicates the immediate future, and jiāng the near future.

Qǐng děng yī děng, wǒ jiù huí lái.

请等一等我就回来。

(Please wait a moment; I'll be right back.);

Míngnián wǒ jiāng qù Měiguó fǎngwèn.

明年我将去美国访问。

(I'll be visiting the United States next year.).

jiù 就 is written together with other components in the following words:

jiùcǐ 就此 (at this point); Jiǎnghuà jiùcǐ jiéshù. 讲话就此结束。(The speech ended there.).

jiùshì 就是 (just); Wǒ yīdìng bàndào, nǐ fàngxīn jiùshì le. 我一定办到, 你放心就是了。(I can take care of it; you just set your mind at rest.).

jiùsuàn 就算 (even if); Jiùsuàn shībài, wǒ yě bù huì huīxīn. 就算失败, 我也不会灰心。(Even if I fail, I won't lose heart.).

jiùyào 就要 (be going to); Míngtiān wǒ jiùyào líkāi Běijīng le. 明天我就要离开北京了。(I'll be leaving Beijing tomorrow.).

jiāng 将 is written as one unit with other components in the following words: jiājìn 将近 (nearly); Zhège chéngshì jiājìn èrbǎi wàn rénǒu. 这个城市将近二百万人口。(This city has a population of nearly two million.).

jiānglái 将来 (in the future); Tā jiānglái yīdìng huì chéngwéi yīnyuèjiā. 她将来一定能会成为音乐家。(She'll surely be a musician someday.).

jiāngyào 将要 (be going to); Wǒmen jiāngyào qù Fǎguó. 我们将要去法国。(We're going to go to France.).

jījiāng 即将 (be about to); Zhǎnlǎnhuì jījiāng bìnmù. 展览会

即将闭幕。(The exhibition will be closing soon.).

8) cái 才 (finally)

cái 才 is used to indicate that an action or state has finally occurred, or to indicate some condition that controls the action's time of occurrence. It can also be used to express the speaker's mood.

Xiànzài cái bā diǎn. 现在才八点。

(It's only eight o'clock.);

Xiǎo Lǐ zuótiān cái gǎndào Běijīng.

小李昨天才赶到北京。

(Xiao Li got to Beijing only yesterday.);

Wǒ cái bù tīng tā nà yī tào dàhuà ne!

我才不听他那一套大话呢!

(I'm just not going to listen to any more of his bragging!);

Yīnwèi wǒ kàn bu dǒng, suǒyǐ cái lái xiàng nǐ qǐngjiào.

因为我看不懂，所以才来向你请教。

(I only came to consult you because I didn't understand it.);

Zhǐyǒu nǚlǐ xuéxí, cái néng tígāo yèwù shuǐpíng.

只有努力学习，才能提高业务水平。

(Only through hard study can one improve one's professional skills.).

cái 才 is written as one unit with other components in the following words:

fāngcái 方才 (just now): Dào bànyè le, tā fāngcái huílái. 到

半夜了，他方才回来。(It's midnight, and he has only just got back.).

shìcái 适才 : equivalent in meaning to gāngcái 刚才 (just now), but used only in written language.

gāngcái 刚才 (just now): see 6) above.

9) hái 还

hái 还 has many different uses and meanings in Putonghua. Among its various meanings, the more important are: still, yet; even more(same as gèng 更 in 4) above); also, too. It can also be used to add emphasis to an utterance.

Tā hái zài túshūguǎn kàn shū.

他还在图书馆看书。

(He's still reading in the library.);

Zhège wèntí hái méiyǒu jiějué.

这个问题还没有解决。

(This problem still hasn't been solved.);

Jīnnián de shōuchéng bǐ qùnián hái hǎo.

今年的收成比去年还好。

(This year's harvest is even better than last year's.);

Wǒ bùdàn xuéhuile Hànyǔ, hái xuéhuile hànzì.

我不但学会了汉语，还学会了汉字。

(Not only have I learned to speak Chinese, but I've learned to write Chinese characters as well.);

Zhè zhāng zhàopiàn pāi de hái bùcuò.

这张照片拍得还不错。

(This photo's not too bad.);

Tā hái zhēn yǒu bànfǎ. 他还真有办法。

(He's really got a good head on his shoulders!).

hái 还 is written as one unit with other components in the following words:

hái shì 还是 (had better; or (used only in asking questions));

Nǐ hái shì shǎo hē diǎnr jiǔ ba.

你还是少喝点儿酒吧。

(You'd better not drink so much.);

Nǐ dǎ lánqiú, hái shì dǎ páiqiú?

你打篮球，还是打排球？

(Are you going to play basketball or volleyball?).

hái yào 还要 (still); Nǐ hái yào qù Xīnjiāng ma? 你还要去新疆吗？ (Are you still going to Xinjiang?).

10) yòu 又 (again; too)

yòu 又 indicates that an action or state has occurred repeatedly, and often indicates that it will occur again. yòu can also indicate that two actions or states are simultaneous.

Lǎo Wáng bǎ xìn yòu kànle yí biàn.

老王把信又看了一遍。

(Lao Wang read the letter again.);

Míngtiān yòu shì Xīngqītiān le, wǒmen yòu kěyǐ dào jiāowài
qù wánr le.

明天又是星期天了，我们又可以到郊外去玩儿了。

(Tomorrow's Sunday; we can go out to the country again
and enjoy ourselves.);

Tā dāng lǎoshī, yòu dāng xuésheng.

他当老师，又当学生。

(He's both a teacher and a student.);

Nà tiān wǎnshàng, yuèliang yòu yuán yòu liàng.

那天晚上，月亮又圆又亮。

(The moon was full and bright that evening.).

yòu 又 is always written separate from the words that precede and follow it.

11) zài 再 (again)

zài 再 indicates that an action or state has occurred in the past(or is occurring at present) and will occur again in the future. zài 再 can also indicate the second of two actions in the future.

Míngtiān nǐ zài lái ba. 明天你再来吧。

(Come again tomorrow.);

Kànwánle diànyǐng, wǒmen zài qù chīfàn.

看完了电影，我们再去吃饭。

(Let's go eat after the movie's over.).

zài 再 is written as one unit with other components in the following words:

zàibù 再不 (or else); Pài Lǎo Wáng qù, zàibu Xiǎo Lǐ yě

xíng. 派老王去，再_不小李也行。(Send Lao Wang, or else Xiao Li.).

zàidù 再度 (once more): Jinnián guójiā jīgòu zàidù tiáozhěng. 今年国家机构再度调整。(National organizations will be reorganized again this year.).

zàisān 再三 (repeatedly): Wǒmen zàisān wǎnliú, zuìhòu tā hái shì zǒu le. 我们再三挽留，最后他还是走了。(We repeatedly urged him to stay, but in the end he left.).

zàijiàn 再见, also zàihuì 再会 (goodbye).

zàihūn 再婚 (to remarry).

zàixiàn 再现 ((of past events) to reappear, be reproduced).

yízhì 一再 (again and again): Wǒmen yízhì biāoshì huānyíng tā hé tā de fūrén lái Zhōngguó fǎngwèn. 我们一再表示欢迎他和他的夫人来中国访问。(We repeatedly welcome him and his wife on their arrival in China.).

12) yě 也 (also, too)

yě 也 indicates that two persons or objects are performing the same actions or are alike in some other way. yě 也 can also be used to emphasize an utterance.

Wǒ xué Zhōngwén, tā yě xué Zhōngwén.

我学中文，他也学中文。

(I'm studying Chinese, and so is he.);

Chūntiān lái le, tiānshàng de fēngzhēng jiànjian duō le, dìshàng de hái zi yě jiànjian duō le.

春天来了，天上的风筝渐渐多了，地上的孩子也渐渐多了。

(Spring is here, and both the kites in the sky and the children all around are gradually increasing in number.);

Bùguǎn yǒu duō dà de kùnnán, zánmen yě yào gàn xiàqu.

不管有多大的困难，咱们也要干下去。

(No matter how severe the difficulties, we must keep on working.);

Tā zhǐgù kàn diànshì, lián fàn yě méiyǒu qù chī.

她只顾看电视，连饭也没有去吃。

(She just kept watching TV, and didn't even go eat her meal.);

Wǒ zuì zǎo yě yào Wǔyuè dǐ cái néng dòngshēn qù Chóngqìng.

我最早也要五月底才能动身去重庆。

(It'll be at least the end of May before I can get away to Chongqing.);

Nǐ yě tài rèn xìng le, bié zhèyàng nào xiàqu ba.

你也太任性了，别这样闹下去吧。

(You're really too headstrong. You shouldn't keep on making trouble this way.).

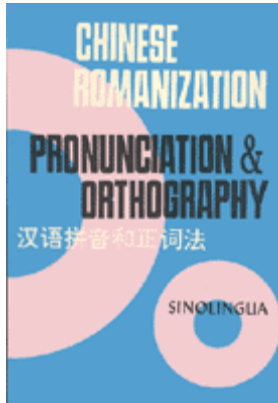
yě 也 is written as one unit with other components in the following words:

yěxǔ 也许 (perhaps): Házǐ de bìng yěxǔ shì chī dōngxī chīhuàile de. 孩子的病也许是吃东西吃坏了的。(Perhaps the child got sick from something he ate.).

yěbà 也罢 (whether or not): Tā bù tóngyì yěbà, bùbì miǎnqiǎng. 他不同意也罢，不必勉强。(It's all right if he won't

agree; you don't have to force him.).

yěhǎo 也好 (whether... or...): Nǐ lái yěhǎo, tā lái yěhǎo, fǎnzhèng dōu yíyàng. 你来也好，他来也好，反正都一样。(It's all the same whether you come or he comes.).



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Yīn Bīnyōng, *Hànyǔ Pīnyīn hé Zhèngcífǎ*

尹斌庸, 汉语拼音和正词法

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