1. 只是/就是  
"...it's just that..."

->a. 除了中文以外，其他的課很有意思，也學到了不少東西，只是都得花很多時間準備，有點受不了。

Aside from Chinese, his other classes--through interesting, and he was learning a lot from them--were all just very time-consuming, and he was a bit overwhelmed.

->b. 所以一年級的中文課，對他來說，聽和說很容易，就是寫漢字太難。

...so for him, listening and speaking in first-year Chinese class was easy, it was just writing Chinese characters that was too difficult, ...

c. I like my roommate a lot, it's just that I don't like him smoking in our room.
d. Doing a double major is beneficial to you, it's just that there will be a lot of homework.
e. Chinese isn't hard to learn, it's just that the characters are relatively hard to write.
f. Chinese isn't hard to learn, it's just that you have to practice writing the characters over and over before you can memorize them.

2. 對 X 來說  
"to/for X"
"from X's point of view"

->a. ...所以一年級的中文課，對他來說，聽和說很容易，...

... so for him, listening and speaking in first-year Chinese class was easy, it was just writing Chinese characters that was too difficult, ...

b. To graduates of the school of engineering, finding a job is relatively easy.
c. To graduates of the school of management, finding a job is relatively easy.
d. To students of the humanities, making money is difficult.
e. To me, being able to save on rent and food (i.e., be spared the expense) is very important.
f. To me, living at home is just unbearable.

3. 至於......, [comment]  
As for .......,[comment]

->a. 我肯定要選中文，至於另外兩門課選什麼，還不知道。

I'm definitely taking Chinese. As for what other two classes I'm taking, I still don't know.

b. He had too many credits last semester; as for this semester, his credits are far fewer.
c. This semester, Statistics is most difficult; as for East Asian History. I don't need to spend much time preparing for that.
d. The American Literature course I chose is a bit overwhelming; as for Philosophy, it's not too difficult for me.
e. My teachers this semester are all excellent; as for my advisory professor, he seems not to like dealing with freshmen.
4. 要么 A, 要么 B = 不是 A, 就是 B

"If not A, then B"
"either A or B"

->a. 我想念研究所, 要么是工程學院, 要么是管理學院。
I'd like to go to grad school, either a school of engineering or a school of management.

b. 我得選專業, 要么是這個學期選, 要么是夏天選。
c. 我得馬上找工作, 要么在文具店, 要么在家俱店。
d. 我們今天晚上在旅館吃飯, 要么是吃中國飯, 要么是吃日本飯。
e. We're going out together for dinner, either tonight or tomorrow night.
f. I need to choose a foreign language course, either Chinese or Japanese.
g. I need to choose my major this semester, either East Asian history or East Asian literature.

5. 跟 NP 打交道

"deal with, have (regular) contact with NP"

->a. 我最不愿意當醫生, 整天跟病人打交道,...
The last thing I want to be is a doctor, dealing with sick people all day long.

b. Advising professors like dealing with college students.
c. Dealing with reporters all day is difficult.
d. Dealing with sick people all day is difficult.
e. Dealing with new students all day is difficult.
f. I don't like dealing with the boss of that furniture store.
g. She likes dealing with frequent patrons.
h. I like dealing with people from the School of Engineering.
i. I like dealing with people from the School of Management.
j. I like dealing with students from the humanities.
k. I like dealing with graduates of the School of Medicine.
l. Elderly people generally don't like dealing with computers!

6. 還沒 (VP) 呢

"haven't yet VP-ed"

Note: 呢 marks new information

->a. A: 怎么樣, 下学期的課你選好了嗎?
So, how goes it--did you finishing choosing your classes for next semester?
B: 還沒呢。你呢?
Not yet. How about you?

b. I'm not done talking yet!
c. I haven't finished preparing yet!
d. I haven't applied for graduate school yet!
e. We haven't finished discussing the matter of double majors yet!
f. He doesn't have any work experience yet!

7. 當 NP

be (a) NP
(i.e., role; career, profession)

->a. 我最不願意當醫生,...
The last thing I want to be is a doctor.

Caution: *我想當一個 NP

b. After I graduate, I'd like to be a translator.
c. My parents hope that after I graduate I'll be a teacher.
d. Sure, being a reporter is a lot of fun, but it's also not easy.
e. He's going to be a big brother!
f. In another year or two I'll be a big boss!
g. Being a service attendant is so boring!
h. She's been a doctor for more than 20 years.

Usage not: 當 NP vs 做 NP

當 NP usually refers to roles/careers/professions that one comes into after some effort:

- 他已經當了十幾年學生，快畢業了。
- 他已經做了十幾年學生，快畢業了。
- He's been a student for more than 10 years and will graduate soon.

8. 多（麼）ADJ                      “How ADJ!”

->a. 我最不願意當醫生，整天跟病人打交道，多沒意思。

The last thing I want to be is a doctor, dealing with sick people all day long--how boring!

How expensive!                      How suitable!         How nice-looking!
How fragrant!                       How thick!           How pretty!
How cheap!                          How picky!          How fresh!
How clear!                          How difficult!       How troublesome!
How unsanitary!                     How high!           How authentic!
How convenient!                     How safe!           How free!

Caution: Different this usage with the question "多 ADJ?"

- 這些水果（有）多重？
- 波士頓離這兒（有）多遠？
- 你學中文（有）多久？