1. (X)快(要)VP 了  
   “X will soon VP”  
   “X is going to VP soon”  
   “X is about to VP”

->a. 快放假了，這幾天張天明一直在考慮假期的旅行計劃。(L9)  
   Vacation was about to start; for the past several days, Zhang Tianming had been thinking about his travel plans for break.

   cf(X)就要 VP 了
   ->b. 學校就要開學了。(L1)  
   School was about to start.

c. We have to handle registration procedures soon.
d. We’re about to graduate!
e. We have to book our plane tickets soon!  Otherwise, they’ll be sold out.
f. The train is about to arrive!
g. The plane is going to arrive at the airport soon!  

2. 除非 S，要不然/否則， X VP “unless S，(*otherwise) X VP”  
   “(*unless) S; otherwise X VP”

   CAUTION: English translations with both “unless” and “otherwise” are unnatural.

   ->a. 張天明確實想去看看爸爸媽媽出生的地方。可是他覺得除非麗莎跟他一起去，否則，一個人去旅行有什麼意思?  
   Zhang Tianming really did want to see the place where his Mom and Dad were born, but he felt that, unless Lisa went with him, (*otherwise) what fun would it be travelling alone?  

   b. 除非有直飛西岸的飛機，要不然時間不夠。  
   c. Unless you go with her, she won’t know where to process her visa.  
   d. Unless you help me with my luggage, we won’t make it in time.  
   e. Unless you first discuss it with someone from the travel agency, you won’t know which route is best.

3. 不是 X 就是  Y “If it’s not X， then it’s Y”  
   “It’s either X or Y”  
   X 不是 VP1 就是  VP2 “If X isn’t VP1-ing, then s/he’s VP2-ing”  
   “X is either VP1-ing or VP2-ing”

   ->a. 以前咱們不是去東海岸就是去西海岸，都快玩兒膩了。  
   In the past, it’s always been the east coast or the west coast we’ve gone to, and I’m
getting kind of tired of it.

b. The tickets we bought are either Eastern airlines or Korean Airlines; I can’t remember.
c. If there aren’t people loudly greeting each other in the hallway, then there are people cracking jokes loudly on the stairs.
d. The person holding the map is either a tour guide or a foreigner.
e. If he’s not smoking, then he’s drinking. I can’t stand it anymore.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>4. 既然 $S$, $X$ 就 VP(吧)</th>
<th>“As long as $S$, why doesn’t $X$ VP”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$X$ 既然 VP1, $X/Y$ 就 VP2(吧)</td>
<td>“As long as $X$ VP1, why doesn’t $X$ VP2”</td>
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->a. 既然你這麼想去，我就陪你去一趟吧。
As long as you want to go that badly, I’ll go with you.

b. As long as he wants to go for a walk, why don’t you go with him.
c. 你既然要給航空公司打電話，就順便問到芝加哥的機票多少錢吧。
d. Since he does business in Hong Kong, he should be very familiar with the airport there.

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<th>5. $X$ 只不過是…</th>
<th>“$X$ is nothing but …”</th>
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<td></td>
<td>“$X$ is just …”</td>
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<td>“$X$ is merely …”</td>
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A. $X$ 只不過是 NP “$X$ is nothing but/merely NP”

->a. 別吃醋，我跟他只不過是一般的朋友。
Don’t be jealous; he and I are just ordinary friends.

b. This is just my viewpoint.
c. He’s just an advisory professor; you don’t necessarily have to listen to him.

B. $X$ 只不過是 VP “$X$ is just VP-ing”

“$X$ is doing nothing but VP-ing”

d. They just hope you’ll be diligent with respect to your studies.
e. I’m just suggesting you give it a little more consideration.

| 6. (都快) V 膩了 | “(get) sick of V-ing; (get tired of V-ing)” |

->a. 以前咱們不是去東海岸就是去西海岸，都快玩兒膩了。
In the past, it’s always been the east coast or the west coast we’ve gone to, and I’m getting kind of tired of it.

b. This book is too long; I’m (getting) sick of reading it!
c. The characters in this cartoon are really boring; I’m (getting) sick of watching it.
d. That food is extremely oily; I’m (getting) sick of eating it.
e. The people next door are always fighting; I’m (getting) sick of hearing it.
f. He’s always got to find excuses; I’m (getting) sick of hearing them.

7. 計劃  “to plan”

->a. 這幾天張天明一直在考慮假期的旅行計劃。 (L9)
For the past several days Zhang Tianming had been thinking about his travel plans for break.

->b. 你畢業以後打算做什麼呢？(L5)
What are you planning to do after you graduate?

Usage note 打算 vs 計劃

Both 打算 and 計劃 have the root sense of “plan”. Differences include:

打算  計劃
v. intend; plan to…; decide to  v. devise a procedure for achieving a
n. intentions, plans given  plan to n. a plan or procedure for achieving
(usu. Long-term) end;  some particular end

Compare:
你有什麼打算？  你有什麼計劃？
Do you have any plans?  Do you have a plan?

我打算畫畫兒。  我計劃畫畫兒。
I plan to paint a picture.  I’m coming up with a plan for painting a picture.

我打算去旅行。  我計劃去旅行。
I’ve decided to go travelling.  I plan to go travelling.

Note that 計劃 typically occurs as a noun and is the choice in several fixed compound nouns:

旅遊計劃  經濟計劃  工作計劃
travel plan  economic plan  work plan

五年計劃  計劃生育
five-year plan  family planning

8. 曾經  VP “X once VP-ed”
“X has/had VP-ed (at vague time in past)”
->a. His parents had wanted him to go to mainland China several times, especially to Nanjing for a visit.

b. I once took the train from Hong Kong to Beijing.

c. He has studied Japanese before.

d. I once processed my visa in New York. What a pain!

e. I once processed my passport at the post office. It’s very convenient.

f. I used to be a tour guide for China Travel Agency.

9. 順便 VP “VP on the way; VP in passing”

->a. We can go see Steve on the way.

b. You ask the way when,顺便問時間吧。

c. We went to get our passport when, 可以顺便问签证的事。

d. You go to New York when, 顺便看看姑妈吧。

e. Next time you go to the post office, swing by the stationery store next door and get some pens, OK?

REVIEW

10. X 是…VP 的 “It’s … that X VP-ed” Adding detail (e.g.,
time/plane/manner/purpose) to old information

->a. Zhang Tianming’s parents had emigrated to the U.S. from Nanjing, China.

->b. Zhang Tianming himself had been born and raised in America and had never been to China.

->c. Zhang Tianming had come alone by plane.

->d. My ancestry is Chinese, but I was born and raised in America.

->e. Tianhua’s boyfriend, Tom, was Zhang Tianming’s high school classmate. Tom would often go to Tianming’s home to visit, and that was how Tianhua got to know Tom.

->f. After we had a fight, he did seem to regret it a lot.

->g. The movie isn’t showing any more (because) somebody threatened to bomb the auditorium. I bet it’s someone imitating something out of some movie, for sure.