

Mandarin Ab Initio Sentence Structures and Grammar



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1. 两 : 两 (liang) means two and it is used instead of (二) before the measure word (个).

(1) 我有两个弟弟。

(I have two younger brothers)

2. 有...吗 and 有没有 : 你有...吗? is equivalent to 你有没有...?

(1) 你有弟弟吗?

(Do you have younger brother?)

(2) 你有没有弟弟?

(Do you have younger brother?)

3. 都 : 都 (dou) means both.

(1) 她和我都上十二年级。

(Both I and her are in 12th Grade)

(2) 我们都是中学生。

(We are all secondary school students)

4. 几 : 几 (ji) means how much, usually for small numbers less than 10.

(1) 你有几个兄弟姐妹?

(How many siblings do you have?)

(2) 你家有几口人?

(How many family members do you have?)

5. 哪 : 哪 (na) means which.

(1) 你是哪国人?

(Which nationality are you?)

(2) 你是哪一年出生的?

(Which year were you born?)

6. 哪儿 : 哪儿 (nar) means where.

(1) 你在哪儿出生?

(Where were you born ?)

(2) 你住在哪儿?

(Where do you live?)

7. 也 and 还 : Both 也 (ye) and 还 (hai) means also. 也 is for different person and 还 is for the same person.

(1) 我喜欢功夫电影。我还喜欢爱情电影。

(I like Kung Fu films. I also like Romance films.)

(2) 我的爸爸会说英语。妈妈也会说英语。

(My father can speak English. Mother can also speak English.)

8. 有 : 有 (you) has two meanings - have and about. It can mean have as in I have a brother. Or it can mean about to say approximate quantities such as heights and weight.

(1) 我没有男朋友。

(I do not have a girlfriend)

(2) 你哥哥有多重?

(About how heavy is your elder brother?)

(3) 我爸爸有一米九。

(My father is about 1.9 metres tall)

(4) LPC 有三十多位老师和二百多个学生。

(LPC has thirty teachers and two hundred students)

9. 年纪 : 年纪 (nian ji) is a more polite way to ask the age of elders.

(1) 你奶奶有多大年纪?

(How old - approximately - is your grandmother?)

10. 又 : 又...又... (you ... you ...) structure is used for joining two similar words together. They must have the same number of syllables and must be the same type of words to use this structure.

(1) 他的眼睛又大又圆。

(His eyes are big and round)

(2) 她长得又漂亮又可爱。

(She is cute and beautiful.)

(3) 我又会说英语 又会 说法语。

(I can speak both English and French.)

(4) 我们的学校又美又大。

(Our school campus is big and beautiful.)

11. 是...吗? and 是不是? : 这是...吗? is equivalent to 这是不是...?

(1) 你是日本人吗?

(Are you a Japanese person?)

(2) 你是不是日本人?

(Are you a Japanese person?)

12. 像 : 像 (xiang) means look like.

(1) 我长得像妈妈。

(I look like my mother.)

13. 不 and 没 : Although both 不 (bu) and 没 (mei) adds negative meaning to verbs, 没 means did not and 不 implies can not.

(1) 这太多了, 吃不完!

(The food is too much, I can't finish this)

14. 过 : A verb + 过 (guo) means have + verb.

(1) 我去过英国。

(I have been to England.)

15. 然后 : 然后 (ran hou) means then.

(1) 今天早上, 我起床, 然后 刷牙。

(This morning, I get up and then brush my teeth.)

16. 从...到 : 从...到... (cong...dao...) means from something to something when used together.

(1) 我每天从早上八点到下午三点上课。

(Everyday, I attend class from 8 o' clock in the morning to 3 o' clock in the afternoon.)

(2) 从星期一到星期五, 我穿校服上学。

(From Monday to Friday, I go to school wearing school uniform.)

17. 以后 : 以后 (yi hou) means after.

(1) 吃完饭以后, 我做作业。

(After eating, I do my homework.)

(2) 昨天唱完民歌以后, 我画了半个小时 油画。

(Yesterday, after singing the folk song, I painted oil painting for half an hour.)

18. 以前 : 以前 (yi qian) means before.

(1) 我比以前高。

(I am taller than before.)

(2) 两天以前

(Two days ago)

19. 先...,再... : 先...,再... (xian ... zai) structure is for saying I do something first, then do other thing.

(1) 我先洗脸刷牙, 再吃早饭。

(First, I wash my face and brush my teeth, then had breakfast.)

20. Describing Time Taken : Structures to tell about duration are Subject + Time + Verb + Noun + Verb + 了 + Duration (Variation 1) and Subject + Time + Verb + 了 + Duration + Noun (Variation 2)

(1) 我洗脸洗了三分钟。

(I washed my face for three minutes.)

(2) 我昨天弹钢琴弹了一个小时。

(I play the piano for 1 hour yesterday - Variation 1)

(3) 昨天, 我弹了一个小时钢琴。 / 我昨天弹了一个小时钢琴。

(I play the piano for one hour yesterday - Variation 2)

21. 到 : 到 (dao) alone means arrive. However, it is used in describing temperature when discussing weather, to say from this degree to that degree Celsius.

(1) 现在我们到。

(Now, we have arrived)

(2) 北京今天气温十二到二十度。

(Today, Beijing's temperature is between 12 degrees Celsius to 20 degrees Celsius.)

22. 一边 : 一边...一边 (yi bian...yi bian) structure is used for saying somebody is doing something while doing something else.

(1) 他经常一边洗澡一边唱歌。

(He often sings while taking a shower.)

23. 多长时间 : 多长时间 is the question word for asking the duration of an activity with the form Subject + Time + Verb + Noun + Verb + 了 多长时间?

(1) 你昨天弹钢琴弹了 多长时间?

(How long did you play the piano yesterday?)

24. 完 : 完 (wan) means finish doing something. It is often used with 以后 (yi hou).

(1) 吃完饭以后, 我做作业。

(After eating, I do my homework.)

(2) 做完作业以后, 我洗澡。

(After finishing my homework, I take a shower.)

(3) 每天吃完晚饭以后, 我看一个小时电视。

(Every day, I watch television for one hour after finishing my dinner.)

25. 给 : 给 (gei) means give. As a preposition, it also means 'for.' (see examples)

(1) 给我。

(Give me.)

(2) 我的朋友给我一个花。

(My friend give me a flower.)

(3) 奶奶给我们做饭。

(Grandmother is preparing meal for us.)

(4) 你可以给我那个吉他吗?

(Can you give me that guitar?)

26. 得 : 得 has multiple meanings and sounds. 得 (de) is used to describe appearance as in 长得. 得 (dei) means have to and used in the structure - subject + 得 + Verb +了! Finally it is used to describe ability of a skill in the structure - Subject + Verb + Noun + Verb +得+ adj.

(1) 他长得高高的。

(He is tall.)

(2) 我得走了。

(I have to go.)

(3) 我滑冰滑得好。

(My ice- skating skill is good.)

27. 就 : 就 (jiu) implies that the routine is earlier than usual. Note that we need 了 after the sentence.

(1) 他们早上七点就去上学了。

(They went to school at seven o'clock in the morning, which is earlier than usual.)

(2) 我从小就弹吉他。

(I played guitar from an early age.)

28. 才 : 才 (cai) implies that the routine is later than usual.

(1) 哥哥今天早上十点才起床。

(Elder brother get up at 10 o' clock this morning, which is later than usual.)

29. 只好 : 只好 (zhi hao) is an adverb used to express that one has no choice but to - or - has no other option but to. The option is one the speaker is not fond of. The structure is ..., Subj + 只好 + Verb Phrase

(1) 她不在家, 我只好走了。

(She is not at home, I have to go back.)

30. 最 : 最 (zui) means the most.

(1) 汽车很快, 火车更快, 飞机最快。

(Car is fast, train is faster, plane is fastest.)

(2) 一年有四个季节, 我最喜欢冬天。

(Among the four seasons of the year, my most favourite is Winter.)

(3) 你最喜欢什么月饼?

(Which type of mooncake do you like the most?)

(4) 我最不喜欢做饭。

(I do not like cooking the most. Make sure that 最 comes before 喜欢.)

31. 比 : 比 (bi) is used for comparison between two subjects, in the sentence structure - A+比+B+adj.

(1) 飞机比火车快。

(The plane is faster than the train.)

(2) 我比十年前重十公斤。

(I am 10 kg heavier than myself 10 years ago)

(3) 我比他大。

(I am older than him.)

(4) 我比他大三岁。

(I am 3 years older than him.)

32. 非常 : 非常 (fei chang) means extremely and it is used with an adjective.

(1) 非常好!

(Excellent!)

(2) 我非常喜欢画画。

(I like painting very much.)

33. 工作 : 工作 (gong zuo) means to work.

(1) 他做什么工作?

(What is his job?)

(2) 她工作忙不忙?

(Is her job busy or not?)

(3) 警察在警察局工作。

(Police works in a police station.)

34. 哪里 : 哪里 (na li) means where.

(1) 护士在哪里工作?

(Where does a nurse work?)

35. 家 : 家 has two meanings - home and measure word for places. It is used as a measure word for most places, except for schools.

(1) 我爸爸在一家工厂工作。

(My father works at a factory.)

36. 所 : 所 (suo) is a measure word for schools.

(1) 我在一所国际学校学习。

(I study in an international school.)

37. 多个 : 多个 (duo ge) means more than.

(1) 这所学校有 200 多个学生。

(There are more than 200 students in this school.)

38. 除了... 以外 : 除了... 以外,... (chu le... yi wai,...) structure is used to say apart from something, I also something. It is used along with 还 to mean also.

(1) 除了跳舞以外, 我还喜欢画油画。

(Apart from dancing, I also like painting oil painting.)

39. 特别 : 特别 (te bie) means especially. Do not forget 是 after 特别。

(1) 我喜欢听音乐, 特别是古典音乐。

(I like listening to music, especially classical music)

40. 一会儿 : 一会儿 (yi huir) means for a while.

(1) 做完作业以后, 我看一会儿书。

(After doing homework, I will read a book for a while.)

41. 得怎么样 : 你 + Verb + Noun + Verb + 得怎么样? Structure is used to ask someone about the ability of their skills.

(1) 你滑冰滑得怎么样?

(How good is your ice-skating?)

42. 要 : 要 (yao) means want/need.

(1) 他要学中文。

(He wants to study Chinese.)

(2) 你要吃什么?

(What do you want to eat?)

(3) 这个周末你们要做什么?

(This weekend, what do you want to do?)

43. 几点 : 几点 means what time, but it asks for more specific time. The answer should be something like 10 minutes past 10 o'clock.

44. 什么时候 : 什么时候 also asks what time, but it is more general. The answer can be just the date - such as 5th of June.

45. 怎么样 : 怎么样? (zěn me yàng) is a question word asking about your opinion. It means what do you think about something?

(1) 香港怎么样?

(What is your opinion on Hong Kong?)

46. 什么样 : 什么样 is a question word to ask about physical appearance.

(1) 香港什么样?

(What does Hong Kong look like?)

(2) 他/她长什么样?

(What is his/her appearance?)

47. 的时候 : 的时候 (de shi hou) means while. It can be used with 正 (zheng) to mean something is happening right now (present participle form).

(1) 妹妹看电视的时候, 哥哥正在踢足球。

(While younger sister is watching television, elder brother is playing football.)

48. 会 : 会 (hui) has three meanings. It means can (or) will (or) for a while in 一会儿.

(1) 我会说英语。

(I can speak English.)

(2) 我明天会去中国。

(I will go to China tomorrow.)

(3) 我看了一会儿看电视。

(I will watch TV for a while.)

49. 差 : 差 has three meanings and three sounds. 差 (chai) is used in 出差 to say business trip. 差 (cha) is used to indicate a number of minutes before an hour when describing time. 差 (cha) is used to mean bad ability.

(1) 他工作很忙，经常去英国出差。

(He is very busy with his work and often goes to England on business trip.)

(2) 差七分十点

(Seven minutes to 10 o' clock.)

(3) 我滑冰滑得差。

(My ice-skating skill is bad.)

50. 太 : 太 (tai) means too. The general structure is 太 + adj + 了! 了 is not needed if 不 is used at front.

(1) 我太喜欢她了!

(I like her so much)

(2) 我不太喜欢她!

(I do not like her really that much.)

(3) 太晚了!

(It is too late!)

51. 更 : 更 (geng) means more. It is also used in structure - Subject + 更喜欢 + a hobby - to say someone prefers doing a hobby.

(1) 坐地铁很慢，骑自行车更慢。

(Taking the subway is slow, riding the bike is slower.)

(2) 你喜欢弹吉他吗? 不喜欢， 我更喜欢听音乐。

(Do you like playing guitar? No, but I prefer listening to music.)

52. 左右 : 左右 (zuo you) means around. It literally means left and right.

(1) 她十八多左右。

(She is around 18 years old.)

(2) 香港今天阴天，气温二十五度左右。

(Today, Hong Kong is cloudy, and its temperature is around 25 degrees Celsius.)

53. 可以 : 可以 (ke yi) means okay or able to. It is used in the structure - 我喜欢 +weather , 因为 +weather + 的时候, 我可以 +verb.

(1) 我喜欢热的天气，因为热的天气的时候，我可以玩游戏。

(I like hot weather, because when it is hot, I can play games.)

54. 和 : 和 has multiple sounds. 和 (he) means and. 和 (huo) is used in 暖和 (nuan huo) - warm.

(1) 我爱我的爸爸和妈妈。

(I love my dad and mom.)

(2) 春天很暖和。

(It is warm in spring time.)

55. 应该 : 应该 (ying gai) means should.

(1) 冬天应该穿围巾。

(In winter, you should wear a scarf.)

56. 网 : 网 (wang) literally means net, but it also means the internet or online related things. 网上 - noun - online / 上网 - verb - surf the internet

(1) 我网上有很多朋友。

(I have a lot of friends online.)

(2) 我喜欢上网。

(I love surfing the internet.)

57. 一般 : 一般 (yi ban) means normally.

(1) 爸爸一般怎么去广州?

(How does father normally travel to Guangzhou?)

58. 在 : 在 (zai) literally means at. But, it can be used in two contexts. If used with places, it means at, but when it is combined with a verb, it implies the -ing form. See the examples below.

(1) 我现在住在香港。

(I currently live in Hong Kong.)

(2) 现在在下雪。

(It is snowing now.)

59. 着 : 着 (zhe) can also be used to imply the meaning of right now. Nice structures to set up the story.

(1) 现在下着雪，刮着风。

(Now it is snowing and the wind is blowing.)

60. 经常 : 经常 (jing chang) is a frequency word meaning often.

(1) 香港夏天经常晴天。

(Hong Kong summer time is often sunny.)

61. 越来越 : 越来越 (yue lai yue) means more and more. We can also use the structure - 越 + verb + 越 + adjective (see example 3 below.) Take care of which adjective refers to which noun.

(1) 你的中文会越来越好!

(Your Chinese will be better and better.)

(2) 天越来越黑。

(It grows darker and darker.)

(3) 你越吃越胖。

(The more you eat, the fatter you become.)

(4) 雪越下，我越冷。

(The more it snows, the colder I feel.)

(5) 雨越下越大。

(The rain is getting more and more heavier.)

(6) 你越说，你的中文越好!

(The more you speak, the better your Chinese will be.)

62. 高 : 高 - means tall as in the height of a person : opposite meaning - 矮 (short) , or high as in high temperature: opposite meaning - 低 (low)

(1) 他长得高高的。

(He is tall.)

(2) 西安今天最高气温五度。

(Today, Xi'an 's maximum temperature will be 5 degrees Celsius.)

63. 虽然...但是 : 虽然...但是 (sui ran...dan shi) structure means although,... But... .

(1) 黑老师的中文比我们的好很多了, 但是他的英语没我们的好。

(Although Helen's Chinese is a lot better than us, but her English is not as good as us.)

(2) 她虽然长得很胖, 但是她长得很漂亮。

(Although she looks fat, she is beautiful.)

64. 穿 : 穿 (chuan) means to wear clothes.

(1) 我爸爸喜欢穿黑色的长裤。

(My father likes wearing black trousers.)

65. 戴 : 戴 (dai) means to wear accessory - such as scarf, gloves.

(1) 她戴着棕色的围巾。

(She is wearing a brown scarf.)

66. 带 : 带 (dai) means to bring any object.

(1) 今天你带中文书了吗?

(Did you bring your Chinese book today?)

67. 出差 : 出差 (chu chai) means business trip. The sentence structure is 去 + place + 出差.

(1) 爸爸昨天去北京出差了。

(Father went to Beijing for business trip yesterday.)

68. 上班 : 上班 (shang ban) means to go to work.

(1) 你爸爸怎么上班?

(How does your father go to work?)

(2) 我爸爸开车上班。

(My father drives to work.)

(3) 我妈妈坐地铁上班。

(My mother takes the subway to work.)

69. **Describing duration of stay/work** : To describe duration of stay or work, use the structure - Subject+在+Place+住(or工作)+了+time duration.

(1) 我在 LPC 住了一年。

(I lived in LPC for one year.)

(2) 黑老师在 LPC 工作了四年。

(Helen worked at LPC for four years.)

(3) 我的朋友在这里住了一年半。

(My friend lived here for one and a half years.)

70. **Describing Ability** : Question: 你 + Verb + Noun + Verb + 得怎么样? Ans: Subject + Verb + Noun + Verb +得+ adj. (好 - good, 不太好- not too good, 不错 - not bad, 差 - bad)

(1) 你滑冰滑得怎么样?

(How is your ice-skating skill?)

(2) 我滑冰滑得好。

(My ice-skating skill is good.)

(3) 我滑冰滑得不太好。

(My ice-skating skill is not so good.)

(4) 我滑冰滑得差。

(My ice-skating skill is bad.)

71. **转** : 转 (zhuan) means changing from one state to another.

(1) 北京今天晴转多云。

(Today, Beijing's weather will change from clear sky to cloudy.)

72. **度** : 度 (du) is the measure word for temperatures - in degrees Celsius.

(1) 今天气温多少度?

(What is the temperature today?)

(2) 今天零下八度。

(Today's temperature is - 8 degrees Celsius.)

73. 这里 : 这里 (zhe li) means here or this place.

(1) 我的朋友在这里住了一年半。

(My friend lived here for 1 and a half year.)

74. 不用 : 不用 (bu yong) means do not need to.

(1) 不用谢。

(You are welcome - no need to thank.)

(2) 不用了! 谢谢。

(No, thanks. - responding to would you like something?)

75. 用 : 用 (yong) alone means use.

(1) 我用我的手吃饭。

(I use my hands to eat.)

(2) 我用耳朵听。

(I use my ears to listen.)

76. 不能 : 不能 (bu neng) means cannot do something due to condition.

(1) 妹妹不能走路。

(My younger sister cannot walk - reason is because she is now in library.)

77. 不会 : 不会 (bu hui) also mean cannot do something, but due to lack of skill.

(1) 妹妹不会走路。

(My younger sister cannot walk - reason is because she is only one year old.)

78. 些 : 些 (xie) gives a plural form to a word.

(1) 哪些老师?

(Which teachers?)

79. This/that/these/those : 这个 (zhe ge) - this, 那个 (na ge) - that, 这些 (zhe xie) - these, 那些 (na xie) - those

(1) 这个老师

(this teacher)

(2) 那个老师

(that teacher)

(3) 这些老师

(these teachers)

(4) 那些老师

(those teachers)

80. 正在 : 正在 (zheng zai) means something is happening right now (present participle form).

(1) 我正在看书。

(I am reading right now.)

(2) 妹妹看电视的时候，哥哥正在踢足球。

(While younger sister is watching television, elder brother is playing football.)

81. 一起 : 一起 (yi qi) means together.

(1) 你跟谁一起打篮球?

(With whom do you play basketball together with?)

82. 觉得 : 觉得 (jué dé) is used to say somebody feel or sense or think that - such as saying 'I think that she is very humble'. It is used to avoid judgement when talking about others.

(1) 我觉得她很谦虚。

(I think that she is humble.)

(2) 我觉得她是一个谦虚的人。

(I think that she is a humble person.)

(3) 我觉得经济课很实用。

(I think the economic class is very practical.)

83. 全职/兼职 : 全职 (quán zhí) means full time job and 兼职 (jiān zhí) means part time job. Add a job after 全职 or 兼职 to say full time or part time job.

(1) 他是全职老师。

(He is a full-time teacher.)

(2) 我是兼职工人。

(I am a part-time worker.)

84. **Before/Now** : Use the following structures to compare between the past and present. The general structure is : Subject + 以前 + verb , 但是 + subject + 现在 + verb.

(1) 我以前想做医生, 但是我现在想做银行家。

(Before I wanted to be a doctor, but now I want to be a banker.)

(2) 我以前想去美国上大学, 但是我现在想去欧洲上大学。

(Before, I wanted to go to United States for university, but now I want to go to Europe.)

85. **Difference between 节 and 门** : 节 (jié) and 门 (mén) are both used as measure words for classes. However, 节 (jié) refers to the time period, but 门 (mén) refers to the subjects.

(1) 你今天有几节课?

(How many classes - time periods - do you have today?)

(2) 你今年有几门课?

(How many subjects do you take this year?)

86. **让** : 让 (ràng) means to let/ to allow/ to ask.

(1) 黑老师让我们多说汉语。

(Helen asks us to speak more Chinese.)

(2) 他让我等一下。

(He asked me to wait.)

(3) 他让我等一等。

(He asked me to wait.)

(4) Helen 让你马上去办公室。

(Helen wants you to go to the office right away.)

87. **一样** : 一样 (yī yàng) can be used to compare and contrast two different things in the structures : A 跟 B 一样 (similar). (or) A 跟 B 不一样 (difference). You need to give reason after saying whether two things are similar or different.

(1) 我跟你一样, 我们都是男生。

(I am similar to you in terms that we are both schoolboys.)

(2) 中国人跟欧洲人不一样。中国人有黑色的头发, 但是欧洲人有金色的头发。

(Chinese and the Europeans are different. Chinese people have black hair, but Europeans have blonde hair.)

88. 开始 : 开始 (Kāi shǐ) means to start something. It is often used to say I started doing something at a particular age.

(1) 我五岁开始上学。

(I started school at the age of five.)

(2) 我十一岁开始弹吉他。

(I started playing guitar at the age of eleven.)

89. 对 : 对 (duì) means correct. But as a preposition, it also means 'to.'

(1) 老师对我们很好。

(The teacher is very good to us.)

90. 一点 : 一点 (Yī diǎn) means a little or a bit. It is used with nouns. (Compare with 有点 - Yǒu diǎn - which is used with adjectives.)

(1) 我会说一点汉语。

(I can speak a little bit of Chinese.)

91. 有点 : 有点 (yǒu diǎn) also means a little or a bit. It is used with adjectives but not nouns. Compare with 一点 (yī diǎn) which is used with nouns.

(1) 中文有点难。

(Chinese is a bit difficult.)

92. 毕业 : 毕业 (bì yè) means graduate.

(1) 我毕业以后想当一个经济学家。

(I want to become an economist after I graduate.)

93. Prepositions : The general structure is: A 在 B 的 + preposition.

(1) A在B的左面;B在A的右边。

(A is on the left side of B; B is on the right side of A.)

(2) A在B的下面;B在A的上边。

(A is below B; B is above A.)

(3) A在B的后面;B在A的前边。

(A is behind B; B is at the front of A.)

94. **Prepositions - 2** : Another structure for prepositions is: A + 的 + prep + 有一个 + B.

(1) 李宝椿的附近有一个地铁站。

(There is an MTR station near LPC.)

95. **Questioning how far?** : To question how far the distance is between the places, use the structure: A + 离 + B + 多远/多近?

(1) 我们的学校离地铁站多远? 走路五分钟。

(How far is our school from the MTR station? Five minutes walk.)

(2) 我们的学校离沙田多远? 坐地铁半小时。

(How far is our school from Sha Tin? Take the MTR for half an hour.)

96. **很好** : 很好 + verb = an adjective.

(1) 非洲舞很好跳。

(African dance is easy to dance.)

(2) 她很好看。

(She is so beautiful.)

(3) 这个游戏很好玩。

(This game is very fun.)

(4) 她不好看。

(She is not good looking. - still friendly)

(5) 她难好看。

(She is ugly - note that this is an offensive expression.)

97. **Expressing Percentage** : To express percentages, use the expression : 百分之 (Bǎi fēn zhī) + percentage. There are also other ways to say fractions in the example.

(1) 百分之八十五

(85 %)

(2) 二分之一

(1/2)

- (3) 一半
(50%)
- (4) 三分之二
(2/3)
- (5) 百分之七十五
(75%)
- (6) 四分之三
(75%)
-

98. 名 : 名 (Míng) + noun means that something is famous. Note that the noun must be 1 syllable only. If it is more than 1 syllable, use the expression: 有名的 + noun.

- (1) 名人
(celebrity)
- (2) 名校
(prestigious schools)
- (3) 名师
(famous teacher)
- (4) 有名的电影
(famous movies)
- (5) 有名的篮球运动员
(famous basketball players)
- (6) 有名的科学家
(famous scientist)
-

99. 多于 : 多于 (Duō yú) also means more than. It is used in front of the percentage expressions. The general structure is : 多于 + percentage.

- (1) 在李宝椿, 多于四分之三的学生是女生。
(At LPC, more than 3/4 of the students are girls.)
- (2) 在李宝椿, 多于一半的学生是香港人。
(At LPC, more than half of the students are from Hong Kong.)
-

100. 次 : 次 (cì) means times.

(1) 一次

(once)

(2) 两次

(twice)

(3) 下次

(Next time)

(4) 上次

(Last time)

(5) 下次再见。

(See you next time.)

(6) 下次再聊。

(Talk to you next time.)

(7) 下次再来。

(Come again next time.)

101. **Showing Attitude** : Attitude of a person on a particular action can be shown with the structure: Subject + verb + 很 + attitude.

(1) 他学习很努力。

(He studies so hard.)

(2) 他工作很努力。

(He is so hardworking at work.)

102. **一点儿都** : Subject + 一点儿都不 + ... (or) Subject + 一点儿都没 + ... means not at all. When combined with 不, it means not at all (now). When combined with 没, it means did not ... at all.

(1) 我一点儿都不怕考试。

(I am not afraid of the exam at all.)

(2) 中文作业一点儿都不难。

(Chinese homework is not difficult at all.)

(3) 这次考试, 我一点儿都没复习。

(For this exam, I did not revise at all.)

(4) 这个连衣裙一点儿都不贵。

(This dress is not expensive at all.)

(5) 我一点儿都没有时间。

(I have no time at all.)

103. 为 : 为 (wèi) also means for. Also see 给 (gěi).

(1) 奶奶为我做晚饭。

(Grandma made dinner for me.)

(2) 去年, 爸爸为我请数学家教因为我的数学成绩不好。

(Last year, my father hired me a maths tutor because my maths grades were not good.)

104. Describing sports score / exam grades : Use 得了 before the score to describe it.

(1) 这次中文考试, 我得了七分。

(For this Chinese exam, I got seven.)

(2) 在足球比赛, 李宝椿得了三分。

(In this football match, LPC scored three goals.)

105. 不在 : 不在 (Bù zài) literally means not here. However, it is also an euphemism for dead.

(1) 他不在了。

(He is not here - meaning he is dead.)

106. 梦 : 梦 (Mèng) alone means dreaming (in sleep). However, when we say 梦想 (Mèng xiǎng) it means dream as in ambition (something you want to be in the future.)

(1) 昨晚, 我做了一个梦, 我梦见你了。

(Last night, I had a dream, I dreamed of you.)

(2) 做梦!

(a phrase saying - you wish! - in other words, your dream will not come true.)

107. 经历 vs 经验 : 经历 (jīng lì) vs 经验 (jīng yàn) both mean experience. However, 经历 means experience in everyday life, but 经验 means experience which you can learn from (experience from which you grow).

(1) 他有二十八年的工作经验。

(He has 28 years of work experience.)

(2) 他是一个有经验的老师。

(He is a teacher with experience.)

(3) 她很有经验。

(She is very experienced.)

(4) 他经历了很多。

(He has experienced a lot.)

108. 吃 : 吃 (chī) alone is a verb and it means to eat. However, when we say 吃的 (chī de), it becomes a noun and it means food.

(1) 你喜欢吃什么?

(What would you like to eat?)

(2) 你喜欢什么吃的?

(What food do you like?)

109. 果 : 水果 (shuǐ guǒ) and 果实 (guǒ shí) both means fruit. 水果 is a noun meaning the fruit (apple, banana. etc) and 果实 means fruitage (result or outcome of something) originally.

(1) 苹果是一种水果

(Apple is a kind of fruit - correct.)

(2) 苹果是一种果实。

(Incorrect)

(3) 吃点水果!

(Eat some fruit - correct)

(4) 吃点果实。

(Eat some fruit - incorrect)

(5) 苹果树长出了果实。

(The apple tree has born fruits. - Correct)

(6) 苹果树长出了水果。

(The apple tree has born fruits. - Incorrect)

110. 黑 : 黑 means the colour black, or illegal.

- (1) 黑车
(Illegal Vehicle)
 - (2) 黑店
(Illegal shop)
 - (3) 黑市
(Black market)
-

111. 和...比 : 和+subject+比 (hé + subject + bǐ) means compared to the subject.

- (1) 和海鲜比, 我更喜欢吃鸡肉, 但是我最喜欢吃猪肉。
(Compared with seafood, I prefer eating chicken, but I like eating pork the most.)
-

112. 还是 : 还是 (há i shì) means - or - and it is used in the question.

- (1) 你喜欢猪肉还是鸡肉?
(Do you like pork or chicken?)
-

113. 或 : 或 (huò) means - or - and it is used in the answer.

- (1) 猪肉或鸡肉都可以。
(Pork or chicken is fine.)
-

114. Describing scale of meal : To describe the number of dishes in the meal, we can use the structure : number of dish + 菜 + number of soup + 湯

- (1) 四菜一汤
(Four dishes and one soup)
-

115. 饿 : 饿 (è) means hungry.

- (1) 我饿了! 你有什么吃的?
(I am hungry! What food do you have?)
-

116. 渴 : 渴 (kě) means thirsty.

- (1) 我渴了! 你有什么喝的?
(I am thirsty, what drink do you have?)
-

117. 比如 : 比如 (Bǐ rú) means such as. Compare with 等等 (.etc)

(1) 我们食堂的汤不错, 有蔬菜汤比如西红柿汤, 萝卜汤和南瓜汤。

(The soup in our cafeteria is good, with vegetable soups such as tomato soup, radish soup and pumpkin soup.)

118. 吃醋 : 吃醋 (Chī cù) literally means eat vinegar. However, it also has an implied meaning of somebody being jealous of something.

(1) 你在吃醋因为我的女朋友很漂亮。

(You are jealous because my girlfriend is very beautiful.)

119. 点 : One of the meanings of 点 (diǎn) is to order food.

(1) 你点了什么?

(What did you order?)

(2) 我点了牛排, 你呢?

(I ordered the steak, what about you?)

(3) 点外卖

(to order takeaway)

120. 如果 : 如果 (rú guǒ) means if. It is used with a dependent clause. Compare with 是否 (shì fǒu).

(1) 如果你不吃肉, 我们有素菜。

(If you do not eat meat, we have vegetarian dishes.)

121. 是否 : 是否 (shì fǒu) means whether or not. It is used in a complete sentence. Compare with 如果 (rú guǒ).

(1) 他问我咖啡是否要加牛奶和糖。

(He asked me whether or not I want to added sugar and milk in my coffee.)

(2) 我不知道她是否喜欢。

(I do not know whether she likes it or not.)

122. 只有 : 只有 (zhǐ yǒu) means only have.

(1) 我们只有猪肉炒面。

(We only have pork noodles.)

123. 试试 : 试试 (shì shì) means to try something new (e.g. food, or experience).

(1) 你可以试试。

(You can try it.)

124. 把 : 把 (bǎ) is a grammar word used to give order.

(1) 把手机给我!

(Give me the phone!)

(2) 他把鸡肉炒面换成猪肉炒面。

(He replaced the chicken noodles with pork noodles.)

125. 等 : 等 (děng) means to wait.

(1) 他们等了很长时间, 所以他们很生气。

(They waited for a long time, so they are very angry.)

(2) 他让我等一下。

(He asked me to wait.)

(3) 他让我等一等。

(He asked me to wait.)

(4) 你可以等我吗?

(Can you wait for me?)

126. 的 : 的 (De) is also used to construct clauses.

(1) 爸爸开的车。

(The car that dad drives)

(2) 我妈妈穿着的那双皮鞋。

(The pair of leather shoes my mother is wearing.)

127. **Speaking** : Speaking can be described by 告诉 (Gào sù), 说 (Shuō) or 说话 (Shuō huà). To say someone tells someone else to do something, use 告诉 (Gào sù). To say someone is speaking alone, use 说 (Shuō). If you want to say someone speaks, use 说话 (Shuō huà). Note that if you use 说 (Shuō) for conversation between two people, it means scold. See examples.

(1) 他告诉我早点睡觉。

(He told me to go to bed early.)

(2) 他说我喜欢饺子。

(He said I like dumplings.)

(3) 他说话很多。

(He talks a lot.)

128. 一直 : 一直 (Yī zhí) means always.

(1) 他一直学习。

(He studies all the time.)

129. 不要 : 不要 (Bù yào) means do not. It is interchangeable with 别 (Bié)

(1) 不要吃油的东西。

(Do not eat oily things.)

130. 厉害 : 厉害 (lì hài) means so much. It is used to express the intensity in the form : adjective + 得很厉害.

(1) 他的肚子疼得很厉害。

(His stomach hurts a lot / very badly)

131. 少 : 少 (shǎo) means less.

(1) 他睡觉太少。

(He sleeps too little.)

(2) 他睡觉很少。

(He sleeps very little.)

132. 够 : 够 (gòu) means enough.

(1) 他睡觉不够了。

(He did not sleep enough.)

133. 吧 : 吧 (Ba) means Lets do something.

(1) 我们快点去医院吧。

(Lets go quickly to the hospital.)

(2) 别吃油的东西。

(Do not eat oily things.)

134. **For** : To express if an action is good/bad for something, use the structure: statement, 对 + object + 好/不好

(1) 睡觉少, 对身体不好。

(Sleeping less is bad for your health.)

135. **好几** : 好几 - Hǎo jǐ means several.

(1) 马鞍山有好几家饭店。

(There are several restaurants in Ma On Shan.)

(2) 香港有好几所国际学校。

(There are several international schools in Hong Kong.)

136. **花** : 花 - huā , as a noun means flower. As a verb means to spend time or money.

(1) 我花了 299 元买了这副眼镜。

(I bought these glasses for 299 RMB.)

(2) 我花了 299 元买了一本书。

(I bought a book for 299 RMB.)

(3) 他花一个小时吃早饭。

(He spends an hour eating breakfast.)

(4) 我上周跟朋友在书店花了六十块给姐姐买一本书。

(I spent sixty RMB with my friend in a bookstore last week to buy a book for my sister.)

137. **超** : 超- chāo - means super. It can be used to say someone is exceptionally good at something.

(1) 他超级好。

(He is super good.)

138. **一** : verb + 一 + verb means the same as verb + verb. It forms a phrase.

(1) 看一看/看看

(look around)

(2) 说一说/说说

(talk about)

(3) 试一试/试试

(have a try)

(4) 坐一坐/坐坐

(visit)

(5) 等一等/等等

(wait)

(6) 尝一尝/尝尝

(taste)

(7) 你可以尝一尝这个汤咸不咸吗?

(Can you taste and see if this soup is salty or not?)

(8) 你可以说一说你的国家吗?

(Can you talk about your country?)

139. 配 : 配 - Pèi means match, whether a clothes suit a person or someone is a match for someone.

(1) 穿这条裤子, 可以配这双鞋。

(The pants are matching with these shoes.)

(2) 他不配。

(He does not deserve - a person or a thing. Note that this is a very strong comment.)

140. Discount : Chinese Discounts are expressed in 10 and not 100. Also, they talk about the % you pay of the original price out of 10. The structure is : 打 + amount you pay out of 10 + 折

(1) 打九折

(10% Off)

(2) 打八折

(20% off)

(3) 打九五折

(5% off)

(4) 打八五折

(15% off)

141. 挺 : 挺 (Tǐng) implies quite or pretty for adjectives. e.g. quite good/ pretty good.

(1) 地铁挺快了。

(MTR is quite fast.)

(2) 她挺可爱的。

(She is pretty cute.)

(3) 香港挺方便的。

(Hong Kong is pretty convenient.)

142. 打 : 打 (Dǎ) - literally means hit. However, its exact meaning depends on context.

(1) 打篮球

(play basketball)

(2) 打人

(hit a person)

(3) 打电话

(make a phonecall)

(4) 打电话

(make a phonecall)

(5) 打车

(take a taxi)

143. Whenever/Wherever/ Whoever : When the question words are used as noun, they imply the meaning of whenever/wherever/whoever. See examples.

(1) 什么时候都可以。

(Anytime is fine)

(2) 你什么时候有空?

(When are you free?)

(3) 我们今天下午去哪儿?

(Where shall we go this afternoon. In here, 哪儿 is a question word.)

(4) 哪儿都可以。

(Anywhere is fine. In here, 哪儿 is used as a noun, meaning wherever.)

(5) 你想和谁去看电影?

(Who do you want to go to the movies with? In here, 谁 is used as a question word.)

(6) 谁都可以。

(Whoever is fine. In here, 谁 is used as noun, meaning whoever.)

144. **Visiting** : 看了(Kàn le) means visiting people. 参观 (Cān guān) is for visiting places.

145. **刚** : 刚 (gāng) means just.

(1) 我们刚到了。

(We have just arrived.)