

Auxiliary words

HSK 4

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

Noun, Noun + 什么的 (...and so on)

■ Leave a casual list open

- You plan to buy fruit, snacks and similar items.
- 买点水果、零食什么的。** – 什么的 leaves the list conversational and non-exhaustive.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Noun, Noun + 什么的 (...and so on)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

水果、零食什么的。

shuǐ guǒ lǐng shí shén me de

Word guide: 水果 – fruit; 零食 – snacks; 什么的 – and so on.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **买点水果、零食什么的。**: 什么的 leaves the list conversational and non-exhaustive.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The phrase does not ask what the items are.
- Use an explicit list if exact completeness matters.

■ Use the distinction

- 什么的 leaves the list conversational and non-exhaustive.
- The phrase does not ask what the items are. Use an explicit list if exact completeness matters.

■ Try it with help closed

You plan to buy fruit, snacks and similar items. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 买点水果、零食什么的。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The phrase does not ask what the items are.
- Use an explicit list if exact completeness matters.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

... 等 / 等等 (etc.)

■ Examples need not exhaust a category

- A list gives apples and bananas as examples of fruit.
- 苹果、香蕉等水果。** – 等 links the examples to the broader fruit category.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **... 等 / 等等 (etc.)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

苹果、香蕉等水果。

píng guǒ xiāng jiāo děng shuǐ guǒ

Word guide: 苹果 – apple; 香蕉 – banana; 等 – etc.; 水果 – fruit.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **苹果、香蕉等水果。**: 等 links the examples to the broader fruit category.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- This list is not necessarily complete.
- 等 can also close an explicit enumerated set, so the surrounding wording determines the scope.

■ Use the distinction

- 等 links the examples to the broader fruit category.
- This list is not necessarily complete. 等 can also close an explicit enumerated set, so the surrounding wording determines the scope.

■ Try it with help closed

A list gives apples and bananas as examples of fruit. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 苹果、香蕉等水果。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- This list is not necessarily complete.
- 等 can also close an explicit enumerated set, so the surrounding wording determines the scope.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.