

Auxiliary words

HSK 5

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.

... 啊, ... 啊 (casual listing)

■ List familiar foods in conversation

- Someone asks which fruit you like; you give casual examples.
- 苹果啊, 香蕉啊, 我都喜欢。 – 啊 gives the list a conversational rhythm.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is ... 啊, ... 啊 (casual listing). 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.

苹果啊, 香蕉啊, 都喜欢。

píng guǒ a xiāng jiāo a dōu xǐ huan

Word guide: 苹果 – apples; 香蕉 – bananas; 都 – all; 喜欢 – like.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 苹果啊, 香蕉啊, 我都喜欢。: 啊 gives the list a conversational rhythm.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The list need not name every fruit you like.
- This listing 啊 differs from a question particle or a cry of surprise.

■ Use the distinction

- 啊 gives the list a conversational rhythm.
- The list need not name every fruit you like. This listing 啊 differs from a question particle or a cry of surprise.

■ Try it with help closed

Someone asks which fruit you like; you give casual examples. 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: 苹果啊，香蕉啊，我都喜欢。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The list need not name every fruit you like.
- This listing 啊 differs from a question particle or a cry of surprise.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.