

Verb phrases

HSK 6

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.

不屑 (于) (disdain to)

■ Refusal can show an attitude of superiority

- Someone refuses to debate a rumour because they consider it beneath them.
- 她不屑于争论这种谣言。 – The refusal is framed as disdain, rather than inability.

Refusal can show an attitude of superiority

SITUATION

Someone refuses to debate a rumour because they consider it beneath them.

SPEAKER MEANING

The refusal is framed as disdain, rather than inability.

CHECK THE LIMIT

不能争论 means cannot debate; 不愿争论 means unwilling.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 不屑 (于) (disdain to): 他不屑于做这种小事。; 她对这种谣言不屑一顾。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

他不屑于撒谎。

tā bú xiè yú sā huǎng

Word guide: 他 – he; 不屑 – disdain to; 于 – (to); 撒谎 – lie.

- In the opening situation: 她不屑于争论这种谣言。
- The refusal is framed as disdain, rather than inability.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 不能争论 means cannot debate; 不愿争论 means unwilling.
- 不屑于 adds an attitude toward the activity, and does not prove the rumour false.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 她不屑于争论 needs repair here. Write 她不屑于争论 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- The refusal is framed as disdain, rather than inability. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 不能争论 means cannot debate; 不愿争论 means unwilling. 不屑于 adds an attitude toward the activity, and does not prove the rumour false.

■ Try it with help closed

Someone refuses to debate a rumour because they consider it beneath them. 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: 她不屑于争论这种谣言。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 不能争论 means cannot debate; 不愿争论 means unwilling.
- 不屑于 adds an attitude toward the activity, and does not prove the rumour false.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

以便 (so as to / in order to)

■ Make a later useful action possible

- An organiser asks for a contact number to send later updates.
- 请留下电话, 以便我们联系您。 – Leaving the number enables the intended contact.

Make a later useful action possible

SITUATION

An organiser asks for a contact number to send later updates.

SPEAKER MEANING

Leaving the number enables the intended contact.

CHECK THE LIMIT

以便 states a purpose, not a completed result.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- **以便 (so as to / in order to):** 请留下电话, 以便我们联系您。; 早点出发, 以便赶上头班车。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

请留下电话, 以便联系。

qǐng liú xià diàn huà yǐ biàn lián xì

Word guide: 请 – please; 留下 – leave; 电话 – number; 以便 – so as to; 联系 – contact.

- In the opening situation: 请留下电话, 以便我们联系您。
- Leaving the number enables the intended contact.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 以便 states a purpose, not a completed result.
- Contrast 以免联系不上您, which names an unwanted failure the same action aims to prevent.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 请留下电话, 我们联系您以便 needs repair here. Write 请留下电话, 以便我们联系您 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- Leaving the number enables the intended contact. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 以便 states a purpose, not a completed result. Contrast 以免联系不上您, which names an unwanted failure the same action aims to prevent.

■ Try it with help closed

An organiser asks for a contact number to send later updates. 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.

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