

Numbers and Measure Words

Ref Hsk3 Grammar

— “half” (and where it sits)

The word means “half.” The only thing to master is **where it sits** relative to the **measure word**, and it follows one clean rule: “**half a** [unit]” puts *first*; “[X] **and a half**” puts *after* the measure word — exactly where the fraction lands in the English too.

Structure: + Measure Word + Noun (half a ...) · Number + Measure Word + + Noun (X and a half)

{zh: |bàn ge|half a / |xiǎo shí|hour}

half an hour

{zh: |bàn píng|half a bottle of / |jiǔ|wine}

half a bottle of wine

{zh: |sān ge|three / |bàn|and a half / |xiǎo shí|hours}

three and a half hours

Remember: mirrors English word order. “*Half* an hour” → first (); “three *and a half* hours” → after the measure word (). Say the English and lands in the same spot.

Watch out

- and are *themselves* measure words — use **no** : ✓ (not), ✓.