Numbers and Measure Words

HSK 3 Grammar

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

半 (half / and a half)

Half a cake left

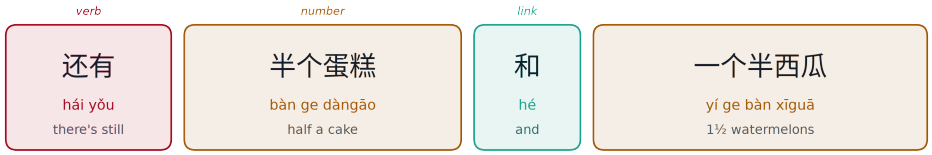
- After the party, your mum looks at the table and counts what is left.
- **还有半个蛋糕和一个半西瓜。** – "There's half a cake and one and a half watermelons left."

半 + measure word (half a …)

- **半 + measure word + noun** = half a …: 半个苹果, 半杯水, 半年.
- 半 comes before the measure word, with no 一 in front.

我喝了半杯牛奶。
wǒ hē le bàn bēi niú nǎi
Word guide: 我 – I; 喝 – drank; 半 – half; 杯 – a glass; 牛奶 – of milk.

半个 · 一个半: half and one and a half



Number + measure word + 半 (… and a half)

- **Number + measure word + 半** = … and a half: 一个半小时 (an hour and a half), 两年半 (two and a half years).
- With time: 三点半 = half past three.

我等了一个半小时。
wǒ děng le yí gè bàn xiǎo shí
Word guide: 我 – I; 等 – waited; 一个 – one; 半 – and a half; 小时 – hours.

Where 半 goes

- Half a … : 半 before the measure word (半个小时). … and a half: 半 after it (一个半小时).
- Do not say 一半个 or 一个小时半: say 半个 and 一个半小时.

一半 = half of something

- **一半** is a noun: half (of a whole): **一半的学生是女生。** – "Half of the students are girls."
- 我只吃了一半 – "I only ate half (of it)."

一半的学生是女生。
yí bàn de xué sheng shì nǚ shēng
Word guide: 一半 – half; 学生 – students; 是 – are; 女生 – girls.

Recap

- **半 + MW** = half a …; **Number + MW + 半** = … and a half; **X 点半** = half past X.
- **一半** = half of something, a noun.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

半 (half / and a half)

0516.1 Complete: "The film is two and a half hours long." 电影有两个 …… 小时。

0516.2 Which says "half an hour"?

- A. 小时半
- B. 一个小时半
- C. 一半个小时
- D. 半个小时

0516.3 Match each phrase to its meaning.

- 1. 半年
- 1. 一年半
- 1. 一半
- 1. 三点半
- A. half past three
- B. half a year
- C. half (of it)
- D. a year and a half

0516.4 一个小时半 is the usual way to say "an hour and a half".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0516.5 After the party, your mum looks at the table and counts what is left. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

Answers and explanations

■ 半 (half / and a half)

0516.1 半

Number + MW + 半 + noun = two and a half hours.

0516.2 D. 半个小时

半 + MW + noun.

0516.3 1–B: 半年 = half a year; 2–D: 一年半 = a year and a half; 3–C: 一半 = half (of it); 4–A: 三点半 = half past three

半 before the MW is "half a"; after it, "and a half"; 一半 is the noun.

0516.4 False.

Say 一个半小时.

0516.5 One possible response: 还有半个蛋糕和一个半西瓜。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Half a … : 半 before the measure word (半个小时). … and a half: 半 after it (一个半小时).
- Do not say 一半个 or 一个小时半: say 半个 and 一个半小时.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.