

Auxiliary Words

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

..... — “and so on, and the like”

rounds off an **informal** list with a casual wave of the hand — “and so on, and stuff like that.” It can even trail a single item when it’s obvious what else belongs in the group.

Structure: Noun 1、Noun 2 (+ Noun 3) +

{zh: |wǒ|my / |nǎi nai|grandma / |zhǐ|only / |chī|eats / |shū
cài|vegetables / 、 |dòu fu|tofu / |shén me de|and so on / 。 }

My grandma only eats vegetables, tofu, and the like.

{zh: |shù xué|maths / 、 |wù lǐ|physics / |shén me de|and so on / ,
|wǒ|I’m / |dōu / |bù|not / |gǎn xìng qù|interested / 。 }

Maths, physics and so on — I’m not interested in any of it.

Remember: = the chatty “...and stuff” — it waves at the rest without listing it. Its formal, neutral twin is / (next).

Watch out

- It’s casual — fine in speech, too loose for formal writing.

..... / — “etc.”

or closes a list more **formally** — “etc., and so forth.” One thing to unlearn from English: there’s **no comma** before it. It can also sit before a summarising noun (“... + category”).

Structure: A、B、C + / · A、B + Category

{zh: |xī guā|watermelon / 、 |pú tao|grapes / |děng děng|and so on /
、 |wǒ|I / |dōu|all / |xǐ huan|like / |chī|to eat / 。 }

Watermelon, grapes and so on — I like them all.

{zh: |Běi jīng|Beijing / 、 |Shàng hǎi|Shanghai / |děng|and other /
|chéng shì|cities }

cities such as Beijing and Shanghai

Remember: / = formal “etc.” — and **NO** comma before it (Chinese writes , , not , ,). It’s the written, neutral counterpart to the casual .

Watch out

- can also wrap up *before* a category noun: , (“cities such as ...”).