

Numbers

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

..... — fractions and percentages

Chinese builds a fraction **back to front**: **denominator** + + **numerator** — the **bottom number comes first**. It fits the language's big-to-small habit (whole first, then the slice). Percentages are just “out of 100” fractions: + number.

Structure: Denominator + + Numerator

{zh: |zhè ge|this / |wén jiàn|file / |yǐ jīng|already / |xià zǎi|downloaded / |le / |sān fēn zhī èr|two-thirds / 。 }

This file is already two-thirds downloaded.

{zh: |wǒ|my / |de / |shǒu jī|phone / |zhǐ|only / |yǒu|has / |bǎi fēn zhī wǔ|five percent / |le / 。 }

My phone's down to five percent.

Remember: bottom first, top last — read as “out of”: = “of four parts (), three ()” = $\frac{3}{4}$. Percent is just (“out of 100”) + the number: = 50%.

Watch out

- $\frac{3}{4}$ is , *never* — getting the order backwards flips the fraction.