

Prepositions

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

— “along with, as”

ties one thing to another that **moves in step with it** — “along with, as, in the wake of.” means “follow,” so the clause sets a *moving backdrop* and the main clause tracks it. It’s formal in flavour and translates a dozen different ways.

Structure: + Noun (+ + change) , Subject + Predicate

{zh: |suí zhe|as / |jīng jì|the economy / |de / |fā zhǎn|develops / ,
|shēng huó|life / |yuè lái yuè|more and more / |hǎo|comfortable / 。 }

As the economy develops, life keeps getting better.

{zh: |hái zi men|the children / |suí zhe|along to / |yīn yuè|the music
/ |tiào|started / |qǐ / |le / |wǔ|dancing / 。 }

The children started dancing along to the music.

Remember: = “**follow**” — X means “keeping pace with X.” Picture two things moving together: as the economy rises, life rises *with* it. The part is the lead, the main clause follows.

Watch out

- It’s written/formal — in casual speech you’d often just use or a plain cause clause.

... / ... — “in terms of” / “under (conditions)”

These look like “on” and “under,” but here they’re **abstract** brackets. ... frames the **field or aspect** something holds in — “in (the area of), in terms of, on the matter of.” Its sibling ... frames a **condition** — “under (such circumstances).”

Structure: + Topic + , + Condition + ,

{zh: |zài|on / |zhè ge|this / |wèn tí|matter / |shàng / , |wǒ
men|our / |de / |kàn fǎ|views / |yí yàng|are the same / 。 }

On this matter, our views are the same.

{zh: |zài|under / |zhè zhǒng|these kinds of / |qíng kuàng|circumstances
/ |xià / , |nǐ|you / |huì|would / |zěn me|how / |zuò|act / ? }

Under these circumstances, what would you do?

Remember: these are **abstract, not literal:** ... = “**in the area of**” (“in history,” “grammatically”); ... = “**under (conditions)**” (“with help”). Nothing is physically on top of or beneath anything.

Watch out

- Don’t read them as real positions — is “on this *issue*,” not “on top of a problem.”