

Noun Phrases

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

() + — “all (the)”

before a noun means “all of, every single” — the whole set, usually a sizable one. It pairs with in the predicate, the is usually present, and — crucially — you negate it with , not .

Structure: + () + Noun + ...

{zh: |suǒ yǒu|all / |rén|the people / |dōu / |zǒu|left / |le / |ma / ? }

Has everyone left?

{zh: |wǒ men|our / |xué xiào|school / |suǒ yǒu|all / |de / |lǎo shī|teachers / |dōu / |huì|can / |shuō|speak / |Yīng wén|English / 。 }

All the teachers at our school can speak English.

Remember: ... = “every single one” (stronger than a bare). To say “not all,” negate the whole with : ... (“not everyone...”), never ... (which means “none of them...”).

Watch out

- (“none go”) vs (“not all go”) — where the / sits flips the meaning.

..... — “one of (the) ...”

at the **end** of a noun phrase means “one of the ...” — a single member of a named group. It very often follows a (“most”) phrase. The is archaic (“of”), but the phrase is everyday, even in speech.

Structure: Subject + + [Noun Phrase] +

{zh: |tā|she / |shì|is / |wǒ|my / |zuì hǎo|best / |de / |péng you|friends / |zhī yī|one of / 。 }

She is one of my best friends.

{zh: |zhè|this / |shì|is / |shì jiè shàng|in the world / |zuì|biggest / |dà / |de / |chéng shì|cities / |zhī yī|one of / 。 }

This is one of the biggest cities in the world.

Remember: = “one OF (them),” bolted onto the **END** (). is old-style “of,” so read it as “[group] — of which, one.” Note the plural noun: “one of my best friends.”

Watch out

- It tacks onto the tail of the phrase, never the front: ... ✓, not

+ Number + MW + Noun — “the other(s), another”

(or) singles out the **remaining or a different** member — “(the) other, another.” There’s no after it, and it’s often followed by . Use bare for a singular ().

Structure: + Number + Measure Word + Noun · + + MW + Noun

{zh: |wǒ|I / |yǒu|have / |liǎng|two / |ge / |shǒu jī|phones / , |yí ge|one / |shì|is / |Xiǎo mǐ|Xiaomi / , |lìng|the other / |yí ge / |shì|is / iPhone / 。 }

I have two phones — one’s a Xiaomi, the other’s an iPhone.

{zh: |yí tài|one / |zì jǐ|herself / |zhù|lives in / , |lìng|the other / |yí tài / |zū|rents / |chū qù|out / |le / 。 }

She lives in one (flat) and rents the other out.

Remember: / = “the **OTHER** one” — and **NO** (✓, not). For a singular, just : , . Pairs beautifully with (“one... the other...”).

Watch out

- Don’t add : ✓, means something looser (“other people”).