

Numbers

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

..... 分之 — fractions and percentages

Chinese builds a fraction **back to front**: **denominator** + 分之 + **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: 百分之 + number.

Structure: Denominator + 分之 + Numerator

{zh: 这个 |zhè ge|this / 文件 |wén jiàn|file / 已经 |yǐ jīng|already / 下载 |xià zǎi|downloaded / 了 |le / 三分之二 |sān fēn zhī èr|two-thirds / 。 }

This file is already two-thirds downloaded.

{zh: 我 |wǒ|my / 的 |de / 手机 |shǒu jī|phone / 只 |zhǐ|only / 有 |yǒu|has / 百分之五 |bǎi fēn zhī wǔ|five percent / 了 |le / 。 }

My phone's down to five percent.

Remember: bottom first, top last — read 分之 as “out of”: 四分之三 = “of four parts (四分), three (之三)” = $\frac{3}{4}$. Percent is just 百分之 (“out of 100”) + the number: 百分之五十 = 50%.

Watch out

- $\frac{3}{4}$ is 四分之三, *never* 三分之四 — getting the order backwards flips the fraction.