Numbers

HSK 4 Grammar

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

Fractions with 分之

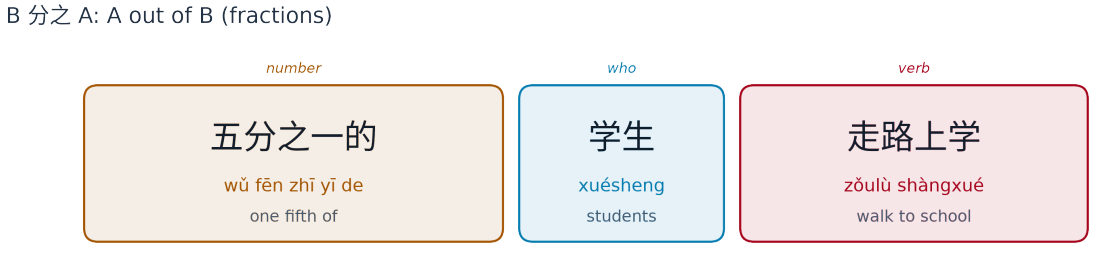
A survey result

- Your class did a survey: of every five students, one walks to school.
- **五分之一的学生走路上学。** – "One fifth of the students walk to school."

Denominator + 分之 + numerator

- **B 分之 A** = A/B: the bottom number comes first. 三分之一 = 1/3, 四分之三 = 3/4.
- Before a noun, add 的: 三分之二的人 – "two thirds of the people".

三分之二的人同意。
sān fēn zhī èr de rén tóng yì
Word guide: 三 – three; 分之 – parts of; 二 – two; 人 – people; 同意 – agree.



Percentages: 百分之

- **百分之 + number** = per cent: 百分之五十 = 50%, 百分之百 = 100%.
- **我们的成绩提高了百分之二十。** – "Our scores rose by 20%."

价格提高了百分之二十。
jià gé tí gāo le bǎi fēn zhī èr shí
Word guide: 价格 – the price; 提高 – rose; 百分之 – per cent; 二十 – twenty.

exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

■ Bottom number first

- Say the denominator first: 3/4 = 四分之三, not 三分之四 (that is 4/3).
- 50% is 百分之五十, not 五十百分之.

■ 一半 and 几分之几

- 1/2 is usually 一半 in speech: 一半的学生 – "half of the students".
- To ask "what fraction?", say 几分之几: 占几分之几? – "What fraction is it?"

一半的学生是女生。
yí bàn de xué sheng shì nǚ shēng
Word guide: 一半 – half; 学生 – students; 是 – are; 女生 – girls.

■ Recap

- **B 分之 A** = A/B (bottom first): 四分之三 = 3/4; **百分之 N** = N%.
- 一半 = a half; + 的 before a noun.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ Fractions with 分之

0701.1 Write 2/5 in Chinese: ……

0701.2 What is 三分之四?

- A. 3.4
- B. 3/4
- C. 4/3
- D. 34%

0701.3 Match each expression to its value.

- 1. 百分之五十
- 1. 四分之一
- 1. 三分之二
- 1. 百分之百
- A. 50%
- B. 1/4
- C. 100%
- D. 2/3

0701.4 In speech, 一半 is usually used for one half.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0701.5 Your class did a survey: of every five students, one walks to school. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in

English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

Answers and explanations

■ Fractions with 分之

0701.1 五分之二

Denominator first: 五分之二.

0701.2 C. 4/3

The first number is the denominator: 4/3.

0701.3 1–A: 百分之五十 = 50%; 2–B: 四分之一 = 1/4; 3–D: 三分之二 = 2/3; 4–C: 百分之百 = 100%

B 分之 A = A/B; 百分之 N = N%.

0701.4 True.

一半的学生 is more natural than 二分之一的学生.

0701.5 One possible response: 五分之一的学生走路上学。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Say the denominator first: 3/4 = 四分之三, not 三分之四 (that is 4/3).
- 50% is 百分之五十, not 五十百分之.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.