Prepositions

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.

随着 (as / along with)

A changing city

- Your grandfather explains how his hometown has changed over forty years.
- **随着经济的发展，人们的生活越来越好。** – "As the economy has developed, people's lives have got better and better."

随着 + change, result

- **随着 + noun phrase** = "as, along with": link accompanying developments without treating the connector alone as proof of causation.
- The noun phrase is usually a process: 发展, 变化, 时间的推移, 年龄的增长.

随着年龄的增长，他越来越成熟。
suí zhe nián líng de zēng zhǎng tā yuè lái yuè chéng shú
Word guide: 随着 – as; 年龄 – age; 增长 – increase; 他 – he; 越来越 – more and more; 成熟 – mature.



Typical results: 越来越, 也, 变

- **随着天气变冷，感冒的人多了起来。** – "As the weather turns cold, more people are catching colds."
- The result often uses 越来越, 也, 开始 or a change word.

随着天气变冷，感冒的人多了起来。
suí zhe tiān qì biàn lěng gǎn mào de rén duō le qi lai
Word guide: 随着 – as; 天气 – the weather; 变 – turns; 冷 – cold; 感冒 – catch a cold; 人 – people; 多 – more; 起来 – (start to).

A process, not a single moment

- 随着 needs a gradual change; for a single event, use 因为 or 自从: 自从他来了以后 ….
- The 随着 phrase may precede the subject or follow it. Choose a complete clause that clearly identifies the accompanying development.

随着 versus 因为

- 因为 gives a cause: 因为下雨，比赛取消了.
- 随着 links two changes that grow together over time: 随着网络的普及，网购越来越方便.

随着网络的普及，网购越来越方便。
suí zhe wǎng luò de pǔ jí wǎng gòu yuè lái yuè fāng biàn
Word guide: 随着 – as; 网络 – the internet; 普及 – spreads; 网购 – online shopping; 越来越 – more and more; 方便 – convenient.

Recap

- **随着 + process, result** = as / along with …, … changes too.
- It needs a gradual change; single causes take 因为.

Practise this pattern step by step.

在 … 上 (in terms of / regarding)

Strong in one area

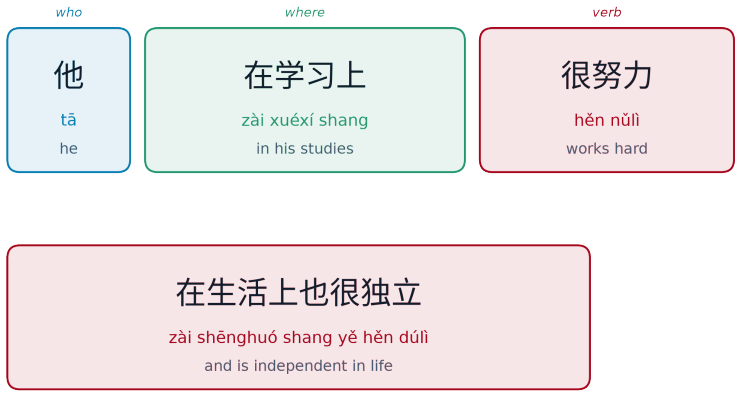
- Your teacher writes a report on your progress this term.
- **他在学习上很努力，在生活上也很独立。** – "He works hard in his studies and is also very independent in daily life."

在 + area + 上 = in terms of

- **在 + abstract noun + 上** = "in terms of, as far as … is concerned": 在学习上, 在工作上, 在这个问题上.
- It goes before the verb or at the start of the sentence.

在工作上，她帮了我很多。
zài gōng zuò shang tā bāng le wǒ hěn duō
Word guide: 在 – in; 工作 – work; 上 – (terms of); 她 – she; 帮 – helped; 我 – me; 很多 – a lot.

在 … 上: in terms of …



Opinions and differences

- **在这个问题上，我们的看法不一样。** – “On this question, our views differ.”
- **中国和美国在文化上有很多不同。** – “China and the US differ a lot culturally.”

在这个问题上，我们的看法不一样。
zài zhè ge wèn tí shang wǒ men de kàn fǎ bù yí yàng
Word guide: 在 – on; 这个 – this; 问题 – question; 上 – (on); 我们 – our; 看法 – views; 不一样 – differ.

Abstract area, not a place

- Here 上 is not “on top of”: 在学习上 is about study as an area, not a physical place.
- Use 上 for an area of activity: 在学习上, not 在学习里.

在 … 上, 在 … 中, 在 … 下

- 在 … 中 = in the course of: 在学习中遇到问题 – “meet problems while studying”.
- 在 … 下 = under (help or conditions): 在老师的帮助下 – “with the teacher’s help”.

在老师的帮助下，我进步了。
zài lǎo shī de bāng zhù xià wǒ jìn bù le
Word guide: 在 – with; 老师 – the teacher’s; 帮助 – help; 下 – (under); 我 – I; 进步 – improved.

Recap

- **在 + area + 上** = in terms of, regarding an abstract area.
- 在 … 中 = in the course of; 在 … 下 = under (help or conditions).

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

随着 (as / along with)

0901.1 Complete: “As time passes, the city keeps changing.” …… 时间的推移，城市不断变化。

0901.2 Which sentence uses 随着 correctly?

- A. 随着他打电话，我出门了。
- B. 随着年龄的增长，他越来越懂事。
- C. 随着下雨，比赛取消了。
- D. 他随着生病，没来上课。

0901.3 Build: “As the weather turns cold, more people catch colds.”

Arrange all chunks: 随着天气变冷 / 感冒的人 / ， / 多了起来。

0901.4 随着 is the best choice for one single cause.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0901.5 Your grandfather explains how his hometown has changed over forty years. 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.

在 … 上 (in terms of / regarding)

0902.1 Complete: “In terms of work, he is very serious.” 在工作 ……，他很认真。

0902.2 “With the teacher’s help, I improved a lot.” Which fits? 在老师的帮助 _____，我进步了很多。

- A. 下
- B. 里
- C. 上
- D. 中

0902.3 Build: “On this question, our views differ.”

Arrange all chunks: ， / 我们的看法 / 不一样。 / 在这个问题上

0902.4 In 在学习上, 上 means “on top of”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0902.5 Your teacher writes a report on your progress this term. 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

■ 随着 (as / along with)

0901.1 随着

随着 + gradual process.

0901.2 B. 随着年龄的增长，他越来越懂事。

随着 links gradual changes, not single events.

0901.3 随着天气变冷，感冒的人多了起来。

随着 + change, result.

0901.4 False.

False. 随着 describes one thing changing along with another over time: 随着经济的发展，… For one single cause, use 因为 or 由于.

0901.5 One possible response: 随着经济的发展，人们的生活越来越好。

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.
- 随着 needs a gradual change; for a single event, use 因为 or 自从: 自从他来了以后 ….
- The 随着 phrase may precede the subject or follow it. Choose a complete clause that clearly identifies the accompanying development.
- 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.

■ 在 … 上 (in terms of / regarding)

0902.1 上

在 + area + 上.

0902.2 A. 下

Help or conditions take 在 … 下.

0902.3 在这个问题上，我们的看法不一样。

在 … 上 sets the area.

0902.4 False.

It marks an abstract area: in terms of study.

0902.5 One possible response: 他在学习上很努力，在生活上也很独立。

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.

- Here 上 is not “on top of”: 在学习上 is about study as an area, not a physical place.
- Use 上 for an area of activity: 在学习上, not 在学习里.
- 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.