

Noun Phrases

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

所有 (的) + 名词 — “all (the)”

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

Structure: 所有 + (的) + Noun + 都 ...

{zh: 所有 |suǒ yǒu|all / 人 |rén|the people / 都 |dōu / 走 |zǒu|left / 了 |le / 吗 |ma / ? }

Has everyone left?

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|our / 学校 |xué xiào|school / 所有 |suǒ yǒu|all / 的 |de / 老师 |lǎo shī|teachers / 都 |dōu / 会 |huì|can / 说 |shuō|speak / 英文 |Yīng wén|English / 。 }

All the teachers at our school can speak English.

Remember: 所有 ... 都 = “every single one” (stronger than a bare 都). To say “not all,” negate the whole with **不是**: 不是所有人都 ... (“not everyone...”), never 所有人都不 ... (which means “none of them...”).

Watch out

- 所有人都不去 (“none go”) vs 不是所有人都去 (“not all go”) — where the 不 / 不是 sits flips the meaning.

..... 之一 — “one of (the) ...”

之一 at the **end** of a noun phrase means “one of the ...” — a single member of a named group. It very often follows a **最** (“most”) phrase. The **之** is archaic (“of”), but the phrase is everyday, even in speech.

Structure: Subject + 是 + [Noun Phrase] + 之一

{zh: 她 |tā|she / 是 |shì|is / 我 |wǒ|my / 最好 |zuì hǎo|best / 的 |de / 朋友 |péng you|friends / 之一 |zhī yī|one of / 。 }

She is one of my best friends.

{zh: 这 |zhè|this / 是 |shì|is / 世界上 |shì jiè shàng|in the world / 最 |zuì|biggest / 大 |dà / 的 |de / 城市 |chéng shì|cities / 之一 |zhī yī|one of / 。 }

This is one of the biggest cities in the world.

Remember: 之一 = “one OF (them),” bolted onto the END (最好的朋友之一). 之 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: ... 城市之一 ✓, not 之一 ... 城市.

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

另外 (or **另**) singles out the **remaining or a different** member — “(the) other, another.” There’s no 的 after it, and it’s often followed by 一个. Use bare **另** for a singular (另一个).

Structure: 另外 + Number + Measure Word + Noun · 另 + 一 + MW + Noun

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 有 |yǒu|have / 两 |liǎng|two / 个 |ge / 手机 |shǒu jī|phones / , 一个 |yí ge|one / 是 |shì|is / 小米 |Xiǎo mǐ|Xiaomi / , 另 |lìng|the other / 一个 |yí ge / 是 |shì|is / iPhone / 。 }

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

{zh: 一套 |yí tào|one / 自己 |zì jǐ|herself / 住 |zhù|lives in / , 另 |lìng|the other / 一套 |yí tào / 租 |zū|rents / 出去 |chū qù|out / 了 |le / 。 }

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

Remember: 另外 / 另 = “the OTHER one” — and NO 的 (另外一个 ✓, not 另外的一个). For a singular, just 另: 另一个, 另一种. Pairs beautifully with 一个 ... 另一个 ... (“one... the other...”).

Watch out

- Don’t add 的: 另外一个人 ✓, 另外的人 means something looser (“other people”).