

Prepositional Phrase

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

/ / / — upper and lower limits

These “nouns of locality” set **limits** on a number, level, or rank. = “and above,” = “and below,” = “within,” = “beyond.” They come **after** the amount. In standard usage / / are **inclusive** of the boundary number (= ten and under, 10 included); only (and /) excludes it.

Structure: Amount / Level + / / /

{zh: |shí bā suì|eighteen / |yǐ shàng|and over / |cái|only then / |néng|may / |jìn|enter / 。 }

Only those eighteen and over may enter.

{zh: |qǐng|please / |zài|within / |sān tiān|three days / |yǐ nèi / |huí fù|reply / 。 }

Please reply within three days.

Remember: the limit word comes AFTER the amount (, not), and / / **include** the boundary number (= *ten and under*); only excludes it. Picture a number line: points up, down, stays inside, goes past.

Watch out

- = within a range; = beyond / except — don’t mix the inside/outside pair.