Prepositions

HSK 5 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.

自从 (ever since)

A report needs a starting event

- A student moved here in March. In an April conversation, they say **自从来这儿，我很开心。** – Since coming here, I have been happy.
- The arrival is earlier than the report. The sentence connects a later state to that starting event; it does not describe a route from a place.

Introduce the earlier starting point

- Use **自从 + earlier time / event, later situation**. 自从来这儿 supplies the starting event; 我很开心 gives the later state.
- **自从三月搬来，我去过图书馆三次。** – Since moving here in March, I have visited the library three times. Repeated events also fit.

自从来这儿，我很开心。
zì cóng lái zhèr wǒ hěn kāi xīn
Word guide: 自从 – ever since; 来 – come; 这儿 – here; 我 – I; 很 – very; 开心 – happy.

Keep the report's endpoint

- The April report counts three visits between the March move and that conversation. It does not mean three visits every day.
- A copy of that April report read in June is still an April report. Do not silently add two more months or claim three is the June total.

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Keep the report's endpoint

March: moved here
Starting event

April: reported three library visits
Count belongs to the March–April interval

June: someone reads the old report
Reading date does not update the original total

Read the whole sentence and the stated context.

Compare time, place and a future plan

- **从明天开始，我每天走路上学。** starts a future plan. **从学校走到车站。** starts a route at the school. Use plain 从 in these examples.
- 自从 highlights an earlier time or event leading into a later situation. It cannot replace 从 in every route or future-start expression.

A sequence is not proof of cause

- **自从换了座位，我看黑板清楚多了。** reports clearer vision after changing seats. It connects the observations in time.
- To claim the seat was the only cause, we would need more evidence. 自从 alone does not rule out a new pair of glasses or another change.

Read the start, report and later situation

- Find the earlier starting point, then the situation or events reported after it. Repeated visits need their own count and endpoint.
- Keep 自从 distinct from a place route and a future plan. A time connection does not automatically prove an exclusive cause.

Practise this pattern step by step.

为 + Person (for someone's sake)

Work for the people using the service

- A community team helps residents. **我们为大家服务。** – We serve everyone. 我们 names the workers; 大家 names the people served.
- The sentence states whom the service is for. It does not prove every resident used it or was satisfied.

Place the person before the action

- In this pattern, use **subject + 为 + person + action**. 为 is read **wèi**: 为大家服务, 为朋友准备晚饭 – prepare dinner for a friend.
- The friend receives the intended benefit. The cook and the friend are different roles; do not swap them when translating.

我们为大家服务。
wǒ men wèi dà jiā fú wù
Word guide: 我们 – we; 为 – for; 大家 – everyone; 服务 – serve.

For someone can have different jobs

- **我为你高兴。** – I am happy for you. Your situation is the reason for my happiness; this is not a service delivered to you.
- **我为朋友准备晚饭。** names the friend for whom dinner is prepared. Read 为 with its surrounding action rather than assigning one role everywhere.

For someone can have different jobs

我们为大家服务。
我们: workers | 大家: people served

我为你高兴。
你: person whose situation prompts happiness

为了早点到，我坐了地铁。
早点到: goal | 坐地铁: action toward it

Read the whole sentence and the stated context.

Compare a person with an explicit goal

- **为了早点到，我坐了地铁。** – To arrive earlier, I took the metro. 为了 introduces the goal of arriving earlier.
- 为 and 为了 can overlap in purpose meanings. " 为 always means a person; 为了 always means a non-person goal" is too rigid; learn each complete construction.

Purpose does not guarantee success

- The cook says **我为朋友准备了晚饭，但朋友没来。** Dinner was prepared for the friend, but the friend did not come.
- The stated purpose remains even when the intended recipient does not eat. 为朋友 does not prove a successful delivery or a return favour.

■ **Identify who acts and why**

- In 为大家服务, locate the workers, the people served and the action. In 为你高兴, locate whose situation prompts the happiness.
- For an explicit goal, read the whole 为了 phrase. Do not turn a purpose or intended benefit into a guaranteed outcome.

Practise this pattern step by step.

对 ... 而言 (as far as ... is concerned)

■ **The same task can feel different**

- Beginners find an assignment hard; experienced users find it easy. **对新手而言，这很难。** – For beginners, this is difficult.
- The sentence takes the beginners' perspective. It does not say experts must share that experience.

■ **Name whose perspective comes first**

- Use **对 + person / group + 而言，comment**. 对我而言 makes the following importance judgement personal.
- **对我来说，这很重要。** is a common alternative. Keep the named viewpoint when paraphrasing instead of turning it into "important for everyone".

对我而言，这很重要。
duì wǒ ér yán zhè hěn zhòng yào
Word guide: 对 – for; 我 – me; 而言 – as for; 这 – this; 很 – very; 重要 – important.

■ **Different viewpoints can coexist**

- **对新手而言，这很难；对熟练的人而言，这很容易。** The two comments concern the same task and different groups.
- The difference need not be a contradiction. Skill and experience can change a judgement of difficulty.

Different viewpoints can coexist

对新手而言，这很难。
Beginners' viewpoint: difficult

对熟练的人而言，这很容易。
Experienced users' viewpoint: easy

对我而言，这很重要。
My judgement; not a universal agreement report

Read the whole sentence and the stated context.

Perspective is not a quoted speech report

- **对学生而言，这个安排很方便。** evaluates the arrangement for students. It does not say every student has personally spoken or agreed.
- **学生说这个安排很方便。**explicitly reports what students said. A viewpoint phrase and a speech report provide different information.

Keep a changed group in the answer

- A school starts lessons earlier. **对住得远的学生而言，这不方便。**refers to students living far away.
- Do not infer that nearby students find it equally inconvenient. The new group limits this comment even if both groups attend the same school.

Keep the viewpoint with the judgement

- Identify the person or group after 对, then the comment. Preserve both in your English paraphrase.
- A viewpoint is not evidence of universal agreement or a direct quotation. Check a second group separately.

Practise this pattern step by step.

… 在内 (including)

Reserve five seats, not six

- A group organiser says **包括我在内，一共五个人。** – Including me, there are five people in all. The organiser is already one of the five.
- Reserve five seats if each person needs one. Adding the organiser again would count the same person twice.

Put the included member before 在内

- Use **包括 + member / items + 在内，whole set**: 包括我在内. 在内 places the named member inside the stated set.
- The original sentence's total is five. The remaining people number four, because five includes the speaker.

包括我在内，一共五个人。
bāo kuò wǒ zài nèi yí gòng wǔ ge rén
Word guide: 包括 – including; 我 – me; 在内 – included; 一共 – in total; 五个 – five; 人 – people.

Compare included and additional members

- **包括我在内，一共五个人。** gives five total. **除了我，还有五个人。** in this stated counting contrast gives five others plus me: six total.
- Do not carry the second total into the first sentence. Look at whether the five already includes the speaker.



Inclusion also works without a count

- **包括周末在内，每天都开放。** – Open every day, including weekends. The claim includes weekend days.
- It does not state the opening hours or the ticket price. Membership in the open-day set is different from those details.

■ Change the included group

- **包括两位老师在内，一共八个人。** – Including two teachers, there are eight people in all. The teachers occupy two of the eight places.
- There are six other people in this situation, not eight others plus two teachers. Recalculate from the new total and included number.

■ Count each included person once

- For five including me, subtract one to find four others. For eight including two teachers, subtract two to find six others.
- For a non-numerical set, identify what is included without inventing a count, schedule or price.

Practise this pattern step by step.

凭 (on the basis of / by)

■ A ticket is an entry credential

- A fictional venue notice says **凭票入场。** – Admission by ticket. Visitors are asked to show a ticket as the basis for entry.
- The phrase does not name the price, performance time or whether the ticket must be for today. Read any additional rules too.

■ Name the basis before the action

- Use **凭 + credential / resource / basis + action**. 凭票入场 names a ticket; 凭经验判断 names experience used to make a judgement.
- In the original 凭努力，他成功了, the speaker credits effort in an actual success. This is not a promise that every attempt succeeds.

凭努力，他成功了。
píng nǔ lì tā chéng gōng le
Word guide: 凭 – by; 努力 – effort; 他 – he; 成功 – succeed.

■ Keep extra conditions visible

- The full notice says **凭当天有效票入场。** – Enter with a ticket valid for that day. An expired ticket does not meet this stated rule.
- 凭 introduces the basis, while 当天有效 narrows which ticket counts. "I have a ticket" alone is not enough to evaluate this full notice.

Keep extra conditions visible

凭票入场。
Ticket: stated basis for admission

凭当天有效票入场。
Today-valid ticket: a narrower stated requirement

凭经验判断。
Experience: a basis, not proof of a measured check

Read the whole sentence and the stated context.

Asking for grounds can be a challenge

- In an argument, **你凭什么决定？** – On what grounds do you decide? – challenges someone's basis or authority.
- It is not a thank-you. A phrase about grounds can be neutral or challenging in context; this argument supplies the challenging reading.

A basis can still be weak

- **凭经验，他觉得这台机器没问题。** reports a judgement based on experience. It does not establish that the machine passed a measured safety check.
- Ask what evidence was actually used. The presence of 凭 names a basis without proving that basis is sufficient or the conclusion is correct.

Read the basis and its limits

- Locate the ticket, experience or effort introduced by 凭, then the action or judgement it supports.
- Additional requirements and evidence quality still matter. A named basis does not guarantee access, universal success or a correct conclusion.

Practise this pattern step by step.

至于 (as for / when it comes to)

Price is raised but left unresolved

- A buyer and seller finish discussing quality. **至于价格，以后再说。** – As for the price, we will discuss it later.
- 至于 raises price as a separate issue. 以后再说 postpones it; no price is agreed in this sentence.

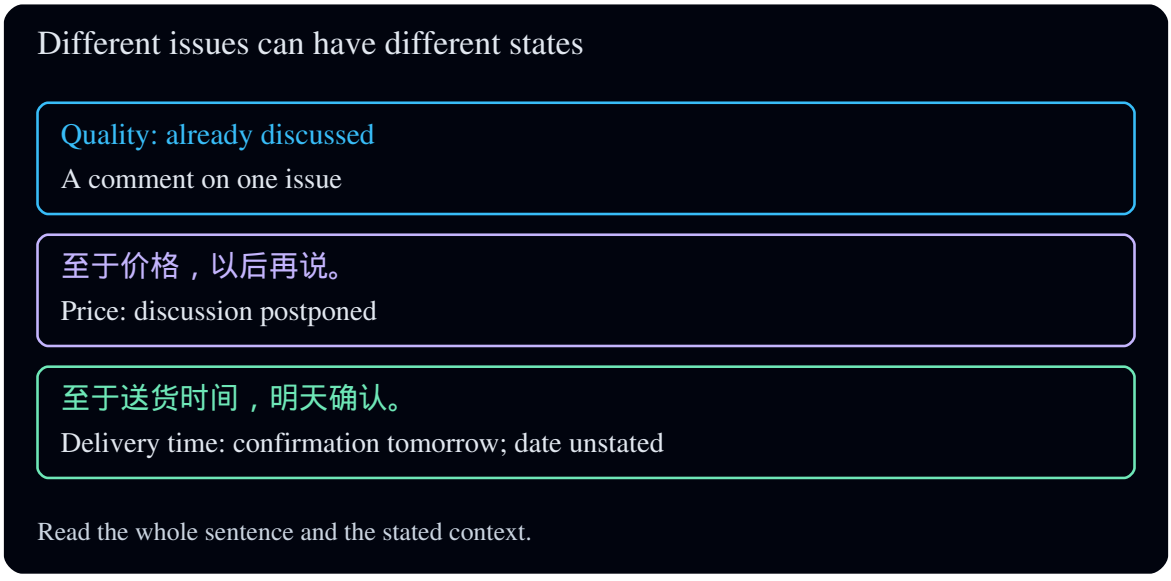
Add a comment to the named topic

- Use **至于 + topic，comment**. 至于价格 names the issue, and 以后再说 tells what the speaker proposes to do about it.
- **至于送货时间，明天确认。** – As for delivery time, confirm it tomorrow. This postpones confirmation, not necessarily delivery itself.

至于价格，以后再说。
zhì yú jià gé yǐ hòu zài shuō
Word guide: 至于 – as for; 价格 – price; 以后 – later; 再 – again; 说 – discuss.

Different issues can have different states

- Quality may be accepted while price remains unresolved. Delivery time may still need tomorrow's confirmation.
- Changing to a topic is not the same as settling it. Read the comment after that topic before deciding what is known.



Keep other uses separate

- **至于价格，我们还没决定。** leaves the price undecided. **不至于这么贵吧。** suggests it should not be so expensive.
- The second construction does not introduce price as a fresh discussion topic. Learn 不至于 as its own expression instead of translating every 至于 as "as for".

Transfer to who will do the work

- **至于谁来负责，我们还没决定。** – As for who will be responsible, we have not decided yet.
- The responsibility question is now on the agenda, but no person is named as the chosen organiser. Topic selection is not person selection.

■ Separate the issue from the decision

- Name the issue after 至于, then read its actual comment: postponed, undecided or confirmed.
- Do not infer a price, delivery date or responsible person from a topic phrase alone. Keep 不至于 separate from the topic-changing use.

Practise this pattern step by step.

给 (colloquial passive)

■ The cup is affected, not the doer

- You find a broken cup and report **杯子给打破了。** – The cup got broken. The sentence uses colloquial passive 给.
- 杯子 is what was broken. The sentence names no doer; it does not identify who broke it or whether it was intentional.

■ Read the affected thing before 给

- In this passive pattern, use **affected thing + 给 + (doer) + action / result**. 杯子给打破了 leaves the doer out.
- **杯子给小李打破了。** names Xiao Li as the doer. The cup still receives the effect of 打破.

杯子给打破了。
bēi zi gěi dǎ pò le
Word guide: 杯子 – cup; 给 – (passive); 打破 – break.

■ Follow the action across three forms

- **小李打破了杯子。** names Xiao Li as the doer first. **杯子给小李打破了。** names the affected cup first.
- **杯子给打破了。** preserves the broken-cup report without naming Xiao Li. Removing a name removes information, not the breaking event.

Follow the action across three forms

小李打破了杯子。
Doer 小李 → breaking → affected cup

杯子给小李打破了。
Affected cup → 给 → named doer 小李 → breaking

杯子给打破了。
Affected cup → 给 → breaking; doer unnamed

Read the whole sentence and the stated context.

■ 给 can give rather than mark a passive

- **我给他一个杯子。** – I give him a cup. 我 gives, 他 receives, and 一个杯子 is the item transferred.
- Compare this with 杯子给打破了. Giving a cup and reporting a broken cup are different actions; 给 alone does not identify the sentence's role.

■ Do not invent the unnamed doer

- **门给关上了。** – The door got closed. No doer is named in this report.
- It does not prove the speaker closed it, or that someone closed it deliberately. Add those details only when the context supplies them.

■ Locate the affected object and the doer

- In this passive use, find what was affected and whether a doer is explicitly named. A missing doer remains unknown from the sentence.
- Compare complete constructions: 给 can also transfer an item or introduce a recipient. Keep the action and result in the interpretation.

Practise this pattern step by step.

就 ... 来说 (as far as ... goes)

■ An affordable price is one aspect

- A buyer has checked the price but not tested the item. **就价格来说，不贵。** – As far as the price goes, it is not expensive.
- The evaluation concerns price. Quality, durability and whether the item meets the buyer's need remain separate questions.

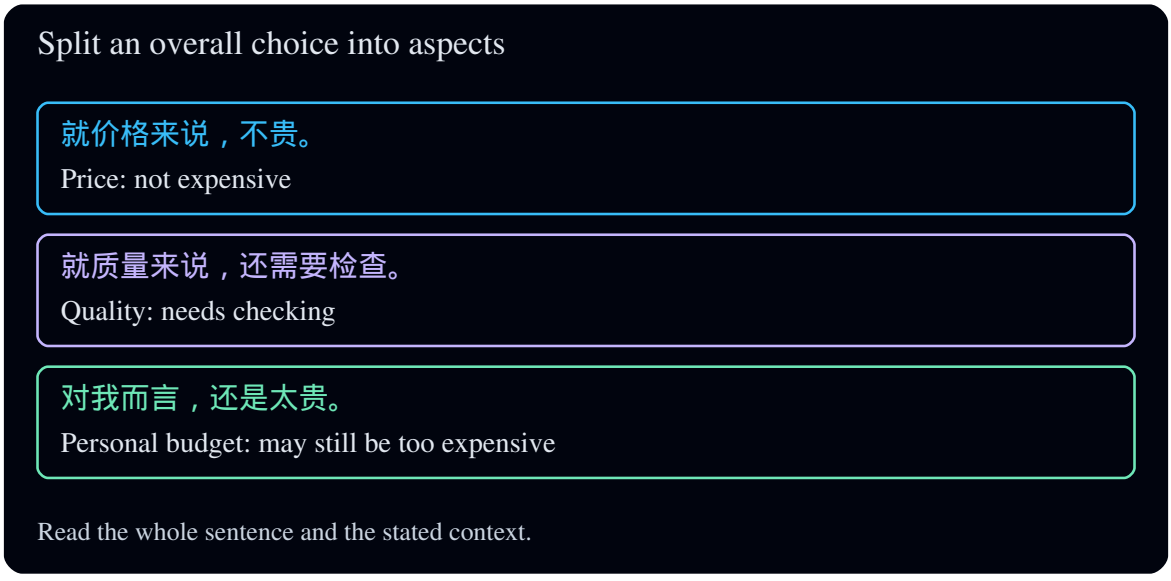
Frame an aspect before its comment

- Use **就 + aspect + 来说，comment**. 就价格来说 selects price as the angle for 不贵.
- **就质量来说，还需要检查。** – As far as quality goes, it still needs checking. A different aspect needs its own evidence.

就价格来说，不贵。
jiù jià gé lái shuō bú guì
Word guide: 就 – as for; 价格 – price; 来说 – speaking of; 不 – not; 贵 – expensive.

Split an overall choice into aspects

- Price: not expensive. Quality: not yet tested. Delivery: takes a week. These three comments can all be true of the same item.
- A favourable price does not cancel the unknown quality or the wait. Combine the relevant facts before deciding whether to buy.



Contrast an aspect with a person

- **就价格来说，不贵。** frames the price aspect. **对我而言，还是太贵。** frames my judgement given my situation.
- Those comments need not conflict: a price can compare well with similar goods and still exceed a person's budget. The reference for the judgement matters.

The other 就 needs its own context

- **我吃完饭就走。** – I will leave after finishing the meal. Here 就 connects events; it does not frame the meal's price or quality.
- In 就价格来说, read 就 with 价格来说. Do not assign "immediately" to this scope phrase just because another use of 就 can concern timing.

■ **Keep the comment within its angle**

- Identify the aspect after 就, then its particular evaluation. Check price, quality and delivery separately.
- A favourable comment on one angle does not prove an overall recommendation, everyone's agreement or a rapid sequence of events.

Practise this pattern step by step.

趁 (while / taking advantage of)

■ **Eat during the useful window**

- A meal is ready and still pleasantly hot. **趁热吃吧。** – Eat it while it is hot. The speaker recommends using that favourable state.
- This is a suggestion, not a report that eating already happened. The state may not last, which makes the timing useful.

■ **Put the opportunity before the action**

- Use **趁 + available time / situation + action**. 趁热吃 uses the hot state; 趁午休去银行 uses the lunch break for a bank visit.
- The phrase names an opportunity for the action. It is more specific than merely saying two events happened at the same time.

趁热吃吧。
chèn rè chī ba
Word guide: 趁 – while; 热 – hot; 吃 – eat.

■ **Follow the available window**

- A student has a lunch break from 12:00 to 12:30 and plans a twenty-minute task. 趁午休 … connects the task with that available break.
- Starting at 12:20 would finish at 12:40: outside the stated break. 趁 does not make the task shorter or guarantee that it fits.

Follow the available window

趁热吃吧。
Use the hot state: a suggestion to eat

Break: 12:00–12:30; task starts 12:20
Twenty-minute task finishes at 12:40

雨停的时候，我们在车站。
Neutral timing: location when rain stopped

Read the whole sentence and the stated context.

Compare opportunity with neutral timing

- **趁雨停了，赶快回家。** uses a pause in the rain as an opportunity to go home. The action is recommended during that window.
- **雨停的时候，我们在车站。** only locates us at the station when the rain stopped. It does not itself say we used that moment for an action.

A lost opportunity changes the advice

- The food has already cooled. Do not describe that present state as 热 just to reuse 趁热吃吧. The original hot window has ended.
- One might reheat the food and make a new suggestion. The original sentence alone does not report reheating or show that it will happen.

Check the window before using the advice

- Identify the available situation and the proposed action. Check the actual state, timing and practical duration.
- 趁 recommends or describes using an opportunity. It does not prove that the action happened, succeeded or fits an invented deadline.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

自从 (ever since)

0801.1 Use this lesson's target form 自从 in the demonstrated sentence: Ever since I came here, I've been happy: …… 来这儿，我很开心。

0801.2 In the March-arrival example, what does 自从 introduce?

- A. An earlier starting point for the later situation
- B. A future deadline

0801.3 In the April conversation, 自从来这儿 introduces the earlier arrival as the starting event.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0801.4 Moving here changed how happy someone feels. What does 自从来这儿，我很开心。communicate?

- A. 自从 can replace 从 in every place or time expression.
- B. The arrival is the starting point for the subsequent state.

0801.5 An April report of three visits since March must be updated to June simply because someone reads it in June.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0801.6 An April report says 自从三月搬来，我去过图书馆三次。What does three count?

- A. Three visits every day
- B. Three visits in that stated interval

0801.7 Choose the starting word for this route: _____ 学校走到车站。

- A. 从
- B. 自从

0801.8 自从换了座位，我看黑板清楚多了 shows the new seat was the only cause of clearer vision.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0801.9 Recall the situation: A report needs a starting event. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 为 + Person (for someone's sake)

0802.1 Use this lesson's target form 为 in the demonstrated sentence: Serve everyone: 我们 …… 大家服务。

0802.2 Which contrast fits these complete examples: 为大家服务 and 为了早点到，我坐了地铁?

- A. The two phrases name exactly the same people
- B. 大家 names people served; 早点到 names the arrival goal

0802.3 In 我们为大家服务, 大家 names the people served, while 我们 names the workers.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0802.4 A team is working to help its community. What does 我们为大家服务。 communicate?

- A. 为 and 为了 never overlap in meaning.
- B. 大家 names the people served by the action.

0802.5 为 and 为了 never overlap in meaning.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0802.6 Match the whole phrase to the role of the person named after 为.

- 1. 为大家服务
- 1. 为你高兴
- 1. 为朋友准备晚饭
- A. Intended beneficiary of preparing dinner
- B. Person whose situation prompts happiness
- C. People served

0802.7 为了早点到，我坐了地铁。What is the stated goal?

- A. Arriving earlier
- B. Taking the metro is the final goal

0802.8 我为朋友准备了晚饭，但朋友没来 shows the friend ate the prepared dinner.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0802.9 Recall the situation: Work for the people using the service. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 对 ... 而言 (as far as ... is concerned)

0803.1 Use this lesson's target form 而言 in the demonstrated sentence: For me, this is important: 对我 ……，这很重要。

0803.2 对 … 而言 is the formal twin of…

- A. 因为 … 所以
- B. 对 … 来说

0803.3 对 … 而言 sets whose perspective the statement takes.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0803.4 An assignment is difficult for beginners but easy for experts. What does 对新手而言，这很难。communicate?

- A. The sentence says experts must find it equally difficult.
- B. The difficulty is evaluated from beginners' perspective.

0803.5 对新手而言，这很难 shows experts must find the task equally difficult.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0803.6 Match each stated group to its judgement of this task.

- 1. 对新手而言，这很难。
- 1. 对熟练的人而言，这很容易。
- A. Easy for experienced users
- B. Difficult for beginners

0803.7 对学生而言，这个安排很方便 shows every student personally said they agree.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0803.8 对住得远的学生而言，这不方便。Which group supplies this viewpoint?

- A. Students living far away
- B. All students and all teachers

0803.9 Recall the situation: The same task can feel different. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ ... 在内 (including)

0804.1 Use this lesson's target form 在内 in the demonstrated sentence: Including me, five people in all: 包括我 ……，一共五个人。

0804.2 Where does the included item (我) sit?

- A. after 在内
- B. between 包括 and 在内

0804.3 在内 means the item is left OUT of the count.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0804.4 There are five people total, and you are one of them. What does 包括我在内，一共五个人。communicate?

- A. The total of five already includes the speaker.
- B. The group contains five other people plus the speaker.

0804.5 包括两位老师在内，一共八个人 describes eight others plus two teachers.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0804.6 包括我在内，一共五个人。How many people other than the speaker are in the group?

0804.7 包括周末在内，每天都开放 tells us that the venue opens at 9:00 every day.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0804.8 包括两位老师在内，一共八个人。How many of the eight are people other than those two teachers?

0804.9 Recall the situation: Reserve five seats, not six. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 凭 (on the basis of / by)

0805.1 Use this lesson's target form 凭 in the demonstrated sentence: On the strength of effort, he succeeded: …… 努力，他成功了。

0805.2 In the stated argument, 你凭什么决定? challenges someone's grounds. Which paraphrase fits?

- A. "thank you very much"
- B. "on what grounds? / why should …?" (a challenge)

0805.3 凭票入场 means "admission by ticket".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0805.4 A venue asks visitors to show a ticket. What does 凭票入场。communicate?

- A. A ticket is the stated basis for admission.
- B. 凭票入场 means entry is allowed without a ticket.

0805.5 凭当天有效票入场 permits an expired ticket just because it is a ticket.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0805.6 The notice says 凭当天有效票入场. Which ticket satisfies the stated validity requirement?

- A. A ticket valid for today
- B. A ticket that expired yesterday

0805.7 凭经验，他觉得这台机器没问题 shows the machine passed a measured safety check.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0805.8 凭努力，他成功了 means every person who makes an effort will succeed.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0805.9 Recall the situation: A ticket is an entry credential. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 至于 (as for / when it comes to)

0806.1 Use this lesson's target form 至于 in the demonstrated sentence: As for the price, later: …… 价格，以后再说。

0806.2 In 至于价格，以后再说, what does 至于价格 do?

- A. Raises price as a separate issue
- B. Concludes that every issue has been resolved

0806.3 In 至于价格，以后再说, 至于 introduces the price issue even though its discussion is postponed.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0806.4 You finish discussing quality and postpone the price discussion. What does 至于价格，以后再说。communicate?

- A. 至于价格 is a final conclusion about every issue.
- B. 至于 introduces price as the next separate topic.

0806.5 至于价格 is a final conclusion about every issue.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0806.6 Match the topic and comment to what is still unresolved.

- 1. 至于价格，以后再说。
- 1. 至于谁来负责，我们还没决定。
- A. Responsible person not yet chosen
- B. Price discussion postponed

0806.7 至于送货时间，明天确认 means that delivery itself happens tomorrow.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0806.8 Which sentence uses 至于 to introduce the responsibility topic?

- A. 不至于这么贵吧。
- B. 至于谁来负责，我们还没决定。

0806.9 Recall the situation: Price is raised but left unresolved. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 给 (colloquial passive)

0807.1 Use this lesson's target form 给 in the demonstrated sentence: The cup got broken: 杯子 …… 打破了。

0807.2 In 杯子给打破了, 给 has a passive role similar to which word?

- A. 把 (disposal marker)
- B. 被 (passive marker)

0807.3 Here the doer after 给 can be left out.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0807.4 You find a cup broken, without naming who broke it. What does 杯子给打破了。communicate?

- A. The cup is the affected object in a colloquial passive.
- B. The cup is the person who broke something else.

0807.5 杯子给打破了 shows the breaking was deliberate.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0807.6 杯子给小李打破了。Who is named as doing the breaking?

- A. The cup
- B. Xiao Li

0807.7 Match these complete sentences to their roles.

- 1. 杯子给打破了。
- 1. 我给他一个杯子。
- A. I transfer a cup to him
- B. The cup got broken; doer unnamed

0807.8 门给关上了 identifies the speaker as the person who closed the door.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0807.9 Recall the situation: The cup is affected, not the doer. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 就 ... 来说 (as far as ... goes)

0808.1 Use this lesson's target form 就 in the demonstrated sentence: As far as price goes, it's not expensive: …… 价格来说，不贵。

0808.2 In 就价格来说，不贵, what role does 就 have?

- A. then / right away (sequencing)
- B. as far as / speaking of (limiting scope)

0808.3 就 … 来说 narrows the comment to a single angle.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0808.4 The price is low, although quality is still untested. What does 就价格来说，不贵。communicate?

- A. The sentence proves the product has good quality.
- B. The comment applies to price specifically.

0808.5 The sentence shows the product has good quality.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0808.6 Match each stated aspect to its evidence in this purchase case.

- 1. Price
- 1. Quality
- 1. Delivery
- A. Not yet tested
- B. Not expensive
- C. Takes a week

0808.7 A comparatively low price must fit every buyer's budget.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0808.8 In 我吃完饭就走, what is the relevant role of 就?

- A. It connects the events of finishing and leaving
- B. It selects the meal's price aspect

0808.9 Recall the situation: An affordable price is one aspect. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 趁 (while / taking advantage of)

0809.1 Use this lesson's target form 趁 in the demonstrated sentence: Eat it while it's hot: …… 热吃吧。

0809.2 趁现在 means…

- A. long ago
- B. while you can / right now (seize the moment)

0809.3 趁 opens with the window of opportunity.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0809.4 Food is still hot and should be eaten now. What does 趁热吃吧。communicate?

- A. 趁热 says the food was eaten only after it cooled.
- B. The hot state is a favourable window for eating.

0809.5 趁热吃吧 reports that the speaker has already finished the meal.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0809.6 A break ends at 12:30. A twenty-minute task starts at 12:20. How many minutes after the break ends will the task finish?

0809.7 Which sentence explicitly uses the pause in rain as an opportunity for action?

- A. 雨停的时候，我们在车站。
- B. 趁雨停了，赶快回家。

0809.8 If the food has already cooled, the original 趁热吃吧 shows it has been reheated.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0809.9 Recall the situation: Eat during the useful window. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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

■ 自从 (ever since)

0801.1 自从

自从 + Past Event = ever since: 自从来这儿, 我很开心.

0801.2 A. An earlier starting point for the later situation

It marks the earlier arrival, not a deadline. Later situations can be states or repeated events.

0801.3 True.

The March arrival is earlier than this April report; the statement is bounded to that example.

0801.4 B. The arrival is the starting point for the subsequent state.

The arrival is the starting point for the subsequent state. 自从 introduces an earlier starting event. 从 is broader and also works with places or future starting times.

0801.5 False.

The report's reference endpoint remains April; the reading date does not supply later visits.

0801.6 B. Three visits in that stated interval

It counts visits since the March move up to that April report, not a daily rate.

0801.7 A. 从

Plain 从 introduces a place starting point in this route.

0801.8 False.

It connects a later observation to an earlier event in time; an exclusive cause needs more evidence.

0801.9 One possible response: 自从来这儿，我很开心。

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.
- **从明天开始，我每天走路上学。** starts a future plan. **从学校走到车站。** starts a route at the school. Use plain 从 in these examples.
- 自从 highlights an earlier time or event leading into a later situation. It cannot replace 从 in every route or future-start expression.
- 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.

■ **为 + Person (for someone's sake)**

0802.1 为

为 + Person + VP = for someone: 为大家服务.

0802.2 B. 大家 names people served; 早点到 names the arrival goal

These complete examples have different roles. This is not an absolute ban on overlapping purpose meanings.

0802.3 True.

The role is bounded to this service example; 为你高兴 describes whose situation prompts happiness.

0802.4 B. 大家 names the people served by the action.

大家 names the people served by the action. 为 marks a beneficiary or motive in established combinations. 为了 can introduce a purpose, and their meanings may overlap rather than forming an absolute divide.

0802.5 False.

为 marks a beneficiary or motive in established combinations. 为了 can introduce a purpose, and their meanings may overlap rather than forming an absolute divide. 大家 names the people served by the action.

0802.6 1–C: 为大家服务 = People served; 2–B: 为你高兴 = Person whose situation prompts happiness; 3–A: 为朋友准备晚饭 = Intended beneficiary of preparing dinner

The surrounding action determines whether the person is served or prompts the feeling.

0802.7 A. Arriving earlier

早点到 is arriving earlier; taking the metro is the action chosen toward that goal.

0802.8 False.

The purpose is preparation for the friend; the friend did not come, and eating is not reported.

0802.9 One possible response: 我们为大家服务。

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.
- **为了早点到，我坐了地铁。** – To arrive earlier, I took the metro. 为了 introduces the goal of arriving earlier.
- 为 and 为了 can overlap in purpose meanings. " 为 always means a person; 为了 always means a non-person goal" is too rigid; learn each complete construction.
- 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.

■ 对 ... 而言 (as far as ... is concerned)

0803.1 而言

对 + X + 而言 = as far as X is concerned: 对我而言, 这很重要.

0803.2 B. 对 … 来说

对 … 而言 = formal 对 … 来说 (as for …).

0803.3 True.

Yes – 对学生而言 (from a student's perspective).

0803.4 B. The difficulty is evaluated from beginners' perspective.

The difficulty is evaluated from beginners' perspective. 对 … 来说 is a common alternative. The sentence does not assert that the task is difficult for everyone.

0803.5 False.

The judgement is framed for beginners, not extended to experts.

0803.6 1–B: 对新手而言，这很难。= Difficult for beginners; 2–A: 对熟练的人而言，这很容易。= Easy for experienced users

The judgments have different viewpoints, so they can coexist.

0803.7 False.

A viewpoint evaluation is not a universal speech or agreement report.

0803.8 A. Students living far away

住得远 limits the named students to those living far away.

0803.9 One possible response: 对新手而言，这很难。

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.
- **对学生而言，这个安排很方便。** evaluates the arrangement for students. It does not say every student has personally spoken or agreed.
- **学生说这个安排很方便。**explicitly reports what students said. A viewpoint phrase and a speech report provide different information.
- 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.

■ ... 在内 (including)

0804.1 在内

(包括) + X + 在内 = including X: 包括我在内.

0804.2 B. between 包括 and 在内

包括 + X + 在内: 包括我在内.

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0804.3 False.

Opposite – 在内 = included IN the count.

0804.4 A. The total of five already includes the speaker.

The total of five already includes the speaker. Do not add the speaker again to make six. 在内 can also refer to inclusion within a wider set rather than a numerical count.

0804.5 False.

The two teachers are inside the eight total; there are six others.

0804.6 4

The five already includes the speaker. Five minus one is four.

0804.7 False.

It includes weekends among open days but does not supply opening hours.

0804.8 6

Eight includes the two teachers. Eight minus two is six.

0804.9 One possible response: 包括我在内，一共五个人。

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.
- **包括周末在内，每天都开放。** – Open every day, including weekends. The claim includes weekend days.
- It does not state the opening hours or the ticket price. Membership in the open-day set is different from those details.
- 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.

■ 凭 (on the basis of / by)

0805.1 凭

凭 + (basis) = on the basis of: 凭努力, 他成功了.

0805.2 B. "on what grounds? / why should …?" (a challenge)

In this argument it challenges the basis or authority to decide; it is not a thank-you.

0805.3 True.

Yes – 凭 + ticket = enter on the basis of a ticket.

0805.4 A. A ticket is the stated basis for admission.

A ticket is the stated basis for admission. 凭 introduces a credential, resource or basis. 凭什么 may challenge someone's grounds; it need not be a neutral request for information.

0805.5 False.

The full rule requires validity for that day.

0805.6 A. A ticket valid for today

当天有效 means valid for that day; an expired ticket fails that requirement.

0805.7 False.

It states a judgement based on experience; no measured check is reported.

0805.8 False.

It credits effort in this stated success, not universal success for every attempt.

0805.9 One possible response: 凭票入场。

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.
- In an argument, **你凭什么决定?** – On what grounds do you decide? – challenges someone's basis or authority.
- It is not a thank-you. A phrase about grounds can be neutral or challenging in context; this argument supplies the challenging reading.
- 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.

■ 至于 (as for / when it comes to)

0806.1 至于

至于 + Topic，Comment = as for: 至于价格, 以后再说.

0806.2 A. Raises price as a separate issue

The topic is price. The following comment postpones discussing it.

0806.3 True.

Introducing an issue and deciding it are different; 以后再说 leaves it for later.

0806.4 B. 至于 introduces price as the next separate topic.

至于 introduces price as the next separate topic. The speaker changes topic rather than concluding the whole discussion. 至于 also has other uses, as in 不至于, which should be learned separately.

0806.5 False.

The speaker changes topic rather than concluding the whole discussion. 至于 also has other uses, as in 不至于, which should be learned separately. 至于 introduces price as the next separate topic.

0806.6 1–B: 至于价格，以后再说。= Price discussion postponed; 2–A: 至于谁来负责，我们还没决定。= Responsible person not yet chosen

Read the actual comment after each issue: postponement or an undecided choice.

0806.7 False.

Tomorrow is the time for confirmation; the actual delivery time is not stated.

0806.8 B. 至于谁来负责，我们还没决定。

The first sentence raises who will be responsible. 不至于 in the other sentence has a different construction.

0806.9 One possible response: 至于价格，以后再说。

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.
- **至于价格，我们还没决定。** leaves the price undecided. **不至于这么贵吧。** suggests it should not be so expensive.
- The second construction does not introduce price as a fresh discussion topic. Learn 不至于 as its own expression instead of translating every 至于 as "as for".
- 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.

■ 给 (colloquial passive)

0807.1 给

Receiver + 给 + Verb Phrase = a colloquial passive: 杯子给打破了.

0807.2 B. 被 (passive marker)

给 ≈ 被 here; often 被 … 给 … appear together.

0807.3 True.

Yes – 杯子给打破了 (no doer named).

0807.4 A. The cup is the affected object in a colloquial passive.

The cup is the affected object in a colloquial passive. This 给 is not the recipient marker in 给他礼物. The agent can be omitted when unknown or unimportant.

0807.5 False.

The sentence names neither a doer nor their intention.

0807.6 B. Xiao Li

小李 follows passive 给 as the named doer; 杯子 is affected.

0807.7 1–B: 杯子给打破了。= The cup got broken; doer unnamed; 2–A: 我给他一个杯子。= I transfer a cup to him

Read the whole construction; the same character does not give both sentences the same function.

0807.8 False.

The sentence reports a closed door without naming who did it.

0807.9 One possible response: 杯子给打破了。

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.
- **我给他一个杯子。** – I give him a cup. 我 gives, 他 receives, and 一个杯子 is the item transferred.
- Compare this with 杯子给打破了. Giving a cup and reporting a broken cup are different actions; 给 alone does not identify the sentence's role.
- 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.

■ 就 ... 来说 (as far as ... goes)

0808.1 就

就 + X + 来说 = as far as X goes: 就价格来说, 不贵.

0808.2 B. as far as / speaking of (limiting scope)

就 … 来说 limits the comment to one aspect.

0808.3 True.

Yes – 就质量来说 (as far as quality goes).

0808.4 B. The comment applies to price specifically.

The comment applies to price specifically. A good price does not prove good quality. This 就 limits scope rather than meaning then or immediately.

0808.5 False.

A good price does not prove good quality. This 就 limits scope rather than meaning then or immediately. The comment applies to price specifically.

0808.6 1–B: Price = Not expensive; 2–A: Quality = Not yet tested; 3–C: Delivery = Takes a week

The three comments address separate aspects of the same item.

0808.7 False.

A price evaluation and a personal budget are separate; a buyer may still find it too expensive.

0808.8 A. It connects the events of finishing and leaving

This sentence connects finishing the meal with leaving, rather than framing a price or quality aspect.

0808.9 One possible response: 就价格来说，不贵。

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.
- **就价格来说，不贵。** frames the price aspect. **对我而言，还是太贵。** frames my judgement given my situation.
- Those comments need not conflict: a price can compare well with similar goods and still exceed a person's budget. The reference for the judgement matters.
- 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.

■ 趁 (while / taking advantage of)

0809.1 趁

趁 + Situation = while / taking advantage of: 趁热吃吧.

0809.2 B. while you can / right now (seize the moment)

趁 seizes a window: 趁热, 趁现在, 趁年轻.

0809.3 True.

Yes – 趁 + situation, then the action to take.

0809.4 B. The hot state is a favourable window for eating.

The hot state is a favourable window for eating. 趁 connects the action to an available opportunity. It is not simply a substitute for every when-clause.

0809.5 False.

It recommends eating during the hot window; it does not report completed eating.

0809.6 10

12:20 plus twenty minutes is 12:40, ten minutes after 12:30.

0809.7 B. 趁雨停了，赶快回家。

趁雨停了 connects going home with using the rain pause; the other sentence only reports location at that time.

0809.8 False.

The original recommendation does not report reheating; a new hot window needs new context.

0809.9 One possible response: 趁热吃吧。

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.
- **趁雨停了，赶快回家。** uses a pause in the rain as an opportunity to go home. The action is recommended during that window.

- **雨停的时候，我们在车站。** only locates us at the station when the rain stopped. It does not itself say we used that moment for an action.
- 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.