Comparing similar conjunctions

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.

跟 vs 对 (with vs toward)

With her, towards her

- Your sister talks about her best friend, who is always kind to everyone.
- **我常跟她聊天，她对每个人都很热情。** – "I often chat with her; she's warm towards everyone."

跟 = with (doing something together)

- **跟 + person + verb** = do it with someone, both taking part: 跟朋友吃饭, 跟他商量, 跟老师说.
- 跟 … 一样 compares: 跟你一样高.

我想跟你商量一下。
wǒ xiǎng gēn nǐ shāng liang yí xià
Word guide: 我 – I; 想 – want to; 跟 – with; 你 – you; 商量 – discuss; 一下 – briefly.



对 = towards (an attitude or effect)

- **对 + person / thing + attitude** = towards, to: 对我很好, 对音乐感兴趣, 对身体有好处.
- The action or feeling is aimed one way, at the person or thing.

运动对身体有好处。
yùn dòng duì shēn tǐ yǒu hǎo chù
Word guide: 运动 – exercise; 对 – for; 身体 – the body; 有 – has; 好处 – benefits.

Two-way or one-way?

- Talking together (two-way): 跟他说话. Attitude towards him (one-way): 对他很客气.
- 对 … 说 is possible ("say to"): 他对我说 …, but 跟 … 说 is more common in speech.

对 … 感兴趣, 跟 … 有关

- Fixed with 对: 对 … 感兴趣, 对 … 满意, 对 … 负责.
- Fixed with 跟: 跟 … 有关系, 跟 … 一样, 跟 … 结婚.

他对历史很感兴趣。
tā duì lì shǐ hěn gǎn xìng qù
Word guide: 他 – he; 对 – in; 历史 – history; 很 – very; 感兴趣 – interested.

Recap

- **跟** = with (together, two-way): 跟他商量, 跟 … 一样.
- **对** = towards (attitude, effect, one-way): 对他很好, 对 … 感兴趣.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

跟 vs 对 (with vs toward)

2601.1 Complete: "Exercise is good for your health." 运动 …… 身体有好处。

2601.2 "I want to discuss it with my parents." Which fits? 我想 _____ 父母商量。

- A. 跟
- B. 为
- C. 给
- D. 对

2601.3 Match each phrase to the right preposition.

- 1. _____ 音乐感兴趣
- 1. _____ 他结婚
- 1. _____ 工作很满意
- 1. _____ 我一样高
- A. 对
- B. 跟
- C. 跟
- D. 对

2601.4 跟朋友吃饭 means both people take part.
True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2601.5 Your sister talks about her best friend, who is always kind to everyone. 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

■ 跟 vs 对 (with vs toward)

2601.1 对

An effect towards something takes 对.

2601.2 A. 跟

Doing something together takes 跟.

2601.3 1–D: _____ 音乐感兴趣 = 对; 2–B: _____ 他结婚 = 跟; 3–A: _____ 工作很满意 = 对; 4–C: _____ 我一样高 = 跟

Attitudes take 对; togetherness and comparison take 跟.

2601.4 True.

True. 跟 here means "with, together": 跟朋友吃饭 means both people eat. 对 instead marks the target of an action or attitude.

2601.5 One possible response: 我常跟她聊天，她对每个人都很热情。

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.
- Talking together (two-way): 跟他说话. Attitude towards him (one-way): 对他很客气.
- 对 … 说 is possible ("say to"): 他对我说 …, but 跟 … 说 is more common in speech.
- 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.