

Verb phrases

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

Subject + () + Verb — “won’t stoop to, disdain to”

means thinking an action is **beneath one’s dignity** — “disdain to, won’t lower oneself to, can’t be bothered with.” There’s clear contempt in it: the subject looks down on doing the thing. You can say or, more literary, .

Structure: Subject + () + Verb / Verb Phrase

{zh: |tā|he / |shì|is / |gè|a / |chéng shí|honest / |de / |rén|man / , |bú xiè|won’t stoop to / |shuō huǎng|lying / 。 }

He’s an honest man — he won’t stoop to lying.

{zh: |tā|he / |bú xiè yú|is above / |shuō|saying / |bié rén|other people’s / |de / |huài huà|bad things / 。 }

He’s above bad-mouthing other people.

Remember: = “it’s beneath me” — **disdain to do it** (= “worth bothering with,” so = “not worth my while”). = “won’t stoop to lying.” is the more literary variant.

Watch out

- It carries *contempt* — the subject feels the action is below them, not merely declines it.

Action + (+) + Outcome — “so that, in order to”

is a formal “in order to, so as to (make it easier to).” It links an action to the **desired outcome** that action makes possible, and often takes a following .

Structure: Action , (+) + Outcome

{zh: |wǒ men|we / |hěn|very / |zǎo|early / |jiù / |qù|went to / |le / |jī chǎng|the airport / , |yǐ biàn|so that / |néng|we could / |gǎn shàng|catch / |zuì|the / |zǎo|earliest / |de / |fēi jī|flight / 。 }

We went to the airport very early so we could catch the earliest flight.

{zh: |qǐng|please / |liú xià|leave / |diàn huà|your number / , |yǐ biàn|so that / |wǒ men|we / |lián xì|can contact / |nín|you / 。 }

Please leave your number so we can contact you.

Remember: = “so as to (make it easier to)” — **names a WANTED outcome** the action enables (,). Its mirror is (“so as to *avoid*” a bad one): chases the good, dodges the bad.

Watch out

- Formal/written — in speech use or the mid-clause .