Sentence Patterns

HSK 6 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.

借 ... 之名 (under the guise of)

A scam in disguise

- A news report warns about fake charity callers.
- **有人借慈善之名骗钱。** – "Some people cheat others out of money under the guise of charity."

借 + X + 之名 = under the pretext / guise of X

- **借 ... 之名** means using X as a cover for a different, usually bad, purpose.
- It is formal and critical, common in news and commentary.

他借出差之名去旅游。
tā jiè chū chāi zhī míng qù lǚ yóu
Word guide: 他 – he; 借 – using; 出差 – a business trip; 之名 – as a pretext; 去 – went; 旅游 – on holiday.



Exposing hidden motives

- **一些商家借环保之名提高价格。** – "Some businesses raise prices under the banner of environmental protection."
- The real purpose follows the 之名 phrase.

一些商家借环保之名提高价格。
yì xiē shāng jiā jiè huán bǎo zhī míng tí gāo jià gé
Word guide: 一些 – some; 商家 – businesses; 借 – using; 环保 – environmental protection; 之名 – as a pretext; 提高 – raise; 价格 – prices.

■ Critical tone

- 借 … 之名 implies the stated reason is a cover; use it only when you mean to criticise.
- For a neutral "in the name of / on behalf of", use 以 … 的名义.

■ 借 ... 之名 versus 以 ... 的名义

- 以公司的名义 = on behalf of the company (neutral or official).
- 借公司之名 = using the company as a cover (critical).

他以公司的名义发言。
tā yǐ gōng sī de míng yì fā yán
Word guide: 他 – he; 以 – in; 公司 – the company's; 名义 – name; 发言 – spoke.

■ Recap

- **借 X 之名 + real purpose** = under the guise / pretext of X (critical).
- Neutral "on behalf of" = 以 … 的名义.

Practise this pattern step by step.

通过 ... 使 ... (by ..., bring about ...)

■ A shorter wait

- A hospital report describes how a new booking system changed patients' waiting time.
- **医院通过新流程，使患者的等待时间缩短了一半。** – "Through a new procedure, the hospital cut patients' waiting time by half."

■ Subject + 通过 + means + 使 + result

- **A 通过 B 使 C ...** = A, by means of B, makes C …: the subject A does the action, 通过 gives the means, 使 the result.
- The subject must be present: 医院 / 学校 / 我们 + 通过 ….

学校通过这次活动使学生更自信。
xué xiào tōng guò zhè cì huó dòng shǐ xué sheng gèng zì xìn
Word guide: 学校 – the school; 通过 – through; 这次 – this; 活动 – event; 使 – made; 学生 – students; 更 – more; 自信 – confident.

通过 …，使 …: by …, make …



The classic error: no subject

- **通过这次活动，使学生更自信了** has no subject: 通过 and 使 both lack a doer. This is a standard HSK 6 病句.
- Fix it by adding a subject before 通过 (学校通过 … 使 …) or by dropping 使 (通过这次活动，学生更自信了).

Two correct repairs

- Subject + 通过 … 使 …: **公司通过培训使员工提高了能力。** – "Through training, the company improved its staff's skills."
- 通过 …，subject + result: **通过培训，员工的能力提高了。** – "Through training, the staff's skills improved."

通过培训，员工的能力提高了。
tōng guò péi xùn yuán gōng de néng lì tí gāo le
Word guide: 通过 – through; 培训 – training; 员工 – the staff's; 能力 – skills; 提高 – improved.

Same trap with 经过 and 由于

- 经过大家的努力，使问题得到了解决 × – no subject.
- ✓ 经过大家的努力，问题得到了解决. Check every 通过 / 经过 / 由于 … 使 … sentence for a doer.

经过大家的努力，问题得到了解决。
jīng guò dà jiā de nǔ lì wèn tí dé dào le jiě jué
Word guide: 经过 – after; 大家 – everyone's; 努力 – efforts; 问题 – the problem; 得到 – got; 解决 – solved.

Recap

- **Subject + 通过 + means + 使 + result** – the subject is required.
- 通过 …, 使 … with no subject is a 病句; repair it with a subject or by dropping 使.

Practise this pattern step by step.

以 … 的名义 (in the name of)

On behalf of the class

- Your class wants to thank the teacher who is retiring, and you write the card.
- **我以全班同学的名义，向老师表示感谢。** – "On behalf of the whole class, I'd like to thank our teacher."

以 + X + 的名义 = in the name of, on behalf of

- **以 X 的名义** says whose name or authority an action is done under: 以个人的名义, 以公司的名义.
- It goes before the verb phrase.

他以个人的名义捐了一万块。
tā yǐ gè rén de míng yì juān le yí wàn kuài
Word guide: 他 – he; 以 – in; 个人 – his own; 名义 – name; 捐 – donated; 一万 – 10,000; 块 – yuan.



Official and personal capacity

- **这封信是以学校的名义发出的。** – "This letter was sent in the school's name."
- **我以朋友的名义劝你，别这么做。** – "As your friend, I'm telling you: don't do this."

我以朋友的名义劝你。
wǒ yǐ péng you de míng yì quàn nǐ
Word guide: 我 – I; 以 – as; 朋友 – a friend; 名义 – (capacity); 劝 – advise; 你 – you.

■ Neutral, not deceptive

- 以 … 的名义 is neutral or official; for using a name as a cover, use 借 … 之名.
- Both 以公司的名义 and the shorter 以公司名义 occur. Learn the full phrase first; the shorter form is also used in formal documents.

■ 以 ... 的名义 versus 代表

- 代表 + group = represent: 我代表全班感谢老师.
- 以 … 的名义 stresses whose name or authority the act carries.

我代表全班感谢老师。
wǒ dài biǎo quán bān gǎn xiè lǎo shī
Word guide: 我 – I; 代表 – on behalf of; 全班 – the whole class; 感谢 – thank; 老师 – the teacher.

■ Recap

- **以 X 的名义 + verb** = in the name of / on behalf of X (neutral, official).
- A cover story = 借 … 之名; 代表 = represent.

Practise this pattern step by step.

势必 (be bound to / inevitably)

■ Where this leads

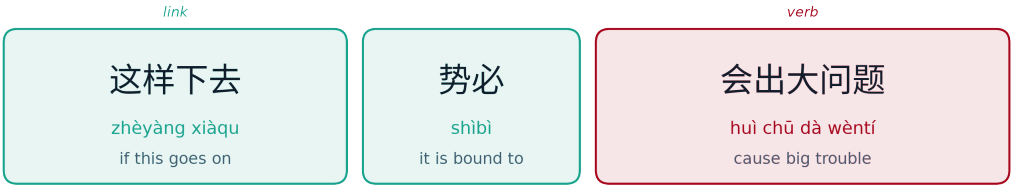
- An economist comments on a factory that keeps cutting corners on safety.
- **这样下去，势必会出大问题。** – "If this continues, serious problems are bound to occur."

■ 势必 + verb = be bound to, inevitably

- **势必** predicts a result that follows necessarily from the situation: 势必影响, 势必导致, 势必会 ….
- It is formal and analytical.

价格上涨势必影响消费。
jià gé shàng zhǎng shì bì yǐng xiǎng xiāo fèi
Word guide: 价格 – prices; 上涨 – rising; 势必 – is bound to; 影响 – affect; 消费 – spending.

势必: is bound to



■ Warnings and forecasts

- **长期熬夜势必损害健康。** – "Staying up late for long periods is bound to harm your health."
- It usually follows a cause or condition stated first.

长期熬夜势必损害健康。
cháng qī áo yè shì bì sǔn hài jiàn kāng
Word guide: 长期 – long-term; 熬夜 – staying up late; 势必 – is bound to; 损害 – harm; 健康 – health.

■ A strong, reasoned prediction

- 势必 means the result is practically certain because of the situation; for a guess, use 可能 / 恐怕.
- It is written style; in speech, 肯定会 / 一定会 are more natural.

■ 势必 versus 必然 and 一定

- 必然 = necessarily (also an adjective: 必然的结果).
- 势必 stresses the momentum of the situation: "the way things are going, it will…".

这是必然的结果。
zhè shì bì rán de jié guǒ
Word guide: 这 – this; 是 – is; 必然 – an inevitable; 结果 – result.

■ Recap

- **势必 + verb** = be bound to (a reasoned, near-certain prediction; formal).
- Guesses use 可能; speech uses 肯定会; 必然 = necessarily.

Practise this pattern step by step.

倘若 (if / should – literary)

A formal condition

- A contract sets out what happens if a delivery is late.
- **倘若货物延迟送达，买方有权取消订单。** – "Should the goods be delivered late, the buyer has the right to cancel the order."

倘若 A，(就 / 便) B = if, should

- **倘若** = "if, should", a literary 如果, common in contracts, essays and literature.
- The result clause often takes 就 / 便 / 则.

倘若你有问题，请随时联系我们。
tǎng ruò nǐ yǒu wèn tí qǐng suí shí lián xì wǒ men
Word guide: 倘若 – if; 你 – you; 有 – have; 问题 – questions; 请 – please; 随时 – any time; 联系 – contact; 我们 – us.



Hypotheses and regrets

- **倘若当时我听了你的话，就不会这样了。** – "Had I listened to you at the time, it wouldn't have come to this."
- It suits careful, considered language.

倘若当时我听了你的话，就不会这样了。
tǎng ruò dāng shí wǒ tīng le nǐ de huà jiù bú huì zhè yàng le
Word guide: 倘若 – if; 当时 – at the time; 我 – I; 听 – had listened; 你 – to you; 话 – words; 就 – then; 不会 – wouldn't; 这样 – be like this.

Literary only

- In conversation, 如果 / 要是 are natural; 倘若 sounds bookish.
- Keep 就 / 便 after the subject of the result: 我就 …, not 就我 ….

倘若 versus 假如 and 万一

- 假如 is close to 倘若, slightly less formal.
- 万一 = in case (an unlikely, unwelcome event): 万一下雨怎么办?

万一下雨怎么办?
wàn yī xià yǔ zěn me bàn

Word guide: 万一 – in case; 下雨 – it rains; 怎么办 – what do we do.

Recap

- **倘若 A，(就 / 便) B** = if / should A (literary, contracts and essays).
- Speech: 如果 / 要是; unlikely bad events: 万一.

Practise this pattern step by step.

所 + Verb + 的 (that which is V-ed)

What you said

- In a formal letter you respond to a complaint point by point.
- **您所提出的问题，我们会认真考虑。** – "We will carefully consider the issues you have raised."

(Subject +) 所 + verb + 的 (+ noun) = that which ... V

- **所 + verb + 的** marks the object of the verb: 我所知道的 (what I know), 他所说的话 (the words he said).
- 所 is formal; the meaning is the same without it: 他说的话.

这就是我所知道的。
zhè jiù shì wǒ suǒ zhī dào de
Word guide: 这 – this; 就是 – is exactly; 我 – I; 所 – (that which); 知道 – know.



Formal writing

- **我们所做的一切都是为了孩子。** – "Everything we do is for the children."
- **正如大家所看到的，情况已经好转。** – "As everyone can see, the situation has improved."

正如大家所看到的，情况好转了。
zhèng rú dà jiā suǒ kàn dào de qíng kuàng hǎo zhuǎn le
Word guide: 正如 – just as; 大家 – everyone; 所 – (that which); 看到 – has seen; 情况 – the situation; 好转 – has improved.

■ 所 goes right before the verb

- Order: subject + 所 + verb + 的: 他所说的, not 所他说的.
- It needs a transitive verb (one with an object): 所说, 所做, 所看到; not 所去 / 所来.

■ 所 versus plain 的

- 他说的话 (everyday) = 他所说的话 (formal).
- 所 adds weight and precision; it is common in speeches, reports and set phrases (众所周知).

众所周知，地球是圆的。
zhòng suǒ zhōu zhī dì qiú shì yuán de
Word guide: 众所周知 – as everyone knows; 地球 – the Earth; 是 – is; 圆 – round.

■ Recap

- **Subject + 所 + verb + 的 (+ noun)** = that which … (formal; 所 marks the object).
- Subject before 所; transitive verbs; 众所周知 = as everyone knows.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 借 … 之名 (under the guise of)

1201.1 Complete: "under the guise of charity" 借慈善之 ……

1201.2 Which is neutral, without criticism?

- A. 他借出差之名去旅游。
- B. 他以公司的名义发言。
- C. 他借环保之名涨价。
- D. 他借公司之名谋私利。

1201.3 Build: "Some businesses raise prices under the banner of environmental protection."

Arrange all chunks: 一些商家 / 提高 / 借环保之名 / 价格。

1201.4 借 … 之名 implies the stated reason is a cover.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1201.5 A news report warns about fake charity callers. 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.

■ 通过 ... 使 ... (by ..., bring about ...)

1202.1 Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- A. 使通过这次讲座，大家了解了环保。
- B. 通过这次讲座，使了解了大家环保的重要性。
- C. 这次讲座使大家了解了环保的重要性。
- D. 通过这次讲座，使大家了解了环保的重要性。

1202.2 Repair the error: 通过新流程，使等待时间缩短了。

- A. 通过新流程，使等待时间缩短了吗?
- B. 医院通过新流程，使等待时间缩短了。
- C. 新流程通过，使等待时间缩短了。
- D. 通过新流程，使医院等待时间缩短了。

1202.3 Build the correct sentence: “Through training, the staff’s skills improved.”

Arrange all chunks: 提高了。/ ，/ 员工的能力 / 通过培训

1202.4 经过大家的努力，使问题得到了解决 is correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1202.5 A hospital report describes how a new booking system changed patients’ waiting time. 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.

■ 以 ... 的名义 (in the name of)

1203.1 Complete: “He donated in his own name.” 他以个人的 …… 捐了钱。

1203.2 Which suggests the name is used as a cover?

- A. 以个人的名义捐款。
- B. 以公司的名义发信。
- C. 代表公司发言。
- D. 借公司之名谋私利。

1203.3 Build: “On behalf of the whole class, I thank the teacher.”

Arrange all chunks: ，/ 向老师 / 我以全班同学的名义 / 表示感谢。

1203.4 代表 can also mean “on behalf of”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1203.5 Your class wants to thank the teacher who is retiring, and you write the card. 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.

■ 势必 (be bound to / inevitably)

1204.1 Complete: “This is bound to affect sales.” 这 …… 影响销量。

1204.2 Which sounds most natural in casual speech?

- A. 这样势必地出问题。
- B. 这样肯定会出问题。
- C. 这样势必会出问题。
- D. 这样必然会出问题。

1204.3 Build: “Staying up late long-term is bound to harm your health.”

Arrange all chunks: 势必 / 长期熬夜 / 健康。/ 损害

1204.4 势必 expresses a weak guess.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1204.5 An economist comments on a factory that keeps cutting corners on safety. 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.

■ 倘若 (if / should – literary)

1205.1 Complete (contract): “Should the goods arrive late, the buyer may cancel.” …… 货物延迟送达，买方可以取消订单。

1205.2 “What if it rains?” (an unlikely, unwelcome event). Which fits? _____ 下雨怎么办?

- A. 因为
- B. 万一
- C. 既然
- D. 倘若

1205.3 Build: “Had I listened to you, it wouldn’t have come to this.”

Arrange all chunks: 就不会 / ， / 倘若当时我听了你的话 / 这样了。

1205.4 倘若 sounds natural in casual conversation.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1205.5 A contract sets out what happens if a delivery is late. 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.

■ 所 + Verb + 的 (that which is V-ed)

1206.1 Complete (formal): “the words he said” 他 …… 说的话

1206.2 Which order is correct?

- A. 所我知道的
- B. 我知道所的
- C. 我所知道的
- D. 我的所知道

1206.3 Build: “Everything we do is for the children.”

Arrange all chunks: 我们所做的 / 都是为了 / 孩子。/ 一切

1206.4 众所周知 means “as everyone knows”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1206.5 In a formal letter you respond to a complaint point by point. 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

■ 借 … 之名 (under the guise of)

1201.1 名

借 X 之名.

1201.2 B. 他以公司的名义发言。

以 … 的名义 ("in the name of") is neutral: 他以公司的名义发言 simply says whom he represents. 借 … 之名 suggests the name is used as a cover for something else.

1201.3 一些商家借环保之名提高价格。

Subject + 借 X 之名 + real purpose.

1201.4 True.

True. 借 … 之名 is critical: the stated reason is a pretext, as in 借出差之名去旅游 "travel on the pretext of a business trip".

1201.5 One possible response: 有人借慈善之名骗钱。

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.
- 借 … 之名 implies the stated reason is a cover; use it only when you mean to criticise.
- For a neutral "in the name of / on behalf of", use 以 … 的名义.
- 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.

■ 通过 … 使 … (by …, bring about …)

1202.1 C. 这次讲座使大家了解了环保的重要性。

The first has no subject. The second has one: 这次讲座 is the subject of 使.

1202.2 B. 医院通过新流程，使等待时间缩短了。

Add the doer (医院) before 通过.

1202.3 通过培训，员工的能力提高了。

通过 …, subject + result (no 使).

1202.4 False.

It lacks a subject; drop 使 or add a doer.

1202.5 One possible response: 医院通过新流程，使患者的等待时间缩短了一半。

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.

- Subject + 通过 … 使 …: **公司通过培训使员工提高了能力。** – "Through training, the company improved its staff's skills."
- 通过 …, subject + result: **通过培训，员工的能力提高了。** – "Through training, the staff's skills improved."
- 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.

■ 以 … 的名义 (in the name of)

1203.1 名义

以 X 的名义.

1203.2 D. 借公司之名谋私利。

借公司之名谋私利 uses the company's name as a cover for personal gain, so it is critical. 以 … 的名义 and 代表 are neutral ways to say whom you speak or act for.

1203.3 我以全班同学的名义，向老师表示感谢。

以 X 的名义 + verb phrase.

1203.4 True.

True. 代表 can mean "on behalf of": 我代表全班感谢老师 "On behalf of the class, I thank the teacher."

1203.5 One possible response: 我以全班同学的名义，向老师表示感谢。

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.
- 以 … 的名义 is neutral or official; for using a name as a cover, use 借 … 之名.
- Both 以公司的名义 and the shorter 以公司名义 occur. Learn the full phrase first; the shorter form is also used in formal documents.
- 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.

■ 势必 (be bound to / inevitably)

1204.1 势必

势必 + verb.

1204.2 B. 这样肯定会出问题。

肯定会 is the spoken choice.

1204.3 长期熬夜势必损害健康。

Cause + 势必 + verb.

1204.4 False.

It is a strong, reasoned prediction.

1204.5 One possible response: 这样下去，势必会出大问题。

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.
- 势必 means the result is practically certain because of the situation; for a guess, use 可能 / 恐怕.
- It is written style; in speech, 肯定会 / 一定会 are more natural.
- 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.

■ 倘若 (if / should – literary)

1205.1 倘若

倘若 = if (literary).

1205.2 B. 万一

万一 = in case of something unlikely and unwelcome.

1205.3 倘若当时我听了你的话，就不会这样了。

倘若 + condition, 就 + result.

1205.4 False.

It is literary; speech uses 如果 / 要是.

1205.5 One possible response: 倘若货物延迟送达，买方有权取消订单。

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 conversation, 如果 / 要是 are natural; 倘若 sounds bookish.
- Keep 就 / 便 after the subject of the result: 我就 …, not 就我 ….
- 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.

■ 所 + Verb + 的 (that which is V-ed)

1206.1 所

Subject + 所 + verb + 的.

1206.2 C. 我所知道的

所 stands before the verb in the pattern subject + 所 + verb + 的: 我所知道的 "what I know". It never comes before the subject or after the verb.

1206.3 我们所做的一切都是为了孩子。

所 + verb + 的 + noun.

1206.4 True.

True. 众所周知 is a set phrase with 所 meaning "as is well known to all".

1206.5 One possible response: 您所提出的问题，我们会认真考虑。

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.
- Order: subject + 所 + verb + 的: 他所说的, not 所他说的.
- It needs a transitive verb (one with an object): 所说, 所做, 所看到; not 所去 / 所来.
- 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.