

HSK 2 · Family, Learning History, School and Work

Level-two family and routines; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The family roster

Assign actor, time and activity clearly; keep duration apart from dates; and mark what is happening right now.

The activity record

Reading by row

爸爸星期六打扫房间，姐姐晚上做作业。(Bàba xīngqīliù dǎsǎo fángjiān, jiějie wǎnshang zuò zuòyè.) — Dad cleans on Saturday; big sister does homework in the evening.

Question: 谁打扫房间? — Who cleans? Answer: 爸爸 — from the same row.

Duration is not a date

- 1 **The duration sentence** 我学中文了两年。(Wǒ xué Zhōngwén xué le liǎng nián.) — I've studied Chinese for two years.
- 2 **The repeated verb** 学中文 ** 学 ** 了两年 — the verb repeats to carry the duration.
- 3 **The different question** 二〇二四年 (èr líng èr sì nián) answers “which year” — not “how long”.
- 4 **Try it** Say how long you have studied English.

Decision

两年 answers how long; a year number answers which year.

正在 and 快要 了

正在 — happening now

我正在写作业。(Wǒ zhèngzài xiě zuòyè.) — I'm doing homework right now.

快要 了 — about to

快要上课了。(Kuài yào shàngkè le.) — Class is about to start.

Watch out: how long versus which year

- 两年 and 二〇二四年 answer different questions.
- Duration rides on the repeated verb; a date stands alone.

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) 谁打扫房间? — whose row do you answer from? (2) Which marker says “about to”?

- A. The nearest word; 正在
- B. The same row; 快要 了
- C. The same row; 正在
- D. The nearest word; 快要 了