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.

- 经常 often, 有时候 sometimes.
- 正在 ongoing; 快要 …… 了 approaching.

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 我学中文学了两年。**(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○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.

就 (early) vs 才 (late)

Sentence	Meaning
他七点就来了。	He came at seven: early.
他十点才来。	He didn't come until ten: late.

给: to, for, give

Three jobs for 给

我给你一本书。— I'll give you a book.

我给妈妈打电话。— I phone my mum.

他给我们做饭。— He cooks for us.

Notice

给 + person goes before the verb: 给妈妈打电话, not 打电话给妈妈 at this level.

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.

Quick check

Your turn

A timetable row reads 星期三 | 小王 | 打扫房间. Who cleans the room on Wednesday?

A. 小王
B. the person in the next row

Check yourself

Your turn

Which marker says “about to”?

A. 正在
B. 快要 …… 了