HSK 4 Grammar 07: Numbers

HSK 4 fractions and percentages with 分之, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Fractions, back to front

Chinese builds a fraction bottom first: denominator + 分之 + numerator — and percentages are just "out of 100" fractions.

- The order is the one rule tested every time.
- Big to small: whole first, then the slice.

The frame: Denominator + 分之 + Numerator

Read 分之 as "out of"

这个文件已经下载了三分之二。(Zhège wénjiàn yǐjīng xiàzài le sānfēnzhī'èr.) — This file is already two-thirds downloaded.

我的手机只有百分之五了。(Wǒ de shǒujī zhǐ yǒu bǎifēnzhīwǔ le.) — My phone's down to five percent.

Try it: the battery report

1. **The situation** Your battery is comfortably at 80%.
2. **Build the fraction** Out of a hundred, eighty: 百分之八十 (bǎifēnzhībāshí).
3. **Wrap it in the sentence** 我的手机还有百分之八十。(Wǒ de shǒujī hái yǒu bǎifēnzhībāshí.)
4. **Check the order** Bottom first: the hundred arrives before the eighty.

Decision

My phone still has eighty percent — built out-of-a-hundred first.

Watch out: the flipped fraction

- ¾ is 四分之三, never 三分之四 — reversing the order flips the fraction to 4/3.
- This is the classic exam item: hear which number arrives first.
- Big-to-small is a habit: 2026 年 10 月 before the day; the whole before the part.

Check yourself

Your turn

In 四分之三, which number is the denominator — and what is 三分之二 as a number?

A. 四; two-thirds
B. 三; two-thirds
C. 四; three-halves
D. 三; three-halves