

HSK 4 Grammar 09: Prepositions

HSK 4 随着 and the abstract brackets 在 ... 上 / 在 ... 下, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Two preposition jobs

随着 ties one moving thing to another moving in step with it; 在 ... 上 and 在 ... 下 are abstract brackets — field and condition.

The frame: 随着 + moving backdrop

Two things moving together

随着经济的发展，生活越来越好。(Suízhe jīngjì de fāzhǎn, shēnghuó yuèláiyuè hǎo.)
— As the economy develops, life keeps getting better.

孩子们随着音乐跳起了舞。(Háizimen suízhe yīnyuè tiào qǐ le wǔ.) — The children started dancing along to the music.

Try it: the weather report

- 1 **The change you want to report** Colder weather, and more colds — one tracks the other.
- 2 **Build the backdrop** 随着天气变冷 (suízhe tiānqì biàn lěng) — as the weather turns cold.
- 3 **Add what tracks it** 感冒的人越来越多了 (gǎnmào de rén yuèláiyuè duō le) — more and more people are catching colds.
- 4 **Check the relationship** Two moving things, one pacing the other — the 随着 relationship.

Decision

Suízhe tiānqì biàn lěng, gǎnmào de rén yuèláiyuè duō le.

The bracket 在 ... 上: in terms of

Framing the field

在这个问题上，我们的看法一样。(Zài zhège wèntí shàng, wǒmen de kànfǎ yíyàng.)

— On this matter, our views are the same.

Also: 在历史上 “in history”, 在语法上 “grammatically”.

The bracket 在 ... 下: under conditions

Framing the condition

在这种情况下，你会怎么做？(Zài zhè zhǒng qíngkuàng xià, nǐ huì zěnmě zuò?) — Under these circumstances, what would you do?

Try it: 在小王的帮助下，我们按时完成了项目。(Zài Xiǎowáng de bāngzhù xià, wǒmen ànshí wánchéng le xiàngmù.) — With Xiao Wang's help, we finished the project on time.

Watch out: not real positions

在 ... 上 picks the field

在语法上 — grammatically, in terms of grammar.

在 ... 下 picks the condition

在老师的帮助下 — with the teacher's help.

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) What does 随 mean? (2) Which bracket frames a condition?

- A. “follow”; 在 ... 下
- B. “change”; 在 ... 上
- C. “follow”; 在 ... 上
- D. “change”; 在 ... 下