

HSK 4 Grammar 11: Sentence Patterns — Comparison

HSK 4 以 ... 为 ... and its set phrases, taught from the reviewed topic handout;
classroom examples, not official exam items.

The frame: take A as B

以 A 为 B means “take / regard A as B” — your basis, standard or focus, in an elegant, formal frame.

The frame in action

Basis, standard, focus

我们公司以亚洲市场为主。(Wǒmen gōngsī yǐ Yàzhōu shìchǎng wéi zhǔ.) — Our company focuses mainly on the Asian market.

许多企业发展很快，以麦当劳为例。(Xǔduō qǐyè fāzhǎn hěn kuài, yǐ Màidāngláo wéi lì.) — Many firms have grown fast — take McDonald's as an example.

Try it: the essay example

- 1 **The writing task** In an essay sentence, name a city that stands for China's long history.
- 2 **Choose the set phrase** 以 ... 为例 — take ... as an example.
- 3 **Build it** 以西安为例，中国历史非常悠久。(Yǐ Xī'ān wéi lì, Zhōngguó lìshǐ fēicháng yōujiǔ.)
- 4 **Check the register** An essay sentence — exactly where the formal frame belongs.

Decision

Take Xi'an as an example: China's history is very long.

The casual twin: 把 A 当作 B

Formal, written

我们以质量为标准。(Wǒmen yǐ zhìliàng wéi biāozhǔn.) — We take quality as our standard.

Casual, spoken

我把这里当作自己的家。(Wǒ bǎ zhèlǐ dāngzuò zìjǐ de jiā.) — I treat this place as my own home.

Watch out: two boundaries

- 以 ... 为 ... is formal and written — save it for essays, reports and signs.
- Learn the set phrases whole: the frame is fixed and the exam tests the pairing.
- In conversation, 把 ... 当作 ... carries the same idea naturally.

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Which set phrase means “take ... as an example”? (2) What is the casual equivalent of 以 ... 为 ...?

- A. 以 ... 为例; 把 A 当作 B
- B. 以 ... 为主; 把 A 当作 B
- C. 以 ... 为例; 以 A 为 B
- D. 以 ... 为主; 对 A 感兴趣