

Comparing similar conjunctions

HSK 5

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

跟 vs 对 (with vs toward)

■ With her, towards her

- Your sister talks about her best friend, who is always kind to everyone.
- 我常跟她聊天, 她对每个人都很有热情。 – “I often chat with her; she’s warm towards everyone.”

■ 跟 = with (doing something together)

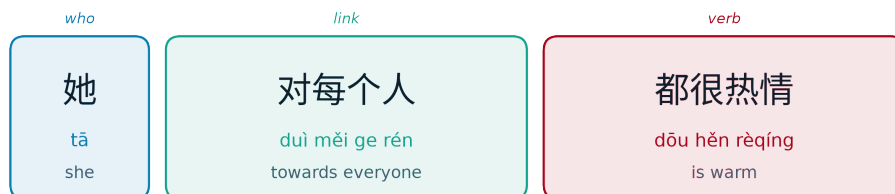
- 跟 + person + verb = do it with someone, both taking part: 跟朋友吃饭, 跟他商量, 跟老师说.
- 跟 ... 一样 compares: 跟你一样高.

我想跟你商量一下。

wǒ xiǎng gēn nǐ shāng liang yí xià

Word guide: 我 – I; 想 – want to; 跟 – with; 你 – you; 商量 – discuss; 一下 – briefly.

跟: with (together) · 对: towards (an attitude)



■ 对 = towards (an attitude or effect)

- 对 + person / thing + attitude = towards, to: 对我很好, 对音乐感兴趣, 对身体有好处.
- The action or feeling is aimed one way, at the person or thing.

运动对身体有好处。

yùn dòng duì shēn tǐ yǒu hǎo chù

Word guide: 运动 – exercise; 对 – for; 身体 – the body; 有 – has; 好处 – benefits.

■ Two-way or one-way?

- Talking together (two-way): 跟他说话. Attitude towards him (one-way): 对他很客气.
- 对 ... 说 is possible (“say to”): 他对我说 ..., but 跟 ... 说 is more common in speech.

■ 对 ... 感兴趣, 跟 ... 有关

- Fixed with 对: 对 ... 感兴趣, 对 ... 满意, 对 ... 负责.
- Fixed with 跟: 跟 ... 有关系, 跟 ... 一样, 跟 ... 结婚.

他对历史很感兴趣。

tā duì lì shǐ hěn gǎn xìng qù

Word guide: 他 – he; 对 – in; 历史 – history; 很 – very; 感兴趣 – interested.

■ Recap

- 跟 = with (together, two-way): 跟他商量, 跟 ... 一样.
- 对 = towards (attitude, effect, one-way): 对他很好, 对 ... 感兴趣.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

Choose a pattern, cover its teaching examples, and attempt its questions. Use the labels to find feedback in the separate key.

■ 跟 vs 对 (with vs toward)

2601.1 Complete: “Exercise is good for your health.” 运动 身体有好处。

2601.2 “I want to discuss it with my parents.” Which fits? 我想 _____ 父母商量。

- A. 跟
- B. 为
- C. 给
- D. 对

2601.3 Match each phrase to the right preposition.

- 1. _____ 音乐感兴趣
- 1. _____ 他结婚
- 1. _____ 工作很满意
- 1. _____ 我一样高
- A. 对
- B. 跟
- C. 跟
- D. 对

2601.4 跟朋友吃饭 means both people take part.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2601.5 Your sister talks about her best friend, who is always kind to everyone. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A learner says 我对朋友一起学习 to mean I study with friends. Repair the companion phrase.

R2. Use it yourself. Say you discuss a problem with a teacher and have confidence in the solution.

Write your responses before opening the key. Compare meaning as well as form; a different valid answer need not copy the model.

Answers and explanations

Check after your attempt. For open tasks, compare the message and the stated criteria, then revise one detail.

■ 跟 vs 对 (with vs toward)

2601.1 对

An effect towards something takes 对.

2601.2 A. 跟

Doing something together takes 跟.

2601.3 1-D: ____ 音乐感兴趣 = 对; 2-B: ____ 他结婚 = 跟; 3-A: ____ 工作很满意 = 对; 4-C: ____ 我一样高 = 跟

Attitudes take 对; togetherness and comparison take 跟.

2601.4 True.

True. 跟 here means “with, together”: 跟朋友吃饭 means both people eat. 对 instead marks the target of an action or attitude.

2601.5 One possible response: 我常跟她聊天, 她对每个人都很热情。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Talking together (two-way): 跟他说话. Attitude towards him (one-way): 对他很客气.
- 对 ... 说 is possible (“say to”): 他对我说 ..., but 跟 ... 说 is more common in speech.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 我跟朋友一起学习。跟 identifies companions in this frame. 对 can introduce the target of an attitude, as in 对朋友很友好; it does not replace 跟 here.

R2. One possible response. 我跟老师讨论这个问题。我对这个办法有信心。The first names a discussion partner; the second the target of confidence.

Recall later. Tomorrow, identify companion and attitude target before choosing 跟 or 对.