

HSK 5 Grammar 3: Auxiliary Words — Listing with 啊

HSK 5 啊-listing pattern, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The open spoken list

Put 啊 after each item and the list sounds open, spoken and a little unfinished — “what with X, and Y, you know.”

Form and boundaries

- 1 **The shape** item + 啊, item + 啊, ... (+ 什么的).
- 2 **Worked sentence** 护照啊, 充电器啊, 常用的药啊, 他每次出差都是临走才装进包里。 — Passport, charger, medicine — every trip he packs at the last minute.
- 3 **The casual close** 玩具啊, 故事书啊, 小汽车啊什么的 — toys, storybooks, toy cars and so on.
- 4 **The boundary** For a formal list use 等 or 等等, and leave out the 啊.

Decision

啊 is chatty; 等等 is formal — they sit awkwardly together.

啊: three different jobs

Job	Example	Feeling
Listing	护照啊, 充电器啊	Open sample, chatty
Softening one remark	好啊 — OK!	A soft breath at the end
Pausing on a topic	这个问题啊	A spoken hesitation

Practice check

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Does 包里装着雨衣啊, 水杯啊, 钥匙啊 close the bag at three items? (2) Which closing fits the casual tone: 等等 or 什么的?

- A. Yes; 等等
- B. No — a sample; 什么的
- C. No — a sample; 等等
- D. Yes; 什么的

Check yourself

Every answer traces back to the same rule: 啊 marks a chatty open sample, and 什么的 keeps it open.