

HSK 5 Grammar 26: Comparing similar conjunctions

HSK 5 跟 and 对, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

A link or an arrow

跟 — a two-way link

Joins two sides: they act together, match each other, or are listed together.

我跟同事一起去爬山。I go hiking with my colleague.

对 — a one-way arrow

Aims an action or an attitude at one target.

店员对客人笑。The shop assistant smiles at the guests.

跟 — four ways to link

Pattern	Meaning	Example
跟 B 一起 + verb	do it together with B	每个周末我跟同事一起去爬山。
跟 B 一样 + adjective	as ... as B	她跟我一样喜欢早起。
A 跟 B (two nouns)	A and B	茶跟咖啡都可以。
跟 B 说	talk with B	一路上我常跟她说话。

对 — aim at a target

Pattern	Meaning	Example
对 B 笑	smile at B	店员每天对客人笑。
对 B 好	be kind to B	她对老人特别好。
对 B 说	say something to B	她会对客人说：“请稍等。”

Use the evidence

对 never sits between two nouns to mean 'and'. 面包对牛奶 is wrong.

Same people, two pictures

- 1 **Shared action** 我跟孩子一起笑。Wǒ gēn háizi yìqǐ xiào. I laugh together with the child.
- 2 **Aimed action** 我对孩子笑。Wǒ duì háizi xiào. I smile at the child.
- 3 **With 说, both are normal** 我跟姐姐说 pictures a conversation; 我对客人说 pictures words aimed at the guest.

Decision

Ask one question — do both people do it, or does it go from one to the other?

Your turn: link or arrow?

Your turn

The doctor treats the patients kindly. 医生 _____ 病人很好。

- A. 跟
- B. 对
- C. 和

Your turn: build the sentence

Your turn

Are you going to the library with a friend this afternoon? Which order is natural?

- A. 你下午跟朋友一起去图书馆吗？
- B. 你下午对朋友一起去图书馆吗？
- C. 你下午去图书馆跟朋友一起吗？
- D. 你跟一起朋友下午去图书馆吗？

Answers: link or arrow

- 1 **Kindness is aimed** 医生对病人很好。对 aims his kindness at the patients.
- 2 **A comparison is a link** 这个包跟那个一样重。跟 ... 一样 makes the match.
- 3 **Two nouns are listed** 我买了面包跟牛奶。跟 or 和 joins them; 对 cannot mean 'and'.
- 4 **A shared trip** 你下午跟朋友一起去图书馆吗？跟 + person + 一起, then the verb.

Decision

Production check: 服务员对顾客笑。他跟厨师一样忙。

Check yourself

Your turn

The new teacher is very patient with the students, and she is as tall as her sister.
Which sentence says both?

- A. 新老师跟学生很有耐心，她对姐姐一样高。
- B. 新老师对学生很有耐心，她跟姐姐一样高。
- C. 新老师对学生很有耐心，她对姐姐一样高。
- D. 新老师跟学生很有耐心，她跟姐姐一样高。