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。