

HSK 5 Grammar 27: Comparing similar prepositions

HSK 5 prepositions 朝, 向, 往, 对, 对于, 关于, 至于, 给 and 为, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

朝, 向, 往 — pointing somewhere

Use	朝	向	往
before a verb of movement	朝东门走	向东门走	往东门走
after 开 or 飞 — destination	not used	direction only	开往青岛
learn from a person	not used	向王工学习	not used

Use the evidence

For plain movement before the verb, all three match. Learning from someone takes 向.

对 or 对于?

对 — reaches a person, or a topic

服务员对客人点了点头。

对新的规定，我们还需要时间。

对于 — frames a topic, more formal

对于新的规定，我们还需要时间。

对于客人点了点头 is wrong: the guest receives the nod.

关于, 对于, 至于

Word	Job	Example
关于	names the subject matter	关于明天的会议, 我有两个建议。
对于	the target of a view or feeling	他对于这种做法并不赞成。
至于	turns to a further point	至于晚饭, 到了宾馆再决定。

Use the evidence

至于 never simply replaces **关于**; it marks a move to the next item once another is settled.

给 or 为?

给 — the recipient

请给前台留一个电话。

我给房东打了个电话。He answered.

为 — for someone's sake, or because of them

我为房东打了个电话。A call on his behalf.

大家都为她高兴。Glad because of her.

Your turn: the station board

Your turn

This coach's destination is Suzhou. Which line fits a station board?

- A. 这辆大巴开朝苏州。
- B. 这辆大巴开往苏州。
- C. 这辆大巴往开苏州。

Your turn: the phone call

Your turn

You phoned the landlord, and he was the person who answered. Which sentence matches?

- A. 我为房东打了个电话。
- B. 我朝房东打了个电话。
- C. 我给房东打了个电话。

Answers: the right preposition

- 1 **The board** 这辆大巴开往苏州。往 after 开 names the destination.
- 2 **The call** 我给房东打了个电话。
- 3 **Learning** 实习生想向林医生学习。
- 4 **Moving on** 至于门票，我们明天在网上买。

Decision

保安对赵先生点了点头 — the nod reaches him, so 对; 对于 and 关于 cannot mark that target.

Check yourself

Your turn

The flight is bound for Beijing, and the passengers are worried about the delay. Which pair is right?

- A. 这班飞机飞往北京。乘客们都为延误担心。
- B. 这班飞机飞朝北京。乘客们都给延误担心。
- C. 这班飞机往飞北京。乘客们都对于延误点头。