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。