HSK 5 Grammar 28: Comparing similar time words

HSK 5 平时, 平常, 以后 and 之后, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

平时 and 平常 — usually

Job	平时	平常
adverb ‘usually’	她平时坐地铁上班。	她平常坐地铁上班。
adjective ‘ordinary’	not possible	迟到是一件很平常的事。
time word + 的 + noun	平时的安排	平常的安排

Use the evidence

As adverbs the two swap freely. Only 平常 is an adjective, so only 平常 follows 很.

以后 and 之后 — after

After an event — either word

会议结束以后，我们去食堂吃饭。

会议结束之后，我们去食堂吃饭。

From now on — only 以后

以后别忘了带钥匙。

Bare 之后 leaves ‘after what?’ open.

When the event is in the previous sentence

1. **The event** 报告三点结束。
2. **Looking back to it** 之后，请把笔记发给经理。
3. **Or name it again** 报告结束以后，请把笔记发给经理。

Decision

三点以后 alone only says ‘after three o’clock’ and drops the report.

Your turn: nothing unusual

Your turn

周末被叫去加班，她觉得很 _____。She thinks weekend overtime is nothing unusual.

A. 平时
B. 平常
C. 之后

Your turn: a new rule

Your turn

_____ 请在八点前到教室。The teacher gives a new rule; no event has been mentioned.

A. 之后
B. 平常
C. 以后

Answers: usually, ordinary, after

1. **Nothing unusual** 周末被叫去加班，她觉得很平常。
2. **A new rule** 以后请在八点前到教室。
3. **Same habit** 他平常晚饭后散步。= 他平时晚饭后散步。
4. **After the exam** 考完试以后，我马上给奶奶打电话。

Decision

很平时 is not possible; 他以后晚饭后散步 would turn the habit into a future plan.

Check yourself

Your turn

He usually cycles to school; from now on he will take the bus. Which pair is natural?

A. 他平时骑车上学。以后他要坐公交车了。
B. 他很平时骑车上学。之后他要坐公交车了。
C. 他平常骑车上学。之后他要坐公交车了。