

Numbers and Measure Words

HSK 3 Grammar

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

半 (half / and a half)

■ A duration adds half an hour

- You studied for ninety minutes.
- 我学习了一个半小时。 – 一个半小时 measures one and a half hours.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 半 (half / and a half). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

半个苹果。

bàn ge píng guǒ

Word guide: 半 – half; 个 – (measure word); 苹果 – apple.

■ Read examples in context

一个半小时。

yī ge bàn xiǎo shí

Word guide: 一 – one; 个 – (measure word); 半 – and a half; 小时 – hour.

- In the opening example, 我学习了一个半小时。: 一个半小时 measures one and a half hours.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 半个小时 is half an hour.
- Compare 两点半, a clock time, with 两个半小时, a duration. Keep the measure word position: 一个半小时, not 一半个小时.

■ Use the distinction

- 一个半小时 measures one and a half hours.
- 半个小时 is half an hour. Compare 两点半, a clock time, with 两个半小时, a duration. Keep the measure word position: 一个半小时, not 一半个小时.

■ Try it with help closed

You studied for ninety minutes. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 我学习了一个半小时。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 半个小时 is half an hour.
- Compare 两点半, a clock time, with 两个半小时, a duration. Keep the measure word position: 一个半小时, not 一半个小时.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.