

Numbers

HSK 4 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.

Fractions with 分之

■ Read the denominator before the numerator

- A recipe needs one third of a portion.
- 三分之一。 – The denominator is three and the numerator is one.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Fractions with 分之**. 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.

三分之一。

sān fēn zhī yī

Word guide: 三 – three; 分之 – (of); 一 – one.

■ Read examples in context

百分之五十。

bǎi fēn zhī wǔ shí

Word guide: 百 – hundred; 分之 – (of); 五十 – fifty.

- In the opening example, 三分之一。: The denominator is three and the numerator is one.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- Chinese gives the whole-number partition first.
- 三分之一 is not three wholes, and 百分之五十 means fifty percent.

■ Use the distinction

- The denominator is three and the numerator is one.
- Chinese gives the whole-number partition first. 三分之一 is not three wholes, and 百分之五十 means fifty percent.

■ Try it with help closed

A recipe needs one third of a portion. 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: 三分之一。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Chinese gives the whole-number partition first.
- 三分之一 is not three wholes, and 百分之五十 means fifty percent.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.