

Sentence patterns

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

以…为…—”take A as B”

The elegant, semi-classical frame 以 A 为 B means ”take / regard A as B” —treating one thing as your basis, standard, or focus. It rings formal, and it’s the engine behind a whole family of set phrases.

Structure: 以 + A + 为 + B

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|our / 公司 |gōng sī|company / 以 |yǐ|takes / 亚洲 |Yà zhōu|the Asian / 市场 |shì chǎng|market / 为 |wéi|as / 主 |zhǔ|its focus / 。 }

Our company focuses mainly on the Asian market.

{zh: 许多 |xǔ duō|many / 企业 |qǐ yè|firms / 发展 |fā zhǎn|grow / 很 |hěn|very / 快 |kuài|fast / , 以 |yǐ|take / 麦当劳 |Mài dāng láo|McDonald’s / 为 |wéi|as / 例 |lì|an example / 。 }

Many firms have grown fast —take McDonald’s as an example.

Remember: 以 A 为 B = ”take A as your B.” Memorise the set phrases and you’ve got it: 以…为主 (”mainly”), 以…为例 (”for example”), 以…为荣 (”proud of”), 以人为本 (”put people first”). The everyday paraphrase is 把 A 当作 B.

Watch out

- It’s formal/written —in casual speech, 把 A 当作 B carries the same idea.