

Auxiliary Words

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

…啊, …啊—listing with 啊

Drop 啊 after each item and you get a casual, **rattling-off** feel —“what with …, and …, you know, that kind of thing.” It marks a **non-exhaustive** list, and can be capped with 什么的 (but not the formal 等等).

Structure: Item 1 + 啊, Item 2 + 啊, ……(+ 什么的)

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|we / 什么 |shén me|all sorts of / 零食 |líng shí|snacks / 都 |dōu / 有 |yǒu|have / , 花生 |huā shēng|peanuts / 啊 |a / , 瓜子 |guā zǐ|seeds / 啊 |a / , 薯片 |shǔ piàn|crisps / 啊 |a / 。 }

We've got all sorts of snacks —peanuts, seeds, crisps, you name it.

{zh: 椅子 |yǐ zi|chairs / 啊 |a / , 桌子 |zhuō zi|tables / 啊 |a / , 电脑 |diàn nǎo|computers / 啊 |a / 什么的 |shén me de|and so on / , 都 |dōu|all / 买好 |mǎi hǎo|bought / 了 |le / 。 }

Chairs, tables, computers and so on —all bought.

Remember: …啊…啊 = a relaxed “what with X, Y, you know…” —each 啊 is a verbal breath between items, a casual non-exhaustive list. Cap it with 什么的 if you like, but never the stiff 等等.

Watch out

- It's chatty —too informal for a formal list (use 等 / 等等 there).