

Nouns

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

本 + 名词—”this, one’s own”

In formal written Chinese, **本** means **”this (very) / one’s own”** —always the speaker’s own side. It pairs with single-syllable nouns (人, 校, 市, 国, 周, 月, 年, 次) and a few two-syllable ones (公司, 组织). 本人 = ”I, myself” (common on résumés).

Structure: 本 + Noun

{zh: 顾客至上 |gù kè zhì shàng|customer-first / 是 |shì|is / 本 |běn|our / 公司 |gōng sī|company’s / 的 |de / 理念 |lǐ niàn|ethos / 。 }

”Customer first” is our company’s ethos.

{zh: 本 |běn|this / 校 |xiào|school / 不 |bù|doesn’t / 允许 |yǔn xǔ|allow / 外校 |wài xiào|outside / 学生 |xué shēng|students / 随便 |suí biàn|to freely / 进出 |jìn chū|come and go / 。 }

This school doesn’t allow outside students to come and go freely.

Remember: **本** = **”this very / our own (side)”** —the voice of notices and officialese: 本公司 (”our company”), 本校 (”this school”), 本人 (”I, myself”). It always speaks from the in-group.

Watch out

- It’s self-referential and formal —for a plain ”this,” use 这.

词 + 性—”-ness, -ity” (a quality)

The suffix **性** turns a word into an **abstract quality** —”-ness, -ity, -ability” (also ”-ic”). Like 化, it’s a productive suffix: 可能性, 重要性, 科学性, 可行性.

Structure: Word + 性

{zh: 这个 |zhè ge|this / 方案 |fāng àn|plan / 没有 |méi yǒu|has no / 可行性 |kě xíng xìng|feasibility / 。 }

This plan isn’t feasible.

{zh: 你 |nǐ|your / 的 |de / 作品 |zuò pǐn|work / 越来越 |yuè lái yuè|more and more / 有 |yǒu|has / 创造性 |chuàng zào xìng|creativity / 。 }

Your work is more and more creative.

Remember: **性** = **”-ness / -ity”** —turns a word into an abstract *quality*: 可能性 (possibility), 重要性 (importance), 可行性 (feasibility), 创造性 (creativity). It’s the noun-making sibling of the verb-making 化.

Watch out

- It builds a *noun of quality* —pair it with 有 / 没有 (有可行性), not used like an adjective.