

Verb phrases

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

Subject + 不屑 (于) + Verb — “won’t stoop to, disdain to”

不屑 means thinking an action is **beneath one’s dignity** — “disdain to, won’t lower oneself to, can’t be bothered with.” There’s clear contempt in it: the subject looks down on doing the thing. You can say 不屑 or, more literary, 不屑于.

Structure: Subject + 不屑 (于) + Verb / Verb Phrase

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 是 |shì|is / 个 |gè|a / 诚实 |chéng shí|honest / 的 |de / 人 |rén|man / , 不屑 |bú xiè|won’t stoop to / 说谎 |shuō huǎng|lying / 。 }

He’s an honest man — he won’t stoop to lying.

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 不屑于 |bú xiè yú|is above / 说 |shuō|saying / 别人 |bié rén|other people’s / 的 |de / 坏话 |huài huà|bad things / 。 }

He’s above bad-mouthing other people.

Remember: 不屑 = “it’s beneath me” — **disdain to do it** (屑 = “worth bothering with,” so 不屑 = “not worth my while”). 不屑说谎 = “won’t stoop to lying.” 不屑于 is the more literary variant.

Watch out

- It carries *contempt* — the subject feels the action is below them, not merely declines it.

Action + 以便 (+ 能) + Outcome — “so that, in order to”

以便 is a formal “in order to, so as to (make it easier to).” It links an action to the **desired outcome** that action makes possible, and often takes a following **能**.

Structure: Action , 以便 (+ 能) + Outcome

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|we / 很 |hěn|very / 早 |zǎo|early / 就 |jiù / 去 |qù|went to / 了 |le / 机场 |jī chǎng|the airport / , 以便 |yǐ biàn|so that / 能 |néng|we could / 赶上 |gǎn shàng|catch / 最 |zuì|the / 早 |zǎo|earliest / 的 |de / 飞机 |fēi jī|flight / 。 }

We went to the airport very early so we could catch the earliest flight.

{zh: 请 |qǐng|please / 留下 |liú xià|leave / 电话 |diàn huà|your number / , 以便 |yǐ biàn|so that / 我们 |wǒ men|we / 联系 |lián xì|can contact / 您 |nín|you / 。 }

Please leave your number so we can contact you.

Remember: 以便 = “so as to (make it easier to)” — **names a WANTED outcome** the action enables (早点去, 以便能赶上). Its mirror is 以免 (“so as to avoid” a bad one): 以便 chases the good, 以免 dodges the bad.

Watch out

- Formal/written — in speech use 为了 or the mid-clause 好.