

Sentence Patterns

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

借 + Noun + 之名 — “in the name of, under the guise of”

借 ... 之名 means doing one thing under the cover of another — “in the name of, under the pretext of, using ... as an excuse.” It usually hints that the stated name is just a **front** for a hidden motive.

Structure: Subject + 借 + Noun + 之名 + Situation

{zh: 有些 |yǒu xiē|some / 人 |rén|people / 借 |jiè|in / 慈善 |cí shàn|charity's / 之名 |zhī míng|name / 骗钱 |piàn qián|swindle money / 。 }

Some people swindle money in the name of charity.

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 借 |jiè|under the pretext / 开会 |kāi huì|of a meeting / 之名 |zhī míng| / , 去 |qù|went / 旅游 |lǚ yóu|travelling / 。 }

Under the pretext of a meeting, he went off travelling.

Remember: 借 X 之名 = “borrowing X’s name as a cover” (借 = “borrow”) — it hints the name is a *front* masking the real aim (借慈善之名骗钱). Contrast the neutral 以 ... 的名义 (“in the name of,” below).

Watch out

- It implies a *pretext* — for a neutral “in the name of,” use 以 ... 的名义.

通过 + Action , 使 + Result — “through ..., cause ...”

通过 ... , 使 ... is a formal cause-and-effect pair: 通过 names the **means** (an action or process), and 使 names the **effect** it brings about — “by means of ..., it makes / causes ...”

Structure: 通过 + Verb (situation) , 使 + Result

{zh: 通过 |tōng guò|through / 锻炼 |duàn liàn|exercise / , 使 |shǐ|the / 身体 |shēn tǐ|body / 更 |gèng|becomes / 健康 |jiàn kāng|healthier / 。 }

Through exercise, the body is made healthier.

{zh: 通过 |tōng guò|through / 这 |zhè|this / 件 |jiàn / 事 |shì|matter / , 使 |shǐ|it made / 我 |wǒ|me / 明白 |míng bai|understand / 了 |le / 很多 |hěn duō|a great deal / 。 }

Through this affair, I came to understand a great deal.

Remember: 通过 = the MEANS, 使 = the EFFECT — “by way of X, it brings about Y” (通过锻炼, 使身体更健康). Keep the two halves balanced: process first, result second.

Watch out

- Don’t give *both* halves their own subject — it’s the means-clause that 使 acts on, not a new actor.

以 + Body + 的名义 — “in the name of, on behalf of”

以 ... 的名义 states the **authority or capacity** an act is carried out under — “in the name of, on behalf of.” Unlike 借 ... 之名, it’s neutral: it simply names whose name is being used.

Structure: 以 + Person / Body + 的名义 + Action

{zh: 别 |bié|don’t / 以 |yǐ|in / 我 |wǒ|my / 的名义 |de míng yì|name / 给 |gěi / 公司 |gōng sī|the company / 写信 |xiě xìn|write to / 。 }

Don’t write to the company in my name.

{zh: 法院 |fǎ yuàn|the court / 以 |yǐ|in / 政府 |zhèng fǔ|the government’s / 的名义 |de míng yì|name / 起诉 |qǐ sù|sued / 了 |le / 他 |tā|him / 。 }

He was sued in the name of the government.

Remember: 以 ... 的名义 = “in X’s name / on behalf of” — **NEUTRAL**. It simply states the capacity an act is done under (以政府的名义). Its shady cousin is 借 ... 之名 (“under the pretext of”): same idea, opposite tone.

Watch out

- No hidden agenda implied — for “under the guise of,” you want 借 ... 之名.

势必 — “inevitably, be bound to”

势必 (literally “the situation must ...”) asserts that circumstances make an outcome **certain** — “is bound to, will inevitably.” It introduces the unavoidable result and is formal in tone.

Structure: , 势必 + inevitable result

{zh: 这样 |zhè yàng|carrying on / 下去 |xià qù|like this / , 势必 |shì bì|is bound to / 失败 |shī bài|fail / 。 }

Carry on like this and failure is inevitable.

{zh: 物价 |wù jià|prices / 上涨 |shàng zhǎng|rising / , 势必 |shì bì|will inevitably / 影响 |yǐng xiǎng|affect / 人们 |rén men|people's / 的 |de / 生活 |shēng huó|lives / 。 }

Rising prices are bound to affect people's lives.

Remember: 势必 = 势 (the circumstances) + 必 (must) = “the situation makes it inevitable.” Stronger than a plain 一定 — it claims the *circumstances themselves* force the result. Formal.

Watch out

- It pins the certainty on *circumstances* — for a personal “definitely will,” 一定 / 肯定 fit better.

倘若 + Condition , (就 / 便) — “if, supposing”

倘若 is a highly literary “if, supposing, in the event that.” Like 假使, it opens a hypothetical, with the result clause often taking **就** or **便**. It belongs to formal prose and set polite phrases.

Structure: 倘若 + Condition , (就 / 便) + Result

{zh: 倘若 |tǎng ruò|if / 有 |yǒu|there is / 不 |bù|any- / 周到 |zhōu dào|thing overlooked / 之处 |zhī chù / , 请 |qǐng|please / 多 |duō / 包涵 |bāo hán|bear with us / 。 }

If anything has been overlooked, please bear with us.

{zh: 倘若 |tǎng ruò|if / 失败 |shī bài|it fails / , 我们 |wǒ men|we / 再 |zài|will then / 想 |xiǎng|think of / 别的 |bié de|another / 办法 |bàn fǎ|way / 。 }

If it fails, we'll think of another way.

Remember: 倘若 = the most literary “if” — even dressier than 假使, at home in formal prose and set courtesies (倘若有不周之处, “if anything's been overlooked”). Result takes 就 / 便.

Watch out

- Reserve it for writing and polite set phrases — in speech use 如果 / 要是.

所 + Verb + 的 — the literary 所 structure

The 所 + Verb + 的 frame turns a verb into a formal noun phrase — “that which is ...ed, what (one) ...s.” It names the **object** of the action in a measured, written tone. Dropping it (我想说的) means the same thing more plainly.

Structure: (Subject +) 所 + Verb + 的 (+ Noun)

{zh: 这 |zhè|this / 就是 |jiù shì|is exactly / 我 |wǒ|what I / 所 |suǒ / 想 |xiǎng|want / 说 |shuō|to say / 的 |de / 。 }

This is exactly what I want to say.

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 所 |suǒ / 做 |zuò|everything he / 的 |de|does / 一切 |yí qiè / 都 |dōu|is all / 是 |shì / 为了 |wèi le|for / 你 |nǐ|you / 。 }

Everything he does is for you.

Remember: 所 + verb + 的 = “that which is ...ed” — a formal dressing-up. 我想说的 = 我想说的 (“what I want to say”), just more literary. 所 flags the verb's *object*, so the verb is transitive.

Watch out

- It adds formality, not meaning — the plain 我想说的 says the same thing in speech.