

FDTL Reading Session

Sentence pattern and function word index

There are approximately 108 sentence patterns and expressions. The numbers in the brackets refer to lesson numbers.

Abbreviations and additions (11/13)

A balanced number of syllables in a phrase is important in written Chinese. Sometimes a syllable in a word can be omitted in order to form the abbreviated expression desired. Syllables can also be added to a word to form an expression, as shown in the following sentence which contains the co-verb 搭乘 *take a certain form of transport* and the resultative verb phrase 飞抵 *to arrive by flying* in 搭乘华航班机飞抵台北 *arrived in Taipei on a China Air flight*. As the word 华航 *China Air* after 搭乘 *to take* has two syllables, it would be desirable for the verb 搭 to be attached to another syllable 乘. Similarly, the place name 台北 *Taipei* after the resultative verb 抵 *arrive* has two syllables, therefore the verb 抵 has another syllable, as in 飞抵.

Alternatively, these additional syllables can be removed if needed. For instance: the verb 搭 in the article is used differently, sometimes on its own as in 搭机抵台 (a desirable four-character expression) and sometimes with another syllable as in 搭乘. Please see *Newspaper reading tips* below.

The following sentences have abbreviated elements. Can you identify these elements? Do you know why they are abbreviated?

也可共同发展
两市间两岸间

Sometimes, if the syllables in the sentences have a natural break, then constructional function words can be omitted. For instance: 不来不相识 *if (I) don't come (here), (we) won't know each other* is a conditional sentence. The meaning is still clear even without the function words 要是 and 就 because the sentence has a natural break point. A five-syllable sentence with phrases of two against three is regarded as a desirable sentence pattern.

Sayings and slogans are often made up of three and four character phrases, as we have already seen. There are also five and seven character expressions. A seven-character expression is formed by a four-character expression plus a three-character expression, as in 你方唱罢我登场 *one after another, changeable*. It is used as a metaphor. It literally means *when you finish singing it will be my turn to go on the stage*.

Adverbial marker 地 (8)

The adverbial marker 地 is used to describe the manner in which an action is carried out. For instance:

我们	应该认真地	讨论	这个问题。
----	-------	----	-------

we have to discuss this issue seriously.

...bǐ...比, the comparative construction (6)

A	比	B	V (amount)
今年	比	去年 同 期	增长 37.3%。
This year	compare	last year same period	increase 37.3%

This year it has increased by 37.3% compared with the same period last year.

bìng并 with negations bu / méi 不 / 没 (not) at all (1)

This is used to emphasize the fact that something is not what was expected. It can only be used in the negative form.

这么容易的 问题	其实 并 不用 问。
such easy DE question	actually (one) at all should not ask

One shouldn't ask a such easy question at all.

bùbǐ 不比 NOT THE SAME AS ..., UNLIKE, NOT AS GOOD AS...(14)

不比 NOT THE SAME AS ..., UNLIKE, NOT AS GOOD AS...

不比 is the negative form of 比 and used as a comparative construction. However, sometimes 不比 is similar to 不如. 不如 is placed between phrase A and phrase B. This construction implies that the situation in phrase A is not as good as it is in B. Either A or B can be abbreviated. For instance:

A	不如/不比	B
中国的经济力量	不如	美国。
中国	不比	美国的经济力量。

China's economic power is not as great as that of the US.

bùguǎn...huò... 不管 ... 或 NO MATTER ...OR... (14)

或 is short for 或者. Another similar expression is 不管 ...还是 ... For instance:

不管	A	或 (还是)	B	...
不管	下雨	或 (还是)	下雪	我们一定来上课。

No matter whether it is raining or snowing we will definitely come to the class.

Co-verb (1)

Many co-verbs are verbs in Chinese, but some of them, such as 为 and 被, can only be used as co-verbs in modern Chinese.

Sequence is very important in Chinese when it comes to describing actions. The first action should come first. For example, *I went to China by aeroplane*. You have to think that the action of (坐) taking the airplane happens before going to China, therefore *by aeroplane* (坐飞机) should be placed before *went to China* (去中国). If you want to say *I go to school by car* it is understood by a Chinese person that you have to take the car before you can reach school, so *by car* (坐汽车) should be placed before *go to school* (去学校).

As you can see from the above examples, a co-verb is followed by a noun to form a co-verb clause.

bǎ 把 used as a co-verb (7)

A verb in the 把 construction changes the form, situation or direction of the object. A verb in the 把 construction is in complex form. It is usually a verb of method of action plus another element. The elements which can be attached to the main verbs in 把 sentences are: Resultative complements

我们	应该 把 力量	放在 工作 上。
we	should BA strength	put on work on

We should put our energy into our work.

Directional complements

他	已经 把 书	送进去了。
he	already BA book	deliver in go LE

He has already taken the book in.

得 (complement of degree) constructions

你	把 这个 工作	作得 很 不好。
you	BA this GE work	do DE very no good

You didn't do this job very well.

一下 (or 一 verb)

请 你	再 把 这 个 练 习	作一下。
please you	again BA this GE exercise	do once

Please do this exercise once more.

cóng...(V)dào... 从...(V)到 ... FROM ... TO... (7)

This construction is used to indicate a sequence of actions. Like the other co-verb constructions, a 从...clause is followed by a main verb clause, in this case (V) 到.

For instance:

从 家	走 到 学校
from home	walk to school.

Walk to school from home.

jiāng 将 used as a co-verb (8)

将 can also be used as a co-verb like 把. It is often used in written Chinese, but 把 can be used in both written and colloquial Chinese. All the rules which apply to 把 also apply to 将. For instance:

我 校	将 最 好 的 学 生	送 去 英 国 留 学。
our school	JING most good DE students	send go England study

Our school sends its best students to Britain to study.

yóu...dào 由...V到 FROM ...TO... (8)

This construction is similar to 从...V到... which creates an idea of distance. 由 could be followed by a time word, number or place word. For instance:

由 6万人	增加 到 8万人
From 60,000 people	increased to 80,000 people

wèi 为 FOR... used as a co-verb (8)

为 is followed by a noun or V-O pattern to form a co-verb clause. A main verb is often placed after a co-verb clause. For instance:

成员国	为这支快反部队	提供部队。
-----	---------	-------

The member states provide troops for this army.

xiàng 向 used as a co-verb (9)

When 向 is used as a co-verb, it means *towards, to or from*. 向 is followed by a noun or a noun clause to form a co-verb clause. For instance:

中国人要出国	可以 向 公安局	申请护照。
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When Chinese people want to go abroad, they can apply for passports from the Public Security Bureau.

...chéng 成, e.g., 四 成 40% (15)

Percentage in Chinese is often described by the word 成. One 成 is 10%, four 成 means 40%. 45% will be 四 成 半 *four 10% and half*.

chéng...(qūshì) 呈...(趋势) APPEAR...TENDENCY (6)

The description of the tendency is placed between 呈 and 趋势. For instance:

中国人口 增长率	呈 上升趋势。
China population increase rate	appear rise tendency.

China's population growth rate shows a tendency to rise.

chúle...yīwài 除了... (以) 外 APART FROM... (10)

The person or the action after *apart from* is placed between 除了 and 以外. Very often 以 or 以外 is omitted, especially in the spoken language. The clause after 除了...以外 often consists of the following adverbs:

都-----all:

中国 除了 茶叶 以外	都 不 出口。
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Apart from tea, China does not export anything.

也-----also:

中国 除了 出口 茶叶 以外	也 进 口 茶叶。
----------------	-----------

In addition to exporting tea, China also imports tea.

还-----in addition:

中国 除了 出口 茶叶 以外	还 出 口 粮 食。
----------------	------------

In addition exporting tea China also exports grains.

又-----again:

中国 除了 去年 出口 了 茶叶 以外	今年 又 出 口 了 茶 叶。
---------------------	-----------------

In addition exporting tea last year, China exported tea again this year.

chūyú...出于 ARISE FROM... (7)

出于 is short for 出自于. It is often placed after a subject and followed by a noun. For instance:

老师 出自于 负责,	所以请你们作这个练习。
teacher arise from responsibility,	so ask you do this exercise

The teacher feels that it is his responsibility to ask you to do this exercise.

Comparative [also see ...bǐ...比]: stative verb + 于 (3)

This is a written type of comparative construction. For instance:

A	SV 于 B
中国人口	多于 英国 人口。
China's population	more than Britain's population

The Chinese population is larger than Britain's.

Conditional sentence rúguǒ...dehuà ... jiù 如果 ...的话, 就... (3)

A conditional clause is placed between 如果 and 的话, though 的话 can be omitted. The outcome of the condition is placed in the 就 clause. 就 is an adverb, which should be placed before verbs. For instance:

如果... 的话,	就
如果 学生 放学以后 用毒品 的话,	家长 就应该告诉学校的老师。
If student school after use drugs DE HUA	parents JIU should tell school's teachers

If pupils take drugs after school, their parents should let the teachers know.

However, abbreviated forms of this construction are frequently used in newspapers. For instance: the above sentence can also be written in the following ways:

1 Without 果: 如 ...的话, 就...

如 学生放学以后用毒品 的话,	家长 就应该告诉学校的老师。
-----------------	----------------

2 Without 的话: 如果... 就...

如果 学生放学以后用毒品,	家长 就应该告诉学校的老师。
---------------	----------------

3 Without 就: 如果... 的话, ...

如果 学生放学以后用毒品 的话,	家长 应该告诉学校的老师。
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dá 达 REACH (15)

达 is followed by a number word. For instance:

与会人数	达 两千以上。
------	---------

There are over 2000 participants at the meeting.

dāng shí 当时 AT THAT TIME (16)

当时 is used as a time word, placed before verbs or subjects of sentences. For instance:

当时我们	并没有注意到这一举动。
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At that time we did not notice the action at all.

dāng shǔ 当属 IT SHOULD BELONG TO...(14)

This is an abbreviated expression for 应当属于.

de 的 marker for describing nouns (1)

The marker 的 is used to form a clause which describes a noun. The marker 的 is placed between the description and the noun. This construction is like an inverted relative clause in English. For instance:

他们在家能学 的 东西	很多。
they at home can study DE things	very many

The things which they can learn at home are numerous.

As you can see, the clause of description *which they can learn at home* is placed before the marker 的, and this is followed by the noun *things*.

yinqǐ yìlùn deshì...引起议论的是 THE THING ABOUT WHICH PEOPLE ARE TALKING IS (15)

The noun is omitted in the verb clause + 的是 construction. The verb clause clarifies the noun which is omitted. For instance:

我要讲的	是...
------	------

The thing I want to talk about is ...,

值得注意的	是 ...
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The thing to which we should pay attention is...

...dǐ 底 END OF... (6)

底 is placed after 年 or 月 as in 年底 *the end of the year*, 月底 *the end of the month*, 2000 年(年) 底 *the end of 2000*, 十月底 *the end of October*.

duì 对 clause (4)

It means TO (THIS)... The 对 clause is used as a co-verb clause in sentences to bring a topic before the verb. Modal verbs such as 应该, 能 are placed before the 对 clause. For instance:

S	对 topic	V O
我们	应该 对 不好的作风	进行 一场 政治 运动
we	should DUI no good DE practice	carry out a CHANG political movement

We should launch a political campaign to oppose unhealthy work practices.

Examples

对 topic	S	V O
对 外国来的课本	我们	进行了分析

对 害民害国的事	我们	应该制止
----------	----	------

对 现在学生不作家务的问题	老师	作了分析和总结
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Without 对 clause the above sentences will be:

我们	分析了	外国来的课本
----	-----	--------

我们	应该制止	害民害国的事
----	------	--------

老师	分析和总结了	现在学生不作家务的问题
----	--------	-------------

ér 而 YET (8/12/13)

而 can be used to link two clauses opposite in meaning as in 华而不实 *magnificent, yet not practical*. 而 is an adverb and is placed before the verb in the second clause of a sentence.

英美两国都有相同的看法，而法国的立场并不一样

Britain and the US have similar views, but France has a different standpoint.

伟大而艰巨的任务

a great yet tough task.

...fāng ...方 SIDE. (5)

方 is placed after a monosyllabic word:

西	方
---	---

The Western world.

英	方
---	---

The British side.

我	方
---	---

Our side.

敌	方
---	---

The enemy side.

Four-character expressions (11/13)

A four-character phrase is desirable in a title. Such phrases are formed in the following ways.

two pairs of two-syllable nouns

N	N
大学	教师

University teachers

a two-syllable verb with a two-syllable noun

V	N
坚持	原则

Maintain principles

two sets of V-O in sequence *destroy old, establish new*

V-O	V-O
破旧	立新

a two-syllable adverb with a two-syllable verb

ADV	V
认真	工作

Work diligently

a two-syllable noun with a two-syllable stative verb

N	SV
成绩	优良

Excellent achievement

ADV	SV
更加	密切

Even closer

Examples

V-O	V-O
搭机	抵台
搭机	返回

ADV	V
共同	发展
及早	三通

A commonly used four-character expression is formed from two double-syllable expressions, such as 排名第三 *pecking order number three* [lit. number three on the line]. The phrase is formed by two double character expressions: 排名 *pecking order* 第三 *number three*. 销量大增 *the number (of copies) being sold increases in large scale*. The phrase is formed by a double-syllable noun 销量 and followed by a combined two-syllable phrase (adverb 大 *large* and verb 增 *increase*).

...fǒu ...否: 是否/能否 ... WHETHER... OR NOT (5)

是, 有 and most monosyllabic modal verbs can be placed before 否 to form a choice type expression. For example, 是否 *whether ... is... or not*, 有否 *whether... have... or not*, 会否 *whether... will... or not*, 应否 *whether... should... or not*.

这些 学生	能 否	毕业,	取决于	他们的	学习成绩.
these students	can or cannot graduate		depends on their	study results	

Whether these students can graduate or not, depends on their academic results.

gāi 该 (4)

该 means THE ABOVE MENTIONED, THE AFOREMENTIONED. It is often followed by a noun. For instance:

云南 大学 Yunnan university	进行了一场 反毒品 运动, carried out a chang anti-drug campaign,	该 校 老师和学生都 ... The aforementioned university's teachers and students all...
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Yunnan University carried out an anti-drug campaign. The teachers and students of the aforementioned university are...

Examples

中国学生	都 申请了 学生 签证。	持 该 签证者	在 英国 不 准许 工作。
------	--------------	---------	---------------

很多群众	都反对政府的运动。	他们说	该运动是害国害民的运动。
------	-----------	-----	--------------

(gēn)jù...(根据 ACCORDING TO (6))

据 is short for 根据. A 根据 clause is followed by a main clause. For instance:

根据 专家 分析,	中国和台湾 的问题	在10年 内 会 解决。
according to experts analyse,	China and Taiwan DE issue	in 10 years within will solved

According to the experts' analysis, the China/Taiwan conflict will be solved within 10 years.

huà 化 ..ISE, ...ISATION (16)

It means to turn one situation or thing into another. Normally it is preceded by a noun or monosyllable stative verb.

V	N	化
实现	四个现代	化。

To realise the 4 modernizations.

SV	化	N
深	化	改革。

To deepen the reforms.

jí 即 NAMELY (7)

即 is used to indicate a detailed or specific explanation. The explanation is placed after 即. For instance:

中国的改革政策,	即	经济 改革 政策, 有 了 一 些 成 就。
China's reform policy,	namely	economic reform policy has LE some success

China's reform policy, namely the economic reform policy, has had some success.

jì...yě... 既 ...也... construction (4)

It means BOTH... AND / AS WELL AS

The clauses in the 既... 也 ... construction are normally parallel in sense. 既 and 也 are placed before verbs or stative verbs.

既	也
我们学 的 东西 既不好 学,	学了以后 也 不能 用。
we studied DE thing JI not easy study,	studied after YE cannot use

The things which we learned were not very easy, we cannot even use them after learning them.

Examples

有签证的学生来英国以后 既能学习	也能工作。
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现在英国政府对外国来工作的人 既不给签证	也不给理由。
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jiāng 将 WILL (6)

将 is used as an auxiliary verb. It implies that the action that follows will take place in the future. For instance:

中国	将与亚洲各国 建立经济 共同体。
China	will with Asian other countries set up economic union

China will set up economic union with other Asian countries.

jìnxíng 进行 TO CARRY OUT (4)

This sentence pattern is frequently used in newspapers. The nouns preceded by 进行 are used as verbs in sentences: words such as 讨论 *to discuss* and *discussion*, 发展 *to develop* and *development*, 谈判 *to negotiate* and *negotiation* are often seen after the verb 进行.

When you learn a new word which is preceded by 进行, you should remember it as a phrase: for example,

...进行	谈判
-------	----

Carry out negotiations

...进行	发展
-------	----

Carry out developments

jīng (guò) 经(过) clause (4)

经 is short for 经过 AS A RESULT OF (Lit. TO GO THROUGH, PASS). It is similar to another expression 通过 *tōngguò*. The elements which are followed by 经 or 经过 can be verbs, nouns, or nouns with attributives. Usually these elements or phrases imply sustained actions.

A 经 or 经过 clause is often followed by a clause which contains the main verb of the sentence:

经过...	S	V	O
经过 努力,	去年 他	写完 了 一本 小说 。	
as a result of effort,	last year he	write completed	a BEN novel

After much hard work, he completed his novel last summer.

Examples

经过...	S	V	O
经过 两年的运动,	人民群众	了解了政府的想法。	
经过 17个星期的努力,	我 们现在	能看 了。	中文报纸

Without 经过 clause the above sentences will be:

搞了两年运动以后,	人民群众	了解了政府的想法。
努力了17个星期以后,	我 们现在	能看 中文报纸了。

jiù 就 used for emphasis (8)

就 can be placed before the linking verb 是 to reinforce a statement. For instance:

我们的目的	就是要学好中文。
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Our aim is to learn Chinese well.

jiù 就 CONCERNING (10)

就 is used to bring a topic to readers' attention. The topic is placed after 就 to form a clause. The 就 clause can either be placed before the subject of a sentence or before a main verb. A verb-object phrase is preceded by the 就 clause. 进行 is one of the most commonly used verbs in this construction. The verb 进行 is followed by a noun which consists of a verb meaning such as 讨论 *discussion / discuss*. 发展 *develop/ development*. For instance:

我们	就 奖学金问题	进行了认真的讨论。
----	---------	-----------

We carried out a serious discussion on the scholarship issue.

就 香港基本法草案	中英政府	进行会谈。
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The Chinese and British Governments carried out discussions on the draft H.K. Basic Law.

Time word + 就 V 了 ...AS EARLY AS (time word) (15)

就 can be placed after a time word, and before the verb, to comment on the time, which is earlier than expected.

他	九点 就 来了学校。
---	------------

he came to school as early as nine o'clock.

Compare this with

他	九点来了学校。
---	---------

he came to school at 9.

jù 据 (據) (9)

据 is short for 根据 (see above gēn), and is followed by a verb such as:

据信 lit. *according to what was believed. It was believed...*

据说 lit. *according to what was said. It was said...*

据透露 lit. *according to what was disclosed. It was revealed...*

据报 lit. *according to what was reported. It was reported...*

juéding 决定 (17)

决定 can be used as a modal verb, to be followed by another verb. For instance: 我决定去中国旅行 *I have decided that I would like to go to China to travel*. The aspectual 了 is not used in sentences which contain modal verbs such as 决定 and 开始.

lái ...来 IN ORDER TO. (5)

来 can be used to link two sequential actions. Usually the first action is taken in order to achieve the result in the second clause. For example 采取行动来制止右翼团体干涉中国内政的活动 *To take actions (in order) to stop the activities of the right-wing group in interfering China's internal affairs*. 我放些录音来给你听 *I'll play some recordings for you to listen to*.

láizì 来自 COME FROM (15)

来 come 自 from. It is used in formal written Chinese. For instance: 来自中国 ... *come from China*. Colloquially this expression can be found as 从中国来, where 从 is used as a co-verb.

lián...yě... 连...也... construction EVEN... (13)

This is one of the constructions used to highlight a noun, a noun clause or a v-o pattern. The highlighted word or clause can be the subject or object of a sentence and is placed after 连. 都 or 也 is placed before the main verb of the sentence. The difference between 都 and 也 is that 都 can be used in both the affirmative and negative, while 也 is normally used before negatives or before verbs which have a negative sense.

S.	连 O. [V-O]	都/ 也 V. v. [EMPHASIS ON THE OBJECT]
他	连 觉	也 忘了睡。
他	连 睡觉	也 忘了。

He has even forgotten to go to sleep.

连 S.	都/也 V. O. [EMPHASIS ON THE SUBJECT]
连 好学生	也 不去上 课。

Even the good students don't go to class.

le 了 particle used for completed action (2)

When the particle 了 is placed after a verb, it implies that the action is complete. A verb before the particle 了 is usually the main verb of a sentence. For instance:

S	Co-V clause V 了 O
今天我老师	在会 上作 了 讲话。
today my teacher	at meeting make LE speech

My teacher made a speech at the meeting.

le 了 particle for completed action is not used (2)

When direct or indirect speech is used, 了 is not used after the verb “to speak”. For instance:

负责 人	宣布 立刻 逮捕 16名 罪犯。
responsible person	announce immediately arrest 16 MING criminals

The person in charge announced that 16 criminals would be arrested immediately.

Particle 了 for completed action is not used after the verb 宣布, *to announce*

le 了 Modal particle indicates the change of situation (3)

When the particle 了 is placed at end of a clause or sentence, it has many implications. One of the implications is a change of situation. For instance:

S	V O了
我们	不去中国了。
We	not go China LE

Now we are not going to China.

lìrú 例如, 比如, 如 FOR INSTANCE

Linking verb shì 是 (1)

The linking verb 是 is used to connect two nouns or pronouns.

他	是学生。
he	is student

He is a student.

lìngrén 令人 MAKE PEOPLE (FEEL)... (13)

The meaning of 令 in this usage is similar to 使 as in 使人 ... *cause people...*

lìngwài 另外 APART FROM THIS... MORE OVER...(14)

另外 is similar to 此外 and to 而且, but 而且 cannot be placed at the beginning of a sentence, unlike 另外 and 此外.

Measure words (2)

Measure words are needed in the following situations.

1. When a quantity is involved, For instance: if you use a number in front of a noun.

三	名	学生
three	ming	students

Three students.

2. When you want to specify a noun, in other words if you use 这 *this*, 那 *that*, 每 *every*. For instance:

这	个	老师
This	ge	teacher

This teacher.

3. When the question words 哪 *which* and 几 *how many* are used. For example,

你	有	几	个	老师?
you	have	how many	ge	teachers

How many teachers do you have?

The following two measure words are used in the text

míng 名 is used for members of an institution or major organisation, such as party members and university teachers: 两名大学老师 two university teachers.

gè 个 units of something. It is a common measure word for both abstract and physical objects such as people, schools, and ideas, as in 五个人 five people.

qǐ 起 used as a measure word (9)

起 is a measure word for events and law cases.

rén (一) 人 ONE PERSON (15)

If a number word precedes the noun 人 *people, person*, in written Chinese, measure words such as 个, 名 or 位 are not needed, especially in four-character expressions or other idiomatic expressions. For instance: 一家三人, *a family of 3*, 五人受伤, 四人死亡 *five injured and four dead*

rèn 任 (16)

任 is used for turns in office. For instance:

美国	第66	任	总统
----	-----	---	----

The 66th elected President of the US.

suǒ 所 (16)

所 is used for buildings. For instance:

一	所	学校
---	---	----

A school.

wèi 位 (16)

位 is used for people and positions. For instance:

这三位老师	都是教汉语的。
-------	---------

These 3 teachers are all teaching Chinese.

这所大学	排名第5位。
------	--------

This university is in position number 5 on the list.

jǔdòng 举动 (16)

A measure word is not necessary when 举动 is preceded by 一, For instance: 这一举动 *this action*.

Modal verbs yīnggāi 应该, néng 能 (1)

Modal verbs are used to express obligation, feeling, intention, permission and capacity, and can be placed before main verbs of sentences. For instance:

我	放学以后 能 玩吗?
I	after school may play ma

may I play after school?

放学以后 不 应该 玩。
after school not ought to play

(You) shouldn't play after school

jiāng 将 used as a modal verb (8)

将 can be placed before a main verb or co-verb to indicate that the action will take place in the future. 将 is often used in written Chinese. For instance:

今天中国	将 宣布一条重要的新闻。
------	--------------

China is about to announce a piece of important news.

juéding 决定 (17)

决定 can be used as a modal verb, to be followed by another verb. For instance:

我	决定去中国旅行。
---	----------

I have decided that I would like to go to China to travel.

The aspectual 了 is not used in sentences which contain modal verbs such as 决定 and 开始.

mǒu...某 CERTAIN... (7)

某 is used to disguise a real name, as in 李某: although the surname 李 *Li* is revealed, the given name is hidden. 某 can also be followed by a noun: 某校 *a certain school*, 某人 *a certain person*. 某医院 *a certain hospital*.

...nèi 内 WITHIN (10)

When 内 implies within, it is placed at the end of a clause. The clause can be the duration, numeral or place. 内 is often preceded by 以 or 之. For instance:

十天	(之/以) 内
----	---------

Within 10 days.

Passive constructions

bèi 被 used as a passive construction (7)

被 sentences describe how a particular object (abstract or physical) is dealt with or disposed of by somebody or something. The verbs in these constructions take complicated forms. They are verbs of method of action, plus other elements. Most of the elements attached to the main verbs in 被 sentences are similar to those used in the 把 construction:

Time/action measure: Resultative complements

力量	都被我们放在工作上了。
strength	all by us put work on LE

We have put all our energy into our work.

Directional complements

书	已经被他送进去了。
book	already by him deliver in go le

The book has already been taken into (a room) by him.

得 (complement of degree) constructions

这个工作	被你 作得 很 不 好。
this job	by you do DE very no good

This job hasn't been done very well by you.

一下 (or 一 verb); 三个星期; 一次; 一遍

这个练习	又被你作了一遍。
This exercise	again by you do le once

This exercise has been done once more by you.

被 制止 WAS STOPPED (15)

When 被 is placed before a verb it makes it passive. For instance: 被打 ... was beaten. 被骂 ...was told off. 被批评 ... was criticised. 被解雇 ...was sacked.

yóu 由 the passive construction (8)

The passive construction with 由 is different from the passive construction with 被. The 由 construction is unlike the 被 construction, that is, the agent cannot be omitted. However, a verb in the 由 construction is a simple one, and unlike the 被 construction has no attached element. For instance:

这次会议	由卫生部长主持
------	---------

This meeting is being chaired by the Minister of Public Security.

qí 其 ITS, THEIR (8)

The 其 clause is used when its noun has already appeared in the previous clause. For instance:

中国政府	实行反毒品运动。	其目的	就是要控制艾滋病的传播。
------	----------	-----	--------------

The Chinese government has launched an anti-drug campaign. Its aim is to control the spread of AIDS.

qíshí 其实 ACTUALLY, IN FACT (14)

其实 (Lit. THIS IS THE REALITY) is used as an adverb in sentences. 其实 can be placed before a verb or a noun. For instance:

老王	其实是一个好人。
其实老王	是一个好人。

Lao Wang is actually a good person.

... qíyú 其余 REST OF ... (10)

其 means its, 余 means surplus. 其余 is an adverb and is often followed by a verb. For instance:

我们班的同学两个回家了，	一个在图书馆，	其余的都去酒馆了。
--------------	---------	-----------

Two of our classmates have gone home, one is in the library and the rest have gone to the pub.

...qízhōng 其中 AMONG WHICH; IN WHICH (6)

The 其中 clause is preceded by another clause which describes a general situation. The 其中 clause often contains number words or phrases which imply quantity. For instance:

我们大学	有很多学生，	其中	500名	男生	600名	女生。
our university	has very many students	among which	500 MING	male students	600 MING	female

There are very many students in our university, of whom 500 are male and 600 are female.

...quán ...权 ...RIGHTS OF... / POWER (8)

人权 human rights

主权 sovereignty

Question words 什么, 怎么 (1)

The question word 什么 refers to a noun, which is often the subject or object of a sentence, as in

小学生	学 什么课本?
[primary school children	study what textbook

What textbooks do primary schoolchildren study?

怎么 is used to ask how something is done. It should be placed before verbs, as in

你	怎么作你的家务?
you	how do your housework?

How do you do your housework?

rúcikànlái 如此看来 LOOKING AT THIS SITUATION (13)**shàng... 上 REACH (10)**

When 上 is used as a verb, one of its meanings is to reach. In this usage, 上 is followed by a numeral unit over ten as in 上百 *reach hundreds*. 上万 *reach ten thousands*.

shènzhī(yú) 甚至(于) SO FAR AS TO, EVEN (14)

于 can be omitted in the 甚至 construction. 甚至 is similar to 连...都 in meaning. It is an adverb and can be placed either before a noun or before a verb.

In 连...都 sentences the emphasis is on the noun or the verb-object phrase which follows 连. However, 甚至 can either refer to a noun or to the degree of an action:

连我们老师	都觉得中文难。
甚至我们老师	都觉得中文难。

Even our teacher finds Chinese difficult.

他开车开得得快得	甚至飞了起来。
----------	---------

He drove so fast that the car was flying. The 连...都 construction cannot be used in the above sentence.

shǐ 使 (11)

使 CAUSE MAKE (SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING)

使 is a verb which cannot be followed by a noun, but by a noun + its verbal clause, as shown in the following pattern:

A s. v. o.	使 B 使 s. v. o.
小李不想吃 饭	使 他女朋友 很着急

Xiao Li doesn't want to eat. This has made his girlfriend very worried.

学习 汉字	使 我头 疼。
-------	----------------------

Learning Chinese characters gives me a headache.

他	总是 使 老师 生 气。
---	-------------------

He always makes the teacher angry.

The A clause can be a pronoun in 3, a v-o pattern in 2 or a sentence in 1, but all the B clauses in the above three sentences have verbal elements.

...	使彼此间的关系	更加密切
-----	---------	------

...bring the relationship of both sides even closer.

suīrán ... dànshì 虽然 ...但... ALTHOUGH...(15)

This construction has two clauses. The first clause begins with 虽然 *although*, while the second clause begins with 但是 *but* or *however*. Both 虽然 and 但是 can be placed before a verb or a noun. For instance:

我们虽然都学习中文,	但是有人学得好,有人学得不太好。
------------	------------------

Although we are all learning Chinese, some of us have been doing well and some haven't.

suízhe 随着 ALONG WITH..., IN THE WAKE OF... (13)

随着 is placed at the beginning of a clause. The 随着 clause is followed by a main clause of a sentence as in

随着中国经济的深入发展,	人民的生活水平也日益提高。
--------------	---------------

Along with the deepening of the development of China's economy, the standard of living is also improving day by day.

suǒ 所 (8)

When 所 is used as an adverb and is placed before a verb which is then followed by 的 and a noun, the stress is on the noun. For instance:

我们	在欧洲防务上所承担的	领导地位是...
----	------------	----------

Our position on European defence, in which we take a leading role, is that...

Stative verbs 多, 好 (1)

When an adjective is used as a predicate, such as *to be + adjective*, we label it a stative verb.

这本书	很好。
this textbook	very good

This textbook is very good

The adjective 好 is used as a stative verb. The linking verb *to be* 是 is not used in Chinese. For instance:

中国小学生	很多。
Chinese primary schoolchildren	very many

There are very many primary schoolchildren in China.

Time clause when... ...de shíhòu ...的时候 or ...shí ...时 (3)

... 的时候 is used to form a time *when* clause. The description of *when* is placed before 的. For instance:

...	的时候 ...
我到 我老师 家	的时候...
I arrive my teacher's home	DE time

When I arrived at my teacher's home...

The 时 clause is an abbreviated form of ... 的时候. The clause above can also be written as follows:

...	时...
我到 我 老师 家	时...
I arrive my teacher's home	time

When I arrived at my teacher's home...

Time phrases and place phrases (1)

Time phrases and place phrases are placed before the main verb in a sentence. For instance:

我们	中午	在	老师	家	开	会。
we	midday	at	teacher's	home	hold	meeting

We will hold a meeting at the teacher's home at midday.

wéi 为 TO DO (16)

为 can also be used as a verb, as in formal style of writing, for example, 为人之所不敢为。 *Do the things which other people dare not do.*

wèi 未 (9)

未 means *not yet*, and it is similar to (还) 没有. 未 is used in written Chinese, and it is followed by a verb, modal verb or co-verb. For instance:

中国	还 未	加入	世贸	组织。
----	-----	----	----	-----

China has not joined the WTO yet.

Verb complements (6)

zài 在 used as a verb complement.

Verb complements indicate the results and directions of actions. The complements are placed after verbs of action. For example:

分布	在	农村
----	---	----

Spread through countryside

设立	在	北京
----	---	----

Set up in Beijing.

Resultative complements (16)

dào 到

When 到 is used as a resultative verb it means *to reach* or *to obtain*. For instance: 接到 *to get hold of something*. 接 means *to receive*, and 到 means *to obtain*. 买到 *to get hold of something by buying*.

wéi 为

When 为 is used as a resultative verb it means *to become...* and is followed by a noun

当选 为 校长 *to be elected as a head of school*.

xìng 性 NATURE OF... (5)

The use of 性 is often seen in formal written Chinese. 性 can change a stative verb into a noun, and can also change a noun into an attributive adjective. 重要 *to be important* is a stative verb. If it is followed by 性, then it becomes a noun 重要性 *importance*. 历史 means history, and 历史性 means historic.

重要 used as a stative verb

这 件 事	很 重 要。
this JIAN matter	very important

This matter is very important.

重要 used as a noun

这件事 的重要 性	是 什 么 ？
This jian matter de importance	is what

What is the importance of this matter?

历史 used as a noun

这	是 历 史。
this	is history

This is history.

历史 used as an adjective

这	是 历 史 性 的 改 革。
this	is historic de reform

This is a historic reform.

yīn...因 BECAUSE (7)

因 is short for 因为. A 因为 clause is often followed by a 所以 *therefore* clause. Both 因为 and 所以 are placed before subjects or verbs in sentences. A 因 clause is often followed by 而 clause. For instance:

他 因 为 用 毒 品	所 以 被 警 察 逮 捕。
他 因 用 毒 品	而 被 警 察 逮 捕。
He because use drug	therefore by police arrested

He was arrested because he had taken drugs.

yīn...ér...因...而... (9)

The 因...而... construction is used in written Chinese. It is similar to 因为... 所以...

The 因 clause is followed by a clause which expresses a cause or reason, while 而 is followed by a clause which express an outcome. For instance:

他 们 因 传 播 反 华 言 论	而 被 逮 捕。
-------------------	----------

They were arrested because they had been making anti-China speeches.

yí ge bú zhùyì 一个不注意 A SLIGHT MISTAKE ... (14)

This expression is used as a conditional clause, and is followed by a clause of consequence.

For instance:

上 课 的 时 候 一 个 不 注 意，	我 们 就 听 不 懂 老 师 说 的 话。
----------------------	------------------------

In the class, if (we) lose our concentration slightly, we won't understand what the teacher says.

yǐ 以 (1)

以 is placed before position words such as *before* 前, *after* 后, *within* 内, *out* 外, *above* 上 and *below* 下 to indicate the time or position of the phrase before 以. For instance:

回 家	以 后
return home	afterwards

After going back home

yǐ(A) wéi (B) 以(A)为 (B) REGARD (A) AS (B) (10)

In this construction, 以 means *to use, to take* and 为 means *to be as*. Literally this construction means *to take (A) as (B)*. Both (A) and (B) are nouns or pronouns. This is similar to the 把 construction, but is used in written Chinese. For instance:

以 A	为 B
以 他	为 榜样。

Follow his example.

In the spoken language 把 is used and this would be 把他作为榜样。

yǐ 以 AS. (11)

It is used as a co-verb in the following sentence. Its meaning is similar to 用, 用名义 *use the name (title) of...* The description of the name in the following sentence is placed before the marker 的。

...以上海市社会工作协会会长的名义，	前来访问 ...
---------------------	----------

Came to visit in the capacity of Director of the Shanghai City Social Work Association.

yǐ 以 SO THAT..., IN ORDER TO...(11)

The 以 clause contains the outcome and is often placed after the clause which contains the action leading to the outcome. ...

两岸间及早三通	以节省双方往返的时间。
---------	-------------

Both sides should establish the 3 links as soon as possible, so that (unnecessary) travel time will be saved.

...yǐlái ...以来, SINCE (16)

This expression is used to form time clauses, as in

解放以来，	很多知识分子	被误认为 右派分子。
-------	--------	------------

Since Liberation, many intellectuals have been labelled mistakenly as "rightists".

yǐmiǎn 以免 SO AS TO AVOID ... (14)

The first clause of a 以免 sentence indicates an action, while the second 以免 clause indicates an outcome which should be avoided. For instance:

我们多吃水果少吃肉	以免引起心脏病。
-----------	----------

We eat more fruit and vegetables in order to avoid heart disease.

yǒule 有了 + N (16)

The nouns preceded by 有了 can also be used as verbs, such as a 发展 *development* / *develop* 进步 *progress* 提高 *increase* 改善 *improvement* / *improve*.

yú 于 BE IN, ON, AT (7)

于 is used in a formal style of writing and is followed by a time word or place. It is similar to 在. For instance:

大会	于3月 16日开始。
meeting	at March 16 start

The meeting starts on 16 March.

...yú 余 OVER (10)

余 also means surplus. When 余 is preceded by a numeral over 10, its meaning is similar to 多: *over, more*. For example:

百	余	人
---	---	---

Over a hundred people.

yu 与: A与B作斗争 (6)

与AND. It is used as a conjunction or co-verb. For instance:

中国与美国	进行 了 外交上 的 交涉。
China and US	carried out LE diplomatic DE negotiation.

China carried out diplomatic negotiations with the US.

yù 欲 HAVE A DESIRE TO...(13)

It is used as a verb in written style. 欲 is followed by a monosyllabic verb such as

欲作中国的...

Have desire to be China's...

yuèlái yuè 越来越 INCREASINGLY, TO BE GETTING BETTER OR WORSE (13)

This construction should always be placed before stative verbs and before adverbs in the complement of degree construction:

天气	越来越冷了。
----	--------

It's getting colder. [stative verb]

火车	开得越来越快了。
----	----------

The train is increasing its speed. [adverb of the complement of degree construction]

yuè...yuè... 越...越... THE MORE...THE MORE..., THE LESS...THE LESS..., THE MORE...THE LESS..., THE LESS... THE MORE... (13)

The conditional clause following the first 越 shows the extent of the feeling, state or action; the second 越 clause shows the result. 越 should always be placed before the verb, stative verb or adverb:

中文	越学越难。
----	-------

The more you study Chinese the more difficult it gets.

孩子

越打越好。

The more you beat the children the better they will become.

zài 在 clause (5)

The 在 clause is important. It can help you to find the main verbs, subjects and objects of sentences. The 在 clause often appears before adverbs, verbs and the attributive clause, (the 的 clause). The 在 clause is often seen in the following forms: 在... 上, 里 or 下 (a clause for an event, place and situation) and 在...时(a time clause.) Let's take out all the 在 clauses in the following sentences.

... 在这里

再次强调...

The main verb is 强调.

... 在今天的记者招待会上	回答记者提问时	说...
----------------	---------	------

The main verb is 说.

... 在台湾问题上的表现	仅仅是一个方面...
---------------	------------

表现 is the subject of the sentence.

... 在人权问题上	发表了奇谈怪论...
------------	------------

The main verb is 发表.

... 美国政府	应该制止右翼团体在台湾问题上的活动。
----------	--------------------

活动 is the object of the sentence.

zài...xià 在 ... 下 clause UNDER... (2/12/13)

This clause is often placed before the main verb of a sentence. For instance:

小 学生

在老师 和家长的帮助下 都 考上了中学。

primary schoolchildren

at teachers and parents DE help under all passed LE secondary (entrance exams)

All the primary schoolchildren passed their secondary school entrance exams.

在 can be omitted in the 在 ... 方面 sentence pattern as in (在)儿童图书方面... *on the subject of children's books...*

...zé ... 则 (9)

1. 则 is used as an adverb meaning *but, on the other hand*, and is often placed before a verb or adverb in the second clause of a sentence to indicate a contrast between the preceding and the following. 则 is often seen in written language. For instance:

有的人很努力,

有的则很不认真.

Some work hard and some are lighthearted in work.

他们想要一所房子,

我们则宁愿住一套房间.

They want a house, whereas we would rather live in a flat.

2. 则 also means *then*, and is often placed before a verb in the second clause of a sentence to indicate an outcome of action. 则 is often seen in four-character expressions. For instance:

不进

则退

If one does not move forwards, then by implication one will move backwards.

...zhàn 占 ACCOUNT FOR (6)

In this usage, 占 is followed by a clause which contains numbers. For instance:

在中国汉人	占 总 人口 的 90%。
in China Han people	account for total population DE 90%

The Han population accounts for 90% of the total population in China.

...zhe ... 着 construction (8)

The particle 着 is placed after a verb to imply that the action is under way. For instance:

这个部的领导	承担 着 一个重要的责任。
--------	---------------

The head of this ministry bears an important responsibility.

...zhě noun + 者 (3)

者 PERSON, PEOPLE. It is often in the form of V/N+者. It means the people who do a certain kind of job:

教育 工作	者
education work	person

People who are engaged in education work

zhèng + V 正 + V (9)

正 (在) is placed before a verb to indicate that an action is under way. The progressive construction takes the following forms.

S	(正)(在) V	O (呢)
我们	正 学习	汉语 呢。
我们	在 学习	汉语 呢。
我们	正 在 学习	汉语。

We are learning Chinese.

正 PRECISELY (16)

When 正 is placed before 是 it implies emphasis. 正是 is similar to 就是 *is precisely...正好 just right.*

...zhì noun + 制 (3)

制 SYSTEM. Short for 制度 (zhìdù). 制 is often placed after a noun or short phrase which modifies a type of system:

公 费 医 疗	制
public fund medical cure	system

National health-care system

工 分	制
-----	---

work points	system
-------------	--------

work-point system

...zhīyī ...之一 ONE OF... (6)

之 is used similarly to 的. 之一 means *one of*, and is placed at the end of a clause. For instance:

他	是我国	最	伟大的	领导人	之一。
he	is our country most great DE leaders of one				

He is one of the greatest leaders of our country.

zhìyú 至于 AS FAR AS IS CONCERNED, CONCERNING... (14)

This expression is often seen in written style and is similar to the colloquial expression 对...来说. 至于 is placed at the beginning of the topic concerned. For instance:

至于	中国加入世贸组织问题	要通过	成员国的同意	才可以	正式加入。
----	------------	-----	--------	-----	-------

As for China joining the WTO, it will depend on the approval of the member states of the WTO.

zhōu 周...(17)

周 is similar to 星期 or 礼拜 which can be followed by a number word as in

星期三
周 三

Wednesday.

周... is only used in formal writing styles. For instance:

研讨会	定于	周三	进行。
-----	----	----	-----

The discussion meeting (seminar) is booked to be convened on Wednesday.

However, if 周 is preceded by a number word, 周 becomes a measure word. For instance:

三	周
---	---

Three weeks.

zìcóng...自(从)... (以)来 SINCE (6)

自(从) is used to indicate a point in time in the past; (以)来 extends the time to the present. The elements which are placed between 自(从) and (以)来 can be a word, phrase or sentence. Either 自(从) or (以)来 can be omitted. For instance:

自从	七十年代	以来
from	the 70s	until now

Since the 70s...

The phrase can also be written in the following ways:

自	七十年代	以来
自从	七十年代	来
	七十年代	以来
自从	七十年代	

zǒngzhī 总之 IN CONCLUSION, IN BRIEF (14)

总之 is short for 总而言之. This expression is placed at the beginning of a sentence. For instance:

小王想去美国小李想去英国。	总之他们都想出国。
---------------	-----------

Xiao Wang wants to go to America and Xiao Li would like to go to Britain. In brief they would both like to go abroad.

zuì 最 MOST (2)

This is placed before stative verbs or adverbs such as

最	好
most	good

Best.

最	好 吃
most	good eat

Most delicious.