

Sentence patterns

Class Objective: I will be able to understand basic chinese sentence patterns.

Concept A: Expressing Existence with 在 (zài)

The verb 在 (zài) can be used to express “existence in a place”. This is similar to English in which we use “to be at” or “to be in” to express the same.

The structure: subject + 在 (zài) + place

For example:

- 我在上海。Wǒ zài Shànghǎi. I am in Shanghai.
- 他们在英国。Tāmen zài Yīngguó. They are in England.

在 can also be used as a preposition or adverb.

- 我在学中文。Wǒ zài xué zhōngwén. I am learning Chinese.
- 你在游泳。Nǐ zài yóuyǒng. You are swimming.

Concept B: Basic Negative Form

In Chinese, there are basically two adverbs used for negation: 1. 不 (bù) and 2. 没/有 (méi/yǒu).

Both are placed before the verb in a sentence.

- Note that 是 (shì) cannot be negated with 没/有 (méi/yǒu), and 有 (yǒu) cannot be negated with 不 (bù).

不 (bù) is used to negate an action done at the present:

- 我今天不学中文。Wǒ jīntiān bù xué Zhōngwén. I am not studying Chinese today.
- 我今天不去了。Wǒ jīntiān bù qùle. I won't go today.

It can also be used to negate an action in the future:

- 明年我不去中国。Míngnián wǒ bù qù Zhōngguó. I won't go to China next year.
- 我明天不上学。Wǒ míngtiān bù shàngxué. I will not go to school tomorrow.

Or for a habitual action:

- 周末我不看书。Zhōumò wǒ bù kànshū. I don't read books on the weekend.
- 我通常不唱歌。Wǒ tōngcháng bù chànggē. I don't usually sing.

没 (méi) is used to negate 有 (yǒu) — 没有 (méiyǒu) — and means that one “does not have”.

The negative form of 有 (yǒu) is always 没有 (méiyǒu), never 不有 (bùyǒu).

- 我没有中国朋友。Wǒ méiyǒu Zhōngguó péngyǒu. I don't have Chinese friends.
- 我的卡里没有钱。Wǒ de kǎ lǐ méiyǒu qián. My card does not have money.

Concept C: interrogative sentence

1. 谁 (shéi): who
2. 什么 (shén me): what
3. 哪里 (nǎ lǐ): where*
4. 哪个 (nǎ ge): which
5. 什么时候 (shén me shí hou): when
6. 为什么 (wèi shén me): why

1. **Introduction**

2. **Background**

3. **Method**

- 1. **Study Design**
- 2. **Participants**
- 3. **Intervention**

4. **Results**

- 1. **Primary Outcome**
- 2. **Secondary Outcome**
- 3. **Subgroup Analysis**

5. **Conclusion**

- 1. **Summary**

6. **References**

7. **Appendix**

8. **Supplementary Materials**

9. **Footnote**

- 1. **Footnote 1**
- 2. **Footnote 2**
- 3. **Footnote 3**

10. **Page Number**

1. **Introduction**

2. **Background**

3. **Method**

- 1. **Study Design**
- 2. **Participants**
- 3. **Intervention**

4. **Results**

- 1. **Primary Outcome**
- 2. **Secondary Outcome**
- 3. **Subgroup Analysis**

5. **Conclusion**

- 1. **Summary**

6. **Discussion**

7. **Conclusion**

8. **References**

9. **Appendix**

- 1. **Table 1**
- 2. **Table 2**
- 3. **Table 3**

10. **References**