Chinese grammar is characterized by its simple structure, lack of inflections, and wide use of monosyllabic morphemes. With the increasing popularity of learning Chinese as a second language, there is a demand for a guide to Chinese grammar that’s targeted at second language learners.

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Since the first edition came out in 1983, this set has been revised twice and has remained one of the best sellers in this topic. Practitioners and scholars of teaching Chinese as a second language, as well as students with a basic knowledge of Chinese, will find it a handy reference.

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Prepositions belong to function words, mainly consisting of grammaticalized verbs. Due to this, their grammatical features share some similarities with those of verbs. A prepositional phrase is formed by a preposition with a noun (phrase) or a pronoun after it as its object. A prepositional phrase functions as an adverbial, introducing time, location, manner, scope, object of the related action or property.

Example 1
我在家等你。[wǒ zài jiā děng nǐ.] (I’ll wait for you at home.) (location.)

Example 2
弟弟比我高了。[dì dì bǐ wǒ gāo le.] (Now, my younger brother is taller than me.) (comparison.)

Example 3
他们对于提高产品质量很重视。[tā men dui yú tí gāo chǎn pǐn zhì liàng hěn zhòng shì.] (They attach great importance to improving the quality of their products.) (target.)

“在家 [zài jiā] (at home)” in Example 1 refers to the location where the action happens; “比我 [bǐ wǒ] (compared to me)” in Example 2 denotes the object in comparison; “对于提高产品质量 [duì yú tí gāo chǎn pǐn zhì liàng] (the quality of their products)” in Example 3 indicates the object of “重视 [zhòng shì] (attach great importance to).”

Section one: classifications of prepositions

Despite their small number in Chinese, prepositions have a high frequency of use, with various usages for each one.

The commonly used prepositions are introduced as follows:

For “space”

1 在 [zài] (at/in)

Example 1 老王在北京住了三年了。[Lǎo Wáng zài běi jīng zhù le sān nián le.] (Mr. Wang has lived in Beijing for three years.) (location)
2 Prepositions

Example 2 他在钢笔上刻上了自己的名字。[tā zài gāng bǐ shàng kè shàng le zi jī de míng zì.] (He carved his own name on the pen.) (location)

Example 3 鲁迅生于浙江绍兴。[Lù Xùn shēng yú zhè jiāng shào xīng.] (Lu Xun was born in Shaoxing, Zhe jiang Province.) (location)

Example 4 这种草药多生长于山地。[zhè zhǒng cǎo yào duō shēng zhǎng yú shān dì.] (Such herbs mostly grow in the mountains.) (location)

3 从 [cóng] (from)

Example 5 外婆从农村搬到城市里来了。[wài pó cóng nóng cūn bān dào chéng shì lǐ lái le.] (My grandmother moved from the countryside to the city.) (initial point)

Example 6 汽车从大桥上开过去了。[qì chē cóng dà qiáo shàng kāi guò quē le.] (The car passed over the bridge.) (location)

4 自 [zì] (from)

Example 7 我们都来自五湖四海。[wǒ men dōu lái zì wǔ hú sì hǎi.] (We come from all corners of the country.) (initial point)

Example 8 他这些话都是发自内心的。[tā zhè xiē huà dōu shì fā zì nèi xīn de.] (All that he had said came from the bottom of his heart.) (initial point)

5 打 [dǎ] (from)

Example 9 你打哪儿来? [nǐ dǎ nǎ er lái?] (Where are you from?) (initial point)

Example 10 他刚打我门前走过去。[tā dǎ wǒ mén qián zǒu guò qù.] (He just walked past my door.) (location)

6 由 [yóu] (from)

Example 11 由天津到北京只要两个小时。[yóu tiān jīn dào běi jīng zhǐ yào liǎng gé xiǎo shí.] (It takes only two hours from Tianjin to Beijing.) (initial point)

7 朝 [cháo] (toward)

Example 12 李虎朝天上开了两枪。[Lǐ Hǔ cháo tiān shàng kāi le liǎng qiāng.] (Li Hu fired two shots into the sky.) (direction)
向 [xiàng] (toward)

Example 13 向敌人阵地开炮。[xiàng dí rén zhèn di kāi páo.]
(Fire at the enemy’s position.) (direction)

Example 14 这条小路通向后花园。[zhè tiáo xiǎo lù tōng xiàng hòu huā yuán.]
(This path leads to the back garden.) (direction)

往 [wǎng] (toward)

Example 15 往西走二百步就到家了。[wǎng xī zǒu èr bǎi bù jiù dào jiā le.]
(Walk towards the west for 200 steps and you can get home.) (direction)

Example 16 本次列车开往武汉。[běn cì liè chē kāi wǎng wǔ hàn.]
(This train is bound for Wuhan.) (direction)

沿着 [yán zhe] (along)

Example 17 咱们沿着湖边散步吧。[zán men yán zhe hú biān sàn bù ba.]
(Let’s take a walk along the river.) (route)

Example 18 沿着科教兴国的大道奋勇前进。[yán zhe kē jiào xīng guó de dà dào fèn yǒng qián jìn.]
(Forge ahead courageously along the road of rejuvenating the country through science.) (route)

到 [dào] (to)

Example 19 明天，他到上海去办点事。[míng tiān, tā dào shàng hǎi qù bàn diǎn shì.]
(He will go to Shanghai on business tomorrow.) (destination)

For “time”

从 [cóng] (from)

Example 20 他们从清早一直干到太阳落山。[tā men cóng qīng chén yī zhí gàn dào tái yáng luò shān.]
(They worked from early morning till sunset.) (beginning)

Example 21 我们从昨天开始放暑假了。[wǒ men cóng zuó tiān kāi fàng shǔ jià le.]
(Our summer vacation started yesterday.) (beginning)

自 [zì] (from)

Example 22 图书馆每天自8点开到12点。[tú shū guǎn měi tiān zì bā diǎn kāi dào shí ér diǎn.]
(The library is open from 8 to 12.) (beginning)
4 Prepositions

Example 23 他自小就喜欢画画儿。[tā zì xiǎo jiù xǐ huān huà huà er.] (He has liked painting from his childhood.) (beginning)

14 自从 [zì cóng] (since)

Example 24 自从参加工作到现在已经十年了。[zì cóng cān jiā gōng zuò dào xiàn zài yǐ jīng shí nián le.] (It has been ten years since I took my job.) (beginning)
Example 25 自从到中国以后,她的身体好起来了。[zì cóng lái zhōng guó yǐ hòu, tā de shēn tǐ hǎo qǐ lái le.] (Her health has improved since she came to China.) (beginning)

15 由 [yóu] (from)

Example 26 本店营业时间: 由8点到17点。[běn diàn yíng yè shí jiān: yóu bā diăn dào shí qī diàn.] (The shop’s business hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) (beginning)
Example 27 由今天算起,再过十天就过年了。[yóu jīn tiān suàn qǐ, zài guò shí tiān jiù guò nián le.] (From today, New Year’s is in ten days.) (beginning)

16 打 [dǎ] (from)

Example 28 游泳池打哪天开的? [yóu yǒng chí dǎ nà tiān kāi de?] (When did the swimming pool open?) (beginning)
Example 29 打明天起,我每天6点起床。[dǎ míng tiān qǐ, wǒ měi tiān liù diǎn qǐ chuáng.] (From tomorrow, I plan to get up at 6 o’clock everyday.) (beginning)

17 在 [zài] (when)

Example 30 人在生病的时候,常常想念亲人。[rén zài shēng bìng de shí hòu, cháng cháng xiānɡ niàn qīn rén.] (People always miss their families when they are sick.) (beginning)
Example 31 这个工厂是在解放初期办起来的。[zhè gè gōng chǎng shì jiě fāng chū qǐ bàn qǐ lái de.] (The factory was set up in the early days of liberation.) (beginning)

18 当 [dāng] (when)

Example 32 当红日从地平线升起时,紧张的劳动要开始了。[dāng hóng rì cóng dì píng xiàn shēnɡ qǐ shí, jǐn zhàng de láo dònɡ yào kāi shí le.] (When the sun rises above the horizon, the heavy labor is about to begin.) (action time)
Example 33 当你遇到困难的时候,一定要鼓起勇气。[dāng nǐ yù dào kùn nán de shí hòu, yī dìng yào gǔ qǐ yǒng qì.] (When you meet with difficulties, you must have courage.) (action time)
19 于 [yú] (at)

Example 34 运动会将于5月12日举行。[yùn dòng huì jiāng yú wǔ yuè shí èr rì jù xíng.]
(The sports meeting will be held on May 12th.) (action time)
Example 35 这位作家生于1818年。[zhè wèi zuò jiā shēng yú yī bā yī bā nián.]
(The writer was born in 1818.) (action time)

For “object”

20 对 [duì] (for)

Example 36 他对工作是负责的。[tā duì gōng zuò shì fù zé de.]
(He is responsible for his work.) (relation object)
Example 37 老李对人很热情。[Lǎo Lǐ duì rén hěn rè qíng.]
(Mr. Li is very warm to people.) (relation object)

21 对于 [duì yú] (for)

Example 38 这种药对于人体是有益无害的。[zhè zhǒng yào duì yú rèn tǐ shì yǒu yì wú hài de.]
(This medicine is beneficial and harmless to the human body.) (relation object)
Example 39 对于具体问题要进行具体分析。[duì yú jù tǐ wèn tí yào jù tǐ fēn xī.]
(It is necessary to make a specific analysis for a specific problem.) (relation object)

22 关于 [guān yú] (about)

Example 40 关于节约能源的问题，有各种不同的方案。[guān yú jié yuè néng yuán de wèn tí, yǒu gè zhǒng bù tóng de fāng àn.]
(There are various schemes for saving energy.) (involved object)
Example 41 关于期终考试，还要研究一次。[guān yú qī zhōng kǎo shì, hái yào yán jiū cì.]
(With regard to the final exam, we have to discuss it once more.) (involved object)

23 至于 [zhì yú] (as to)

Example 42 他们是有一台记录仪，至于它的性能，我不很清楚。[tā men shì yǒu yī tái jì lù yí, zhì yú tā de xìng néng, wǒ bù hěn qīng chú.]
(They do have a recorder, but as for its performance, I am not very clear about it.) (topic)
Example 43 他已决定报考北大，至于学什么专业，还没定下来。[tā yǐ jué dìng bǎo kào běi dà, zhì yú xué shén me zhōuăn yè hái méi dìng xià lái.]
(He has decided to apply for Peking University, but as for which major, he has not decided yet.) (topic)
6 Prepositions

24 和 [hé] (with)
   Example 44 扩建厂房的事我和老王商量过。[kuò jiàn chǎng fáng de shì wǒ hé Lǎo Wáng shāng liǎng guò.] (cooperative object)
   (I have discussed the expansion of the factory with Xiao Wang.)
   Example 45 这件事和你没关系。[zhè jiàn shì hé nǐ méi guān xì.] (It’s none of your business.) (cooperative object)

25 跟 [gēn] (with)
   Example 46 她的业务水平跟你差不多。[tā de yè wù shuǐ ping gēn nǐ chà bù duō.] (Her level of business is almost the same as yours.) (cooperative object)
   Example 47 这件事老王跟我说过了。[zhè jiàn shì Lǎo Wáng gēn wǒ shuō guò le.] (Lao Wang has already told me about it.) (cooperative object)

26 同(与) [tóng(yǔ)] (with)
   Example 48 昨天我同计算机站联系好了, 你把程序送去就行了。[zuó tiān wǒ tóng jì suàn jì zhàn lián xì hǎo le, nǐ bǎ chéng xù sòng guò qù jiù xíng le.] (I got in touch with the computer station yesterday. You just send the program there.) (cooperative object)
   Example 49 这次春游, 我同你们一道去。[zhè cì chūn yóu, wǒ tóng nǐ men yī dào qù.] (I will go with you on this spring outing.) (cooperative object)

27 为 [wèi] (for)
   Example 50 为大家出力是应该的。[wèi dà jiā chū lì shì yīng gāi de.] (It is right to exert oneself for others.) (service object)
   Example 51 老李为国家做出了重大贡献。[Lǎo Lǐ wèi guó jiā zuò le zhòng dà gòng xiàn.] (Lao Li has made great contributions to the country.) (service object)

28 给 [gěi] (for)
   Example 52 请给我开开门。[qǐng gěi wǒ kāi kāi mén.] (Please open the door for me.) (service object)
   Example 53 我曾给他回过一封信。[wǒ céng gěi tā huí guò yī fēng xìn.] (I once wrote back to him.) (recipient)

29 替 [tì] (for)
   Example 54 一切手续他都替你办好了。[yī qiè shōu xù tā dōu tì nǐ bàn hào le.] (He has done all the formalities for you.) (service object)
Example 55 你见到他时，替我向他问好。[nǐ jiàn dào tā shí, tì wǒ xiàng tā wèn hǎo.]
(Say hello to him for me when you meet him.) (service object)

30 于 [yú] (for)
Example 56 科研工作要更好地服务于生产。[kē yán gōng zuò yào gèng hǎo de fú wù shēng chǎn.] (relation object)
(Scientific research should better serve production.)
Example 57 吸烟于身体无益而有害。[xī yān duì yū shēn tǐ wú yì ér yǒu hài.] (relation object)
(Smoking is not good but harmful to your health.) (recipient)

31 把 [bǎ] (to)
Example 58 把一切献给人民。[bǎ yī qiè xiàn gěi rén mín.] (To devote oneself to the people.) (recipient)
Example 59 把孩子们培养成有用的人。[bǎ hái zi men péi yǎng chéng yǒu yòng de rén.] (To develop children to be capable.) (recipient)

32 将 [jiāng] (to)
Example 60 将问题交待清楚。[jiāng wèn tí jiāo dài qīng chǔ.] (To explain the problem clearly.) (recipient)
Example 61 将化验结果进行了反复的研究。[jiāng huà yàn jié guǒ jìn xíng le fǎn fù de yán jiū.] (The test results have been studied repeatedly.) (recipient)

33 叫([让]) [jiào(ràng)] (make)
Example 62 录首机叫([让])小王弄坏了。[lù yīn jī jiào (ràng) Xiǎo Wáng nóng huài le.] (The recorder was broken by Xiao Wang.) (doer)
Example 63 他让人请去作报告了。[tā ràng rén qǐng qù zuò bào gào le.] (He was invited to make a report.) (doer)

34 被 [bèi] (by)
Example 64 你的自行车被谁骑走了?[nǐ de zì xíng chē bèi shuí qí zǒu le?] (Who took your bike away?) (doer)
Example 65 他们的秘密被发现了。[tā men de mì mì bèi fā xiàn le.] (Their secret was discovered.) (doer)

35 比 [bǐ] (compared)
Example 66 姐姐比妹妹胖一点儿。[jiě jiě bǐ mèi mèi pàng yī diǎn er.] (The elder sister is a little fatter than the younger sister.) (object of comparison)
8  **Prepositions**

Example 67 他的发音比以前好多了。[tā de fā yīn bǐ yī qián hǎo duō le.]
(His pronunciation is much better than before.) (object of comparison)

36  **朝 [cháo] (from)**

Example 68 我朝他借了两本小说。[wǒ cháo tā jiè le liǎng běn xiǎo shuō.]
(I borrowed two novels from him.) (action object)

37  **向 [xiàng] (for)**

Example 69 他向我表示祝贺。[tā xiàng wǒ biǎo shì zhù hè.]
(He congratulated me.) (recipient)

Example 70 你经常向别人借钱。[nǐ jīng cháng xiàng bié rén jiè qián.]
(You often borrow money from others.) (action object)

**For “basis”**

38  **按 [àn] (according to)**

Example 71 按制度办事。[àn zhì dù bàn shì.]
(Act according to the regulations.) (standard)

Example 72 按高矮个儿排队。[àn gāo ěr gè ér pái duì.]
(Line up by height.) (standard)

39  **按照 [àn zhào] (according to)**

Example 73 按照上级的规定, 只能这样做。[àn zhào shàng jí de guī dìng, zhǐ néng zhè yàng zuò.]
(In accordance with the regulations of the superiors, we can only do it in this way.) (standard)

Example 74 按照客观规律, 制定方针政策。[àn zhào kè guān guǐ lǜ, zhì dìng fāng zhēn zhèng cè.]
(To formulate principles and policies according to objective laws.) (standard)

40  **依 [yī] (according to)**

Example 75 依当地风俗习惯, 除夕晚上都要守岁。[yī dāng dì fēng sú xí guàn, chú xī wǎn shàng dōu yào shǒu suì.]
(According to the local customs, people stay up late all night on New Year’s Eve.) (standard)

Example 76 依我看, 大家的水平都不低。[yī wǒ kàn, dà jiā de shuǐ píng dōu bù dī.]
(In my opinion, everyone is qualified.) (standard)

41  **依照 [yī zhào] (according to)**

Example 77 依照常规办事, 绝不会出问题。[yī zhào cháng guī bàn shì, jué bù huì chū wèn tí.]
(If you act according to the rules, there won’t be any problems.) (standard)
Example 78 依照原件复制一份。[yī zhào yuán jiàn fù zhì yī fèn.]
(To make a copy of the original one.) (standard)

42 照 [zhào] (according to)
Example 79 照这种管理办法进行管理，产品就能保证质量。[zhào zhè zhòng guǎn li bàn fǎ jín xíng guǎn lǐ, chǎn pǐn jiù néng bǎo zhèng zhì liàng.]
(According to management of this kind, the quality of the product can be guaranteed.) (standard)
Example 80 她这件衣服是照这个样子做的。[tā zhè jiàn yī fu shì zhào zhè gè yàng zi zuò de.]
(Her dress is made in this way.) (standard)

43 据 [jù] (according to)
Example 81 据天气预报说，明天有大风。[jù tiān qì yù bào shuō, míng tiān yǒu dà fēng.]
(According to the weather forecast, there will be a strong wind tomorrow.) (premise)
Example 82 据报道，今年农业又获得丰收。[jù bào dào, jīn nián nóng yè yòu huò dé fēng shōu.]
(According to the report, there has been another good harvest this year.) (premise)

44 根据 [gēn jù] (on the basis of)
Example 83 根据统计材料可以得出这个结论。[gēn jù tǒng jì cái liào kě yǐ dé chū zhè gè jié lùn.]
(This conclusion can be drawn from the statistical materials.) (premise)
Example 84 根据群众要求，工会将组织春游。[gēn jù qún zhòng yào qiú, gōng huì jiāng zǔ zhī chūn yóu.]
(According to the workers’ request, the trade union will organize a spring outing.) (premise)

45 以 [yǐ] (depending on)
Example 85 以革命者的姿态克服了种种困难。[yǐ gé mìng zhě de zī tài kè fú le zhǒng zhǒng kùn nán.]
(The difficulties should be overcome in the revolutionary manner.) (basis)
Example 86 这里以瓷器为最有名。[zhè lǐ yǐ cí qì wéi zuì yǒu míng.]
(It is famous for porcelain here.) (reason)
Example 87 九大行星以太阳为中心。[jiǔ dà xíng xīng yǐ tài yáng wéi zhōng xīn.]
(The nine planets are centered around the sun.) (serve as)

46 凭 [píng] (depending on)
Example 88 只凭主观愿望办事往往会犯错误。[zhǐ píng zhǔ guān yuàn wàng bàn shì wàng wàng huì fān cuò wù.]
(Acting on one’s will simply leads to making mistakes.) (basis)
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Example 89 要凭证据下结论。[yào píng zhèng jù xià jié lùn.]
(Conclusion should be drawn on the basis of evidence.) (basis)

47 论 [lùn] (by)

Example 90 香烟都论包卖, 不零卖。[xiāng yān dōu lùn bāo mài, bù líng mài.]
(Cigarettes are sold by package, not by retail.) (in terms of)

Example 91 论学习, 你比他好, 论身体, 他比你强。[lùn xué xí, nǐ bǐ tā hǎo, lùn shēn tǐ, tā bǐ nǐ qiáng.]
(Your grades are better than his, but he is stronger than you in health.) (in terms of)

For “reason”

48 由于 [yóu yú] (because of)

Example 92 由于计划的变动, 某些设计需要修改。[yóu yú jì huà de biàn dòng, mǒu xiē shè jì yào xiū gǎi.]
(Due to the change of plans, some designs need to be modified.) (reason)

Example 93 他没回答上来是由于没听懂你的问题。[tā méi huí dá shàng lái shì yóu yú méi tīng dǒng nǐ de wèn tí.]
(He failed to answer your question due to his incomprehension.) (reason)

49 为 [wèi] (for)

Example 94 大家都为他的精彩表演热烈鼓掌。[dà jiā dōu wèi tā de jīng cǎi biǎo yàn rè liè gǔ zhǎng.]
(Everyone applaud his wonderful performance warmly.) (reason)

Example 95 为帮助后进学生, 老师经常早来晚走。[wèi bāng zhù hòu jìn xué shēng, lǎo shī jīng cháng zǎo lái wǎn zǒu.]
(In order to help students who are behind, the teacher often comes early and leaves late.) (purpose)

50 为了 [wèi le] (for/to/in order to)

Example 96 为了加强两国人民的友谊, 我要努力工作。[wèi le jiā qiáng liǎng guó rén mín de yǒu yì, wǒ yào nǔ lì gōng zuò.]
(In order to strengthen the friendship between two nations, I must work hard.) (for purpose)

Example 97 为了加速四化, 应该大力培养人才。[wèi le jiā sù sì huà, yīng gāi dà lì péi yǎng rén cái.]
(In order to speed up the four modernizations, great efforts should be made to train the talent.) (for purpose)

51 为着 [wèi zhe] (for)

Example 98 为着新一代的健康成长, 园丁们付出了全部精力。[wèi zhe xīn yī dài de jiàn kāng chéng zhǎng, yuán dīng men fù chú le quán bù jīng lì.]
Prepositions

(The teachers have devoted themselves to the healthy growth of the new generation.) (reason)

For “other aspects”

52 连 [lián] (along with)

Example 99 连盒子一起都拿走吧。[lián hé zi qǐ dōu ná zǒu ba.]
(Take the box away with you.) (focus)

Example 100 这次洪水连输电塔都给冲坏了。[zhè cì hóng shuǐ lián shū shuǐ tà dōu gěi chōng huài le.]
(Even the transmission tower was damaged by the flood.) (focus)

53 除了(⋯以外) [chú le(⋯yǐ wài)] (except)

Example 101 这儿除了咱们俩, 没有别人。[zhè er chú le zán men liǎ, méi yǒu bié rén.]
(There’s nobody but us.) (excluding)

Example 102 他除了教书, 还搞研究工作。[tā chú le jiāo shū, hái gǎo yán jiǔ gōng zuò.]
(In addition to teaching, he is also engaged in research.) (excluding)

54 趁 [chèn] (take advantage of)

Example 103 趁农闲, 搞点副业。[chèn nóng xián, gǎo diǎn fù yè.]
(Take advantage of the off season to do some side work.) (chance)

Example 104 趁实习的机会, 他们收集了许多标本。[chèn shí xí de jī huì, tā men shōu jí le xǔ duō biǎo běn.]
(They took advantage of the internship to collect many specimens.) (chance)

Section two: grammatical features of prepositions and prepositional phrases

I. Grammatical features of prepositions

Some prepositions of modern Chinese continue to follow those in ancient Chinese, such as “于 [yú] (from),” “以 [yǐ] (from),” “自 [zì] (from);” some developed from those verbs of ancient Chinese, such as “把 [bǎ],” “被 [bèi].” Besides, some, even though they mainly function like prepositions, still keep themselves as verbs in some way. Thus they belong to multiple categories of prepositions and verbs, such as “在 [zài] (at),” “朝 [cháo] (toward),” “向 [xiàng] (toward),” “往 [wǎng] (toward),” “顺 [shùn] (along with),” “随着 [suí zhe] (along with),” “对 [duì] (toward),” “为 [wèi] (for),” “跟 [gēn] (with).”

Example 1 小明不在家。[Xiǎo Míng bù zài jiā.]
(Xiao Ming is not at home.) (verb)

书在桌子上放着。[shū zài zhuò zi shàng fàng zhe.]
12 Prepositions

(The book is on the desk.) (preposition)
Example 2 我家的大门朝南。[wǒ jiā de dà mén cháo nán.]
(My front door faces south.) (verb)
妈妈朝我笑着点了点头。[mā mā cháo wǒ xiào zhe diǎn le diǎn tóu.]
(My mother nodded to me with a smile.) (preposition)
Example 3 病人给大夫医疗费。[bìng rén gěi dài fū yī liáo fèi.]
(The patient pays the doctor for medical treatment.) (verb)
大夫给病人打针。[dài fū gěi bìng rén dǎ zhēn.]
(The doctor gave the patient an injection.) (preposition)

Since there exists a very close relationship between a preposition and a verb, the introduction to grammatical features of prepositions is focused on their differences.

1 As a function word, a preposition cannot stand alone in a sentence. Since they belong to function words, prepositions cannot function alone as a subject or an object. The expressions, like “*他对于 [tā duì yú],” “*小明把 [xiǎo míng bǎ],” “*阿里从 [ā lǐ cóng]” are improper. However, if a question like “你在图书馆学习吗? [nǐ zài tú shū guǎn xué xi ma?] (Are you learning in the library?)” is posed, the answer to it can be “在 [zài] (Yes.).” The same is true to the question “你跟他一起走吗? [nǐ gēn tā yī qǐ zǒu ma?] (Are you going to leave with him?)” and the answer “跟 [gēn] (Yes.).” Even so, most prepositions cannot function like this. For Example, “*从 [cóng] (from)” is not an improper answer to the question “这本书从图书馆借的吗? [zhè běn shū cóng tú shū guǎn jiè de ma?] (Did you borrow this book from the library?).”

2 Prepositions can be neither overlapped nor followed by dynamic auxiliaries, such as “了 [le],” “着 [zhe],” “过 [guò].” Some prepositions possess several forms, such as “为 [wèi] (for)” and “为着 [wèi zhe] (for/为了 [wèi le] (for),” “沿 [yán] (along)” and “沿着 [yán zhe] (along).” “朝 [cháo] (toward)” and “朝着 [cháo zhe] (toward),” “向 [xiàng] (toward)” and “向着 [xiàng zhe] (toward),” “随 [suí] (along with)” and “随着 [suí zhe] (along with),” “除 [chú] (except for)” and “除了 [chú le] (except for).” Actually, “了 [le]” and “着 [zhe]” in them are optional without changing the meaning or using the original forms. Thus it can be seen that “了 [le]” and “着 [zhe]” are not dynamic auxiliaries but the inherent constituents.

3 A preposition requires an additional nominal constituent as its object, to form a preposition-object phrase. This nominal constituent can usually be noun (phrase), pronoun, adjective (phrase), verb (phrase), or subject-predicate phrase.

Example 4 学生对老师很尊敬。[xué shēng duì lǎo shī hěn zūn jìng.]
(The students show great respect to their teachers.) (noun)
Example 5 老师对我们的学习和生活很关心。[lǎo shī duì wǒ men de xué xí hé shēng huó hěn guān xīn.]
(The teacher is very concerned about our studies and life.) (noun phrase)
II. Grammatical functions of prepositional phrases

1. As adverbials

A prepositional phrase mainly functions as an adverbial.

Example 11 我的一个老同学从上海来了。[wǒ de yī gè lǎo túng xué cóng shàng hǎi lái le.] (An old classmate of mine came from Shanghai.) (location)

Example 12 他对我们的学习很关心。[tā duì wǒ men de xué xí hěn guān xīn.] (He is very concerned about our study.) (target)

Example 13 随着晚风，隐约飘来一阵美妙的乐曲声。[suí zhe wǎn fēng，yǐn yuē piāo lái yī zhǎn miào miào de yuè qǔ shēng.] (Along with the evening wind came a faint but pleasant sound of music.) (an accompanying act or thing.)

Example 14 为了幸福的明天，人们都在努力地工作。[wèi le xìng fú de míng tiān，rén men dōu zài nǔ lì de gōng zuò.] (People are working hard for a happy future.) (purpose)

Example 15 将来比现在更美好。[jiāng lái bǐ xiàn zài gèng měi hǎo.] (The future will be better than the present.) (target)
2 As attributes

There requires a “的 [de]” between the prepositional phrase and its keyword.

Example 16 人们对月球的研究, 以后还会不停地继续下去。[rén men duì yuè qiú de yán jū, yǐ hòu hái hui bù tíng de ji xù xià qù.]  
(The research on the moon will go on and on.)

Example 17 古时候流传着不少关于这位诗人的故事。[gǔ shí hòu liú chuán zhe bù shǎo guān yǔ zhè wèi shī rén de gù shì.]  
(There were many stories about the poet in ancient times.)

Example 18 这些沿街的小商亭都是为了方便群众而设立的。[zhè xiē yán jiē de xiǎo shāng tīng dōu wèi le fān biàn qún zhòng ér shè lì de.]  
(These small shops along the street were set up for the convenience of people.)

Example 19 在向四个现代化的进军中, 李四光是中国科技工作者学习的榜样。[zài xiàng sì gè xiàn dài huà de jìn jūn zhōng, Lǐ Sì guāng zhōng guó kē jī gōng zuò zhè xuě xī de bāng yang.]  
(In the march to four modernizations, Li Siguang is an example for Chinese science and technology workers to follow.)

3 As complements

Only several prepositions can function as complement, such as “于 [yú] (from),” “向 [xiàng] (toward),” “自 [zì] (from),” “往 [wǎng] (to),”

Example 20 鲁迅生于1881年。[Lǔ Xùn shēng yú 1881 nián.]  
(Lu Xun was born in 1881.)

Example 21 我们从胜利走向胜利。[wǒ men cóng shèng lì zǒu xiàng shèng lì.]  
(We advance from victory to victory.)

Example 22 约翰来自美国南部的一个城市。[Yuē Hán lái zì měi guó nán bù de gè chéng shì.]  
(John comes from a city in the American south.)

Example 23 这趟火车是开往上海方向的。[zhè tiàng huǒ chē shì kāi wǎng shànghǎi xiāng xiàng de.]  
(The train is bound for Shanghai.)

4 As objects

When functioning as the object of “为了 . . . [wèi le] (for),” a prepositional phrase often appears in the “是 [shì]” sentence.

Example 24 他这次来不仅仅是为了工作, 也是为了你。[tā zhè cì lái bù jǐn jin shì wèi le gōng zuò, yě shì wèi le nǐ.]  
(He came here not only for work, but also for you.)
5 As subjects

Example 25 从8:00到12:00是工作时间。[cóng 8:00 dào 12:00 shì gōng zuò shí jiān.]
(Working hours are from 8:00 to 12:00.)
Example 26 村子从南到北有一条河。[cūn zi cóng nán dào běi yǒu yī tiáo hé.]
(There is a river in the village running from south to north.)

Section three: usage of commonly used prepositions

I. 从 [cóng] (from)

1. To indicate spatial beginning

(1) “从 [cóng] (from)” indicates spatial beginning, usually followed by a word denoting location or direction.

Example 1 他姐姐从英国来了。[tā jiě jiě cóng yīng guó lái le.]
(His sister came from England.)
Example 2 下课铃响了，学生都从自己的座位上站起来了。[xià kè líng xiǎng le, xué shēng dōu cóng zì jǐ de zuò wèi shàng zhàn qǐ lái le.]
(The bell rang and the students rose from their seats.)
Example 3 明天大家先到我家集合，从我这儿走比较近。[míng tiān dà jiā xiān dào wǒ jiā hé, cóng wǒ zhè er zǒu bǐ jiào jìn.]
(We will gather at my house tomorrow due to its being a shorter distance away from here.)
Example 4 不论做什么事，都要从实际出发。[bú lùn zuò shén me shì, dōu yào cóng shí jí chǔ fā.]
(Be realistic in everything you do.) (an abstract location.)
Example 5 他一边说一边从口袋里掏出一个小瓶子。[tā yī biān shuō yī biān cóng kǒu dài lǐ tāo chú yī gè xiǎo píng zi.]
(As he spoke, he pulled out a small bottle from his pocket.)
Example 6 他从秘书那里取来了陈伊玲的报名单 . . . [tā cóng mì shū nǎ lǐ qǔ lái le Chén Yīlíng de bào míng dān . . .]
(He took Chen Yiling’s application form from the secretary . . .)

There is one thing to be noticed. A locative “里 [lǐ]” is required to follow “口袋 [kǒu dài] (pocket)” in Example 5 and “秘书 [mì shū] (secretary)” in Example 6.

(2) “从 [cóng] (from)” indicates temporal beginning, usually followed by a word denoting position in time.

Example 7 我们从5月1日开始改用夏季作息时间。[wǒ men cóng wǔ yuè yī rì kāi shǐ gǎi yòng xià jì zuò xī shí jiān.]
(We switch to a summer schedule on May 1st.)
Example 8 她从昨天下午开始就有点不舒服。[tā cóng zuó tiān xià wǔ kāi shì jiù yǒu diǎn bù shū fù。]
(She hasn’t felt well since yesterday afternoon.)

Example 9 从找到大庆油田以后，中国石油工业很快发展起来了。
[cóng zhǎo dào dà qìng yóu tián yī hòu, zhōng guó shí yì yōu gōng yè hěn kuài fā zhǎn qǐ lái le。]
(Since the discovery of Daqing Oilfield, China’s oil industry has developed quickly.)

Example 10 这个故事要从四年前初春的一个星期天说起。
[zhè gè gù shì yào cóng sì nián qián chū chūn de yī gè xīng qī tiān shuō qǐ。]
(The story began on a Sunday in the early spring four years ago.)

Example 11 从30年代起他写了很多重要论文，成了国际上有名的地质学家。
[cóng sān shí nián dài qǐ tā xiě le hěn duō zhòng yào lùn wén, chéng le guó jì shàng yǒu míng de dì zhì xué jiā。]
(Since the 1930s, he has written many important papers and become a world-renown geologist.)

(3) “从 [cóng] (from)” indicates a beginning of occurrence or development involved.

Example 12 小刚从一个不懂事的孩子成长为大学生了。
[xiǎo gāng cóng yī gè bù dǒng shì de hái zi chéng zhǎng wéi dà xué shēng le。]
(Xiao Gang has grown up into a college student from an ignorant child.)

Example 13 春节过后，大地渐渐从沉睡中苏醒过来。
[chūn jié guò hòu, dà dì jiàn jiàn cóng chén shuì zhōng sū xǐng guò lái。]
(After the Spring Festival, the earth gradually woke up from its deep sleep.)

Example 14 我们应该深刻地注意解决群众生活的问题，从土地、劳动问题，到柴米油盐问题。
[wǒ men yīng gāi shēn kè de zhù yì jiě jué qún zhòng shēng huó de wèn tí, cóng tǔ dì, láo dòng wèn tí, dào chái mǐ yóu yán wèn tí。]
(We should pay deep attention to solving the problems of people’s life, including those about land, labor, and daily necessities.)

Example 15 这儿的伙食办得不错，从采购到做饭全由她一个人包了，又便宜又好吃。
[zèr de huǒ shí bàn de bù cuò, cóng cǎi gòu dào zuò fàn quán yóu tā yī gè rén bāo le, yòu pián yì yòu hǎo chī。]
(Shā did well in arranging the meals here. She did the purchasing and cooking by herself, thus the food was inexpensive and delicious here.)

In the previous examples, “一个不懂事的孩子 [yī gè bù dǒng shì de hái zi] (an ignorant child)” is the beginning of Xiao Gang’s growing up; “沉睡 [chén shuì] (deep sleep)” is the beginning of “大地苏醒过来 [dà dì sū xǐng guò lái] (the earth gradually woke up from its deep sleep);” and “采购 [cǎi gòu] (purchasing)” is the beginning of her series of creating meals.
2 To indicate location or route

Example 16 这儿有一条小路，狼也许从小路逃走了。[zhè er yǒu yī tiáo xiǎo lù, lǎng yě xǔ cóng xiǎo lù táo zǒu le.]
(There is a path, by which the wolf may have escaped.)

Example 17 晏子对卫兵说：只有到狗国去的人，才从狗洞进去。[yàn zi duì wèi bīng shuō: zhǐ yǒu dào gǒu guó qù de rén, cái cóng gǒu dòng jìn qù.]
(Yan Zi said to the guards: only those who go to the dog country have to enter through the dog hole.)

Example 18 这里树木遮天蔽日，阳光从树缝中射进来，像一条光彩夺目的金棒儿。[zhè lǐ shù mù zhē tiān bì rì, yáng guāng cóng shù fèng zhōng shè jìn lái, xiàng yī tiáo guāng cǎi duó mù de jīn bàng ér.]
(Under the canopy of thick trees, the sunlight filters through the cracks among the trees, like glamorous golden sticks.)

Example 19 我从这里路过，看到这个少年躺在地上动不了了。[wǒ cóng zhè lǐ lù guò, kàn dào zhè gè shào nián tǎng zài dì shàng dòng bù liáo le.]
(I passed by and saw the boy lying on the ground and still.)

3 To indicate source

Example 20 山洞里的二氧化碳是从哪儿来的呢？[shān dòng lǐ de èr yǎng huà tàn shì cóng nǎ er lái de ne.]
(Where did the carbon dioxide in the cave come from?)

Example 21 我们现在用的“推敲”这个词，就是从这个故事来的。[wǒ měi xiàn zài yòng de “tuī qiāo” zhè gè cí, jiù shì cóng zhè gù shì lái de.]
(The word “推敲” we use now comes from this story.)

Example 22 从生活中找语言，语言就有了根。[cóng shēng huó zhōng zhǎo yǔ yán, yǔ yán jiù yǒu le gēn.]
(The language comes from the life where the language itself roots.)

Example 23 汉语的各种方言都是从古代汉语演变分化出来的。[hàn yǔ de gè zhǒng yán fān dōu shì cóng gǔ dài hàn yǔ yǎn biàn fèn huà chū lái de.]
(The various dialects of Chinese have evolved and differentiated from ancient Chinese.)

4 To indicate evidence

“从 [cóng] (from)” indicates evidence, mainly followed by the word denoting an abstracting meaning as its object. The verbs that often carry a cognitive sense function as predicate, such as “看 [kàn] (look),” “认识 [rèn shí] (know),” “体会 [tǐ huì] (experience),” “知道 [zhī dào] (know),” “明白 [míng bái] (understand),” “懂得 [dǒng dé] (understand),” “感到 [gǎn dào] (feel),” “感觉 [gǎn jué] (feel).”
From this unimportant matter, we are deeply aware of his care and love for young people.

It can be seen clearly from his face that he was ill.

It is said by that child that his sister is a demobilized soldier of the art troupe.

Although he is young, it can be seen from his calm eyes that he is a boy with a clear mind and good psychological quality. As long as he is carefully trained, he will become a great person in the future.

From reading literary masterpieces, I understand some rules of using language.

Combined with other words, “从 [cóng] (from)” can form some frequently used structures, such as “从 ... 到 ... [cóng ... dào] (from ... to),” “从 ... 起 [cóng ... qǐ] (to start off with ...),” “从 ... 起来 [cóng ... yǐ lái] (since),” “从 ... 往 ... [cóng ... wǎng] (from ... to),” “从 ... 来说 [cóng ... lái shuō] (for),” “从 ... 来看 [cóng ... lái kàn] (for).”

“从 ... 到 ... [cóng ... dào ...]” not only means from the beginning to the end in time or location, but also indicates the person or the quantity involved.

“从 ... 到 ... [cóng ... dào ...]” can function as an adverbial.

Spring is like a newly born baby, fresh and totally energetic.

Our nation’s buildings, from ancient palaces to modern apartments, have been predominantly symmetrical. Left is what it is, right is what it is. [wò guó de jiàn zhù, cóng gǔ dài de gōng diàn dào xiàn dài de yì bān zhù fáng, jué dà bù fèn shí duì chèn de, zuǒ biān zhèn me yàng, yòu biān yě zèn me yàng.]
Most of the buildings in China, from ancient palaces to modern houses, are symmetrical.

Example 31 这些瓷雕，从构思到情态，都是在他厚实的生活根基上创造出来的好作品。[zhè xiē cí diāo, cóng gòu sī dào qíng tài, dōu shì zài tā hòu shì de shēng huó gēn jī shàng chuàng zào chū hǎo zuò pǐn.]
(The porcelain carvings, including their conceptions and spirits, are created based on his rich experience of life.)

Example 32 第二天，有人问起，他又把这档事从头到尾学说了一遍，有声有色。[dì èr tiān, rén yǒu wèn qǐ, tā yòu bǎ zhè dāng shì cóng tóu dào wèi xué shuō le yī biàn, yǒu shēng yǒu sè.]
(The next day, he repeated this matter vividly from the beginning to the end when someone asked.)

Example 33 那天，从天亮到清晨，全城的爆竹声不绝于耳。[nà tiān, cóng tiān liàng dào qīng chén, quán chéng de bào zhú shēng bù jué yú ěr.]
(That day, the sound of firecrackers was heard all over the city from the day-break to the early morning.)

“从 . . . 到 . . . [cóng . . . dào . . .] (from . . . to . . .)” can function as a predicate.

Example 34 海风，从八级到九级，又从九级到十级。[hǎi fēng, cóng bā jí dào jiǔ jí, yòu cóng jiǔ jí dào shí jí.]
(The sea breeze gets stronger and stronger, from level eight to level nine, and then from level nine to level ten.)

Example 35 北京的工业从无到有，从小到大。[běi jīng de gōng yè cóng wú dào yǒu, cóng xiǎo dào dà.]
(The industries in Beijing have developed from small to big since they first appeared there.)

Example 36 沙丘的高度一般从几米到几十米，也有高达一百米以上的。[shā qiū de gāo dù yī bān cóng jǐ mǐ dào jǐ shí mǐ, yě yǒu gāo dá yī bǎi mǐ yī shàng de.]
(The height of sand dunes usually ranges from several meters to tens of meters, and some are as high as 100 meters.)

“从 . . . 到 . . . [cóng . . . dào . . .] (from . . . to . . .)” can function as subject.

Example 37 从开花到果子成熟，大约得3个月 . . . [cóng kāi huā dào guǒ zi chéng shú, dà yuē děi sān gè yuè . . .]
(It takes about three months from flowering to ripening.)

Example 38 从居庸关到呼和浩特大约有一千多公里的路程。[cóng jū yōng guān dào hú hé hào tè dà yuē yǒu yī qiān duō gōng lǐ de lù chéng.]
(It is about a thousand kilometers from Juyong Guan to Hohhot.)

Usually, “从 . . . 到 . . . [cóng . . . dào . . .] (from . . . to . . .)” can function as object in the “是 [shì]” sentence.
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Example 39 搞经济，搞文化，哪一件不是从不会到会，从一无所知，到知之不多，这是一个不断转化的过程。[gǎo jīng jì, gǎo wén huà, nǎ yī jiàn bù shì cóng bù huì dào huì, cóng yī wú suǒ zhī, dào zhī zhī bù duō, zhè shì yī gè bù duàn zhuǎn huà de guò chéng.] (Economic and cultural development is a developing process of transformation, from unknowing to knowing.)

Example 40 这条高速公路是从三元桥到首都国际机场，全长15公里。[zhè tiáo gāo sù gōng lù shì cóng sān yuán qiáo dào shǒu dū guó jī jī chǎng, quán cháng shì wǔ gōng lǐ.] (The highway is from San Yuan Bridge to Beijing Capital International Airport, with a total length of 15 kilometers.)

“从 . . . 到 . . . [cóng . . . dào . . .]” can function as attribute.

Example 41 从省委到各地、市、县委，到各部门的负责同志都有计划地下去蹲点。[cóng shěng wěi dào gè dì, shì, xiàn weì, dào gè bù mén de fù zǒng zhì dōu yǒu jì huà de xià qù dūn diǎn.] (From the provincial Party committee to those of different region, city, county, and department levels, all the comrades in charge have been well structured for the countryside investigation.)

Example 42 过去，它年年都牵动着从市领导到老百姓的心。[guò qù, tā nián nián dōu qiān dòng zhe cóng shì lǐng dào lǎo bāi xìng de xīn.] (In the past, it attracted the concern of people from city leaders to ordinary people every year.)

Example 43 中国茶叶的发展经历了从药用到饮用，从野生到种植的漫长过程。[zhōng guó chá yè de fā zhǎng jīng lǐ le cóng yào yòng dào yǐn yòng, cóng yě shēng dào zhòng zhí de màn cháng guò chéng.] (The development of Chinese tea has gone through a long history, from medicinal to drinking, from wild to planting.)

Example 44 从北京冬奥张家口的铁路长二百公里，是连接华北和西北的交通要道。[cóng běi jīng dào zhāng jiā kǒu de tiē lù cháng ěr bǎi gōng lǐ, shì lián jiē huá hé xī běi de jiāo tōng yào dào.] (The railway of two hundred kilometers from Beijing to Zhangjiakou is the key line connecting North China and Northwest China.)

(2) 从 . . . 起 . . . [cóng . . . qǐ] (since)

Standing at the beginning of the sentence, “从 . . . 起 . . . [cóng . . . qǐ] (since)” often functions as an adverbial to indicate time, similar to “从 . . . 开始 [cóng . . . kāi shǐ] (to start off with . . .)”

Example 45 每个人从学迈第一步起，便一直小心翼翼。[měi gé rén cóng xué mài dì yī bù qǐ, biàn yī zhī xǐ xiǎo xīn yī yì.] (Everyone has to be careful for their whole lives since their first steps are taken.)
Sometimes, there could be a verb-object phrase or subject-predicate phrase in the middle of “从...起...” (since), denoting the beginning of time or action. The predicate verbs of the phrase can be “说 [shuō] (say),” “找 [zhǎo] (seek),” “学 [xué] (learn),” “算 [suàn] (calculate)” and often stand just before “起 [qǐ] (from).”

Example 50 从我上小学算起, 我已经学习十几年了。[cóng wǒ shàng xiǎo xué suàn qǐ, wǒ yǐ jīng xué xí shí jiān nián le.] (I have been learning for more than ten years since I went to primary school.)

Example 51 事情还得从他们结婚时说起。[shì qíng hái děi cóng tā men jié hūn shí shuō qǐ.] (It all started since they got married.)

Example 52 学习外语, 一般都是从发音学起。[xué xí wài yǔ, yī bān dōu shì cóng fā yǐn xué qǐ.] (Learning a foreign language usually starts from learning how to pronounce first.)

Example 53 苏林教授手持纸条, 不知从何找起。[Sū Lín jiào shòu shǒu chǐ zhǐ tiáo, bù zhī cóng hé zhǎo qǐ.] (Holding a note, Professor Su Lin is unaware of where to find it.)

Example 54 我问姐姐: 找对象从何找起呢? [wǒ wèn jiě jié: zhǎo dui xiàng cóng hé zhǎo qǐ ne?] (I asked my sister: how could I start looking for a partner?)

(3) 从...以来 [cóng... yī lái] (since)

“从...以来 [cóng... yī lái] (since)” refers to a period of time that started from the past and continues to the time of speaking. In the middle of “从...以来 [cóng... yī lái] (since),” some words or phrases can be added, such as a time
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word, a verb phrase or a subject-predicate phrase. Sometimes, “从 [cóng] (from)”
can be omitted.

Example 55 从开学以来, 我还没有请过假。[cóng kāi xué yǐ lái, wǒ hái méi yǒu qǐng guò jià.]
(I haven’t asked for leave since the school started.)

Example 56 从到中国以来, 我还没有生过病。[cóng dào zhōng guó yǐ lái, wǒ hái méi yǒu shēng guò bìng.]
(I have not been ill since I came to China.)

Example 57 从结婚以来, 他们小两口还没有红过脸。[cóng jié hūn yǐ lái, tā men xiǎo liǎng kǒu hái méi yǒu hóng guò liǎn.]
(They have never quarreled since they got married.)

Example 58 从他自己开这个公司以来, 天天夜里十点多钟才到家。[cóng tā zì jǐ kāi zhè gè gōng sī yǐ lái, tiān tiān yè lì shí diǎn duō zhōng cái dào jiā.]
(Since he started his own company, he doesn’t get home until over ten o’clock
every night.)

Example 59 从今以后, 我决定不再工作。[cóng jīn yǐ hòu, wǒ jué dìng bù zài gōng zuò.]
(From now on, I decide not to work any more.)

Example 60 从那以后, 他一直生活在上海。[cóng nà yǐ hòu, tā yí zhí shēng huó zài shànghǎi.]
(From then on, he has been living in Shanghai.)

Example 61 说真话, 五岁以后, 四十五年来, 我还真没有买过帽子。[shuō zhēn huà, wǔ suì yǐ hòu, sì shí wǔ nián lái, wǒ hái zhēn méi yǒu mǎi guò mào zì.]
(To tell you the truth, I have never bought a hat since I was five. It has been
forty-five years.)

Example 62 从这本小说的内容来说, 中学生看不太合适。[cóng zhè běn xiǎo shū de nèi róng lái shuō, zhōng xué shēng kàn bù tài hē shì.]
(As for the content of this novel, it is not for the eyes of middle-school
students.)

Example 63 从工程质量来说, 这点小错误也是不能容忍的。[cóng gōng chéng zhì liàng lái shuō, zhè diǎn xiǎo cuò wù yē shì bù néng róng rěn de.]
(As far as the quality of the project is concerned, this small mistake is also
intolerable.)
Example 64 从另一个角度来看，信息产业的发展，为社会提供了大量就业机会。[cóng líng yī gè jiǎo dù lái kàn, xìn xī chǎn yè de fā zhǎn, wèi shè huì huì gòng le dà liàng jiù yè jī hui.]
(From another point of view, the development of the information industry has provided a large number of employment opportunities for society.)

Example 65 从我们的具体情况来看，这围墙的作用主要有两个：一是为了安静，二是为了美观。[cóng wǒ men de jū qíng kuàng lái kàn, zhè wéi qiáng de zuò yòng zhǔ yào yǒu liàng gè: yī shì wèi le ān jìng, yī shì wèi le měi guān.]
(From a realistic standpoint, this fence has two main functions: one is for isolation, the other is for decoration.)

Example 66 从这一点来看，虽不能说她就是学生中的佼佼者，但可以说她是一个幸运儿。[cóng zhè yì diǎn lái kàn, suī bù néng shuō tā jiù shì xué shēng zhōng de jiǎo jiǎo zhe, dàn kě yǐ shuō tā shì yī gè xìng yùn er.]
(From this point of view, although she is not qualified as the best of the students, she is definitely a lucky one.)

II. 由 [yóu] (from), 自 [zì] (from), 打 [dǎ] (from), 自从 [zì cóng] (from)


1 由 [yóu] (from)

“由 [yóu] (from)” can indicate many meanings.

(1) “由 [yóu] (from)” indicates the beginning of location or time, similar to “从 [cóng] (from).” Thus, they can substituted for each other but “从 [cóng] (from)” sounds more oral than “由 [yóu] (from).”

“由 [yóu] (from)” indicates the beginning of location.

Example 67 碑身南面有三幅浮雕，由东向西的第一幅，是1911年的武昌起义。[bēi shēn nán miàn yǒu sān fú diāo, yóu dōng xiàng xī de dì yī fú, shì 1911 nián de wǔ chāng qǐ yì.]
(There are three carvings in relief on the south side of the stone tablet; Wuchang Uprising in 1911 is the first one displayed from east to west.)

Example 68 明天大家先到方先生家集合，由方先生那儿走比较近。[míng tiān dā jiā xiān dào Fāng xiān shēng jié hé, yóu Fāng xiān shēng nà ěr zǒu bǐ jiào jìn.]
(Tomorrow we will gather at Mr. Fang’s house due its being to a shorter distance away from there.)

Example 69 这趟列车，由北京开出，经济南、南京就到了终点站上海。[zhè tàng liè chē, yóu Běi jīng kāi chū, jīng jì nán, nán jīng jiù dào le zhōng diǎn zhàn shàng hǎi.]
(This train leaves from Beijing, passes by Jinan and Nanjing, and then to the terminal Shanghai.)
**Prepositions**

Example 70 这条小路走的人很少，狼也许由这条小路逃走了。[zhè tiáo xiǎo lù zǒu de rén hěn shǎo, láng yě xū yǒu zhè tiáo xiǎo lù táo zǒu le.]
(There are few people on this path, and the wolf may have escaped from here.)

“由 [yóu] (from)” indicates the beginning of time.

Example 71 那部电影是由陈建华第二次去机场迎接妹妹开始的。[nà bù diàn yǐng shì yóu Chén jiàn huá dì èr cì qù jiǎo yǐng jiē mèi mèi kāi shì de.]
(The film starts with the sequence in which Chen Jianhua met his younger sister for the second time at the airport.)

Example 72 由1979年开始，他就从事业余写作，已经坚持十八年了。[yóu 1979 nián kāi shì, tā jiù cóng yú yè xiě zuò, yǐ jīng jiān chí shí bā nián le.]
(Since 1979, he has been engaged in amateur writing for 18 years.)

Example 73 由上午9:00到下午3:00，是他们对外办公的时间。[yóu shàng wǔ 9:00 dào xià wǔ 3:00, shì tā men duì wài bàn gōng de shí jiān.]
(Their office time is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

“由 [yóu] (from)” indicates the beginning of a development or occurrence.

Example 74 中国实现现代化，必然要有一个由初级到高级的过程。[zhōng guó shí xiàn xiàn dài huà, bì rán yào yǒu yī gè jū jí dào gāo jí de guò chéng.]
(To realize modernization, China must undergo a path from the primary level to the senior level.)

Example 75 凡事都有由量变到质变的过程。[fán shì dōu yǒu yóu liàng biàn dào zhì biàn de guò chéng.]
(There exists a process of changing from quantity to quality.)

Example 76 刚才他的发言，由犹豫不决，转为语气坚定。[gāng cái tā de fā yán, yóu yóu yù bù jué, zhuǎn wéi yǔ qì jiān dìng.]
(The tone of the speech he just made changed from hesitancy at first and then to stability.)

Example 77 八十年代，我和高力在同一单位工作，由认识到相爱。[bā shí nián dài, wǒ hé Gāo Lì zài tóng yī dān wèi gōng zuò, yǒu rèn shí dào xiāng ài.]
(In the 1980s, Gao Li and I worked in the same unit, and our relation developed from recognizing each other to loving each other.)

Example 78 那次会议之后，他由助教越级晋升为副教授。[nà cì huì yì zhī hòu, tā yóu zhù jiào yuè jí jìn shēng wéi fù jiào shòu.]
(After that meeting, he was directly promoted from assistant to associate professor.)

“由 [yóu] (from)” indicates a source.

Example 79 我们由沥青铀矿中提出的物质，它的分解特性与铋相近。[wǒ men yóu lì qīng yóu kuàng zhōng tí chū de wù zhì, tā de fěn jiè xíng yǔ bì xiàng jìn.]

"Example 70 林中（zhōng）走的人很少，狼也许由这条小路逃走了。[lín zhōng zǒu de rén hěn shǎo, láng yě xū yǒu zhè tiáo xiǎo lù táo zǒu le.]
(There are few people in the woods, and the wolf may have escaped from here.)

“由 [yóu] (from)” indicates the beginning of time.

Example 71 那部电影是由陈建华第二次去机场迎接妹妹开始的。[nà bù diàn yǐng shì yóu Chén jiàn huá dì èr cì qù jiǎo yǐng jiē mèi mèi kāi shì de.]
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(Their office time is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

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(To realize modernization, China must undergo a path from the primary level to the senior level.)

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(There exists a process of changing from quantity to quality.)

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(After that meeting, he was directly promoted from assistant to associate professor.)

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(There are few people in the woods, and the wolf may have escaped from here.)
(The decomposition characteristics of the material we extracted from pitchblende are similar to those of bismuth.)

Example 80 那个地区的许多不同品种的马, 都是由同一种野生的马进化而来的。[nà gè di qù de xù duō bù tóng pǐn zhòng de mǎ, dōu shì yǒu tóng yī zhǒng yě shēng de mǎ jǐn huà ér lái de.]
(Many different breeds of horses in that area have evolved from the same wild horses.)

Example 81 豆腐是由黄豆做的。[dòu fǔ shì yóu huáng dòu zuò de.]
(Bean curd is made from soybean.)

Example 82 人才是由学校培养出来的。[rén cái shì yóu xué xiào péi yǎng chū lái de.]
(Talents are cultivated by school.)

(2) “由 [yóu] (from)” introduces the doer of an action who is supposed to finish this behavior.

Example 83 说到底, 这种悲哀也许主要应该由我自己负责。[shuō dào dǐ, zhè zhǒng bēi āi yě yào yǒu wǒ zì jǐ fù zé.]
(To be honest, perhaps I am primarily responsible for this sadness.)

Example 84 给家里买些日常吃的菜, 向来是由我父母操办和操劳的。[gěi jī ài mài xiē rì cháng chī de cài, xiàng lái shì yóu wǒ fù mǔ cāo bàn hé cāo láo de.]
(My parents have always taken care of the daily food for the family.)

Example 85 只要爷爷同意, 爹的说服工作由我来做。[zhǐ yào yé yé tóng yì, diē de shuō fú gōng zuò yóu wǒ lái zuò.]
(As long as my grandfather agrees, I will take care of persuading my father.)

Example 86 这是可以由你自己作主的事。[zhè shì kě yǐ nǐ zì jǐ zuò zhǔ de shì.]
(It’s up to you.)

Example 87 这是一条完全由我国的工程技术人员设计施工的铁路干线。[zhè shì yī tiáo wán quán yóu wǒ guó de gōng chéng jì shù rén yuán shè jì gōng cōng de tiē lù gàn xiàn.]
(This is a trunk railway independently designed and constructed by Chinese engineers and technicians.)

(3) “由 [yóu] (from)” means “by . . .” or “with . . .” and often appears in the structures of “由 . . . 组成 [yóu . . . zǔ chéng] (be made up of),” “由 . . . 构成 [yóu . . . gòu chéng] (be made up of).”

Example 88 谈到石油的化学成分, 我们可以说, 它是由多种物质组成的混合物。[tán dào shí yóu de huà xué chéng fèn, wǒ men kě yǐ shuō, tā shì yóu duō zhǒng wù zhī zǔ chéng de hùn hé wù.]
(As for the chemical composition of oil, we can say that it is formed by a mixture of various substances.)
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Example 89 These stars are made up of very thin substances in a gaseous state. [zhè xīng xīng shì yóu fēi cháng xī bāo de qí tì zuò zài wū zhī zú chéng de.]
(The stars are made up of very thin substances in a gaseous state.)

Example 90 The object structure of this sentence is quite complex. It is made up of several attributes which are added to the center word one by one. [zhè gè jù zi de bīn yǔ jié gòu bì jiào fù zá, tā shì yǒu jī gè dìng yǔ yì céng yì céng dì jiē zài zhōng xīn yù shǎng gòu chéng de.]
(The object structure of this sentence is quite complex. It is made up of several attributes which are added to the center word one by one.)

There are some frequently used phrases consisting of “由 [yóu] (from),” such as “由此可知 [yóu cǐ kě zhī] (it can be seen from this),” “由此可见 [yóu cǐ kě jiàn] (it can be seen from this),” “由此往前 [yóu cǐ wǎng qián] (go forward from here).”

Example 91 Thus it can be seen that our original analysis is correct. [yóu cǐ kě jiàn, wǒ men yuán xiān de fēn xī shì duì de.]
(Thus it can be seen that our original analysis is correct.)

Example 92 It can be seen from this that he did not come to school at all but went to the hospital to see a doctor. [yóu cǐ kě zhī, tā gēn běn méi yōu lái xué xiào, ér shì qù yǐ yuàn kàn bìng qù le.]
(It can be seen from this that he did not come to school at all but went to the hospital to see a doctor.)

Example 93 The bus station is in walking distance of 400 meters away from here. [yóu cǐ wǎng qián, zǒu sì bǎi mǐ jiù shì qì chē zhàn.]
(The bus station is in walking distance of 400 meters away from here.)

2 自 [zì] (from), 打 [dǎ] (from)

Both of them can refer to the beginning of location or time. “打 [dǎ] (from)” is more popular in the oral expressions in the north of China; “自 [zì] (from)” often appears in the written language.

(1) “自 [zì] (from)” and “打 [dǎ] (from)” can be connected with words denoting location or time to form prepositional phrases. The formed phrases can function as adverbials and indicate the beginning of location or time.

Example 94 He was born in Hainan and lost his parents when he was very young. [tā chū shēng zài hǎi nán, zì yòu shī qù le fù mǔ.] (He was born in Hainan and lost his parents when he was very young.)

Example 95 There is no boat travelling at night from Yellow River ferry; thus, if you want to cross the river, you have to wait until the next morning. [huáng hé dù kǒu, zì gǔ yī lái, yè bù háng chuán, yào guò hé, děng zhe tiān liàng ba.] (There is no boat travelling at night from Yellow River ferry; thus, if you want to cross the river, you have to wait until the next morning.)

Example 96 He has been spoiled from childhood. [tā zì yòu jiāo shēng guàn yāng.] (He has been spoiled from childhood.)
Example 97 花瓶里的花是打哪儿掐来的？ [huā pínɡ lǐ de huā shì dǎ nǎ er qǐ lǎi de?]
(Where did the flowers in the vase come from?)

Example 98 打八点钟起，他便趴在桌子上写啊，写啊... [dǎ bā diǎn zhōnɡ qǐ，tā biàn pā zài zhúo zi shànɡ xiě ěr xiě ěr...]
(From eight o’clock, he kept on writing at the table...)

(2) The prepositional phrase consisting of “自 [zì] (from)” can function as a complement and is mainly used in the written language. However, “从 [cóng] (from),” “自从 [zì cóng] (from),” “和打 [dǎ] (from)” are exceptional.

Example 99 一封封来自祖国各地的祝贺信激励着他不断前进。 [yī fēnɡ fēnɡ lái zì zǔ guó gè dì de zhù hè xìn jī lì zhe tā bù duàn qián jìn.]
(Letters of congratulations from all over the country have spurred him on.)

Example 100 信里他流露出发自内心的喜悦。 [xìn lǐ tā liú lù fā zì nèi xīn de xǐ yuè.]
(He revealed his deep joy in the letter.)

Example 101 他对事业的一往情深出自一个简单的信念。 [tā duì shì yè de yī wǎng qíng shēn chū zì yī gè jiǎn dān de xìn niàn.]
(His deep love for his career results from a simple belief.)

Example 102 目前这项试验受到了来自各方面的欢迎。 [mù qián zhè xiānɡ shì yàn shòu dào le lái zì gè fān miàn de huān yíng.]
(At present, the experiment has been welcomed by all sides.)

Example 103 这发自肺腑、掷地有声的话语，使他感到十分意外，当然也很感动。 [zhè fā zì fèi fǔ，zhì dì yǒu shēng de huà yǔ，shǐ tā gǎn dào shì fēn yì wài，dānɡ răn yě hěn gǎn děng.]
(He was fully surprised and moved by these sincere and powerful words.)

3 自从 [zì cóng] (since)

“自从 [zì cóng] (since)” simply indicates the beginning of time in the past.

Example 104 自从搬进小阁楼，玛丽的学习效率大大提高了。 [zì cóng bān jìn xiǎo gé lóu，Mǎ lì de xué xī xiào liè dà dà tī gāo le.]
(Mary’s learning efficiency has greatly been improved since she moved into the attic.)

Example 105 自从他当了班长以后，课堂秩序有了明显好转。 [zì cóng tā dāng le bān zhǎng yī hòu，kè táng zhì xù yǒu le míng xiàn hǎo zhuǎn.]
(Since he became the monitor, classroom order has been obviously improved.)

Example 106 阿里自从来中国以后，汉语水平提高得很快。 [Ā Lǐ zì cóng lái zhōnɡ guó yī hòu，hàn yǔ shuǐ pínɡ tí gāo dé hěn kuài.]
(A Li’s level of Chinese has improved very quickly since he came to China.)
III. 在 [zài] (at/exist)

“在 [zài] (at/exist)” is a verb as well as a preposition. It means “存在 [cún zài] (exist)” as verb and functions as predicate. It is followed by the word denoting location as its object, such as “我母亲在家，我父亲不在家。[wǒ mǔ qīn zài jiā, wǒ fù qīn bú zài jiā.] (My mother is at home, but my father is not.)” In a certain context, its object can be absent, such as “他不在。[tā bú zài.] (He isn’t.)” as an answer to the question “张老师在吗? [zhāng lǎoshī zài ma?] (Is Prof. Zhang at home?).”

As a preposition, “在 [zài] (at)” requires an additional object to form a prepositional phrase to indicate location. The formed phrase can function as an adverbial before the verb, indicating time, location, or scope of the action involved.

1 “在 [zài] (at)” indicates time when the action happens

Example 107 这趟火车每天在七点钟通过这座桥。[zhè tàng huǒ chē měi tiān zài qī diǎn guò zhè zuò qiáo.]
(The train passes over the bridge at 7:00 every day.)

Example 108 在出发之前，排长就到各班进行了纪律检查。[zài chū fā zhǐ qián, pái zhǎng jiù dào gè bān jìn xíng le jì lǜ jiǎn chá.]
(Before departure, the platoon leader went to each team for disciplinary inspection.)

Example 109 在那些困难的岁月里，大伯父给了我们家很大的帮助。[zài nà xiē kùn nán de suì yuè lǐ, dà bó fù gěi le wǒmen jiā hěn dà de bāng zhù.]
(In those difficult years, my father’s elder brother gave our family a lot of help.)

Example 110 他（鲁迅）在逝世的前三天，还给别人翻译的苏联小说写了一篇序言，在逝世的前一天还记了日记。[tā (Lǔ Xùn) zài shì shì de qián sān tiān, hái gěi bié rén yī děng zài zhōu xiǎo xiǎo shuō xiě le yī piān xù yán, zài shì shì de qián yī tiān hái jì le rì jì.]
(Three days before his death, he (Lu Xun) wrote a preface to a translated Soviet novel as well as finished a diary.)

Example 111 就在这个时候，一架飞机朝这儿飞来，在上空盘旋着。[jiù zài zhè gè shí hou, yī jià fēi jī cháo zhè ěr fēi lái, zài shàng kōng pán xuán zhe.]
(At this time, a plane flew toward here and circled overhead.)

Some adverbs are allowed to appear before “在 [zài] (at),” such as “就 [jiù],” “正 [zhèng],” “恰好 [qià hǎo] (exactly),” “正好 [zhèng hǎo] (just in time),” “恰巧 [qià qiǎo] (exactly),” “大概 [dà gài] (probably),” “大约 [dà yuē] (approximately).” When functioning as an adverbial, the prepositional phrase “在 . . . [zài . . .] (at . . .)” can either stand before the predicate verb in the sentence, just like Example 105 and Example 108, or it may be moved to the head of sentence (before subject), like Example 106, Example 107, and Example 109.
The common phrases consisting of “在 [zài] (at)” to indicate time are “在...时候 [zài...shí hòu] (when...),” “在...时期 [zài...shí qī] (in the period of...),” “在...时刻 [zài...shí kè] (at the moment...),” “在...年代 [zài...nián dài] (in the times of...),” “在...同时 [zài...tóng shí] (at the same time...),” “在...前/以前/之前 [zài...qián/yī qián/zǐ qián] (before...),” “在...后/以后/之后 [zài...hòu/yǐ hòu/zǐ hòu] (after...).

2  “在 [zài] (at)” indicates location

Example 112 你在前面走, 我们在后面跟。[nǐ zài qián miàn zǒu, wǒ men zài hòu miàn gēn.]
(You go in front, and we’ll follow you.)

Example 113 彼得在海员俱乐部工作。[Bǐ dé zài hǎi yuán jù lè bù gōng zuò.]
(Peter works at the seafarers’ club.)

Example 114 我走进他的房间, 他正用那只受过伤的手在一块红布上绣“友谊”两个字。[wǒ zǒu jìn tā de fáng jiān, tā zhèng yòng nà zhī shòu guò shāng de shǒu zài yī kuài hóng bù shàng xiù “yǒu yì” liǎng gè zì.]
(When I went into his room, he was embroidering the word “friendship” on a red piece of cloth with his wounded hand.)

Example 115 星期日我们全家在张老师那儿玩了一天。[xīng qī rì wǒ men quán jiā zài Zhāng lǎo shī nà ěr wán le yī tiān.]
(Our family spent a whole day at Miss Zhang’s on Sunday.)

Example 116 阿里, 你不舒服, 先在我这儿休息会儿吧! [Ā Lí, nǐ bù shū fǔ, xiān zài wǒ zhè ěr xiū xī huì ěr ba!]
(A Li, if you are not feeling well, just have a rest here!)

The prepositional phrase consisting of “在 [zài] (at)” can be used before a verb to indicate location. There are two situations for such usage. One is that the doer of the action happens to be there, such as “彼得 [Bǐ dé] (Peter)” in “海员俱乐部 [hǎi yuán jù lè bù] (the seafarers’ club);” the other is that the doer of the action is not there. To take Example 114 for instance, it is “他绣字 [tā xiù zì] (he was embroidering)” but not “他 [tā] (he)” that is on the “红布上 [hóng bù shàng] (on a red piece of cloth).”

3 “在 [zài] (at)” indicates scope or limit

(1) “在 [zài] (at)” indicates scope in the form of “在... + locative”

Example 117 在她这个年纪的女人里边, 她是个顶有福气的。[zài tā zhè gè nián jì de nǚ rén lǐ biān, tā shì gè dǐng yǒu fú qì de.]
(She is a blessed woman of her age.)

Example 118 在我们这个集体里, 同学之间, 像亲兄弟一样, 亲如手足。[zài wǒ men zhè gé jī tǐ lǐ, tóng xué zhī jiān, xiàng qīn xiōng di yī yàng, qīn rú shǒu zú.]
(In our collective, students are as close as blood brothers.)
Example 119 在许许多多的同学之中，阿彤是我最要好的朋友。[zài xǔ duǒ duǒ de tóng xué zhī zhōng, Ā Tóng shì wǒ zuì yào hǎo de péng yǒu.] (Among many classmates, A Tong is my best friend.)

Example 120 在这几天之内，又传来了令人振奋的消息。[zài zhè jǐ tiān zhī nèi, yòu chuán lái le lìng rén zhèn fèn de xiāo xī.] (More exciting news came in a few days.)

Example 121 当然，理想和现实之间还有一段遥远的路程。[dāng rán, liǎng xiǎng hé xiàn shí jiān jiān hái yǒu yī duàn yáo yuǎn de lù chéng] (Of course, there is still a long way between the ideal and reality.)


(2) “在 [zài] (at)” indicates limit

Example 122 在一万一千米以上的高空，温度是不随着高度而改变的。[zài yī wàn yī qiān mǐ yī shàng de gāo kōng, wēn dù shì bù suí zhe gāo dù ér gǎi biàn de.] (At an altitude of more than 11,000 meters, the temperature doesn’t change with the height any more.)

Example 123 这座小楼盖得很有气魄，楼上三间，楼下四间，水磨石地板，每间面积都在二十平方米以上。[zhè zuò xiǎo lóu gài dé hěn yǒu qì pò, lóu shàng sān jiān, lóu xià sì jiān, shuǐ mó shí dì bān, měi jiān miàn jī dōu zài èr shí píng fāng mì yī shàng.] (The small building is built in an imposing scale, decorated with a terrazzo floor and equipped with three rooms upstairs and four rooms downstairs, each of which has an area of more than 20 square meters.)

Example 124 这种飞机在海拔两万米以内可以飞行。[zhè zhǒng fēi jī zài hǎi bǎ liǎng wàn mǐ yī nèi kě yǐ fēi xíng.] (This kind of plane can fly at an altitude of 20,000 meters.)

Example 125 这种雷达不能发现在五百米以外的目标。[zhè zhǒng lái dá bù néng fā xiǎn zài wǔ bǎi mǐ yī wài de mù biāo.] (This kind of radar cannot find targets 500 meters away.)

Example 126 这种胶在摄氏两百度以下是不会熔化的。[zhè zhǒng jiāo zài shè shì èr bǎi dù yī xià shì bù huì róng huà de.] (This kind of glue will not melt below 200°C.)

The formed structures consisting of “在 [zài] (at)” to indicate limit include “在 . . . 以上 [zài . . . yī shàng] (above . . .),” “在 . . . 之内 [zài . . . zhī nèi] (inside . . .),” “在 . . . 之外 [zài . . . zhī wài] (outside . . .),” “在 . . . 以下 [zài . . . yī xià] (below . . .).”
With “上 [shàng] (above),” “中 [zhōng] (middle),” “下 [xià] (under)”

“在 [zài] (at)” can be combined with 上 [shàng], ”“中 [zhōng],” “下 [xià] to form the structures: “在 ... 上 [zài ... shàng] (above ...),” “在 ... 中 [zài ... zhōng] (at/in ...),” “在 ... 下 [zài ... xià] (under ...)” for time, space, scope, aspect, condition, etc.

(1) 在 ... 上 [zài ... shàng] (above ...)

“在 ... 上 [zài ... shàng] (above ...)” refers to scope, aspect, or condition. In the middle some words or phrases can be added, such as nouns, noun phrases, verbs, or verb phrases.

Example 127 小华在玩上可有办法了。[Xiǎo Huá zài wán shàng kě yǒu bǎn fǎ le.]
(Xiao Hua is really good at playing.)

Example 128 文学革命在创作上是从白话诗开始的。[wén xué gé mìng zài chuàng zuò shàng shì cóng bái huà shī kāi shǐ de.]
(The literary revolution began with free verse written in the vernacular.)

Example 129 在题材的选择上，我一向喜欢寻找独特点。[zài tí cái de xǔ zé shàng , wǒ yí xiàng xiǎn zhǎo dú tè diǎn.]
(In the choice of theme, I always like to find a unique point.)

Example 130 一年来，他在学习上的进步是很显著的。[yī nián lái, tā zài xué xí shàng de jìn bù shì hěn xiǎn zhù de.]
(Over the past year, he has made remarkable progress in his studies.)

Example 131 科学技术是一种在历史上起推动作用的革命力量。[kē xué jì shù shì yī zhǒng zài lì shǐ shàng qǐ tuī dòng zuò yòng de gé mìng lì liàng.]
(Science and technology is a kind of revolutionary force that plays a driving role in history.)

(2) 在 ... 中 [zài ... zhōng] (at/in ...)

“在 ... 中 [zài ... zhōng] (at/in ...)” indicates environment, scope, time, or condition of the action or the state involved. In the middle some words or phrases can be added, such as nouns, noun phrases, verbs, verb phrases, or adjectives.

Example 132 青年人就是要在艰苦中奋斗，在奋斗中创业，在创业中成长。[qīng nián rén jiù shì yào zài jiān kǔ zhòng fèn dòu, zài fèn dòu zhòng chuàng yè, zài chuàng yè zhòng chéng zhǎng.]
(Youth should struggle in hardship, pioneer in the struggle, and grow up to be pioneering in their work.)

Example 133 他在忙乱中，把这么重要的信件忘在桌子上了。[tā zài mánɡ luàn zhōnɡ, bǎ zhè me zhònɡ yào de xìn jiàn wànɡ zài zhuō zi shànɡ le.]
(He left such an important letter on the table in a hurry.)
Example 134 孩子们是在不知不觉模仿自己的父母的。 [hái zi men shì zài bù zhī bù jué mó fāng zi jī de fù mǔ de.]
(Children are imitating their parents unconsciously.)

Example 135 我们预祝你不断进步，在中美文化交流中取得成绩。 [wǒ men yù zhù nǐ bù duàn jìn bù, zài zhōng měi wén huà jiāo liú zhōng qǔ dé chéng jì.]
(We wish your continuous progress and achievements in Sino-US cultural exchanges.)

Example 136 他在教学工作中的成绩是有目共睹的。 [tā zài jiào xué gōng zuò zhōng de chéng jì shì yǒu mù gòng dǔ de.]
(His achievements in teaching are obvious to all.)

Also, “在 . . . 中 [zài . . . zhōng] (at/in . . .)” can function as the predicate, denoting the ongoing action. In this case, the adverb “正 [zhèng]” can be put before it as a modifier.

Example 137 你的要求正在考虑中，有了结果，我马上告诉你。 [nǐ de yāo qiú zhèng zài kǎo lǜ zhōng, yǒu le jié guǒ, wǒ mǎ shàng gào sù nǐ.]
(Your request is under consideration. As soon as we get the result, I’ll let you know right away.)

Example 138 他的病正在积极治疗中。 [tā de bìng zhèng zài jī jí zhì liáo zhōng.]
(His illness is under active treatment.)

Example 139 他写的教材，上册已经由出版社出版了，下册正在编写中。 [tā xiě de jiào cái, shàng cè yǐ jīng yǒu chè bǎn shè chū bān le, xià cè zhèng zài biān xiě zhōng.]
(The first volume of the teaching materials he wrote has been published by the press and the next volume is being prepared.)

Example 140 随着现代化科学技术的发展，机器人的研制正在迅速发展中。 [suí zhe xiàn dài huà kē xué ji jiàò yuán zhì fù, qī jī rén de yán zhēng zài xùn sù fù zhǎn zhōng.]
(With the development of modern science and technology, the research on robots is developing rapidly.)

(3) 在 . . . 下 [zài . . . xià] (under . . .)

“在 . . . 下 [zài . . . xià] (under . . .)” shows condition, and many noun phrases or disyllabic verbs with their objects can be added in the middle.

Example 141 在舅舅的劝说下，母亲卖了部分房子和土地，供我们读中学。 [zài jiù jiù de quàn shuō xià, mǔ qín mài le bù fèn fáng zi hé tǔ dì, gòng wǒ men dú zhōng xué.]
(Under my uncle’s persuasion, my mother sold part of the house and land to support our learning in middle school.)

Example 142 在他的带领下，全乡农民已经脱贫致富，提前实现了小康。 [zài tā de dǎi lǐng xià, quán xiāng nóng mín yǐ jīng tuō pín zhì fù, tí qián shí xiàn le xiǎo kāng.]
(Under his leadership, the township farmers have been lifted out of poverty and become well-off ahead of schedule.)

Example 143 我们认为在社会主义制度下, 积累和消费的关系, 根本上是一致的。[wǒ men rèn wéi zài shè huì zhǔ yì zhī dǔ xià, jī lěi hé xiāo fèi de guǎn xi, gēn běn shàng shì yī zhī de.]
(We believe that under the socialist system, the relationship between accumulation and consumption is fundamentally consistent.)

Example 144 这些花灯、鱼灯是在老艺人的指点下, 群众业余创作出来的。[zhè xiè huā dēng, yú dēng shì zài lǎo yì rén de zhǐ diǎn xià, qún zhòng yè yú chuàng zuò chū lái de.]
(These flower lamps and fish lamps are created by the masses in their spare time under the guidance of the old artists.)

Example 145 在老师和同学们的帮助下, 小明进步了。[zài lǎo shī hé tóng xué men de bāng zhù xià, Xiǎo Míng jǐn bù le.]
(With the help of his teachers and classmates, Xiao Ming has made great progress.)

Sometimes, “在 [zài] (at)” refers to the target judged or commented on, similar to “对于 . . . 来说 [duì yú . . . lái shuō] (as for . . .)”

Example 146 做这种特技飞行动作, 在他是不成问题的。[zuò zhè zhǒng tè jì fēi xíng dòng zuò, zài tā shì bù chéng wèn tí de.]
(There is no problem for him to do stunt flying.)

In the previous example, “他 [tā] (he)” is judged to be qualified for stunt flying.

Example 147 在她一切都来得自然简单, 率直爽朗。[zài tā yī qiè dōu lái dé zì rán jiǎn dān, shuài zhí shuǎng lǎng.]
(For her, everything is following a principle: natural and simple, frank and direct.)

Example 148 这点儿力气活, 在他算不了什么。[zhè diǎn ěr lì qì huó, zài tā suàn bù le shén me.]
(It’s not a big deal for him to do such little labor.)

Example 149 能用中文写出这样的文章, 在他们已是很不容易了。[néng yòng zhōng wén xiě chū zhè yàng de wén zhāng, zài tā men yǐ shì hěn bù róng yì le.]
(It is not easy for them to write such articles in Chinese.)

“在 . . . 看来 [zài . . . kàn lái] (in the view of . . .)” is commonly used to introduce a person with a certain view. In the middle there could be the noun or pronoun to indicate people. It often appears in the written language.

Example 150 那时, 在很多人看来, 人类遨游太空仅仅是一种美好的愿望。[nà shí, zài hěn duō rén kàn lái, rén lèi áo yóu tài kōng jīn jīn shì yī zhòng měi hào de yuán wàng.]
(At that time, for many people, traveling in space was just a pleasant wish.)
This last example shows “many people think so.”

Example 151 这件事情的发生，在我们看来不是偶然的。[zhè jiàn shì qíng de fā shēng, zài wǒ men kàn lái bù shì ǒu rán de.]
(For us, the occurrence of this matter is not an accident.)

Example 152 在专家们看来, 这种做法是得不偿失的。[zài zhuān jiā men kàn lái, zhè zhǒng zuò fǎ fà shì dé cháng shī de.]
(In the view of the experts, this approach is not worth the cost.)

IV. 对于 [duì yú (for)], 对 [duì] (for), 关于 [guān yú (for)]

As prepositions, “对于 [duì yú (for)], “对 [duì] (for),” “关于 [guān yú] (for)” share similarities and differences simultaneously in meaning and usage.

1 对于 [duì yú] (for)

The function of “对于 [duì yú] (for)” is to introduce the related object or the object involved. It mainly takes a noun (phrase), verb (phrase), or subject-predicate phrase as its object. The prepositional phrase consisting of “对于 [duì yú] (for)” principally modifies the predicate verb (phrase) or adjective (phrase). If “对于 [duì yú] (for)” is moved to the head of sentence, it would modify the entire predicate. Generally speaking, when “对于 [duì yú] (for)” functions as an adverbial in a sentence, the predicate is comparatively complex.

(1) The object of “对于 [duì yú] (for)” is also the object of the action in the sentence, whose semantic meaning is decided by the predicate verb.

Example 153 鲁迅到了晚年, 对于时间抓得更紧。[Lǔ Xùn dào le wǎn nián, duì yú shí jiān zhuā dé gèng jǐn.]
(In his later years, Lu Xun dared not slack off writing.) (to make the best use of one’s time)

Example 154 对于在教学工作中作出突出贡献的教师, 应当表扬和奖励。[duì yú zài jiào xué gōng zuò zhōng zuò chū tū gōng xiàn de jiào shī, yīng dāng biǎo yánghé jiǎng lì.]
(Teachers who have made outstanding contributions to teaching should be praised and rewarded.) (to praise and reward teacher)

Example 155 如果我们不具备相当的科学文化水平, 不学习新的生产技能, 对于现代化的工业生产就很难掌握。[rú guò wǒ men bù jù bèi xiǎng gōng de kē xué wén huà shuǐ píng, bù xué xí xīn de shēng chǎn jì néng, duì yú xiàn dài huà de gōng yè shēng chǎn jiù hěn nán zhǎng wò.]
(It's hard to for us to carry out modern industrial production if we are not well qualified in the aspects of scientific culture or new production skills.) (to carry out the modern industrial production)

Example 156 我公安人员对于案件的每一细节都调查得很详细。[wǒ gōng ān rén yuán duì yú àn jiàn de měi yī jié dōu diào chá dé hěn xiáng xì.]
(Our public security officers have carefully investigated every detail of the case.) (to investigate every detail)

Example 157 你问错人了，对于这个地方，我并不熟悉。[nǐ wèn cuò rén le, duì yú zhè gè di fang, wò bìng bù shú xī.]
(You are asking the wrong person. I’m not familiar with this place.) (to be not familiar with this place)

On one side, the usage of "对于 [duì yú] (for)" in this way moves the object of the action before the verb and enables it to outshine other constituents; on the other side, this usage shortens the length of the object or complement after the verb so as to keep the sentence structure in balance. Especially when the complement denoted by “得 [dé]” appears after the verb whose object happens to be complex, “对于 [duì yú] (for)” is very helpful in such situation, such as “每一细节 [měi yī xi jié] (every detail)” as the complex object of “调查 [diào chá] (investigate)” in Example 156.

(2) “对于 [duì yú] (for)” introduces the object that is related to the action. In this case, the object of “对于 [duì yú] (for)” doesn’t semantically depend on the verb.

Example 158 对于这个问题, 我的看法与你不同。[duì yú zhè gè wèn tí, wǒ de kàn fǎ yǔ nǐ bù tóng.]
(My opinion is different from yours for this question.)

Example 159 教学法对于提高教学质量有很大作用。[jiào xué fǎ duì yú tí gāo jiào xué zhì liàng yǒu hěn dà zuò yòng.]
(The teaching method plays an important role in improving the quality of teaching.)

Example 160 对于犯错误的干部, 一般地应采取说服的方法, 帮助他们改正错误。[duì yú fàn cuò wù de gàn bù, yī bān de yīng cài qǔ shuō fú de fāng fǎ, bāng zhù tā men gǎi zhèng cuò wù.]
(In general, for cadres who make mistakes, we should take the method of persuasion to help them to correct their mistakes.)

Example 161 我们对于农业、轻工业都有一套切实可行的政策。[wǒ men duì yú nóng yè, qīng gōng yè dōu yǒu yī tào qiē shí kě xíng de zhèng cè.]
(We have a set of practical policies for the agriculture and light industries.)

Sometimes, a preposition-object phrase consisting of “对于 [duì yú] (for)” can function as an attribute; this usage requires a structural auxiliary “的 [de]” between the attribute and what it modifies.

Example 162 这件事充分表现了这位作家对于未来的信心。[zhè jiàn shì chōng fèn biǎo xiàn le zhè wèi zuò jiā duì yú wèi lái de xīn xīn.]
(This thing fully shows the writer’s confidence in the future.)

Example 163 对于太阳能的利用已经被越来越多的人所注意。[duì yú tài yáng néng de lì yòng yǐ jīng bèi yuè lái yuè duō de rén suǒ zhù yì.]

(Prepositions 35)
The use of solar energy has been known by more and more people.

Example 164 随着现代医学的发展，我们对于笑的认识更加深刻了。[suí zhe xiàn dài yī xué de fā zhǎn, wǒ men dui yǔ xiào de rèn shī gèng jiā shēn kě le.]
(With the development of modern medicine, we know more and more about laughter.)

(3) The phrase “对...来说 [duì... lái shuō] (for...)” introduces the person or the thing that is judged or appraised. The sentence with this phrase expresses the judgment or the view of the speaker.

Example 165 本来像这样的劳动活, 对于他这样一个老矿工来说不是什么新课。[běn lái xiàng zhè yàng de láo dòng huó, dui tā zhè yàng yī gè lǎo kuàng gōng lái shuō bù shì shén me xīn kè.]
(The labor of such kind is not a new attempt for an old miner like him.)

Example 166 对于搞这样的活动来说, 总是多一点人好。[duì yú gǎo zhè yàng de huó dòng lái shuō, zǒng shì duō yī diǎn rén hǎo.]
(The more people, the better for such activities.)

The previous two sentences express the views of the speakers. However, they may not be the views of the persons involved.

Example 167 她失业很久了, 所以对于她来说, 现在不是工作好坏的问题, 而是有无的问题。所以她大概会接受这个工作。[tā shì yè hěn jiǔ le, suǒ yǐ dui yǔ tā lái shuō, xiàn zài bú shì gōng zuò huài de wèn tí, ér shì yǒu wú de wèn tí. suǒ yǐ tā dà gài huì jiē shòu zhè gè gōng zuò.]
(She has been out of work for a long time. So it is not a question of whether the job is good or bad, but a matter of whether she can have one. Therefore, she would probably take it.)

Example 168 父亲: 你现在还是学生, 对于你来说, 现在最重要的是学习, 打工会影响学习, 所以我不同意你出去打工。[fù qīn: nǐ xiàn zài hái shì xué shēng, dui yú nǐ lái shuō, xiàn zài zuì zhòng yào de shì xué xí, dǎ gōng huì yǐng xiǎng xué xí, suǒ yǐ wǒ bù tóng yí nǐ chū qù dǎ gōng.]
(Father: You are still a student. For you, the most important thing is to study instead of having a part-time job; otherwise, it will affect your study. I won’t allow you to do so.)

儿子: 可是只会学习, 将来也未必能找到好工作。[ér zǐ: kě shì zhǐ huì xué xí, jiāng lái yě wèi bì néng zhǎo dào hǎo gōng zuò.]
(Son: But only learning doesn’t mean I can find a good job in the future.)

In these two sentences, the sentences after “对...来... [duì yú  ... lái shuō] (for  )” indicate the opinion of the father but not the son’s.
2. 对 [duì] (for)

“对 [duì] (for)” is a verb as well as a preposition. As a verb, it means “对待 [duì dài] (treat),” “对付 [duì fù] (deal with),” “朝 [cháo] (face),” “向 [xiàng] (face).”

Example 169
A: 这场球赛谁对谁？[zhè chǎng qiú sài shuí duì shuí.] (Who plays against who in this game?)
B: 北京队对上海队。[běi jīng duì duì shàng hǎi duì.] (Beijing versus Shanghai.)

Example 170 我家的门口对着一颗老槐树。[wǒ jiā de mén kǒu duì zhe yī kē lǎo huái shù.] (My house faces an old locust tree.)

As a preposition, it possesses the following grammatical meanings.

(1) “对 [duì] (for)” still keeps its verbal meanings because it is derived from “对 [duì]” as a verb, but “对于 [duì yú] (for)” doesn’t have a verb.

Example 171 你把试验的注意事项, 对学生说说。[nǐ bǎ shì yàn de zhù yì, duì xué shēng shuō shuō.] (You should tell the students some do’s and don’ts in this experiment.)
Example 172 他对小张点了点头, 没说什么。[tā duì Xiǎo Zhāng diǎn le diǎn tóu, méi shuō shén me.] (He nodded and said nothing to Xiao Zhang.)
Example 173 我们对工作应该认真负责, 一丝不苟。[wǒ men duì gōng zuò yīng gāi rèn zhēn fù zé, yī sī bù gǒu.] (We should be conscientious and meticulous in our work.)
Example 174 他对人很热情。[tā duì rén hěn rè qíng.] (He is very warm to people.)

“对 [duì] (for)” in the previous examples cannot be replaced by “对于 [duì yú] (for).”

(2) “对 [duì] (for)” shares the same meaning of “对于 [duì yú] (for)” when it is used to introduce the object of the action or its object happens to be the object of the action.

Example 175 对这次考试成绩我不太满意。[duì zhè cì kǎo shì chéng jì wǒ bù tài mǎn yì.] (I’m not very satisfied with the exam result.)
Example 176 对在科学研究中做出较大贡献的科学家, 我们应该奖励。[duì zài kē xué yán jiū zhōng zuò chū jiàng dà gòng xiàn de kē xué jiā, wǒ men yīng gāi jiàng lì.] (We should reward scientists who have made great contributions to scientific research.)
Example 177 对严格要求自己的人，我一向很尊重。[duì yán gé yāo qiú zuì jǐ de rén, wǒ yī xiàng hěn zūn zhòng.]
(I always respect people who are strict with themselves.)

Example 178 这次试验，对我们的研究非常重要。[zhè cì shì yàn, duì wǒ men de yán jiū fēi cháng zhòng yào.]
(This experiment is very important to our research.)

In these examples, “对 [duì] (for . . .)” and “对于 [duì yú] (for)” can be replaced with each other.

“对于 . . . 来说/说来 [duì yú . . . lái shuō/shuō lái] (for . . .)” is equal to “对 . . . 来说/说来 [duì . . . lái shuō/shuō lái] (for . . .).”

Example 179 北方的气候，对养花来说，不算很好，冬天冷，春天多风，夏天不是干旱就是倾盆大雨，秋天最好，可是会闹霜冻。[běi fāng de qì hòu, duì yǎng huā lái shuō, bú suàn hǎo, dōng tiān lěng, chūn tiān duō fēng, xià tiān bù shì gān hàn jiù shì qīng pén dà yǔ, qiū tiān zui hǎo, kě shì huì nào shuāng dòng.]
(The climate in the north is not very good for flower growing. It is cold in winter and windy in spring. Summer is either dry or has downpours. Autumn is the best, but sometimes there will be frost.)

Example 180 起名儿，对农家人来说，不是重要的事。[qǐ míng er, duì nóng jiā rén lái shuō, bú shì zhòng yào de shì.]
(The name doesn’t matter too much to the peasants.)

3 关于 [guān yú] (about)

(1) The object of “关于 [guān yú] (about)” indicates the thing or the scope of the action. When the preposition-object phrase consisting of “关于 [guān yú] (about)” functions as an adverbial, it is often moved to the beginning of the sentence.

Example 181 关于这座白塔，相传有这样一个故事。[guān yú zhè zuò bái tǎ, xiāng chuán yǒu zhè yàng yī gè guǎ shì.]
(It is said that the white tower has such a story.)

Example 182 关于怎样合理使用人力，提高工作效率的问题，领导上已经作出了安排。[guān yú zěn yàng hé lǐ yòng rén lì, tí gāo gōng zuò xiào lǜ de wèn tí, lǐng dǎo shàng yī jīng zuò le ān pái.]
(Leaders have made arrangements about how to make good use of manpower and how to improve work efficiency.)

Example 183 关于校园的绿化问题，今天先谈这些，大家再考虑考虑。[guān yú xiào yuán de lǜ huà wèn tí, jīn tiān xiān tán zhè xiē, dà jiā zài kǎo lǜ kào lǜ.]
(With regard to the greening of the campus, we just discussed so much for today and we will consider it later.)
When “关于 [guān yú] (about)” functions as an attribute, it requires “的 [de]” added after it.

Example 184 我也还想打听些关于祥林嫂的消息。[wǒ yě hái xiǎng dà tīng xiē guān yú Xiáng lín sāo de xiǎo xī.]
(I also want to hear some news about Sister Xianglin.)

Example 185 这本书里收集了许多关于海底动物的原始资料。[zhè běn shū lǐ shōu jí le xǔ duō guān yú hǎi dǐ dòng wù de yuán shǐ zǐ liào.]
(This book has collected a lot of source information about sea animals.)

Example 186 当时流传着不少关于他刻苦作诗的故事。[dāng shí liú chuán zhe bù shǎo guān yú tā kè kǔ zuò shī de gù shì.]
(There were many stories about his hard work in poetry at that time.)

(2) The differences in use between “关于 [guān yú] (about)” and “对于 [duì yú] (for)” are as follows.

First, they differ in meaning. “对于 [duì yú] (for)” introduces the object of the action; the object of “关于 [guān yú] (about)” shows the scope of the action.

Example 187 关于织女星, 民间有个美丽的传说。[guān yú zhī nǚ xīng, mín jiān yǒu gé měi de chuán shuō.]
(There is a beautiful legend about Vega.)

Example 188 对于文化遗产, 我们必须进行研究分析。[duì yú wén huà yí chǎn, wǒ men bì xū jǐn xīng yán jiū fān xī.]
(We must study and analyze the cultural heritage.)

Sometimes, “对于 [duì yú] (for)” doesn’t introduce the object of the action; instead, its object is closely related to the predicate verb or another verb in the sentence.

Example 189 教学法对于提高教学质量有很大作用。[jiào xué fǎ duì yú tí gāo jiào xué zhì lǐ yǒu hěn dà zuò yòng.]
(The teaching method plays an important role in improving the teaching quality.)

Example 190 对于犯错误的干部, 一般地应采取说服的方法, 帮助他们改正错误。[duì yú fàn cuò wù de gàn bù, yī bān de yǐ fáng cuò fǎ, bāng zhù tā men gǎi zhèng cuò wù.]
(In general, for cadres who make mistakes, we should take the method of persuasion and help them to correct their mistakes.)

If the object of preposition refers to both the object and the scope of the action, “对于 [duì yú] (for)” and “关于 [guān yú] (about)” can be replaced with each other.

Example 191 对于农业、轻工业, 我们都有一套切实可行的政策。[duì yú nóng yè, qīng gōng yè, wǒ men dōu yǒu yī tào qiè shí kě xīng de zhèng cè.]
(We have a set of practical policies for the agriculture and light industries.)

关于农业、轻工业，我们有一套切实可行的政策。

Example 192 关于举行汉语表演的问题，同学们的看法不一致。
(The students have different opinions on holding a Chinese performance.)

If the object only refers to the scope of the action, “关于 [guān yú] (about)” is the only choice.

Example 193 关于他，能够回到我记忆里来的就是这么一点。
(I only have a little memory of him.)

Second, “关于 [guān yú] (about)” often stands before the subject at the beginning of the sentence; “对于 [duì yú] (for)” can appear before or after the subject.

Third, the prepositional phrase consisting of “关于 [guān yú] (about)” can be used as a title alone but with “对于 [duì yú] (for),” it cannot.

V. 跟 [gēn] (with), 和 [hé] (with), 同 [tóng] (with)

“跟 [gēn] (with)” can be a verb, preposition, or conjunction.

1 “跟 [gēn] (with)” as a preposition introduces the participants of the action from two sides, such as A and B. A, a dominant one, functions as subject and B as an accompanied one after “跟 [gēn],” functions as the object of the preposition “跟 [gēn],” referring to the person involved in the action. A and B cannot be substituted with each other.

Example 194 我们要跟中国同学开一个联欢会。
(We are going to have a party with our Chinese classmates.)

Example 195 这些事情跟你有什么关系，你那么操心？
(What do these things have to do with you? Why are you so worried about them?)

Example 196 那个小棋友，棋艺非常好，很多人都喜欢跟他下棋。
(That little chess player is really good at playing; thus many people like to play chess with him.)
Example 197 王朋躺在床上，李友跟他握手以后，就坐在床前边的椅子上了。[Wáng Péng tāng zài chuáng shàng，Lǐ Yǒu gēn tā wò shǒu yī hòu，jiù zuò zài chuáng qián biān de yī zi shàng le.]
(After shaking hands with Wang Peng who was lying in the bed, Li You sat in the chair in front of the bed.)

The following verbs or verb phrases can be used in the sentence with “跟 [gēn] (with) . . .” as its adverbial. They are:


All these verbs denote that more than one participant is involved in the action. Among them, “见面 [jiàn miàn] (meet),” “结婚 [jié hūn] (marry),” and “比赛 [bǐ sài] (compete)” are grammatically regarded as verb-object phrases, so they cannot be directly followed by another object. For example, it is proper to say “甲跟乙见面。[jiǎ gēn yǐ jiàn miàn.] (A meets B.),” but it is improper to say like “*甲见面乙。[jiǎ jiàn miàn yǐ.].” The same is true for “甲跟乙结婚。[jiǎ gēn yǐ jié hūn.] (A marries B.)” and “甲跟乙比赛。[jiǎ gēn yǐ bǐ sài.] (A competes with B.)” Without “跟 [gēn],” these verbs require the plural noun (phrase) or pronoun as the subject of the sentence.

Example 198 两个人握手后，就各奔东西了。[liǎng gé rén wò shǒu hòu，jiù gè bēn dōng xī le.]
(After shaking hands, they went their separate ways.)

Example 199 我们两个经常打交道。[wǒ men liǎng gé jǐng cháng dǎ jiāo dào.]
(We two have contact with each other frequently.)

Also, the proposition phrase consisting of “跟 [gēn] (with)” can function as an attribute, mainly modifying the words, such as “关系 [guān xi] (relation),” “联系 [lián xi] (contact),” “交情 [jiāo qíng] (friendly relation),” “友谊 [yǒu yì] (friendship).” Here, “的 [de]” is required to be added after the phrase.

Example 200 中国人民要加强跟世界各国人民的友谊。[zhōng guó rén mín yào jiā qiáng gēn shì jiè gè guó rén mín de yǒu yì.]
Prepositions

(The Chinese people should strengthen their friendship with the people of all countries in the world.)

Example 201 毕业以后, 我跟他的联系就中断了。[bì yè yǐ hòu, wǒ gēn tā de lián xi jiù zhōng duàn le.]
(After graduation, I lost contact with him.)

2 Sometimes, “跟 [gēn] (with)” may be used to express the action that is simply finished by the dominant side.

Example 202 看完体操表演, 校长和其他几位体育老师从主席台下走上来跟孩子们一起照了相。
[kàn wán tǐ cāo biǎo yǎn, xiào zhǎng hé qī wěi tǐ yù lǎo shī cóng zhǔ tái xià zǒu shàng lái gēn hái zi men yī qī zhào le xiàng.]
(After watching the gymnastics performance, the headmaster and several PE teachers came up from the rostrum and took pictures with the children.)

Example 203 我跟你们一块儿上山打猎去吧！[wǒ gēn nǐ men yī kuài er shàng shān dǎ liè qù ba!]
(I’ll go hunting in the mountains with you!)

Example 204 小孙子坐在我床边, 跟我讲了许多夏令营的事。[xiǎo sūn zi zuò zài wǒ chuáng biān, gēn wǒ jiǎng le nà me xià lìng yíng de shì.]
(My little grandson sat by my bed and told me a lot about the summer camp.)

Example 205 近几年来有几个青年工人一直跟我学技术。[jìn jǐ nián lái yǒu jī gè qīng nián gōng rén yī zhī gēn wǒ xué ji shù.]
(Several young workers have been learning skills from me in recent years.)

Example 206 一路上, 我跟你讲了那么多道理, 都白说了。[yī lù shàng, wǒ gēn nǐ jiǎng le nà me duō le dào lǐ, dōu bái shuō le.]
(Along the way, I told you so much, but all in vain.)

Example 207 我跟他说过盖大楼的事。[wǒ gēn tā shuō guò gài dà lóu de shì.]
(I told him something about the building.)

“跟 [gēn] (with)” is often combined with “一起 [yī qǐ] (together),” “一块 [yī kuài] (together)” to form the structures, such as “跟 . . . 一起 [gēn . . . yī qǐ] (together with),” “跟 . . . 一块 [gēn . . . yī kuài] (together with).”

In the examples from 204 to 206, “跟 [gēn] (with)” sometimes can be replaced by “向 [xiàng] (to),” “对 [duì] (to),” “朝 [cháo] (to)” when it introduces the object of the action.

3 “跟 [gēn] (with)” can be used in the sentence indicating a certain comparison.

“跟 [gēn] (with)” introduces what is to be compared with. It is put after the subject and is followed by adjectives or verbs to express the result of the comparison, such as “相同 [xiāng tóng] (same),” “不同 [bù tóng] (different),” “一样 [yī yàng] (same),” “不一样 [bù yī yàng] (different),” “相似 [xiāng sì] (similar),”
“相反 [xiāng fǎn] (opposite),” “相等 [xiāng děng] (equal),” and “差不多 [chà bù duō] (almost).”

Example 208 这个字跟那个字的发音一样。[zhè gè zì gān nà gè zì de fā yīn yì yáng.]
(This word is pronounced the same as that word.)

Example 209 三角形A跟三角形B相似。[sān jiǎo xíng A gēn sān jiǎo xíng B xiǎng sì.]
(The triangle A is similar to the triangle B.)

Example 210 这篇文章跟那篇文章的观点恰好相反。[zhè piān wén zhǎng gèn nà piān wén de guān diǎn qià hǎo xiāng fǎn.]
(What this article says is contrary to what is said in that article.)

Example 211 这里的气候跟我们国家的气候差不多。[zhè lǐ de qì hòu gēn wǒ men guó jiā de qì hòu chà bù duō.]
(The climate here is very similar to that of our country.)

Example 212 老人六十多岁了, 可他走起路来跟年轻人一样快。[lǎo rén liù shí duō suì le, kě tā zǒu qǐ lù lái gēn nián qīng rén yī yàng kuài.]
(Although the old man is in his sixties, he walks as fast as a young man does.)

Also, “跟 [gēn] (with)” can be followed by “比 [bǐ] (compare)” or “比较 [bǐ jiào] (compare).” And sometimes, “跟 . . . 相比/比较 [gēn . . . xiǎng bǐ/bǐ jiào] (to compare with)” can be moved to the beginning of the sentence.

Example 213 我们拿水跟铁比较一下儿, 一块铁, 不管放在什么地方, 它的形状都不会改变, 水却不是这样, 水能流动。[wǒ men ná shuǐ gēn tiě bǐ jiào yī xià er, yī kuài tiě, bù guǎn fàng zài shén me dì fāng, tā de xíng zhuàng dōu bú huì gǎi biàn, shuǐ què bù shì zhè yang, shuǐ néng liú dòng.]
(Let’s compare water with iron. Iron, no matter where it is put, will not change shape, but water is not like this because water can flow.)

Example 214 跟过去相比, 现在的生活好多了。[gēn guò qù xiāng bǐ, xiàn zài de shēng huó hǎo duō le.]
(Compared with the past, life is much better now.)

“和 [hé] (with),” “与 [yǔ] (with),” “同 [tóng] (with)” are also prepositions, similar to “跟 [gēn] (with)” both semantically and grammatically.

Example 215 如果这一次落选了, 也许她终生就和音乐分手了。[rú guò zhè cì luò xuǎn le, yě xiǎo tā zhōng shēng jiù hé yīn yuè fèn shǒu le.]
(If she fails this time, maybe she’ll give up music all her life.)

Example 216 他的经历和村上大多数人一样。[tā de jìng lì hé cūn shàng dài duō shù rén yī yàng.]
(His experience is the same as that of most people in the village.)

Example 217 我们这儿, 元旦的光景与除夕截然不同。[wǒ men zhè er, yuán dàn de guāng jǐng yǔ chū xī jié rán bù tóng.]
Prepositions

(Here, the atmosphere of New Year’s Day is very different from that of New Year’s Eve.)

Example 218 有的智能机器人能够学文化，同人进行简单的对话。[yǒu de zhì néng jī qì rén néng gòu xué wén huà, tóng rén jìn xíng jiǎn dān de ài huà.]
(Some intelligent robots can learn culture and have a simple conversation with humans.)

Example 219 外国人学汉语，同汉族人学汉语有许多不同的地方。[wài guó rén xué hàn yǔ, tóng hàn zú rén xué hàn yǔ yǒu duō bù tóng de di fang.]
(There are many differences between foreigners and Chinese in learning Chinese.)

Comparatively speaking, “跟 [gēn] (with)” and “和 [hé] (with)” are more popular in the spoken language; “同 [tóng] (with)” and “与 [yǔ] (with)” are common in the written language.

VI. 给 [gěi] (for), 为 [wèi] (for), 替 [tì] (for)

1 给 [gěi] (for)

“给 [gěi] (for)” is a derived preposition. In modern Chinese, “给 [gěi] (for)” is a verb as well as a preposition, due to which it possesses many meanings.

(1) “给 [gěi] (for)” introduces the recipient of the action or the recipient of the object involved in the action.

例 220 老场长正在给林子里的树浇水。[lǎo chǎng zhǎng zhèng zài gěi lín zi lǐ de shù jiāo shuǐ.]
(The head of the old yard is watering the trees in the woods.) (tree as the recipient of water)

例 221 我也给妹妹带来了几样礼物。[wǒ yě gěi mèi mèi dài lái le jǐ yàng lǐ wù.]
(I also brought some gifts to my sister.) (young sister as the recipient of gift)

Sometimes, the object of “给 [gěi] (for)” can be put after the verb as its complement.

例 222 那个制糖厂已经包给另外一个公司了。[nà gè zhì táng chǎng yǐ jīng bāo gěi líng wài yī gè gōng sī le.]
(The sugar factory has been contracted out to another company.)

例 223 劳驾，请把我们的假条带给老师。[láo jià, qǐng bā wǒ men de jià tiáo dài gěi lǎo shī.]
(Take our leave note to the teacher, please.)
Example 224 农民们每年都交给国家一定数量的公粮，也就是农业税。
[ nóng mín men měi nián dōu jiāo gěi guó jiǔ yì dīng shù liàng de gōng liáng, yě jiù shì nóng yè shuì.]
(Farmers should hand over a certain amount of public grain, that is, agricultural tax, to the state every year.)

Example 225 请你把这封信转给有关的领导同志。
[qǐng nǐ bā zhè fēng xìn zhuǎn gěi yǒu guān de dǎo lǐng tóng zhì.]
(Please take this letter to the relevant leaders.)

Example 226 这两本书我卖给你，只收一块钱。
[zhè liǎng shū běn wǒ mài gěi nǐ, zhǐ shōu yī kuài qián.]
(I'll sell you these two books for only one dollar.)

“给 [gěi] (for)” can introduce the recipient of the action. When it is used in this way, it can be replaced with “向 [xiàng] (for).”

Example 227 工厂的领导同志给你介绍了技术革新的情况。
[gōng chǎng de lǐng dào tóng zhì gěi nǐ jiè shào le jì shù gé xīn de qíng kuàng.]
(The factory leaders have introduced you to the technological innovation.)

Example 228 老科学家给我们讲了许多科学幻想的小故事。
[lǎo kē xué jiā gěi wǒ men jiǎng le xǔ duō kē xué huàn xiǎo shì guò shì.]
(The old scientist told us many short science fiction stories.)

Example 229 丈夫给我使了个眼色，我马上给婆婆鞠了一个躬。
[zhàng fū gěi wǒ shǐ le gè yǎn sè, wǒ máng shàng gěi pó pó jū le yī gōng.]
(My husband gave me a hint with his eyes and I immediately bowed to my mother-in-law.)

Example 230 没关系，不要给我道歉了，这点儿小事算什么？
[méi guān xì, bú yào gěi wǒ dào qiàn le, zhè diǎn ěr xiǎo shì suàn shí me?]  
(Don’t apologize to me. It doesn’t matter at all for such a minor thing!)


Among them, some verbs cannot take two objects, such as “说 [shuō] (say),” “讲 [jiāng] (talk),” “谈 [tán] (talk),” “推荐 [tuī jiàn] (recommend),” “介绍 [jiè shào] (introduce).” Therefore, “给 [gěi] (for)” helps introduce the recipient of the action.

Example 231 我给他介绍一个女朋友。
[wǒ gěi tā jiè shào yī gē nǚ péng yǒu.]
(I set him up with a girlfriend.)

*我介绍他一个女朋友。
[wǒ jiè shào tā yī gē nǚ péng yǒu.]
Prepositions

Example 232 我给你们讲一个故事。[wǒ gěi nǐ men jiāng yī gè gù shì.]
(Let me tell you a story.)
*我讲你们一个故事。[wǒ jiǎng nǐ men yī gè gù shì.]

Grammatically, “道歉 [dào qiàn] (apologize),” “敬礼 [jìng lǐ] (salute),” “拜年 [bài nián] (pay a New Year call),” are regarded as verb-object phrases and cannot take another object besides their own. Therefore, “给 [gěi] (for)” is required here to introduce the recipient of the action.

Example 233 我给老师鞠个躬。[wǒ gěi lǎo shī jū gē gōng.]
(I bowed to my teacher.)
*我鞠躬老师。[wǒ jū gōng lǎo shī.]

(2) “给 [gěi] (for)” introduces the object to be served by the action.

Example 234 我跟你谈谈心, 你给我解解心烦吧。[wǒ gěi nǐ tán tán xīn, nǐ gěi wǒ jiē jiē xīn fán ba.]
(I want to have a heart-to-heart talk with you to help me out of my annoyance.)

In the previous example, “我 [wǒ] (I)” is to be comforted by “你 [nǐ] (you)” through talking, and “我 [wǒ] (I)” is the object of this action.

Example 235 那个少年抱起孩子，给他抹去嘴上的血。[nà gè shào nián bào qǐ hái zi, gěi tā mǒ qù zuǐ shàng de xuè.]
(The boy picked up the child and wiped the blood from his mouth.) (“he” as the object of the action)

Example 236 请等一会儿, 我给你们拿酒去。[qǐng děng yī huì ěr, wǒ gěi nǐ men ná jiǔ qù.]
(Just a moment, please. I’ll get you a drink.) (“you” as the object of the action)

Sometimes, the object of “给 [gěi] (for)” is absent or even cannot be concretely confirmed.

Example 237 黄大姐每天给接电话，给你找人，从早忙到晚。[Huáng dà jiě měi tiān gěi jiē diàn huà, gěi nǐ zhǎo rén, cóng zǎo máng dào wǎn.]
(Ms. Huang has always been busy, from morning to night, with answering the phone and contacting other people.)

Example 238 劳驾, 给拿块肥皂。[láo jià, gěi ná kuài féi zào.]
(Get me a bar of soap, please.)

Example 239 对了, 劳驾您, 四爷, 你给倒杯水。[duì le, láo jià nín, Sì Yé, nǐ gěi dào bēi shuǐ.]
(By the way, Fourth Master, give me a glass of water, please.)

In the imperative sentence, “给我 [gěi wǒ] (for me)” means “必须为我服务 [bì xū wèi wǒ fù wù] (have to do something for me),” carrying a sense of being compelled or ordered.
Example 240 都别急着走，先给我到这边来，还有里边的，都给我出来。[dōu bié jí zhe zǒu, xiān gěi wǒ dào biān lái, hái yǒu lǐ biān de, dōu gěi wǒ chū lái.]
(Don’t rush to leave now. All come here first, including those inside.)

Example 241 为什么把我的东西都扔在地上? 你给我捡起来。[wèi shén me bǎ wǒ de dōng xī dōu rēng zài di shàng? nǐ gěi wǒ jiǎn qǐ lái.]
(Why did you leave all my stuff on the ground? Pick it up for me.)

Example 242 这时，父亲气得脸色发青，并大声对我说：“给我老实讲，你还干了些什么” [zhè shí, fù qín qì de liǎn sè fā qīng, bìng dà shēng dui wǒ shuō: “gěi wǒ lǎo shì jiàng, nǐ hái gàn le xiē shén me?”]
(At this moment, my father turned blue with anger and said loudly to me, “tell me the truth, what else have you done?”)

(3) “给 [gěi] (for)” introduces the doer of the action, similar to “被 [bèi] (by)” in meaning. Therefore, it can be replaced with “被 [bèi] (by).” Such usage is common in oral expressions in the South of China.

Example 243 这本字典都给他翻破了。[zhè běn zì diǎn dōu gěi tā fān pò le.]
(The dictionary was well-worn by him.)

Example 244 粮食给土匪抢走了，房子也都给他们占去了。[liáng shí gěi tǔ fēi qiǎng zǒu le, fáng zi yě dōu gěi tā men zhān qù le.]
(Not only the food but also the house was taken by the bandits.)

Example 245 好听的话都给他说尽了，就是不见行动。[hǎo tīng de huà dōu gěi tā shuō jìn le, jiù shì bù jiàn xíng dòng.]
(I’ve tried my best to persuade him with all the advantages, but he turned a deaf ear to my words.)

Example 246 到了家里，我就给父母姐弟等包围起来，欣喜地问这问那。[dào le jiā lǐ, wǒ jiù gěi fù mǔ jiě dì dōng bāo wéi qǐ lái, xīn xǐ de wèn zhè wén nà.]
(When I got home, I was surrounded by various concerns from my eager parents, brothers, and sisters.)

Sometimes, the object of “给 [gěi] (for)” is empty and cannot be easily complemented.

Example 247 这些纸都给放黄了。[zhè xiē zhǐ dōu gěi fàng huáng le.]
(These papers have been yellowed.)

Example 248 大白菜给冻了。[dà bái cài gěi dòng le.]
(The cabbage is frozen.)

Example 249 圆珠笔给搁干了。[yuán zhū bǐ gěi gē gān le.]
(The core of the ball-point pen dried up.)

In this case, the doer of the action is probably a certain natural phenomenon, such as “天气 [tiān qì] (weather).”
"给 [gěi] (for)" introduces the recipient of the action conveyed by the predicate verb, similar to "把 [bǎ]" in meaning. Such usage is very oral and rarely happens.

Example 250 听了这个消息，给我急坏了。[tīng le zhè gè xiāo xī, gěi wǒ jí huài le.]
(After hearing the news, I was so worried.)

Example 251 这些谣言给他吓呆了，太意外了。[zhè xiē yáo yán gěi tā xià dāi le, tài yì wài le.]
(He was stunned by these unexpected rumors.)

Example 252 劳驾，你给这两个暖水瓶灌上水。[láo jià, nǐ gěi zhè liǎng gè nuǎn shuǐ píng guàn shàng shuǐ.]
(Fill these two thermoses with water, please.)

Example 253 爸爸，你快给小狗叫回来，它会给鹌鹑咬死的。[bà bà, nǐ kuài gěi xiǎo gǒu jiào huí lái, tā huì gěi ān chún yǎo sǐ de.]
(Dad, call the puppy back; otherwise it will bite the quail to death.)

"给 [gěi] (for)" may function as auxiliary word.

Example 254 一个月的薪水让（被）他给输光了。[yī gè yuè de xīn shuǐ ràng (bèi) tā gěi shū guāng le.]
(He lost out on a month’s salary.)

Example 255 他把我刚写的论文给弄丢了。[tā bǎ wǒ gāng xiě de lùn wén gěi nòng diū le.]
(He lost the paper I had just written.)

2 为 [wèi] (for), 为了 [wèi le] (for), 为着 [wèi zhe] (for)

(1) “为 [wèi] (for)” introduces the object to be served.

Example 256 我们要绿化我们家园，为子孙后代造福。[wǒ men yào lǜ huà wǒ men jiā yuán, wèi zǐ sūn dài dài zào fú.]
(We should green our homes for the sake of our future generations.)

Example 257 你们为灾区的人民做了些什么？[nǐ men wèi zāi qū de rén zuò le xiē shén me?] (What have you done for the people in the disaster area?)

Example 258 他生前为村里做了很多事，死后大家自然很怀念他。[tā shēng qián wèi cūn lǐ zuò le hěn duō shì, sǐ hòu dà jiā zài rán hěn huái niàn tā.]
(He had done a lot of things for the village during his life, and he would be certainly remembered after his death.)

“为 [wèi] (for)” can be replaced with “替 [tì] (for).”

Example 259 你的考试成绩这么好，我真为你高兴。[nǐ de kǎo shì chéng jì zhè me hǎo, wǒ zhēn wèi nǐ gāo xìng.]
(I’m so happy for how well you did on the exam.)
Example 260 您不要为我担心，一切都会好的。[nín bú yào wèi wǒ dān xīn, yī qiè dōu huì hǎo de.]
(Don’t worry about me, and everything will be all right.)

Example 261 你事业这么成功，真为你高兴。[nǐ shì yè zhè me chéng gōng, wǒ zhēn wèi nǐ gāo xìng.]
(I’m so happy for your successful career.)

(2) “为 [wèi] (for)” introduces the reason.

Example 262 大家都为他比赛失利而感到惋惜。[dà jiā dōu wèi tā bǐ sài shī lǐ ér gǎn dào wǎn xī.]
(Everyone felt sorry for his failure in the game.)

Example 263 他从来没有为钱发过愁。[tā cóng lái méi yǒu wèi qián fā guò chóu.]
(He has had no worries about money.)

Example 264 看球的观众在为北京队队员高尚的风格鼓掌呢。[kàn qiú de guān zhòng zài wèi běi jīng duì yuán gāo shǎng de fēng gé gǔ zhǎng ne.]
(The spectators were applauding the Beijing team for their noble style.)

Example 265 她曾为不公平的议论苦恼过，但不去理它，也就心安理得了。[tā cóng wèi bù gōng píng de yì lùn kǔ nǎo gòu, dàn bú qù lǐ tài, yě jiù xīn ān lǐ dé le.]
(She had been troubled by unfair remarks, but as long as she did not think about them, she was at ease.)

(3) “为 [wèi] (for)” introduces the purpose or the target.

Example 266 朋友们，为我们的友谊干杯。[péng yǒu men, wèi wǒ men de yǒu yì gān bēi.]
(My friends, let’s toast to our friendship.)

Example 267 为朋友们的健康干杯。[wèi péng yǒu men de jiàn kāng gān bēi.]
(Toast to the health of our friends.)

Example 268 为此事，我一直充满着歉意，我是最反对伤害别人的自尊心的。[wèi cǐ shì, wǒ yī chǎng zài qǐn gān rén de zì zūn xīn de.]
(I’ve been full of apologies for this because I always hate to hurt people’s self-esteem.)

Example 269 他为这些衣料花了一千多元。[tā wèi zhè xiē yī liào huā le yī qián duō yuán.]
(He spent more than a thousand yuan on the clothes.)

(4) When introducing the purpose or the target, “为 [wèi] (for)” can be replaced with “为了 [wèi le] (for)” or “为着 [wèi zhe] (for).” Neither “了 [le]” nor “着
Prepositions

"[zhe]" after them is dynamic auxiliary word. The examples about “为了 [wèi le] (for)” are as follows.

Example 270 为了她, 我可以牺牲一切。但是为了我, 她却什么都不愿意做。[wèi le tā, wǒ kě yǐ xī shēng yī qiè. dàn shì wèi le wǒ, tā què shén me dōu bú yuàn yì zuò.]
(I would like to sacrifice everything for her. But for me, she’s not willing to do anything.)

Example 271 为了他的事业, 这位电影艺术家都四十多岁了, 还没有结婚。[wèi le tā de shì yè, zhè wèi diàn yǐng yì shū jiā duō shí suì le, hái méi yǒu jié hūn.]
(Devoted to his career, this film artist still hasn’t gotten married in his forties.)

Example 272 他为了达到自己的目的, 对她百般奉承。[tā wèi le dá dào zì jǐ de mù dì, duì tā bǎi bān fèng chéng.]
(He flattered her in order to achieve his purpose.)

Example 273 为了当一名话剧演员, 他每天背诵台词, 练习发音。[wèi le dāng yī huà jù yuán, tā měi tiān bèi sòng tái cí, liàn xí fā yīn.]
(In order to be a drama actor, he recites his lines and practices pronunciation every day.)

Example 274 为了实现这一目标, 他和他的助手们付出了常人意想不到的一切。[wèi le shí xiàn zhè yī mù bāo, tā hé tā de zhù shǒu men fù chū le cháng rén yì xiǎng bú dào de yī qiè.]
(In order to achieve this goal, he and his assistants did more than everyone could imagine.)

Also, “为了 . . . [wèi le . . .] (for . . .)” can be repeated twice in a sentence.

Example 275 为了方便, 也为了不再过多地打扰房东, 我自己立伙, 但所用的锅灶却是他家的。[wèi le fāng biàn, yě wèi le bù zài guò duō de dǎ rǎo fáng dōng, wǒ zì jǐ lì huò, dàn suǒ yòng de guō zào què shì tā jiā de.]
(For convenience and not to disturb the landlord too much, I set up an agreement with him to only use his pots and stove.)

Example 276 为了自己的身体, 也为了不影响别人的健康, 你一定要戒烟。[wèi le zì jǐ de shēn tǐ, yě wèi le bù yǐng xiǎng bié rén de jiàn kāng, nǐ yī diǎn yào jiè yān.]
(For your own health and others,’ you must quit smoking.)

The examples about “为着 [wèi zhe] (for)” are as follows.

Example 277 为着她自己的孩子, 后来她又嫁了两次。[wèi zhe tā zì jǐ de hái zi, hòu lái tā yòu jià le liǎng cì.]
(Showed to her own child, she remarried twice.)

Example 278 为着我们美好的明天, 朋友们努力吧。[wèi zhe wǒ men měi hǎo de míng tiān, péng yǒu men nǔ lì ba.]
(My friends, we should work hard for our bright future.)
Example 279 他为着实现自己的理想，忍受了许许多多难言之苦。[tā wèi zhe zì jǐ de lǐ xiǎng, rěn shòu le xǔ xū duō duō nán yán zhī kǔ.] (He endured unspeakable suffering in order to make his ideals come true.)

“为 . . . [wèi . . .] (for . . .)” and “为了 . . . [wèi le . . .] (for . . .)” can function as an attribute and predicate.

Example 280 这是为国为民的好事，我能拦着他去做吗？[zhè shì wèi guó wèi mín de hǎo shì, wǒ néng lán zhe tā qù zuò ma.] (It benefits the country as well as the people. How can I stop him from doing it?)

Example 281 母亲为了自己再婚的事，好长时间心神不安，睡不好觉。[mǔ qīn wèi le zì jǐ zài hūn de shì, hǎo cháng shí jiān xīn shén bù ān, shuì bù hǎo jiào.] (Considering her remarriage, the mother was uneasy and couldn’t sleep well for a long time.)

Example 282 现在我们搞绿化，就是为了子孙后代的幸福。[xiàn zài wǒ men gǎo lǜ huà, jiù shì wèi le zǐ sūn hòu dài de xìng fú.] (Now we do afforestation for the happiness of our future generations.)

3 替 [tì] (for)

“替 [tì] (for)” is a verb as well as a preposition. When it is used as a verb, it means “替代 [tì dài] (replace)” and usually takes an object.

Example 283 自己做的事自己负责，谁也不能替谁。[zì jǐ zuò de shì zì jǐ fù zé, shuí yě bù néng tì shuí.] (One should be responsible for what has been done, and no one can take the place of others.)

Example 284 三号球员受伤了，四号上场替他。[sān hào qiú yuán shòu shāng le, sì hào shàng chǎng tì tā.] (No. 3 player is injured and No. 4 will play in his place.)

When “替 [tì] (for)” is used as a preposition, it can have an additional noun or pronoun indicating people after itself, and then functions as an adverbial or as an attribute sometimes.

(1) “替 [tì] (for)” introduces the object to be substituted.

Example 285 今天张老师病了，我替他上课。[jīn tiān Zhāng lǎo shī bìng le, wǒ tì tā shàng kè.] (Prof. Zhang was ill today. So I took his place in class.)

Example 286 他是开明书店的经理，替我租定了三间平房，又替我买了些家具。[tā shì kāi míng shòu diàn de jīng lǐ, tì wǒ zuò dìng le sān jiān píng fáng, yòu tì wǒ mǎi le xiē jiā jù.] (He was the manager of Kaiming Bookstore. He booked three bungalows for me and bought me some furniture.)
Prepositions

Example 287 爷爷, 我会替你搓烟叶, 为你祷告上帝。[yé yé, wǒ huì tì nǐ cuō yān yè, wèi nǐ dào gào shàng dì.]
(Grandpa, I’ll rub the tobacco for you and pray to God for you as well.)

Example 288 说着, 他就划着一根火柴, 替道静点上了灯。[shuō zhe, tā jiù huá zhe yī gēn huǒ chái, tì dào jìng diǎn shàng le dēng.]
(As he spoke, he struck a match and lit the lamp for Dao Jing.)

Example 289 他们太欺负小王了, 我要替他说几句公道话。[tā men tài qī fù Xiǎo Wáng le, wǒ yào tì tā shuō jǐ jù gōng dào huà.]
(They bullied Xiao Wang too much. So I would stand up for him.)

(2) “替 [tí] (for)” introduces the object to be served, indicating “helping someone do something.”

Example 290 当时船主常到大连去做生意, 我在船上替人家做饭。[dāng shí chuán zhǔ cháng dào dà lián qù zuò shēng yì, wǒ zài chuán shàng tì rén jiā zuò fàn.]
(At that time, the shipowner used to go to Dalian for business, and I cooked for him on board.)

Example 291 刚才你不在, 我替你接了一个电话, 王主任请你去一下。[gāng cái nǐ bù zài, wǒ tì nǐ jiē le yī gè diàn huà, Wáng zhǔ rěn qǐng nǐ qù yī xià er.]
(You missed a call just now. I answered it for you. It said that Director Wang wanted to see you.)

Example 292 劳驾, 请顺便替我把这封信投到邮筒里。[láo jià, qǐng shùn biàn tì wǒ bǎ zhè fēng xìn tóu dào yóu tǒng lǐ.]
(Drop this letter in the mailbox for me, please.)

(3) “替 [tí] (for)” introduces the object involved.

Example 293 你总是那么粗心大意, 我真替你担心将来会出大事的。[nǐ zǒng shì nà me cū xīn dà yì, wǒ zhēn tì nǐ dān xīn jiāng lái huì chū dà shì de.]
(You are always so careless that I am really worried that you will possibly make big mistakes.)

Example 294 小明又得了全校数学比赛的冠军, 班上的同学都替他高兴。[Xiǎo Míng yòu dé le quán xiào shù xué bǐ sài de guàn jun, bān shàng de tóng xué dōu tì tā gāo xìng.]
(Xiao Ming won the first prize in the school math competition again. All the students in the class are happy for his success.)

Example 295 小王要骑摩托车跨越黄河了, 乡亲们都替他捏一把汗。[Xiǎo Wáng yào qí mó tū chē kuà yuǎn huáng hé le, xiāng qīn men dōu tì tā niē yī bǎ hàn.]
(Xiao Wang was going to cross the Yellow River by motorcycle, and the villagers are all worried about him.)

In these examples, “替 [tí] (for)” can be replaced with “为 [wèi] (for).”
(4) “给 [gěi] (for),” “为 [wèi] (for),” “替 [tì] (for)” differ obviously in meaning, although all of them can introduce the object.

Example 296 小明给我发了一份传真。[Xiǎo Míng gěi wǒ fā le yī fèn chuán zhēn.]
(Xiao Ming sent me a fax.)
小明为我发了一份传真。[Xiǎo Míng wèi wǒ fā le yī fèn chuán zhēn.]
(Xiao Ming sent a fax for me.)
小明替我发了一份传真。[Xiǎo Míng tì wǒ fā le yī fèn chuán zhēn.]
(Xiao Ming helped me in sending a fax.)

However, these three prepositions can share the same meaning, if the noun after them introduces neither the recipient of the object involved in the action nor the reason.

Example 297 孩子, 一定要给妈争口气。[hái zi, yī dìng yào gěi mā zhēng kǒu qì.]
(Son, be sure to honor your mother.)
孩子, 一定要为妈争口气。[hái zi, yī dìng yào wèi mā zhēng kǒu qì.]
(Son, be sure to honor your mother.)
孩子, 一定要替妈争口气。[hái zi, yī dìng yào tì mā zhēng kǒu qì.]
(Son, be sure to honor your mother.)

VII. 朝 [cháo] (face/toward), 向 [xiàng] (face/toward), 往 [wǎng] (go/toward)

1 朝 [cháo] (face/toward)

“朝 [cháo] (face/toward)” is a verb as well as a preposition. When it is used as a verb, it means “面对 [miàn duì] (face)” and takes an object indicating position.

Example 298 我家住两间房, 一间朝南, 一间朝北[wǒ jiā zhù liǎng jiān fāng, yī jiān cháo nán, yī jiān cháo běi.]
(My house has two rooms, one facing south and the other facing north.)

Example 299 请大家脸朝前, 不要东张西望。[qǐng dà jiā lǎn cháo qián, bú yào dōng zhāng xī wàng.]
(Please face forward. Don’t gaze around.)

Example 300 谈话的时候, 你要脸朝着听话的人, 不要低着头不看人。[tán huà de shí hòu, nǐ yào liǎn cháo zhe ting hù de rén, bú yào dī zhe tóu bú kàn rén.]
(You have to face the listeners when speaking, and don’t look down.)

The prepositional phrase consisting of “朝 [cháo] (toward)” usually functions as an adverbial or attribute sometimes.

(1) “朝 [cháo] (toward)” introduces the position that the action directs.

Example 301 天开始亮了，天边最亮处是行进的正前方，这说明我们是朝东走呢。[tiān kāi shǐ liàng le, tiān biān zuì liàng chú shì xíng jìn de zhèng qián fāng, zhè shuǐ míng wǒ men shì cháo dōng zǒu ne.]

...
(It began to get light and the brightest part of the sky was just straight ahead of our marching, which meant that we were heading east.)

Example 302 小阿宝朝窗户看了几眼, 好像发现了什么。[Xiao Ä Bao chao chuang hu kàn le ji yān, hào xiàng fà xiān le shên me.] (Little Bao glanced at the window as if he had found something.)

Example 303 他朝远处一指, 我就朝他指的方向望过去。[tā cháo yuǎn chù yī zhǐ, wǒ jiù cháo tā zhǐ de fāng xiàng wàng guò qù.] (As soon as he pointed at the distance, I looked in that direction.)

Example 304 我喊了一声“有车吗?”马上好几辆人力车都朝我们冲了过来。[wǒ hǎn le yī shēng “yǒu chē ma?” mǎ shàng hǎo jǐ liàng rén lì chē dōu cháo wǒ men chōng le guò lái.] (I shouted, “rickshaw!” Immediately, several ones rushed toward me.)

(2) “朝 [cháo] (toward)” introduces the object of the action.

The object introduced by “朝 [cháo] (toward)” mainly includes a noun or pronoun indicating people. Usually, the verbs after the object express human actions or behaviors, such as “笑 [xiào] (smile),” “招手 [zhāo shǒu] (wave one’s hand),” “挥手 [huī shǒu] (wave one’s hand),” “摆手 [bǎi shǒu] (wave one’s hand),” “点头 [diǎntóu] (nod),” “摇头 [yáotóu] (shake one’s head),” “打招呼 [dǎzhāohū] (say hello to someone),” “说 [shuō] (say),” “喊 [hǎn] (shout),” “叫 [jiào] (shout),” “嚷 [rǎng] (shout),” “骂 [mà] (abuse).”

Example 305 我朝弟弟大喊道: “快走, 要下雨了。” [wǒ cháo dì dì dà hǎn dào: “kuài zǒu, yào xià yǔ le.”] (I shouted to my brother, “Hurry up, it’s going to rain.”)

Example 306 瘦小的车夫朝我说: “准保送您平安到家, 请上来吧。”[shòu xiǎo de chē fū cháo wǒ shuō: “zhǔn bǎo sòng nǐ píng ān dào jiā, qǐng shàng lái ba.”] (The thin driver of the rickshaw said to me, “I promise to send you home safely. Please get on it.”)

Example 307 那天, 我偷着看你, 你朝我笑了笑。[nà tiān, wǒ tōu zhe kàn nǐ, nǐ cháo wǒ xiào le xiào.] (That day, I peeked at you, and you smiled at me.)

Example 308 接过奖状, 我朝我的教练深深地鞠了一躬。[jiē guò jiǎng zhàng, wǒ cháo wǒ de jiào liàn shēn shēn de jū le yī gōng.] (After taking the prize, I bowed deeply to my coach.)

Example 309 您有话朝我说, 我就是摊主, 人家都是顾客。[nín yǒu huà cháo wǒ shuō, wǒ shì tān zhǔ, rén jiā dōu shì guì kè.] (Just speak out your dissatisfaction to me because I am the owner of the stall and others are only customers.)

2 向 [xiàng] (face/toward)
“向 [xiàng] (face/toward)” is a verb as well as a preposition. When it is used as a verb, it means “对着 [duì zhe] (face),” indicating a direction that a person or an entity faces.

Example 310 他家的房子向东, 我家的房子向西。[tā jiā de fáng zi xiàng dōng, wǒ jiā de fáng zi xiàng xī.]
(His house faces east, and my house faces west.)

Example 311 这间房子向阳, 屋里特别亮。[zhè jiān fáng zi xiàng yáng, wū lǐ tè bié liàng.]
(This house faces east and is very bright inside.)

When “向 [xiàng] (toward)” is used as a preposition, it can connect a noun phrase or pronoun to form the prepositional phrase, indicating the direction or the object of the action.

(1) “向 [xiàng] (toward)” introduces the direction or the target.

Example 312 我抱着灯笼, 上身向前弯着, 怕让雨打湿了。[wǒ bào zhe dēng lóng, shàng shēn xiàng qián wān zhe, pà ràng yǔ dǎ shī le.]
(Holding the lantern, I bent my upper body forward, shielding it from getting wet.)

Example 313 船向着左右两边摇晃, 走得很慢。[chuán xiàng zhe zuǒ yòu liǎn yáo huǎng, zǒu de hěn màn.]
(The boat swayed to the left and right, moving very slowly.)

Example 314 她的嘴角微微向上挑起, 好像在微笑。[tā de zuǐ jiǎo wēi wēi xiàng shàng tiāo qǐ, hǎo xiàng zài wēi xiào.]
(The corners of her mouth rose slightly upward, as if she was smiling.)

Example 315 跑道上的运动员们正向终点冲去。[pǎo dào shàng de yùn dòng yuán men zhèng xiàng zhǐ diǎn chōng qù.]
(The athletes on the track are heading for the finish line.)

Example 316 探照灯的光柱直向天空射去。[tàn zhào dēng de guāng zhù zhí xiàng tiān kōng shè qù.]
(The beam of the searchlight pierced the sky.)

(2) “向 [xiàng] (toward)” introduces the object of the action.

Example 317 早晨, 那位小朋友碰到我时, 总要用英语向我问好。[zǎo chén, nà wèi xiǎo péng yǒu pèng dào wǒ shí, zǒng yào yòng yīng yǔ xiàng wǒ wèn hǎo.]
(Every morning when the child meets me, he always says hello to me in English.)

Example 318 借此机会, 我向朋友们拜年。[jiè cǐ ji hù, wǒ xiàng péng yǒu men bài nián.]
(I take this opportunity to pay a New Year’s call on my friends.)

Example 319 我们不能等待大自然的恩赐, 我们的任务是向大自然索取。[wǒ men bù néng děng dài dà zì rán de ēn cì, wǒ men de rèn wù shì xiàng dà zì rán suǒ qu.] (We can’t wait for the gift of nature. Our task is to take it from nature.)
Example 320 你不要向别人借钱。[nǐ bú yào xiàng bié rén jiè qián.]  
(Don’t borrow money from others.)

Example 321 请你把事情的经过向大家说一下。[qǐng nǐ bǎ shì qíng de jīng guò xiàng dà jiā shuō yǐ xià.]  
(Please tell us what happened.)


(3) The prepositional phrase consisting of “向 [xiàng] (toward)” can be put after the verb to function as an adverbial.

Example 322 我赶紧走向前, 拉住了他, 没撞上车, 好危险啊。[wǒ gān jǐn xiàng qián, lā zhù le tā, méi zhuàng shàng chē, hǎo wēi xiǎn ā.]  
(I hurried forward and pulled him back. He fortunately escaped from being hit by the car. How dangerous it was!)

Example 323 现在有些科学家又把目光投向无穷无尽的宇宙。[xiàn zài yǒu xiē kē xué jiā yòu bǎ guāng móu tiǎo xiàng wú qióng wú jìn de yǔ zòu.]  
(Now some scientists are interested in researching the endless universe.)

3 往 [wǎng] (go/toward)

“往 [wǎng] (go/toward)” is a verb as well as a preposition. When it is used as preposition, it introduces the direction of the action.

Example 324 你往前走, 前边儿有卖花的。[nǐ wǎng qián zǒu, qián biān ěr yǒu mài huā de.]  
(Go straight and the flower peddler is not far from here.)

Example 325 股票的行市直往下落, 股民们纷纷往外抛手里的股票。[gǔ piào de háng shì zhí wǎng xià luò, gǔ mín men fēn fēn wǎng wài páo shǒu lǐ de gǔ piào.]  
(The stock market went down and down, and the shareholders threw out the shares in their hands.)

Example 326 我们也是往北京大学方向去的, 咱们搭伴走吧。[wǒ men yě shì wǎng běi dà xué fāng xiāng qù de, zán men dā bàn zǒu ba.]  
(We are also heading for Peking University. Let’s go together.)

Example 327 您不要总往坏里想, 吓唬自己。[nín bú yào zòng wǎng huài lǐ xiǎng, xià hǔ zì jǐ.]  
(Don’t get scared by always thinking of the disadvantages.)
Example 328 关于他的表现，我们尽量替他往好里说。[guān yú tā de biǎo xiàn, wǒ men jìn liáng ti ī wāng hào lǐ shūō.]
(With respect to his performance, we try to speak about the good side.)

Differences among “朝 [cháo] (toward),” “向 [xiàng] (toward),” “往 [wǎng] (toward)”

(1) Although all of them can take the direction of the action as their object, they still differ in use. Both “朝 [cháo] (toward)” and “向 [xiàng] (toward)” take objects that include locational words or nouns indicating person or thing, such as “朝我点头 [cháo wǒ diǎn tóu] (nod at me),” “向图书馆走 [xiàng tú shū guǎn zǒu] (go toward the library),” “往 [wǎng] (toward)” takes the locative as its object, such as “上 [shàng] (above),” “下 [xià] (below),” “里 [lǐ] (inside),” “外 [wài] (outside).” If the object of “往 [wǎng] (toward)” is a noun, “方向 [fāng xiàng] (direction)” or “那边 [nà biān] (over there)” should be added, such as “往图书馆的方向走 [wǎng tú shū guǎn de fāng xiàng zǒu] (walk toward the library),”

“你往火车站那边找。[nǐ wǎng huǒ chē zān nà biān zhǎo.] (You look for it toward the train station.),”

“往他那个方向跑去。[wǎng tā nà gè fāng xiàng pǎo qù.] (He ran in that direction.).”

Sometimes, the object of “往 [wǎng] (toward)” is the location where the action conveyed by verb happens, such as “往自己脸上贴金 [wǎng zì jǐ liǎn shàng tiē jīn] (blow one’s own trumpet),” “往头上浇冷水 [wǎng tóu shàng jiāo lěng shuǐ] (pour cold water on one’s head),” “把缺点错误往自己身上揽 [bā quē diǎn cuò wù wǎng zì jǐ shēn shàng lǎn] (put shortcomings or mistakes on oneself),” “把成绩功劳往他人身上推 [bā chéng jì gōng láo wǎng tā rén shēn shàng tuī] (give credit for your achievements to others),” “往怀里搂 [wǎng huái lǐ lōu] (hug in one’s arms).” Neither “朝 [cháo] (toward)” nor “向 [xiàng] (toward)” can be used in this way. More similar examples are as follows.

Example 329 老房里还挂着我们亲家的家谱，供着祖宗的灵位，这些东西，拆了老屋，往哪里摆呢？[lǎo fáng lǐ hái guà zhe wǒ men qìng jiā de jiā pǔ, gòng zhe zǔ zōng de líng wèi, zhè xiē dōng xī, chāi le lǎo wū, wǎng nǎ lǐ bǎi ne.]
(In the old room still hung the genealogy of our own family and the room enshrined the memorial tablets of our ancestors. Where should these things be placed, if we pulled down the old house?)

Example 330 桌子上放着很多钱，他大把大把地往兜里揣。[zhuō zi shàng fàng zhe hěn duō qián, tā dà bā dà bā de wǎng dōu lǐ chuāi.]
(Seeing a lot of money on the table, he pocketed it by handfuls.)

(2) “朝 [cháo] (toward)” and “向 [xiàng] (toward)” can introduce the object of the action but “往 [wǎng] (toward)” cannot, such as “朝我点点头 [cháo wǒ diǎn diǎn tóu] (nodding at me),” “朝我笑笑 [cháo wǒ xiào xiào] (smiling at me),” “向我们招手 [xiàng wǒ men zhāo shǒu] (waving at me),” “向您致敬 [xiàng nín zhì jìng] (saluting to you),” “向我们青年人召唤 [xiàng wǒ men...
Prepositions

“朝 [cháo] (toward)” or “向 [xiàng] (toward)” cannot be replaced with “往 [wǎng] (toward).”

VIII. 除 [chú] (except)

“除 [chú] (except)” is a preposition, referring to “excluding.” Semantically, it is similar to “除了 [chú le] (except),” “除开 [chú kāi] (except)” and “除去 [chú qù] (except).” And among them, “除了 [chú le] (except)” is the commonest. “除了 [chú le] (except)” takes objects that include noun (phrase), pronoun, verb (phrase), adjective (phrase), and subject-predicate phrase.

“除了 [chú le] (except)” often connects a locative, such as “外 [wài],” “之外 [zhī wài]” or “以外 [yǐ wài],” to produce “除了 . . . 以外/之外/外 [chú le . . . yǐ wài/zhī wài/wài] (except).” This form can be used to imply two different meanings.

1 “除了 . . . 以外/之外/外 [chú le . . . yǐ wài/zhī wài/wài] (except)” implies “except for” or “excluding.”

In this case, “. . . 都/全 [. . . dōu/quán]” is required to appear in the following affirmative clause, in order to match with “除了 [chú le] (except)” in the preceding clause.

Example 331 这里是佛国，除了七八家店铺，全是寺院。[zhè lǐ shì fó guó, chú le qī bā jiā diàn pù, quán shì sì yuàn.]
(This is the country of Buddhism; except for seven or eight shops, there are monasteries everywhere.)

Example 332 除了面积稍小点儿外，这套房子一切都很好。[chú le miàn jí shāo xiǎo diǎn niè, zhè tào fáng zi yī qiè hěn hǎo.]
(Except for a smaller room, everything about the house is fine.)

Example 333 学员注册名单上有29人，除了约翰以外，其余的全都登录在上边了。[xué yuán zhù cè míng dān shàng yǒu 29 rén, chú le Yuē hàn yǐ wài, qí yú de quán dōu dēng lù zài shàng biān le.]
(There should be 29 names on the student registration list. Except for John’s, the rest of the names are checked in here.)

Example 334 这座古老的城市，除了西边那部分之外，都是三百年以上的古建筑。[zhè zuò gǔ lǎo de chéng shì, chú le xī biān nà bù fēn zhī wài, dōu shì sān bǎi nián yǐ shàng de gǔ jiàn zhù.]
(Except for its western part, this old city has preserved the ancient buildings of more than three hundred years.)

In these examples, the entire sentences keep the consistency of the things involved by the predicate verbs, excluding those mentioned by “除了 [chú le] (except).” For example, “七八家店铺 [qī bā jiā diàn pù] (seven or eight shops)” after “除了 [chú le] (except)” is excluded and “这里全是寺院 [zhè lǐ quán shì sì
yuàn] (there are monasteries everywhere)” is affirmed. The same is true to the rest of the previous examples.

Besides, the following clause where “. . . 都/全 [. . . dōu/quán]” appear can be negative also.

Example 335 除了几句安慰的话外，她什么也不能带给淑贞。[chú le jǐ jù wèi de huà wài, tā shèn me yě bù néng gòu dài gěi Shū Zhēn.]
(She could bring nothing to Shu Zhen except for a few words of comfort.)

Example 336 除了他以外，班里同学谁也没买这本书。[chú le tā yǐ wài, bān lǐ tóng xué shuí yě méi mài zhè běn shū.]
(Except for him, no students in the class bought the book.)

Example 337 我周末除了休息以外，不做什么事。[wǒ zhōu mò chú le xiū xī yǐ wài, bù zuò shén me shì.]
(I do nothing but rest on weekends.)

Example 338 除了丈夫和她的两个小心肝，她的心里几乎什么都没有。[chú le zhàng fū hé tā de liǎo ké xiǎo xīn gān, tā de xīn lǐ jǐ hū shén me dōu mò yǒu.]
(Except for her husband and her two children, there was nothing in her mind.)

2 “除了 . . . 以外/之外/外 [chú le . . . yǐ/wài/zhī wài/wài] (except)” implies “besides.”

In this case, the object of “除了 [chú le] (except)” is also included in what is declared by the predicate. “还 [hái] (also),” “也 [yě] (also),” “又 [yòu] (also)” can match with “除了 [chú le] (except)” to express the same meaning.

Example 339 这个村里有本事的人，除了王大姐还有你。[zhè gè cūn lǐ yǒu shì de rén, chú le Wáng dà jiǎo hái yǒu nǐ.]
(Besides you, Ms. Wang is another one of the talented people in this village.)

This example implies “both Ms. Wang and you are qualified.”

Example 340 这些家具，除了我自己买的，也有我母亲留给我的。[zhè xiē jiā jù, chú le wǒ zì jiā mái de, yě yǒu wǒ mǔ qīn liú géi wǒ de.]
(Besides the furniture I bought myself, my mother also left some to me.)

Example 341 他除了学习规定的课程外，还参加了两项科研活动。[tā chú le xué xí guī dìng de kè chéng wài, hái cān jiā le liǎng xiàng kē yán huó dòng.]
(Besides the compulsory courses, he also took part in two scientific research activities.)

Example 342 乡下人除了吃饭穿衣外，他们在生活里，也需要说说唱唱，鸟语花香。[xiāng xià rén chú le chī fàn chuān yī wài, tā men zài shēng huó lǐ, yě xū yào shuō shuō chǎng chàng, niǎo yǔ huā xiāng.]
(Besides eating and dressing, rural people also need leisure and a colorful life.)
**Prepositions**

Example 343  法院处理叫他赔偿人家的损失外，又判了他两年徒刑。[fǎ yuàn chǔ lǐ jiào tā péi cháng rén jiā de sūn shī wài, yòu pàn le liǎng nián tú xíng.]

(Besides being asked to pay damages, he has been sentenced to a two-year imprisonment by the court.)

It can be seen that “还 [hái] (also),” “也 [yě] (also),” “又 [yòu] (also)” further complement what is mentioned by “除了 [chú le] (except).”

“除此以外 [chú cǐ yǐ wài] (except)” can also further complement a narrative paragraph.

Example 344  他是一个球迷，几乎天天参加各种业余排球赛，除此以外，他还有不少兴趣和爱好，他喜欢周末时弹钢琴，拉二胡。[tā shì yī gè qiú mǐ, jǐ hū tiān tiān cān jiā gè zhǒng yè yǔ qiú sài, chú cǐ yǐ wài, tā hái yǒu bù shǎo xìng qù hé āi hào, tā xǐ huān zhōu mò shì tán gēng qín, là èr hú.]

(He is a volleyball fan and keeps himself busy with all kinds of amateur volleyball matches all day. In addition, he has many other interests and hobbies, such as playing the piano or playing the erhu on weekends.)

**IX. 连 [lián] (and/even)**

“连 [lián] (and/even)” is a verb as well as a preposition. When it is used as a preposition, it is very similar to “甚至 [shèn zhì] (even)” in meaning. It can not only connect with a noun (phrase), pronoun, or verb (phrase) to form preposition-object phrase but also match with “也 [yě] (also)” or “都 [dōu] (even)” to form “... 也/都 [. . . yě/dōu] (. . . also/even).” “连 [lián] (even)” introduces the contrastive focus of a certain topic. In other words, the object of “连 [lián] (even)” is the focus, indicating a particular example, and then a general situation or conclusion is drawn after it.

Example 345  你的意思连我这个大老粗都听懂了，那些文化水平高的人肯定更听懂了。[nǐ de yì sī lián wǒ zhè gè dà lǎo cū dōu tīng dǒng le, nà xiē wén huà shuǐ píng gāo de rèn kěn dīng gēng tīng dǒng le.]

(Even I, so-called uneducated, knew what you meant, let alone those well-educated ones.)

In this example, “我这个大老粗 [wǒ zhè gè dà lǎo cū] (even I, so-called uneducated)” is the contrastive focus and the entire sentence implies “since it can be understood by me, such an uneducated person, there is no problem for those well-educated ones to understand it.”

1. The object of “连 [lián] (even)” in “连 ... 也/都 ... [lián ... yě/dōu] (even ... also ... )”

(1) The object of “连 [lián] (even)” can be the doer of the action and “连 [lián] (even)” stands before the subject.
Example 346 连我母亲也支持我，让我离开家去创业。[lián wǒ mǔ qīn yě zhī chí wǒ, ràng wǒ lí kāi jiā qù chuàng yè.]
(Even my mother supported me to leave home to start a business.)

Example 347 这女孩唱完第二首歌，连声乐专家王教授都点头称赞。[zhè nǚ hái chàng wán dì èr shǒu gē, lián shēng yuè zhuan jiā Wáng jiào shòu dòu diǎn tóu chéng zàn.]
(After her second song, the girl’s performance was even praised by Prof. Wang, a vocalist.)

Example 348 比赛那天连六七十岁的老人都来了。[bǐ sài nà tiān lián liù qī shí suì de lǎo rén dōu lái le.]
(The old men of around sixty or seventy years even came here on the day of the game.)

Example 349 这个简单的道理，连小孩子都懂。[zhè gè jiǎn dàn de dào lǐ, lián xiǎo hái zi dōu dǒng.]
(Even children know this simple truth.)

(2) The object of “连 [lián] (even)” can be the recipient of the action and “连 [lián] (even)” stands between the subject and predicate.

Example 350 妈妈连一件像样的过冬的衣服都没有。[mā mā lián yī jiàn xiàng yàng de guò dōng de yī fú dōu méi yǒu.]
(My mother doesn’t even have a decent winter dress.)

Example 351 他连一张便条都不肯写。[tā lián yī zhāng biàn tiáo dōu bù kěn xiě.]
(He refused to write anything, even a note.)

Example 352 他救了我，可是我连他叫什么名字也没有问。[tā jiù le wǒ, kě shì wǒ lián tā jiào shén me míng zì yě méi yǒu wèn.]
(He saved my life, but I didn’t even have a chance to ask his name.)

Example 353 你连这样的好姑娘也不要，你要谁呀。[nǐ lián zhè yàng de hǎo niáng yě bú yào, nǐ yào shuí ya.]
(You even refused such a good girl! Who else do you want?)

2 “连 [lián] (even)” before the overlapped verb

When “连 [lián] (even)” is followed by the overlapped verb, this combination can stand between the subject and predicate, indicating that “the minimum requirement is not satisfied yet.”

Example 354 我这里的情况，他连问都没有问，还谈什么关心呢？[wǒ zhè lǐ de qíng kuàng, tā lián wèn dōu méi yǒu wèn, hái tán shén me guān xīn ne?]
(He didn’t even ask me about my situation here, what else could he care about me?)

This example implies that minimum concern about my situation is not satisfied yet.
Example 355 她接到信后，连看也没看，就跑去上课了。[tā jiē dào xìn hòu, lián kàn yě méi kàn, jiù pǎo qù shàng kè le.]
(After receiving the letter, she ran to class even without reading it.)

This implies that she is too busy to read the letter.

More similar examples are as follows.

Example 356 老先生看见那幅山水画，连考虑也没有考虑，就喊了一声好。[lǎo xiān shēng kàn jiàn nà fù shān shuǐ huà, lián kǎo lǜ yě méi yǒu kǎo lǜ, jiù hǎn le yī shēng hǎo.]
(The old gentleman couldn’t help cheering when seeing that landscape painting, even without a second thought.)

Example 357 这种菜只生在南方，北方人连见都没有见过。[zhè zhǒng cài zhǐ shēng zài nán fāng, běi fāng rén lián jiàn dōu méi yǒu jiàn guò.]
(This vegetable only grows in the south so the northerners have never seen it.)

3 “连...也/都...”[lián...yě/dōu] (even...also...)” can function as an attribute

Example 358 这儿是一片连野草也不生长的荒野。[zhè ěr shì yī piàn lián yě cǎo yě bù shēng zhǎng de huāng yě.]
(It is a wilderness where no weeds grow.)

Example 359 这本书是一位连中学都没念完的工人写的。[zhè běn shū shì yī wèi lián zhōng xué dōu méi niàn wán de gōng rén xiě de.]
(The book was written by a worker who had not even finished his middle school learning.)

Example 360 连汉字都没见过的人，怎么会写汉字呢？[lián hàn zì dōu méi jiàn guò de rén, zěn me huì xiě hàn zì ne.]
(How is it possible for a person to write Chinese characters, if he or she hasn’t seen a Chinese character before?)

Example 361 你想，一个连味道好坏都尝不出来的人，怎么算得上美食家呢？[nǐ xiǎng, yī gè lián wèi dào hǎo huài dōu cháng bù chū lái de rén, zěn me suàn de shàng měi shí jiā ne?]
(How is it possible for a person to be a gourmet, if he or she doesn’t taste the food?)

In this case, the structural auxiliary word “的 [de]” is necessarily required after “连...也/都...”[lián...yě/dōu] (even...also...).”

X. 按照 [àn zhào] (according to), 按 [àn] (according to), 照 [zhào] (according to)

“按照 [àn zhào] (according to)” is a preposition and it introduces a regulation, condition, or standard. The prepositional phrase consisting of “按照 [àn zhào] (according to)” can function as an adverbial. “按照 [àn zhào] (according to)” can
be simplified into “按 [àn] (according to)” or “照 [zhào] (according to)” without changing anything. Comparatively speaking, “照 [zhào] (according to)” is more oral than “按照 [àn zhào] (according to)” and “按 [àn] (according to).”

1 按照 [àn zhào] (according to)

Example 362 我们的教学进度要按照教学计划进行。[wǒ men de jiào xué jìn dù yào àn zhào jiào xué jì huà jìn xíng.]
(Our teaching progress is to be carried out according to the teaching plan.)

Example 363 您提的方案符合实际，我们的图纸就是按照您的方案设计的。[nín tí de fāng àn fú hé shí jì, wǒ men de tú zhǐ jiù shì àn zhào nín de fāng àn shì jì de.]
(The scheme you put forward is in line with the reality, and our drawings have been designed according to your scheme.)

Example 364 按照规定，应试者还要唱一支外国歌。[àn zhào guī dìng, yìng shì zhě hái yào chàng yī zhī wài guó gē.]
(According to the rules, the candidate has to sing a foreign song.)

Example 365 我想按照这条蓝裙子的样子，再做一条花的。[wǒ xiǎng àn zhào zhè tiáo lán qún zi de yàng zi, zài zuò yī tiáo huā de.]
(I’d like to make a floral skirt, according to the pattern of this blue one.)

2 按 [àn] (according to)

Example 366 每辆公共汽车都要按规定的数量运载乘客，不得超载。[měi liàng gōng gòng qì chē dōu yào àn guī dìng de shù liàng yùn zài chèng kè, bù dé chāo zài.]
(Each bus is required to carry a specified number of passengers and shall not be overloaded.)

Example 367 按我的判断，昨天的地震不超过五级。[àn wǒ de pàn duàn, zuó tiān de dì zhèn bù chāo guò wǔ jí.]
(In my judgment, the magnitude of the earthquake yesterday was no more than five.)

Example 368 我们一定要按原定计划办事，除非发生意外情况。[wǒ men yī dìng yào àn yuán dìng jì huà bàn shì, chú fēi fà shēng yì wài qìng kuàng.]
(We must stick to the original plan unless something unexpected happens.)

Example 369 下棋，按照现在的话来说，是为了交流棋艺，增进友谊。[xià qí, àn xiàn zài de huà lù shuō, shì wèi le jiāo liú qí yì, zēng jīn yǒu yì.]
(For today’s session, playing chess is for the purpose of exchanging the art of chess and improving relationships among the people.)

Example 370 按眼下的行情，这张画至少值五千多元。[àn yǎn xià de háng qíng, zhè zhāng huà zhǐ shǎo zhī wǔ qiān duō yuán.]
(At present market prices, this picture is worth at least more than five thousand yuan.)
Example 371 有一天，妻子对丈夫说：“咱们应该照大多数的家庭那样生活，不要天天吵了。”
(One day, the wife said to her husband, “we should stop quarreling and live a peaceful life like most normal families.”)

Example 372 照你这种说法，中国人把家里最小的孩子叫老小，是吗？
(In your opinion, the youngest child at home is called “Lao Xiao” in China, right?)

Example 373 我们照着您的办法去做了，试验还真成功了。
(We did it in the way you told us, and the experiment really succeeded.)

Example 374 他照着他师傅的模型，自己又做了一个。
(He followed the model of his master worker and made another one by himself.)

Example 375 我想照你的衣服的样子做一件。
(I'd like to make a dress, according to the pattern of your clothes.)

Example 376 这些事情，按理说，应该由主任处理。
(Ordinarily speaking, these things should be dealt with by the director.)

Example 377 按理来说，这些事情应该由他负责处理。
(Ordinarily speaking, he should be in charge of these matters.)

Example 378 照道理说，父母不应该不管孩子，可是这个孩子的情况有些特殊。
(According to the facts, parents are supposed to take care of their children, but this child is an exception.)

Example 379 小王和小李两个人，按能力说，小王占优势，按人品来说，小王不如小李。
(Compared to Xiao Li, Xiao Wang has more advantage in his abilities; as far as moral quality is concerned, Xiao Wang is not as good as Xiao Li.)

Both “按 ... 说 [àn ... shuō] (according to)” and “照 ... 说 [zhào ... shuō] (according to)” in Example 377 and Example 378 mean “按/照道理说 [â/zhào dào lǐ shuō] (according to the fact).
Bibliography


References

1 Some of them also belong to action verbs at the same time and “了 [le]” after these verbs doesn’t indicate the result. For example, in the sentence “你把药吃了再睡 [nǐ bǎ yào chī le zài shuì.] (go to bed after taking your medicine),” “吃 [chī] (take)” is a momentary verb; in the sentence “这顿饭整整吃了两个小时。[zhè dùn fàn zhěng zhěng chī le liǎng gè xiǎo shí.] (It has taken two hours to finish this meal),” “吃 [chī] (take)” is an action verb.

2 “上 [shàng], 下 [xià], 进 [jìn], 出 [chū], 回 [huí], 起 [qǐ]” are included here. (See Chapter 5, Section two, Part II, vol. 3).

3 你昨天吃药、打针了吗? [nǐ zuó tiān chī yào, dǎ zhēn le ma?] (Did you take your medicine and get an injection yesterday?) Here, “吗 [ma]” is used to include “吃药了 [chī yào le] (taking medicine)” and “打针了 [dǎ zhēn le] (getting an injection).” 昨天晚上在舞会上没看见我的女朋友和她妹妹吧? [zuó tiān wǎn shàng zài wǔ huì shàng méi kàn jiàn wǒ de nǚ péng yǒu hé tā mèi mèi ba?] (You didn’t see my girlfriend and her sister at the dance last night, did you?) Here “吧 [ba]” is used to include “没看见我的女朋友 [méi kàn jiàn wǒ de nǚ péng yǒu] (didn’t my girlfriend)” and “没看见她妹妹 [méi kàn jiàn tā mèi mèi] (didn’t see her sister).”

4 If an adverbial appears before the verb, such as “他大喊一声 [tā dà hǎn yī shēng: “zhàn zhù !”] (He shouted loudly: “Stop!”), “了 [le]” can be omitted here.


