

Words & Phrases



A

觉得/覺得 (to feel, to think)

觉得/覺得 can be used to express a feeling, as in (1).

- 1 我今天觉得有点不舒服，不能跟你一起去游泳了。
我今天覺得有點不舒服，不能跟你一起去游泳了。
I don't feel very well today. I can't go swimming with you. [feeling]

It can also be used to express an opinion, as in (2) and (3).

- 2 大家都说那个电影好看，可是我看了以后觉得不怎么样。
大家都說那個電影好看，可是我看了以後覺得不怎麼樣。
Everybody says that film is good, but I didn't think it was all that great after seeing it. [opinion]

- 3 很多美国人认为 (rènwéi) 十八岁以后就应该离开家搬到别的地方住，我觉得不一定。
很多美國人認為 (rènwéi) 十八歲以後就應該離開家搬到別的地方住，我覺得不一定。
Many Americans think that you should leave home and live somewhere else after you turn eighteen. I don't necessarily feel this is the case. [opinion]

When used to express an opinion, 觉得/覺得 is less formal than 认为/認為.

B**方便 (convenient)**

As an adjective, 方便 can appear in a sentence as a predicate, as in (1) and (2).

1 住在城里买东西很方便。

住在城裡買東西很方便。

Living in the city, it's very convenient to shop. *[predicate]*

2 我想问您一个问题，您现在方便吗？

我想問您一個問題，您現在方便嗎？

I'd like to ask you a question. Is right now convenient for you? *[predicate]*

It can also appear as an attributive, as in (3).

3 方便的时候，请给我打个电话。

方便的時候，請給我打個電話。

Please give me a call whenever is convenient for you. *[attributive]*

As an adjective, 安全/安全 can be used as a predicate, as in (1) and (2).

1

这栋楼很安全。

這棟樓很安全。

This building is very safe. *[predicate]*

2

你不必担心，她现在很安全。

你不必擔心，她現在很安全。

You don't have to worry. She's very safe now. *[predicate]*

It can also be used as an attributive, as in (3) and (4).

3

我们宿舍的安全问题很大。

我們宿舍的安全問題很大。

Our dorm has a big problem with safety. *[attributive]*

4

最安全的办法是下午五点以后不准人进公司。

最安全的辦法是下午五點以後不准人進公司。

The safest solution is to not allow people to enter the company building after 5:00 p.m. *[attributive]*

4

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The safest solution is to not allow people to enter the company building after 5:00 p.m. [*attributive*]

D

省钱/省錢 (to save money, to economize)

省钱/省錢 is a verb-object compound. Numerals and particles such as 了 can be inserted between the verb and the object.

1

每个星期少开一天车，一年可以省不少钱。

每個星期少開一天車，一年可以省不少錢。

If you drive one day less a week, you'll save a lot of money over a year.

- 2 这件衬衫周末打五折，可以省三十块钱。
這件襯衫週末打五折，可以省三十塊錢。
This shirt is half off this weekend. You can save thirty dollars.

- 3 我去年住在中国，吃饭很便宜，省了很多钱。
我去年住在中國，吃飯很便宜，省了很多錢。
I lived in China last year. Eating was very inexpensive. I saved a lot of money.

E

自由 (free, unconstrained)

自由 can be used as a noun, as in (1); as an adjective, as in (2); or as an adverbial with the addition of 地, as in (3).

- 1 Q: 在那个地方，你觉得人们有自由吗？
在那個地方，你覺得人們有自由嗎？
In that place, do you think people have freedom? [noun]

A: 我在那儿住了半年，觉得很自由。
我在那兒住了半年，覺得很自由。
I lived there for half a year. I found it very free. [adjective]

- 2 我妹妹住在表姐家里，她觉得很不自由。
我妹妹住在表姐家裡，她覺得很不自由。
My younger sister lives with my cousin. She finds it very restrictive. [adjective]

- 3 那个孩子快两岁了，可以在地上自由地走来走去。
那個孩子快兩歲了，可以在地上自由地走來走去。
That child is going to be two soon. He can walk around freely. [adjective + 地 = adverbial]

E**不见得/不見得 (not necessarily)**

An adverb, 不见得/不見得 can be used to politely express a dissenting opinion.

- 1** Q: 她是在中国出生的，中文一定很好吧？
她是在中國出生的，中文一定很好吧？

She was born in China. Her Chinese must be very good.

- A: 在中国出生的人，中文不见得好。
在中國出生的人，中文不見得好。

People who were born in China don't necessarily speak good Chinese.

- 2** 报上说的不见得对。

報上說的不見得對。

What's said in the newspaper isn't necessarily right.

- 3** 这个城市路上车多人多，开车不见得比走快。
這個城市路上車多人多，開車不見得比走快。

The streets in this city are packed with people and cars. Driving isn't necessarily faster than walking.

G**好处/好處 (advantage, benefit)**

好处/好處 is a noun. It can be used as a subject, as in (1).

- 1** 坐飞机的好处是很快。
坐飛機的好處是很快。

The advantage of flying is that it's quick.

It can also be used as an object, as in (2).

- 2 请你说说这样做的好处。
請你說說這樣做的好處。
Please tell us the advantage of doing it this way.

好处/好處 often occurs in this construction, meaning "X is advantageous for Y":

X对Y (没) 有好处
X對Y (沒) 有好處

- 3 少开车，多走路，对健康有好处。
少開車，多走路，對健康有好處。
Driving less and walking more is good for health.
- 4 这样做对你没有好处。
這樣做對你沒有好處。
Doing this has no advantages for you.
- 5 上过大学、会用电脑、会说外语，对找工作有好处。
上過大學、會用電腦、會說外語，對找工作有好處。
Having a college degree, being able to use a computer, and being able to speak a foreign language are advantages when it comes to looking for a job.

H

适应/適應 (to adapt, to become accustomed to)

The verb 适应/適應 must be used with a direct object.

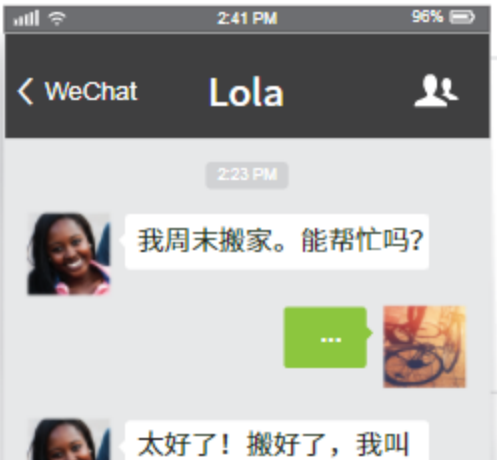
- 1 你适应大学的生活了吗?
你適應大學的生活了嗎?
Have you gotten used to college life yet?
- 2 我来了两年了，到现在还不适应这里的生活。
我來了兩年了，到現在還不適應這裡的生活。
I've been here for two years, but I'm still not used to life here.

Alternatively, the object can be introduced by the preposition 对/對 and be placed before the verb 适应/適應.

- 3 你对这里的天气已经适应了
你對這裡的天氣已經適應了嗎？
Have you gotten used to the weather here?
- 4 我们刚来美国，对美国的天气还不适应。
我們剛來美國，對美國的天氣還不適應。
We've just arrived in the U.S. We're not used to American weather yet.

Chinese Chat

A friend is texting you on WeChat to ask for a favor. How would you reply?



2:41 PM 96%

< WeChat Lola

2:23 PM

Lola: 我週末搬家。能幫忙嗎？

You: ...

Lola: 太好了！搬好了，我叫 pizza，怎麼樣？

You: ...

我周末搬家。能帮忙吗？

太好了！搬好了，我叫