

China Perspectives

PRACTICAL GRAMMAR OF MODERN CHINESE IV

**SIMPLE SENTENCE, COMPOUND SENTENCE,
AND DISCOURSE**

Liu Yuehua, Pan Wenyu, and Gu Wei



Practical Grammar of Modern Chinese IV

Chinese grammar is characterized by its simple structure, lack of inflections, and wide use of monosyllabic morphemes. With the increased 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.

This four-volume set is one of the earliest and most influential works of Chinese grammar, with a special focus on teaching and learning Chinese as a second language. Drawing on rich teaching experience, the authors analyze a myriad of real-world examples to describe Chinese grammatical phenomena and rules while introducing the general grammar system of Chinese. This volume introduces several simple sentence and compound sentence structures of modern Chinese grammar. In addition, the authors examine discourse and other larger units of sentences in use.

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

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1 Subject-predicate sentences

According to how a sentence is structured, there are subject-predicate sentences and non-subject-predicate sentences in Chinese. Non-subject-predicate sentences include single-word sentences and sentences with no subject.

As its name implies, a subject-predicate sentence consists of a subject and a predicate, and based on the properties of the predicate, a subject-predicate sentence can be divided into four types:

- 1 The sentence with verb as predicate
- 2 The sentence with adjective as predicate
- 3 The sentence with subject-predicate as predicate
- 4 The sentence with noun as predicate

Section one: sentences with verbs as predicate

The sentence with a verb as a predicate mainly narrates action or psychological activity of a person or development of a thing. This is the majority of Chinese sentences.

Example 1 他们下午游泳，我们钓鱼。[tā men xià wǔ yóu yǒng, wǒ men diào yú.]

(They went swimming in the afternoon and we went fishing.) (action)

Example 2 我很后悔。[wǒ hěn hòu huǐ.]

(I was very regretful.) (psychological activity)

Example 3 他的手艺提高了。[tā de shǒu yì tí gāo le.]

(His skill has been improved.) (development)

Based on how its structured, the sentence with a verb as the predicate can be divided into the following types.

I. The sentence with a single intransitive verb as predicate

Example 4 妹妹来了。[mèi mèi lái le.]

(The younger sister came.)

2 Subject-predicate sentences

Example 5 小明休息了，小刚工作，两个人倒着干。[Xiǎo Míng xiū xi le, Xiǎo Gāng gōng zuò, liǎng gè rén dào zhe gàn.]
(Xiao Ming and Xiao Gang work in turns; one takes a rest when the other one works.)

Example 6 一声枪响，小鸟全飞了。[yī shēng qiāng xiǎng, xiǎo niǎo quán fēi le.]
(The birds were frightened by a shot and flew away.)

Example 7 我们两个人的看法相似。[wǒ men liǎng gè rén de kàn fǎ xiāng sì.]
(We two have similar opinions.)

Example 8 汽车拐弯，大家留神。[qì chē guǎi wān, dà jiā liú shén.]
(Everybody should watch out when the car turns.)

II. The sentence whose predicate verb takes a single object

1 The predicate is required to take an object.

(1) The predicate verbs take nominal objects and such verbs are as follows: “姓 [xìng] (surname),” “叫 [jiào] (name),” “等于 [děng yú] (equal to),” “属于 [shǔ yú] (belong),” “不如 [bú rú] (not equal to).”

Example 9 这位老师姓王，叫王华。[zhè wèi lǎo shī xìng Wáng, jiào Wáng Huá.]
(The teacher is surnamed Wang and his full name is Wang Hua.)

Example 10 好人不等于老好人。[hǎo rén bù děng yú lǎo hǎo rén.]
(A kind person doesn't mean a goody-goody.)

Example 11 他的预言已经成为现实了。[tā de yù yán yǐ jīng chéng wéi xiàn shí le.]
(His prediction has become true.)

Example 12 那些事情都属于过去了，不要再提它了。[nà xiē shì qing dōu shǔ yú guò qù le, bú yào zài tí tā le.]
(The past is past. Don't mention it again.)

The predicate verbs take predicative objects and such verbs are as follows: “给予 [gěi yǔ] (give),” “予以 [yǔ yǐ] (give),” “给以 [gěi yǐ] (give),” “装作 [zhuāng zuò] (pretend),” “从事 [cóng shì] (work on),” “进行 [jìn xíng] (proceed).” The predicative object is required but sometimes the nominal object is also permitted.

Example 13 对有突出贡献的人应给予表扬和奖励。[duì yǒu tū chū gòng xiàn de rén yīng gěi yǔ biǎo yáng hé jiǎng lì.]
(Praise and awards should be granted to those who have made extraordinary contributions.)

Example 14 对不遵守纪律的人应给以批评。[duì bù zūn shǒu jì lǜ de rén yīng gěi yǐ pī píng.]
(Those who don't observe discipline should be criticized.)

Example 15 请求您，对我们的要求予以考虑。[qǐng qiú nín, duì wǒ men de yāo qiú yǐ yǐ kǎo lǜ.]

(We beg your consideration of our request.)

Example 16 实验测得的数据要加以分析 [shí yàn cè dé de shù jù yào jiā yǐ fēn xī.]

(The experimental data should be analyzed.)

Example 17 别人的胡言乱语，你就装作没听见 [bié rén de hú yán luàn yǔ, nǐ jiù zhuāng zuò méi tīng jiàn.]

(You have to pretend not to hear others' nonsense.)

2 The predicate verb takes an object but not always.

Example 18 我买了两本汉语书。[wǒ mǎi le liǎng běn hàn yǔ shū.]

(I bought two Chinese books.)

Example 19 你收集了这么多民间工艺品。[nǐ shōu jí le zhè me duō mín jiān gōng yì pǐn.]

(You have collected so many folk arts and crafts items.)

Example 20 老大爷从来不抽香烟，他抽旱烟袋。[lǎo dà yé cóng lái bù chōu xiāng yān, tā chōu hàn yān dài.]

(The old man never smokes cigarettes but tobacco.)

Example 21 他去西藏，我去云南少数民族地区。[tā qù xī zāng, wǒ qù yún nán shǎo shù mín zú dì qū.]

(He went to Tibet and I went to the minority areas of Yunnan Province.)

Example 22 我已经知道这个孩子惹了大祸了。[wǒ yǐ jīng zhī dào zhè gè hái zǐ rě le dà huò le.]

(I've already known that this child has caused big troubles.)

III. The predicate verb takes two objects, the former of which is indirect and the latter of which is direct

Example 23 张老师教我们汉语。[Zhāng lǎo shī jiào wǒ men hàn yǔ.]

(Prof. Zhang teaches us Chinese.)

Example 24 昨天我借了你十块钱。[zuó tiān wǒ jiè le nǐ shí kuài qián.]

(I lent you ten yuan yesterday.)

Example 25 班长通知大家明天开全校运动会。[bān zhǎng tōng zhī dà jiā míng tiān kāi quán xiào yùn dòng huì.]

(The monitor informed us that the school sports meeting would be held tomorrow.)

Example 26 你告诉我你的电话号码。[nǐ gào sù wǒ nǐ de diàn huà hào mǎ.]

(Please tell me your phone number.)

Example 27 经理交给咱们了个任务。[jīng lǐ jiāo gěi zán men le gè rèn wù.]

(The manager left a task to us.)

4 Subject-predicate sentences

IV. The adverbial is included in the predicate part

Example 28 他弟弟明年就大学毕业了。[tā dì dì míng nián jiù dà xué bì yè le.]

(His younger brother will graduate from college next year.)

Example 29 小明每天都认真地做课外练习。[Xiǎo Míng měi tiān dōu hěn rèn zhēn dì zuò kè wài liànxí.]

(Xiao Ming does the extracurricular exercises seriously every day.)

Example 30 妹妹很高兴地答应了他的要求。[mèi mèi hěn gāo xìng dì dā yìng le tā de yāo qiú.]

(The younger sister agreed to his request happily.)

Example 31 你再仔细看看。[nǐ zài zǐ xì kàn kàn.]

(Take another look again, please.)

Example 32 关于分配的问题，你们先不必考虑。[guān yú fēn pèi de wèn tí, nǐ men xiān bù bì kǎo lǜ.]

(As for the issue of distribution, you don't have to think about it at first.)

V. The complement is included in the predicate part

Example 33 小红的病治好了。[Xiǎo Hóng de bìng zhì hǎo le.]

(Xiao Hong has been cured.)

Example 34 李老师从国外回来了。[Lǐ lǎo shī cóng guó wài huí lái le.]

(Prof. Li has come back from abroad.)

Example 35 这么多东西我怎么吃得下？[zhè me duō dōng xī wǒ zěn me chī de xià?]

(How can I finish all this food?)

Example 36 方明笑得腰都直不起来了。[Fāng Míng xiào de yāo dōu zhí bù qǐ lái le.]

(Fang Ming doubled over with laughter.)

Example 37 你来一下！[nǐ lái yī xià!]

(Come here!)

The sentence with a verb as the predicate is characterized by its various types and complex structures, some of which will be further discussed in the next chapter.

Section two: sentences with adjectives as predicate

Adjectives in Chinese can function as predicates directly, without “是 [shì]” or other verbs in front. It mainly describes characteristics of a person, properties, or development of a thing. It is usually regarded as a descriptive sentence.

Example 1 我们学校的学习条件很好。[wǒ men xué xiào de xué xí tiáo jiàn hěn hǎo.]

(The learning conditions in our school are very nice.)

Example 2 这儿的风景非常美丽。[zhè ér de fēng jǐng fēi cháng měi lì.]
(The scenery here is very beautiful.)

Example 3 他家里干干净净的。[tā jiā lǐ gān gān jìng jìng de.]
(His house is clean and clear.)

Example 4 天渐渐冷了，院子里冷清清的，没有什么人了。[tiān jiàn jiàn lěng le, yuàn zi lǐ lěng qīng qīng de, méi yǒu shén me rén le.]
(It was getting cold. The yard became deserted with nobody in it.)

Example 5 你的手怎么冰凉冰凉的，你冷吗？[nǐ de shǒu zěn me bīng liáng bīng liáng de, nǐ lěng ma?]
(Why are your hands so cold? Do you feel cold?)

I. Functions of sentences with adjectives as predicate

1 Descriptive sentence with adjective as predicate

The adjective as predicate is much restricted in functioning alone and it is mainly used in the comparative sentence.

Example 6 我的行李多，他的行李少。[wǒ de xíng lǐ duō, tā de xíng lǐ shǎo.]
(I have more luggage than he does.)

Example 7

A: 这本书好，还是那本书好？[zhè běn shū hǎo, hái shì nà běn shū hǎo?]
(Which book is good? This one or that one?)

B: 这本书好。[zhè běn shū hǎo.]
(This one.)

If the sentence doesn't indicate comparison, the adverb indicating a certain degree is often required before the adjective.

Example 8 这个孩子很可爱。[zhè gè hái zi hěn kě ài.]
(This kid is pretty cute.)

Example 9 那天空格外晴朗。[nà tiān tiān kōng gé wài qíng lǎng.]
(The sky was extraordinarily clear that day.)

Example 10 公园里的人非常多。[gōng yuán lǐ de rén fēi cháng duō.]
(There are a lot of people in the park.)

“的 [de]” usually follows the overlapped adjective.

Example 11 小草悄悄地从土里钻出来，嫩嫩的、绿绿的。[xiǎo cǎo qiāo qiāo de cóng tǔ lǐ zuàn chū lái, nèn nèn de, lǜ lǜ de.]
(The grass, tender and green, quietly came out from the ground.)

Example 12 一天傍晚，天阴沉沉的，北风越刮越紧。[yī tiān bàng wǎn, tiān yīn chén chén de, běi fēng yuè guā yuè jǐn.]
(One evening, it was overcast and the north wind was blowing hard.)

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Example 13 田野里的庄稼绿油油绿的。[tián yě lǐ de zhuāng jià yóu lǜ yóu lǜ de.]

(The crops in the field are fresh and green.)

As an answer to a question, the adjective can function alone as the predicate without any sense of comparison.

Example 14

A: 今天冷不冷? [jīn tiān lěng bù lěng?]

(Is it cold today?)

B: 冷。[lěng.]

(Yes, it is.)

Coordinative adjectives as predicate neither take the adverb for degree nor indicate any comparison. Such use happens frequently in the written language.

Example 15 房间里干净、整齐。[fáng jiān lǐ gān jìng, zhěng qí.]

(The room is clean and tidy.)

Example 16 老妈妈和蔼慈祥。[lǎo mā mā hé āi cí xiáng.]

(The old lady is kind and merciful.)

2 The sentence with adjective as predicate that indicates change or development

Some adjectives can take the dynamic auxiliary word “了 [le]” or complements to indicate change or development.

Example 17 风暖了，树青了，清明到了。[fēng nuǎn le, shù qīng le, qīng míng dào le.]

(Qingming is coming, along with the mild wind and the green trees.)

Example 18 怎么，你的头发全白了? [ěn me, nǐ de tóu fā quán bái le.]

(How come all your hair turned gray?)

Example 19 突然，天空暗了下来。[tū rán, tiān kōng àn le xià lái.]

(All of a sudden, the sky darkened.)

Example 20 自打修了这条铁路后，我们山里人的日子一天比一天好起来了。[zì dǎ xiū le zhè tiáo tiě lù hòu, wǒ men shān lǐ rén de rì zi yī tiān bǐ yī tiān hǎo qǐ lái le.]

(Since the railway was built, our mountain people's life has become better and better day by day.)

Example 21 跟他谈完话后，我心里才平静下来。[gēn tā tán wán huà hòu, wǒ xīn lǐ cái píng jìng xià lái.]

(After talking to him, my heart calmed down.)

II. Structural features of sentences with adjectives as predicate

Adjectives as predicate often take adverbs for degree. Or they can follow “比 [bǐ],” “跟 [gēn],” “像 [xiàng]” to form prepositional phrases and introduce objects to be compared with. For instance, “这种纸比那种纸厚。 [zhè zhǒng zhǐ bǐ nà zhǒng zhǐ hòu.] (This kind of paper is thicker than that kind.)” “她跟她妈妈一样高了。 [tā gēn tā mā mā yī yàng gāo le.] (She is as tall as her mother.)” or “谁像你这么幸运啊! [shuí xiàng nǐ zhè me xìng yùn ā!] (Who is so lucky like you!).”

- 1 Adjectives as predicate only take the adverbials for degree, time, location, tone of speaking. A few of them indicate manner and are mainly functioned by adverbs.

Example 22 我们的校园很大。 [wǒ men de xiào yuán hěn dà.]
(Our campus is very large.)

Example 23 今天非常暖和。 [jīn tiān fēi cháng nuǎn hé.]
(It is very warm today.)

Example 24 售货员对我们很热情。 [shòu huò yuán duì wǒ men hěn rè qíng.]
(The shop assistant is very warm to us.)

Example 25 小刚在家里调皮，在外面很老实。 [Xiǎo Gāng zài jiā lǐ tiáo pí, zài wài miàn hěn lǎo shí.]
(Xiao Gang is naughty at home but shy outside.)

- 2 Adjectives as predicate can take prepositional phrases or complements of many types, such as quantitative complements, directional complements for extending meaning, modal complements, degree complements, time complements, and complements of possibility.

Example 26 这个箱子比那个重二十五公斤。 [zhè gè xiāng zi bǐ nà gè zhòng èr shí wǔ gōng jīn.]
(This box is twenty-five kilograms heavier than that one.)

Example 27 南屋的窗户比北屋的宽半米。 [nán wū de chuāng hù bǐ běi wū de kuān bàn mǐ.]
(The window of the south room is half a meter wider than that of the north room.)

Example 28 我家的日子一天天好起来了。 [wǒ jiā de rì zi yī tiān tiān hǎo qǐ lái le.]
(My family life is getting better and better day after day.)

Example 29 昨天那场足球赛精彩极了。 [zuó tiān nà chǎng zú qiú sài jīng cǎi jí le.]
(The football match yesterday was wonderful.)

8 *Subject-predicate sentences*

Example 30 妈妈累了一天了，该休息了。[mā mā lèi le yī tiān le, gāi xiū xi le.]

(Mother has worked all day and she should have a rest.)

- 3 “不 [bù/bú] (not)” is often used to negate the sentence with adjective as predicate and “没 [méi] (no)” is used to indicate changes.

Example 31 咱们的收入不多，处处要精打细算。[zán men de shōu rù bù duō, chù chù yào jīng dǎ xì suàn.]

(We have a small income so we need to be shrewd in money matters.)

Example 32 坐车不方便，还是骑自行车方便。[zuò chē bù fāng biàn, hái shì qí zì xíng chē fāng biàn.]

(It's more convenient to ride a bike than to take a car.)

Example 33 树叶还没红，不好看。[shù yè hái méi hóng, bù hǎo kàn.]

(The leaves haven't turned red yet, so they are not good looking.)

Example 34 他都七十多岁，头发还没全白。[tā dōu qī shí duō suì, tóu fà hái méi quán bái.]

(He is already over seventy but his hair is not quite white.)

Section three: sentences with nouns as predicate

This refers to the sentence that takes different nominals as the predicate, including nouns, noun phrases, pronouns, numerals, numeral-quantifier phrases, and “的 [de]” phrases. “是 [shì]” is not permitted to appear between the subject and the predicate.

Example 1 今天除夕。[jīn tiān chú xī.]

(Today is New Year's Eve.) (noun as the predicate)

Example 2

A: 你们都十几了？[nǐ men dōu shí jǐ le?]

(Are you all in your teens?) (numeral as the predicate)

B: 哥哥十八，我十二。[gē gē shí bā, wǒ shí èr.]

(My elder brother is eighteen and I am twelve.) (numeral as the predicate)

Example 3 喂，您哪儿？[wèi/wéi, nín nǎ er?]

(Hello. Who is that?) (pronoun as the predicate)

I. *Types of sentences with nouns as predicate*

- 1 With a noun as predicate

Example 4 今天星期二。[jīn tiān xīng qī èr.]

(Today is Tuesday.)

Example 5 明天中秋节。[míng tiān zhōng qiū jié.]

(Tomorrow is the Mid-Autumn Festival.)

Example 6 刚才还晴天呢，现在又阴天了。[gāng cái hái qíng tiān ne, xiàn zài yòu yīn tiān le.]

(It was just sunny but now it is cloudy.)

This sentence type doesn't occur very frequently in the daily use of Chinese.

- 2 With noun phrases, numeral-quantifier phrases, or “的 [de]” phrases as predicate

Example 7 这本书五十块钱。[zhè běn shū wǔ shí kuài qián.]

(This book costs fifty yuan.)

Example 8 张老师上海人。[Zhāng lǎo shī shàng hǎi rén.]

(Prof. Zhang is Shanghainese.)

Example 9 这个小伙子高个子、方脸庞、粗眉毛、大眼睛。[zhè gè xiǎo huǒ zǐ gāo gè zi, fāng liǎn pang, cū méi máo, dà yǎn jīng.]

(This young man is tall, with a square face, thick eyebrows, and big eyes.)

Example 10 我两个孩子，一个儿子，一个女儿。[wǒ liǎng gè hái zǐ, yī gè ér zi, yī gè nǚ ér.]

(I have two children. One is a son and the other is a daughter.)

Example 11 一年三百六十五天。[yī nián sān bǎi liù shí wǔ tiān.]

(There are three hundred and sixty-five days in a year.)

II. Features of sentences with nouns as predicate

- 1 Most predicates are functioned by “noun+noun,” “noun+adjective,” or other noun phrases, instead of a single noun.
- 2 “不是 [bú shì] (is not)” is used to indicate negation and makes the sentence become a “是 [shì]” sentence.

Example 12

A: 今天星期二吗? [jīn tiān xīng qī èr ma?]

(Is it Tuesday today?)

B: 今天不是星期二。[jīn tiān bú shì xīng qī èr.]

(Today is not Tuesday.)

Example 13

A: 这本书五十块钱吗? [zhè běn shū wǔ shí kuài qián ma?]

(Does this book cost fifty yuan?)

B: 这本书不是五十块钱。[zhè běn shū bú shì wǔ shí kuài qián.]

(It doesn't cost fifty yuan.)

Example 14

A: 老张新调来的吗? [Lǎo Zhāng xīn diào lái de ma?]

(Is Lao Zhang the newcomer?)

B: 老张不是新调来的。[Lǎo Zhāng bú shì xīn diào lái de.]

(Lao Zhang isn't new here.)

10 Subject-predicate sentences

Thus it can be seen obviously that the negative sentence with a noun as the predicate is similar to “是 [shì]” sentences with a verb as the predicate in the negative form, both of which are only for negation or disapproval. Therefore, it is accepted that the sentence with a noun as the predicate is a “是 [shì]” sentence with “是 [shì]” omitted and it is very popular in the daily use of Chinese.

Example 15

他北京人。[tā běi jīng rén.]

(He is from Beijing.)

他是北京人。[tā shì běi jīng rén.]

(He is a Beijinger.)

Example 16

一年十二个月。[yī nián shí èr gè yuè.]

(There are twelve months in a year.)

一年是十二个月。[yī nián shì shí èr gè yuè.]

(There are twelve months in a year.)

Example 17

这种半导体收音机八个管，两个波段。[zhè zhǒng bàn dǎo tǐ shōu yīn jī bā gè guǎn, liǎng gè bō duàn.]

(This transistor radio has eight tubes and two bands.)

这种半导体收音机是八个管，两个波段。[zhè zhǒng bàn dǎo tǐ shōu yīn jī shì bā gè guǎn, liǎng gè bō duàn.]

(This transistor radio has eight tubes and two bands.)

Comparatively speaking, the sentence with “是 [shì] (is)” sounds too formal in the spoken language.

Example 18

这个小伙子高个子，方脸庞。[zhè gè xiǎo huǒ zi gāo gè zi, fāng liǎn páng.]

(This young man is tall with a square face.)

这个小伙子是高个子，方脸庞。[zhè gè xiǎo huǒ zi shì gāo gè zi, fāng liǎn páng.]

(This young man is tall with a square face.)

Example 19

哥哥十岁，弟弟八岁。[gē gē shí suì, dì dì bā suì.]

(The elder brother is ten and the young brother is eight.)

哥哥是十岁，弟弟是八岁。[gē gē shì shí suì, dì dì shì bā suì.]

(The elder brother is ten and the young brother is eight.)

- 3 Due to its simple structure, the sentence with noun as predicate doesn't take any complement nor object. Sometimes it can take the adverbial for time, scope, or tone of speaking.

Example 20 今天已经十二月六号了。[jīn tiān yǐ jīng shí èr yuè liù hào le.]

(Today is already December 6.)

Example 21 三斤苹果一共一块零五分。[sān jīn píng guǒ yī gòng yī kuài líng wǔ fēn.]

(Three fin of apples cost one yuan and five fen.)

Example 22 地上净水，别滑倒了。[dì shàng jìng shuǐ, bié huá dào le.]

(The ground is wet so be careful.)

Example 23 刚解放的时候她才十几岁，现在她已经是满头白发了。[gāng jiě fàng de shí hòu tā cái shí jǐ suì, xiàn zài tā yǐ jīng shì mǎn tóu bái fà le.]

(She was a teenager when China was liberated, and now her hair was already quite white.)

Example 24 你究竟哪里人？[nǐ jiū jìng nǎ lǐ rén?]

(Where are you from?)

III. Purposes of sentences with nouns as predicate

- 1 The sentence with noun as predicate shows time, date, weather, or native place. Most of the predicates are functioned by nouns, noun phrases, or some pronouns. The subject and the predicate are of identical properties.

Example 25 现在十二点。[xiàn zài shí èr diǎn.]

(It is twelve o'clock now.)

Example 26

A: 今天什么日子？[jīn tiān shén me rì zǐ?]

(What is the date today?)

B: 今天“五四”青年节。[jīn tiān “wǔ sì” qīng nián jié.]

(It's Youth Day on May 4th.)

Example 27 刚才还晴天呢，现在又阴天了。[gāng cái hái qíng tiān ne, xiàn zài yòu yīn tiān le.]

(It was sunny just now, but it is cloudy now.)

Example 28 他英国人，我加拿大人。[tā yīng guó rén, wǒ jiā ná dà rén.]

(He's British; I'm Canadian.)

Example 29 他东北口音，可能是东北人。[tā dōng běi kǒu yīn, kě néng shì dōng běi rén.]

(He has a northeast accent and he maybe comes from there.)

- 2 The sentence with noun as predicate shows quantitative features of the subject, such as age, length, weight, price, measurement, or possession. Most of the predicates are functioned by numerals, numeral-quantifier phrases, or noun phrases consisting of numeral-quantifier phrases.

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Example 30 红梅十一岁，玉荣九岁。[Hóng Méi shí yī suì, Yù Róng jiǔ suì.]

(Hong Mei is eleven years old and Yu Rong is nine.)

Example 31 身高一米七五，体重八十多公斤。[shēn gāo yī mǐ qī wǔ, tǐ zhòng bā shí duō gōng jīn.]

(He is 1.75 meters high and weighs more than 80 kilograms.)

Example 32 长城东边从山海关起，西边到嘉峪关，一共一万三千多里。[cháng chéng dōng biān cóng shān hǎi guān qǐ, xī biān dào jiā yù guān, yī gòng yī wàn sān qiān duō lǐ.]

(The Great Wall stretches from Shanhai Pass in the east to Jiayu Pass in the west, with a distance of more than 13,000 li.)

Example 33 这件毛衣二十多块钱。[zhè jiàn máo yī èr shí duō kuài qián.]

(This sweater is over twenty yuan.)

Example 34 这个书箱十六公斤，那个旅行袋四公斤。[zhè gè shū xiāng shí liù gōng jīn, nà gè lǚ xíng dài sì gōng jīn.]

(This book case weighs 16 kilos and that travel bag weighs 4 kilos.)

- 3 The sentence with noun as predicate shows an equivalence relation with numeral-quantifier phrases as the subject and the object at the same time. Therefore, their positions can be changed by each other.

Example 35 一套明信片四毛五。/四毛五一套明信片。[yī tào míng xìn piàn sì máo wǔ./sì máo wǔ yī tào míng xìn piàn.]

(A set of postcards costs 4.5 jiao.)

Example 36 两张五毛钱。/五毛钱两张。[liǎng zhāng wǔ máo qián./wǔ máo qián liǎng zhāng.]

(Two pieces cost five jiao.)

Sometimes, when both the subject and the object are functioned by numeral-quantifier phrases, the sentence indicates conversion relation.

Example 37 一天二十四小时。[yī tiān èr shí sì xiǎo shí.]

(One day has twenty-four hours.)

Example 38 一米三(市)尺。[yī mǐ sān (shì) chǐ.]

(One meter equals three feet.)

Example 39 现在一斤十两了，不是十六两了。[xiàn zài yī jīn shí liǎng le, bú shì shí liù liǎng le.]

(Now one jin equals to ten liang rather than sixteen liang.)

Example 40 一吨两千斤。[yī dūn liǎng qiān jīn.]

(A ton is equal to two thousand jin.)

Such use often occurs in the spoken language. As for the formal situation or in the written language, “是 [shì] (is)” or some verbs, such as “有 [yǒu] (have),”

“等于 [děng yú] (equal to),” “折合 [zhé hé] (convert into)” are often required between the subject and the predicate.

Sometimes, the sentence with a noun as predicate indicates a complex relation rather than an equivalence.

Example 41 一年十块钱，三年满期，四年头上就挣师傅钱了。[yī nián shí kuài qián. sān nián mǎn qī, sì nián tóu shàng jiù zhèng shī fu qián le.]
(In the first three years of apprenticeship, you earn ten silver dollars each year. From the fourth year, you will earn as much as a master worker does.)

Example 42 一人一套茶具，一套十五件。[yī rén yī tào chá jù, yī tào shí wǔ jiàn.]

(One set of tea ware for each person. One set contains fifteen pieces.)

Example 43 十五个人一班。[shí wǔ gè rén yī bān.]

(There are fifteen persons in a class.)

Example 44 一班十五个人。[yī bān shí wǔ gè rén.]

(There are fifteen people in a class.)

Example 45 一袋化肥一百斤。[yī dài huà fèi yī bǎi jīn.]

(One bag of fertilizer weighs 100 jin.)

These examples imply possession or existence, which is frequently expressed by “有 [yǒu] (have)” or “是 [shì] (is).”

- 4 The sentence with a noun as predicate describes the state, feature, or property of the subject. Most predicates are mainly functioned by noun phrases consisting of adjectives or numeral-quantifier phrases.

Example 46 这个十九岁的姑娘，高高的个子，一双大眼睛，显得很机灵。[zhè gè shí jiǔ suì de gū niáng, gāo gāo de gè zi, yī shuāng dà yǎn jīng, xiǎn dé hěn jī líng.]

(This girl of nineteen years is tall and looks very clever with two big eyes.)
(appearance)

Example 47 张大哥急性子，张大嫂慢性子。[Zhāng dà gē jí xìng zi, zhāng dà sǎo màn xìng zi.]

(The elder brother Zhang is impatient while his wife is slow.) (characteristic)

Example 48 桌前两三把小沙发和一个矮茶几儿。[zhuō qián liǎng sān bǎ xiǎo shā fā hé yī gè ǎi chá jī er.]

(In front of the table are placed two or three small sofas and a short tea table.) (decoration)

Example 49 日头将没没的时候，水面一片红光，耀眼睛！[rì tóu jiāng mò bú mò de shí hòu, shuǐ miàn yī piàn hóng guāng, yào yǎn jīng!]

(The surface of the river is red and dazzling at sunset!) (scenery)

Example 50 我们这个检查站就我自己一个人。[wǒ men zhè gè jiǎn chá zhàn jiù wǒ zì jǐ yī gè rén.]

(I'm the only one at our checkpoint.) (situation)

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- 5 The sentence with noun as predicate explains the type of subject by taking “的 [de]” phrase.

Example 51 您哪个单位的? [nín nǎ gè dān wèi de?]
(Which department do you come from?)

Example 52

A: 那位同志哪儿的? [nà wèi tóng zhì nǎ er de?]
(Where does that comrade come from?)

B: 他文化部的, 搞创作的。[tā wén huà bù de, gǎo chuàng zuò de.]
(He works in Ministry of Culture, and is engaged in literary creation.)

Example 53 我们的电视十九寸的。[wǒ men de diàn shì shí jiǔ cùn de.]
(Our TV is 19 inches.)

In short, the sentence with noun as predicate is very popular in the spoken language due to its simple structure. It seldom occurs in a formal situation or in the written language.

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2 Specific types of sentences with verbs as predicate

Section one: “是 [shì]” sentence

“是 [shì]” is a relational verb to indicate affirmation and judgment.

I. Grammatical features of “是 [shì]”

1 “是 [shì]” possesses grammatical features of common verbs.

(1) “是 [shì]” can be modified by adverbs.

Example 1 这些都是新杂志。[zhè xiē dōu shì xīn zá zhì.]
(They are all new magazines.)

Example 2 他现在已经是大学生了。[tā xiàn zài yǐ jīng shì dà xué shēng le.]
(He has already been a college student.)

Example 3 这辆汽车不是我的，是我父亲的。[zhè liàng qì chē bú shì wǒ de, shì wǒ fù qīn de.]
(This car isn't mine. It is my father's.)

Example 4 你刚说的也是一种办法，可以考虑。[nǐ gāng shuō de yě shì yī zhǒng bàn fǎ, kě yǐ kǎo lǜ.]
(What you just said is also a practical method. We can take it into consideration.)

Example 5 他指的就是那一套“契诃夫小说集”。[tā zhǐ de jiù shì nà yī tào “qì hē fū xiǎo shuō jí.”]
(What he referred to is the set of *The Collected Short Stories of Chekhov*.)

(2) “是 [shì]” can be put after volitive verbs.

Example 6 这应该是一对的，怎么只有一个了？[zhè yīng gāi shì yī duì de, zěn me zhǐ yǒu yī gè le?]
(This should be a pair. How come only one is left?)

Example 7 这次考察的地区可以是西北，也可以是西南。[zhè cì kǎo chá de dì qū kě yǐ shì xī běi, yě kě yǐ shì xī nán.]
(Either the northwest area or the southwest area would be investigated.)

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Example 8 将来他会是你一个很好的帮手。[jiāng lái tā huì shì nǐ yī gè hěn hǎo de bāng shǒu.]

(He will be a good helper for you in the future.)

Example 9 这种事情能是他干出来的吗? 您不能听信坏人的话。[zhè zhǒng shì qǐng néng shì tā gàn chū lái de ma? nín bù néng tīng xìn huài rén de huà.]

(How could he do such a thing? You shouldn't be confused by what the bad people said.)

- (3) “是 [shì]” can be used in both the affirmative and negative form to pose a question.

Example 10 这是不是新来的杂志? [zhè shì bú shì xīn lái de zá zhì?]

(Is this the new magazine?)

Example 11 那位老先生是不是王院长? [nà wèi lǎo xiān shēng shì bú shì Wáng yuàn zhǎng?]

(Is that old man the dean Wang?)

- (4) “是 [shì]” can function alone as predicate to answer a question.

Example 12

A: 请问这里是张大伯家吗? [qǐng wèn zhè lǐ shì Zhāng dà bó jiā ma?]

(Excuse me. Does Mr. Zhang live here?)

B: 是。[shì.]

(Yes.)

Example 13

A: 这是你翻译的文章吗? [zhè shì nǐ fān yì de wén zhāng ma?]

(Is this the passage you translated?)

B: 是。[shì.]

(Yes.)

- (5) “是 [shì]” can connect the following words to form a verb-object phrase to function as the predicate of the entire sentence.

Example 14 “阿 Q 正传”是鲁迅先生写的一部小说。[“Ā Q zhèng zhuàn” shì Lǔ Xùn xiān shēng xiě de yī bù xiǎo shuō.]

(*The Story of A Q* is a novel written by Mr. Lu Xun.)

Example 15 维纳斯是罗马神话中爱与美的女神。[Wéi nà sī shì luó mǎ shén huà zhōng ài yǔ měi de nǚ shén.]

(Venus is a goddess representing love and beauty in Roman mythology.)

Example 16 领导上的要求是节约, 少花钱, 多办事。[lǐng dǎo shàng de yāo qiú shì jié yuē, shǎo huā qián, duō bàn shì.]

(What the leaders expect is to spend less but do more.)

Example 17 你是干什么的? 小伙子, 看得出, 你不是干这一行的。[nǐ shì gàn shén me de? xiǎo huǒ zi, kàn de chū, nǐ bú shì gàn zhè yī háng de.] (What do you do? Young man, I can see that you are not in this business.)

- 2 “是 [shì] (is)” differs from common verbs.
 - (1) “是 [shì] (is)” cannot take complements nor dynamic auxiliary words, such as “了 [le],” “着 [zhe],” “过 [guò]” because it doesn’t indicate action. Sometimes “了 [le]” can appear at the end of sentence when it indicates occurrence of a new situation or condition. For instance, “从今天起, 我就是北京大学的学生了。[cóng jīn tiān qǐ, wǒ jiù shì běi jīng dà xué de xué shēng le.] (From now on, I am a student of Peking University.)”
 - (2) “是 [shì] (is)” is usually negated by “不 [bù/bú] (not);” in other words, “不是 [bú shì] (is not)” is its negative form.
 - (3) “是 [shì] (is)” cannot be repeatedly used. “是是 [shì shì]” is a succession of “是 [shì] (is)” as a reply, which is different from verbs in the overlapped form.
 - (4) Although “是 [shì] (is)” is a predicative verb, the sentence focuses on the object rather than “是 [shì] (is).”

In short, “是 [shì] (is)” is a frequently used verb in Chinese.

II. Structural features of “是 [shì]” sentences

Compared to other common verbs, “是 [shì] (is)” can take a wide range of words as its subject and object. In other words, almost all notional words and phrases are acceptable.

1 Noun and noun phrase

Example 18 约翰是男生, 玛丽是女生。[Yuē hàn shì nán shēng, Mǎ lì shì nǚ shēng.]

(John is a boy and Mary is a girl.)

Example 19 李四光是一位著名的地质学家。[Lǐ Sì guāng shì yī wèi zhù míng de dì zhì xué jiā.]

(Li Siguang is a well-known geologist.)

Example 20 导电性最好的金属材料是铜。[dǎo diàn xìng zuì hǎo de jīn shǔ cái liào shì tóng.]

(The best conductive metal is copper.)

2 Pronoun

Example 21 你不是我, 怎么知道我想什么? [nǐ bú shì wǒ, zěn me zhī dào wǒ xiǎng shén me?]

(You are not me. How come you know what I am thinking about?)

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Example 22 唐太宗李世民可不是这样，自己下得一手好围棋，还很爱护人才。[táng tài zōng Lǐ Shì mǐn kě bú shì zhè yàng, zì jǐ xià dé yī shǒu hǎo wéi qí, hái hěn ài hù rén cái.]

(Li Shimin, the emperor of the Tang Dynasty wasn't like that. He was good at playing chess and also cherished people's talents)

Example 23 父亲一向是那样，他说一句就是一句的。[fù qīn yī xiàng shì nà yàng, tā shuō yī jù jiù shì yī jù de.]

(Father is always like that. He means what he says.)

Example 24

A: 您是哪儿? [nín shì nǎ er?]

(Who is that speaking?)

B: 我是北京饭店。[wǒ shì běi jīng fàn diàn.]

(This is Beijing Hotel.)

3 Numerals and numeral-quantifier phrase

Example 25 十五是三的倍数，也是五的倍数。[shí wǔ shì sān de bèi shù, yě shì wǔ de bèi shù.]

(Fifteen is the multiple of three as well as of five.)

Example 26 二加二是四。[èr jiā èr shì sì.]

(Two plus two is four.)

Example 27 一千克是一公斤。[yī qiān kè shì yī gōng jīn.]

(One kilogram is equal to 1,000 grams.)

Example 28 这是第一次，也是最后一次。[zhè shì dì yī cì, yě shì zuì hòu yī cì.]

(This is the first time and also the last time.)

Example 29 二楼二门六号是张力的家。[èr lóu èr mén liù hào shì Zhāng Lì de jiā.]

(Zhang Li lives at No. 6 in Unit 2 of Building 2.)

4 Verb and verb phrase

Example 30 变化是必然的。[biàn huà shì bì rán de.]

(Change is inevitable.)

Example 31 现在，活下去是他唯一的要求。[xiàn zài, huó xià qù shì tā wéi yī de yāo qiú.]

(Now, he only wants to survive.)

Example 32 他刚说的话是故意为难我。[tā gāng shuō de huà shì gù yì wéi nán wǒ]

(He embarrassed me on purpose by saying that.)

Example 33 我们的口号是勤奋、务实、勇于创新。[wǒ men de kǒu hào shì qín fèn, wù shí, yǒng yú chuàng xīn.]

(Our slogan is diligence, practicability, and innovation.)

5 Adjective and adjective phrase

Example 34 谦虚是一种美德。[qiān xū shì yī zhǒng měi dé.]
(Modesty is regarded as a virtue.)

Example 35 进步的大敌是骄傲自满。[jìn bù de dà dí shì jiāo ào zì mǎn.]
(Complacency is the big obstacle to progress.)

6 Locational word

Example 36 后面是一个足球场。[hòu miàn shì yī gè zú qiú chǎng.]
(Behind is a football field.)

Example 37 前头是街心花园，马路南边就是火车站。[qián tóu shì jiē xīn huā yuán, mǎ lù nán biān jiù shì huǒ chē zhàn.]
(Ahead is the center garden and the railway station is at the south of the street.)

7 Time word

Example 38 1996年2月19日是春节。[yī jiǔ jiǔ liù nián èr yuè shí jiǔ rì shì chūn jié.]
(February 19 in 1996 was the Spring Festival.)

Example 39 昨天的昨天是前天。[zuó tiān de zuó tiān shì qián tiān.]
(Yesterday's yesterday is the day before yesterday.)

Example 40 二月二十六号是我的生日。[èr yuè èr shí liù hào shì wǒ de shēng rì.]
(My birthday is on February 26.)

Example 41 去年第一学期开学的日期是9月1日。[qù nián dì yī xué qī kāi xué de rì qī shì jiǔ yuè yī rì.]
(The first term of last year started on September 1.)

8 Subject-predicate phrase

Example 42 他那样做是为了快点儿完成任务。[tā nà yàng zuò shì wéi le kuài diǎn ér wán chéng rèn wù.]
(The reason he did it that way was to finish the task quickly.)

Example 43 他来晚的原因是家里来了客人。[tā lái wǎn de yuán yīn shì jiā lǐ lái le kè rén.]
(The reason why he was late was that he had a visitor at home.)

Example 44 你不发表意见是不是因为你不同意这个方案? [nǐ bù fā biào yì jiàn shì bú shì yīn wéi nǐ bù tóng yì zhè gè fāng àn?]
(Was it because of your disagreement to this plan that made you make no comments?)

Example 45 这件事不是我不管，是我管不了。[zhè jiàn shì bú shì wǒ bù guǎn, shì wǒ guǎn bù liǎo.]
(It is not because of my indifference to it, but is actually beyond my ability to do it.)

9 “的 [de]” phrase

Example 46 这件衬衫是真丝的。[zhè jiàn chèn shān shì zhēn sī de.]
(This shirt is made of pure silk.)

Example 47 这座圆形的小塔是铜的。[zhè zuò yuán xíng de xiǎo tǎ shì tóng de.]
(This little round tower is made of copper.)

Example 48 红色的运动服是我的，蓝色的是她的。[hóng sè de yùn dòng fú shì wǒ de, lán sè de shì tā de.]
(The red gym suit is mine and the blue one is hers.)

Example 49 我女儿是学医的。[wǒ nǚ ér shì xué yī de.]
(My daughter majors in medicine.)

Example 50 她丈夫是外交部的。[tā zhàng fu shì wài jiāo bù de.]
(Her husband works in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.)

III. Types and usage of “是 [shì]” sentences

According to the relation between the subject and the object, “是 [shì]” sentences can be divided into the following types.

- 1 “是 [shì]” sentences indicates equality or classification. Most subjects and objects are functioned by nouns, pronouns, numeral-quantifier phrases, or “的 [de]” phrase, based on a relation of equality or relevance. “是 [shì]” sentences can be subdivided into the following two types.
 - (1) “是 [shì]” sentences shows equality; that is to say, the subject and the object can be replaced by each other without changing the sentence’s meaning.

Example 51 一年的四个季节是春季、夏季、秋季、冬季。[yī nián de sì gè jì jié shì chūn jì, xià jì, qiū jì, dōng jì.]
(The four seasons in a year are spring, summer, autumn, and winter.)

Example 52 这篇文章的作者是王中。[zhè piān wén zhāng de zuò zhě shì Wáng Zhōng.]
(The author of this article is Wang Zhong.)

Example 53 山东省的别称是鲁。[shān dōng shěng de bié chēng shì lǔ.]
(Lu is another name for Shandong province.)

Example 54 这次唱歌比赛的第一名是王英。[zhè cì chàng gē bǐ sài de dì yī míng shì Wáng Yīng.]
(The first prize winner of the singing contest is Wang Ying.)

Example 55 一分钟是60秒，一个小时是3600秒。[yī fēn zhōng shì liù shí miǎo, yī gè xiǎo shí shì sān qiān liù bǎi miǎo.]
(A minute has 60 seconds. An hour has 3600 seconds.)

In these examples, the subjects and the objects can be replaced by each other in the definite context. That is to say, “春季、夏季、秋季、冬季是一年的四个季节。[chūn jì, xià jì, qiū jì, dōng jì shì yī nián de sì gè jì jié.] (The four seasons in a year are spring, summer, autumn, and winter.)” is acceptable; “王中是这篇文章的作者。[wáng zhōng shì zhè piān wén zhāng de zuò zhě.] (The author of this article is Wang Zhong.)” is appropriate as well. As for which one is better as the subject, it depends.

- (2) “是 [shì]” sentences show classification in which the object indicates a category and the subject as one included in it. In other words, what is indicated by the subject is included in what is indicated by the object.

Example 56 这棵树是桃树。[zhè kē shù shì táo shù.]

(This is a peach tree.)

Example 57 橘子、苹果、香蕉、菠萝等都是水果。[jú zi, píng guǒ, xiāng jiāo, bō luó dēng dōu shì shuǐ guǒ.]

(Oranges, apples, bananas, and pineapples are all fruits.)

Example 58 居里夫人是世界著名科学家。[Jū lǐ fū rén shì shì jiè zhù míng kē xué jiā.]

(Madam Curie is a world-famous scientist.)

In these examples, the subjects and the objects cannot be replaced by each other; otherwise, the meanings of the original sentences will be changed.

Besides, a “的 [de]” phrase can function as the object of a “是 [shì]” sentence, which also indicates classification but with noun omission.

Example 59 李老师是教语法的。[Lǐ lǎo shī shì jiāo yǔ fǎ de.]

(Prof. Li teaches French.)

Example 60 这台机器是绣花用的。[zhè tái jī qì shì xiù huā yòng de.]

(This machine is used for embroidery.)

Example 61 这座圆形的小塔是铜的。[zhè zuò yuán xíng de xiǎo tǎ shì tóng de.]

(This little round tower is made of copper.)

- 2 The object further explains the subject but they aren't relevant to each other. It is a specific sentence pattern in Chinese and its practical use is as follows.

- (1) To describe the character or feature of a person

Example 62 老王是个慢性子，你可得常催着他点儿。[Lǎo Wáng shì gè màn xìng zi, nǐ kě dé cháng cuī zhe tā diǎn er.]

(Lao Wang is slow so you have to hurry him up.)

22 Sentences with verbs as predicate

Example 63 小李是瘦高个儿。[Xiǎo Lǐ shì shòu gāo gè ér.]
(Xiao Li is thin and tall.)

Example 64 你们是知识分子的语言，他们是人民大众的语言。[nǐ men shì zhī shí fèn zǐ de yǔ yán, tā men shì rén mín dà zhòng de yǔ yán.]
(You are representatives of the intellectuals; they are from the masses.)

(2) To show time

Example 65 他们回国的日期都定了，老张是明天，老李是后天。[tā men huí guó de rì qī dōu dìng le, Lǎo Zhāng shì míng tiān, Lǎo Lǐ shì hòu tiān.]

(The dates of their return have been scheduled. Lao Zhang will come back tomorrow and Lao Li the day after tomorrow.)

Example 66 明天从学校出发是上午6:30。[míng tiān cóng xué xiào chū fā shì shàng wǔ liù diǎn sān shí.]

(The time to set off is half past six tomorrow morning.)

(3) To indicate location

Example 67 我们都住在黄河边上，他是上游，我是下游。[wǒ men dōu zhù zài huáng hé biān shàng, tā shì shàng yóu, wǒ shì xià yóu.]

(We all live by Yellow River. He lives upstream and I live downstream.)

Example 68 这次生产实习分两个地方，一班是上海，二班是杭州。[zhè cì shēng chǎn shí xí fēn liǎng gè dì fāng, yī bān shì shàng hǎi, èr bān shì háng zhōu.]

(There are two places for production internships. Class One is in Shanghai and Class Two is in Hangzhou.)

(4) To explain the role

Example 69 这次排练，罗拉是东郭先生，丁力是狼。[zhè cì pái liàn, Luó lǎ shì Dōng Guō xiān shēng, Dīng lì shì láng.]

(In this rehearsal, Laura acts as Mr. Dong Guo and Ding Li as the wolf.)

Example 70 入场式开始了，仪仗队里，男生是旗手，女生是军乐队。[rù chǎng shì kāi shǐ le, yí zhàng duì lǐ, nán shēng shì qí shǒu, nǚ shēng shì jūn yuè duì.]

(The march-in ceremony begins. Boys are standard-bearers and girls are the players in the military band.)

Example 71 他们夫妻俩都在饭店工作，儿子是厨师，儿媳妇是前台。[tā men fū qī liǎ dōu zài fàn diàn gōng zuò, ér zi shì chú shī, ér xí fù shì qián tái.]

(The couples are both working in the hotel. The son is a chef and the daughter-in-law is a receptionist.)

(5) To show belonging

Example 72 我们俩买的书不一样，他是英文课本，我是科技常识。[wǒ men liǎ mǎi de shū bù yī yàng, tā shì yīng wén kè běn, wǒ shì kē jì cháng shí.]
(We bought different books. His was English and mine was about the common sense of science and technology.)

Example 73 我们的电视机不一样，他是黑白12寸，我是彩色14寸。[wǒ men de diàn shì jī bù yī yàng, tā shì hēi bái shí èr cùn, wǒ shì cǎi sè shí sì cùn.]
(Our TVs are different. His is a 12-inch black and white one; mine is a 14-inch color one.)

(6) To indicate clothing

Example 74 解放前，他夏天总是一件破布衫。[jiě fàng qián, tā xià tiān zǒng shì yī jiàn pò bù shān.]
(Before liberation, he always wore in rags in the summer.)

Example 75 别人都是T恤牛仔，就他是西装革履。[bié rén dōu shì T xù niú zǎi, jiù tā shì xī zhuāng gé lǚ.]
(Everyone wears T-shirts and jeans, except he wears suits.)

(7) To indicate tools or means

Example 76 我们是小米加步枪，敌人是飞机加大炮。[wǒ men shì xiǎo mǐ jiā bù qiāng, dí rén shì fēi jī jiā dà pào.]
(Our soldiers only ate millet and were armed with rifles; the enemies were equipped with aircraft and cannons.)

Example 77 俺们两个村儿只隔一条河，可人家是拖拉机，俺们村还是小锄头。[ǎn men liǎng gè cūn er zhǐ gé yī tiáo hé, kě rén jiā shì tuō lā jī, ǎn men cūn hái shì xiǎo chú tóu.]
(A river divides our two villages. They have tractors but we still use hoes for farming.)

Example 78 他总是这么一辆破车。[tā zǒng shì zhè me yī liàng pò chē.]
(He always drives an old-fashioned car.)

(8) To show situation or condition

Example 79 看来，张女士是既事业有成，又家庭美满。[kàn lái, Zhāng nǚ shì shì jì shì yè yǒu chéng, yòu jiā tíng měi mǎn.]
(It seems that Ms. Zhang has both a successful career and a happy family.)

Example 80 他是到了黄河也不死心。[tā shì dào le huáng hé yě bù sǐ xīn.]
(He will never give it up.)