



Lesson 2

Parts of Speech



Roles of words in a sentence

Word classes

- ▶ Characters can represent various word classes
- ▶ A character's position in the sentence is more important than its usual usage
- ▶ Example from *Lunyu* 12.11:
 - ▶ 孔子對曰：「君君、臣臣、父父、子子。」
 - ▶ Kongzi dui yue: Jun jun, chen chen, fu fu, zi zi.
- ▶ 君君: verb + object → 'to jun a jun'
- ▶ 'Confucius replied: "[Let] a ruler be a ruler, a subject a subject, a father a father, a son a son.'"



Subordination and Co-ordination

- ▶ Co-ordination : two components having equal weight grammatically
 - ▶ *shan chuan* 山川 ‘mountains and streams’
 - ▶ *zi nü* 子女 ‘sons and daughters’
 - ▶ *dong xi* 東西 ‘east and west’
- ▶ Subordination : a modifier preceding a modified
 - ▶ *chun feng* 春風 ‘spring breeze’
 - ▶ *qiu shui* 秋水 ‘autumn floods’
 - ▶ *hai shui* 海水 ‘sea water’

Note: Some compounds are stable, meaning they are either subordinations or co-ordinations, some can be either subordination or co-ordinations according to the context!



Song you fu ren 宋有富人 (*Han Feizi*)

1. 宋有富人，天雨牆壞。
2. 其子曰：『不築，必將有盜。』
3. 其鄰人之父亦云。
4. 暮而果大亡其財。此夕盜至故大亡也。
5. 其家甚智其子，而疑鄰人之父。

1. Song you fu ren, tian yǔ qiáng huai.
2. Qí yǐ yuē: 'Bù zhù, bì jiāng yǒu dào.'
3. Qí lín rén zhī fù yì yún.
4. Mù ér guǒ dà wáng qí cái. Cǐ xī dào zhì gù dà wáng yě.
5. Qí jiā shén zhì qí zǐ, ér yì lín rén zhī fù.



Uses of *zhi* 之

I. Third person object pronoun (him, her, it, them)

- ▶ *xue zhi* 學之 “to learn it”
- ▶ *zhi zhi* 知之 “to know it”

Note: 之 stands in for the **direct object** of a sentence. It cannot be used as a subject!

2. Verb: “to go”

Kongzi zhi Chu 孔子之楚。Kongzi went to Chu.

3. *zhi* 之 as particle of subordination of various kinds, expressing:

- ▶ Ownership
 - ▶ Identity
 - ▶ Part of a whole
 - ▶ Indicating a thing's nature
 - ▶ Logical subject
 - ▶ Logical object
-



The subordinating particle *zhi* 之

► Ownership/belonging

- *xiong zhi shi* 兄之室 the elder brother's house (possessive)
- *gong zhi zu* 公之足 the duke's feet (belonging)
- *xi men zhi wai* 西門之外 outside the western gate (spatial relation)
- *jiurou zhi wei* 酒肉之味 the taste of ale and meat (area to which something refers)

► Identity

- *Wu Yue zhi guo* 吳越之國 the states of Wu and Yue
- *lin ren zhi fu* 鄰人之父 the neighbour's father



The subordinating particle *zhi* 之

▶ Part of a whole

- ▶ *san zhi yi* 三之一 [one of three:] one third
- ▶ *wu fen zhi san* 五分之三 [three of five parts:] three fifths

▶ Indicating nature

- ▶ *xi yu zhi bei* 犀玉之杯 goblet made from rhinoceros horn and jade
- ▶ *gu [zhi] ren* 古人 / 古之人 the men of antiquity

▶ Logical subject (genetivus subjectivus)

- ▶ *fumu zhi ai* 父母之愛 [the love of parents:] parental love

▶ Logical object (genetivus objectivus)

- ▶ *guo zhi li* 國之利 benefits for the state
- ▶ *tianxia zhi hai* 天下之害 harm for the realm



The subordinating particle *zhi* 之

4. *zhi* 之 subordinates whole sentences

- ▶ *zhi* 之 transforms an independent sentence or phrase into part of a sentence.

Example:

- ▶ 物之不齊，物之情也。 Wu zhi bu qi, wu zhi qing ye.
- ▶ ‘Things being unequal is their nature.’
- ▶ By inserting 之, the phrase 物不齊 (“things are not equal”) becomes part A of the nominal sentence (A -- B 也). “As for things being unequal (topic), it is their nature (comment).”



使動用法 *shǐdòng yòngfǎ* (causative verb)

- ▶ Intransitive verb + direct object: causative phrase → “to cause sth./sb. to do or happen”
 - ▶ 亡 “to go, depart, leave”
 - ▶ 亡其財 “sth. caused his fortune to disappear”; “sth. caused the loss of his fortune”; “sth. made his wealth disappear”
- This use of an intransitive verb is called *shidong yongfa* 使動用法 in Chinese

意動用法 *yìdòng yòngfǎ* (putative verbs)

- ▶ Intransitive verb expressing a value statement or judgement + direct object: “to regard sth./sb. as” or “to take sth./sb. to be”
- ▶ 智 “to be wise”
- ▶ 智其子 “to regard his son as wise”
- ▶ 貴 *gui* “expensive, to be valuable”
- ▶ 他貴其智 “He regards his wisdom as valuable” → “He values/valued his wisdom”.



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