

## Top Ten Translanguaging Tips: Chinese & English



### Noun Modification

#### Chinese

- There is no post-modification of nouns in the sentence order
- Uses the structure: modifier + 的 + noun

“我把这本书交给了班上的女孩”

#### English

- English nouns can be post-modified
- Relative clauses and prepositional phrases are frequently used after the noun

“I gave the book to the girl in the class.”

#### Chinese

- There are no independent indefinite or definite articles in Chinese
- Classifiers are used for the number or amount of a countable noun

“我把书给了她”  
“我吓坏了她”

#### English

- Articles are almost always required
- Definite articles indicate specificity
- Indefinite articles indicate generality

“I gave the book to her.”  
“I gave a book to her.”



### Indefinite & Definite Articles



### Questions

#### Chinese

- Questions are indicated using intonation only
- There is no sentence element inversion in question structure

“教室在哪里”

#### English

- Questions are indicated using subject-verb inversion along with question words (e.g., what, where, when)

“Where is the classroom?”

#### Chinese

- With no inflected verbs, there are also no auxiliary verbs in Chinese
- Can, must, want, etc. are expressed as general verbs or adverbs

“他在学习”

#### English

- Auxiliary verbs are used to indicate tense and plurality where the base verb does not
- Placed separately before the verb

“He is studying.”



### Auxiliary Verbs



### Past Tense

#### Chinese

- Verbs are not inflected for tense
- There are no past tense verbs
- Past tense is indicated adverbially

“他昨天学习”  
(He study yesterday)

#### English

- Verb forms are inflected for past tense
- -ed is regularly added to base verbs

“He studied.”

# Top Ten Translanguaging Tips



## Present Tense

### Chinese

- Is not expressed through verbal inflection (suffixes)
- Time adverbs are used to indicate the present

“他今天学习语法”

### English

- Simple present tense is indicated using an inflected verb
- e.g., 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular: -s

“He studies grammar.”

### Chinese

- Passive voice is not used often
- Passive structure is indicated with: Recipient + 被(Bèi) + Agent + Verb + Complement

“书被他拿走了”

### English

- Passive voice is used often
- Passive structure is indicated with: Recipient + Auxiliary + Participle + By + Agent

“The book was taken by him.”



## Passive & Active Voice



## Adverb Placement

### Chinese

- Adverbs almost always precede verbs in strict sentence order
- No sentence-final adverb positions

“她昨天很快学会了语法”

### English

- Adverbs of degree are typically placed before the word they emphasize, but adverbs of place, time, and manner may be sentence-final

“She quickly studied grammar yesterday.”

### Chinese

- There is no distinction between subject and object pronouns
- The same word is used for all genders

“她和她一起学习”

### English

- There are different pronouns used for subject and object functions
- Each gender has two variants

“She studies with her.”



## Pronoun Gender & Case



## Phrasal Verbs

### Chinese

- No two-part phrasal verbs (base verb + preposition) exist
- Separable verbs (verb + object) exist

“他休学了一段时间，现在发现要跟上很吃力”

### English

- Uses a base verb and a preposition to create a new verb with a new meaning, called a phrasal verb

“He was absent from school for awhile and is finding it hard to catch up.”

## Further Resources & Guided Tutoring

### Online Campus Writing Center

Multilingual Writer Support

Writing | Language | Grammar | Speech