

Sentence Structures:

S + TW + 以前/以后 + V + (了/过) + O
S + TW + 以前/以后 + 不/没有 + V + O

Examples:

Xiǎo Xiè sāndiǎn yǐqián huì gēn wǒmen tāolùn wǎngyǔ de wèntí.

小谢三点以前会跟我们讨论网语的问题。

Before 3:00, Little Xie will discuss the issue of Internet language with us.

(Incorrect: 小谢以前三点会跟我们讨论网语的问题。)

Wǒ xīngqīyī yǐhòu jiāo nǐ zěnmē yòng Zhōngwén shìchuāng, xíng ma?

我星期一以后教你怎么用中文视窗，行吗？

I'll teach you how to use Chinese Windows® after next Monday. Is that all right?

(Incorrect: 我以后星期一教你怎么用中文视窗，行吗？)

Tāmen èrlínglíngqī nián yǐqián méiyǒu tīng guò zhè ge gùshi.

他们二零零七年以前没有听过这个故事。

Before the year 2007, they hadn't heard about this story.

Wǔyuè yǐhòu wǒ méiyǒu yòng guò Wēiruǎn de ruǎnjiàn.

五月以后我没有用过微软的软件。

I haven't used Microsoft's® software after (or since) May.

以前 and 以后 can also be followed by an action that serves as a time marker. Note that unlike in English, 以前 and 以后 must follow, not precede, the action verb.

Sentence structures:

S + V1 + O1 + 以前 + (AV) + V2 (了/过) + O2
S + V1 + O1 + 以前 + 不/没有 + V2 ++ (过) + O2
S + V1 + (了) + O1 + 以后 + (AV) + V2 (了/过) + O2
S + V1 + (了) + O1 + 以后 + 不/没有 + V2 ++ (过) + O2