

► V. Comparing 一点儿 and 有一点儿

Selected examples from the textbook:

我会说一点儿(中文)。(Lesson 4)

我得回家拿点儿钱。(Lesson 14)

请问两位来(一)点儿什么?(Lesson 12)

明天是中国的新年,(我)有点儿想家。(Lesson 19)

(在中国过春节)是有一点像这儿过圣诞(节)。(Lesson 19)

一点儿 is for an indefinite amount. It means “a little” or “a bit.” 有一点儿 means “a little,” “somewhat,” or “kind of.” Note that 一点儿 is used to modify nouns, but 有一点儿 is used to modify adjectives. Besides, in an affirmative sentence, it can also modify certain verbs, such as 想 or 喜欢. Also note that both the words 一 and 儿 can be omitted without changing the meaning of the phrases.

Sentence structures:

S + V + 一点儿 + N

S + 有一点儿 + Adj

S + 有一点儿 + V + O

Examples:

Míngtiān wǒ dāsuan kàn yīdiǎnr Zhōngwén shū.

我打算看一点儿(or 看点, 看一点)中文书。

I plan to read some Chinese books.

(Incorrect: 我打算看有一点儿中文书。)

Yàoshì háizi bù hǎohào xuéxí, fùmǔ yīnggāi gěi háizi yīdiǎnr yālì.

要是孩子不好好学习, 父母应该给孩子一点儿压力。

If children don't want to study hard, parents should put a little pressure on them.

Zài nàlǐ gòuwù yǒuyīdiǎnr fāngbiàn.

在那里购物有一点儿(or 有点, 有点儿)方便。

It's somewhat convenient to go shopping there.

(Incorrect: 在那里购物一点儿方便。)