HSK 2 · Events, Objects and Shopping Comparisons

Level-two comparisons and shopping; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Comparing, counting, already-done

A 比 B + adjective compares; 本 and 件 count new things; 已经 …… 了 says already done.

- No 很 inside the 比 sentence.
- Both reference objects must be present.

The 比 pattern

1. **The frame** A + 比 + B + adjective: 这本书比那本书贵 (zhè běn shū bǐ nà běn shū guì).
2. **The adjective follows** The quality comes last — 比 does the comparing.
3. **The checked example** 蓝色的二十元，红色的三十元 — the difference is 十元, with a specific baseline.
4. **Try it** Compare two prices you know: …… 比 …… 贵/便宜 …… 元。

Decision

Both reference objects, then the quality.

本 and 件

Measure word	Counts	Example
本	Books	一本书 (yì běn shū) — one book
件	Clothing	一件衬衫 (yí jiàn chènshān) — one shirt
个	The everyday default	Still everywhere from HSK 1

已经 …… 了: already

Already done

我已经买了。(Wǒ yǐjīng mǎi le.) — I've already bought it.

Planned

我打算明天买。— I plan to buy it tomorrow.

已经 …… 了 and 还没 …… 呢

Sentence	Meaning
我已经吃饭了。	I've already eaten.
我还没吃饭呢。	I haven't eaten yet.

最 and 第

Word	Meaning	Example
最 + adj	the most	这件最便宜。— This one is the cheapest.
第 + number	first, second, third	我是第一次来。— It's my first time here.

是 …… 的: how, when, where

Asking about a past event

你是什么时候来的？— When did you come?

我是坐飞机来的。— I came by plane.

这件衣服是在北京买的。— I bought this in Beijing.

Notice

The event has already happened; 是 …… 的 puts the focus on the detail in the middle.

Watch out: no 很 in 比

这本书比那本书很贵 × — the standard **比** comparison takes no **很**, however "very" the English sounds.

- English "very" does not transfer.
- The adjective follows **比** bare.

Quick check

Your turn

Which measure word goes with a shirt (衬衫)?

A. 本
B. 件
C. 张

Check yourself

Your turn

Fix 这本书比那本书很贵。

A. keep 很
B. drop 很
C. drop 比