

Describing & degree

HSK 3

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

Adjective + 极了 (extremely)

■ 很好吃 is not enough

- Your friend has cooked for you, and the food is far better than “quite good”.
- **这个菜好吃极了!** – “This dish is absolutely delicious!” 极了 pushes the adjective to its top degree.

■ Put 极了 after the adjective

- **Subject + Adjective + 极了**: the adjective comes first and 极了 closes the clause.
- The adjective stands alone in front of 极了, so 很 and 非常 drop out: 好极了, 冷极了, 忙极了.

今天热极了。

jīn tiān rè jí le

Word guide: 今天 – today; 热 – hot; 极了 – extremely.

Adjective + 极了: extremely



■ Feelings work the same way

- Feeling words take 极了 too: **听到这个消息, 我高兴极了。** – “When I heard the news, I was overjoyed.”
- A few feeling verbs also accept it: **我喜欢极了。** – “I absolutely love it.”

考完以后, 我累极了。

kǎo wán yǐ hòu wǒ lèi jí le

Word guide: 考完 – finish the exam; 以后 – after; 我 – I; 累 – tired; 极了 – extremely.

■ Two places it goes wrong

- No 很 or 非常 in front: say 好极了, not 很好极了, because 极了 already carries the degree.
- 极了 never comes before the adjective: 冷极了, not 极了冷.

■ 很 + Adj, 非常 + Adj and Adj + 极了

- 很 + Adj is the neutral description (天气很好); 非常 + Adj is strong and fits writing as well as speech.
- Adj + 极了 is spoken and exclamatory, often a reaction: A: 外面冷吗? B: 冷极了!

外面冷吗? 冷极了!

wài miàn lěng ma lěng jí le

Word guide: 外面 – outside; 冷 – cold; 冷 – cold; 极了 – extremely.

■ Recap

- **Adjective + 极了** = extremely, absolutely; it ends the clause.
- No 很 or 非常 before it. Use it to react with feeling, mostly in speech.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Doubling adjectives (AA / AABB)

■ Describing a picture in a lively way

- You are describing a child's drawing: big eyes, a round face, a very tidy room.
- 她有一双大大的眼睛。 – “She has big, big eyes.” Doubling the adjective paints a vivid picture.

■ One-syllable adjectives: AA

- A one-syllable adjective repeats as **AA**, usually followed by 的 before a noun: 大大的眼睛, 红红的苹果.
- The second syllable is often said lightly; the tone of the first stays clear.

她有一双大大的眼睛。

tā yǒu yì shuāng dà dà de yǎn jīng

Word guide: 她 – she; 有 – has; 一双 – a pair of; 大大的 – big, big; 眼睛 – eyes.

A doubled adjective + 的 paints a picture



■ Two-syllable adjectives: AABB

- A two-syllable adjective AB doubles each syllable: 干净 → 干干净净, 高兴 → 高高兴兴, 清楚 → 清清楚楚.
- The doubled form can describe a noun or an action: 房间干干净净的 / 他高高兴兴地回家了。

他把房间打扫得干干净净的。

tā bǎ fáng jiān dǎ sǎo de gān gān jìng jìng de

Word guide: 他 – he; 房间 – room; 打扫 – cleaned; 干干净净 – spotlessly clean.

■ What doubling already says

- No 很 or 非常 in front: 大大的眼睛, not 很大的眼睛, because doubling already adds the degree.
- The common adjectives taught here use AABB, as in 干干净净. Some other adjectives allow ABAB, so learn each adjective and its accepted reduplicated form.

■ Doubled adjectives describe, they do not compare

- Doubled forms describe how something looks or feels; they do not take 不: say 不干净, not 不干干净净.
- Many are fixed habits of speech. Learn common ones as chunks: 慢慢地走, 好好地休息, 高高兴兴地玩。

你好好休息吧。

nǐ hǎo hǎo xiū xi ba

Word guide: 你 – you; 好好 – properly; 休息 – rest.

■ Recap

- One syllable: AA(的) – 大大的, 红红的. Two syllables: AABB – 干干净净, 高高兴兴.
- Doubling adds vividness and degree, so drop 很 and do not negate it with 不.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Adjective + 地 + Verb (making an adverb)

■ How did they do it?

- Your grandmother crosses the busy road carefully; your little brother does his homework seriously for once.
- 奶奶慢慢地走过马路。 – “Grandma slowly walks across the road.” 地 turns a description into how the action is done.

■ Adjective + 地 + Verb

- **Subject + Adjective + 地 + Verb**: the description comes before the verb and 地 (de) links them.
- Two-syllable adjectives are the most common: 认真地学习, 高兴地说, 安静地看书.

他认真地学习。

tā rèn zhēn de xué xí

Word guide: 他 – he; 认真 – seriously; 学习 – study.

Adjective + 地 + verb: how it was done

who	how	verb	where
奶奶 nǎinai Grandma	慢慢地 mànmàn de slowly	走过 zǒu guò walks across	马路 mǎlù the road

■ Doubled and phrase descriptions

- Doubled adjectives often take 地: 孩子们高高兴兴地回家了。 – “The children went home happily.”
- A short phrase works too: 很快地吃完了饭, 非常小心地打开盒子.

孩子们高高兴兴地回家了。

hái zǐ men gāo gāo xìng xìng de huí jiā le

Word guide: 孩子们 – the children; 高高兴兴 – happily; 回家 – go home.

■ Keep the order and the character straight

- 地 comes before the verb: 认真地学习. After the verb you need 得: 他学得很认真.
- Write 地, not 的, between the description and the verb; both are read de.

■ 地 before the verb, 得 after it

- 他认真地写作业 tells how he does it: carefully, while doing it.
- 他写得很认真 comments on the result or manner after the fact: “He writes very carefully.”

他写得很认真。

tā xiě de hěn rèn zhēn

Word guide: 他 – he; 写 – writes; 很 – very; 认真 – carefully.

■ Recap

- **Adjective + 地 + Verb** = do something in that way: 慢慢地走, 认真地学习.
- 地 sits before the verb; 得 follows the verb. Keep 的 for nouns.

Practise this pattern step by step.

这么 / 那么 + Adjective (so ...)

■ It really is that hot

- You step outside in July and it is much hotter than you expected.
- **今天怎么这么热!** – “How come it is so hot today!” 这么 points to the degree you are feeling right now.

■ 这么 / 那么 + Adjective

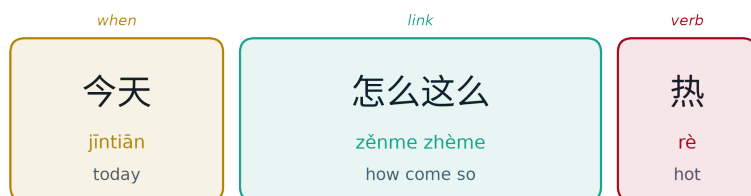
- **这么 + Adj** = “so ...” about something here and now; **那么 + Adj** = “so ...” about something over there, earlier or mentioned.
- Like 很, they stand directly before the adjective: 这么贵, 那么远.

这件衣服这么贵。

zhè jiàn yī fu zhè me guì

Word guide: 这 – this; 件 – (measure word); 衣服 – clothes; 这么 – so; 贵 – expensive.

怎么这么 + adjective: surprise



■ Near and far

- Holding the shoes: **这双鞋这么便宜!** – “These shoes are so cheap!”
- Talking about a city you visited: **那儿的冬天那么冷, 你怎么受得了?** – “The winters there are so cold; how do you stand it?”

你家那么远, 每天怎么来?

nǐ jiā nà me yuǎn měi tiān zěnmě lái

Word guide: 你 – you; 家 – home; 那么 – so; 远 – far; 每天 – every day; 怎么 – how; 来 – come.

■ Keep one degree word

- Do not add 很 as well: 这么热, not 这么很热, since 这么 already gives the degree.
- Place 这么 or 那么 before the adjective, not after it: 那么远, not 远那么.

■ Also in comparisons

- 那么 often sharpens a 没有 comparison: 我没有他那么高。 – “I am not as tall as him.”
- 这么 can also go before a verb of degree: 你怎么这么喜欢吃辣的?

我没有他那么高。

wǒ méi yǒu tā nà me gāo

Word guide: 我 – I; 没有 – not as; 他 – him; 那么 – so; 高 – tall.

■ Recap

- 这么 / 那么 + Adjective = “so ...”: 这么 for here and now, 那么 for there, then or what was mentioned.
- It replaces 很; it often comes with 怎么 (surprise) or 没有 (comparison).

Practise this pattern step by step.

A 跟 / 和 B 一样 (the same as)

■ Twins in the same class

- Two classmates are exactly the same height, and a new teacher keeps mixing them up.
- 哥哥跟弟弟一样高。 – “The older brother is as tall as the younger brother.”

■ A 跟 / 和 B 一样 (+ Adjective)

- A + 跟 / 和 + B + 一样 = “A is the same as B”; add an adjective to say in what way: 一样高, 一样忙.
- 跟 and 和 both work here; 跟 is a little more common in speech.

我的手机跟你的一样。

wǒ de shǒu jī gēn nǐ de yí yàng

Word guide: 我 – my; 手机 – phone; 跟 – and; 你 – yours; 一样 – the same.

A 跟 B 一样 + adjective: as ... as

<i>who</i>	<i>link</i>			<i>verb</i>
哥哥	跟	弟弟	一样	高
<i>gēge</i>	<i>gēn</i>	<i>dìdì</i>	<i>yíyàng</i>	<i>gāo</i>
older brother	and	younger brother	equally	tall

■ The same as, but not the same

- Negate by putting 不 before 一样: 我的想法跟你的不一样。 – “My idea is different from yours.”
- Ask with 吗 or 一样不一样: 北京的冬天跟上海的一样冷吗?

今天跟昨天一样冷。

jīn tiān gēn zuó tiān yí yàng lěng

Word guide: 今天 – today; 跟 – and; 昨天 – yesterday; 一样 – equally; 冷 – cold.

■ Where 不 and 很 go

- 不 goes before 一样: 跟他不一样, not 不跟他一样 for “different from him”.
- No 很 before the adjective after 一样: 一样高, not 一样很高.

■ 一样 versus 比

- 一样 says the two are equal; 比 says one is more: 哥哥比弟弟高 (“taller than”).
- 一样 can also describe a noun with 的: 我们买了一样的衣服。 – “We bought the same clothes.”

我们买了一样的衣服。

wǒ men mǎi le yí yàng de yī fu

Word guide: 我们 – we; 买 – bought; 一样 – the same; 衣服 – clothes.

■ Recap

- A 跟/和 B 一样 (+ Adj) = A is (as Adj as) B. Negative: A 跟 B 不一样.
- The adjective after 一样 stays bare; 一样的 + noun = the same thing.

Practise this pattern step by step.

又 ... 又 ... (both ... and ...)

■ A good buy

- You found a jacket that looks great and costs very little, and you want to say both at once.

- 这件衣服又便宜又好看。 – “This jacket is both cheap and good-looking.”

■ 又 + A + 又 + B

- Subject + 又 + Adj/Verb + 又 + Adj/Verb:** each 又 sits directly before its own description.
- The two qualities point the same way, both good or both bad: 又快又好, 又累又饿.

我又累又饿。

wǒ yòu lèi yòu è

Word guide: 我 – I; 又 – both; 累 – tired; 又 – and; 饿 – hungry.

又 A 又 B: both ... and ...



■ Actions as well as qualities

- Verb phrases fit too: 孩子们又唱又跳。 – “The children sang and danced.”
- Use it to describe a person or place with two clear features: 她的房间又大又干净。

孩子们又唱又跳。

hái zǐ men yòu chàng yòu tiào

Word guide: 孩子们 – the children; 又 – both; 唱 – sing; 又 – and; 跳 – dance.

■ Keep the two halves matched

- Use two qualities with the same direction: 又便宜又好看 is natural; 又便宜又难看 sounds odd unless you are joking.
- No 很 inside the pattern: 又高又大, not 又很高又很大.

■ 又 ... 又 ... versus 也 and 和

- 和 cannot join two adjectives in a predicate: say 又便宜又好看, not 便宜和好看.
- 又 ... 又 ... stresses that both features are present at the same time; 很便宜, 也很好看 lists them one after another.

这儿的菜很便宜, 也很好吃。

zhèr de cài hěn pián yì yě hěn hǎo chī

Word guide: 这儿 – here; 菜 – food; 很 – very; 便宜 – cheap; 也 – also; 很 – very; 好吃 – tasty.

■ Recap

- 又 A 又 B = both A and B, at the same time. Each 又 goes before its own adjective or verb.
- Pick two qualities that point the same way, and leave out 很.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Subject + 比较 + Adjective (fairly, rather)

■ Not great, not terrible

- A friend asks how your new job is. It is fine, but you would not call it amazing.
- 工作比较忙, 不过同事都很好。 – “The work is fairly busy, but my colleagues are all nice.”

■ 比较 + Adjective

- Subject + 比较 + Adj = “fairly, rather, relatively”: 比较贵, 比较难, 比较远.
- Here 比较 is an adverb of degree, so it takes the place of 很; there is no second thing being compared.

这个问题比较难。

zhè ge wèn tí bǐ jiào nán

Word guide: 这 – this; 个 – (measure word); 问题 – question; 比较 – fairly; 难 – difficult.

比较 softens; 不过 adds a turn



■ A softer way to answer

- Answering “Is the restaurant far?”: 比较远, 我们打车吧。 – “It’s rather far; let’s take a taxi.”
- 比较 also goes before some verbs of liking: 我比较喜欢喝茶。 – “I prefer tea (I like tea more).”

我比较喜欢喝茶。

wǒ bǐ jiào xǐ huan hē chá

Word guide: 我 – I; 比较 – rather; 喜欢 – like; 喝 – drinking; 茶 – tea.

■ Do not combine it with 比

- In a 比 comparison, 比较 cannot appear before the adjective: 他比我高, not 他比较我比较高.
- Do not stack it with 很: 比较忙, not 很比较忙 or 比较很忙.

■ 比较 as a verb

- 比较 can also be a verb meaning “to compare”: 我们比较一下这两个手机。 – “Let’s compare these two phones.”
- Tell them apart by position: before an adjective it means “fairly”; with an object it means “compare”.

我们比较一下这两个手机。

wǒ men bǐ jiào yí xià zhè liǎng ge shǒu jī

Word guide: 我们 – we; 比较 – compare; 一下 – briefly; 这 – these; 两个 – two; 手机 – phones.

■ Recap

- 比较 + Adj = fairly, rather; it replaces 很 and gives a moderate answer.
- It never goes inside a 比 sentence. With an object, 比较 is the verb “compare”.

Practise this pattern step by step.

多 + Adjective + 啊! (how ...!)

■ The view from the top

- You reach the top of a mountain and the whole city lies below you.
- 这儿的风景多美啊! – “How beautiful the view is here!”

■ 多 + Adjective + 啊!

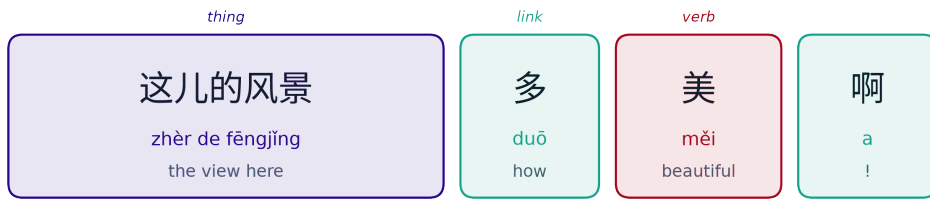
- 多 + Adj + 啊 is an exclamation: “How ... !” 多 goes before the adjective and 啊 closes the sentence.
- The adjective stands alone: 多好啊, 多快啊, 多可爱啊.

你的女儿多可爱啊!

nǐ de nǚ ér duō kě ài a

Word guide: 你 – your; 女儿 – daughter; 多 – how; 可爱 – cute.

多 + adjective + 啊: how ...!



■ Sharing a feeling

- Admiring: 你的中文说得多好啊! – “How well you speak Chinese!”
- Complaining works too: 今天多热啊! – “How hot it is today!”

今天多热啊!

jīn tiān duō rè a

Word guide: 今天 – today; 多 – how; 热 – hot.

■ Exclaim, do not ask

- No 很 inside: 多美啊, not 多很美啊; 多 already carries the degree.
- Keep 啊 and the exclamation mark. Without them, 多 + Adj often becomes a question: 多远? – “How far is it?”

■ 多 ... 啊 versus 太 ... 了

- 太 + Adj + 了 also reacts strongly: 太美了! It is common and often means “too”: 太贵了.
- 多 + Adj + 啊 is warmer and more admiring; it suits praise and wonder.

这件衣服太贵了!

zhè jiàn yī fu tài guì le

Word guide: 这 – this; 件 – (measure word); 衣服 – clothes; 太 – too; 贵 – expensive.

■ Recap

- 多 + Adj + 啊! = How ... ! An exclamation of admiration or strong feeling.
- Bare adjective, no 很; without 啊 and “!”, 多 + Adj can be a question about amount.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Adjective + 的 + Noun (describing a noun)

■ Which one is yours?

- At the station a lost-property officer asks which bag is yours. You need more than “a bag”.
- 我的是那个红色的大包。 – “Mine is that big red bag.”

■ Adjective + 的 + Noun

- **Adj + 的 + Noun**: the description comes first and 的 links it to the noun: 漂亮的花, 有意思的书.
- Two-syllable adjectives and adjectives with 很 usually need 的: 很好的朋友, 干净的房间.

她是一个很聪明的学生。

tā shì yí ge hěn cōng míng de xué sheng

Word guide: 她 – she; 是 – is; 一 – a; 个 – (measure word); 很 – very; 聪明 – clever; 学生 – student.

Describer + 的 can stand for the thing



■ Short fixed pairs drop 的

- Many one-syllable adjectives join the noun directly: 好人, 新车, 大城市, 红茶.
- These pairs act like single words. Adding 的 makes the description more contrastive: 我要新的, 不要旧的.

北京是一个大城市。

Běi jīng shì yí ge dà chéng shì

Word guide: 北京 – Beijing; 是 – is; 一 – a; 个 – (measure word); 大 – big; 城市 – city.

■ When 的 is needed

- Keep 的 after 很 + Adj: 很好的朋友, not 很好朋友.
- The description goes before the noun, never after: 漂亮的衣服, not 衣服漂亮的 (that is a separate sentence pattern).

■ Leaving the noun out

- When the noun is clear, Adj + 的 can stand alone: 我喜欢红的。 – “I like the red one.”
- This is common in shops and choices: 大的还是小的? – “The big one or the small one?”

你要大的还是小的?

nǐ yào dà de hái shì xiǎo de

Word guide: 你 – you; 要 – want; 大 – big; 还是 – or; 小 – small.

■ Recap

- **Adj + 的 + Noun** describes a noun; the description always comes first.
- 很 + Adj and most two-syllable adjectives need 的; common one-syllable pairs (好人, 新车) do not. Adj + 的 alone = “the ... one”.

Practise this pattern step by step.

越来越 (more and more)

■ The city keeps changing

- You go back to your hometown after five years: more cars, more tall buildings, more people.
- 我的家乡越来越漂亮了。 – “My hometown is getting more and more beautiful.”

■ 越来越 + Adjective

- **Subject + 越来越 + Adj (+ 了)** = “more and more ...”: a quality keeps growing over time.
- 了 at the end is common because the sentence reports a change: 天气越来越冷了。

天气越来越冷了。

tiān qì yuè lái yuè lěng le

Word guide: 天气 – the weather; 越来越 – more and more; 冷 – cold.

越来越 + adjective: more and more

where	link	verb	
我的家乡	越来越	漂亮	了
wǒ de jiāxiāng	yuèlái yuè	piàoliang	le
my hometown	more and more	beautiful	(change)

■ Feelings and abilities that grow

- Feeling verbs fit too: 我越来越喜欢这个城市了。 – “I like this city more and more.”
- So do verbs of ability with an object: 他越来越会做饭了。 – “He is getting better and better at cooking.”

我越来越喜欢这个城市了。

wǒ yuè lái yuè xǐ huan zhè ge chéng shì le

Word guide: 我 – I; 越来越 – more and more; 喜欢 – like; 这个 – this; 城市 – city.

■ One degree word only

- No 很 or 非常 after 越来越: 越来越好, not 越来越好很好.
- 越来越 comes after the subject and before the adjective: 他越来越高, not 越来越他高.

■ 越来越 versus 越 ... 越 ...

- 越来越 has one quality that grows with time.
- 越 A 越 B links two things: the more A, the more B: 雨越下越大 – “The rain is getting heavier and heavier (the longer it rains).”

雨越下越大。

yǔ yuè xià yuè dà

Word guide: 雨 – the rain; 越 – the more; 下 – falls; 越 – the more; 大 – heavy.

■ Recap

- 越来越 + Adj (+ 了) = more and more ..., a change over time.
- Bare adjective after it, no 很; feeling verbs such as 喜欢 also work.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

Choose a pattern, cover its teaching examples, and attempt its questions. Use the labels to find feedback in the separate key.

■ Adjective + 极了 (extremely)

0101.1 Complete the reaction to a great film: 这个电影好看!

0101.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 天气很好极了。
- B. 天气非常好极了。
- C. 天气极了好。
- D. 天气好极了。

0101.3 A friend asks 外面冷吗? Replying 冷极了! is natural spoken Chinese.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0101.4 Build: “I was overjoyed when I heard the news.”

Arrange all chunks: 极了。 / 听到这个消息, / 我 / 高兴

0101.5 Your friend has cooked for you, and the food is far better than “quite good”. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ **Doubling adjectives (AA / AABB)**

0102.1 Double 清楚 (clear): 老师把问题说得 的。

0102.2 Which phrase is correct?

- A. 红红的苹果
- B. 不红红的苹果
- C. 很红红的苹果
- D. 红红红的苹果

0102.3 Match each adjective to its doubled form.

- 1. 高兴
- 1. 干净
- 1. 慢
- 1. 大
- A. 大大
- B. 干干净净
- C. 慢慢
- D. 高高兴兴

0102.4 干净 can be doubled as 干干净净 to describe a room.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0102.5 You are describing a child’s drawing: big eyes, a round face, a very tidy room. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ **Adjective + 地 + Verb (making an adverb)**

0103.1 Fill in the particle: 她安静 看书。

0103.2 Choose the particle for both blanks: 他高兴 ____ 说: “我考得 ____ 很好!”

- A. 地 ... 地
- B. 的 ... 的
- C. 得 ... 地

- D. 地 ... 得

0103.3 Build: “Grandma walks slowly across the road.”

Arrange all chunks: 走过 / 奶奶 / 马路 / 。 / 慢慢地

0103.4 他学习认真地。 is a correct way to say “He studies seriously.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0103.5 Your grandmother crosses the busy road carefully; your little brother does his homework seriously for once. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 这么 / 那么 + Adjective (so ...)

0104.1 You are holding a heavy suitcase: 你的箱子怎么 重?

0104.2 A friend describes her hometown far away. Which fits best? “The mountains there are so beautiful.”

- A. 那儿的山这么很漂亮。
- B. 那儿的山很那么漂亮。
- C. 那儿的山漂亮那么。
- D. 那儿的山那么漂亮。

0104.3 Build: “I am not as tall as him.”

Arrange all chunks: 我 / 他 / 没有 / 那么 / 高。

0104.4 这么很热 is correct because 这么 and 很 both mean “very”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0104.5 You step outside in July and it is much hotter than you expected. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ A 跟 / 和 B 一样 (the same as)

0105.1 Complete: “This bag costs the same as that one.” 这个包跟那个包 贵。

0105.2 Which says “My answer is different from yours.”?

- A. 我的答案跟你的没一样。
- B. 我的答案不跟你的一样。
- C. 我的答案跟你的一样不。
- D. 我的答案跟你的不一样。

0105.3 Build: “Today is as cold as yesterday.”

Arrange all chunks: 一样 / 今天 / 冷。 / 跟昨天

0105.4 哥哥跟弟弟一样高 means the older brother is taller.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0105.5 Two classmates are exactly the same height, and a new teacher keeps mixing them up. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 又 ... 又 ... (both ... and ...)

0106.1 Complete: “The noodles here are both tasty and cheap.” 这儿的面条 好吃 便宜. (write the word that fills both blanks)

0106.2 Which sentence is natural?

- A. 他又高又帅。
- B. 他高和帅。
- C. 他又很高又很帅。
- D. 他又高帅。

0106.3 Build: “Her room is both big and clean.”

Arrange all chunks: 又大 / 又干净 / 她的房间 / 。

0106.4 这件衣服便宜和好看 is a correct way to say “This item of clothing is cheap and good-looking.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0106.5 You found a jacket that looks great and costs very little, and you want to say both at once. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Subject + 比较 + Adjective (fairly, rather)

0107.1 A moderate answer: “Today is fairly cold.” 今天 冷。

0107.2 Which sentence says “He is taller than me.”?

- A. 他比我高。
- B. 他比我比较高。
- C. 他很比我高。
- D. 他比较我高。

0107.3 Match each sentence to its meaning.

- 1. 这家饭馆比较贵。
- 1. 我们比较一下价格。
- 1. 我比较喜欢夏天。

- A. Let's compare the prices.
- B. I prefer summer.
- C. This restaurant is rather expensive.

0107.4 Build: "It is rather far; let's take a taxi."

Arrange all chunks: 打车吧。 / 比较远 / , / 我们

0107.5 A friend asks how your new job is. It is fine, but you would not call it amazing. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 多 + Adjective + 啊! (how ...!)

0108.1 Exclaim: "How nice the weather is!" 天气 好啊!

0108.2 Which one asks a question instead of exclaiming?

- A. 这个公园多大?
- B. 这个公园多漂亮啊!
- C. 这个公园多大啊!
- D. 这儿多安静啊!

0108.3 Build: "How well you speak Chinese!"

Arrange all chunks: 你的中文 / 说得 / 啊! / 多好

0108.4 多很漂亮啊! is correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0108.5 You reach the top of a mountain and the whole city lies below you. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Adjective + 的 + Noun (describing a noun)

0109.1 Complete: "He is a very good friend." 他是我很好 朋友。

0109.2 Which phrase is correct?

- A. 衣服漂亮的
- B. 漂亮很的衣服
- C. 很漂亮的衣服
- D. 很漂亮衣服

0109.3 In a shop, 我要红的 can mean "I want the red one."

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0109.4 Build: "This is a very interesting book."

Arrange all chunks: 很有意思的 / 书。 / 一本 / 这是

0109.5 At the station a lost-property officer asks which bag is yours. You need more than “a bag”. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 越来越 (more and more)

0110.1 Complete: “Your Chinese is getting better and better.” 你的中文 好了。

0110.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 东西很越来越贵了。
- B. 东西越来越贵了。
- C. 越来越东西贵了。
- D. 东西越来越很贵了。

0110.3 Build: “I like this city more and more.”

Arrange all chunks: 这个城市了。 / 越来越 / 我 / 喜欢

0110.4 越来越 links two different things, as in “the more you practise, the better you get.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0110.5 You go back to your hometown after five years: more cars, more tall buildings, more people. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A friend loves the meal and says 这个菜很好吃极了。Repair the degree expression and explain.

R2. Use it yourself. Describe a room becoming quieter and a friend being both kind and patient.

Write your responses before opening the key. Compare meaning as well as form; a different valid answer need not copy the model.

Answers and explanations

Check after your attempt. For open tasks, compare the message and the stated criteria, then revise one detail.

■ Adjective + 极了 (extremely)

0101.1 极了

好看极了 = “absolutely brilliant”. 极了 follows the adjective directly.

0101.2 D. 天气好极了。

极了 follows a bare adjective. 很 and 非常 would add a second degree word, and 极了 never comes first.

0101.3 True.

Adj + 极了 is typical of spoken reactions. In a formal report 非常冷 would be more usual.

0101.4 听到这个消息，我高兴极了。

Time clause first, then Subject + Adjective + 极了: 听到这个消息，我高兴极了。

0101.5 One possible response: 这个菜好吃极了!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- No 很 or 非常 in front: say 好极了, not 很好极了, because 极了 already carries the degree.
- 极了 never comes before the adjective: 冷极了, not 极了冷.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Doubling adjectives (AA / AABB)

0102.1 清清楚楚

A two-syllable adjective AB doubles as AABB, so 清楚 becomes 清清楚楚.

0102.2 A. 红红的苹果

AA + 的 + noun. Doubling already adds degree, so 很 is not added, and doubled forms are not negated with 不.

0102.3 1-D: 高兴 = 高高兴兴; 2-B: 干净 = 干干净净; 3-C: 慢 = 慢慢; 4-A: 大 = 大大

One syllable gives AA; two syllables give AABB.

0102.4 False.

Adjectives double as AABB (干干净净). The ABAB pattern belongs to verbs such as 研究研究.

0102.5 One possible response: 她有一双大大的眼睛。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- No 很 or 非常 in front: 大大的眼睛, not 很大的眼睛, because doubling already adds the degree.
- The common adjectives taught here use AABB, as in 干干净净. Some other adjectives allow ABAB, so learn each adjective and its accepted reduplicated form.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Adjective + 地 + Verb (making an adverb)

0103.1 地

Adjective + 地 + Verb. 安静地看书 = “read quietly”.

0103.2 D. 地 ... 得

高兴地说 (地 before the verb) and 考得很好 (得 after the verb).

0103.3 奶奶慢慢地走过马路。

Subject + Adjective + 地 + Verb + Object.

0103.4 False.

地 + description must come before the verb (他认真地学习), or use 得 after it (他学得很认真).

0103.5 One possible response: 奶奶慢慢地走过马路。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 地 comes before the verb: 认真地学习. After the verb you need 得: 他学得很认真.
- Write 地, not 的, between the description and the verb; both are read de.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 这么 / 那么 + Adjective (so ...)

0104.1 这么

The suitcase is right here, so 这么 + 重 = “so heavy”.

0104.2 D. 那儿的山那么漂亮。

那么 + Adj, with no extra 很; 那么 suits a distant place.

0104.3 我没有他那么高。

A + 没有 + B + 那么 + Adj.

0104.4 False.

这么 already supplies the degree, so 很 is left out: 这么热.

0104.5 One possible response: 今天怎么这么热!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Do not add 很 as well: 这么热, not 这么很热, since 这么 already gives the degree.
- Place 这么 or 那么 before the adjective, not after it: 那么远, not 远那么.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ A 跟 / 和 B 一样 (the same as)

0105.1 一样

A 跟 B 一样 + Adj. 一样贵 = “equally expensive”.

0105.2 D. 我的答案跟你的不一样。

不 is placed right before 一样.

0105.3 今天跟昨天一样冷。

A + 跟 B + 一样 + Adj.

0105.4 False.

一样高 means the same height. “Taller” needs 比: 哥哥比弟弟高.

0105.5 One possible response: 哥哥跟弟弟一样高。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 不 goes before 一样: 跟他不一样, not 不跟他一样 for “different from him”.
- No 很 before the adjective after 一样: 一样高, not 一样很高.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 又 ... 又 ... (both ... and ...)

0106.1 又

又好吃又便宜 – 又 before each quality.

0106.2 A. 他又高又帅。

又 + Adj + 又 + Adj with no 很. 和 does not join two adjectives in the predicate.

0106.3 她的房间又大又干净。

Subject + 又 A + 又 B.

0106.4 False.

和 joins nouns, not two adjectives used as the predicate. Use 又便宜又好看.

0106.5 One possible response: 这件衣服又便宜又好看。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Use two qualities with the same direction: 又便宜又好看 is natural; 又便宜又难看 sounds odd unless you are joking.
- No 很 inside the pattern: 又高又大, not 又很高又很大.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Subject + 比较 + Adjective (fairly, rather)

0107.1 比较

比较 + Adj = fairly cold.

0107.2 A. 他比我高。

A 比 B + Adj. The adverb 比较 does not go inside a 比 comparison.

0107.3 1-C: 这家饭馆比较贵。= This restaurant is rather expensive.; 2-A: 我们比较一下价格。= Let's compare the prices.; 3-B: 我比较喜欢夏天。= I prefer summer.

Before an adjective or a liking verb, 比较 means “rather”; with an object such as 价格 it is the verb “compare”.

0107.4 比较远, 我们打车吧。

比较 + Adj, then the suggestion.

0107.5 One possible response: 工作比较忙, 不过同事都很好。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- In a 比 comparison, 比较 cannot appear before the adjective: 他比我高, not 他比我比较高.
- Do not stack it with 很: 比较忙, not 很比较忙 or 比较很忙.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 多 + Adjective + 啊! (how ...!)

0108.1 多

多 + Adj + 啊 = “How ... !”

0108.2 A. 这个公园多大?

Without 啊 and the exclamation mark, 多大? asks “How big is it?”

0108.3 你的中文说得多么好啊!

Verb + 得 + 多 + Adj + 啊.

0108.4 False.

多 already gives the degree, so the adjective stays bare: 多漂亮啊!

0108.5 One possible response: 这儿的风景多美啊!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- No 很 inside: 多美啊, not 多很美啊; 多 already carries the degree.
- Keep 啊 and the exclamation mark. Without them, 多 + Adj often becomes a question: 多远? – “How far is it?”
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Adjective + 的 + Noun (describing a noun)

0109.1 的

很 + Adj needs 的 before the noun.

0109.2 C. 很漂亮的衣服

Description + 的 + noun, and 很 + Adj keeps 的.

0109.3 True.

When the noun is clear from context, Adj + 的 stands for “the ... one”.

0109.4 这是一本很有意思的书。

Number + measure word + description + 的 + noun.

0109.5 One possible response: 我的是那个红色的大包。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Keep 的 after 很 + Adj: 很好的朋友, not 很好朋友.
- The description goes before the noun, never after: 漂亮的衣服, not 衣服漂亮的 (that is a separate sentence pattern).
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 越来越 (more and more)

0110.1 越来越

越来越 + Adj + 了 reports a growing change.

0110.2 B. 东西越来越贵了。

东西越来越贵了 is right: 越来越 goes after the subject and takes a bare adjective. Adding 很 (越来越很贵, 很越来越贵) is wrong, and 越来越 cannot come before the subject.

0110.3 我越来越喜欢这个城市了。

Subject + 越来越 + feeling verb + object + 了.

0110.4 False.

That is 越 A 越 B. 越来越 has one quality that grows over time.

0110.5 One possible response: 我的家乡越来越漂亮了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- No 很 or 非常 after 越来越: 越来越好, not 越来越很好.
- 越来越 comes after the subject and before the adjective: 他越来越高, not 越来越他高.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 这个菜好吃极了! 极了 follows the adjective and already adds strong degree. Drop 很 in this frame; 很好吃 is a different, valid description.

R2. One possible response. 房间越来越安静了。她又热情又耐心。The first presents change over time; the second combines two qualities. Do not treat the two patterns as interchangeable.

Recall later. Later, choose a different adjective and make an emphatic reaction and a trend sentence.