

## HSK 3 Grammar 1: Describing & Degree

HSK 3 describing and degree patterns, taught from the reviewed topic handout;  
classroom examples, not official exam items.

## How Chinese describes things

To-the-max 极了, warm doubles, the -ly 地, the so-words, the sense frame, and 一样 comparisons.

极了: good all the way to the pole

The furthest point

这个主意好极了。(Zhège zhǔyi hǎo jíle.) — This idea is perfect.

那个男孩讨厌极了!(Nàge nánhái tǎoyàn jíle!) — That boy is unbelievably annoying!

## Doubling: 大大的眼睛

- 1 **AA + 的 for nouns** 大大的眼睛 (dàdà de yǎnjing) — lovely big eyes.
- 2 **AABB for two syllables** 高高兴兴, 干干净净 — repeat each character.
- 3 **AABB + 地 for verbs** 舒舒服服地躺 (shūshufúfú de tǎng) — lie comfortably.
- 4 **The feel** Doubling softens and warms — a fond little picture, not a cold fact.

### Decision

Not every adjective doubles: 好吃 and 便宜 never become 好好吃吃.

## 地: the “-ly” of the three de’s

| De | Owns               | Example                                |
|----|--------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 的  | A noun             | 我的书 (wǒ de shū) — my book              |
| 地  | A verb — the “-ly” | 高兴地笑 (gāoxìng de xiào) — smile happily |
| 得  | Rates a result     | 跑得快 (pǎo de kuài) — runs fast          |

## 这么 / 那么: the pointing pair

### Pointing the degree

今天怎么这么冷？(Jīntiān zěnmē zhème lěng?) — Why is it so cold today?

他没有你那么高。(Tā méiyǒu nǐ nàme gāo.) — He isn't as tall as you.

## 看起来: the sense-verb frame

- 1 **The frame** Sense verb + 起来 + description: 看起来 (kànqǐlái) — looks.
- 2 **Worked sentence** 蛋糕看起来很好吃。(Dàngāo kàn qǐlái hěn hǎochī.) — The cake looks delicious.
- 3 **The free family** 听起来 sounds · 吃起来 tastes · 用起来 handles.
- 4 **The boundary** For an inferred “it seems” (a conclusion, not a look), use 好像 instead.

### Decision

Sense verb + 起来 = “comes across as ...”.

## 一样: cut from the same cloth

- 1 **The frame** Noun 1 + 跟/和 + Noun 2 + 一样 (+ adjective).
- 2 **Worked sentence** 你家跟我家一样大。(Nǐ jiā gēn wǒ jiā yíyàng dà.) — Your place is just as big as mine.
- 3 **The negative** 不一样 — the 不 goes before 一样.
- 4 **The trap** The adjective rides after 一样 — it is ... 一样大, never 大一样.

### Decision

一样 = “one-same” — cut from the same cloth.

## Watch out: the three slips

- 极了: no 得, no 很, and never drop the 了.
- 地 is read de, not dì — and the adverb phrase comes before the verb.

## Check yourself

### Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Which de drives a verb? (2) 这么 or 那么 for something happening right now?

- A. 的; 那么
- B. 地; 这么
- C. 地; 那么
- D. 得; 这么