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

Set the degree (极了, 多 …… 啊, 比较, 这么), describe nouns and actions (的, 地, doubling), and show change (越来越).

- Each tool has one position rule.
- 的 before nouns, 地 before verbs.

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!

多 …… 啊! and 比较

Pattern	Meaning	Example
多 + adj + 啊!	**how** …! (exclaiming)	这里多漂亮啊! — How beautiful it is here!
比较 + adj	fairly, rather (moderate)	今天比较冷。— It's fairly cold today.
adj + 极了	**extremely**	好吃极了! — Absolutely delicious!

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 有名 never become 好好吃吃 or 有有名名.

Adjective + 的 + noun

Chinese	English	Note
漂亮的衣服	pretty clothes	two-syllable adjective + 的
很大的房子	a very big house	**with** 很, keep 的
新书 · 好人	a new book · a good person	**short** set phrases drop 的

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 zěnme 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.

Two qualities and change

Pattern	Meaning	Example
又 A 又 B	both A and B	这家店的菜又便宜又好吃。
越来越 + adj	**more** and more	天气越来越冷了。
越 A 越 B	the more A, the more B	他越说越高兴。

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.

Quick check

Your turn

Which de comes before a verb – 慢慢 ___ 走?

A. 的
B. 地
C. 得

Check yourself

Your turn

For something happening right here and now, 这么 or 那么?

A. 那么
B. 这么