

Adverbs with adjectives

HSK 4

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.

挺 + Adj + 的 (quite / rather)

■ How's the new flat?

- A friend asks about your new apartment. It is nice, though not amazing.
- 挺好的，就是离公司有点儿远。 – “It's pretty nice – just a bit far from the office.”

■ 挺 + Adjective + 的

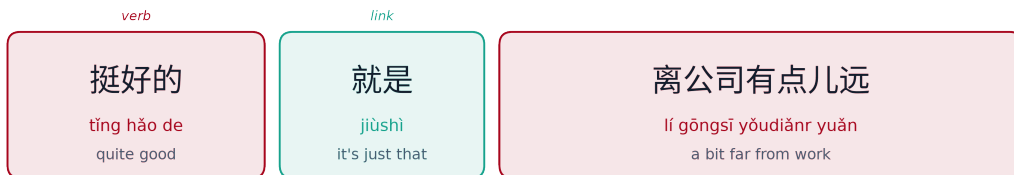
- 挺 + Adj (+ 的) = “quite, pretty, rather” in casual speech: 挺好的, 挺贵的, 挺忙的.
- 的 at the end is common and makes it sound natural and relaxed.

这家店的东西挺贵的。

zhè jiā diàn de dōng xī tǐng guì de

Word guide: 这 – this; 家 – (measure word); 店 – shop; 东西 – things; 挺 – quite; 贵 – expensive.

挺 ... 的, 就是 ...: fine, only ...



■ Feelings and verbs

- Feeling verbs take 挺 too: 我挺喜欢这个城市的。 – “I quite like this city.”
- 他挺会说话的。 – “He's pretty good with words.”

我挺喜欢这个城市的。

wǒ tǐng xǐ huan zhè ge chéng shì de

Word guide: 我 – I; 挺 – quite; 喜欢 – like; 这个 – this; 城市 – city.

■ Negative and register

- “Not very” is 不太 or 不怎么, not 不挺: 不太好, not 不挺好. (挺不错 / 挺不好 put 不 after 挺.)
- 挺 is spoken; in an essay prefer 比较 or 很.

■ 挺 versus 很 and 太

- 很 + Adj is the neutral default: 很好.
- 挺 is friendly and casual; 太 ... 了 is stronger and often “too”: 太贵了!

太贵了!

tài guì le

Word guide: 太 – too; 贵 – expensive.

■ Recap

- 挺 + Adj / feeling verb + 的 = quite, pretty (casual).
- “Not very” = 不太; in writing use 比较 or 很.

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.

■ 挺 + Adj + 的 (quite / rather)

0301.1 Casually: “The food here is pretty good.” 这儿的菜 好吃的。

0301.2 Which says “It isn’t very expensive”?

- A. 不挺太贵。
- B. 不挺贵的。
- C. 不太贵。
- D. 挺不太贵。

0301.3 Build: “I quite like this city.”

Arrange all chunks: 我 / 挺喜欢 / 的。 / 这个城市

0301.4 挺 is more casual than 很.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0301.5 A friend asks about your new apartment. It is nice, though not 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.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A casual description says 这个地方不挺方便. Repair the intended not very convenient meaning.

R2. Use it yourself. Give a positive but qualified opinion of a new room using 挺. 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.

■ 挺 + Adj + 的 (quite / rather)

0301.1 挺

挺 + Adj + 的.

0301.2 C. 不太贵。

The negative of “quite” is 不太.

0301.3 我挺喜欢这个城市的。

挺 + feeling verb + object + 的.

0301.4 True.

挺 belongs to friendly conversation.

0301.5 One possible response: 挺好的，就是离公司有点儿远。

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.
- “Not very” is 不太 or 不怎么, not 不挺: 不太好, not 不挺好. (挺不错 / 挺不好 put 不 after 挺.)
- 挺 is spoken; in an essay prefer 比较 or 很.
- 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. 这个地方不太方便 or 这个地方不怎么方便。不挺 is not the ordinary negation of 挺方便. 挺不方便 is possible but means quite inconvenient, a different degree.

R2. One possible response. 这个房间挺好的，就是有点儿小。The room is pretty good, with small size as a qualification. The final 的 is common in this casual frame; alternatives depend on the adjective phrase.

Recall later. Later, compare 挺方便, 不太方便 and 挺不方便 without treating them as equal.