

## HSK 4 Grammar 01: Adjectives

HSK 4 adjective patterns, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

## Two patterns that carry a lot of HSK 4

全 + noun sweeps up a whole thing in one move; 形容词 + 死了 cranks an adjective to its limit.

The pattern: 全 + Noun + 都 + Predicate

The whole family has been to Beijing

全家都去过北京。(Quán jiā dōu qù guo Běijīng.) — Our whole family has been to Beijing.

这个地方全年都很热。(Zhège dìfang quánnián dōu hěn rè.) — This place is hot all year round.

## The rule to burn in: no 的

全 takes no 的. 全家 ✓, 全的家 ×.

## Where 不 sits changes everything

全都不去 (quán dōu bù qù)

None of them go at all.

不全都去 (bù quán dōu qù)

Not all of them go.

## The pattern: (Subject +) Adjective + 死了

Vivid, casual, and slanted toward misery

我饿死了! (Wǒ è sǐ le!) — I'm starving!

今天累死了! (Jīntiān lèi sǐ le!) — I'm exhausted today!

这件衣服丑死了。(Zhè jiàn yīfu chǒu sǐ le.) — This outfit is hideous.

## Bare attachment — no 的, no 得

- 1 **The attachment rule** 死了 attaches bare: 累死了 ✓, 累得死了 ×.
- 2 **The register** Louder and more informal than 极了 — the drama-queen cousin.
- 3 **The feelings** Mostly misery: 累 tired, 饿 hungry, 热 hot, 丑 ugly.
- 4 **The situation** Suits speech and diary pages, not a formal essay.

### Decision

It is a hot afternoon, four flights of stairs: 热死了! (Rè sǐ le!)

# Choosing the right tool

| Pattern       | Meaning                | Register, the tested rule                              |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 全 + N + 都 + V | the whole X, all of it | neutral; no 的, and 都 echoes the all                    |
| Adj + 死了      | extremely, to death    | casual and strong; bare adjective, unpleasant feelings |

## Check yourself

### Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) 全家都来了 or 全的家都来了? (2) Which adjective does NOT suit 死了 here — 累, 饿, 高兴, or 丑?

- A. 全家都来了; 高兴 stays out
- B. 全的家都来了; 高兴 stays out
- C. 全家都来了; 丑 stays out
- D. 全的家都来了; 累 stays out