

HSK 4 Grammar 02: Adverbs

HSK 4 adverbs by job, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Five jobs in one lesson

HSK 4 adverbs measure, judge, intensify, press a question, and advise — the exam tests position and pairing, not vocabulary.

Measuring: 差不多, 差点, 刚, 够

Adverb	Job	Signature
差不多	“About the same” — 差 + 不 + 多 = not much off	上海和纽约差不多。
差点	Nearly happened (bad), and didn't	车差点撞到我。 — The car almost hit me.
刚	A short time ago, glued to the verb	他刚来中国两个月。
够	Enough before the verb; fed-up after it	我受够了! — I've had enough!

Judging and realising

The head and the heart of a sentence

看来他不来了。(Kànlái tā bù lái le.) — It seems he's not coming.

结果她感冒了。(Jiéguǒ tā gǎnmào le.) — She ended up catching a cold.

恐怕明天要下雨。(Kǒngpà míngtiān yào xià yǔ.) — I'm afraid it's going to rain tomorrow.

这么难的题，他竟然做对了。 — Such a hard problem, and he actually got it right!

Pressing and intensifying

Pattern	Feel	Signature
可 + Adj + 了	“Wow, really!” — chatty	这只小狗可淘气了!
甚至	Even — the most extreme case	甚至吃午饭的时间都没有。
又 + 不 / 没	“It’s not as if...” — a shrug	我又不知道。
千万	Whatever you do (don’t)	千万别忘了带护照。
就 + subject	Only this one	就老板还没走。

Asking hard

- 1 **到底 in a question** 你到底想说什么？(Nǐ dàodǐ xiǎng shuō shénme?) — What on earth are you trying to say?
- 2 **到底 in a statement** 天气到底暖和了。(Tiānqì dàodǐ nuǎnhuo le.) — The weather has finally warmed up.
- 3 **究竟 — 到底 in a suit** 我们究竟还要等多久？— Exactly how much longer do we have to wait?
- 4 **难道 — the rhetorical press** 难道你真的相信他吗？— You don't actually believe him, do you?

Decision

In a yes-no question, 到底 takes the V-not-V form: 你到底去不去？

Necessity and advice

The reluctant pair

餐厅都关门了，我们只好去吃快餐。 —
All closed, so we had no choice but fast food.

电梯又坏了，我们不得不爬楼梯。 —
The lift broke, so we had to climb the stairs.

The advice pair

外面冷，最好多穿点。 — It's cold; best wear a bit more.

还是明天去吧。 — Let's go tomorrow after all.

Sequence and scope

Pattern	Meaning	Signature
先 ... 再 ...	First ... then ... (再 = then, not again)	先洗手, 再吃饭。
一 + MW + 一 + MW	One at a time	别吵, 一个一个说。
从来 + 都 / 不 / 没	Always / never	我从来不喝酒。
也都	All ... too (fixed order)	孩子们也都喜欢。
正好	Just right, as it happens	我正好要找你。

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) In 先洗手, 再吃饭, 再 means what? (2) Which word carries "I'm afraid"?

- A. Again; 竟然
- B. Then; 恐怕
- C. Again; 恐怕
- D. Then; 竟然