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.

- Whether 都 arrives, where 不 sits.
- Which adverb suits which feeling.

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 xiàyǔ.) — 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。

Quick check

Your turn

In 先洗手，再吃饭, what does 再 mean?

A. again

B. then

Check yourself

Your turn

Which word carries “I’m afraid” (a polite guess)?

A. 竟然
B. 恐怕