HSK 4 Grammar 03: Adverbs with Adjectives

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

One pattern owns this topic

> 挺 + 形容词 + 的 is the laid-back "quite, pretty, rather" — and it is tested on the 的 at the end.

- A conversational dial-up for adjectives.
- Softer than 很, far short of 非常.

The frame: 挺 + Adjective + 的

Praise without gushing

你男朋友挺帅的。(Nǐ nánpéngyou tǐng shuài de.) — Your boyfriend is pretty handsome.

最近大家都挺忙的。(Zuìjìn dàjiā dōu tǐng máng de.) — Everyone's been quite busy lately.

Try it: the new bike

1. **The situation** A classmate shows you a photo of their new bike.
2. **Choose the dial** A friendly, easygoing compliment — not a gush.
3. **Build the frame** 这辆自行车挺新的。(Zhè liàng zìxíngchē tǐng xīn de.)
4. **Check the bookends** 挺 in front, 的 at the end — nothing missing.

Decision

Zhè liàng zìxíngchē tǐng xīn de — this bike is pretty new.

The intensifier ladder

Pattern	Strength	Register, the tested rule
挺 + Adj + 的	quite, pretty	casual everyday; 挺 wants its 的 — bookends
很 + Adj	very (plain)	neutral; no 的 needed
非常 + Adj	very, really	neutral, stronger; no 的 needed
可 + Adj + 了	really, so!	chatty, emphatic; closes with 了
Adj + 极了	extremely	stronger, still spoken; closes with 了

Watch out: the unfinished sentence

- Leaving off the 的 sounds unfinished: 挺好 sounds cut off; 挺好的 lands.
- 挺 is not for formal writing — 很 / 非常 carry the same strength without the chat flavour.
- The negative keeps the bookends: 挺不好的 (tǐng bù hǎo de) — "not great, actually".

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) 挺好 or 挺好的? (2) Which closes the 可-emphatic frame?

A. 挺好; 的
B. 挺好的; 了
C. 挺好; 了
D. 挺好的; 的