

## HSK 4 Grammar 12: Verbs

HSK 4 verb patterns from causatives to the dummy 来, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

## Eight verb patterns in one lesson

Four causatives, an “it depends”, a hedge, an essay verb, a wrong-belief verb, a two-hatted 通过, 来自, and the dummy 来.

## The causatives: 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使

| Causative | Tone                   | Example                           |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 使         | Formal, “cause”        | 使听众激动 — made the audience excited |
| 让         | Neutral, “make / let”  | 让人很感动 — makes people moved        |
| 叫         | Casual, “tell”         | 叫他来 — tell him to come            |
| 请         | Polite, “ask / invite” | 请他吃饭 — invite him to eat          |

## 得看: it depends on

Have to look at it first

这得看你的时间。(Zhè děikàn nǐ de shíjiān.) — That depends on your schedule.

去不去得看我的心情。(Qù bu qù děikàn wǒ de xīnqíng.) — Whether I'll go depends on my mood.

## 好像: the soft hedge

- 1 **The relationship** It softens a statement to an impression — “it seems, looks like, as if”.
- 2 **With a subject** 他好像是英国人。(Tā hǎoxiàng shì Yīngguórén.) — He seems to be British.
- 3 **Without a subject** 好像要下雨了。(Hǎoxiàng yào xià yǔ le.) — It looks like it's going to rain.
- 4 **The boundary** Softer than a flat statement — it signals you are not fully sure.

### Decision

好像 = “much resembles” — a hedge, not a conclusion.

## 在于 and 来自: essence and origin

### 在于 — where the essence lies

成功在于坚持。(Chénggōng zàiyú jiānchí.) — Success lies in perseverance.

礼物在于心意，不在于贵重。— A gift is about the thought, not the cost.

### 来自 — where it comes from

我来自中国。(Wǒ láizì Zhōngguó.) — I'm from China.

我的这个想法来自生活。— This idea of mine comes from everyday life.

## 以为 and 通过: wrong beliefs and means

- 1 **The wrong-belief verb** 我以为是德国人。(Wǒ yǐwéi tā shì Déguórén.) — I thought he was German (he isn't).
- 2 **The boundary** For a belief you simply hold, use 觉得 / 想 — 以为 claims you were mistaken.
- 3 **通过 as a verb** 我通过了这个考试。(Wǒ tōngguò le zhège kǎoshì.) — I passed this exam.
- 4 **通过 as a preposition** 我们通过他的朋友找到了他。(Wǒmen tōngguò tā de péngyou zhǎodào le tā.) — We found him through his friend.

### Decision

以为 carries a quiet “...but I was wrong”; 通过 carries exam or means, by context.

## The dummy 来

I'll get this one

我来吧。(Wǒ lái ba.) — Let me do it.

你写得好，你来吧。(Nǐ xiě de hǎo, nǐ lái ba.) — You write nicely — you do it.

## Check yourself

### Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) 我以为他是德国人 — was he German? (2) 我来吧 at a door with heavy bags — does 来 mean “come”?

- A. No; no
- B. Yes; no
- C. No; yes
- D. Yes; yes