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.

- Each pattern earns its keep in real sentences.
- The exam tests tone and pairing, not lists.

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 xiàyǔ 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** 我以为他是德国人。(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.

Quick check

Your turn

我以为他是德国人 – was he German?

A. no

B. yes

Check yourself

Your turn

At a door, you see a friend with heavy bags and say 我来吧. Does 来 mean “come”?

A. no

B. yes