HSK 4 Grammar 24: Basic Sentence Patterns

HSK 4 everyday frames 连/疑问词 + 都/N 倍/一点也不/不知道 … 好/对 … 来说, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The partner-word lesson

> Six everyday frames — and most of them die without a partner word: the 都, the 也, the 来.

- Drop the partner and the frame goes quiet.
- Each frame earns one exam mark.

连 … 都: even

Both words, front position

这个问题太简单了，连三岁小孩都知道。(Zhège wèntí tài jiǎndān le, lián sānsuì xiǎohái dōu zhīdào.) — This is so easy that even a three-year-old knows it.

他什么都吃，连臭豆腐都吃。(Tā shénme dōu chī, lián chòudòufu dōu chī.) — He eats anything — even stinky tofu.

疑问词 + 都: every / any

1. **The positive sweep** 谁都喜欢美食。(Shéi dōu xǐhuan měishí.) — Everyone loves good food.
2. **The negative sweep** 我哪儿都不想去。(Wǒ nǎr dōu bù xiǎng qù.) — I don't want to go anywhere.
3. **The family** 谁都 (everyone), 什么都 (anything), 哪儿都 (anywhere), 怎么都 (no matter how).
4. **The boundary** The question word is the indefinite "any" — no question mark.

Decision

Plus 不 / 没 flips every / any into none / nothing.

N 倍: the total, ×N

Three times as much — not three more

他现在的工资是两年前的三倍。(Tā xiànzài de gōngzī shì liǎng nián qián de sānbèi.) — His salary is now three times what it was two years ago.

这个城市的人口是那个的两倍。(Zhège chéngshì de rénkǒu shì nàge de liǎngbèi.) — This city's population is twice that one's.

一点 + 也 / 都 + 不: the absolute negative

1. **The frame** 一点 + 也 / 都 + 不 / 没 — every piece present.
2. **Worked reassurance** 你一点也不胖。(Nǐ yìdiǎn yě bú pàng.) — You're not fat at all.
3. **Worked confession** 我一点都没听懂。(Wǒ yìdiǎn dōu méi tīngdǒng.) — I didn't understand a single bit.
4. **Try it** 一点都不用担心，你已经很努力了。— No need to worry at all; you've worked hard.

Decision

The 也 / 都 between 一点 and 不 is what makes it absolute.

不知道 … (才) 好: what would be best

The stuck feeling, in one syllable

我真的不知道怎么办才好。(Wǒ zhēn de bùzhīdào zěnme bàn cái hǎo.) — I really don't know what would be best to do.

不知道送什么礼物好。(Bùzhīdào sòng shénme lǐwù hǎo.) — Not sure what gift would be best.

对 … 来说 / 一般来说

Frame	Job	Example
对 X 来说	From X's angle	对我来说，健康最重要。— For me, health matters most.
一般来说	As a rule	一般来说，私立学校都比较贵。— Generally, private schools are pricey.
拿 X 来说	Take X as an example	A cousin worth collecting.

Quick check

Your turn

三倍 in 价格是去年的三倍 means what?

A. 3 more on top

B. 3 times the total

Check yourself

Your turn

Which word makes 一点儿也不 absolute?

A. 不
B. 也