

HSK 5 Grammar 2: Adverbs — Focus and Judgment

HSK 5 focus and judgment adverbs across four thematic parts, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

A late night in the project room

The clock says 11:40 p.m., a classmate's title is wrong, a new teammate joined today, and you nearly missed the last train — five patterns for five moments.

都: even, already, or a push

Reading	Shape	Example
Even	situation + 得 + item + 都 + V	她急得名字都写错了 — so anxious she even writes her name wrong
Already	都 + reached point + 了	都十一点四十了 — it's already 11:40
All	the basic use	我们都到了 — we have all arrived

还 ... 呢: criticism when a claim fails

- 1 **The frame** 还 + claimed role/experience + 呢, then the clashing fact.
- 2 **Worked sentence** 还细心编辑呢, 标题写错了。 — Some “careful editor”: the title is wrong.
- 3 **Second example** 还在英国住过一年呢, 地铁图看不懂。 — He even lived in Britain, yet can't read the underground map.
- 4 **The boundary** 他还在改稿呢 — he is still editing (a reminder, NOT sarcasm).

Decision

呢 does not mark past time and does not by itself make the tone sarcastic.

总 with 会, 得, 要 or 能

Auxiliary	Meaning	Example
会	Bound to (expected outcome)	他总会回来的 — He's bound to return
得	Have to (děi, not de)	咱们总得今晚回邮件吧 — We have to reply tonight
要	Must / going to	总要有人做的 — Someone has to do it
能	The ability is there	总能想出办法 — We can always think of a way

毕竟: after all

A fact to weigh, not a proof

先别换人，她毕竟是今天才加入的。 — Don't replace her yet; she only joined today, after all.

方案毕竟是组长定的，我们按这个做。 — It's the team leader's plan, after all; we'll follow it.

差点没 when the result was wanted

Wanted result + close call

我差点没赶上火车，幸好最后赶上了。
— I nearly failed to catch the train.
Luckily I caught it.

Bare close call (no ending)

李娜差点没登上飞机。 — Li Na nearly failed to board. No ending is stated.

Practice — Part 1

Practice — Part 1

Answers — Part 1

Answers — Part 1

When half the plan is still open

When half the plan is still open

反正, 尽量, 互相, 尽管, 干脆 · 1/2

Adverb	Job	Example
反正	Sets other talk aside; states what stands	反正我九点到。 — I'll be there at nine anyway.
尽量	Effort inside a real limit	我尽量今晚发给你。 — I'll do my best to send it tonight.
互相	Goes both ways	你们互相看笔记。 — Look at each other's notes.

反正, 尽量, 互相, 尽管, 干脆 · 2/2

Adverb	Job	Example
尽管	Go ahead (encouraging)	有什么问题尽管问。 — Ask whatever you like.
干脆	A direct way out of a fiddly choice	干脆打车吧。 — Let's just take a taxi.

尽量

尽量

互相

互相

尽管

尽管

干脆

干脆

Practice — Part 2

Practice — Part 2

Answers — Part 2

Answers — Part 2

再也不, 曾经, 再三, 简直, 顺便 · 1/2

Pattern	Meaning	Example
再也不 / 再也 没	Never again / never again (past)	我再也不迟到了。 — I'll never be late again.
曾经	Once, formerly (past experience)	他曾经住在北京。 — He once lived in Beijing.
再三	Repeatedly, over and over	他再三提醒我们。 — He reminded us again and again.

再也不, 曾经, 再三, 简直, 顺便 · 2/2

Pattern	Meaning	Example
简直	Simply, practically (emphasis)	简直不敢相信。 — I simply can't believe it.
顺便	By the way, conveniently	顺便问一下。 — By the way, let me ask.

曾经

曾经

再三

再三

简直

简直

顺便

顺便

Practice — Part 3

Practice — Part 3

Answers — Part 3

Answers — Part 3

再不 就, 好（不）容易, 白 + verb, 差很多 · 1/2

Pattern	Meaning	Example
再不 就	if not now, a bad result follows	再不走就赶不上了。
..... 了		
好（不）容易	with great difficulty,	我好不容易才把旧密码想起来。
..... 才	finally	
白 + verb	in vain, for nothing	会议取消了，我白请了一天假。

再不 就, 好（不）容易, 白 + verb, 差很多 · 2/2

Pattern	Meaning	Example
动词 + 了 + 又 + 动词 差很多	the same action again and again a large gap	那封邮件我改了又改。 这两家店的服务差很多。

好（不）容易 才

- 1 **The frame** Subject + 好容易 or 好不容易 + 才 + result. Both mean 'with great difficulty'.
- 2 **Example** 我好不容易才把旧密码想起来。Only after a real struggle did I remember the old password.
- 3 **With a twist** 好容易才挤上地铁，发现坐反了。I finally squeezed onto the subway, then found I was going the wrong way.

Decision

The 不 adds no negative. Keep 才: without it, 好容易 can sound like 'very easy'.

白 + verb

白 + verb — in vain

会议取消了，我白请了一天假。
这双鞋不能退，一百块白花了。

白 + verb — free

白吃 · 白住 — eat or stay without paying.

动词 + 了 + 又 + 动词

The same action, on and on

那封邮件我改了又改，还是不敢发出去。

出口的标志找了又找，就是看不见。

差很多

差很多

Practice — Part 4

Practice — Part 4

Answers — Part 4

Answers — Part 4

Choosing among them · 1/3

Job	Adverb	Signal
Set other talk aside	反正	The point stays while the rest is open
Effort inside a limit	尽量	A real constraint named
Two-way action	互相	Both parties act

Choosing among them · 2/3

Job	Adverb	Signal
Go ahead	尽管	Permission or encouragement
Direct exit from a fiddly choice	干脆	Stop deliberating, just do it
Never again (forward)	再也不	A promise or resolution

Choosing among them · 3/3

Job	Adverb	Signal
Never again (backward)	再也没	A report that it hasn't recurred

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) 都十一点四十了 — which 都 reading? (2) 还好朋友呢，她把我的私事告诉了所有人。 — the 还 ... 呢 here is what?

- A. All; a continuing state
- B. Already; criticism of a claim
- C. Even; a continuing state
- D. Already; a kind joke