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), 还 … 呢 (criticism), 总 +auxiliary (bound to), 毕竟 (after all), 差点没 (nearly failed to).
- Practice uses new sentences with the target pattern and context fixed.

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

- See the handout section “Practice — Part 1” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

Answers — Part 1

Answers — Part 1

- See the handout section “Answers — Part 1” for the full examples.
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When half the plan is still open

When half the plan is still open

- See the handout section “When half the plan is still open” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

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

- See the handout section “ 尽量 ” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

互相

互相

- See the handout section “ **互相** ” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

尽管

尽管

- See the handout section “ 尽管 ” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

干脆

干脆

- See the handout section “ 干脆 ” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

Practice — Part 2

Practice — Part 2

- See the handout section “Practice — Part 2” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

Answers — Part 2

Answers — Part 2

- See the handout section “Answers — Part 2” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

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

- See the handout section “ 曾经 ” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

再三

再三

- See the handout section “ 再三 ” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

简直

简直

- See the handout section “ 简直 ” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

顺便

顺便

- See the handout section “ 顺便 ” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

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

Practice — Part 3

Practice — Part 3

- See the handout section “Practice — Part 3” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

Answers — Part 3

Answers — Part 3

- See the handout section “Answers — Part 3” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

再不 …… 就 ……, 好（不）容易, 白 + verb, 差很多 · 1/2

Pattern	Meaning	Example
再不 …… 就 …… 了	if not now, a bad result follows	再不走就赶不上了。
好（不）容易 …… 才 ……	with great difficulty, finally	我好不容易才把旧密码想起来。
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	the same action again and again	那封邮件我改了又改。
差很多	a large gap	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

- See the handout section “ 差很多 ” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

Practice — Part 4

Practice — Part 4

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- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

Answers — Part 4

Answers — Part 4

- See the handout section “Answers — Part 4” for the full examples.
- Trace the pattern to its job in context, not to a translation.

Quick check

Your turn

What does 都 mean in 都十一点四十了?

A. all
B. already
C. even

Check yourself

Your turn

还好朋友呢，她把我的私事告诉了所有人。What does 还 …… 呢 do here?

A. states that she is still a friend
B. criticises the claim to be a friend
C. makes a kind joke