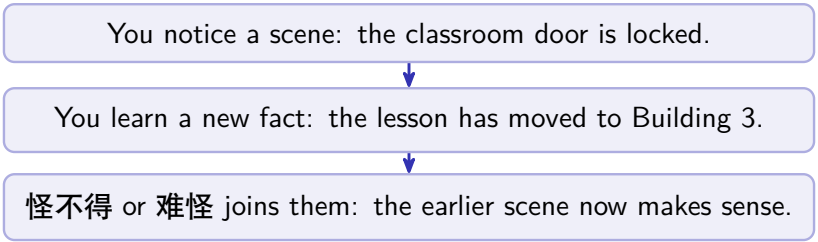
HSK 5 Grammar 21: Complex sentence patterns

HSK 5 怪不得 and 难怪 (no wonder), taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The click of ‘no wonder’



Reason first, then the scene

1. **The frame** New fact，怪不得 or 难怪 + the scene it explains.
2. **Example** 地铁停了半个小时，怪不得站台上挤满了人。
3. **Example** 她昨晚只睡了三个小时，难怪今天开会时一直打哈欠。
4. **In speech** 难怪站台上这么挤！原来地铁停了。The order can flip, often with 原来.

Decision

In written practice, put the reason first — it is the clearest habit.

No wonder, or you can't blame him?

No wonder — a scene makes sense

孩子今天参加了三场考试，难怪他不想说话了。

Excusing a person — 这也难怪

孩子今天参加了三场考试，这也难怪他。

You can hardly blame him.

Your turn: which one excuses Xiao Li?

Your turn

Xiao Li's seat is empty. His daughter has a fever. Which sentence excuses Xiao Li himself?

A. 女儿发烧了，难怪小李的座位是空的。
B. 女儿发烧了，这也难怪小李。
C. 小李的座位是空的，难怪女儿发烧了。

Your turn: the football shirts

Your turn

A match at the stadium is the reason; a bus full of football shirts is the scene. Which sentence links them in that order?

A. 怪不得今天体育场有足球赛，公共汽车上全是穿球衣的人。
B. 今天体育场有足球赛，怪不得公共汽车上全是穿球衣的人。
C. 公共汽车上全是穿球衣的人，怪不得今天体育场有足球赛。

Answers: reason, then scene

1. **Excusing Xiao Li** 女儿发烧了，这也难怪小李。
2. **The football shirts** 今天体育场有足球赛，怪不得公共汽车上全是穿球衣的人。
3. **The menu** 菜单上都是中文，难怪这位客人看了半天也不点菜。
4. **Forgiving her** 她连着上了两个班，还没吃饭，这也难怪她对顾客发脾气。

Decision

The first option in the Xiao Li item explains the seat, not the person; the third reverses the cause.

Check yourself

Your turn

You learn the heating has been off all day. Which sentence explains why everyone is wearing coats indoors?

A. 暖气关了一整天，难怪大家在屋里都穿着外套。
B. 大家在屋里都穿着外套，难怪暖气关了一整天。
C. 难怪暖气关了一整天，这也难怪大家。