

HSK 5 Grammar 29: Comparing similar verbs

HSK 5 看起来, 看来 and 显得, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The eyes and the mind

看起来 — how it looks

这家面馆的灯都关着，看起来还没营业。

A look you can check with your eyes.

看来 — your conclusion

现在已经七点了，看来他们今晚不营业了。

What you decide after a clue.

The forms

Word	Shape	Example
看起来	thing + 看起来 + 很 + quality	这碗汤看起来很烫。
看来	看来 + a whole clause	看来今天的会议推迟了。

Use the evidence

有点儿 and 真 can also link a quality after 看起来; a whole clause can follow it when you report a situation.

显得 — the impression has a cause

显得 — cause or comparison

店主打开那盏灯以后，小房间显得更暖和了。

The lamp is the cause; warmer is the comparison.

看起来 — a plain report of the look

他今天看起来很疲惫，话也很少。

Your turn: the haircut

Your turn

The haircut is why she gives a more mature impression than before. Which sentence matches?

- A. 她今天看起来很成熟。
- B. 剪了短发以后，她显得更成熟了。
- C. 看来她的头发很短。

Your turn: the museum message

Your turn

At home you read that the museum queue is huge and online tickets crashed. Choose the reply about whether to go.

- A. 这个博物馆看起来很旧。
- B. 看来今天不适合去这个博物馆。
- C. 长队让这个博物馆显得更旧了。

Answers: look, conclusion, impression

- 1 The haircut 剪了短发以后，她显得更成熟了。
- 2 The museum 看来今天不适合去这个博物馆。
- 3 The soup you can see 这碗汤看起来很烫。
- 4 The curtains 拉开窗帘以后，这间教室显得更宽敞了。

Decision

蓝色的墙让这套小公寓显得更大了。 — a cause, 显得 and a bigger result.

Check yourself

Your turn

His phone has been off all afternoon. What is your conclusion?

- A. 他的手机一下午都关着，看来他在开会。
- B. 他的手机一下午都关着，看起来很开会。
- C. 他的手机一下午都关着，显得更开会了。