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。