

Adjectives

HSK 3 Grammar

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

Adjective + 极了 (extremely)

■ A trip receives an enthusiastic review

- A friend asks whether you enjoyed the holiday.
- 这次旅行棒极了! – The speaker gives a very strong positive evaluation.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Adjective + 极了 (extremely)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

这个主意好极了。

zhè ge zhǔ yì hǎo jí le

Word guide: 这个 – this; 主意 – idea; 好 – good; 极了 – extremely.

■ Read examples in context

那个男孩讨厌极了!

nà ge nán hái tǎo yàn jí le

Word guide: 那个 – that; 男孩 – boy; 讨厌 – annoying; 极了 – extremely.

- In the opening example, 这次旅行棒极了! : The speaker gives a very strong positive evaluation.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 极了 follows an appropriate descriptive word and includes 了 as part of this frame.
- It can describe unpleasant feelings too, but not every adjective has a natural 极了 combination.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker gives a very strong positive evaluation.
- 极了 follows an appropriate descriptive word and includes 了 as part of this frame. It can describe unpleasant feelings too, but not every adjective has a natural 极了 combination.

■ Try it with help closed

A friend asks whether you enjoyed the holiday. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 这次旅行棒极了!

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 极了 follows an appropriate descriptive word and includes 了 as part of this frame.
- It can describe unpleasant feelings too, but not every adjective has a natural 极了 combination.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Doubling adjectives (AA / AABB)

■ A room is ready for a guest

- You describe a room that has been thoroughly tidied.
- 房间干干净净的。 – The repeated adjective gives a vivid description of the clean room.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Doubling adjectives (AA / AABB)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

宝宝的眼睛大大的。

bǎo bao de yǎn jīng dà dà de

Word guide: 宝宝 – the baby; 眼睛 – eyes; 大大的 – big and round.

■ Read examples in context

我想舒舒服服地躺在沙发上。

wǒ xiǎng shū shū fú fú de tǎng zài shā fā shàng

Word guide: 我 – I; 想 – want to; 舒舒服服 – comfortably; 躺 – lie; 在 – on; 沙发上 – the sofa.

- In the opening example, 房间干干净净的。: The repeated adjective gives a vivid description of the clean room.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 干净 can become 干干净净, but this is a lexical pattern, not a rule for every two-character adjective.
- 雪白 can use 雪白雪白 rather than AABB. Learn attested forms.

■ Use the distinction

- The repeated adjective gives a vivid description of the clean room.
- 干净 can become 干干净净, but this is a lexical pattern, not a rule for every two-character adjective. 雪白 can use 雪白雪白 rather than AABB. Learn attested forms.

■ Try it with help closed

You describe a room that has been thoroughly tidied. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 房间干干净净的。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 干净 can become 干干净净, but this is a lexical pattern, not a rule for every two-character adjective.
- 雪白 can use 雪白雪白 rather than AABB. Learn attested forms.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Adjective + 地 + Verb (making an adverb)

■ A teacher reads with care

- A teacher examines an essay carefully rather than rushing through it.
- 老师认真地看了我的作文。 – 认真地 describes how the teacher read the essay.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Adjective + 地 + Verb (making an adverb)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

他高兴地笑了。

tā gāo xìng de xiào le

Word guide: 他 – he; 高兴 – happy; 笑 – smiled.

■ Read examples in context

老师认真地看了我的作文。

lǎo shī rèn zhēn de kàn le wǒ de zuò wén

Word guide: 老师 – the teacher; 认真 – careful; 看 – read; 我的 – my; 作文 – essay.

- In the opening example, 老师认真地看了我的作文。: 认真地 describes how the teacher read the essay.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The manner phrase comes before 看.
- Compare 认真的老师, where 的 describes the teacher, and 老师看得很认真, where 得 introduces an assessment of the reading.

■ Use the distinction

- 认真地 describes how the teacher read the essay.
- The manner phrase comes before 看. Compare 认真的老师, where 的 describes the teacher, and 老师看得很认真, where 得 introduces an assessment of the reading.

■ Try it with help closed

A teacher examines an essay carefully rather than rushing through it. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 老师认真地看了我的作文。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The manner phrase comes before 看.
- Compare 认真的老师, where 的 describes the teacher, and 老师看得很认真, where 得 introduces an assessment of the reading.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.