

Verbs

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.

看起来 (looks / seems)

■ An attractive dish has not been tasted

- You judge a dish from its appearance before trying it.
- 这个菜看起来很好吃。** – The speaker offers an impression from appearance.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **看起来 (looks / seems)**. 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.

他看起来很累。

tā kàn qǐ lái hěn lèi

Word guide: 他 – he; 看起来 – looks; 很 – very; 累 – tired.

■ Read examples in context

这个菜看起来很好吃。

zhè ge cài kàn qǐ lái hěn hǎo chī

Word guide: 这 – this; 个 – (measure word); 菜 – dish; 看起来 – looks; 很 – very; 好吃 – delicious.

- In the opening example, **这个菜看起来很好吃。**: The speaker offers an impression from appearance.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 看起来 does not prove taste or underlying quality.
- It also does not prove that the person has never tasted the dish; the sentence only chooses appearance as the basis of this comment.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker offers an impression from appearance.
- 看起来 does not prove taste or underlying quality. It also does not prove that the person has never tasted the dish; the sentence only chooses appearance as the basis of this comment.

■ Try it with help closed

You judge a dish from its appearance before trying 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: 这个菜看起来很好吃。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 看起来 does not prove taste or underlying quality.
- It also does not prove that the person has never tasted the dish; the sentence only chooses appearance as the basis of this comment.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

没 (有) comparisons (not as ... as)

■ A shorter person does not reach a height

- One friend is 170 cm tall and another is 180 cm tall.
- 我没有他高。** – The speaker's height falls below the other person's height.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **没 (有) comparisons (not as ... as)**. 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.

我没有他高。

wǒ méi yǒu tā gāo

Word guide: 我 – I; 没有 – not as; 他 – him; 高 – tall.

■ Read examples in context

今天没有昨天冷。

jīn tiān méi yǒu zuó tiān lěng

Word guide: 今天 – today; 没有 – not as; 昨天 – yesterday; 冷 – cold.

- In the opening example, **我没有他高。**: The speaker's height falls below the other person's height.

- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 不比他高 means not taller, which permits equality; 没有他高 expresses a lower level.
- Both are grammatical, with different meanings. Do not call 不比 an invalid negative of 比.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker’s height falls below the other person’s height.
- 不比他高 means not taller, which permits equality; 没有他高 expresses a lower level. Both are grammatical, with different meanings. Do not call 不比 an invalid negative of 比.

■ Try it with help closed

One friend is 170 cm tall and another is 180 cm tall. 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: 我没有他高。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 不比他高 means not taller, which permits equality; 没有他高 expresses a lower level.
- Both are grammatical, with different meanings. Do not call 不比 an invalid negative of 比.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

■ One person asks another to act

- A teacher politely asks a visitor to come inside.
- 老师请他进来。 – The visitor is the person expected to enter.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do). 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.

妈妈让我学钢琴。

mā ma ràng wǒ xué gāng qín

Word guide: 妈妈 – mom; 让 – let; 我 – me; 学 – learn; 钢琴 – piano.

■ Read examples in context

请他进来。

qǐng tā jìn lái

Word guide: 请 – please; 他 – him; 进来 – come in.

- In the opening example, 老师请他进来。: The visitor is the person expected to enter.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The person after 请 is also the understood subject of 进来.
- 让 can allow or cause, while 使 can have a non-human cause, as in 这件事使我高兴; these verbs are not interchangeable in every context.

■ Use the distinction

- The visitor is the person expected to enter.
- The person after 请 is also the understood subject of 进来. 让 can allow or cause, while 使 can have a non-human cause, as in 这件事使我高兴; these verbs are not interchangeable in every context.

■ Try it with help closed

A teacher politely asks a visitor to come inside. 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: 老师请他进来。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The person after 请 is also the understood subject of 进来.
- 让 can allow or cause, while 使 can have a non-human cause, as in 这件事使我高兴; these verbs are not interchangeable in every context.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

经过 (after going through)

■ A discussion leads to a decision

- A group decides on a plan after discussing alternatives.
- **经过讨论，我们决定采用这个方案。** – 经过 presents the discussion as the process preceding the decision.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **经过 (after going through)**. 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.

经过三年的努力，他成功了。

jīng guò sān nián de nǔ lì tā chéng gōng le

Word guide: 经过 – after; 三 – three; 年 – year; 努力 – effort; 他 – he; 成功 – succeed.

■ Read examples in context

经过讨论，我们决定了。

jīng guò tāo lùn wǒ men jué dìng le

Word guide: 经过 – after; 讨论 – discussion; 我们 – we; 决定 – decide.

- In the opening example, **经过讨论，我们决定采用这个方案。**: 经过 presents the discussion as the process preceding the decision.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The process can be brief; it need not be years of effort.
- 经过 also means pass through, as in 经过车站. Check whether a process or a physical route is being described.

■ Use the distinction

- 经过 presents the discussion as the process preceding the decision.
- The process can be brief; it need not be years of effort. 经过 also means pass through, as in 经过车站. Check whether a process or a physical route is being described.

■ Try it with help closed

A group decides on a plan after discussing alternatives. 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: 经过讨论，我们决定采用这个方案。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The process can be brief; it need not be years of effort.
- 经过 also means pass through, as in 经过车站. Check whether a process or a physical route is being described.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.