

Comparison Patterns

Ref Hsk3 Grammar

跟…比 (起来) —”compared with”

To lead with a comparison, open with 跟 A 比 (起来), then comment on B —”compared with A, B is ….” It sets the yardstick first, then makes the point. (跟 和 here; 跟 is slightly more common.) B can also start the sentence.

Structure: 跟 + A + 比 (起来) , B + Comment

{zh: 跟 |gēn|compared with / 上海 |Shàng hǎi|Shanghai / 比 |bǐ / , 我 |wǒ|my / 老家 |lǎo jiā|hometown / 的 |de / 物价 |wù jià|prices / 很 |hěn|very / 低 |dī|low / 。 }

Compared with Shanghai, prices in my hometown are very low.

{zh: 妹妹 |mèi mei|the younger sister / 跟 |gēn|compared with / 姐姐 |jiě jie|the elder / 比起来 |bǐ qǐ lái / 有点 |yǒu diǎn|a bit / 害羞 |hài xiū|shy / 。 }

Compared with her elder sister, the younger one is a bit shy.

Remember: 跟 A 比 = ”holding it up against A…” —the benchmark first, the verdict second. Note that unlike a bare 比 sentence, this framing *allows* 很 (物价很低), because it’s a comment, not a direct A-比-B.

Watch out

- For a plain ”A is more X than B,” the basic 比 is enough: A 比 B 高.

比…更 / 还 —”even more”

In a 比 comparison, drop 更 or 还 before the adjective to mean the first thing is **even more** so —often with a sly hint that ”(B is already very …, and A beats it).”

Structure: Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + 更 / 还 + Adjective

{zh: 上海 |Shàng hǎi|Shanghai / 比 |bǐ|than / 纽约 |Niǔ yuē|New York / 人口 |rén kǒu|population / 更 |gèng|even / 多 |duō|bigger / 。 }

Shanghai’s population is even bigger than New York’s.

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 比 |bǐ|than / 姚明 |Yáo Míng|Yao Ming / 还 |hái|even / 高 |gāo|taller / 。 }

He’s even taller than Yao Ming.

Remember: 更 / 还 = ”even more.” 还 especially smuggles in ”(and the other is already sky-high)” —比姚明还高 quietly admits Yao Ming is already a giant. Crucial rule: a 比 sentence **never** takes 很 / 非常—degree comes from 更 / 还 / 多了.

Watch out

- 比 + 很 is a classic mistake: say 比他高 or 比他更高, never 比他很高.

比…形容词 + 多了一”much more”

To stress a **big** gap, close a 比 comparison with **多了** (or 得多 / 很多) —”much more …”. 多了 also works on its own: 好多了 (“much better”).

Structure: Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + Adjective + 多了 / 得多 / 很多

{zh: 拼音 |pīn yīn|pinyin / 比 |bǐ|than / 汉字 |Hàn zì|characters / 容易 |róng yì|easy / 多了 |duō le|much / 。 }

Pinyin is much easier than characters.

{zh: 坐 |zuò|taking / 高铁 |gāo tiě|the bullet train / 比 |bǐ|than / 坐 |zuò|taking / 飞机 |fēi jī|the plane / 方便 |fāng biàn|convenient / 得多 |de duō|much more / 。 }

The bullet train is much more convenient than flying.

Remember: size the gap at the end: **big gap** → 多了 / 得多 / 很多; **small gap** → 一点 (容易一点, “a little easier”). And, again, never 很 / 非常 inside a 比 sentence.

Watch out

- 多了 / 得多 / 很多 all sit *after* the adjective: 高多了, 高得多—never 多了高.

A + 有 + B + 形容词 + 吗? —”as …as?”

有 can do more than “have” —in a comparison it means “as …as”: “A 有 B + Adj” = “A is as [Adj] as B.” It lives mostly in **questions**, where B is the benchmark you’re measuring against, often with 这么 / 那么.

Structure: A + 有 + B + (这么 / 那么) + Adjective + 吗?

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 有 |yǒu|as / 我 |wǒ|me / 帅 |shuài|handsome / 吗 |ma / ? }

Is he as handsome as me?

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 有 |yǒu|as / 姚明 |Yáo Míng|Yao Ming / 那么 |nà me|that / 高 |gāo|tall / 吗 |ma / ? }

Is he really as tall as Yao Ming?

Remember: 有 = “reaches as far as” (as …as); 没有 = “falls short of” (not as …as). The question 有…吗? asks “does A measure up to B?”; the answer is 有 / 没有 (没有你帅, “not as handsome as you”).

Watch out

- Used mainly in **questions and negatives**, not plain statements. For a plain statement use 跟…一样 (“the same as”) or 比 (“more than”).