

Comparison Patterns

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.

跟 ... 比 (起来) (compared with ...)

■ A comparison needs a named baseline

- You compare this year's summer with last year's.
- 跟去年比，今年更热。** – 去年 is the baseline; 今年 is the period being evaluated.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **跟 ... 比 (起来) (compared with ...)**. 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.

跟去年比，今年更热。

gēn qù nián bǐ jīn nián gèng rè

Word guide: 跟 – with; 去年 – last year; 比 – compare; 今年 – this year; 更 – even more; 热 – hot.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **跟去年比，今年更热。**: 去年 is the baseline; 今年 is the period being evaluated.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 跟去年比起来 also works.
- A changed baseline can change the claim; hotter than last year does not mean hotter than every year on record.

■ Use the distinction

- 去年 is the baseline; 今年 is the period being evaluated.
- 跟去年比起来 also works. A changed baseline can change the claim; hotter than last year does not mean hotter than every year on record.

■ Try it with help closed

You compare this year's summer with last year's. 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: 跟去年比，今年更热。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 跟去年比起来 also works.
- A changed baseline can change the claim; hotter than last year does not mean hotter than every year on record.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

比 ... 更 / 还 (even more than)

■ A comparison does not set an absolute height

- Two short children differ in height.
- 他比我更高。** – The other child is taller relative to the speaker.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **比 ... 更 / 还 (even more than)**. 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.

他比我更高。

tā bǐ wǒ gèng gāo

Word guide: 他 – he; 比 – than; 我 – me; 更 – even more; 高 – tall.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **他比我更高。**: The other child is taller relative to the speaker.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 更 can strengthen the comparison without proving that either child is tall against an adult standard.
- An ordinary 比 comparison uses 高, 更高 or 还高 rather than 比我很高.

■ Use the distinction

- The other child is taller relative to the speaker.
- 更 can strengthen the comparison without proving that either child is tall against an adult standard. An ordinary 比 comparison uses 高, 更高 or 还高 rather than 比我很高.

■ Try it with help closed

Two short children differ in height. 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: 他比我更高。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 更 can strengthen the comparison without proving that either child is tall against an adult standard.
- An ordinary 比 comparison uses 高, 更高 or 还高 rather than 比我很高.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

比 ... Adj + 多了 (much more than)

■ A large gap differs from a precise measurement

- An older child is much taller than a younger child.
- 他比我高多了。 – 多了 presents the height difference as large.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 比 ... Adj + 多了 (much more than). 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.

他比我高多了。

tā bǐ wǒ gāo duō le

Word guide: 他 – he; 比 – than; 我 – me; 高 – tall; 多了 – much more.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 他比我高多了。: 多了 presents the height difference as large.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 高多了 does not state a precise number of centimetres.
- 高一点 describes a smaller gap; 高十厘米 supplies a numerical difference.

■ Use the distinction

- 多了 presents the height difference as large.
- 高多了 does not state a precise number of centimetres. 高一点 describes a smaller gap; 高十厘米 supplies a numerical difference.

■ Try it with help closed

An older child is much taller than a younger child. 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: 他比我高多了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 高多了 does not state a precise number of centimetres.
- 高一点 describes a smaller gap; 高十厘米 supplies a numerical difference.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj (as ... as)

■ Ask whether a level is reached

- You want to know whether a child's height reaches an older sibling's height.
- 你有他高吗? – The question asks about reaching the comparison level.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj (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.

你有他高吗?

nǐ yǒu tā gāo ma

Word guide: 你 – you; 有 – as ... as; 他 – him; 高 – tall.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 你有他高吗? : The question asks about reaching the comparison level.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The question itself does not assert equality.
- An answer such as 没有 confirms a lower height; 有 in this comparison differs from 有一本书, where it expresses possession.

■ Use the distinction

- The question asks about reaching the comparison level.
- The question itself does not assert equality. An answer such as 没有 confirms a lower height; 有 in this comparison differs from 有一本书, where it expresses possession.

■ Try it with help closed

You want to know whether a child's height reaches an older sibling's height. 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: 你有他高吗?

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The question itself does not assert equality.
- An answer such as 没有 confirms a lower height; 有 in this comparison differs from 有一本书, where it expresses possession.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.