

Adjectives

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

全 + 名词 — “the whole, entire”

全 in front of a noun scoops up “the whole, entire” thing in one sweep. It bonds to a small set of “whole-able” nouns 一身 (body), 家 (family), 国 (country), 世界 (world), 校 (school), 年 (year) —and calls for a 都 in the predicate. The one rule to burn in: **全 takes no 的**.

Structure: 全 + Noun + 都 + Predicate

{zh: 我们 |wǒ men|our / 全家 |quán jiā|whole family / 都 |dōu|all / 去过 |qù guo|have been to / 北京 |Běi jīng|Beijing / 。 }

Our whole family has been to Beijing.

{zh: 这个 |zhè ge|this / 地方 |dì fang|place / 全年 |quán nián|all year / 都 |dōu / 很 |hěn|very / 热 |rè|hot / 。 }

This place is hot all year round.

Remember: 全 = the whole thing in one sweep —and never 的 (全家 , 全的家)。 It almost always sends a 都 downstream to echo the “all.”

Watch out

- It attaches only to “whole” nouns (身, 家, 国, 校, 年…).
- Advanced flip: 全都不去 = “none go at all”; 不全都去 = “not all go” —where 不 sits changes everything.

形容词 + 死了 — “...to death, extremely”

死了 after an adjective cranks it to the limit —“...to death, extremely.” It’s the exact match of English “scared to death,” “bored to death”: vivid, casual, and slanted toward unpleasant feelings. The subject is optional.

Structure: (Subject +) Adjective + 死了

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I’m / 饿 |è|hungry / 死了 |sǐ le|to death / ! }

I’m starving!

{zh: 今天 |jīn tiān|today / 累 |lè|tired / 死了 |sǐ le|to death / ! }

I’m exhausted today!

{zh: 这件 |zhè jiàn|this / 衣服 |yī fu|outfit / 丑 |chǒu|ugly / 死了 |sǐ le|to death / 。 }

This outfit is hideous.

Remember: 死了 = English "...to death" (累死了 = "dead tired"). It's the drama-queen cousin of 极了—louder, more informal, mostly for misery (累, 饿, 热, 丑)—and it attaches **bare**, no 得.

Watch out

- Reach for it when the feeling is bad and you want to exaggerate; for neutral praise, 极了 or 得很 fit better.