

Sentence Patterns

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

并不 / 并没—emphatic negation

并不 in front of a negative **pushes back against an expectation** —“(it’s) actually *not*, contrary to what you’d think.” Because it counters an assumption, it’s the go-to for disagreeing or correcting. It only pairs with 不 or 没.

Structure: Subject + 并不 / 并没 + Verb / Adjective

{zh: 在 |zài|in / 中国 |Zhōng guó|China / 创业 |chuàng yè|starting a business / 并不 |bìng|actually / 不 |bù|not / 容易 |róng yì|easy / 。 }

Starting a business in China actually isn't easy.

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 并不 |bìng|actually / 没 |méi|didn't / 说过 |shuō guo|say / 这 |zhè|this / 句 |jù / 话 |huà / 。 }

I never actually said that.

Remember: 并不 / 并没 = “actually NOT —despite what you assume.” Use it whenever you’re correcting a wrong impression: “you think it’s easy? 并不.” It’s a firm, slightly defensive negative.

Watch out

- It only attaches to 不 or 没 (并不, 并没) —never to a bare verb on its own.