

Adjectives

HSK 5 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.

Adj + 得不得了 (extremely)

■ Good news prompts a strong reaction

- A student has won a place on a team and is delighted.
- 她高兴得不得了。 – The speaker describes very strong happiness.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Adj + 得不得了 (extremely)**. 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.

他高兴得不得了。

tā gāo xìng de bù dé liǎo

Word guide: 他 – he; 高兴 – happy; 得不得了 – extremely.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 她高兴得不得了。: The speaker describes very strong happiness.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The intensifier follows the adjective.
- It is expressive speech, not a measured level of emotion.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker describes very strong happiness.
- The intensifier follows the adjective. It is expressive speech, not a measured level of emotion.

■ Try it with help closed

A student has won a place on a team and is delighted. 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: 她高兴得不得了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The intensifier follows the adjective.
- It is expressive speech, not a measured level of emotion.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Adj + 得很 (very)

■ Describe a surprisingly quiet room

- You enter a room that is much quieter than expected.
- 这儿安静得很。 – 得很 intensifies the adjective after it.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Adj + 得很 (very)**. Locate it in the original inter-linear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

这儿安静得很。

zhèr ān jìng de hěn

Word guide: 这儿 – here; 安静 – quiet; 得很 – very.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 这儿安静得很。: 得很 intensifies the adjective after it.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 很安静 and 安静得很 can describe the same room.
- Emphasis depends on delivery; there is no fixed numerical difference.

■ Use the distinction

- 得很 intensifies the adjective after it.
- 很安静 and 安静得很 can describe the same room. Emphasis depends on delivery; there is no fixed numerical difference.

■ Try it with help closed

You enter a room that is much quieter than expected. 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: 这儿安静得很。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 很安静 and 安静得很 can describe the same room.
- Emphasis depends on delivery; there is no fixed numerical difference.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Adj + 了 + (一) 点儿 (a bit too)

■ A size is beyond what you wanted

- A shirt fits loosely and you would prefer a smaller one.
- 这件衣服大了点儿。 – The shirt is a little too big for the intended fit.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Adj + 了 + (一) 点儿 (a bit too)**. 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.

这件衣服大了点儿。

zhè jiàn yī fu dà le diǎnr

Word guide: 这 – this; 件 – (measure word); 衣服 – clothes; 大 – big; 点儿 – a bit.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 这件衣服大了点儿。: The shirt is a little too big for the intended fit.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The judgment depends on the desired size.
- 有点大 can express a similar concern, without the same form.

■ Use the distinction

- The shirt is a little too big for the intended fit.
- The judgment depends on the desired size. 有点大 can express a similar concern, without the same form.

■ Try it with help closed

A shirt fits loosely and you would prefer a smaller one. 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: 这件衣服大了点儿。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The judgment depends on the desired size.
- 有点大 can express a similar concern, without the same form.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

有的是 + Noun (have plenty of)

■ Reassure someone about a shortage

- A friend worries that you lack time, but the afternoon is free.
- 我们有的是时间。 – The speaker stresses that there is plenty of time.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 有的是 + Noun (have plenty of). 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.

我们有的是时间。

wǒ men yǒu de shí shí jiān

Word guide: 我们 – we; 有的是 – have plenty of; 时间 – time.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 我们有的是时间。: The speaker stresses that there is plenty of time.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 有的是 reassures or emphasises abundance.
- It does not give an exact quantity or promise that time is unlimited.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker stresses that there is plenty of time.
- 有的是 reassures or emphasises abundance. It does not give an exact quantity or promise that time is unlimited.

■ Try it with help closed

A friend worries that you lack time, but the afternoon is free. 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: 我们有的是时间。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 有的是 reassures or emphasises abundance.
- It does not give an exact quantity or promise that time is unlimited.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.