

Verb phrases

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

难免 + 动词—”hard to avoid, bound to”

难免 says something is **practically unavoidable** —”hard to avoid, inevitably, bound to (happen).” The outcome is usually negative-but-natural, and it often takes 会.

Structure: (Subject +) 难免 + (会) + Verb Phrase

{zh: 刚 |gāng|when you first / 开始 |kāi shǐ|start / 说 |shuō|speaking / 外语 |wài yǔ|a foreign language / , 难免 |nán miǎn|inevitably / 会 |huì / 有 |yǒu|have / 误会 |wù huì|misunderstandings / 。 }

Starting out in a foreign language, misunderstandings are inevitable.

{zh: 年轻人 |nián qīng rén|young people / 难免 |nán miǎn|are bound to / 会 |huì / 遇到 |yù dào|hit / 挫折 |cuò zhé|setbacks / 。 }

Young people are bound to face setbacks.

Remember: 难免 = 难 (hard) + 免 (to avoid) = ”hard to avoid, bound to.” It carries a forgiving shrug —the (usually unwanted) outcome is only natural —and often takes a 会 (难免会有误会).

Watch out

- It’s for the *naturally inevitable*, with an understanding tone —not a flat ”must”.

受 + 动词—passive with 受

受 before a (usually two-syllable) verb forms a **passive** —”be …ed, receive, suffer” (a role like 被). It’s common in formal phrasing and set words.

Structure: 受 + (Agent) + Verb

{zh: 张 |Zhāng|Teacher Zhang’s / 老师 |lǎo shī / 的 |de / 课 |kè|classes / 很 |hěn|very / 受 |shòu|are / 学生 |xué shēng|by students / 欢迎 |huān yíng|welcomed / 。 }

Teacher Zhang’s classes are very popular with students.

{zh: 这次 |zhè cì|this time / 他 |tā|he / 受 |shòu|got / 了 |le / 伤 |shāng|injured / 。 }

He got injured this time.

Remember: 受 = ”receive / suffer” (a passive) —burn in the set words: 受欢迎 (”be welcomed / popular”), 受到影响 (”be affected”), 受伤 (”get hurt”), 受不了 (”can’t stand it”).

Watch out

- It mostly lives in fixed two-syllable combos —learn them as units rather than building 受 freely.