

HSK 6 Grammar

English edition

Contents

1	Adverbs	3
1.1	动词 + 得 + 倒 + 形容词—the rebuking 倒	3
1.2	很是 + 形容词—“very, quite” (literary)	3
1.3	足足 + 数量—“a full, all of”	4
1.4	一再 + 动词—“again and again, repeatedly”	4
1.5	凡是 + 名词 + 都 / 就 / 一律—“all, every (no exception)”	4
1.6	向来 (都) + 动词—“always, all along”	5
1.7	果然—“sure enough, as expected”	5
1.8	似乎—“it seems, as if”	6
1.9	偏偏—“contrary to expectation, of all things”	6
1.10	再不 , 也 —“even the most . . . , still”	7
1.11	一律—“uniformly, without exception”	7
1.12	无非 (是) —“nothing but, merely”	8
1.13	一向—“always, all along”	8
1.14	到时候—“when the time comes”	8
1.15	何必—“why bother, there’s no need”	9
2	Auxiliary Words	10
2.1	Sentence + 来着—“(was just) . . . , what was it again?”	10
3	Conjunctions	11
3.1	以免 + 动词短语—“so as to avoid, lest”	11
3.2	以及—“as well as, and”	11
3.3	总之—“in short, in a word”	12
3.4	则—“whereas, while (contrast)”	12
4	Nouns	13
4.1	本 + 名词	

7.7	与其 A , 不如 B —"rather than A, better to B"	20
7.8	跟 + 名词 + 似的—"just like, as if"	21
7.9	不愧是 + 名词—"truly worthy of, lives up to"	21
7.10	由 + Person + 做主—"be in charge, decide"	22
7.11	非得 + Action + 不可 / 不行 / 不成—"must, have to"	22
7.12	一来……, 二来……—"firstly ..., secondly ..."	23
8	Verbs	24
8.1	谅 + Subject + Verb Phrase —"I bet (you wouldn't dare)"	24
9	Verb phrases	25
9.1	Subject + 不屑 (于) + Verb —"won't stoop to, disdain to"	25
9.2	Action + 以便 (+ 能) + Outcome —"so that, in order to"	25
10	"If" Statements	26
10.1	假使……, 就……—"if ... then ..."	26
11	Cause/Effect Statements	27
11.1	因 (为) …… , 而……—"because ..., (one) thereby ..."	27
12	Sentence Patterns	28
12.1	借 + Noun + 之名—"in the name of, under the guise of"	28
12.2	通过 + Action , 使 + Result —"through ..., cause ..."	28
12.3	以 + Body + 的名义—"in the name of, on behalf of"	29
12.4	势必—"inevitably, be bound to"	29
12.5	倘若 + Condition , (就 / 便) ……—"if, supposing"	30
12.6	所 + Verb + 的—the literary 所 structure	30
13	Let alone	31
13.1	连……都 (也) …… , 何况……—"even ..., let alone ..."	31
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1 Adverbs

1.1 动词 + 得 + 倒 + 形容词—the rebuking 倒

Tucked inside a complement, 倒 turns the comment **sour** —“easy for *you* to say.” It implies the opposite of reality and is aimed mostly at the listener, with 说 / 想.

Structure: Subject + Verb + 得 + 倒 + Adjective

{zh: 说 |shuō|saying it / 得 |de / 倒 |dào|easy enough / 容易 |róng yì / , 那 |nà|then / 你 |nǐ|you / 来 |lái|do it / ! }

Easy for you to say—you do it then!

{zh: 你 |nǐ|you / 想 |xiǎng|wish / 得 |de / 倒 |dào|nicely / 美 |měi / ! 不 |bù|don't / 工
作 |gōng zuò|work / 还 |hái|yet / 想 |xiǎng|want / 拿 |ná|to be paid / 工资 |gōng zī / ?
}

You wish! Get paid without working?

Remember: 得 + 倒 = a sarcastic jab —“说得倒容易” = “easy enough for you to say.” Reach for it to push back at the other person’s 说 / 想. (你想得倒美! = “you wish!”)

Watch out

- This 倒 (dào, “but / contrary”) rebukes; don’t confuse it with 倒 (dǎo, “fall over”).

1.2 很是 + 形容词—“very, quite” (literary)

很是 is a dressed-up 很—the same “very,” but with a formal, literary flavour you’ll meet in writing rather than everyday speech. The extra 是 makes the emphasis feel weightier.

Structure: Subject + 很是 + Adjective

{zh: 你 |nǐ|your / 的 |de / 表现 |biǎo xiàn|performance / 让 |ràng|made / 领导 |lǐng
导 |dǎo|the boss / 很是 |hěn shì|very / 满意 |mǎn yì|pleased / 。 }

Your performance pleased

1.3 足足 + 数量 — “a full, all of”

足足 stresses that an amount is **fully that much** — “a full, all of, every bit of.” It always pairs with a number, often with 有 or 等.

Structure: 足足 + Verb (+ Number) · Verb + 足足

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 等 |děng|waited / 了 |le / 她 |tā|for her / 足足 |zú zú|a full / 两个 |liǎng ge|two / 小时 |xiǎo shí|hours / 。 }

I waited a full two hours for her.

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 在 |zài|in / 中国 |Zhōng guó|China / 住 |zhù|lived / 了 |le / 足足 |zú zú|all of / 十年 |shí nián|ten years / 。 }

He lived in China for all of ten years.

Remember: 足足 = “a FULL, every bit of” (足 = “enough / full”) — it always rides a number and underlines that the amount is *large*: 足足两个小时 (“a *whole* two hours”), 足足十年 (“all of ten years”).

Watch out

- It needs a quantity — 足足 with no number to amplify is incomplete.

1.4 一再 + 动词 — “again and again, repeatedly”

一再 means doing something **insistently, again and again** — “repeatedly, time and again.” It precedes a two-syllable verb (often of speech or request), and can take 地.

Structure: Subject + 一再 + Verb

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 一再 |yí zài|again and again / 跟 |gēn / 你 |nǐ|you / 说 |shuō|told / , 出门 |chū mén|out and about / 要 |yào|to be / 小心 |xiǎo xīn|careful / 。 }

I've told you again and again to be careful when you're out.

{zh: 老师 |lǎo shī|the teacher

{zh: 凡是 |fán shì|all / 会员 |huì yuán|members / 都 |dōu / 有 |yǒu|get / 折扣 |zhé kòu|a discount / 。 }

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The forecast said rain, and sure enough it did.

Remember: 果然 = "sure enough, just as I foresaw" —it *confirms</*

- It always carries *annoyance* —things deliberately not going your way.

1.10 再不

1.12 无非 (是) —“nothing but, merely”

无非 plays a matter **down to its essentials** —“nothing more

{zh: 现在 |xiàn zài|now / 不 |bù|if you don't / 好好 |hǎo hǎo|properly / 准备 |zhǔn bèi|prepare / , 到时候 |dào shí hou|when the time comes / 肯定 |kěn

2 Auxiliary Words

2.1 Sentence + 来着—”(was just) …, what was it again?”

3 Conjunctions

3.1 以免 + 动词短语—“so as to avoid, lest”

3.3 总之—in short, in a word

总之 **sums up** what came

4 Nouns

4.1 本 + 名词—“this, one’s own”

5 Particles

5.1 是否 + 动词 / 形容词—“whether (or not)”

5.3 名词 + 之 + 名词—literary 的

之 is the **classical** / **written** equivalent

{zh: 不会 |bú huì|if you can't / 就 |jiù|then / 好好 |hǎo hǎo|just / 学 |xué|learn it / 呗 |bei / 。 }

6 Prepositions

6.1 鉴于 + Observation , Conclusion —”in light of, in view of”

7 Sentence patterns

7.1 岂不是 + Rhetorical Question — “wouldn’t that be …?”

7.3 兼——“concurrently, and also”

兼 means holding

{zh: 由此 |yóu cǐ|from this / 可见 |kě jiàn|it's clear / , 改革 |gǎi gé|reform / 是 |shì|is / 多么 |duō me|how / 必要 |bì

Rather than watch TV at home, better to go out for a walk.

{zh: 与其说 |yǔ qí shuō|more than /

Remember: 不愧是 = "nothing to be ashamed of = truly lives up to it" (愧 = "ashamed"). It *praises* — "no wonder he's a top teacher." Reserve it for **others**, never

Watch out

- The closing 不可 / 不行 / 不成 are interchangeable —keep one of them to seal the “no choice” frame.

8 Verbs

8.1 谅 + Subject + Verb Phrase — “I bet (you wouldn’t dare)”

9 Verb phrases

9.1 Subject + 不屑 (于) + Verb — “won’t stoop to

10 “If” Statements

10.1 假使……，就……—“if …then

11 Cause/Effect Statements

11.1 因 (为) ……，

12 Sentence Patterns

12.1 借 + Noun + 之名 — “in the name of, under the guise of”

12.3 以 + Body + 的名义 — “in the name of, on behalf of”

以…的名义

12.5 倘若 + Condition , (就 / 便) ……—“if, supposing”

13 Let alone

13.1 连……都(也)……, 何况……—”even …, let alone …

14 Comparing similar adverbs

14.1 按照 vs. 根据—“in accordance

Watch out

- You can't say 不得不不去—for "had to

- 却 can't lead the clause —她却…, never 她却…; 反而 is freer.

14.7 恢复 vs. 还原—“recover / restore” vs. “return to the original”

14.9 一度 vs. 一时—“at one time” vs. “for a (short) while”

15 Comparing similar nouns

15.1 彼此 vs. 对方—“

- 人家 can mean a coy "I / me" (人家不要嘛, "I don't want to") —别人 never can.