

Complex sentence patterns

HSK 5

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.

怪不得 (no wonder)

■ React to a newly discovered explanation

- You notice cold weather and then learn that it rained.
- 原来下雨了, 怪不得这么冷。 – The speaker treats the new information as explaining the cold.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 怪不得 (no wonder). 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.

原来下雨了, 怪不得这么冷。

yuán lái xià yǔ le guài bù dé zhè me lěng

Word guide: 原来 – so it turns out; 下雨 – rain; 怪不得 – no wonder; 这么 – so; 冷 – cold.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 原来下雨了, 怪不得这么冷。: The speaker treats the new information as explaining the cold.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 怪不得 and 难怪 often overlap.
- The expression organises a reaction rather than supplying independent evidence for the cause.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker treats the new information as explaining the cold.
- 怪不得 and 难怪 often overlap. The expression organises a reaction rather than supplying independent evidence for the cause.

■ Try it with help closed

You notice cold weather and then learn that it rained. 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: 原来下雨了，怪不得这么冷。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 怪不得 and 难怪 often overlap.
- The expression organises a reaction rather than supplying independent evidence for the cause.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.