

Verbs

Ref Hsk3 Grammar

— “looks, seems, appears”

(kànqǐlái) reports a snap **impression from what you can see** — “(it) looks / seems / appears” — and comes right before the description. Best of all, the whole sense-family works the same way: swap in (“sounds”), (“tastes”), (“feels to use”) and you’ve got a free set of patterns.

Structure: Subject + + Adjective

{zh: |dàn gāo|the cake / |kàn qǐ lái|looks / |hěn|very / |hǎo chī|tasty / 。 }

The cake looks delicious.

{zh: |tā|he / |kàn qǐ lái|looks / |hěn|very / |lèi|tired / 。 }

He looks tired.

Remember: sense verb + = “comes across as ...”. (looks), (sounds), (tastes), (handles) — learn the frame once, reuse it everywhere.

Watch out

- For an *inferred* “it seems” (a conclusion, not a look), reach for or instead.

() — “not as ... as” (comparison)

() is the flip side of : “A B + Adjective” means “A is **not as** [Adjective] **as** B.” Yes — it’s the very same as “not have,” moonlighting as a comparison word.

Structure: Noun 1 + () + Noun 2 + Adjective

{zh: |Xiǎo Zhāng|Xiao Zhang / |méi yǒu|not as / |Xiǎo Lǐ|Xiao Li / |gāo|tall / 。 }

Xiao Zhang isn’t as tall as Xiao Li.

{zh: |jīn tiān|today / |méi yǒu|not as / |zuó tiān|yesterday / |lěng|cold / 。 }

Today isn’t as cold as yesterday.

Remember: = “more than”; = “not as much as.” (“you’re taller than me”) flips to (“I’m not as tall as you”). Add for force: .

Watch out

- The adjective is bare — no : ✓, not .

/ / / — making someone do something

These **causative** verbs slot a **person** between the verb and what they end up doing — “make / let / ask / cause someone to ...” Pick by tone: is the everyday “make / let,” a colloquial “tell,” a polite “ask / invite,” and a formal, written “cause.”

Structure: Subject + / / / + Person + Predicate

{zh: |nǐ|you / |wèi shén me|why / |bù|not / |ràng|let / |wǒ|me / |qù|go / ? }

Why won't you let me go?

{zh: |wǒ|I / |xiǎng|want / |qǐng|to ask / |nǐ|you / |bāng|do / |wǒ|me / |yí ge|a / |máng|favour / 。 }

I'd like to ask you a favour.

Remember: all four mean “get someone to do something,” sorted by politeness: (formal) → (neutral, “make/let”) → (casual, “tell”) → (polite, “ask/invite”). is your safe default in speech.

Watch out

- covers both “make” and “let” — context decides which.

— “pass by / after going through”

(jīngguò) wears two hats. As a **verb** it means “pass by / through (a place)”; as a **preposition** it sets up “after going through (a process or time), ...” before you state the result.

Structure: + Place (verb) · + Process / Time , Result

{zh: |wǒ|I / |měi tiān|every day / |shàng bān|to work / |dōu / |jīng guò|pass by / |zhè lǐ|here / 。 }

I pass by here every day on my way to work.

{zh: |jīng guò|after / |nǚ lì|hard work / , |tā|she / |kǎo shàng|got into / |le / |dà xué|university / 。 }

Through hard work, she got into university.

Remember: always means “go through” — through a *place* (the verb) or through a *process* (the preposition). Compare (“by means of, via”): rides a journey/process, rides a method/agent.

Watch out

- As a preposition it opens the sentence: + process, then the result.