

Comparison Patterns

Ref Hsk3 Grammar

... () — “compared with”

To **lead with** a comparison, open with **A** (), then comment on B — “compared with A, B is ...” It sets the yardstick first, then makes the point. (≈ here; is slightly more common.) B can also start the sentence.

Structure: + A + () , B + Comment

{zh: |gēn|compared with / |Shàng hǎi|Shanghai / |bǐ / , |wǒ|my / |lǎo jiā|hometown / |de / |wù jià|prices / |hěn|very / |dī|low / 。 }

Compared with Shanghai, prices in my hometown are very low.

{zh: |mèi mei|the younger sister / |gēn|compared with / |jiě jie|the elder / |bǐ qǐ lái / |yǒu diǎn|a bit / |hài xiū|shy / 。 }

Compared with her elder sister, the younger one is a bit shy.

Remember: A = “**holding it up against A...**” — the benchmark first, the verdict second. Note that unlike a bare sentence, this framing *allows* (), because it’s a comment, not a direct A- B.

Watch out

- For a plain “A is more X than B,” the basic is enough: A B .

... / — “even more”

In a comparison, drop or before the adjective to mean the first thing is **even more** so — often with a sly hint that “(B is already very ..., and A beats it).”

Structure: Noun 1 + + Noun 2 + / + Adjective

{zh: |Shàng hǎi|Shanghai / |bǐ|than / |Niǔ yuē|New York / |rén kǒu|population / |gèng|even / |duō|bigger / 。 }

Shanghai’s population is even bigger than New York’s.

{zh: |tā|he / |bǐ|than / |Yáo Míng|Yao Ming / |hái|even / |gāo|taller / 。 }

He’s even taller than Yao Ming.

Remember: / = “**even more.**” especially smuggles in “(and the other is already sky-high)” — quietly admits Yao Ming is already a giant. Crucial rule: a sentence **never** takes / — degree comes from / / .

Watch out

- + is a classic mistake: say or , never .

... + — “much more”

To stress a **big** gap, close a comparison with (or /) — “much more ...” also works on its own: (“much better”).

Structure: Noun 1 + + Noun 2 + Adjective + / /

{zh: |pīn yīn|pinyin / |bǐ|than / |Hàn zì|characters / |róng yì|easy / |duō le|much / 。 }

Pinyin is much easier than characters.

{zh: |zuò|taking / |gāo tiě|the bullet train / |bǐ|than / |zuò|taking / |fēi jī|the plane / |fāng biàn|convenient / |de duō|much more / 。 }

The bullet train is much more convenient than flying.

Remember: size the gap at the **end**: **big gap** → / / ; **small gap** → (, “a little easier”). And, again, never / inside a sentence.

Watch out

- / / all sit *after* the adjective: , — never .

A + + B + + ? — “as ... as?”

can do more than “have” — in a comparison it means “**as ... as**”: “A B + Adj” = “A is as [Adj] as B.” It lives mostly in **questions**, where B is the benchmark you’re measuring against, often with / .

Structure: A + + B + (/) + Adjective + ?

{zh: |tā|he / |yǒu|as / |wǒ|me / |shuài|handsome / |ma / ? }

Is he as handsome as me?

{zh: |tā|he / |yǒu|as / |Yáo Míng|Yao Ming / |nà me|that / |gāo|tall / |ma / ? }

Is he really as tall as Yao Ming?

Remember: = “reaches as far as” (as ... as); = “falls short of” (not as ... as). The question ... ? asks “does A measure up to B?”; the answer is / (, “not as handsome as you”).

Watch out

- Used mainly in **questions and negatives**, not plain statements. For a plain statement use ... (“the same as”) or (“more than”).