Verbs

HSK 3 Grammar

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

看起来 (looks / seems)

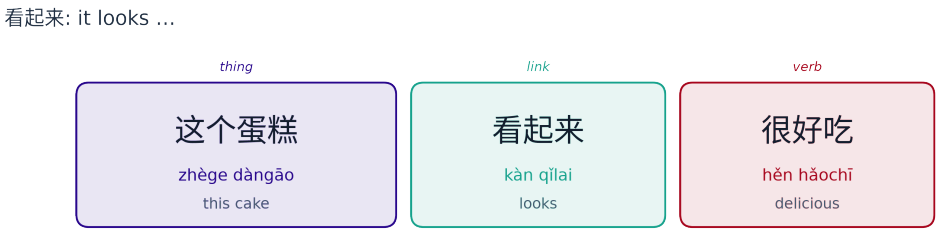
Judging by appearance

- A cake in the bakery window has thick cream and fresh strawberries. You haven't tasted it yet.
- **这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。** – "This cake looks delicious."

Subject + 看起来 + Adjective

- **看起来** = "looks, seems (from what I can see)". It goes before the description, and 很 often follows it.
- It reports an impression, not a fact you have checked.

他看起来很累。
tā kàn qǐ lái hěn lèi
Word guide: 他 – he; 看起来 – looks; 很 – very; 累 – tired.



Other senses: 听起来, 吃起来, 用起来

- Sound: **这个主意听起来不错。** – "That idea sounds good."
- Taste and use: 这个菜吃起来有点辣 – "This dish tastes a bit spicy." 这个手机用起来很方便 – "This phone is easy to use."

这个主意听起来不错。
zhè ge zhǔ yi tīng qǐ lái bú cuò
Word guide: 这个 – this; 主意 – idea; 听起来 – sounds; 不错 – good.

An impression from the senses

- 看起来 gives what you see, so it does not prove the cake tastes good; tasting is 吃起来.
- For a guess that is not based on looks (he seems to have left), use 好像: 他好像走了.

看起来 versus 看上去 and 好像

- 看上去 means almost the same as 看起来 and is common for people's appearance: 她看上去很年轻.
- 好像 is a guess or a comparison: **他好像生病了。** – "He seems to be ill (I suspect)."

他好像生病了。
tā hǎo xiàng shēng bìng le
Word guide: 他 – he; 好像 – seems; 生病 – be ill.

Recap

- **看起来 + Adj** = looks ...; 听起来 = sounds ...; 吃起来 = tastes ...; 用起来 = is ... to use.
- These give a first impression from one sense. A general guess uses 好像.

Practise this pattern step by step.

没 (有) comparisons (not as ... as)

Not as tall as his brother

- Two brothers stand back to back. The younger one is shorter, and he does not like it.
- **弟弟没有哥哥高。** – "The younger brother isn't as tall as the older one."

A + 没 (有) + B + Adjective

- **A 没有 B + Adj** = "A is not as Adj as B". It is the usual negative of a 比 comparison.
- The adjective stays bare: 没有他高, 没有昨天冷.

今天没有昨天冷。
jīn tiān méi yǒu zuó tiān lěng
Word guide: 今天 – today; 没有 – not as; 昨天 – yesterday; 冷 – cold.



Add 那么 or 这么 for force

- **我的中文没有你那么好。** – "My Chinese isn't as good as yours."
- 这么 for something here: 那个城市没有北京这么大。– "That city isn't as big as Beijing (here)."

我的中文没有你那么好。
wǒ de Zhōng wén méi yǒu nǐ nà me hǎo
Word guide: 我 – my; 中文 – Chinese; 没有 – not as; 你 – you; 那么 – so; 好 – good.

No 很, and 没有 not 不

- No 很 or 非常 before the adjective: 没有他高, not 没有他很高.
- 不比 is a different idea ("not more … than", often in an argument); the plain negative of 比 is 没有.

比 versus 没有

- Positive: **哥哥比弟弟高。** – "The older brother is taller than the younger."
- Negative: **弟弟没有哥哥高。** Flip the order, use 没有, keep the same adjective.

哥哥比弟弟高。
gē ge bǐ dì di gāo
Word guide: 哥哥 – older brother; 比 – than; 弟弟 – younger brother; 高 – tall.

Recap

- **A 没有 B (那么) + Adj** = A is not as Adj as B.
- It is the negative of A 比 B + Adj. Bare adjective, no 很.

Practise this pattern step by step.

让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

Who decides?

- You want to go out tonight, but your parents have other ideas.
- **妈妈不让我晚上出去。** – "Mum won't let me go out in the evening."

A + 让 / 叫 / 请 + B + Verb

- **A 让 B + Verb**: A lets or makes B do something. **A 叫 B + Verb**: A tells B to do it (spoken). **A 请 B + Verb**: A politely invites or asks B.
- The person B is both the object of 让 and the doer of the next verb.

老师让我们写作业。
lǎo shī ràng wǒ men xiě zuò yè
Word guide: 老师 – the teacher; 让 – made; 我们 – us; 写 – write; 作业 – homework.



Telling, inviting, causing

- Telling: **妈妈叫我去买菜。** – "Mum told me to go and buy vegetables."
- Inviting: **我想请你吃饭。** – "I'd like to treat you to a meal." Causing a feeling: **这个消息让我很高兴。** – "This news made me very happy."

这个消息让我很高兴。
zhè ge xiāo xi ràng wǒ hěn gāo xìng
Word guide: 这个 – this; 消息 – news; 让 – made; 我 – me; 很 – very; 高兴 – happy.

Order and negation

- Keep the order A + 让 + B + Verb: 妈妈让我去, not 妈妈让去我.
- Negate the first verb to refuse permission: 不让我去 = "won't let me go"; 让我不去 changes the meaning to "tell me not to go".

使 for formal causes

- **使** = "to cause, make", mainly in writing, with an abstract cause and a change of state: 运动使人健康。– "Exercise makes people healthy."
- In speech, 让 covers most of this: 运动让人很健康.

运动使人健康。
yùn dòng shǐ rén jiàn kāng
Word guide: 运动 – exercise; 使 – makes; 人 – people; 健康 – healthy.

Recap

- **A 让/叫/请 B + Verb**: 让 = let/make, 叫 = tell (spoken), 请 = invite/ask politely.
- 让 + person + feeling = make someone feel; 使 is the formal written "cause". Refuse with 不让.

Practise this pattern step by step.

经过 (after going through)

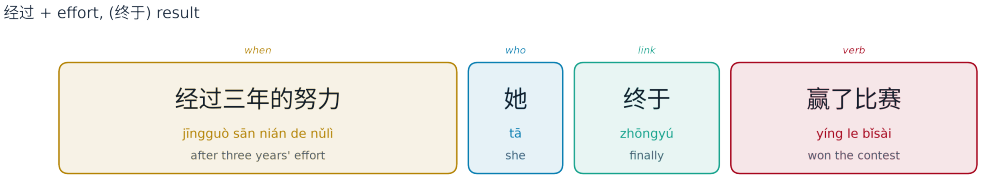
After three years of training

- A runner who trained every morning for three years has just won her first marathon.
- **经过三年的努力，她终于赢了比赛。** – "After three years of hard work, she finally won the race."

经过 + process, result

- **经过 + a process (effort, discussion, time)**, then the result in the second clause.
- The process is usually a noun phrase: 经过一年的学习, 经过大家的讨论, 经过医生的检查.

经过大家的讨论，我们决定去上海。
jīng guò dà jiā de tǎo lùn wǒ men jué dìng qù Shàng hǎi
Word guide: 经过 – after; 大家 – everyone's; 讨论 – discussion; 我们 – we; 决定 – decided; 去 – go to; 上海 – Shanghai.



经过 as "pass by, go through"

- It is also a plain verb of movement: **我每天上班都经过这个公园。** – "I pass this park every day on the way to work."
- **这趟车经过北京吗?** – "Does this train go through Beijing?"

我每天经过这个公园。
wǒ měi tiān jīng guò zhè ge gōng yuán
Word guide: 我 – I; 每天 – every day; 经过 – pass; 这个 – this; 公园 – park.

A process before a result

- 经过 needs a process that leads somewhere; for a simple "after (a time)", use 以后: 下课以后, not 经过下课.
- Put 经过 + process first and the result second: 经过检查，医生说没问题.

经过 versus 通过

- 经过 stresses going through the process: 经过多次试验 – "after many experiments".
- 通过 stresses the means used to reach the goal: 通过朋友，我找到了工作 – "Through a friend, I found a job."

通过朋友，我找到了工作。
tōng guò péng you wǒ zhǎo dào le gōng zuò
Word guide: 通过 – through; 朋友 – a friend; 我 – I; 找到 – found; 工作 – a job.

Recap

- **经过 + process, result** = after going through …, …
- As a verb, 经过 = pass by / go through a place. For a plain "after", use 以后; for "by means of", 通过.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

看起来 (looks / seems)

0301.1 Complete: "You look very happy today." 你今天 …… 很高兴。

0301.2 Your friend describes a plan on the phone. You say: "That sounds interesting." Which fits?

- A. 听起来很有意思。
- B. 用起来很有意思。
- C. 看起来很有意思。
- D. 吃起来很有意思。

0301.3 Match each sense verb to its meaning.

- 1. 看起来
- 1. 听起来
- 1. 吃起来
- 1. 用起来
- A. tastes
- B. sounds
- C. is … to use
- D. looks

0301.4 Build: "This cake looks delicious."

Arrange all chunks: 很 / 好吃。/ 这个蛋糕 / 看起来

0301.5 A cake in the bakery window has thick cream and fresh strawberries. You haven't tasted it yet. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 没 (有) comparisons (not as ... as)

0401.1 Complete: "The subway isn't as fast as the high-speed train." 地铁 …… 高铁快。

0401.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 我没有忙他。
- B. 我没有他很忙。
- C. 我没有他那么忙。
- D. 我不有他忙。

0401.3 Build: "My Chinese isn't as good as yours."

Arrange all chunks: 你 / 那么好。/ 我的中文 / 没有

0401.4 哥哥比弟弟高 and 弟弟没有哥哥高 describe the same situation.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0401.5 Two brothers stand back to back. The younger one is shorter, and he does not like it. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

0302.1 Complete: "My dad doesn't let me play games." 爸爸不 …… 我玩游戏。

0302.2 You invite your teacher to dinner. Which verb is most polite? 我想 ___ 老师吃饭。

- A. 叫
- B. 使
- C. 让
- D. 请

0302.3 Build: "This news made me very happy."

Arrange all chunks: 让 / 我 / 很高兴。/ 这个消息

0302.4 妈妈不让我去 and 妈妈让我不去 mean exactly the same.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0302.5 You want to go out tonight, but your parents have other ideas. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 经过 (after going through)

0303.1 Complete: "After a check-up, the doctor said it was nothing serious." …… 检查，医生说没什么大问题。

0303.2 Which word fits? "After class, let's play basketball." 下课 _____，我们去打篮球吧。

- A. 终于
- B. 经过
- C. 通过
- D. 以后

0303.3 Build: "I pass this park every day."

Arrange all chunks: 每天 / 经过 / 这个公园。/ 我

0303.4 通过朋友，我找到了工作 stresses the means (a friend) rather than a long process.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0303.5 A runner who trained every morning for three years has just won her first marathon. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

Answers and explanations

■ 看起来 (looks / seems)

0301.1 看起来

看起来 + Adj reports how someone looks.

0301.2 A. 听起来很有意思。

You heard the plan, so 听起来.

0301.3 1–D: 看起来 = looks; 2–B: 听起来 = sounds; 3–A: 吃起来 = tastes; 4–C: 用起来 = is … to use

Sense verb + 起来 = comes across as … to that sense.

0301.4 这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。

Subject + 看起来 + 很 + Adj.

0301.5 One possible response: 这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 看起来 gives what you see, so it does not prove the cake tastes good; tasting is 吃起来.
- For a guess that is not based on looks (he seems to have left), use 好像: 他好像走了.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 没 (有) comparisons (not as … as)

0401.1 没有

A 没有 B + Adj = A is not as Adj as B.

0401.2 C. 我没有他那么忙。

我没有他那么忙 is right: A 没有 B (那么) + bare adjective. 很 cannot go before the adjective in a comparison, 不有 is never used, and the adjective must follow B.

0401.3 我的中文没有你那么好。

A + 没有 + B + 那么 + Adj.

0401.4 True.

Both say the older brother is taller.

0401.5 One possible response: 弟弟没有哥哥高。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- No 很 or 非常 before the adjective: 没有他高, not 没有他很高.
- 不比 is a different idea ("not more … than", often in an argument); the plain negative of 比 is 没有.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

0302.1 让

不让 + person + verb = not allow someone to do something.

0302.2 D. 请

请 is the polite "invite / treat".

0302.3 这个消息让我很高兴。

Cause + 让 + person + feeling.

0302.4 False.

不让我去 refuses permission; 让我不去 tells me not to go. The focus differs.

0302.5 One possible response: 妈妈不让我晚上出去。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Keep the order A + 让 + B + Verb: 妈妈让我去, not 妈妈让去我.
- Negate the first verb to refuse permission: 不让我去 = "won't let me go"; 让我不去 changes the meaning to "tell me not to go".
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 经过 (after going through)

0303.1 经过

经过 + process (the check-up), then the result.

0303.2 D. 以后

A simple point in time takes 以后; 经过 needs a process.

0303.3 我每天经过这个公园。

As a verb, 经过 takes the place as its object.

0303.4 True.

通过 = by means of; 经过 = after going through a process.

0303.5 One possible response: 经过三年的努力，她终于赢了比赛。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 经过 needs a process that leads somewhere; for a simple "after (a time)", use 以后: 下课以后, not 经过下课.
- Put 经过 + process first and the result second: 经过检查，医生说没问题.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.