Sentence Patterns

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.

一 … 也 / 都 … 不 / 没 (not even one)

Not a single yuan

- At the end of the month your wallet is completely empty.
- **我一块钱也没有了。** – "I don't have a single yuan left."

一 + MW + Noun + 也 / 都 + 不 / 没

- **一 + measure word + noun + 也/都 + 没/不 + verb** = "not even one", a strong negative.
- The object moves before the verb, after the subject: 我一个人也不认识 – "I don't know a single person."

我一个人也不认识。
wǒ yí ge rén yě bú rèn shi
Word guide: 我 – I; 一 – one; 个 – (measure word); 人 – person; 也 – even; 不 – not; 认识 – know.



没 for the past, 不 for habits and wishes

- **他今天一口饭都没吃。** – "He hasn't eaten a single mouthful today."
- **这个周末我一点儿也不想出去。** – "I don't want to go out at all this weekend." 一点儿也不 = not at all.

他今天一口饭都没吃。
tā jīn tiān yì kǒu fàn dōu méi chī
Word guide: 他 – he; 今天 – today; 一口 – one mouthful; 饭 – food; 都 – even; 没 – not; 吃 – eat.

The object comes first

- Move the "one" phrase before the verb: 我一本书也没买, not 我没买一本书也.
- Choose 没 for something that did not happen, 不 for a habit, wish or refusal: 一口也不想吃.

一点儿也不 + Adjective

- With adjectives: **今天一点儿也不冷。** – "It isn't cold at all today."
- 也 and 都 are interchangeable here; 也 is slightly more common in speech.

今天一点儿也不冷。
jīn tiān yì diǎnr yě bù lěng
Word guide: 今天 – today; 一点儿 – a bit; 也 – even; 不 – not; 冷 – cold.

Recap

- **一 + MW + Noun + 也/都 + 没/不 + Verb** = not a single …; the phrase goes before the verb.
- **一点儿也不 + Adj** = not at all. 没 for what didn't happen, 不 for habits and wishes.

Practise this pattern step by step.

越 … 越 … (the more …, the more …)

The longer it rains

- You are waiting for the rain to stop, but it only gets heavier.
- **雨越下越大。** – "The rain is getting heavier and heavier (the longer it falls)."

越 A 越 B

- **越 A 越 B** = "the more A, the more B": B grows as A increases. Each 越 goes before a verb or adjective.
- One subject: 他越说越快. Two subjects: 你越解释，我越不明白.

他越说越快。
tā yuè shuō yuè kuài
Word guide: 他 – he; 越 – the more; 说 – talk; 越 – the more; 快 – fast.

越 A 越 B: the more A, the more B



Two subjects, two clauses

- **你越练习，说得越好。** – "The more you practise, the better you speak."
- **天越冷，人越少。** – "The colder it gets, the fewer people there are."

你越练习，说得越好。
nǐ yuè liàn xí shuō de yuè hǎo
Word guide: 你 – you; 越 – the more; 练习 – practise; 说 – speak; 越 – the more; 好 – well.

越 replaces 很

- No 很 after 越: 越来越好 and 越说越快, not 越说越很快.
- Each 越 sits after its own subject: 天越冷，人越少, not 越天冷，越人少.

越 A 越 B versus 越来越

- 越来越 + Adj = more and more over time: 天气越来越冷.
- 越 A 越 B ties the growth to something else: 越想越生气 – "the more I think about it, the angrier I get."

我越想越生气。
wǒ yuè xiǎng yuè shēng qì
Word guide: 我 – I; 越 – the more; 想 – think; 越 – the more; 生气 – angry.

Recap

- **越 A 越 B** = the more A, the more B; each 越 before its verb or adjective.
- With two subjects: 天越冷，人越少. No 很. 越来越 = growth over time alone.

Practise this pattern step by step.

把 sentences (do something to the object)

Close the door, please

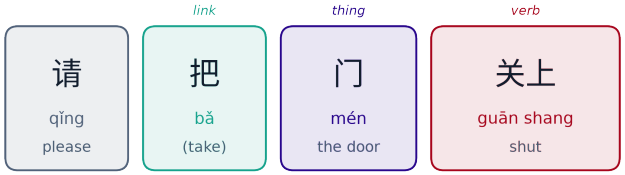
- It is cold, and your little brother has left the door wide open again.
- **请把门关上。** – "Please shut the door." 把 brings the object forward and says what happens to it.

Subject + 把 + Object + Verb + result

- **把 + object** comes before the verb; the verb must have something after it: a result, a direction, 了, or a place.
- 我把作业做完了 – "I've finished the homework." 他把书放在桌子上 – "He put the book on the table."

他把书放在桌子上。
tā bǎ shū fàng zài zhuō zi shang
Word guide: 他 – he; 书 – the book; 放 – put; 在 – on; 桌子 – the table; 上 – (on).

把 + thing + verb + result: what was done to it



Moving, changing, finishing

- Moving something: **请把垃圾拿出去。** – "Please take the rubbish out."
- Changing something: **我把这个句子翻译成英文了。** – "I translated this sentence into English."

请把垃圾拿出去。
qǐng bǎ lā jī ná chū qu
Word guide: 请 – please; 垃圾 – the rubbish; 拿 – take; 出去 – out.

The verb cannot stand alone

- 我把饭吃 is incomplete. Add a result or 了: 我把饭吃完了.
- The affected object is normally identifiable in the situation. These examples use a known book or door; indefinite objects can also occur with an appropriate context.

Negatives and 别

- 没 / 不 / 别 go before 把: **我没把钥匙带来。** – "I didn't bring the keys." **别把手机忘在家里！** – "Don't leave your phone at home!"
- Feeling and knowing verbs (喜欢, 知道) do not take 把.

别把手机忘在家里！

bié bǎ shǒu jī wàng zài jiā li
Word guide: 别 – don't; 手机 – your phone; 忘 – forget; 在 – at; 家里 – home.

Recap

- **Subject + 把 + specific object + Verb + something** (result, direction, place, 了).
- Negative words go before 把. Not with feeling or knowing verbs.

Practise this pattern step by step.

被 sentences (the passive)

Where's my bike?

- You come out of the library and your bike is gone.
- **我的自行车被人偷了！** – "My bike has been stolen!"

Receiver + 被 (+ doer) + Verb + result

- **被** marks the passive: the subject receives the action. The doer can follow 被 or be left out.
- As with 把, the verb needs something after it: 了, a result or a place.

我的自行车被偷了。
wǒ de zì xíng chē bèi tōu le
Word guide: 我 – my; 自行车 – bike; 被 – (was); 偷 – stolen.



Often bad news

- 被 sentences often report something unwelcome: **他被老师批评了。** – "He was told off by the teacher."
- **蛋糕被弟弟吃完了。** – "The cake was eaten up by my little brother."

蛋糕被弟弟吃完了。
dàn gāo bèi dì di chī wán le
Word guide: 蛋糕 – the cake; 被 – by; 弟弟 – my younger brother; 吃 – eat; 完 – up.

Complete verb, negative first

- The verb cannot stand alone: 自行车被偷了, not 自行车被偷.
- Put 没 before 被: 我的手机没被偷, not 我的手机被没偷.

被 versus 把

- 把 starts with the doer: **弟弟把蛋糕吃完了。**
- 被 starts with the receiver: **蛋糕被弟弟吃完了。** Same event, different starting point.

弟弟把蛋糕吃完了。
dì di bǎ dàn gāo chī wán le
Word guide: 弟弟 – my younger brother; 蛋糕 – the cake; 吃 – eat; 完 – up.

Recap

- **Receiver + 被 (+ doer) + Verb + result/了** = was done (by …); often unwelcome news.
- 没 goes before 被. 把 starts from the doer, 被 from the receiver.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

一 … 也 / 都 … 不 / 没 (not even one)

0601.1 Complete: "I didn't buy a single book." 我一本书 …… 没买。

0601.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 我一杯水也没喝。
- B. 我没喝一杯水也。
- C. 一杯水我喝也没。
- D. 我一杯水没也喝。

0601.3 Build: "It isn't cold at all today."

Arrange all chunks: 一点儿 / 也不 / 冷。 / 今天

0601.4 我一口也不想吃 means "I don't want to eat a single bite."

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0601.5 At the end of the month your wallet is completely empty. 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.

■ 越 … 越 … (the more …, the more …)

0602.1 Complete: “The more he eats, the fatter he gets.” 他越吃 …… 胖。

0602.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 越天热，越人多。
- B. 天热越，人多越。
- C. 天越热，人越多。
- D. 天越热，人越很多。

0602.3 Build: “The more you practise, the better you speak.”

Arrange all chunks: 说得 / ， / 你越练习 / 越好。

0602.4 越想越生气 means “the more I think about it, the angrier I get.”

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0602.5 You are waiting for the rain to stop, but it only gets heavier. 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.

■ 把 sentences (do something to the object)

0603.1 Complete: “I’ve finished the homework.” 我 …… 作业做完了。

0603.2 Which sentence is complete and correct?

- A. 我把吃饭完了。
- B. 我把饭吃完了。
- C. 我把饭吃。
- D. 我吃把饭完了。

0603.3 Build: “Please take the rubbish out.”

Arrange all chunks: 请 / 拿 / 出去。/ 把垃圾

0603.4 我把钥匙没带来 is the correct word order.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0603.5 It is cold, and your little brother has left the door wide open again. 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.

■ 被 sentences (the passive)

0604.1 Complete: “My wallet was stolen.” 我的钱包 …… 偷了。

0604.2 Which says “My phone wasn’t taken”?

- A. 我的手机被拿走没。
- B. 我的手机被没拿走。
- C. 没我的手机被拿走。
- D. 我的手机没被拿走。

0604.3 Build: “The cake was eaten up by my little brother.”

Arrange all chunks: 吃完 / 了。/ 被弟弟 / 蛋糕

0604.4 弟弟把蛋糕吃完了 and 蛋糕被弟弟吃完了 describe the same event.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0604.5 You come out of the library and your bike is gone. 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

■ 一 … 也 / 都 … 不 / 没 (not even one)

0601.1 也

一 + MW + noun + 也/都 + 没 + verb.

0601.2 A. 我一杯水也没喝。

The "one" phrase goes before 也 + 没 + verb.

0601.3 今天一点儿也不冷。

一点儿也不 + adjective.

0601.4 True.

不想 = don't want; the 一 phrase makes it total.

0601.5 One possible response: 我一块钱也没有了。

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.
- Move the "one" phrase before the verb: 我一本书也没买, not 我没买一本书也.
- Choose 没 for something that did not happen, 不 for a habit, wish or refusal: 一口也不想吃.
- 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.

■ 越 … 越 … (the more …, the more …)

0602.1 越

越 A 越 B.

0602.2 C. 天越热，人越多。

天越热，人越多 is right: each 越 comes after its own subject (天, 人) and before a bare adjective. Do not put 越 before the subject, or add 很.

0602.3 你越练习，说得越好。

Subject + 越 + verb, then 越 + result.

0602.4 True.

越 A 越 B links growth in B to A.

0602.5 One possible response: 雨越下越大。

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 after 越: 越来越好 and 越说越快, not 越说越很快.
- Each 越 sits after its own subject: 天越冷，人越少, not 越天冷，越人少.
- 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.

■ 把 sentences (do something to the object)

0603.1 把

把 + object + verb + result.

0603.2 B. 我把饭吃完了。

The verb after 把 needs a result or 了.

0603.3 请把垃圾拿出去。

把 + object + verb + direction.

0603.4 False.

没 goes before 把: 我没把钥匙带来.

0603.5 One possible response: 请把门关上。

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.
- 我把饭吃 is incomplete. Add a result or 了: 我把饭吃完了.
- The affected object is normally identifiable in the situation. These examples use a known book or door; indefinite objects can also occur with an appropriate context.
- 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.

■ 被 sentences (the passive)

0604.1 被

Receiver + 被 + verb + 了.

0604.2 D. 我的手机没被拿走。

没 goes before 被.

0604.3 蛋糕被弟弟吃完了。

Receiver + 被 + doer + verb + result + 了.

0604.4 True.

Both say the brother ate the cake; they start from different points.

0604.5 One possible response: 我的自行车被人偷了!

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.
- The verb cannot stand alone: 自行车被偷了, not 自行车被偷.
- Put 没 before 被: 我的手机没被偷, not 我的手机被没偷.
- 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.