Comparison 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.

跟 … 比 (起来) (compared with …)

Your city or mine?

- A friend from Shanghai is visiting your small town and finds everything slower and quieter.
- **跟上海比，这儿安静多了。** – "Compared with Shanghai, it's much quieter here."

跟 + B + 比 (起来)，A …

- **跟 B 比 (起来)** = "compared with B" sets up the comparison first; the comment on A follows.
- It often starts the sentence, separated by a comma: 跟去年比，今年的夏天热多了.

跟去年比，今年热多了。
gēn qù nián bǐ jīn nián rè duō le
Word guide: 跟 – with; 去年 – last year; 比 – compared; 今年 – this year; 热 – hot; 多 – much.



After the subject

- The phrase can follow the subject: **我跟我哥哥比起来，还是比较矮。** – "Compared with my brother, I'm still rather short."
- 和 can replace 跟: 和北京比，广州暖和得多。

和北京比，广州暖和得多。
hé Běi jīng bǐ Guǎng zhōu nuǎn huo de duō
Word guide: 和 – with; 北京 – Beijing; 比 – compared; 广州 – Guangzhou; 暖和 – warm; 得多 – much more.

Do not add 比 twice

- After 跟 B 比, the comment uses a plain adjective (+ 多了 / 一点): 安静多了, not 比安静多了.
- Keep 跟 before B: 跟上海比, not 比跟上海.

跟 … 比 versus A 比 B

- A 比 B + Adj is one tight sentence: 这儿比上海安静.
- 跟 B 比，A … sets the scene first, which suits longer descriptions and opinions.

这儿比上海安静。
zhèr bǐ Shàng hǎi ān jìng
Word guide: 这儿 – here; 比 – than; 上海 – Shanghai; 安静 – quiet.

Recap

- **跟 / 和 B 比 (起来)，A + Adj** = compared with B, A is …
- No second 比 in the comment; 多了 or 一点 often follow the adjective.

Practise this pattern step by step.

比 … 更 / 还 (even more than)

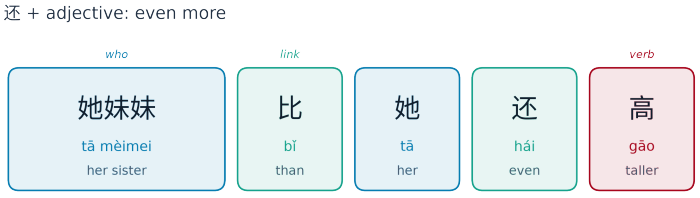
Already tall, and even taller

- Your friend is already tall, but her younger sister, only fourteen, is taller still.
- **她很高，她妹妹比她还高。** – "She's tall, and her younger sister is even taller."

A 比 B + 更 / 还 + Adjective

- **更** or **还** before the adjective = "even more": B is already Adj, and A goes beyond it.
- 比 comes first, then 更 or 还, then the bare adjective: 比他更忙, 比昨天还冷.

今天比昨天更冷。
jīn tiān bǐ zuó tiān gèng lěng
Word guide: 今天 – today; 比 – than; 昨天 – yesterday; 更 – even more; 冷 – cold.



■ 还 adds surprise

- 更 is neutral and common in writing: 这个方法更好。
- 还 sounds more surprised or emphatic in speech: **这个菜比那个还辣！** – “This dish is even spicier than that one!”

这个菜比那个还辣！
zhè ge cài bǐ nà ge hái là
Word guide: 这个 – this; 菜 – dish; 比 – than; 那个 – that one; 还 – even; 辣 – spicy.

■ 很 does not belong in 比 sentences

- Use 更 or 还 for “even more”, never 很 or 非常: 比他更高, not 比他很高.
- 更 / 还 go after the 比 phrase, before the adjective: 比我更忙, not 更比我忙.

■ 更 without 比

- 更 also works alone when the comparison is clear: **我喜欢茶，但我更喜欢咖啡。** – “I like tea, but I like coffee even more.”
- 还 in this sense needs the 比 comparison.

我更喜欢咖啡。
wǒ gèng xǐ huan kā fēi
Word guide: 我 – I; 更 – even more; 喜欢 – like; 咖啡 – coffee.

■ Recap

- **A 比 B 更 / 还 + Adj** = A is even more Adj than B (B is already Adj).
- 还 sounds more emphatic; 更 also works without 比. Never 很 or 非常 before the adjective in a 比 sentence (他比我很高 ×); 很多 or 一点儿 after it is fine: 他比我高很多.

Practise this pattern step by step.

比 … Adj + 多了 (much more than)

■ Plane or train?

- You are choosing how to get from Beijing to Guangzhou. The train takes eight hours, the plane three.
- **坐飞机比坐火车快多了。** – “Flying is much faster than taking the train.”

■ A 比 B + Adj + 多了 / 得多

- **Adj + 多了** or **Adj + 得多** after a 比 comparison = “much more …”.
- The degree comes after the adjective, never before it.

这件比那件贵得多。
zhè jiàn bǐ nà jiàn guì de duō
Word guide: 这 – this; 件 – (measure word); 比 – than; 那 – that; 件 – one; 贵 – expensive; 得多 – much more.

比 + adjective + 多了 / 一点: by how much



■ A little, or by how much

- **一点 / 一些** for “a little more”: 今天比昨天热一点。– “Today is a bit hotter than yesterday.”
- An exact amount also goes after the adjective: **他比我大三岁。** – “He’s three years older than me.”

他比我大三岁。
tā bǐ wǒ dà sān suì
Word guide: 他 – he; 比 – than; 我 – me; 大 – older; 三岁 – three years.

■ The amount comes last

- Say 快多了, not 多快了 or 很快多了: the degree follows the adjective.
- Put an exact difference after the adjective: 大三岁, not 三岁大 in a 比 sentence.

■ 多了 versus 得多

- Both mean “much more”; 多了 is a little more spoken, 得多 a little more neutral.
- 多了 also works without 比 for a change: 我的病好多了 – “I’m much better now.”

我的病好多了。
wǒ de bìng hǎo duō le
Word guide: 我 – my; 病 – illness; 好 – better; 多 – much.

■ Recap

- **A 比 B + Adj + 多了 / 得多** = much more; **+ 一点** = a little more; **+ amount** = by that much.
- Every degree word or amount comes after the adjective.

Practise this pattern step by step.

N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj (as ... as)

Growing up fast

- Your nephew was tiny last year; now he reaches your shoulder.
- **他快有我这么高了！** – "He's almost as tall as me!"

A + 有 + B + (这么 / 那么) + Adjective

- **A 有 B (那么) + Adj** = "A is as Adj as B": A reaches B's level.
- It is often used in questions and with 快 or 已经: 他有你高吗? – "Is he as tall as you?"

他有你高吗?
tā yǒu nǐ gāo ma
Word guide: 他 – he; 有 – is as … as; 你 – you; 高 – tall.

A 有 B (这么) + adjective: as ... as



Reaching a level

- **这个西瓜有篮球那么大。** – "This watermelon is as big as a basketball."
- With 已经: **我的中文已经有他那么好了。** – "My Chinese is already as good as his."

这个西瓜有篮球那么大。
zhè ge xī guā yǒu lán qiú nà me dà
Word guide: 这个 – this; 西瓜 – watermelon; 有 – is as … as; 篮球 – a basketball; 那么 – so; 大 – big.

Bare adjective, and 没有 for "not as"

- No 很: 有他那么高, not 有他很高.
- The negative is 没有, which you know already: 他没有我高 – "He isn't as tall as me."

有 … 那么 versus 跟 … 一样

- 跟 B 一样 + Adj says the two are equal: 他跟我一样高.
- 有 B 那么 + Adj says A reaches B's level, often as a question or a surprise: 他有我这么高吗?

他跟我一样高。
tā gēn wǒ yí yàng gāo
Word guide: 他 – he; 跟 – and; 我 – I; 一样 – equally; 高 – tall.

Recap

- **A 有 B (这么/那么) + Adj** = A is as Adj as B, A reaches B's level.
- Common in questions and with 快 / 已经; negative 没有.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

跟 … 比 (起来) (compared with …)

0402.1 Complete: "Compared with last month, I'm much busier." …… 上个月比，我忙多了。

0402.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 跟北京比，上海热一点。
- B. 比跟北京，上海热一点。
- C. 跟北京比，上海比热一点。
- D. 跟北京，上海比热一点。

0402.3 Build: "Compared with Beijing, Guangzhou is much warmer."

Arrange all chunks: 暖和得多。/ ， / 广州 / 和北京比

0402.4 跟上海比，这儿安静多了 and 这儿比上海安静多了 compare the same two places.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0402.5 A friend from Shanghai is visiting your small town and finds everything slower and quieter. 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.

比 … 更 / 还 (even more than)

0403.1 Complete: "This one is even cheaper than that one." 这个比那个 …… 便宜。

0403.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他比我非常聪明。

- B. 他比我很聪明。
- C. 他比我更聪明。
- D. 他更比我聪明。

0403.3 Build: “I like tea, but I like coffee even more.”

Arrange all chunks: ， 但我 / 我喜欢茶 / 更喜欢 / 咖啡。

0403.4 她妹妹比她还高 implies that she is already quite tall.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0403.5 Your friend is already tall, but her younger sister, only fourteen, is taller still. 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.

■ 比 … Adj + 多了 (much more than)

0404.1 Complete: “This room is much bigger than that one.” 这个房间比那个大 ……。

0404.2 Which says “My sister is two years younger than me.”?

- A. 妹妹两岁比我小。
- B. 妹妹比我小两岁。
- C. 妹妹比我两岁小。
- D. 妹妹比我很小两岁。

0404.3 Build: “Today is a bit hotter than yesterday.”

Arrange all chunks: 比昨天 / 今天 / 热 / 一点。

0404.4 我的病好多了 needs 比 to be correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0404.5 You are choosing how to get from Beijing to Guangzhou. The train takes eight hours, the plane three. 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.

■ N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj (as … as)

0405.1 Ask: “Is your hometown as cold as Harbin?” 你的家乡 …… 哈尔滨那么冷吗?

0405.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他这么有我高。
- B. 他有高我这么。
- C. 他有我很高。
- D. 他有我这么高。

0405.3 Build: “This watermelon is as big as a basketball.”

Arrange all chunks: 那么大。/ 这个西瓜 / 有 / 篮球

0405.4 The negative of 他有我高 is 他没有我高.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0405.5 Your nephew was tiny last year; now he reaches your shoulder. 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

■ 跟 … 比 (起来) (compared with …)

0402.1 跟

跟 / 和 + B + 比 sets up the comparison.

0402.2 A. 跟北京比，上海热一点。

After 跟 B 比, the comment is a plain adjective, with no second 比.

0402.3 和北京比，广州暖和得多。

和 B 比, then A + Adj + 得多.

0402.4 True.

Both say this place is much quieter than Shanghai.

0402.5 One possible response: 跟上海比，这儿安静多了。

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.
- After 跟 B 比, the comment uses a plain adjective (+ 多了 / 一点): 安静多了, not 比安静多了.
- Keep 跟 before B: 跟上海比, not 比跟上海.
- 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.

■ 比 … 更 / 还 (even more than)

0403.1 更

比 B + 更 / 还 + Adj.

0403.2 C. 他比我更聪明。

更 follows the 比 phrase; 很 and 非常 do not go in a 比 sentence.

0403.3 我喜欢茶，但我更喜欢咖啡。

更 can work without 比 when the comparison is clear.

0403.4 True.

还 / 更 = even more, so the person compared with is already tall.

0403.5 One possible response: 她很高，她妹妹比她还高。

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.
- Use 更 or 还 for "even more", never 很 or 非常: 比他更高, not 比他很高.
- 更 / 还 go after the 比 phrase, before the adjective: 比我更忙, not 更比我忙.
- 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.

■ 比 … Adj + 多了 (much more than)

0404.1 多了

Adj + 多了 / 得多 = much more.

0404.2 B. 妹妹比我小两岁。

The exact difference follows the adjective.

0404.3 今天比昨天热一点。

A 比 B + Adj + 一点.

0404.4 False.

多了 can describe a change on its own: "much better now".

0404.5 One possible response: 坐飞机比坐火车快多了。

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.
- Say 快多了, not 多快了 or 很快多了: the degree follows the adjective.
- Put an exact difference after the adjective: 大三岁, not 三岁大 in a 比 sentence.
- 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.

■ N1 + 有 + N2 + Adj (as … as)

0405.1 有

A 有 B 那么 + Adj asks whether A reaches B's level.

0405.2 D. 他有我这么高。

他有我这么高 is right: A 有 B (这么) + bare adjective, "as tall as me". 很 is not used in a comparison, and 这么 comes before the adjective.

0405.3 这个西瓜有篮球那么大。

A + 有 + B + 那么 + Adj.

0405.4 True.

没有 is the negative of the 有 comparison.

0405.5 One possible response: 他快有我这么高了！

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.
- No 很: 有他那么高, not 有他很高.
- The negative is 没有, which you know already: 他没有我高 – “He isn’t as tall as me.”
- 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.