

# Sentence Patterns

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

## + / — emphatic negation

in front of a negative **pushes back against an expectation** — “(it’s) actually *not*, contrary to what you’d think.” Because it counters an assumption, it’s the go-to for disagreeing or correcting. It only pairs with     or     .

**Structure:** Subject +     +     /     + Verb / Adjective

{zh:     |zài|in /     |Zhōng guó|China /     |chuàng yè|starting a business /  
|bìng|actually /     |bù|not /     |róng yì|easy / 。 }

*Starting a business in China actually isn’t easy.*

{zh:     |wǒ|I /     |bìng|actually /     |méi|didn’t /     |shuō guo|say /     |zhè|this  
/     |jù /     |huà / 。 }

*I never actually said that.*

**Remember:**     /     = “**actually NOT — despite what you assume.**” Use it whenever you’re correcting a wrong impression: “you think it’s easy?     .” It’s a firm, slightly defensive negative.

### Watch out

- It only attaches to     or     (     ,     ) — never to a bare verb on its own.