

Sentence Patterns

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

+ + + / + — “didn’t even”

Repeat a verb around ... + / to stress that the most basic action **didn’t even** happen — “didn’t even ...” Add for “without even ...ing, (then) ...”

Structure: + Verb + + / + (same) Verb (,)

{zh: |zhè ge rén|this person / |wǒ|I / |lián|even / |jiàn|met / |dōu / |méi|haven’t / |jiàn guo|met / 。 }

I’ve never even met this person.

{zh: |tā|he / |lián|even / |shuō|say / |dōu / |bù|didn’t / |shuō|say / |jiù|just / |zǒu|left / |le / 。 }

He left without even saying a word.

Remember: ... + the verb **REPEATED** maxes the emphasis — (“never even met”). Tack on for “without even ...ing, then...”: (“left without even asking”).

Watch out

- The repeat is what does the work — , not .

... ... — “for the sake of”

A B ties a **purpose** to the action done for it — “do B for the sake of A.” It’s formal; the everyday swap is → . Negate with

Structure: Subject + + Goal + + Action

{zh: |wǒ men|we / |wèi|for / |mèng xiǎng|our dreams / |ér / |nǚ lì|strive / 。 }

We strive for our dreams.

{zh: |bú yào|don’t / |wèi le|for / |bié rén|other people / |ér / |huó|live / 。 }

Don’t live for other people.

Remember: (goal) (action) = “for the sake of ... , (one) does ...”. elegantly bridges the *why* to the *what*. It’s the formal cousin of ; in speech you’d more often just say .

Watch out

- This reads *wèi* (“for”) — the goal comes first, the action after .

+ + / — “any (at all)”

means “any (at all), whatsoever”; with / it sweeps over **every** case — “any ... at all.” It takes no , and it’s more emphatic and formal than .

Structure: + Noun + / + Predicate

{zh: |rèn hé|any / |rén|person / |dōu|at all / |bù|can’t / |néng / |shuō fú|persuade / |tā|him / . }

No one at all can persuade him.

{zh: |zhè lǐ|here / |rèn hé|any / |chē|vehicle / |dōu|at all / |bù|can’t / |kě yǐ / |tōng guò|pass / . }

No vehicle at all may pass here.

Remember: = emphatic “any whatsoever” + / — and **NO** (✓, not). It’s the stronger, more formal sibling of (hits harder than /).

Watch out

- It always wants a / to complete the sweep — ..., not a bare

... / ... — “both ... and ...”

A B stacks two qualities that **both** hold — “both ... and ...” A and B should match in form (both adjectives, ideally both the same length). It’s a more formal version of

Structure: + A + / + B

{zh: |zhè jiā|this / |cān tīng|restaurant / |jì|both / |pián yi|cheap / |yòu|and / |hǎo chī|tasty / . }

This restaurant is both cheap and tasty.

{zh: |tā|he / |zuò|does / |shì qing|things / |jì|both / |kuài|fast / |yòu|and / |hǎo|well / . }

He does things both quickly and well.

Remember: **A B** = “both A and B,” and A and B should **MATCH** (same length/type) — , . It’s the dressed-up; opens, / follows.

Watch out

- Mismatched halves read awkwardly — keep A and B parallel (both two-syllable, both adjectives).

... / / / — locations

+ **place** + / / / says **where** something sits relative to an object. The position word comes **after** the place noun — English “on the table” becomes (“at table-on”). Big places (countries, cities) need no position word.

Structure: + Location + / / /

{zh: |nǐ|your / |de / |shǒu jī|phone / |zài|is in / |bāo|the bag / |lǐ / |ma / ? }

Is your phone in the bag?

{zh: |chāo shì|the supermarket / |zài|is / |wǒ jiā|my house / |páng biān|next to / 。 }

The supermarket is next to my house.

Remember: the position word comes **AFTER** the place — , , — the mirror of English “on/in the ...”. And **big places take no position word:** ✓ (never).

Watch out

- A bare is incomplete — you need the / / to anchor it.