

Adjectives

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

+ — “extremely, ... to death”

after an adjective cranks it to the extreme — “incredibly ..., ... to death.” On its own means “[oh no,] terrible!”, but as a complement it just intensifies, good or bad.

Structure: Adjective +

{zh: |jīn tiān|today / |lěng|cold / |de bù dé liǎo|terribly / , |zěn me|how / |huì|can / |zhè me|so / |lěng|cold / ? }

It's terribly cold today — how can it be this cold?

{zh: |shēng zhí|the promotion / |ràng|made / |tā|him / |gāo xìng|happy / |de bù dé liǎo|extremely / 。 }

Getting promoted made him over the moon.

Remember: = “...like crazy.” It swings both ways — (over the moon) and (dead on my feet) — and hits harder than or .

Watch out

- It needs the : , not .

+ — “very, really”

after an adjective is a casual, emphatic “very, really” — a relaxed alternative to fronting , and a touch stronger.

Structure: Adjective +

{zh: |zhè ge|this / |dì fang|place / |piào liang|gorgeous / |de hěn|really / , |tuī jiàn|recommend / |nǐ|you / |qù|go / 。 }

This place is gorgeous — I really recommend you visit.

{zh: |bié|don't / |dān xīn|worry / , |zhè cì|this / |kǎo shì|exam / |jiǎn dān|easy / |de hěn|really / 。 }

Don't worry — this exam is dead easy.

Remember: the intensifier TRAILS the adjective: (not). It's a casual, slightly stronger swap for a front — “” lands like “really good, honestly.”

Watch out

- Don't double up — pick a front *or* a trailing , never both.

+ + () — “a bit too ...”

Tag () onto an adjective to say something is **a touch too** much — “a bit too ...” It's softer than , so it's the polite way to grumble.

Structure: Adjective + + ()

{zh: |zhè jiàn|this / |chèn shān|shirt / |xiǎo|small / |le / |diǎnr|a bit too / , |wǒ|I / |xiǎng|want / |huàn|to swap / |yí jiàn|it / 。 }

This shirt's a bit too small — I'd like to swap it.

{zh: |nà ge|that / |dì fang|place / |lǐ|from / |wǒ jiā|my home / |yuǎn|far / |le / |yì diǎnr|a bit too / 。 }

That place is a little too far from my home.

Remember: Adj + = “a bit **TOO** ...” — a gentle complaint, softer than . Don't confuse it with + Adj (“a bit ...,”), which sits *before* the adjective.

Watch out

- Position flips the feel: (“a bit big,” before) vs (“a bit too big,” after).

+ — “have plenty of”

means there's **no shortage** of something — “have plenty of, have all the ... you need.” It's emphatic, sometimes a touch boastful. Note: it's one fixed phrase, **not** (“some”) + .

Structure: Subject + + Noun

{zh: |bié|don't / |jí|rush / , |wǒ men|we / |yǒu de shì|have plenty of / |shí jiān|time / 。 }

Don't rush — we've all the time in the world.

{zh: |tā|his / |bà|dad / |shì|is / |dà lǎo bǎn|a big boss / , |yǒu de shì|has plenty of / |qián|money / 。 }

His dad's a big boss — he's got money to burn.

Remember: = “got loads of” — confident, even boastful, far stronger than . It's a *single fixed phrase* — don't read it as (“some”) + .

Watch out

- It takes a bare noun: / / — no measure word needed.