

Verbs

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

+ — challenging an action

A verb followed by (often the **same verb** again) is a **rhetorical, annoyed** pushback — “what are you ...ing for? / stop ...ing!” With a separable verb, splits the two halves.

Structure: Verb + + (same) Verb · Verb + + Object

{zh: |nǐ|you / |kū|crying / |shén me|what for / |kū / , |yòu|it’s not as if / |bú shì / |méi yǒu|there’s no / |nǐ|your / |de / |lǐ wù|gift / 。 }

What are you crying for? It’s not as if there’s no gift for you.

{zh: |lí|divorce / |shén me|what / |hūn / ! |nǐ men|you / |cái|only / |jié hūn|married / |sān ge yuè|three months / 。 }

Divorce?! You’ve only been married three months!

Remember: V + (+ V) = **an irritated “what are you ...ing for?!”** — (“quit crying!”), (“what’s the rush?!”). Separable verbs split around it: , .

Watch out

- It’s blunt and familiar — fine between close friends/family, rude to strangers.

... / ... — “not as ... as”

means “(just) like”; + B + / + Adj says A falls **short of B** on some quality — “not as ... as B.”

Structure: Noun 1 + + Noun 2 + + Adj · Noun 1 + + Noun 2 + / + Adj

{zh: |tā|she / |yǒu shí hou|sometimes / |xiàng|like / |xiǎo hái|a child / |yí yàng|just / |tiān zhēn|naive / 。 }

She’s sometimes as naive as a child.

{zh: |jīn tiān|today / |bú xiàng|not as ... as / |zuó tiān|yesterday / |nà me|so / |lěng|cold / 。 }

Today isn’t as cold as yesterday.

Remember: ... = “**just like**”; = “**not as ... as**.” (“today isn’t as cold as yesterday”). The / carries the degree being fallen short of.

Watch out

- It’s a near-twin of the comparison (HSK 3) — both say “falls short of.”

+ B (+) , A ~ — “compared with B, A ...”

... () opens a **comparison frame** — “compared with B, A is” It puts B forward as the yardstick. A variant is (/ /) B .

Structure: + B (+) , A + Comment · () B , A ~

{zh: |bǐ qǐ|compared with / |Shàng hǎi|Shanghai / , |wǒ|my / |lǎo jiā|hometown / |de / |wù jià|prices / |pián yi|cheaper / |duō|much / |le / 。 }

Compared with Shanghai, my hometown’s prices are much cheaper.

{zh: |yǔ|compared with / |wǎng luò|online / |jiào xué|teaching / |xiāng bǐ / , |wǒ|I / |gèng / |xǐ huan|prefer / |miàn duì miàn|face-to-face / 。 }

Compared with online teaching, I prefer face-to-face.

Remember: B () / B = “**set against B, ...**” — it foregrounds the *yardstick* B, then delivers the verdict on A. The everyday cousin is ... (HSK 3).

Watch out

- It frames the comparison; for a plain “A is more X than B,” a bare (AB...) is enough.

..... — “not as good as / better to”

has two jobs: “A B (+ Adj)” = “A isn’t as (good / ...) as B”; and “(... ,) ...” = “(rather than ...,) better to ...” Drop the adjective and just means “not as good as.”

Structure: A + + B (+ Adj) · (... ,) ...

{zh: |zhè jiàn|this / |qún zi|dress / |bù rú|isn’t as ... as / |nà jiàn|that one / |hǎo kàn|pretty / 。 }

This dress isn’t as pretty as that one.

{zh: |yǔ qí|rather than / |kōng xiǎng|daydream / , |bù rú|better to / |mǎ shàng|right away / |xíng dòng|act / 。 }

Rather than daydreaming, better to act right away.

Remember: = “**falls short of / better to**.” AB = “A isn’t as good as B” (, “I’m no match for him”); = “rather than..., better to...”. With no adjective, it’s plain “inferior to.”

Watch out

- sets up the rejected option, the preferred one — keep that order.

/ + — “-ize, -ify”

The suffix turns a noun or adjective into a **process verb** — “-ize, -ify, become.”

Structure: Noun / Adjective +

{zh: |chéng shì|cities / |xiàn dài huà|are modernising / |de / |hěn|very / |kuài|fast / 。 }

Cities are modernising fast.

{zh: |wǒ men|we / |yào|want to / |bǎ / |liú chéng|the process / |zì dòng huà|automate / 。 }

We want to automate the process.

Remember: = **English “-ize / -ify”** — bolt it on to get a “turn into” verb: (modernize), (beautify), (automate), (internationalize), (diversify).

Watch out

- It’s a productive academic suffix — great for abstract/process nouns, odd on everyday ones.

— “count as, consider”

judges that something **counts as** a category — “count as, be considered, qualify as.” On its own, = “forget it.”

Structure: Subject + + Adjective / Category +

{zh: |zài|in / |wǒ men|our / |bān|class / , |tā|he / |suàn|counts as / |gāo|tall / |de / 。 }

In our class, he counts as tall.

{zh: |zhè|this / |diǎn|bit of / |qián|money / |bù|isn’t / |suàn|counted as / |duō|a lot / 。 }

This bit of money isn’t much.

Remember: = **“reckons as / counts as”** — (“calculate”) used to *judge a category*: (“counts as tall”). And the everyday on its own = “forget it, let it go.”

Watch out

- The category form often closes with : , .

— “no wonder”

voices a sudden **realisation** — “no wonder, that explains why.” It precedes the now-understood fact and often pairs with .

Structure: + Person / Fact

{zh: |nán guài|no wonder / |tā|he / |méi|didn’t / |lái|come / , |yuán lái|it turns out / |shēng bìng|he’s sick / |le / 。 }

No wonder he didn’t come — turns out he’s ill.

{zh: |nǐ|you / |shì|are / |xīn lái|new / |de / , |nán guài|no wonder / |wǒ|I / |bù|don’t / |rèn shi|know / |nǐ|you / 。 }

You’re new — no wonder I don’t know you.

Remember: = **“no wonder!”** — the moment the penny drops. Literally (hard) + (to blame): “can’t blame it, given that...”. It loves a to deliver the reason (... , ...).

Watch out

- It introduces the *thing now explained*; the explanation follows (often with).