

Adverbs with Adjectives

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

格外 + 形容词 / 动词 — “especially, exceptionally”

格外 pushes a quality beyond the usual — “especially, exceptionally, particularly.” It’s a touch more literary than 特别, marking something that **stands out from the norm**.

Structure: 格外 + Adjective / Verb

{zh: 雨后 |yǔ hòu|after the rain / 的 |de / 空气 |kōng qì|the air / 格外 |gé wài|exceptionally / 新鲜 |xīn xiān|fresh / 。 }

The air after rain is exceptionally fresh.

{zh: 见到 |jiàn dào|seeing / 老朋友 |lǎo péng you|her old friend / , 她 |tā|she / 格外 |gé wài|especially / 高兴 |gāo xìng|happy / 。 }

Seeing her old friend, she was especially happy.

Remember: 格外 = “outside the usual grid” (格 = a frame/square) → “exceptionally, beyond the norm.” It’s the more literary, stands-out cousin of 特别.

Watch out

- It implies a *departure from normal* — for plain “very,” 很 / 非常 fit; for “stands out,” 格外.