Adverbs with Adjectives

HSK 5 Grammar

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

格外 (especially / exceptionally)

An especially bright moon

- At the Mid-Autumn Festival you look up and the moon is brighter than you've ever seen.
- **今晚的月亮格外圆，格外亮。** – "Tonight the moon is especially round and especially bright."

格外 + Adj / feeling verb

- **格外** = "especially, exceptionally": more than usual, compared with other times or things.
- It goes before the adjective, like 特别: 格外高兴, 格外小心.

雨后的空气格外清新。
yǔ hòu de kōng qì gé wài qīng xīn
Word guide: 雨 – rain; 后 – after; 空气 – the air; 格外 – especially; 清新 – fresh.



Compared with usual

- **第一次离开家，他格外想念妈妈。** – "Away from home for the first time, he missed his mum especially."
- **下雪了，开车要格外小心。** – "It's snowing; drive extra carefully."

下雪了，开车要格外小心。
xià xuě le kāi chē yào gé wài xiǎo xīn
Word guide: 下雪 – snow; 开车 – driving; 要 – must; 格外 – extra; 小心 – careful.

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■ No 很, a standard to compare with

- Do not add 很 or 非常: 格外高兴, not 格外很高兴.
- 格外 implies "more than usual"; it sounds odd when nothing is being compared.

■ 格外 versus 特别 and 非常

- 非常 = very (no comparison needed): 非常好.
- 特别 and 格外 both stress "more than usual"; 格外 is a little more literary.

他今天特别高兴。
tā jīn tiān tè bié gāo xìng
Word guide: 他 – he; 今天 – today; 特别 – especially; 高兴 – happy.

■ Recap

- **格外 + Adj / feeling verb** = especially, exceptionally (more than usual).
- No 很; close to 特别, more literary.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 格外 (especially / exceptionally)

1601.1 Complete: "After the rain the air is especially fresh." 雨后的空气 …… 清新。

1601.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 今天冷格外。
- B. 今天格外冷。
- C. 格外今天很冷。
- D. 今天格外很冷。

1601.3 Build: "It's snowing; drive extra carefully."

Arrange all chunks: ， 开车 / 要格外 / 小心。/ 下雪了

1601.4 格外 is close in meaning to 特别.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1601.5 At the Mid-Autumn Festival you look up and the moon is brighter than you've ever seen. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

Answers and explanations

■ 格外 (especially / exceptionally)

1601.1 格外

格外 + Adj = more than usual.

1601.2 B. 今天格外冷。

今天格外冷 is right: 格外 ("especially") is a degree adverb, so it replaces 很 and goes before a bare adjective.

1601.3 下雪了，开车要格外小心。

要 + 格外 + Adj.

1601.4 True.

Both stress "more than usual".

1601.5 One possible response: 今晚的月亮格外圆，格外亮。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Do not add 很 or 非常: 格外高兴, not 格外很高兴.
- 格外 implies "more than usual"; it sounds odd when nothing is being compared.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.