

Complex Sentence Patterns

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

怪不得 / 难怪 — “no wonder”

怪不得 (and its twin 难怪) expresses a **dawning realisation** — “no wonder, that’s why.” Some fresh piece of information has just made everything click. The two are interchangeable.

Structure: Reason , 怪不得 / 难怪 + Observation

{zh: 小张 |Xiǎo Zhāng|Xiao Zhang / 请假 |qǐng jià|on leave / 了 |le / , 怪不得 |guài bu de|no wonder / 今天 |jīn tiān|today / 没 |méi|haven’t / 看到 |kàn dào|seen / 他 |tā|him / 。 }

Xiao Zhang’s on leave — no wonder I haven’t seen him today.

{zh: 这 |zhè|this / 也 |yě / 难怪 |nán guài|isn’t to blame / 他 |tā|him / , 他 |tā|he / 这么 |zhè me|so / 小 |xiǎo|young / 。 }

You can’t really blame him — he’s so young.

Remember: 怪不得 = 难怪 = “no wonder!” — read 怪不得 literally as “*can’t blame* it (given that...)”, which is exactly why 难怪 + a person also means “can’t really blame them” (这也难怪他, “you can hardly blame him”).

Watch out

- Both pair with the explaining fact — the reason comes first, then 怪不得 + what’s now explained.