Complex Sentence Patterns

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.

怪不得 (no wonder)

That explains it

- Your classmate speaks perfect English, and today you learn she grew up in London.
- **怪不得她英语说得这么好，原来她在伦敦长大。** – "No wonder her English is so good – she grew up in London."

怪不得 + surprising fact (，原来 + reason)

- **怪不得** = "no wonder": something that seemed strange now makes sense.
- The reason often follows with 原来, or comes before: 原来下雪了，怪不得这么冷.

原来下雪了，怪不得这么冷。
yuán lái xià xuě le guài bu de zhè me lěng
Word guide: 原来 – so it turns out; 下雪 – it snowed; 怪不得 – no wonder; 这么 – so; 冷 – cold.



Either order

- Fact first: **怪不得他没来，他生病了。** – "No wonder he didn't come – he's ill."
- Reason first: **他昨天熬夜了，怪不得今天这么累。** – "He stayed up late last night; no wonder he's so tired today."

他昨天熬夜了，怪不得今天这么累。
tā zuó tiān áo yè le guài bu de jīn tiān zhè me lèi
Word guide: 他 – he; 昨天 – yesterday; 熬夜 – stayed up; 怪不得 – no wonder; 今天 – today; 这么 – so; 累 – tired.

It needs a reason

- 怪不得 only makes sense when the reason is known or given; without it, the listener is left puzzled.
- It goes at the start of its clause: 怪不得他 ..., not 他怪不得 ....

怪不得 versus 难怪

- 难怪 means the same and is very common: 难怪这么冷.
- 怪不得 can also mean "can't blame": 这件事怪不得他 – "You can't blame him for this."

这件事怪不得他。
zhè jiàn shì guài bu de tā
Word guide: 这件事 – this; 怪不得 – can't blame; 他 – him.

Recap

- **怪不得 + fact，(原来) + reason** = no wonder ...; same as 难怪.
- Needs the reason; 怪不得 + person = can't blame them.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

怪不得 (no wonder)

2101.1 Complete: "So it snowed – no wonder it's so cold." 原来下雪了，…… 这么冷。

2101.2 What does 这件事怪不得他 mean?

- A. No wonder he did this.
- B. You can't blame him for this.
- C. He is strange.
- D. He doesn't understand.

2101.3 Build: "He stayed up late; no wonder he's tired."

Arrange all chunks: ， / 今天这么累。/ 怪不得 / 他昨天熬夜了

2101.4 难怪 and 怪不得 can both mean "no wonder".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

2101.5 Your classmate speaks perfect English, and today you learn she grew up in London. 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

■ **怪不得 (no wonder)**

2101.1 怪不得

怪不得 + the fact that now makes sense.

2101.2 B. You can't blame him for this.

怪不得 + person = can't blame.

2101.3 他昨天熬夜了，怪不得今天这么累。

Reason, then 怪不得 + fact.

2101.4 True.

They are synonyms in this sense.

2101.5 One possible response: 怪不得她英语说得这么好，原来她在伦敦长大。

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.
- 怪不得 only makes sense when the reason is known or given; without it, the listener is left puzzled.
- It goes at the start of its clause: 怪不得他 …, not 他怪不得 ….
- 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.