

Adverbs

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

+ + + — the rebuking

Tucked inside a complement, turns the comment **sour** — “easy for *you* to say.” It implies the opposite of reality and is aimed mostly at the listener, with / .

Structure: Subject + Verb + + + Adjective

{zh: |shuō|saying it / |de / |dào|easy enough / |róng yì / , |nà|then / |nǐ|you / |lái|do it / ! }

Easy for you to say — you do it then!

{zh: |nǐ|you / |xiǎng|wish / |de / |dào|nicely / |měi / ! |bù|don’t / |gōng zuò|work / |hái|yet / |xiǎng|want / |ná|to be paid / |gōng zī / ? }

You wish! Get paid without working?

Remember: + = **a sarcastic jab** — “” = “easy enough *for you* to say.” Reach for it to push back at the other person’s / . (= “you wish!”)

Watch out

- This (dào, “but / contrary”) rebukes; don’t confuse it with (dǎo, “fall over”).

+ — “very, quite” (literary)

is a dressed-up — the same “very,” but with a formal, literary flavour you’ll meet in writing rather than everyday speech. The extra makes the emphasis feel weightier.

Structure: Subject + + Adjective

{zh: |nǐ|your / |de / |biǎo xiàn|performance / |ràng|made / |lǐng dǎo|the boss / |hěn shì|very / |mǎn yì|pleased / 。 }

Your performance pleased the boss greatly.

{zh: |zhè yàng|doing it this way / |zuò / |hěn shì|quite / |bì yào|necessary / 。 }

Doing it this way is quite necessary.

Remember: = **in its Sunday best** — a written, weightier “very,” pairing with two-syllable adjectives (,). If it sounds too formal to say out loud, that’s exactly the right feel.

Watch out

- Keep it for writing — in speech, plain / is natural.

+ — “a full, all of”

stresses that an amount is **fully that much** — “a full, all of, every bit of.” It always pairs with a number, often with or .

Structure: + Verb (+ Number) · Verb +

{zh: |wǒ|I / |děng|waited / |le / |tā|for her / |zú zú|a full / |liǎng ge|two / |xiǎo shí|hours / 。 }

I waited a full two hours for her.

{zh: |tā|he / |zài|in / |Zhōng guó|China / |zhù|lived / |le / |zú zú|all of / |shí nián|ten years / 。 }

He lived in China for all of ten years.

Remember: = “**a FULL, every bit of**” (= “enough / full”) — it always rides a number and underlines that the amount is *large*: (“a *whole* two hours”), (“all of ten years”).

Watch out

- It needs a quantity — with no number to amplify is incomplete.

+ — “again and again, repeatedly”

means doing something **insistently, again and again** — “repeatedly, time and again.” It precedes a two-syllable verb (often of speech or request), and can take .

Structure: Subject + + Verb

{zh: |wǒ|I / |yí zài|again and again / |gēn / |nǐ|you / |shuō|told / , |chū mén|out and about / |yào|to be / |xiǎo xīn|careful / 。 }

I’ve told you again and again to be careful when you’re out.

{zh: |lǎo shī|the teacher / |yí zài|repeatedly / |qiáng diào|stressed / |zhè|this / |yì diǎn|point / 。 }

The teacher stressed this point over and over.

Remember: = “**time and again, insistently**” — formal, with two-syllable verbs of speech/thought (, ,). It’s the close cousin of .

Watch out

- Reserve it for repeated *deliberate* acts — not a plain “often” (that’s).

+ + / / — “all, every (no exception)”

sweeps over **every member** of a category — “any, every, whoever / whatever” (=). It opens the sentence and pairs with / / .

Structure: + Noun + / / + Predicate

{zh: |fán shì|all / |huì yuán|members / |dōu / |yǒu|get / |zhé kòu|a discount / 。 }

All members get a discount.

{zh: |fán shì|any / |bù / |tīng huà|disobedient / |de / |hái zi|child / |dōu / |méi|gets no / |táng|sweets / |chī / 。 }

Any child who misbehaves gets no sweets.

Remember: = “any and every, without exception” (=) — it states a blanket rule and pairs with / / to nail it down (...). Use it to leave *no* member out.

Watch out

- It needs the / / downstream to complete the “every” sweep.

() + — “always, all along”

describes a **long-standing habit or trait** — “always, has always, all along.” It’s very close to .

Structure: Subject + () + Verb / Adjective

{zh: |tā|he / |xiàng lái|has always / |dōu / |hěn|very / |shǒu shí|punctual / 。 }

He’s always been punctual.

{zh: |wǒ|I / |xiàng lái|have never / |bù / |xǐ huan|liked / |diǎn|ordering / |wài mài|takeaway / 。 }

I’ve never liked ordering takeaway.

Remember: = a settled, unchanging pattern over time (“has always been this way”) — interchangeable with (further down this file). It looks back over the long run.

Watch out

- It’s for *long-held* traits — not a one-off recent stretch (that’s).

— “sure enough, as expected”

confirms a **prediction came true** — “sure enough, just as expected.” It’s the opposite of / (“unexpectedly”).

Structure: Subject + + Predicate · /

{zh: |dì yī míng|first place / |guǒ rán|sure enough / |shì|is / |tā|her / ! |wǒ|I / |jiù / |zhī dào|knew it / 。 }

First place is her, sure enough — I knew it!

{zh: |tiān qì yù bào|the forecast / |shuō|said / |xià yǔ|rain / , |guǒ rán rú cǐ|and so it did / 。 }

The forecast said rain, and sure enough it did.

Remember: = “sure enough, just as I foresaw” — it *confirms* a prediction (, “just so”). It’s the mirror image of / (“and yet, unexpectedly”): foreseen vs surprising.

Watch out

- If the outcome *surprised* you, you want / , not .

— “it seems, as if”

hedges toward an **impression** — “it seems, apparently, as if.” It’s a formal cousin of , used for an uncertain judgement, or to flag “seems X but actually Y.”

Structure: Subject +

{zh: |lǎo bǎn|the boss / |jīn tiān|today / |sì hū|seems / |bú tài|not very / |gāo xìng|happy / 。 }

The boss seems a little upset today.

{zh: |tā|she / |sì hū|seems to be / |yǐn mán|hiding / |le / |shén me|something / 。 }

She seems to be hiding something.

Remember: = the formal (“it seems, as if”) — a hedged, uncertain impression. It can quietly set up “.....” (“seems so, but actually...”).

Watch out

- It’s writing-leaning — in casual speech is the natural choice.

— “contrary to expectation, of all things”

marks a frustrating **clash with what was required or hoped** — “of all things, just had to.” It can also mean “only ... (annoyingly),” singling out the one exception.

Structure: A , Subject + + B

{zh: |bù|we told him not to / |jiào / |tā / |qù|go / , |tā|he / |piān piān|of all things / |yào|insisted on / |qù|going / 。 }

We told him not to go, and of course he insisted.

{zh: |bié rén|everyone else / |dōu / |zǎo|early / |dào|arrived / |le / , |piān piān|only / |tā|he / |yí ge rén|alone / |chí dào|was late / 。 }

Everyone else was early — only he was late.

Remember: = a frustrated “of all things / just HAD to” — things go *against* what you wanted (, “told him not to, and *of course* he insisted”). It can also single out the one annoying exception (“only he...”).

Watch out

- It always carries *annoyance* — things deliberately not going your way.

..... , — “even the most ..., still”

Here concedes an extreme — “however un-... one is, still” It grants the unfavourable case and overrides it ($\approx$ ).

Structure: + Adjective , + Result

{zh: |zài bù|however un- / |xǐ huan|fond / , |nǐ|you / |yě|still / |děi|have to / |qù|go / |yí tàng|once / 。 }

However little you like it, you still have to go.

{zh: |zài bù|even if not / |è|hungry / , |yě|still / |chī|eat / |diǎn|a little / |ba / 。 }

Even if you’re not hungry, eat a bit.

Remember: **X Y = “however un-X, still Y”** — it grants even the unfavourable extreme and holds the result firm (, “however little you like it, you still have to go”). $\approx$

Watch out

- This (“however not...”) differs from the warning (“if not now, then...!”) in HSK 5.

— “uniformly, without exception”

means a rule applies **to all alike** — “uniformly, across the board, without exception.” It’s written / official, often pairs with , and is mostly for people.

Structure: (+) + Verb / Adjective

{zh: |míng tiān|tomorrow’s / |de / |huì yì|meeting / |yí lǜ|without exception / |dōu / |yào|must / |cān jiā|attend / 。 }

Everyone must attend tomorrow’s meeting.

{zh: |qī shí suì|over-seventies / |yǐ shàng / |zuò|riding / |gōng jiāo|the bus / |yí lǜ|all / |miǎn fèi|free / 。 }

Over-70s ride the bus free, no exceptions.

Remember: = “**one treatment for ALL, across the board**” — official/written, often with (, “free for everyone, no exceptions”). Picture a single rule stamped on every case alike.

Watch out

- It’s for *uniform treatment*, mostly of people — heavier and more official than a plain .

() — “nothing but, merely”

plays a matter **down to its essentials** — “nothing more than, merely, only.” It often ends with or . The is optional with a verb, but **required** with a noun.

Structure: + () + Verb / Noun (+ /)

{zh: |wǒ|I / |wú fēi|only / |pī píng|told off / |le / |tā|him / |jǐ jù|a bit / , |tā|he / |zěn me|why / |kū|crying / |le / ? }

I only told him off a little — why’s he crying?

{zh: |hái zi|the child / |xiǎng|wants / |dé dào / |de / |wú fēi|is nothing but / |shì / |nǐ|your / |de / |guān xīn|attention / |bà le / 。 }

All the child wants is your attention, nothing more.

Remember: = “**nothing more than, merely**” — it strips a thing to its plain core, often capped with / (“...that’s all”). The is optional before a verb, but **required** before a noun ().

Watch out

- It deflates (“it’s only...”) — don’t use it where you mean to emphasise.

— “always, all along”

marks a **consistent, long-held** habit or attitude — “always, all along.” The feeling is “it’s always been this way.”

Structure: Subject + + Habit / Attitude

{zh: |Xiǎo Wáng|Xiao Wang / |yí xiàng|has always / |shàng bān|come to work / |hěn|very / |zǎo|early / , |zhè cì|this time / |zěn me|what’s / |le|wrong / ? }

Xiao Wang’s always early to work — what happened this time?

{zh: |mā ma|mum / |yí xiàng|has always / |zhī chí|backed / |wǒ|my / |de / |jué dìng|decisions / 。 }

Mum has always backed my decisions.

Remember: = “it’s always been this way” — a settled disposition over the long run. It’s the twin of (earlier in this file); both look back over a long, unbroken habit.

Watch out

- For one *recent* unbroken stretch (“the whole time lately”), use , not .

— “when the time comes”

points to a **future moment** when something will apply — “when the time comes, by then.”

Structure: , +

{zh: |xiàn zài|now / |bù|if you don’t / |hǎo hǎo|properly / |zhǔn bèi|prepare / , |dào shí hou|when the time comes / |kěn dìng|surely / |kǎo bu hǎo|do badly / 。 }

If you don’t prepare now, you’ll do badly when the time comes.

{zh: |nǐ|you / |xiān|first / |zì jǐ|yourself / |shì shi|try / , |dào shí hou|then / |wǒ|I / |zài / |jiāo|teach / |nǐ|you / 。 }

Try it yourself first; I’ll teach you when the time comes.

Remember: = “when the time comes, by then” — it points ahead to a future moment. Handy set phrases: (“see you then”), (“we’ll see then”).

Watch out

- It looks *forward* — don’t use it for “at that (past) time,” which is .

— “why bother, there’s no need”

is a **rhetorical** “why (must) ...?” — arguing that something is **unnecessary**. It often ends with , and can stand alone for “why bother?”

Structure: Subject + + Predicate (+)

{zh: |tā|he / |yǐ jīng|already / |dào qiàn|apologised / |le / , |nǐ|you / |hé bì|why / |hái|still / |shēng qì|be angry / ? }

He’s already apologised — why stay angry?

{zh: |dōu shì|we’re all / |yì jiā rén|family / , |hé bì|why bother / |zhè me|being so / |kè qì|formal / ? }

We’re all family — no need to be so formal.

Remember: = a rhetorical “why (must) you...?” = “there’s no need.” It nudges someone to drop a pointless effort (“why be angry?”); alone = “why bother?”. Proverb: (“if you’d known, why do it in the first place?”).

Watch out

- It’s not a real question — it’s arguing that the thing is *unnecessary*.