Laowai

HSK 6

HSK 3.0 / Grammar

Make the relationship precise / 99 topics



Open the linked lesson for the full explanation and more examples.

Open this study guide

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HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

Make the relationship precise

Work with nuanced adverbs, formal connections and near-synonyms. Read the example for its logic as well as its individual words.

这道菜咸了点儿。

Zhè dào cài xián le diǎnr.

This dish is a little too salty.

Study this construction

How to use this guide

Read the example, cover the translation and say what the sentence means. Open the linked lesson for the full explanation and additional examples. Where practice is available, the online guide links to it.

Laowai's teaching crosswalk to the 2021 proficiency framework. Vocabulary links use the 2025 examination lists; the grammar selections are study guides, not the official 2025 syllabus.

Topics in this selection

Complements - 10 topics

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Conjunctions and complex sentences - 11 topics

Aspect, time and completion - 1 topics

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Complements

得不得了 (De Bùdéliǎo): Extremely and Terribly in Chinese

Adj. + 得不得了

得不得了 intensifies a description to an extreme degree. Put it after the adjective or descriptive predicate, with 得 linking the quality to the degree complement.

爸爸气得不得了，你要倒霉啦。

Bàba qì de bùdéliǎo, nǐ yào dǎoméi la.

Dad is super angry. You're in for it.

Full lesson and examples →

得很 (De Hěn): Strong Emphasis After an Adjective

Adj. + 得 很

得很 follows an adjective to emphasize a high degree of the quality. The adjective comes first, then 得 connects it to 很 as a degree complement.

我好得很，你不用为我担心。

Wǒ hǎo de hěn, nǐ bùyòng wèi wǒ dānxīn.

I'm doing great. You don't need to worry about me.

Full lesson and examples →

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了 with Complements: After Results and Inside Directional Phrases

Verb + Result / Direction Complement + 了; Selected Verb + 了 + Direction Complement

With a result complement, 了 normally follows the complete verb-result unit. The action and result form the predicate whose occurrence is being asserted, so separating them with 了 is not the ordinary pattern.

吃完了。

Chī wán le.

Finished eating.

Full lesson and examples →

得很, 得不得了, and More: Chinese Degree Complements

Adjective + 得 + 很 / 不得了 / 要命 / 不行

A degree complement can intensify an adjective from after the predicate rather than placing a degree word before it. 得很 gives a strong evaluation, while 得不得了, 得要命, and 得不行 often sound more vivid or emotional. These phrases communicate how strongly the speaker experiences the quality, rather than providing an objective numerical measurement of it.

这个孩子自私得很。

Zhège háizi zìsī de hěn.

This child is super selfish.

Full lesson and examples →

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得了, 得下, 得起, 得动, and 得着: Potential Complements

Verb + 得 / 不 + 了 / 下 / 起 / 动 / 着

Potential complements describe whether a particular result is achievable. The final component specifies the limitation involved: 了 often concerns feasibility, 下 available capacity, 起 affordability or ability to bear a cost, 动 sufficient strength, and 着 reaching or obtaining the intended target.

他那么老， 走得了那么多路吗?

Tā nàme lǎo, zǒu deliǎo nàme duō lù ma?

He's so old. Will he be able to walk that far?

Full lesson and examples →

住, 开, and 出来: Chinese Result Complements

Verb + 住 / 开 / 出(来)

Result complements tell the listener what an action achieves. 住 commonly conveys securing, retaining, or stopping something; its meaning extends beyond physical holding to mental retention. 开 often involves opening, separation, or dispersal. 出 or 出来 can describe something emerging into view, being produced, or becoming recognizable. The original spatial meanings help explain many of these extended uses.

一定要记住我的话。

Yīdìng yào jì zhù wǒ de huà.

You must remember what I said.

Full lesson and examples →

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坏了 (Huài Le): Express an Extreme State

Adjective / suitable verb + 坏了

坏了 can intensify a state so that it feels overwhelming or extreme. It often appears with tiredness, hunger, anger, or worry, but the emotional result can also be favorable, depending on the preceding word.

大家都累坏了。

Dàjiā dōu lèi huài le.

Everyone was dead-tired.

Full lesson and examples →

着 (Zháo): Achieve a Result or Reach a Goal

Verb + 着; verb + 得 / 不 + 着

As a result complement, 着 indicates that an action reaches its intended result or succeeds in a relevant way. The exact outcome comes from the verb, such as entering sleep or finding something sought.

宝宝刚睡着。

Bǎobao gāng shuì zháo.

The baby just fell asleep.

Full lesson and examples →

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到 (Dào) as a Result Complement: Achieve the Goal

Verb + 到

到 after a verb often emphasizes attainment: the action has reached a target, obtained something, or produced an intended result. A plain verb can name the activity, while the compound makes success more explicit.

我还没有做。

Wǒ hái méiyǒu zuò.

I haven‘t done it.

Full lesson and examples →

Verb + 来 + Verb + 去: Back and Forth or Repeatedly

Verb + 来 + verb + 去

Repeating the same verb around 来 and 去 presents an action as moving back and forth or continuing through repeated turns. With movement verbs, the direction may be literal.

学生们都很紧张，在考场外面走来走去。

Xuéshēng men dōu hěn jǐnzhāng, zài kǎochǎng wàimiàn zǒu lái zǒu qù.

The students are all nervous, they are all pacing back and forth outside of the exam room.

Full lesson and examples →

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Adjectives

Adjective + 了点儿: A Bit Too and Small Changes in Chinese

Adj. + 了 + (一) 点儿

An adjective followed by 了点儿 can suggest that a quality goes slightly beyond what is suitable. It is useful for commenting on fit, distance, price, or another practical mismatch while keeping the criticism relatively restrained. 一 can appear before 点儿.

这道菜咸了点儿。

Zhè dào cài xián le diǎnr.

This dish is a little too salty.

了点儿 follows the adjective. Here it gently says the saltiness is more than wanted.

Full lesson and examples →

有的是 (Yǒudeshì): Plenty Of and More Than Enough

Subj. + 有的是 + Noun

有的是 emphasizes that something is available in abundance. Put the resource after the expression, or establish it as the topic and end the comment with 有的是.

他爸是大老板，有的是钱。

Tā bà shì dà lǎobǎn, yǒudeshì qián.

His dad is a big boss. He's got plenty of money.

Full lesson and examples →

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Adverbs and degree

都 Beyond All: Even, Already, and Emphatic Complaints

Subj. + 都 + Predicate

都 does more than distribute a statement across a group. It can highlight a striking extent or outcome, giving an “even” interpretation without naming every member of a set.

我很想妈妈，有时候我都能看见她。

Wǒ hěn xiǎng Māma, yǒu shíhou wǒ dōu néng kànjiàn tā.

I really miss Mom. Sometimes I can even see her.

Full lesson and examples →

还 for Surprise and Sarcasm: Emphatic Chinese Patterns

Subj. + 还 + Predicate + 呢

还 can present a situation as surprising or at odds with what the speaker expects. In these uses, it may emphasize a remarkable fact rather than simply mean still or also. 呢 often adds force at the end.

这个小孩还真聪明！

Zhège xiǎohái hái zhēn cōngming!

This kid is brilliant!

Full lesson and examples →

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总 with Modals: Eventually, In Any Case, and Necessary Action

总 + (会 / 得 / 要 / 能) + Verb Phrase

总 can express a firm expectation that remains valid despite uncertainty about timing or circumstances. With 会, it often suggests that something will happen eventually; with 能, it can express confidence that a way or opportunity will be found.

这里是他家，他总会回来的。

Zhèlǐ shì tā jiā, tā zǒng huì huílái de.

This is his home. He will come back eventually.

Full lesson and examples →

毕竟 (Bìjìng): After All and Reasons That Still Matter

(Subject +) 毕竟 + Relevant Fact / Reason

毕竟 introduces a fact or reason the speaker considers important to the judgment being made. It often asks the listener to take a circumstance seriously when evaluating someone's behavior or deciding what is reasonable.

别骂他了，他毕竟是孩子。

Bié mà tā le, tā bìjìng shì háizi.

Stop yelling at him. He's only a kid, after all.

Full lesson and examples →

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再不...就...: If You Do Not Act Now in Chinese

再不..... 就.....

再不…就… warns that delaying an action further will bring a consequence. The first clause names what needs to happen soon, with 再不 describing continued failure to do it.

你再不走，我就叫保安了。

Nǐ zài bù zǒu, wǒ jiù jiào bǎoān le.

If you don't leave now, I'm going to call security.

Full lesson and examples →

差点没 (Chàdiǎn Méi): Almost Not and Ambiguous Near Misses

Subj. + 差点没 + Verb

差点 means an event came close to occurring. When the following phrase is negative, the literal reading is that the nonoccurrence nearly happened, so the action actually succeeded.

我差点儿没想起来。

Wǒ chàdiǎnr méi xiǎng qǐlái.

I almost couldn't recall it.

Full lesson and examples →

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反正 (Fǎnzhèng): Anyway, Regardless, and a Settled Reason

反正

反正 presents a conclusion that remains the same despite other possibilities or objections. A preceding clause may describe the alternatives, often with 不管, and the 反正 clause states the position that does not change.

不管他去不去，反正我要去。

Bùguǎn tā qù bu qù, fǎnzhèng wǒ yào qù.

Regardless of whether he's going or not, I'm going anyway.

Full lesson and examples →

尽量 (Jǐnliàng): As Much as Possible and Trying Your Best

尽量 + Verb Phrase / Description

尽量 says to pursue an action or quality as fully as circumstances allow. It can express a promise to try, a request for effort, or a practical limit on what can be achieved.

我会尽量想办法帮你的。

Wǒ huì jǐnliàng xiǎng bànfǎ bāng nǐ de.

I will try my best to figure out something to help you.

Full lesson and examples →

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好不容易 and 好容易: Achieving Something with Difficulty

Subject + 好不容易 / 好容易 + (才 +) Result

好不容易 emphasizes the difficulty involved in reaching a result. Before a predicate, it presents success as something achieved only after effort, delay, or repeated attempts. 才 often reinforces that the result did not come easily.

她好容易才减肥成功。

Tā hǎo róngyì cái jiǎnféi chénggōng.

She had a hard time losing weight and succeeded.

Full lesson and examples →

尽管 (Jǐnguǎn): Feel Free to Ask, Speak, or Help Yourself

尽管 + Verb

尽管 before a verb can reassure someone that they are welcome to carry out the action. It is common when inviting questions, offering help, or encouraging guests to take what they want.

大家有话尽管说。

Dàjiā yǒu huà jǐnguǎn shuō.

Feel free to speak up if you have anything to say.

Full lesson and examples →

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干脆 (Gāncuì): Just Do It or Choose the Direct Option

Subj. + 干脆 + Verb Phrase

干脆 introduces a straightforward decision that cuts through hesitation or inconvenience. A preceding situation often explains why the speaker prefers to stop considering complicated alternatives.

家里什么都没有，干脆出去吃吧。

Jiālǐ shénme dōu méiyǒu, gāncuì chūqù chī ba.

There is nothing in the house, let's just go out to eat.

Full lesson and examples →

再也不 and 再也没: Never Again and No More Since Then

Subj. + 再也 + 不 + Verb Phrase + 了

再也不 emphatically rules out an action happening again. It often expresses a firm decision after an experience, but it can also describe an expectation or inability.

我再也不想看到你了！

Wǒ zài yě bù xiǎng kàndào nǐ le!

I never want to see you again!

Full lesson and examples →

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曾经 (Céngjīng): Once, Former Experience, and Past States

Subject + 曾经 + Predicate (+ 过)

曾经 places a situation in an earlier period of experience. It often recalls something that once happened or used to be true, sometimes with an implied contrast to the present.

我们曾经一起去过。

Wǒmen céngjīng yīqǐ qù guò.

We once went there together.

Full lesson and examples →

再三 (Zàisān): Repeatedly and Time After Time

再三 + Verb

再三 emphasizes repeated attention to an action. It is especially common with verbs of thinking, requesting, warning, or stressing a point.

老师再三强调这次考试对我们很重要。

Lǎoshī zàisān qiángdiào zhè cì kǎoshì duì wǒmen hěn zhòngyào.

The teacher has stressed over and over that this exam is really important for us.

Full lesson and examples →

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简直 (Jiǎnzhí): Simply, Absolutely, and Emphatic Comparisons

简直……

简直 intensifies a judgment the speaker finds striking. It can strengthen a descriptive predicate, an identity statement, or a claim about not understanding or not knowing something.

这里简直是天堂！

Zhèlǐ jiǎnzhí shì tiāntáng!

This place is simply heaven.

Full lesson and examples →

一向 (Yīxiàng): Longstanding Habits and Consistent Attitudes

Subject + 一向 + Habit / Attitude / Characteristic

一向 presents a habit, attitude, or characteristic as established over a long period. It is useful when describing someone's usual conduct or comparing an unexpected incident with their known pattern.

小王一向上班很早，这次是怎么了？

Xiǎo Wáng yīxiàng shàngbān hěn zǎo, zhè cì shì zěnme le?

Xiao Wang has always started work very early. What happened this time?

Full lesson and examples →

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白 (Bái) Before Verbs: In Vain, Wasted Effort, and For Free

白 + Verb

白 before a verb can say that an action failed to produce its intended benefit. The effort, money, or time was spent, but the expected result did not follow.

白花了一百块钱，这件衣服不能穿。

Bái huā le yībǎi kuài qián, zhè jiàn yīfu bù néng chuān.

I just wasted a hundred kuai. I can't even wear these clothes.

Full lesson and examples →

顺便 (Shùnbiàn): While You Are at It and Doing an Extra Task

Subj. + Verb Phrase 1，顺便 + Verb Phrase 2

顺便 introduces an additional action that fits conveniently with something already being done. The first activity creates the opportunity; the 顺便 phrase names the extra task.

你去买早饭的时候顺便帮我带杯咖啡吧。

Nǐ qù mǎi zǎofàn de shíhou shùnbiàn bāng wǒ dài bēi kāfēi ba.

When you go out to get breakfast can you also bring me a cup of coffee?

Full lesson and examples →

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Verb + 了又 + Verb: Doing Something Again and Again

Subj. + Verb + 了 + 又 + Verb

Repeating a short verb in the pattern Verb + 了 + 又 + Verb emphasizes recurrence. It often describes looking, thinking, asking, trying, or searching repeatedly.

这个人我看了又看， 还是觉得我不认识他。

Zhège rén wǒ kàn le yòu kàn, háishì juéde wǒ bù rènshi tā.

I looked at him again and again, but I still think I don't know him.

Full lesson and examples →

差很多 (Chà Hěn Duō): Very Different Rather Than Roughly the Same

Subj. + 差很多

差很多 describes a large difference between the things being compared. It serves as a predicate, either after a plural subject or after a phrase connecting two items with 和 or 跟.

中西方的文化差很多。

Zhōng xīfāng de wénhuà chà hěn duō.

Chinese culture and western culture are quite different.

Full lesson and examples →

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格外 (Géwài): Express Especially or Unusually

Subject + 格外 + adjective / stative predicate

格外 marks a degree that stands out from what is usual or expected in the context. It can describe a particularly busy day, an unusually comfortable morning, or an especially satisfying night's sleep.

下过雨的早晨格外舒服.

Xià guo yǔ de zǎochén géwài shūfu.

It's especially comfortable on mornings after a rain.

Full lesson and examples →

Particles

啊 (A) in Lists: Naming Examples Conversationally

Item A + 啊，Item B + 啊，Item C + 啊 + (什么的)

啊 can follow successive items in a conversational list. It gives the sequence a relaxed, spoken rhythm and often suggests that the speaker is naming examples rather than providing a complete inventory.

我们什么零食都有，花生啊，瓜子啊，薯片啊，你随便吃吧。

Wǒmen shénme língshí dōu yǒu, huāshēng a, guāzǐ a, shǔpiàn a, nǐ suíbiàn chī ba.

We have all sorts of snacks: peanuts, roasted seeds, chips, go ahead and eat whatever you want.

Full lesson and examples →

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了 After an Object: Completed Events and Sentence Rhythm

Verb + Obj. + 了

了 may follow the verb or appear after its object, but the placements are not freely interchangeable in every context. Short verb-object expressions often sound complete with final 了, while a specified object or a longer event description can support 了 directly after the verb.

我上了课。

Wǒ shàng le kè.

I had class....

Full lesson and examples →

Topic + 嘛: Introducing What You Want to Discuss

Topic + 嘛，Comment

嘛 can follow a topic before the speaker comments on it. This creates a conversational pause, giving the listener time to recognize the issue being discussed.

大熊猫嘛，大家都喜欢。

Dàxióngmāo ma, dàjiā dōu xǐhuan.

Pandas. Everybody likes them.

Full lesson and examples →

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Noun phrases

当中 (Dāngzhōng): Among a Group and During a Process

(在 +) Group / Process + 当中

当中 locates something within a group, situation, or process. After a group phrase, it can introduce members being singled out or define the set within which a comparison is made.

你是我所有朋友当中最聪明的一个。

Nǐ shì wǒ suǒyǒu péngyou dāngzhōng zuì cōngming de yī gè.

Of all of my friends, you are the smartest one.

Full lesson and examples →

彼此 (Bǐcǐ): Each Other and Mutual Relationships

彼此 + Predicate; Verb + 彼此; 彼此 + 的 + Noun

彼此 expresses a relationship shared reciprocally by the relevant participants. It often corresponds to each other, but can also emphasize that both sides share a situation or responsibility.

我们只见过一次， 彼此不是很了解。

Wǒmen zhǐ jiàn guo yī cì, bǐcǐ bù shì hěn liǎojiě.

We've only met once. We don't know each other well.

Full lesson and examples →

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当...的时候: Framing When Something Happens in Chinese

当 + Event / Situation + (的时候 / 时)，Main Clause

当 introduces the occasion or situation in which the main event takes place. The time clause can describe an ongoing state, a particular event, or a recurring trigger. 的时候 often closes it, while 时 provides a shorter alternative.

当我有自行车的时候，大家都开始骑电动车了。

Dāng wǒ yǒu zìxíngchē de shíhou, dàjiā dōu kāishǐ qí diàndòngchē le.

When I got a bike, everyone started riding electric ones.

Full lesson and examples →

这个 After a Person or Name: Labels and Emphatic Topics

Person / Thing + 这个 + Label / Category，Comment

After a person or thing, 这个 can introduce a label that makes the speaker's characterization explicit. With a person, the label may convey affection, irritation, or criticism depending on its content and tone.

你这个坏蛋，就没做过一件好事。

Nǐ zhège huàidàn, jiù méi zuò guo yī jiàn hǎoshì.

You're such a bad person! You haven't done a single good thing.

Full lesson and examples →

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Questions

呢 (Ne) in Questions: Wondering, Weighing Choices, and Tone

……呢？

呢 can give an existing question a more reflective or conversational quality. With a question word, it may suggest wondering about the answer.

我去缅甸呢，还是泰国呢？我得想一想！

Wǒ qù Miǎndiàn ne, háishì Tàiguó ne? Wǒ děi xiǎng yi xiǎng!

Should I go to Myanmar or Thailand? I have to think a bit!

Full lesson and examples →

Prepositions and coverbs

以上, 以下, 以内, and 以外: Setting Chinese Limits

Amount / Level + 以上 / 以下 / 以内 / 以外

以上 and 以下 follow an amount or level to establish a lower or upper bound. 以内 describes a range within a limit, while 以外 refers beyond it. The phrase can modify a noun with 的 or form part of a predicate.

十岁以下的孩子不用买票。

Shí suì yǐxià de háizi bùyòng mǎi piào.

Children under the age of 10 do not need to buy tickets.

Full lesson and examples →

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自从 (Zìcóng): Ever Since a Starting Event in Chinese

自从 + Past Starting Point + (以来)，Main Clause

自从 identifies a past starting point and frames what has happened from that point onward. The starting point can be a date or an event clause.

自从来到湖南，我越来越能吃辣了。

Zìcóng lái dào Húnán, wǒ yuèláiyuè néng chī là le.

Ever since arriving in Hunan I've been more and more able to eat spicy food.

Full lesson and examples →

对...而言 (Duì...Éryán): From Someone's Point of View

对 + Person / Group + 而言，.....

对…而言 identifies the person or group for whom a judgment is relevant. It may concern importance, difficulty, acceptability, or the way someone evaluates a situation.

这样的工作对我而言很重要。

Zhèyàng de gōngzuò duì wǒ ér yán hěn zhòngyào.

This kind of job, for me, is very important.

Full lesson and examples →

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在内 (Zài Nèi): Including Items Within a Total or Group

(包括)..... 在内 ， .....

在内 makes inclusion within a group, calculation, or scope explicit. It often appears with 包括, placing the included item between the verb and 在内.

这些费用不包括在内。

Zhèxiē fèiyòng bù bāokuò zài nèi.

These fees are not included.

Full lesson and examples →

凭 (Píng): On the Basis Of, By Virtue Of, and Evidence

凭.....

凭 introduces the basis that enables an action or supports a claim. It can name a concrete credential, such as an identification document, or an abstract resource, such as experience, effort, or intuition.

凭护照， 外国人可以买火车票。

Píng hùzhào, wàiguó rén kěyǐ mǎi huǒchē piào.

Using a passport, foreigners can buy train tickets.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

Passive 给 (Gěi): Colloquial Got-Done-To Patterns

Affected Subject + 给 + Doer + Verb Phrase; Affected Subject + 被 + Doer + 给 + Verb Phrase

给 can mark a passive relationship in conversational Chinese. The affected person or thing appears first, followed by 给, the doer, and the action.

我给他骗了。

Wǒ gěi tā piàn le.

I got scammed by him.

Full lesson and examples →

至于 (Zhìyú): As For and Turning to a Related Topic

至于 + Topic， Comment

至于 introduces a related topic after some discussion is already in place. It often corresponds to as for or as to, shifting attention from what has been settled to another issue that needs a separate comment.

项目方案我给老板了。 至于老板同不同意，要看老板了。

Xiàngmù fāng'àn wǒ gěi lǎobǎn le. Zhìyú lǎobǎn tóng bu tóngyì, yào kàn lǎobǎn le.

I've given the project proposal to my boss. It's up to him whether he agrees or not.

Full lesson and examples →

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就 for Scope: Regarding a Topic and From One Aspect

就 + Scope + Verb / 就 + Topic + (来说 / 而言) + Comment

就 can introduce the subject matter of an action such as discussing, explaining, or exchanging views. In that role, it comes before the topic and normally precedes the main verb.

两国领导人就环保问题交换了意见。

Liǎng guó lǐngdǎorén jiù huánbǎo wèntí jiāohuàn le yìjiàn.

The two leaders exchanged views on environmental issues.

Full lesson and examples →

趁 (Chèn): Do Something While the Opportunity Lasts

趁 + opportunity or situation，action

趁 introduces circumstances that make an action possible or worthwhile at that moment. Its meaning combines timing with opportunity: the speaker acts while a favorable condition still holds.

趁打折，我买了新手机。

Chèn dǎzhé, wǒ mǎi le xīn shǒujī.

Taking advantage of the discount, I bought a new phone.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

Sentence structure and word order

要不是 (Yàobushì): If It Were Not For

要不是 + condition (+ 的话)，counterfactual result

要不是 asks the listener to imagine a situation without an important fact, person, or intervention. The following clause explains what would happen, or would have happened, in that alternative situation.

要不是你，我会迷路。

Yàobùshì nǐ, wǒ huì mílù.

If it weren't for you, I would get lost.

Full lesson and examples →

多亏 (Duōkuī): Say Thanks To in Chinese

多亏(了) + helpful circumstance，subject + 才 + favorable result

多亏 identifies the help or fortunate circumstance behind a favorable result. It invites the listener to recognize that things could have gone worse without that contribution.

我能这么快做完，多亏了你帮我。

Wǒ néng zhème kuài zuò wán, duōkuī le nǐ bāng wǒ.

I was able to finish so quickly thanks to your help.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

而已 (Éryǐ): Express Only, Merely, or That's All

Limited statement + 而已

而已 limits the scope or importance of the statement immediately before it. The speaker presents something as merely that much, with no greater meaning implied.

一杯咖啡而已，不要这么感动。

Yī bēi kāfēi éryǐ, bùyào zhème gǎndòng.

It's just a cup of coffee, you don't need to be so moved.

Full lesson and examples →

将 (Jiāng) as a Formal Alternative to 把

Subject + 将 + object + verb phrase

将 can introduce the object that an action affects, much as 把 does in a disposal sentence. This usage appears especially in written instructions, reports, and other formal language.

他将这些蛋糕都吃完了。

Tā jiāng zhèxiē dàngāo dōu chī wán le.

He has eaten all the cake.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

Advanced 把 Sentences: 给, 当作, and 成

Subject + 把 + object + 给 + verb phrase; 把 + A + 当作 / 看作 + B; 把 + object + verb + 成 + result

Advanced 把 sentences keep their focus on what happens to a specified object, but the effect can be abstract. 给 before the verb can add conversational emphasis without introducing a recipient. 当作 or 看作 describes treating or regarding someone as something. A result with 成 can describe transformation, production, or mistaking one thing for another, depending on the verb.

我把这事儿给忘了。

Wǒ bǎ zhè shì er gěi wàng le.

I forgot about this matter.

Full lesson and examples →

要...就: If You Are Going to Do It, Do It

要 + intended action + 就 + action / requirement

要…就 can frame an action as a choice and then insist on carrying it through or doing it properly. Repeating the verb produces a direct challenge or instruction: if that is what someone intends, they should act.

要走就走，我们不需要你。

Yào zǒu jiù zǒu, wǒmen bù xūyào nǐ.

If you want to leave, leave. We don't need you.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

少不了 (Shǎobuliǎo): Cannot Do Without or Bound to Have

Subject / situation + 少不了 + noun / verb phrase

少不了 says that something cannot be absent from a situation, or that an experience is bound to occur. It can identify an essential ingredient in a celebration, an indispensable contribution, or an unwelcome consequence that someone cannot escape.

每年春节，少不了饺子和春晚。

Měi nián Chūnjié, shǎobuliǎo jiǎozi hé Chūnwǎn.

Every Chinese New Year, it's gotta be dumplings and the Spring Festival Gala.

Full lesson and examples →

等于 (Děngyú): Be Equivalent To or Amount To

A + (就) + 等于 + B

等于 expresses equality in mathematics and extends to practical equivalence in everyday language. The speaker treats one action or situation as effectively the same as another in its consequences or significance.

今天吃了炸鸡，等于白跑步了。

Jīntiān chī le zhájī, děngyú bái pǎobù le.

I ate fried chicken today, which amounts to me going jogging for nothing.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

从…中 (Cóng…Zhōng): Learn or Gain Something From

Subject + 从 + source + 中 + gain / discovery

从…中 frames something as the source from which knowledge, experience, or another result is obtained. The source can be a book, a conversation, an activity, or an event that leads to understanding. 中 presents the source as a domain in which the useful material is found, so the meaning often extends well beyond physical movement out of a place.

我从书中学习了很多知识。

Wǒ cóng shū zhōng xuéxí le hěn duō zhīshi.

I learned a lot from the book.

Full lesson and examples →

Verb + 就 + Verb: So Be It in Chinese

Verb phrase + 就 + repeated verb phrase

Repeating a verb phrase around 就 can accept a possibility while dismissing its power to worry or deter the speaker. The tone may be indifferent, resigned, or defiant: if that happens, so be it.

坏了就坏了，再买新的。

Huài le jiù huài le, zài mǎi xīn de.

If it's broken, so be it-we can buy a new one.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

不但…甚至连…也: Not Only, But Even

不但 + first point，甚至连 + surprising focus + 也 / 都 + predicate

不但…甚至连…也 extends a statement by adding a more striking case. The first clause establishes one fact; the second moves to something less expected or more extreme on the relevant scale.

他不但不知道李连杰， 甚至连成龙也不知道。

Tā bùdàn bù zhīdào Lǐ Liánjié, shènzhì lián Chéng Lóng yě bù zhīdào.

Not only does he not know Jet Li, he doesn't even know Jackie Chan.

Full lesson and examples →

好 (Hǎo) for Purpose: So That Someone Can

Enabling action，(subject +) 好 + intended action

好 can introduce the purpose served by an earlier action. The first clause describes preparation or a helpful arrangement, and the following clause explains what this enables.

她睡前常常喝牛奶， 好入睡。

Tā shuì qián chángcháng hē niúnǎi, hǎo rùshuì.

She often drinks milk before bedtime to help her fall asleep.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

跟...有关的: Describe Things Related To a Topic

跟 / 和 / 与 + topic + 有关的 + noun

有关 links something to a topic, person, or project. When followed by 的 and a noun, the whole phrase specifies which things are under discussion: those connected with that topic.

我和他分手了, 跟他有关的事情我都不想知道。

Wǒ hé tā fēnshǒu le, gēn tā yǒuguān de shìqing wǒ dōu bù xiǎng zhīdào.

We broke up, I don't want to know anything related to him.

Full lesson and examples →

一面...一面 (Yīmiàn...Yīmiàn): Do Two Things at Once

Subject + 一面 + action 1 + 一面 + action 2

一面…一面 presents two activities as taking place alongside each other. The subject normally participates in both, and the sentence highlights their overlap rather than a sequence in which one finishes before the other starts.

我一面哭一面跑。

Wǒ yīmiàn kū yīmiàn pǎo.

I cried while running away.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

所谓 (Suǒwèi): So-Called or What Is Known As

所谓 + (的) + noun phrase

所谓 introduces a label, term, or concept that people use. It can neutrally identify what is called something, or it can distance the speaker from a claim they doubt.

所谓的天才，有可能有这样的人，也有可能，他自己偷偷地努力。

Suǒwèi de tiāncái, yǒu kěnéng yǒu zhèyàng de rén, yě yǒu kěnéng, tā zìjǐ tōutōu de nǔlì.

There may be such a person as this the so-called "genius," or, possibly, he has been secretly trying really hard.

Full lesson and examples →

不是…就是 (Bù Shì…Jiùshì): Either One or the Other

不是 + option A + 就是 + option B

不是…就是 presents two alternatives as covering the relevant possibilities. The speaker may be describing an uncertain identity, a repeated habit, or choices that seem limited to two outcomes.

他整天不是打游戏就是睡觉。

Tā zhěng tiān bù shì dǎ yóuxì jiùshì shuìjiào.

If he's not playing video games all day, he's sleeping.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

宁可…也不 and 宁可…也要: Would Rather

宁可 + chosen alternative，也不 + rejected alternative; 宁可 + accepted cost，也要 + determined action

宁可 expresses a deliberate preference, often when making a choice involves a drawback. In 宁可…也不, the speaker accepts the first alternative rather than take the second.

我宁可没有男朋友， 也不要随便找一个男朋友。

Wǒ nìngkě méiyǒu nán péngyǒu, yě bù yào suíbiàn zhǎo yī gè nánpéngyǒu.

I'd rather have no boyfriend than choose one at random.

Full lesson and examples →

Verb phrases

Verb + 什么 (Shénme): Challenge an Action in Chinese

Verb + 什么 + verb / object

什么 does more than ask for information when it follows a verb in a rhetorical challenge. The speaker questions why an action is happening or suggests it is unreasonable.

你买什么买，钱都花光了。

Nǐ mǎi shénme mǎi, qián dōu huā guāng le.

Why buy anything? All the money is gone.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

像…一样 and 不像…那么: Compare Specific Qualities

A + 像 + B + 一样 + predicate; A + 不像 + B + 这么 / 那么 + predicate

像 introduces something used as a model for comparison. Adding 一样 and a following predicate identifies the particular quality or behavior the comparison concerns.

她有时候像小孩一样天真。

Tā yǒushíhou xiàng xiǎohái yīyàng tiānzhēn.

She's as naive as a little kid sometimes.

Full lesson and examples →

化 (Huà): Form Chinese Words Meaning -ize or -ify

Noun / adjective + 化

The suffix 化 builds words about becoming something or making something acquire a particular quality. English often uses endings such as ize, ify, or ization for similar ideas.

中国化、美国化、个性化、数字化、城市化、两极化、边缘化

Zhōngguó- huà, Měiguó- huà, gèxìng- huà, shùzì- huà, chéngshì- huà, liǎngjí- huà, biānyuán- huà

sinicize/Chinese-ify, Americanize, personalize, digitize, urbanize, polarize, marginalize

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

难怪 (Nánguài) as a Verb: Hard to Blame

难怪 + person; 这也难怪 (+ person)

难怪 can evaluate responsibility rather than simply introduce an explanation. In this use, it means that blaming someone would be unreasonable or difficult to justify.

他迟到了，这也难怪。今天地铁坏了。

Tā chídào le, zhè yě nánguài. Jīntiān dìtiě huài le.

He's late, but we can't blame him for that. The subway broke down today.

Full lesson and examples →

难免 (Nánmiǎn): Say Something Is Hard to Avoid

Subject + 难免 + (会 / 要) + predicate

难免 presents an outcome as difficult to prevent under the circumstances. It often softens criticism by recognizing that mistakes, misunderstandings, or setbacks can naturally arise.

刚开始说外语时难免会有一些误会。

Gāng kāishǐ shuō wàiyǔ shí nánmiǎn huì yǒu yīxiē wùhuì.

When you first start speaking a foreign language, there are inevitably going to be some misunderstandings.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

受 (Shòu): Express Being Affected or Receiving Treatment

Subject + 受 + (agent) + action / influence

受 often presents someone or something as receiving treatment, influence, or an effect. Common combinations concern respect, welcome, interference, criticism, and harm.

张老师的课很受学生的欢迎。

Zhāng Lǎoshī de kè hěn shòu xuéshēng de huānyíng.

Teacher Zhang's lessons are welcomed by the students.

Full lesson and examples →

Comparisons

比起...来 and 相比: Make Chinese Comparisons

比起 + B (+ 来)，A + comparison; 与 / 和 / 跟 + B + 相比，A + comparison

比起 introduces the person, thing, or situation used as a comparison point. The main statement then evaluates another item against that reference.

比起上海，我老家的物价便宜多了。

Bǐ qǐ Shànghǎi, wǒ lǎojiā de wùjià piányí duō le.

Compared to Shanghai, the prices in my hometown are way cheaper.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

不如 (Bùrú): Not as Good as and Better To

A + 不如 + B (+ predicate); 不如 + suggested action

不如 places the first option below the second on a relevant scale. With no following adjective, it commonly means that the first is inferior or less satisfactory overall.

我哥的成绩不如我的。

Wǒ gē de chéngjì bùrú wǒ de.

My older brother's grades are not as good as mine.

Full lesson and examples →

不比 (Bù Bǐ) versus 没有: No More or Not As

A + 不比 + B + adjective

不比 denies a comparative claim: the first item does not exceed the second on the scale named by the adjective. This can leave equality or a lower degree open. 没有 more directly says that the first falls short of the second in the relevant quality.

你没有我聪明。

Nǐ méiyǒu wǒ cōngming.

You're not as smart as me.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

总算 versus 终于: Finally in Chinese

Subject + 总算 / 终于 + predicate

总算 and 终于 both mark the arrival of a result after a process, delay, or difficulty. They direct attention to the endpoint and suggest that something preceded it rather than presenting the event in isolation.

你总算来了！

Nǐ zǒngsuàn lái le!

You finally came!

Full lesson and examples →

跟 versus 对: With Someone or Toward Someone

跟 / 对 + person + suitable predicate

跟 and 对 can both identify the person being spoken to, so their use with 说 sometimes overlaps. Elsewhere, they frame different relationships. 跟 commonly connects participants in an interaction, accompaniment, or comparison, while 对 directs an action, attitude, or evaluation toward a target.

我跟她说了，但是她不信。

Wǒ gēn tā shuō le, dànshì tā bù xìn.

I told her, but she didn't believe me.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

朝, 向, and 往: Toward in Chinese

朝 / 向 / 往 + direction + suitable verb

朝, 向, and 往 can introduce a direction before a movement verb, but their overlap is limited. 往 strongly suits movement toward a place, while 朝 often emphasizes facing or directing an action toward a target. 向 covers spatial direction and also many abstract targets, including the person from whom someone learns or to whom a request is directed.

从这里向 / 朝 / 往北走两百米就到了。

Cóng zhèlǐ xiàng / cháo / wǎng běi zǒu liǎng bǎi mǐ jiù dào le.

From here, go one hundred meters north, and you'll get there.

Full lesson and examples →

对 versus 对于: Overlapping Uses and Key Differences

对 / 对于 + object，comment; subject + 对 + person + treatment

对 and 对于 overlap when introducing the object or matter an opinion, understanding, or discussion concerns. 对于 often has a more deliberate or formal sound and can foreground that reference point. This overlap does not mean every 对 can be expanded to 对于.

对(于) 这种事情，你有什么看法?

Duì(yú) zhè zhǒng shìqing, nǐ yǒu shénme kànfǎ?

As for this kind of thing, what's your perspective?

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

对于 versus 至于: Regarding or As For

对于 + object，comment; 至于 + shifted topic，comment; 不至于 + degree

对于 introduces the person, thing, or issue that a comment concerns. 至于 often moves the discussion to a further topic or aspect, roughly as for. That transition works best when a previous point is already available, even if supplied by the conversation.

对于电脑，我什么都不懂。

Duìyú diànnǎo, wǒ shénme dōu bù dǒng.

With regards to computers, I don't understand anything.

Full lesson and examples →

给 versus 为: Two Meanings of For in Chinese

Subject + 给 + recipient + action; subject + 为 + beneficiary / concern + predicate

给 often identifies the recipient or person toward whom an action is directed. 为 frequently introduces whose benefit, cause, responsibility, or concern motivates a predicate. Both may translate as for, but the English word covers relationships that Chinese distinguishes.

请给我拿一双筷子。

Qǐng gěi wǒ ná yī shuāng kuàizi.

Please get me a pair of chopsticks.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

平时 versus 平常: Usually or Ordinary

Subject + 平时 / 平常 + predicate; 很平常; 平常的 + noun

平时 and 平常 can describe what is usual outside a special occasion or exceptional situation. They introduce the ordinary background against which a habit or action is understood.

你平常会健身吗?

Nǐ píngcháng huì jiànshēn ma?

Do you often work out?

Full lesson and examples →

以后 versus 之后: After, Later, or In the Future

Event / time + 以后 / 之后; 以后 + future statement; 之后 + later development

以后 and 之后 can both follow a time or event to locate something after it. The preceding phrase supplies the reference point, whether it is getting married, finishing an activity, or reaching a particular stage.

下过雨以后空气会好很多。

Xià guo yǔ yǐhòu kōngqì huì hǎo hěn duō.

After it rains, the air will be a lot better.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

看起来 versus 看来: Looks Like or It Seems

Subject + 看起来 + description; 看来 + inference; 在 + person + 看来

看起来 often describes the impression a person, object, or situation gives. The judgment may concern appearance, mood, or how something seems on inspection. 看来 more readily introduces an inference drawn from available evidence, much like it seems that.

女儿今天看起来很开心。

Nǚ'ér jīntiān kànqǐlái hěn kāixīn.

Our daughter looks really happy today.

Full lesson and examples →

显得 versus 看起来: Appear or Look a Certain Way

Subject + 显得 / 看起来 + description; circumstance + 显得 + person + description

显得 presents a quality as standing out or becoming apparent in a situation. The sentence often shows how clothing, behavior, or a surrounding contrast makes someone appear a particular way. 看起来 more directly reports the impression someone gets from looking at or assessing the subject.

这样穿显得我比较成熟。

Zhèyàng chuān xiǎnde wǒ bǐjiào chéngshú.

Dressing like this makes me appear more mature.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

Modality and auxiliary verbs

将, 将要, and 将会: Express Future Events Formally

Subject + 将 / 将要 / 将会 + verb phrase

将 introduces a future event in a relatively formal style. It is common in announcements, plans, reports, and predictions, where English may use will.

他将成为一个好爸爸。

Tā jiāng chéngwéi yī gè hǎo bàba.

He will become a good father.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

Conjunctions and complex sentences

反而 (Fǎn'ér): Express the Opposite of Expectations

Context，subject + 反而 + unexpected opposite result

反而 highlights a result that runs against the expected direction. An attempted improvement may worsen the situation, or a setback may prompt greater effort.



吃了这个药，病反而更严重了。

Chī le zhège yào, bìng fǎn'ér gèng yánzhòng le.

After taking the medicine, the illness actually got even worse.

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

之所以...是因为: State the Result Before the Reason

Subject + 之所以 + result，是因为 / 是为了 / 是想 + explanation

之所以 frames a fact or result as something whose explanation is about to be given. The sentence establishes what happened or what someone does, then turns to the reason.

她之所以问这么多是为了多关心你们。

Tā zhī suǒyǐ wèn zhème duō shì wèile duō guānxīn nǐmen.

The reason she asks so many questions is in order to she cares about you guys.

Full lesson and examples →

一旦...就 (Yīdàn...Jiù): Once a Condition Is Met

一旦 + triggering condition，subject + 就 + consequence

一旦 introduces a condition as a turning point: once it occurs, a consequence follows. The event can be welcome, unwelcome, or simply important for what happens next.

一旦发生事故，你要负责！

Yīdàn fāshēng shìgù, nǐ yào fùzé!

In case of an accident, you're responsible!

Full lesson and examples →

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

就是…也 (Jiùshì…Yě): A Conversational Even If

就是 + hypothetical condition，subject + 也 + unchanged result

就是 can introduce a hypothetical concession in conversational Chinese. The speaker accepts a possibility for the sake of the argument, then maintains a decision or result anyway.

就是这台电脑价格上万，我也会买。

Jiùshì zhè tái diànnǎo jiàgé shàng wàn, wǒ yě huì mǎi.

Even if this computer's price is over 10,000 yuan, I'm still going to buy it.

Full lesson and examples →

就算…也 (Jiùsuàn…Yě): Even If or Even Assuming

就算 + hypothetical condition，subject + 也 + unchanged result

就算 grants a possibility for the sake of discussion and then shows that the conclusion still stands. The speaker may sound unconvinced, defiant, reassuring, or simply practical, depending on the context.

就算你不想听，我也要说。

Jiùsuàn nǐ bù xiǎng tīng, wǒ yě yào shuō.

Even if you don't want to listen, I still need to say it.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

哪怕…也 (Nǎpà…Yě): Even If, However Extreme

哪怕 + concession，subject + 也 + unchanged result

哪怕 introduces a concession that the speaker treats as unable to change the main point. It often highlights an extreme obstacle or a minimal possibility, giving the sentence an emphatic tone.

哪怕他不说，我也会知道。

Nǎpà tā bù shuō, wǒ yě huì zhīdào.

Even if he doesn't say, I'll still find out.

Full lesson and examples →

假如…就 (Jiǎrú…Jiù): Imagine If in Chinese

假如 + imagined condition，subject + 就 + consequence

假如 invites the listener to consider an imagined condition and what would follow from it. It can introduce a realistic possibility or a situation contrary to current facts.

假如你的成绩再好一点儿，你就能申请北大了。

Jiǎrú nǐ de chéngjì zài hǎo yīdiǎnr, nǐ jiù néng shēnqǐng Běi Dà le.

If your grades come up a little more, then you can apply to Beijing University.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

万一 (Wànyī): What If or In Case

万一 + possible event，response; 万一 + event + 怎么办 / 呢?

万一 raises a contingency the speaker wants to allow for, often something unlikely or undesirable. The point is preparedness or concern rather than a numerical estimate of probability.

万一我父母不同意呢?

Wànyī wǒ fùmǔ bù tóngyì ne?

What if my parents disapprove?

Full lesson and examples →

Topic + 的话 (De Huà): As For or When It Comes To

Topic + 的话，comment

的话 can establish what a following comment is about. After a place, time, issue, or other topic, it narrows the discussion in a way similar to as for or when it comes to.

北京的话，秋天去最好。

Běijīng dehuà, qiūtiān qù zuì hǎo.

As for Beijing, autumn is the best time to go.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

别说...就是 / 连...: Let Alone in Chinese

别说 + stronger case，就是 / 连 + lesser case + 也 / 都 + predicate

别说 can introduce a case that the speaker sets aside before presenting an even more basic or revealing one. In this pattern, the second case establishes that the conclusion holds even under easier, smaller, or more obvious circumstances.

别说一百， 就是一块钱我也不给你。

Bié shuō yībǎi, jiùshì yīkuài qián wǒ yě bù gěi nǐ.

Don't think about one hundred, I won't even give you one kuai.

Full lesson and examples →

更不用说 (Gèng Bùyòng Shuō): Let Alone or Not to Mention

Established case，更不用说 + further case (+ 了)

更不用说 extends a conclusion to another case that follows even more readily. The first clause supplies evidence: if the statement holds there, it applies all the more to the case after 更不用说.

连我都不知道这个歌手， 更不用说他了。

Lián wǒ dōu bù zhīdào zhège gēshǒu, gèng bùyòng shuō tā le.

I don't even know the singer, let alone him.

Full lesson and examples →

Laowai

HSK 3.0 Level 6 grammar

Aspect, time and completion

在…内 (Zài…Nèi): Within a Period of Time

在 + time period + 内 + predicate

在…内 places an event or result within a bounded period. It can describe a deadline, a plan for completion, or a change that occurred during a stated interval.

在短短的两年内，他就成为了 CEO。

Zài duǎnduǎn de liǎng nián nèi, tā jiù chéngwéi le CEO.

In just two years, he has become the CEO.

Full lesson and examples →

Sources and further study

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