

Express a need and respond kindly

HSK 1

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.

Say how you feel and what you would like to do.

Before you start: Recall 我, 今天 and 想 followed by an action. Distinguish a wish from an action already happening; the examples supply new activity words.

■ Build the meaning

我不舒服 states feeling unwell; 我想休息 states a wish to rest. A language exercise does not diagnose illness.

会 asks about a learned skill; 能 can ask about possibility in the situation. Compare 会游泳 and 今天能游泳.

Say how you feel, then what you want to do



■ Work through a decision

Compare 我会游泳 with 我今天不能去游泳. The first establishes swimming skill. The second says going swimming is not possible today; it does not erase that skill. If the speaker adds 游泳池今天不开门 – the pool is not open today – that supplies a circumstance. Without a reason, leave the reason unknown.

Compare: 我不舒服, 想休息 reports feeling unwell and wanting rest. It does not name an illness or tell a listener what treatment to give. A kind response can acknowledge the wish. Keep this fictional language situation separate from medical advice or a diagnosis.

■ Useful words in context

- 不舒服 bù shūfu – feel unwell. 我不舒服。
- 休息 xiūxi – rest. 我想休息。
- 游泳 yóuyǒng – swim. 我会游泳。
- 会 huì – know how to. 你会游泳吗?

- 能 néng – can in the situation. 你今天能去吗?

■ Listen before reading the script

Ask a partner to read the listening script from the answer section while you keep it covered. Then attempt the listening question. If you work alone without audio, use the script for reading practice; it is not a listening test.

■ Read a different account

林安会游泳，但是今天不舒服。她今天不去游泳，想在家休息。

Try the reading question before checking the English meaning in the answer section.

■ Speak with a partner

Ask a partner whether they can go today. In a fictional role, say you feel unwell and want to rest.

Check the distinction: 会 and 能 overlap in some contexts, but a learned skill is different from being able to participate today.

Learn step by step · Practise and review.

Practice without the models

Choose a pattern, cover its teaching examples, and attempt its questions. Use the labels to find feedback in the separate key.

■ Express a need and respond kindly

0701.1 Listening. What does the speaker want?

- A. To rest
- B. To learn swimming
- C. To go to school

0701.2 Reading. Does the text say Lin An lacks swimming skill?

- A. It does not mention swimming
- B. Yes
- C. No

0701.3 Complete “I want to rest”: 我想。

0701.4 Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- 1. 不舒服
- 1. 休息
- 1. 游泳
- 1. 会
- 1. 能

- A. feel unwell
- B. know how to
- C. rest
- D. swim
- E. can in the situation

0701.5 Write two sentences contrasting a skill and today's possibility.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

0701.6 我想休息。想 means want to and 休息 means rest. Which statement follows from this sentence alone?

- A. The speaker cannot swim.
- B. The speaker is already asleep.
- C. The speaker wants to rest.

0701.7 我会游泳,但是游泳池今天不开门,所以今天不能去。游泳池 means swimming pool; 今天不开门 means it is closed today; 所以 means so. First locate the reason. Why can the speaker not go today?

- A. The speaker says that swimming is forbidden everywhere.
- B. The pool is closed today.
- C. The speaker has never learned to swim.

0701.8 Read: 林安会骑自行车。今天她要在家等老师,不能和朋友一起去。骑自行车 means ride a bicycle, 等 wait and 一起 together. Which interpretation fits?

- A. She cannot ride a bicycle and is waiting at home for her friends.
- B. She can ride a bicycle but cannot join today because her bicycle is broken.
- C. She can ride a bicycle but today must wait at home for the teacher.

0701.9 Use Mandarin for the new sentences or dialogue. You may explain your reasoning in English. Invent a fictional person who knows how to do an activity but cannot join it today. Write the skill, a specific circumstance and a wish. A partner asks whether they can go; give a relevant reply without claiming the skill has disappeared. Read or speak the exchange, then check the meaning.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A friend says 我想喝水. Another learner reports that the friend has already drunk water. What is unsupported?

R2. Use it yourself. Tell a friend you are tired and would like to rest; give a kind response to someone who is hungry.

Write your responses before opening the key. Compare meaning as well as form; a different valid answer need not copy the model.

Answers and explanations

Check after your attempt. For open tasks, compare the message and the stated criteria, then revise one detail.

■ Express a need and respond kindly

0701.1 A. To rest

我想休息 states the wish directly.

0701.2 C. No

林安会游泳 says she has the skill; today's condition prevents the activity.

0701.3 休息

休息 names the action wanted.

0701.4 1-A: 不舒服 = feel unwell; 2-C: 休息 = rest; 3-D: 游泳 = swim; 4-B: 会 = know how to; 5-E: 能 = can in the situation

Use the example sentences to check each word's meaning in context.

0701.5 One possible response: 我会游泳。今天我不能去，想休息。

Check meaning and form:

- Use 会 for the skill.
- Use 今天 to locate the situation.
- State the wish clearly.

Compare the meaning and structure with the checklist. Your own response may differ from the model.

0701.6 C. The speaker wants to rest.

想休息 expresses a wish. It supplies no evidence of sleep or swimming ability. Return to the difference between wanting an action and reporting it as happening if you chose either extra claim.

0701.7 B. The pool is closed today.

The stated reason is the pool's closure today. 我会游泳 explicitly supplies the skill, and no universal ban is stated. A present obstacle and an absent learned skill are different claims.

0701.8 C. She can ride a bicycle but today must wait at home for the teacher.

会骑自行车 gives the learned skill. 在家等老师 supplies today's commitment; 不能和朋友一起去 says she cannot join her friends. No broken bicycle is stated, and the person she waits for is the teacher, not the friends.

0701.9 One possible response: Possible account: 我会游泳。今天我要在家等老师，不能去。我想明天去。Partner: 你今天能去吗? Reply: 今天不能去，我要在家等老师。The skill, today's commitment and tomorrow's wish are separate. Other coherent activities and circumstances are valid.

How to revise: If the reason is missing, add your invented circumstance explicitly. If

your sentences contradict each other, distinguish knowing how from being able to join today. Use a fictional situation; this self-review checks meaning and organisation, not pronunciation or medical knowledge.

Check meaning and form:

- State a learned skill with 会 in this context.
- Name a circumstance that explains today's constraint.
- State a wish without presenting it as a completed event.
- Answer the partner's actual question; avoid inventing a diagnosis or unstated fact.
- Write or speak the requested sentences, questions or dialogue in Mandarin; optional English reasoning does not replace them.

If the reason is missing, add your invented circumstance explicitly. If your sentences contradict each other, distinguish knowing how from being able to join today. Use a fictional situation; this self-review checks meaning and organisation, not pronunciation or medical knowledge.

■ Listening script and meaning

我会游泳，但是今天不能去。我想休息。

I know how to swim, but cannot go today. I want to rest.

■ Reading meaning

Lin An knows how to swim, but feels unwell today. She does not go swimming and wants to rest at home.

■ Speaking model

A: 你今天能去吗? B: 我不舒服，想休息。A: 好。

Compare the intended message first. Ask a listener to comment on intelligibility and pronunciation; matching the written model does not establish speaking accuracy.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 想喝水 expresses a wish to drink; it does not report the action as completed. The wish and the result are different information.

R2. One possible response. 我累了，想休息一下。你饿了？我们去吃饭吧。These convey a state, a wish and a suggestion. Other suitable responses are possible if they address the stated need.

Recall later. Later, distinguish wanting, needing and having already done something in new situations.