

Talk about an experience and a current action

HSK 2

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.

Distinguish having done something before from doing it now.

Before you start: Recall 去, go, and simple actions such as 学习, study. Distinguish an experience at some earlier time from an action currently happening; context supplies relevant times.

■ Build the meaning

Verb + 过 can describe an experience: 我去过上海. 没去过 denies having that experience; it does not deny knowing the city's name.

正在 + verb describes an action in progress: 我正在学习. A time expression helps identify when a different event happened.

Verb + 过: have done before · 正在 + verb: doing now

	who	verb	where	question word
A	你 nǐ you	去过 qù guo have been to	上海 Shànghǎi Shanghai	吗 ma ?
B	没 méi never	去过 qù guo been		
	我 wǒ I	正在 zhèngzài right now	看书 kàn shū am reading	

■ Work through a decision

我去年去过北京，现在正在学校学习 – I have been to Beijing, last year; now I am studying at school. 去过 supplies the earlier travel experience, 去年 places it last year and 现在正在学习 gives the current activity. The earlier city is not automatically the person's present location.

Compare: 我去过上海 reports an experience; 我正在学习中文 describes studying Chinese now. Do not translate every English past-tense verb by adding 过. A lack of experience also does not mean an action is impossible in the future.

■ Useful words in context

- 过 guo – experience marker. 我去过上海。
- 正在 zhèngzài – in the process of. 我正在学习。
- 去年 qùnián – last year. 我去年去过上海。
- 学习 xuéxí – study. 我正在学习中文。
- 以前 yǐqián – before. 我以前去过。

■ 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

王力去年去过上海。林安没去过上海。今天王力正在学习中文，林安正在看书。

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

■ Speak with a partner

Ask whether a partner has been to a city, then ask what they are doing now.

Check the distinction: 过 is not an ending to add to every English past-tense verb. Here it presents an experience.

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.

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0401.1 Listening. What is happening now?

- A. Swimming
- B. Reading

- C. Travelling to Shanghai

0401.2 Reading. Who has not been to Shanghai?

- A. 王力
- B. Both
- C. 林安

0401.3 Complete “I have been to Shanghai”: 我去 上海。

0401.4 Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- 1. 过
- 1. 正在
- 1. 去年
- 1. 学习
- 1. 以前
- A. study
- B. before
- C. last year
- D. in the process of
- E. experience marker

0401.5 Write one experience sentence and one current-action sentence.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

0401.6 我没去过上海。没去过 means have not been to. Which claim is supported?

- A. The speaker has not had the experience of going to Shanghai.
- B. The speaker has never heard the name Shanghai.
- C. The speaker is travelling there now.

0401.7 林安去年学过游泳，现在正在看书。去年 means last year, 学过游泳 has studied swimming and 正在看书 is reading now. First identify the current-action marker. What is she doing now?

- A. The sentence says she cannot read
- B. Taking a swimming lesson
- C. Reading

0401.8 Read: 王力没去过北京。今天他正在学校学习中文。Which account preserves the experience and current activity?

- A. He has visited Beijing before and is studying at school now.
- B. He has not visited Beijing and is studying in Beijing now.
- C. He has not visited Beijing and is studying Chinese at school now.

0401.9 Use Mandarin for the new sentences or dialogue. You may explain your reasoning in English. Invent a fictional person with one earlier travel or learning experience

and a different current activity. Write the account, then ask a partner one question about the experience and one about now. Say which facts about skill or future plans remain unknown.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. 我去过北京 is translated as I am going to Beijing now. Repair the interpretation.

R2. Use it yourself. Say you have visited Beijing before, but are now reading at home.

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.

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0401.1 B. Reading

现在 and 正在看书 identify the current action.

0401.2 C. 林安

林安没去过上海 denies her experience.

0401.3 过

过 after 去 marks the experience in this pattern.

0401.4 1-E: 过 = experience marker; 2-D: 正在 = in the process of; 3-C: 去年 = last year; 4-A: 学习 = study; 5-B: 以前 = before

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

0401.5 One possible response: 我去过上海。现在我正在学习中文。

Check meaning and form:

- Use 过 for the experience.
- Use 正在 for the ongoing action.
- Do not imply an experience is happening now.

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

0401.6 A. The speaker has not had the experience of going to Shanghai.

没去过 denies that travel experience. It does not deny knowing the place's name or establish a current journey. Keep the stated experience separate from general knowledge.

0401.7 C. Reading

现在正在看书 identifies current reading. The swimming study belongs to the earlier experience. Studying swimming earlier does not by itself establish her current proficiency.

0401.8 C. He has not visited Beijing and is studying Chinese at school now.

没去过北京 denies the travel experience. 正在学校学习中文 gives the current activity and school setting. The first choice drops the experience negation; the second replaces the current school location with Beijing.

0401.9 One possible response: Possible account: 我去年去过上海。现在我正在看书。Questions: 你去过上海吗? 你现在在做什么? Replies: 去过。正在看书。This does not state a future trip or reading ability level. Other coherent experiences and current activities are valid.

How to revise: If your reply places the person in the earlier travel city now, return

to the current-action clause. If a negative experience statement became a permanent inability, revise that unsupported inference.

Check meaning and form:

- Use an experience frame for the earlier event.
- Use a current-action frame with a clearly different activity.
- Answer each question from the relevant clause.
- Avoid inferring proficiency or a future plan from experience alone.
- Write or speak the requested sentences, questions or dialogue in Mandarin; optional English reasoning does not replace them.

If your reply places the person in the earlier travel city now, return to the current-action clause. If a negative experience statement became a permanent inability, revise that unsupported inference.

■ Listening script and meaning

我以前去过上海。现在我正在看书。

I have been to Shanghai before. Now I am reading.

■ Reading meaning

Wang Li has been to Shanghai, last year. Lin An has not. Today Wang Li is studying Chinese and Lin An is reading.

■ Speaking model

A: 你去过上海吗? B: 没去过。A: 你现在在做什么? B: 我正在看书。

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. It reports experience of having been to Beijing, not an action in progress. 我正在去北京的路上 locates an ongoing journey; 在北京 alone gives a location.

R2. One possible response. 我去过北京, 现在正在家看书。过 marks experience; 正在 presents the current reading action. The two clauses need not describe the same time.

Recall later. Later, make one experience sentence and a different current-action sentence.