

Verbs, ability & complements

HSK 3

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.

看起来 (looks / seems)

■ Judging by appearance

- A cake in the bakery window has thick cream and fresh strawberries. You haven't tasted it yet.
- 这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。 – “This cake looks delicious.”

■ Subject + 看起来 + Adjective

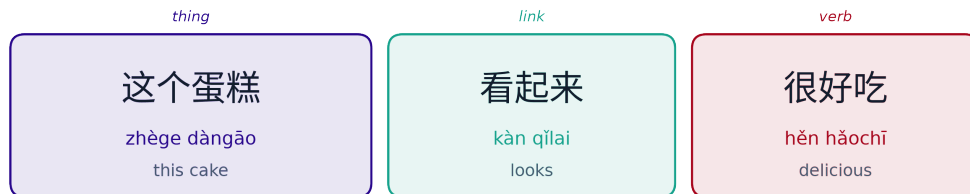
- 看起来 = “looks, seems (from what I can see)”. It goes before the description, and 很 often follows it.
- It reports an impression, not a fact you have checked.

他看起来很累。

tā kàn qǐ lái hěn lèi

Word guide: 他 – he; 看起来 – looks; 很 – very; 累 – tired.

看起来: it looks ...



■ Other senses: 听起来, 吃起来, 用起来

- Sound: 这个主意听起来不错。 – “That idea sounds good.”
- Taste and use: 这个菜吃起来有点辣 – “This dish tastes a bit spicy.” 这个手机用起来很方便 – “This phone is easy to use.”

这个主意听起来不错。

zhè ge zhǔ yì tīng qǐ lái bú cuò

Word guide: 这个 – this; 主意 – idea; 听起来 – sounds; 不错 – good.

■ An impression from the senses

- 看起来 gives what you see, so it does not prove the cake tastes good; tasting is 吃起来.
- For a guess that is not based on looks (he seems to have left), use 好像: 他好像走了.

■ 看起来 versus 看上去 and 好像

- 看上去 means almost the same as 看起来 and is common for people's appearance: 她看上去很年轻.
- 好像 is a guess or a comparison: 他好像生病了。 – “He seems to be ill (I suspect).”

他好像生病了。

tā hǎo xiàng shēng bìng le

Word guide: 他 – he; 好像 – seems; 生病 – be ill.

■ Recap

- 看起来 + Adj = looks ...; 听起来 = sounds ...; 吃起来 = tastes ...; 用起来 = is ... to use.
- These give a first impression from one sense. A general guess uses 好像.

Practise this pattern step by step.

让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

■ Who decides?

- You want to go out tonight, but your parents have other ideas.
- 妈妈不让我晚上出去。 – “Mum won't let me go out in the evening.”

■ A + 让 / 叫 / 请 + B + Verb

- A 让 B + Verb: A lets or makes B do something. A 叫 B + Verb: A tells B to do it (spoken). A 请 B + Verb: A politely invites or asks B.
- The person B is both the object of 让 and the doer of the next verb.

老师让我们写作业。

lǎo shī ràng wǒ men xiě zuò yè

Word guide: 老师 – the teacher; 让 – made; 我们 – us; 写 – write; 作业 – homework.

让 / 叫 + person + verb: who decides

who	not		when	verb
妈妈 māma Mum	不让 bú ràng doesn't let	我 wǒ me	晚上 wǎnshang at night	出去 chūqù go out

■ Telling, inviting, causing

- Telling: 妈妈叫我去买菜。 – “Mum told me to go and buy vegetables.”
- Inviting: 我想请你吃饭。 – “I’d like to treat you to a meal.”
- Causing a feeling: 这个消息让我很高兴。 – “This news made me very happy.”

这个消息让我很高兴。

zhè ge xiāo xī ràng wǒ hěn gāo xìng

Word guide: 这个 – this; 消息 – news; 让 – made; 我 – me; 很 – very; 高兴 – happy.

■ Order and negation

- Keep the order A + 让 + B + Verb: 妈妈让我去, not 妈妈让去我.
- Negate the first verb to refuse permission: 不让我去 = “won’t let me go”; 让我不去 changes the meaning to “tell me not to go”.

■ 使 for formal causes

- 使 = “to cause, make”, mainly in writing, with an abstract cause and a change of state: 运动使人健康。 – “Exercise makes people healthy.”
- In speech, 让 covers most of this: 运动让人很健康.

运动使人健康。

yùn dòng shǐ rén jiàn kāng

Word guide: 运动 – exercise; 使 – makes; 人 – people; 健康 – healthy.

■ Recap

- A 让/叫/请 B + Verb: 让 = let/make, 叫 = tell (spoken), 请 = invite/ask politely.
- 让 + person + feeling = make someone feel; 使 is the formal written “cause”. Refuse with 不让.

Practise this pattern step by step.

经过 (after going through)

■ After three years of training

- A runner who trained every morning for three years has just won her first marathon.
- 经过三年的努力，她终于赢了比赛。 – “After three years of hard work, she finally won the race.”

■ 经过 + process, result

- 经过 + a process (effort, discussion, time), then the result in the second clause.
- The process is usually a noun phrase: 经过一年的学习, 经过大家的讨论, 经过医生的检查.

经过大家的讨论，我们决定去上海。

jīng guò dà jiā de tāo lùn wǒ men jué dìng qù Shàng hǎi

Word guide: 经过 – after; 大家 – everyone’s; 讨论 – discussion; 我们 – we; 决定 – decided; 去 – go to; 上海 – Shanghai.

经过 + effort, (终于) result



■ 经过 as “pass by, go through”

- It is also a plain verb of movement: 我每天上班都经过这个公园。 – “I pass this park every day on the way to work.”
- 这趟车经过北京吗? – “Does this train go through Beijing?”

我每天经过这个公园。

wǒ měi tiān jīng guò zhè ge gōng yuán

Word guide: 我 – I; 每天 – every day; 经过 – pass; 这个 – this; 公园 – park.

■ A process before a result

- 经过 needs a process that leads somewhere; for a simple “after (a time)”, use 以后: 下课以后, not 经过下课.
- Put 经过 + process first and the result second: 经过检查, 医生说没问题.

■ 经过 versus 通过

- 经过 stresses going through the process: 经过多次试验 – “after many experiments”.
- 通过 stresses the means used to reach the goal: 通过朋友，我找到了工作 – “Through a friend, I found a job.”

通过朋友，我找到了工作。

tōng guò péng you wǒ zhǎo dào le gōng zuò

Word guide: 通过 – through; 朋友 – a friend; 我 – I; 找到 – found; 工作 – a job.

■ Recap

- 经过 + process, result = after going through ..., ...
- As a verb, 经过 = pass by / go through a place. For a plain “after”, use 以后; for “by means of”, 通过.

Practise this pattern step by step.

应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

■ A hot day out

- Your friend is going hiking at noon in 35 degrees with one small bottle of water.
- 你应该多带一点水。 – “You should take some more water.”

■ 应该 / 该 + Verb

- 应该 + Verb = “should, ought to”: advice or duty. 该 is the shorter, spoken form.
- Negative: 不应该 = “shouldn’t”: 你不应该这么晚睡觉.

你不应该这么晚睡觉。

nǐ bù yīng gāi zhè me wǎn shuì jiào

Word guide: 你 – you; 不 – not; 应该 – should; 这么 – so; 晚 – late; 睡觉 – go to bed.

应该: should



■ It is time to ...

- **该 + Verb + 了** = “it’s time to ...”: 十二点了, 我该走了。 – “It’s twelve; I should be going.”
- **该 + person + Verb** = “it’s someone’s turn”: 该你了 – “Your turn.”

十二点了, 我该走了。

shí èr diǎn le wǒ gāi zǒu le

Word guide: 十二点 – twelve o’clock; 我 – I; 该 – should; 走 – go.

■ Form and position

- 应该 goes after the subject and before the verb: 你应该休息, not 应该你休息 (unless you mean “it’s your turn”).
- Put 不 before 应该 to say “shouldn’t”: 你不应该去, not 你应该不去.

■ 应该 for “probably”

- 应该 can also be a confident guess: 他应该已经到家了。 – “He should be home by now.”
- Context tells you which one: advice to a person, or a guess about a situation.

他应该已经到家了。

tā yīng gāi yǐ jīng dào jiā le

Word guide: 他 – he; 应该 – should; 已经 – already; 到 – arrive; 家 – home.

■ Recap

- 应该 / 该 + Verb = should; 不应该 = shouldn’t.
- 该 ... 了 = it’s time to ...; 该你了 = your turn; 应该 can also mean “probably”.

Practise this pattern step by step.

难 + Verb (unpleasant to ...)

■ The canteen’s new dish

- You try the canteen’s new soup. It is salty and cold.
- 这个汤太难喝了! – “This soup tastes awful!” 难 + a sense verb = unpleasant to ...

■ 难 + sense verb

- 难吃, 难喝, 难看, 难听, 难闻 = bad-tasting (food), bad-tasting (drinks), ugly, unpleasant to hear, bad-smelling.
- They work like adjectives: 很难看, 太难听了. The opposites start with 好: 好吃, 好喝, 好看, 好听, 好闻.

这首歌很难听。

zhè shǒu gē hěn nán tīng

Word guide: 这 – this; 首 – (measure word); 歌 – song; 很 – very; 难听 – unpleasant to hear.

难 + verb: hard to ... (tastes, writes ...)

thing	link	verb	
这个汤	太	难喝	了
zhège tāng	tài	nánhē	le
this soup	too	bad to drink	!

■ 难 + other verbs: hard to ...

- With most other verbs, 难 means “difficult to”: 这个字很难写。 – “This character is hard to write.”
- 他的问题很难回答。 – “His question is hard to answer.”

他的问题很难回答。

tā de wèn tí hěn nán huí dá

Word guide: 他 – his; 问题 – question; 很 – very; 难 – hard to; 回答 – answer.

■ Unpleasant versus difficult

- 难吃 means it tastes bad, not that it is hard to eat; 难看 means ugly, not hard to see.
- 难受 is a feeling: “feel unwell, upset”: 我头疼，很难受。

■ 难 + Verb versus 不好 + Verb

- 不好吃 is milder: “not tasty”. 难吃 is stronger: “awful”.
- 不好写 (not easy to write) is similar to 很难写, but softer.

这个菜不好吃。

zhè ge cài bù hǎo chī

Word guide: 这 – this; 个 – (measure word); 菜 – dish; 不 – not; 好吃 – tasty.

■ Recap

- 难 + sense verb (难吃, 难看, 难听, 难闻, 难喝) = unpleasant to that sense; opposite 好 + verb.
- 难 + other verbs = hard to do: 难写, 难回答. 难受 = feel bad.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 了 + Duration (did for a length of time)

■ How long did you wait?

- Your friend was very late for lunch, and now she asks how long you waited.
- 我等了你一个小时! – “I waited for you for an hour!”

■ Verb + 了 + Duration

- **Subject + Verb + 了 + duration** = did it for that long (finished): 我睡了八个小时, 他学了两年.
- The duration comes after the verb, as in English “slept eight hours”, never before it.

我睡了八个小时。

wǒ shuì le bā gè xiǎo shí

Word guide: 我 – I; 睡 – sleep; 八个 – eight; 小时 – hours.

Verb + 了 + time span: how long



■ With an object: two patterns

- Duration before the object noun: 他学了三年中文。 – “He studied Chinese for three years.”
- Or repeat the verb: 他学中文学了三年。 A person object (你, 他) goes before the duration: 我等了你一个小时.

他学中文学了三年。

tā xué Zhōng wén xué le sān nián

Word guide: 他 – he; 学 – study; 中文 – Chinese; 学 – study; 三年 – three years.

■ Where the duration goes

- Duration after the verb: 我学了两年, not 我两年学了.
- With a noun object, do not put the duration last: 我学了两年中文 or 我学中文学了两年, not 我学了中文两年.

■ Finished, or still going?

- Verb + 了 + duration with no final 了 reports a finished period: 我在北京住了两年 – “I lived in Beijing for two years (then left).”
- Adding a final 了 says it is still going on; that pattern is the next lesson.

我在北京住了两年。

wǒ zài Běi jīng zhù le liǎng nián

Word guide: 我 – I; 在 – in; 北京 – Beijing; 住 – live; 两年 – two years.

■ Recap

- **Verb + 了 + duration** = did it for that long: 等了一个小时.
- With an object: 学了三年中文 or 学中文学了三年; a pronoun object comes before the duration: 等了你好一个小时.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 了 + Duration + 了 (have been ...-ing)

■ Still waiting

- Your friend phones to ask where you are. You are still in the café where you have been since two o'clock.
- 我等了你两个小时了! – “I’ve been waiting for you for two hours (and I’m still here)!”

■ Verb + 了 + Duration + 了

- **The final 了** says the period lasts up to now and may continue: 我学了三年中文了 – “I’ve been studying Chinese for three years.”
- Without it, the period is over: 我学了三年中文 – “I studied Chinese for three years.”

我学了三年中文了。

wǒ xué le sān nián Zhōng wén le

Word guide: 我 – I; 学 – study; 三年 – three years; 中文 – Chinese.

Verb + 了 + time span + 了: and still going



■ How long so far

- 他在这儿工作了十年了。 – “He has worked here for ten years (and still does).”
- Asking: 你学中文学了多长时间了? – “How long have you been learning Chinese?”

他在这儿工作了十年了。

tā zài zhèr gōng zuò le shí nián le

Word guide: 他 – he; 在 – at; 这儿 – here; 工作 – work; 十年 – ten years.

■ One 了 or two

- Two 了 = still going: 住了两年了 (I still live here). One 了 = finished: 住了两年 (I moved away).
- The duration still goes after the verb: 学了三年了, not 三年学了了.

■ With 已经

- 已经 often comes in front to stress the length: 我已经等了一个小时了。 – “I’ve already been waiting an hour.”
- The meaning of the two 了 does not change; 已经 just adds emphasis.

我已经等了一个小时了。

wǒ yǐ jīng děng le yí gè xiǎo shí le

Word guide: 我 – I; 已经 – already; 等 – wait; 一个 – one; 小时 – hour.

■ Recap

- Verb + 了 + duration + 了 = have been doing it for that long, up to now.
- One 了 = a finished period; two 了 = still going. 已经 adds emphasis.

Practise this pattern step by step.

没办法 + Verb (no way to / can’t)

■ The shop is closed

- Your friend asks you to buy a cake on the way home, but every bakery has closed for the holiday.
- 商店都关门了, 我没办法买蛋糕。 – “The shops are all shut; there’s no way I can buy a cake.”

■ Subject + 没办法 + Verb

- 没办法 + Verb = “there’s no way to ..., can’t (because the situation does not allow it)”.
- It goes before the verb phrase: 我没办法帮你, 他没办法来.

对不起, 我没办法帮你。

duì bu qǐ wǒ méi bàn fǎ bāng nǐ

Word guide: 对不起 – sorry; 我 – I; 没办法 – have no way to; 帮 – help; 你 – you.

没办法: no way to

verb	who	not	
商店都关门了 shāngdiàn dōu guān mén le the shops are closed	我 wǒ I	没办法 méi bàn fǎ have no way to	买蛋糕 mǎi dàn gāo buy a cake

■ On its own: “nothing can be done”

- As a short reply: A: 下雨了, 比赛取消了。B: 没办法。 – “Oh well, nothing we can do.”
- With 一点儿 for emphasis: 我一点儿办法都没有。 – “I’m completely out of ideas.”

我一点儿办法都没有。

wǒ yì diǎnr bàn fǎ dōu méi yǒu

Word guide: 我 – I; 一点儿 – a bit; 办法 – way; 都 – (at all); 没有 – have not.

■ Circumstances, not skill

- 没办法 means the situation blocks you; for a skill you lack, use 不会: 我不会游泳。
- Keep 没 (not 不): 没办法, not 不办法。

■ 没办法 versus 不能

- 不能 is the general “can’t / not allowed”: 这里不能抽烟 – “You can’t smoke here.”
- 没办法 suggests you have tried or thought about it and found no way: 我没办法联系他 – “I have no way of contacting him.”

我没办法联系他。

wǒ méi bàn fǎ lián xì tā

Word guide: 我 – I; 没办法 – have no way to; 联系 – contact; 他 – him.

■ Recap

- 没办法 + Verb = there’s no way to ..., the situation does not allow it.
- Alone, 没办法 = “nothing can be done”. A missing skill is 不会; a rule is 不能.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb reduplication (do a bit / give it a try)

■ Can I try it on?

- You see a jacket you like in a shop and want to try it before deciding.
- 我可以试试这件衣服吗? – “Can I try on this jacket?” Doubling the verb makes it light and casual.

■ One-syllable verbs: VV, V — V

- V + V or V + 一 + V = do it a little, give it a try: 看看 / 看一看, 尝尝 / 尝一尝.
- The second syllable is said lightly. The effect is softer and friendlier than the bare verb.

你尝一尝这个菜。

nǐ cháng yí cháng zhè ge cài

Word guide: 你 – you; 尝 – taste; 一 – (a bit); 尝 – taste; 这个 – this; 菜 – dish.

A doubled verb: try a little



■ Two-syllable verbs: ABAB

- A two-syllable verb doubles as a whole: 休息 → 休息休息, 介绍 → 介绍介绍, 讨论 → 讨论讨论.
- 我们讨论讨论这个问题吧。 – “Let’s talk this over a bit.”

你累了, 休息休息吧。

nǐ lèi le xiū xi xiū xi ba

Word guide: 你 – you; 累 – tired; 休息 – rest; 休息 – rest.

■ Verbs ABAB, adjectives AABB

- Two-syllable verbs repeat as ABAB (休息休息), not AABB (休休息息); AABB is for adjectives (干干净净).
- Doubling adds “a bit”, so do not add a duration as well: 看看, or 看一会儿, not 看看一会儿.

■ Past tense: V 了 V

- For a short completed action, put 了 in the middle: 他看了看表, 就走了。 – “He glanced at his watch and left.”
- Two-syllable verbs rarely take 了 inside; use the plain verb + 了 + 一下: 我们讨论了一下.

他看了看表, 就走了。

tā kàn le kan biǎo jiù zǒu le

Word guide: 他 – he; 看 – look; 看 – look; 表 – watch; 就 – then; 走 – leave.

■ Recap

- **VV / V — V** (看看, 看一看) and **ABAB** (休息休息) = do a bit, give it a try; softer and casual.
- Completed: **V 了 V** (看了看). Adjectives double as AABB, verbs as ABAB.

Practise this pattern step by step.

很 + Verb (feeling verbs with 很)

■ How much do you like it?

- A new friend asks whether you like Chinese food. You really do.
- 我很喜欢吃中国菜。 – “I really like Chinese food.”

■ 很 + feeling verb

- Verbs of feeling and wanting take degree words just like adjectives: 很喜欢, 很想, 很担心, 很希望, 很爱.
- 很 goes right before the verb: 我很想家 – “I miss home very much.”

我很想家。

wǒ hěn xiǎng jiā

Word guide: 我 – I; 很 – very much; 想 – miss; 家 – home.

很 / 非常 + feeling verb: how much



■ Other degree words work too

- 我非常担心他。 – “I’m extremely worried about him.”
- 我们都很希望你能来。 – “We all very much hope you can come.”

我们都很希望你能来。

wǒ men dōu hěn xī wàng nǐ néng lái

Word guide: 我们 – we; 都 – all; 很 – very much; 希望 – hope; 你 – you; 能 – can; 来 – come.

■ Feeling verbs only

- Ordinary action verbs do not take 很: 很吃, 很跑, 很去 are wrong. Say 吃得很多, 跑得很快.
- Put 很 before the verb, not the object: 很喜欢这本书, not 喜欢很这本书.

■ 很想 + Verb = really want to

- 想 + another verb means “want to”; 很想 strengthens it: 我很想去看看。 – “I’d really like to go and have a look.”
- 会很 + Verb = “be good at”: 他很会做饭 – “He’s a great cook.”

他很会做饭。

tā hěn huì zuò fàn

Word guide: 他 – he; 很 – very; 会 – good at; 做饭 – cooking.

■ Recap

- 很 + feeling verb (喜欢, 想, 担心, 希望, 爱) = like / want / worry ... very much.
- Action verbs do not take 很; use a 得 complement instead. 会很 = good at.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)

■ Come in, go out

- A friend knocks at your door; later your little brother runs off to play outside.
- 请进来! – “Please come in!” 他出去了。 – “He’s gone out.” 来 is towards the speaker, 去 is away.

■ Verb + 来 / 去

- 来 = movement towards the speaker; 去 = movement away from the speaker.
- Combine with direction verbs: 进来/进去, 出来/出去, 上来/上去, 下来/下去, 回来/回去, 过来/过去.

你快下来吧!

nǐ kuài xià lái ba

Word guide: 你 – you; 快 – quickly; 下来 – come down.

Verb + 来 / 去: toward or away from the speaker

who	where	verb
他 tā he	回家 huí jiā home	去了 qù le went (away)

■ A place goes before 来 / 去

- Verb + place + 来/去: 他回家去了。 – “He has gone back home.” 快进教室来!
– “Come into the classroom, quick!”
- A thing you carry can come after: 他带来了一本书 / 他带了一本书来。

他回家去了。

tā huí jiā qù le

Word guide: 他 – he; 回 – return; 家 – home; 去 – (away).

■ The speaker decides 来 or 去

- Choose by where the speaker is: you are upstairs → 上来 (come up); you are downstairs → 上去 (go up).
- A place word never comes after 来/去: 进教室来, not 进来教室。

■ 拿来, 带去, 送来

- Bringing and taking work the same way: 请把书拿来。 – “Please bring the book (here).”
- 我给他送去了一些水果。 – “I took some fruit over to him.”

请把书拿来。

qǐng bǎ shū ná lái

Word guide: 请 – please; 书 – the book; 拿 – bring; 来 – (here).

■ Recap

- Verb + 来 = towards the speaker; Verb + 去 = away from the speaker.
- A place goes before 来/去 (回家去, 进教室来); 拿来/带去 work the same way.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Potential complement 得 / 不 (can / can't do it)

■ Can you understand him?

- Your teacher speaks quickly at the start of a new course, and your friend wonders if you follow.
- 老师说得太快，我听不懂。 – “The teacher talks too fast; I can't understand.”

■ Verb + 得 / 不 + result

- **Verb + 得 + result** = can (manage to) do it; **Verb + 不 + result** = can't: 听得懂 / 听不懂, 看得见 / 看不见.
- It says whether the result is possible, not whether you are allowed.

我听得懂中文。

wǒ tīng de dǒng Zhōng wén

Word guide: 我 – I; 听 – listen; 得 – (can); 懂 – understand; 中文 – Chinese.

Verb + 得 / 不 + result: can or can't



■ Common pairs

- 看不见 (can't see), 买不到 (can't get hold of), 吃不完 (can't finish eating), 来得及 (there's still time).
- 这么多菜，我们吃不完。 – “This much food – we can't finish it.”

这么多菜，我们吃不完。

zhè me duō cài wǒ men chī bu wán

Word guide: 这么 – so; 多 – much; 菜 – food; 我们 – we; 吃 – eat; 不 – (cannot); 完 – finish.

■ Where 不 goes

- 不 goes between the verb and the result: 听不懂, not 不听懂.
- Ask with both forms: 你听得懂听不懂? or 你听得懂吗?

■ 听不懂 versus 没听懂

- 听不懂 = can't understand (it is beyond me): 他的上海话我听不懂.
- 没听懂 = didn't understand (this time): 对不起, 我没听懂, 请再说一遍。

对不起, 我没听懂。

duì bu qǐ wǒ méi tīng dǒng

Word guide: 对不起 – sorry; 我 – I; 没 – did not; 听懂 – understand.

■ Recap

- **Verb + 得 + result = can;** **Verb + 不 + result = can't** (看得见 / 看不见).
- 不 sits between verb and result. 没 + verb + result = it did not happen this time.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)

■ Don't stop now

- You are halfway through a story and your listener is hooked.
- 说下去, 后来怎么样了? – “Keep going – what happened next?”

■ Verb + 下去

- **Verb + 下去** = keep on doing, continue from now into the future: 说下去, 读下去, 住下去.
- It is often used with 继续, 要, 想 or 能: 我想在这儿住下去.

请继续说下去。

qǐng jì xù shuō xià qu

Word guide: 请 – please; 继续 – continue; 说 – speak; 下去 – (keep on).

Verb + 下去: keep going



■ Perseverance

- 学中文不容易，但是你要坚持下去。 – “Learning Chinese isn’t easy, but you must keep going.”
- 这样下去不行。 – “It can’t go on like this.” 这样下去 = if things continue this way.

这样下去不行。

zhè yàng xià qù bù xíng

Word guide: 这样 – like this; 下去 – (go on); 不 – not; 行 – OK.

■ Continuing, not going down

- In this pattern 下去 means “continue”, not physical movement down: 读下去 = keep reading.
- With 不 for “can’t go on”: 我听不下去了 – “I can’t bear to listen any more.”

■ 下去 versus 起来

- 下去 continues something already going: 唱下去 – “keep singing”.
- 起来 starts something new: 唱起来 – “start singing”: 大家都唱起来了。

大家都唱起来了。

dà jiā dōu chàng qǐ lái le

Word guide: 大家 – everyone; 都 – all; 唱 – sing; 起来 – (start).

■ Recap

- Verb + 下去 = keep on doing it, carry on (说下去, 坚持下去).
- 这样下去 = if this continues; 听不下去 = can’t bear to go on. 起来 = start.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Result complements 好 / 完 / 错 (how it turned out)

■ Finished or not?

- Your mum asks about your homework before you go out to play.
- 作业我做完了! – “I’ve finished my homework!” 完 tells the result of the action: it is finished.

■ Verb + result complement

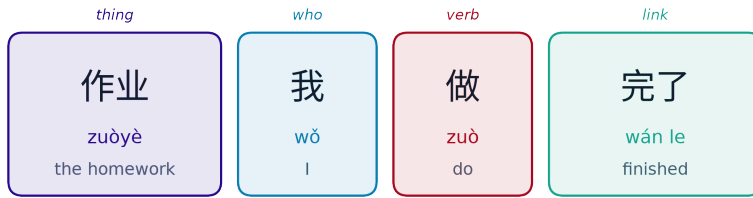
- Verb + 好 / 完 / 错 tells how the action ended: 做好 (done properly), 吃完 (eaten up), 写错 (written wrongly).
- 了 normally follows the result: 我写完了, 他看错了.

我写错了一个字。

wǒ xiě cuò le yí gè zì

Word guide: 我 – I; 写 – write; 错 – wrongly; 一个 – one; 字 – character.

Verb + 完 / 好: the result is reached



■ Ready, finished, wrong

- 好 = done and ready: 饭做好了, 快来吃吧! – “Dinner’s ready, come and eat!”
- 完 = finished, nothing left: 这本书我看完了. 错 = wrong: 对不起, 我打错了电话了。

饭做好了, 快来吃吧!

fàn zuò hǎo le kuài lái chī ba

Word guide: 饭 – dinner; 做 – make; 好 – ready; 快 – quickly; 来 – come; 吃 – eat.

■ Negate with 没, keep the pair together

- Negate with 没 and drop 了: 我还没做完, not 我不做完了.
- Nothing comes between the verb and its result: 做完作业, not 做作业完.

■ 做完 versus 做好

- 做完 = finished, the job is over (maybe not well done).
- 做好 = done properly, ready to use: 你准备好了吗? – “Are you ready?”

你准备好了吗?

nǐ zhǔn bèi hǎo le ma

Word guide: 你 – you; 准备 – prepare; 好 – ready.

■ Recap

- Verb + 好 / 完 / 错 (+ 了) = done properly / finished / done wrongly.
- Negative: 没 + Verb + result (还没做完). The result follows the verb directly.

Practise this pattern step by step.

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.

■ 看起来 (looks / seems)

0301.1 Complete: “You look very happy today.” 你今天 很高兴。

0301.2 Your friend describes a plan on the phone. You say: “That sounds interesting.” Which fits?

- A. 听起来很有意思。
- B. 用起来很有意思。
- C. 看起来很有意思。
- D. 吃起来很有意思。

0301.3 Match each sense verb to its meaning.

- 1. 看起来
- 1. 听起来
- 1. 吃起来
- 1. 用起来
- A. tastes
- B. sounds
- C. is ... to use
- D. looks

0301.4 Build: “This cake looks delicious.”

Arrange all chunks: 很 / 好吃。 / 这个蛋糕 / 看起来

0301.5 A cake in the bakery window has thick cream and fresh strawberries. You haven't tasted it yet. 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.

■ 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

0302.1 Complete: “My dad doesn't let me play games.” 爸爸不 我玩游戏。

0302.2 You invite your teacher to dinner. Which verb is most polite? 我想 ____ 老师吃饭。

- A. 叫
- B. 使
- C. 让
- D. 请

0302.3 Build: “This news made me very happy.”

Arrange all chunks: 让 / 我 / 很高兴。 / 这个消息

0302.4 妈妈不让我去 and 妈妈让我不去 mean exactly the same.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0302.5 You want to go out tonight, but your parents have other ideas. 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.

■ 经过 (after going through)

0303.1 Complete: "After a check-up, the doctor said it was nothing serious."
检查, 医生说没什么大问题。

0303.2 Which word fits? "After class, let's play basketball." 下课 _____, 我们去打篮球吧。

- A. 终于
- B. 经过
- C. 通过
- D. 以后

0303.3 Build: "I pass this park every day."

Arrange all chunks: 每天 / 经过 / 这个公园。 / 我

0303.4 通过朋友, 我找到了工作 stresses the means (a friend) rather than a long process.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0303.5 A runner who trained every morning for three years has just won her first marathon. 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.

■ 应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

0304.1 Advise: "You should see a doctor." 你 去看医生。

0304.2 What does 该你了 mean?

- A. It's your turn.
- B. You should be careful.
- C. You've arrived.
- D. You're probably right.

0304.3 Build: "It's twelve; I should be going."

Arrange all chunks: , / 走了。 / 十二点了 / 我该

0304.4 In 他应该已经到家了, 应该 is advice to him.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0304.5 Your friend is going hiking at noon in 35 degrees with one small bottle of water.

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.

■ **难 + Verb (unpleasant to ...)**

0305.1 Complete: "This colour is ugly." 这个颜色很。

0305.2 Match each word to its meaning.

- 1. 难吃
- 1. 难听
- 1. 难写
- 1. 难受
- A. sounds unpleasant
- B. hard to write
- C. feel unwell
- D. tastes bad

0305.3 Which is the mildest way to say the food is not good?

- A. 不好吃。
- B. 太难吃了。
- C. 难吃极了。
- D. 很难吃。

0305.4 Build: "His question is hard to answer."

Arrange all chunks: 很 / 回答。 / 他的问题 / 难

0305.5 You try the canteen's new soup. It is salty and cold. 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.

■ **Verb + 了 + Duration (did for a length of time)**

0306.1 Complete: "I slept for ten hours yesterday." 我昨天睡 十个小时。

0306.2 Which says "She studied piano for five years."?

- A. 她学钢琴五年了学。
- B. 她学了钢琴五年。
- C. 她五年学了钢琴。
- D. 她学了五年钢琴。

0306.3 Build: "I waited for you for an hour."

Arrange all chunks: 我 / 等了 / 一个小时。 / 你

0306.4 我在北京住了两年 can describe a stay that has ended.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0306.5 Your friend was very late for lunch, and now she asks how long you waited. 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.

■ Verb + 了 + Duration + 了 (have been ...-ing)

0307.1 You still live here: "I've lived here for five years." 我在这儿住了五年

0307.2 Which sentence means the person still works at the bank?

- A. 他三年在银行工作。
- B. 他在银行工作了三年了。
- C. 他在银行三年工作了。
- D. 他在银行工作了三年。

0307.3 Build: "I've already been waiting for an hour."

Arrange all chunks: 等了 / 一个小时了。 / 已经 / 我

0307.4 我学了三年中文 and 我学了三年中文了 mean exactly the same.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0307.5 Your friend phones to ask where you are. You are still in the café where you have been since two o'clock. 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.

■ 没办法 + Verb (no way to / can't)

0308.1 Complete: "The phone has no signal; I can't call you." 手机没有信号, 我 给你打电话。

0308.2 Which says "I can't swim (I never learned)."?

- A. 我游泳没办法。
- B. 我不办法游泳。
- C. 我没办法游泳。
- D. 我不会游泳。

0308.3 Build: "Sorry, there's no way I can help you."

Arrange all chunks: , 我 / 没办法 / 对不起 / 帮你。

0308.4 没办法 can be a complete reply meaning "nothing can be done".

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0308.5 Your friend asks you to buy a cake on the way home, but every bakery has closed for the holiday. 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.

■ **Verb reduplication (do a bit / give it a try)**

0309.1 Double the verb 看 to say "Let me have a look." 让我

0309.2 Which is the correct doubled form of 休息?

- A. 休息息
- B. 休休息息
- C. 休息休息
- D. 休休息

0309.3 Build: "He glanced at his watch and left."

Arrange all chunks: , 就 / 看了看表 / 他 / 走了。

0309.4 你尝尝 sounds softer than 你尝.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0309.5 You see a jacket you like in a shop and want to try it before deciding. 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.

■ **很 + Verb (feeling verbs with 很)**

0310.1 Complete: "I miss my mum very much." 我 想我妈妈。

0310.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 他很喜欢米饭。
- B. 他很吃米饭。
- C. 他米饭很喜欢吃很。
- D. 他喜欢很米饭。

0310.3 Build: "We all very much hope you can come."

Arrange all chunks: 很希望 / 你 / 能来。 / 我们都

0310.4 他很会做饭 means "He is very good at cooking."

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0310.5 A new friend asks whether you like Chinese food. You really do. 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.

■ **Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)**

0311.1 You are inside the room and call to your friend at the door: “Come in!” 进!

0311.2 You are on the ground floor talking about your friend upstairs: “He went up.” Which fits?

- A. 他来上了。
- B. 他上去了。
- C. 他上来了。
- D. 他去上了。

0311.3 Build: “Come into the classroom, quick!”

Arrange all chunks: 快 / 来! / 教室 / 进

0311.4 他进来教室了 is correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0311.5 A friend knocks at your door; later your little brother runs off to play outside. 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.

■ **Potential complement 得 / 不 (can / can’t do it)**

0312.1 The words on the board are too small: “I can’t see clearly.” 我看 清楚。

0312.2 Which says “I can’t understand Cantonese.”?

- A. 我不听懂广东话。
- B. 我没听得懂广东话。
- C. 我听懂不广东话。
- D. 我听不懂广东话。

0312.3 Match each form to its meaning.

- 1. 买不到
- 1. 吃不完
- 1. 来得及
- 1. 看得见
- A. there’s still time
- B. can’t finish eating
- C. can’t get hold of
- D. can see

0312.4 Build: “This much food – we can’t finish it.”

Arrange all chunks: 这么多菜 / 我们 / , / 吃不完。

0312.5 Your teacher speaks quickly at the start of a new course, and your friend wonders if you follow. 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.

■ **Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)**

0313.1 Encourage: "Keep reading!" 读!

0313.2 Everyone suddenly started laughing. Which fits? 大家都笑 _____ 了。

- A. 过去
- B. 下去
- C. 上去
- D. 起来

0313.3 Build: "It can't go on like this."

Arrange all chunks: 下去 / 不行。 / 这样

0313.4 In 说下去, 下去 means the speaker walks downstairs.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0313.5 You are halfway through a story and your listener is hooked. 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.

■ **Result complements 好 / 完 / 错 (how it turned out)**

0314.1 Complete: "I've eaten up all the dumplings." 饺子我都吃 了。

0314.2 Which says "I haven't finished reading this book yet."?

- A. 这本书我还没看完。
- B. 这本书我还看没完。
- C. 这本书我还没看完了。
- D. 这本书我还不看完了。

0314.3 Match each phrase to its meaning.

- 1. 做好了
- 1. 做完了
- 1. 写错了
- A. written wrongly
- B. finished
- C. done and ready

0314.4 Build: "Are you ready?"

Arrange all chunks: 准备好 / 了 / 吗? / 你

0314.5 Your mum asks about your homework before you go out to play. 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.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A student means I have finished the homework but writes 我作业完了. Repair the result phrase.

R2. Use it yourself. Describe two years spent learning Chinese, then contrast being able to understand with not understanding on one occasion.

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.

■ 看起来 (looks / seems)

0301.1 看起来

看起来 + Adj reports how someone looks.

0301.2 A. 听起来很有意思。

You heard the plan, so 听起来.

0301.3 1-D: 看起来 = looks; 2-B: 听起来 = sounds; 3-A: 吃起来 = tastes; 4-C: 用起来 = is ... to use

Sense verb + 起来 = comes across as ... to that sense.

0301.4 这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。

Subject + 看起来 + 很 + Adj.

0301.5 One possible response: 这个蛋糕看起来很好吃。

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.
- 看起来 gives what you see, so it does not prove the cake tastes good; tasting is 吃起来.
- For a guess that is not based on looks (he seems to have left), use 好像: 他好像走了.
- 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.

■ 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

0302.1 让

不让 + person + verb = not allow someone to do something.

0302.2 D. 请

请 is the polite “invite / treat”.

0302.3 这个消息让我很高兴。

Cause + 让 + person + feeling.

0302.4 False.

不让我去 refuses permission; 让我不去 tells me not to go. The focus differs.

0302.5 One possible response: 妈妈不让我晚上出去。

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.
- Keep the order A + 让 + B + Verb: 妈妈让我去, not 妈妈让去我.
- Negate the first verb to refuse permission: 不让我去 = “won’t let me go”; 让我不去 changes the meaning to “tell me not to go”.
- 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.

■ 经过 (after going through)

0303.1 经过

经过 + process (the check-up), then the result.

0303.2 D. 以后

A simple point in time takes 以后; 经过 needs a process.

0303.3 我每天经过这个公园。

As a verb, 经过 takes the place as its object.

0303.4 True.

通过 = by means of; 经过 = after going through a process.

0303.5 One possible response: 经过三年的努力, 她终于赢了比赛。

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.
- 经过 needs a process that leads somewhere; for a simple “after (a time)”, use 以后: 下课以后, not 经过下课.
- Put 经过 + process first and the result second: 经过检查, 医生说没问题.
- 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.

■ 应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

0304.1 应该

应该 + verb gives advice.

0304.2 A. It’s your turn.

该 + person = it’s that person’s turn.

0304.3 十二点了, 我该走了。

该 + verb + 了 = it’s time to.

0304.4 False.

Here 应该 is a confident guess: “he should be home by now.”

0304.5 One possible response: 你应该多带一点水。

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.
- 应该 goes after the subject and before the verb: 你应该休息, not 应该你休息 (unless you mean “it’s your turn”).
- Put 不 before 应该 to say “shouldn’t”: 你不应该去, not 你应该不去.
- 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.

■ 难 + Verb (unpleasant to ...)

0305.1 难看

难看 = unpleasant to look at, ugly.

0305.2 1-D: 难吃 = tastes bad; 2-A: 难听 = sounds unpleasant; 3-B: 难写 = hard to write; 4-C: 难受 = feel unwell

With sense verbs 难 means unpleasant; with other verbs it means hard to do; 难受 is a feeling.

0305.3 A. 不好吃。

不好吃 is milder than 难吃.

0305.4 他的问题很难回答。

Topic + 很 + 难 + verb.

0305.5 One possible response: 这个汤太难喝了!

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.
- 难吃 means it tastes bad, not that it is hard to eat; 难看 means ugly, not hard to see.
- 难受 is a feeling: “feel unwell, upset”: 我头疼, 很难受.
- 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.

■ Verb + 了 + Duration (did for a length of time)

0306.1 了

Verb + 了 + duration.

0306.2 D. 她学了五年钢琴。

The duration goes between 了 and the noun object.

0306.3 我等了你一个小时。

A pronoun object comes before the duration.

0306.4 True.

With no final 了, the period is reported as complete.

0306.5 One possible response: 我等了你一个小时!

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.
- Duration after the verb: 我学了两年, not 我两年学了.
- With a noun object, do not put the duration last: 我学了两年中文 or 我学中文学了两年, not 我学了中文两年.
- 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.

■ Verb + 了 + Duration + 了 (have been ...-ing)

0307.1 了

The final 了 shows it continues up to now.

0307.2 B. 他在银行工作了三年了。

Two 了 = still going.

0307.3 我已经等了一个小时了。

已经 + verb + 了 + duration + 了.

0307.4 False.

The first is a finished period; the second continues up to now.

0307.5 One possible response: 我等了你两个小时了!

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.
- Two 了 = still going: 住了两年了 (I still live here). One 了 = finished: 住了两年 (I moved away).
- The duration still goes after the verb: 学了三年了, not 三年学了了.

- 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.

■ 没办法 + Verb (no way to / can't)

0308.1 没办法

The situation blocks the call, so 没办法 + verb.

0308.2 D. 我不会游泳。

A skill you have not learned takes 不会.

0308.3 对不起，我没办法帮你。

Subject + 没办法 + verb phrase.

0308.4 True.

It is a common short reply when a situation cannot be changed.

0308.5 One possible response: 商店都关门了，我没办法买蛋糕。

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.
- 没办法 means the situation blocks you; for a skill you lack, use 不会: 我不会游泳.
- Keep 没 (not 不): 没办法, not 不办法.
- 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.

■ Verb reduplication (do a bit / give it a try)

0309.1 看看

VV or V — V makes it a light “have a look”.

0309.2 C. 休息休息

Two-syllable verbs repeat as ABAB.

0309.3 他看了看表，就走了。

V 了 V for a brief completed action.

0309.4 True.

Doubling makes an invitation light and friendly.

0309.5 One possible response: 我可以试试这件衣服吗?

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.
- Two-syllable verbs repeat as ABAB (休息休息), not AABB (休休息息); AABB is for adjectives (干干净净).
- Doubling adds “a bit”, so do not add a duration as well: 看看, or 看一会儿, not 看看一会儿.
- 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.

■ 很 + Verb (feeling verbs with 很)

0310.1 很

Feeling verbs such as 想 take 很.

0310.2 A. 他很喜欢米饭。

很 + feeling verb is correct; an action verb such as 吃 does not take 很.

0310.3 我们都很希望你能来。

都 + 很 + feeling verb + clause.

0310.4 True.

很会 + verb = be good at doing it.

0310.5 One possible response: 我很喜欢吃中国菜。

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.
- Ordinary action verbs do not take 很: 很吃, 很跑, 很去 are wrong. Say 吃得很多, 跑得很快.
- Put 很 before the verb, not the object: 很喜欢这本书, not 喜欢很这本书.
- 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.

■ Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)

0311.1 来

Movement towards the speaker takes 来.

0311.2 B. 他上去了。

He moved away from you (upwards), so 上去.

0311.3 快进教室来!

Verb + place + 来.

0311.4 False.

The place goes before 来: 他进教室来了.

0311.5 One possible response: 请进来!

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.
- Choose by where the speaker is: you are upstairs → 上来 (come up); you are downstairs → 上去 (go up).
- A place word never comes after 来/去: 进教室来, not 进来教室.
- 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.

■ Potential complement 得 / 不 (can / can't do it)

0312.1 不

Verb + 不 + result = can't. 看不清楚 = can't see clearly.

0312.2 D. 我听不懂广东话。

不 goes between the verb and the result.

0312.3 1-C: 买不到 = can't get hold of; 2-B: 吃不完 = can't finish eating; 3-A: 来得及 = there's still time; 4-D: 看得见 = can see

Verb + 得/不 + result says whether the result is possible.

0312.4 这么多菜, 我们吃不完。

Verb + 不 + 完 = can't finish.

0312.5 One possible response: 老师说得太快, 我听不懂。

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.
- 不 goes between the verb and the result: 听不懂, not 不听懂.
- Ask with both forms: 你听得懂听不懂? or 你听得懂吗?
- 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.

■ Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)

0313.1 下去

Verb + 下去 = continue doing it.

0313.2 D. 起来

Starting a new action takes 起来; 下去 continues an action already going.

0313.3 这样下去不行。

这样下去 + 不行.

0313.4 False.

Here 下去 means “continue”.

0313.5 One possible response: 说下去, 后来怎么样了?

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.
- In this pattern 下去 means “continue”, not physical movement down: 读下去 = keep reading.
- With 不 for “can’t go on”: 我听不下去了 – “I can’t bear to listen any more.”
- 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.

■ Result complements 好 / 完 / 错 (how it turned out)

0314.1 完

吃完 = eaten up, finished.

0314.2 A. 这本书我还没看完。

没 + verb + result, with no 了.

0314.3 1-C: 做好了 = done and ready; 2-B: 做完了 = finished; 3-A: 写错了 = written wrongly

The result word tells how the action ended.

0314.4 你准备好了吗?

准备 + 好 + 了 + 吗.

0314.5 One possible response: 作业我做完了!

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.
- Negate with 没 and drop 了: 我还没做完, not 我不做完了.
- Nothing comes between the verb and its result: 做完作业, not 做作业完.

- 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.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 我做完作业了。完 follows 做 directly; the object follows 做完. 我把作业做完了 is another valid ordering with 把.

R2. One possible response. 我学了两年中文。这个句子我看得懂，可是昨天没看懂那封信。两年 is two years. 看得懂 concerns ability; 没看懂 reports a particular unsuccessful attempt.

Recall later. Later, pair a potential complement with a result from one actual attempt.