

HSK 3 Grammar 3: Verbs, Ability & Complements

HSK 3 verb patterns and complements, taught from the reviewed topic handout;
classroom examples, not official exam items.

Verbs, held on and finished

着 holds a state, 了 2 announces now, result complements report the outcome — and durations carry their own 了 count.

着: the clip that keeps it on

States and backdrops

门开着。(Mén kāizhe.) — The door is open (and staying open).

她喜欢站着吃饭。(Tā xǐhuan zhànzhe chīfàn.) — She likes to eat standing up.

The two 了's: done versus now

Completed action

作业做完了。 — The homework is finished.

Change of state — now

我饿了。(Wǒ è le.) — I'm hungry now.

下雨了! — It's raining (it wasn't before)!

呢 ? : the bounce

- 1 **After an answer** 我很好，你呢 ? (Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?) — I'm well — and you?
- 2 **With no prior question** 我的手机呢 ? (Wǒ de shǒujī ne?) — Where's my phone?
- 3 **The mechanism** 呢 lobs the last question back without repeating it.
- 4 **The surprise** A bare noun + 呢 asks where it is.

Decision

呢 rides on context — it needs something to bounce.

Potential complements and 下去

Pattern	Meaning	Example
V + 得 / 不 + result	Can / can't reach the result	听得懂 / 听不懂 — can / can't understand
V + 下去	Keep on ...ing	说下去。 — Keep talking.
V + 不下去	Can't bear to keep on	我听不下去了。 — I can't keep listening.

Results and durations

- 1 **The result complement** 写错 (xiě cuò) — wrote wrong · 打扫干净 — cleaned spotless. Negate with 没: 没写完.
- 2 **One 了: finished** 他学了两年中文。 — He studied Chinese for two years (done).
- 3 **Two 了: still going** 他在北京住了两年了。 — He's been living there two years and still is.
- 4 **The object rule** With an object, repeat the verb: 学中文 ** 学 ** 了一年。

Decision

The verb is the action; the complement is the outcome.

没办法 and the feeling verbs

Resignation and feelings

没有办法打开这个文件。 — No way to open this file.

我很喜欢这部电影。(Wǒ hěn xǐhuan zhè bù diànyǐng.) — I really like this film.

Watch out: done event, missed result

- 了 marks the event; a result complement states the outcome.
- A sentence can carry a done event and a missed result: 我听了，但是没听懂。
- True adverbs (不, 也, 都) take no 地.

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) 门开着 — the door is opening, or open-and-staying? (2) 住了两年了 — finished, or still going?

- A. Opening; finished
- B. Open-and-staying; still going
- C. Open-and-staying; finished
- D. Opening; still going