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

Get others to act (让, 请, 应该), judge how things seem (看起来, 难), and say how an action turned out.

- Complements answer: did it work, can you, which way?
- Durations carry their own 了 count.

Making, letting, asking

Verb	Feel	Example
让	let or make (everyday)	妈妈让我早点回家。
叫	tell someone to (spoken)	老师叫我们安静。
请	invite, ask politely	我请你吃饭。
使	cause (formal, feelings)	这个消息使大家很高兴。
应该 / 该	should	你应该多休息。

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.

Try it, and which way

Pattern	Meaning	Example
verb + verb / verb 一 verb	do a bit, have a try	你试一试。· 我们休息休息吧。
verb + 来	towards the speaker	快进来！ — Come in!
verb + 去	away from the speaker	他回家去了。 — He went home.

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.

Seeming and judging

Pattern	Meaning	Example
看起来 + description	looks, seems	他看起来很累。
难 + verb	unpleasant / hard to ...	这个菜很难吃。· 这个字很难写。
经过 + process	after going through	经过努力，他通过了考试。

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.

Quick check

Your turn

我听了，但是没听懂 – did the speaker understand?

A. yes

B. no

Check yourself

Your turn

他在这儿住了两年了 – has he finished living here?

A. yes, he has moved out

B. no, he still lives here