HSK 4 Grammar 13: Auxiliary Verbs

HSK 4 不用 and 得 (děi), taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Moving obligations around

不用 lifts an obligation — “no need to”; 得 (děi) imposes one — “have to, gotta”.

- Both traps are about pairing.
- Negatives: 要 → 不用; 得 → 不用.

不用: which negative are you using?

You are denying...	Use
A need	不用
A desire, or telling someone not to	不要
An ability or permission	不能
A rightness	不应该

Try it: declining the lift

1. **The situation** A friend offers to drive you to the station; you can walk.
2. **Choose the lifter** You are denying a need — **不用**.
3. **Build it** **不用送我，我自己走就行。**(Búyòng sòng wǒ, wǒ zìjǐ zǒu jiù xíng.)
4. **The everyday cousin** **不用谢** (búyòng xiè) — "you're welcome" — is literally "no need to thank".

Decision

No need to see me off; I can walk.

得 (děi): gotta

Practical necessity, spoken bluntly

我们得走了。(Wǒmen děi zǒu le.) — We have to go now.

时间不早了，我得回家了。(Shíjiān bù zǎo le, wǒ děi huí jiā le.) — It's getting late — I have to head home.

One character, three readings

Reading	Job	Example
děi	Must, have to	我得走了 (Wǒ děi zǒu le.)
de	Complement marker	跑得快 (pǎo de kuài.) — runs fast
dé	Obtain	得到 (dédào.) — to obtain

Quick check

Your turn

What is the negative of 要 (“need to”)?

A. 不用
B. 不要

Check yourself

Your turn

What is the negative of 得 děi (“must”)?

A. 不用
B. 不得