HSK 4 Grammar 20: Complements

HSK 4 complements with 起来, 来/去 and 得/不, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Four complement families

起来 in three jobs, directional **来** / **去**, the sense-verb frame, and potential **得** / **不** — each with one lock-the-door rule.

- The place slot and the **不**-negation are the tested traps.
- Say every example aloud.

起来: up, gather away, start to

Sense	Example	English
"Up" (literal)	站起来 (zhàn qǐlái)	Stand up
"Gather away"	收起来 (shōu qǐlái)	Put away
"Start to"	唱起来 (chàng qǐlái)	Burst into song
"Comes up to mind"	想起来 (xiǎng qǐlái)	Recall

Use the evidence

The gather sense loves a 把 sentence: 把你的玩具都收起来 — put all your toys away.

来 / 去: toward me, away from me

来 — toward the speaker

我在楼上，你上来。(Wǒ zài lóushàng, nǐ shànglái.) — I'm upstairs — come up.

可以带朋友过来吗？— Can I bring friends over?

去 — away from the speaker

进去 (jìnqù) — go in (from my viewpoint).

回去 (huíqù) — go back.

起来 again: catching and seeming

Two second lives

天气热起来了。(Tiānqì rè qǐlái le.) — The weather's starting to get hot.

他看起来很友好。(Tā kàn qǐlái hěn yǒuhǎo.) — He looks very friendly.

Potential complements: 得 / 不 + result

1. **The frame** Verb + 得 (“can”) / 不 (“can’t”) + result: 听得懂 / 听不懂.
2. **Worked question** 你听得懂上海话吗？(Nǐ tīng de dǒng Shànghǎihuà ma?) — Can you understand Shanghainese?
3. **Worked negative** 这种手机现在买不到了。(Zhè zhǒng shǒujī xiànzài mǎi bu dào le.) — You can’t get this phone any more.
4. **The boundary** This is reachability, not permission: negate with 不 (看不懂), not 不能 + verb.

Decision

听得懂 / 听不懂, 做得完 / 做不完, 看得见 / 看不见.

Quick check

Your turn

Correct 回去美国.

A. 回去的美国
B. 回美国去

Check yourself

Your turn

"I can't finish it", with a potential complement?

A. 我做不完。
B. 我不能做完。
C. 我不做完。