

## HSK 4 Grammar 30: Comparing Similar Words II

HSK 4 的时候 vs 以后, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The signpost is 完

的时候 pins the action during an event; 以后 pins it after — and the result word 完 is the signpost between the two territories.

## The frame: during vs after

### One game, two moments

打篮球的时候会出汗。(Dǎ lánqiú de shíhou huì chūhàn.) — You sweat while playing basketball.

打完篮球以后要洗澡。(Dǎ wán lánqiú yǐhòu yào xǐzǎo.) — After finishing basketball, you need to shower.

## The tell: 完

| Sentence                  | Moment pinned | The tell               |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 吃饭的时候 (chīfàn de shíhou)  | While eating  | Ongoing — no 完         |
| 吃完饭以后 (chī wán fàn yǐhòu) | After eating  | The 完 crosses you over |

## Try it: two habits, one frame each

- 1 **The during habit** 吃饭的时候不要看手机 (chīfàn de shíhou búyào kàn shǒujī).
- 2 **The after habit** 吃完饭以后要散步 (chī wán fàn yǐhòu yào sànbù).
- 3 **Homework version** 做作业的时候我听音乐; 做完作业以后我去跑步。
- 4 **Check each** No 完 → during; with 完 → after. Both sentences pass.

### Decision

Don't look at your phone while eating; take a walk after eating.

## Check yourself

### Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) What does the 完 in 洗完澡以后 tell you? (2) True or false: plain 以后 alone also means “in the future”.

- A. The action is ongoing; true
- B. The action is completed; true
- C. The action is completed; false
- D. The action is ongoing; false