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.

- Ongoing verb → **的时候**.
- Completed verb (with **完**) → **以后**.

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.

Quick check

Your turn

What does 完 in 洗完澡以后 tell you?

A. the action is still going on

B. the action is finished

Check yourself

Your turn

True or false? 以后 alone can mean “in the future”.

A. true
B. false