

Complements

HSK 5

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

Advanced degree complements (得 + 很 / 要命 ...)

■ After a twenty-kilometre hike

- You finally reach the hostel after walking all day in the mountains.
- 我累得要命, 什么都不想做了。 – “I’m dead tired; I don’t feel like doing anything.”

■ Adj + 得 + 很 / 要命 / 不行 / 不得了

- These **degree complements** push an adjective to a high degree: 好得很, 累得要命, 饿得不行, 忙得不得了.
- They all follow the pattern Adj + 得 + complement and end the clause.

我饿得不行了。

wǒ è de bù xíng le

Word guide: 我 – I; 饿 – hungry; 不行 – unbearably.

Adjective + 得要命: terribly



■ Different flavours

- 得很**: emphatic but mild – 这里安静得很. **得要命 / 得不行**: very colloquial, often a complaint – 疼得要命.
- 得不得了**: very strong, good or bad – 高兴得不得了.

他牙疼得要命。

tā yá téng de yào mìng

Word guide: 他 – he; 牙 – tooth; 疼 – aching; 要命 – terribly.

■ Not literal, and no extra 很

- 要命 does not mean real danger: 冷得要命 just means “freezing”.
- No 很 before the adjective: 累得要命, not 很累得要命.

■ Versus the plain degree adverb

- 非常累 / 特别累 are neutral and fine in writing.
- The 得 complements sound spoken and expressive; keep them out of formal essays.

我今天非常累。

wǒ jīn tiān fēi cháng lèi

Word guide: 我 – I; 今天 – today; 非常 – very; 累 – tired.

■ Recap

- Adj + 得 + 很 / 要命 / 不行 / 不得了 = very, extremely (spoken, expressive).
- Not literal; no 很 before; use 非常 in writing.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 得了 / 不了 (can / can't manage)

■ Too much food

- Your host keeps adding dishes to the table, far more than two people can eat.
- 这么多菜，我们吃不了。 – “This much food – we can’t possibly eat it all.”

■ Verb + 得了 / 不了 (liǎo)

- Verb + 得了 = can manage it; Verb + 不了 = can’t manage it: 去得了 / 去不了, 吃得了 / 吃不了.
- 了 here is read **liǎo** (“finish, manage”).

明天我有事，去不了。

míng tiān wǒ yǒu shì qù bù liǎo

Word guide: 明天 – tomorrow; 我 – I; 有事 – am busy; 去 – go; 不了 – can’t.

Verb + 不了: can't (manage) to

thing	who	not
这么多菜	我们	吃不了
zhè me duō cài	wǒ men	chī bu liǎo
so much food	we	can't finish

■ Ability, quantity, endurance

- Quantity: 一个人吃不了这么多。 – “One person can’t eat this much.”
- Endurance: 这么热的天，我受不了。 – “I can’t stand this heat.”

这么热的天，我受不了。

zhè me rè de tiān wǒ shòu bu liǎo

Word guide: 这么 – so; 热 – hot; 天 – weather; 我 – I; 受不了 – can’t stand.

■ Read it liǎo

- In 吃不了 / 去得了, 了 = liǎo, not the particle le.
- Ask with both forms: 你去得了去不了? or 你去得了吗?

■ 不了 versus 不完 and 不能

- 吃不完 = can’t finish (the food is left over); 吃不了 = can’t manage (too much, or unable).
- 不能 = not allowed or not able in general: 你不能去 – “You can’t (aren’t allowed to) go.”

菜太多，吃不完。

cài tài duō chī bu wán

Word guide: 菜 – food; 太 – too; 多 – much; 吃 – eat; 不 – (can’t); 完 – finish.

■ Recap

- Verb + 得了 / 不了 (liǎo) = can / can’t manage: 去不了, 吃不了, 受不了.
- 不完 means unable to finish; 不能 can express inability or prohibition, depending on context.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Result complements 住 / 开 / 出来

■ Hold on tight

- You are helping your little sister learn to ride a bike.
- 抓住把手，别松开! – “Hold on to the handlebars, don’t let go!”

■ Verb + 住 = fix, hold firmly

- 住 makes the result stable: 抓住 (grab hold), 记住 (memorise), 站住 (stop), 拦住 (block).
- 记住我的电话号码。 – “Remember my phone number.”

请记住我的电话号码。

qǐng jì zhù wǒ de diàn huà hào mǎ

Word guide: 请 – please; 记住 – remember; 我 – my; 电话 – phone; 号码 – number.

Verb + 住: hold it fast

verb	thing	not
抓住 zhuā zhù grab hold of	把手 bǎshou the handle	别松开 bié sōngkāi don't let go

■ Verb + 开 / 出来

- 开 = open or separate: 打开 (open), 拉开 (pull open), 走开 (go away), 离开 (leave).
- 出来 = come out, emerge, or be recognised: 想出来 (come up with), 看出来 (tell, make out), 写出来 (write out).

我看出来他不高兴。

wǒ kàn chū lai tā bù gāo xìng

Word guide: 我 – I; 看 – see; 出来 – (make out); 他 – he; 不 – not; 高兴 – happy.

■ Potential forms

- 记不住 = can't remember; 打不开 = can't open; 想不出来 = can't think of it.
- 出来 can split around an object: 想出一个办法来 / 想出来一个办法.

■ 看出来 versus 看见

- 看见 = see (with the eyes): 我看见他了.
- 看出来 = work out, notice from clues: 我看出来他在说谎 – “I could tell he was lying.”

我看见他了。

wǒ kàn jiàn tā le

Word guide: 我 – I; 看见 – saw; 他 – him.

■ Recap

- 住 = fix firmly (记住, 抓住); 开 = open / apart / away (打开, 离开); 出来 = come out / be recognised (想出来, 看出来).
- Potential: 记不住, 打不开, 想不出来.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb / Adj + 坏了 (broken / to an extreme)

■ Worn out

- Your mum comes home after a twelve-hour shift and collapses on the sofa.
- 今天可把我累坏了! – “Today absolutely wore me out!”

■ Verb + 坏 = broken (a result)

- Verb + 坏 (了) = the action broke something: 摔坏 (broke by dropping), 用坏 (wore out by using), 弄坏 (damaged).
- 我的手机摔坏了。 – “I dropped my phone and broke it.”

我的手机摔坏了。

wǒ de shǒu jī shuāi huài le

Word guide: 我 – my; 手机 – phone; 摔 – drop; 坏 – broken.

Verb / adj + 坏了: worn out, broken



■ Adj / feeling + 坏了 = extremely

- With feelings and states, 坏了 means “terribly”: 累坏了, 饿坏了, 急坏了, 高兴坏了.
- 听到这个消息, 她高兴坏了。 – “When she heard the news, she was thrilled.”

听到这个消息, 她高兴坏了。

tīng dào zhè ge xiāo xī tā gāo xìng huài le

Word guide: 听到 – hearing; 这个 – this; 消息 – news; 她 – she; 高兴 – happy; 坏了 – extremely.

■ Which meaning?

- Action verb + 坏 = something is physically broken: 电脑用坏了.
- Feeling / state + 坏了 = an extreme degree, nothing broken: 饿坏了. 了 is usually needed.

■ With 把

- 坏 results often appear in 把 sentences: 弟弟把我的眼镜弄坏了。 – “My brother broke my glasses.”
- 可把 ... 坏了 is a common spoken frame: 可把我急坏了 – “I was worried sick.”

弟弟把我的眼镜弄坏了。

dì dì bǎ wǒ de yǎn jìng nòng huài le

Word guide: 弟弟 – my brother; 我 – my; 眼镜 – glasses; 弄坏 – broke.

■ Recap

- **Action verb + 坏 (了)** = broken by that action (摔坏, 弄坏).
- **Feeling / state + 坏了** = extremely (累坏了, 高兴坏了); 可把我 ... 坏了 is spoken.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 着 (zháo) (managed to / succeeded)

■ Finally asleep

- You tossed and turned for hours before you managed to sleep.
- 我两点才睡着。 – “I didn’t get to sleep until two.”

■ Verb + 着 (zháo) = succeed in

- 着 zháo after a verb marks success in reaching the goal: 睡着 (fall asleep), 找着 (find), 买着 (manage to buy).
- It is read zháo, not zhe.

钥匙找着了吗?

yào shì zhǎo zháo le ma

Word guide: 钥匙 – the keys; 找着 – found.

Verb + 着 (zháo): succeed in



■ Potential and negative forms

- **睡不着** = can't get to sleep: 我太紧张了, 睡不着.
- **没找着** = didn't manage to find: 我找了半天也没找着.

我太紧张了, 睡不着。

wǒ tài jǐn zhāng le shuì bu zháo

Word guide: 我 – I; 太 – too; 紧张 – nervous; 睡不着 – can't sleep.

■ zháo versus zhe

- 睡着 (shuì zháo) = fall asleep (the goal reached); 睡着 (shuì zhe) = in a sleeping state – context and reading tell them apart.
- For finding, 找到 is more common in the north and standard; 找着 is spoken.

■ 着 (zháo) versus 到

- Both mark success: 找着 = 找到, 买着 = 买到.
- 睡着 has no 到 version: 睡到 means “sleep until”: 睡到十点.

我找到了。

wǒ zhǎo dào le

Word guide: 我 – I; 找 – look for; 到 – (found).

■ Recap

- **Verb + 着 (zháo)** = succeed in (睡着, 找着); negatives 睡不着 / 没找着.
- Read zháo; often interchangeable with 到, except 睡着.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 到 (succeed in reaching)

■ Got the tickets!

- Concert tickets sold out in two minutes, but you clicked fast enough.
- **我买到票了!** – “I managed to get tickets!”

■ Verb + 到 = reach the goal

- **Verb + 到** marks that an action reached its goal: 买到, 找到, 看到, 听到, 收到.
- **你收到我的邮件了吗?** – “Did you get my email?”

你收到我的邮件了吗?

nǐ shōu dào wǒ de yóu jiàn le ma

Word guide: 你 – you; 收到 – receive; 我 – my; 邮件 – email.

Verb + 到: got it (the result)



■ Reaching a place, time or degree

- Place: 他走到门口。 – “He walked to the door.”
- Degree: 我们聊到很晚。 – “We chatted until very late.”

我们聊到很晚。

wǒ men liáo dào hěn wǎn

Word guide: 我们 – we; 聊 – chat; 到 – until; 很 – very; 晚 – late.

■ Searching versus finding

- 找 = look for; 找到 = find. 我找了, 可是没找到 – “I looked but didn’t find it.”
- Negate with 没: 没买到; potential: 买不到 / 买得到.

■ 看 / 看到 / 看见

- 看 = look at (the action); 看到 / 看见 = see (the result).
- 听 = listen; 听到 / 听见 = hear: 我听到有人敲门.

我听到有人敲门。

wǒ tīng dào yǒu rén qiāo mén

Word guide: 我 – I; 听到 – heard; 有人 – someone; 敲门 – knock.

■ Recap

- **Verb + 到** = the action reached its goal (买到, 找到, 收到) or a place / time (走到, 聊到很晚).
- 找 = search, 找到 = find; negative 没 ... 到, potential ... 不到.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 来 + Verb + 去 (back and forth)

■ A restless dog before the storm

- Your dog can’t settle before the storm and keeps pacing around the living room.
- 它在客厅里走来走去。 – “It keeps pacing back and forth in the living room.”

■ Verb + 来 + Verb + 去

- **V 来 V 去** = do something repeatedly, back and forth: 走来走去, 跑来跑去, 飞来飞去.
- The same verb repeats; 来 and 去 show movement in different directions.

孩子们在公园里跑来跑去。

hái zǐ men zài gōng yuán lǐ pǎo lái pǎo qù

Word guide: 孩子们 – the children; 在 – in; 公园 – the park; 里 – (in); 跑 – run; 来 – (here); 跑 – run; 去 – (there).

V来V去: back and forth

who	where	verb
它	在客厅里	走来走去
tā	zài kètīng lǐ	zǒu lái zǒu qù
it (the dog)	in the living room	paces up and down

■ Repeating with no result

- With thinking and talking, it often means “over and over, without getting anywhere”: 我想来想去, 还是决定不去了。 – “I thought it over and over and decided not to go after all.”
- 他们说来说去还是那几句话。 – “They kept going round in circles saying the same things.”

我想来想去, 还是决定不去了。

wǒ xiǎng lái xiǎng qù hái shì jué dìng bú qù le

Word guide: 我 – I; 想 – think; 来 – (over); 想 – think; 去 – (and over); 还是 – after all; 决定 – decided; 不 – not; 去 – go.

■ Same verb, one syllable

- Use the same verb in both places: 走来走去, not 走来跑去.
- It describes a repeated activity, so it rarely takes a result complement: 走来走去, not 走来走去完.

■ Versus 来回

- 来回 + verb also means back and forth: 他在门口来回走.
- 来回 can be a noun: 一个来回 – “a round trip”.

他在门口来回走。

tā zài mén kǒu lái huí zǒu

Word guide: 他 – he; 在 – at; 门口 – the door; 来回 – back and forth; 走 – walk.

■ Recap

- **V 来 V 去** = do repeatedly, back and forth (走来走去); with 想 / 说 = over and over.
- Same verb twice; 来回 + verb is a near equivalent.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

Choose a pattern, cover its teaching examples, and attempt its questions. Use the labels to find feedback in the separate key.

■ Advanced degree complements (得 + 很 / 要命 ...)

1801.1 Complete: “I’m starving.” 我饿 不行了。

1801.2 Which suits a formal essay?

- A. 这个问题难死了。
- B. 这个问题难得不行。
- C. 这个问题非常难。
- D. 这个问题难得要命。

1801.3 Match each phrase to its meaning.

- 1. 疼得要命
- 1. 安静得很
- 1. 高兴得不得了
- A. hurts terribly
- B. over the moon
- C. really quiet

1801.4 冷得要命 means it is literally dangerously cold.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1801.5 You finally reach the hostel after walking all day in the mountains. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Verb + 得了 / 不了 (can / can’t manage)

1802.1 Complete: “I’m ill tomorrow, so I can’t come.” 我明天病了，来 了。

1802.2 How is 了 read in 受不了?

- A. lài

- B. le
- C. lā
- D. liǎo

1802.3 Build: “I can’t stand this heat.”

Arrange all chunks: 这么热的天 / 受不了。 / , / 我

1802.4 你不能去 is about permission; 你去不了 is about being able.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1802.5 Your host keeps adding dishes to the table, far more than two people can eat. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Result complements 住 / 开 / 出来

1803.1 Complete: “Remember: the meeting is at nine.” 记: 会议九点开始。

1803.2 “I can’t open this bottle.” Which is correct?

- A. 这个瓶子我打不开。
- B. 这个瓶子我不打开。
- C. 这个瓶子我不能开打。
- D. 这个瓶子我打开不。

1803.3 Match each verb to its meaning.

- 1. 抓住
- 1. 离开
- 1. 想出来
- 1. 看出来
- A. tell, make out
- B. come up with
- C. grab hold of
- D. leave

1803.4 看出来 and 看见 mean the same.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1803.5 You are helping your little sister learn to ride a bike. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Verb / Adj + 坏了 (broken / to an extreme)

1804.1 Complete: “The kids are starving.” 孩子们饿 了。

1804.2 In 电脑用坏了, what does 坏 express?

- A. someone was angry
- B. the computer broke from use
- C. the computer is bad quality
- D. extremely

1804.3 Build: “My brother broke my glasses.”

Arrange all chunks: 弟弟 / 弄坏 / 把我的眼镜 / 了。

1804.4 In 高兴坏了, something is broken.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1804.5 Your mum comes home after a twelve-hour shift and collapses on the sofa. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Verb + 着 (zháo) (managed to / succeeded)

1805.1 Complete: “I’m too nervous; I can’t get to sleep.” 我太紧张了, 睡不。

1805.2 How is 着 read in 我两点才睡着?

- A. zhuó
- B. zháo
- C. zhe
- D. zhāo

1805.3 Build: “Did you find the keys?”

Arrange all chunks: 了 / 钥匙 / 找着 / 吗?

1805.4 睡到十点 means “fell asleep at ten”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1805.5 You tossed and turned for hours before you managed to sleep. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Verb + 到 (succeed in reaching)

1806.1 Complete: “I looked for it for ages but didn’t find it.” 我找了半天也没找
.....。

1806.2 Which says “I can’t get hold of this book anywhere”?

- A. 这本书哪儿都买到不。
- B. 这本书哪儿都不买到。
- C. 这本书哪儿都没买。
- D. 这本书哪儿都买不到。

1806.3 Build: “We chatted until very late.”

Arrange all chunks: 聊到 / 我们 / 很晚。

1806.4 听 means “listen” and 听到 means “hear”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1806.5 Concert tickets sold out in two minutes, but you clicked fast enough. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Verb + 来 + Verb + 去 (back and forth)

1807.1 Complete: “Birds are flying back and forth.” 鸟儿飞来飞

1807.2 Which is correct?

- A. 他走来走去。
- B. 他走来跑去。
- C. 他走去走来了完。
- D. 他来走去走。

1807.3 Build: “I thought it over and over and decided not to go.”

Arrange all chunks: 还是决定 / , / 不去了。 / 我想来想去

1807.4 一个来回 means “a round trip”.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1807.5 Your dog can’t settle before the storm and keeps pacing around the living room. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A learner treats 看不了 as identical to 没看完. What distinction can matter?

R2. Use it yourself. Say a door was held in place and that you could not eat the large quantity offered.

Write your responses before opening the key. Compare meaning as well as form; a different valid answer need not copy the model.

Answers and explanations

Check after your attempt. For open tasks, compare the message and the stated criteria, then revise one detail.

■ Advanced degree complements (得 + 很 / 要命 ...)

1801.1 得

Adj + 得 + 不行.

1801.2 C. 这个问题非常难。

The 得 complements are colloquial; essays use 非常.

1801.3 1-A: 疼得要命 = hurts terribly; 2-C: 安静得很 = really quiet; 3-B: 高兴得不得了 = over the moon

All are degree complements with different flavours.

1801.4 False.

要命 is just an intensifier here.

1801.5 One possible response: 我累得要命，什么都不想做了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 要命 does not mean real danger: 冷得要命 just means “freezing”.
- No 很 before the adjective: 累得要命, not 很累得要命.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Verb + 得了 / 不了 (can / can't manage)

1802.1 不

Verb + 不了 = can't manage.

1802.2 D. liǎo

In potential complements 得了 / 不了 (“can / can't manage”), 了 is read liǎo: 受不了 shòu bu liǎo “can't stand it”. The particle le is a different use.

1802.3 这么热的天，我受不了。

Topic, then subject + 受不了.

1802.4 True.

不能 can be a rule; 去不了 says it is impossible.

1802.5 One possible response: 这么多菜，我们吃不了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- In 吃不了 / 去得了, 了 = liǎo, not the particle le.
- Ask with both forms: 你去得了去不了? or 你去得了吗?
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Result complements 住 / 开 / 出来

1803.1 住

记住 = remember (fix in memory).

1803.2 A. 这个瓶子我打不开。

Potential complement: 打不开.

1803.3 1-C: 抓住 = grab hold of; 2-D: 离开 = leave; 3-B: 想出来 = come up with; 4-A: 看出来 = tell, make out

住 fixes, 开 separates, 出来 brings out.

1803.4 False.

看见 = see; 看出来 = work out from clues.

1803.5 One possible response: 抓住把手, 别松开!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 记不住 = can't remember; 打不开 = can't open; 想不出来 = can't think of it.
- 出来 can split around an object: 想出一个办法来 / 想出来一个办法.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Verb / Adj + 坏了 (broken / to an extreme)

1804.1 坏

Feeling / state + 坏了 = extremely.

1804.2 B. the computer broke from use

Action verb + 坏 = broken by that action.

1804.3 弟弟把我的眼镜弄坏了。

把 + object + verb + 坏 + 了.

1804.4 False.

With feelings, 坏了 just means “extremely”.

1804.5 One possible response: 今天可把我累坏了!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Action verb + 坏 = something is physically broken: 电脑用坏了.
- Feeling / state + 坏了 = an extreme degree, nothing broken: 饿坏了. 了 is usually needed.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ **Verb + 着 (zháo) (managed to / succeeded)**

1805.1 着

睡不着 = can't fall asleep.

1805.2 B. zháo

Success in reaching the goal = zháo.

1805.3 钥匙找着了么?

Verb + 着 (zháo) + 了.

1805.4 False.

False. 到 after a verb shows the end point in time: 睡到十点 means “slept until ten”. “Fell asleep at ten” is 十点睡着了.

1805.5 One possible response: 我两点才睡着。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 睡着 (shuì zháo) = fall asleep (the goal reached); 睡着 (shuì zhe) = in a sleeping state – context and reading tell them apart.
- For finding, 找到 is more common in the north and standard; 找着 is spoken.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Verb + 到 (succeed in reaching)

1806.1 到

找到 = find (the goal reached).

1806.2 D. 这本书哪儿都买不到。

Potential complement: 买不到.

1806.3 我们聊到很晚。

Verb + 到 + degree / time.

1806.4 True.

True. 听 is the action of listening; adding the result complement 到 shows the sound was actually perceived: 我听了, 可是没听到.

1806.5 One possible response: 我买到票了!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 找 = look for; 找到 = find. 我找了, 可是没找到 – “I looked but didn’t find it.”
- Negate with 没: 没买到; potential: 买不到 / 买得到.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Verb + 来 + Verb + 去 (back and forth)

1807.1 去

V 来 V 去.

1807.2 A. 他走来走去。

In verb + 来 + verb + 去 the same verb repeats to show movement back and forth: 他走来走去 “He paces up and down.” Mixing two verbs or adding 了完 breaks the pattern.

1807.3 我想来想去, 还是决定不去了。

想来想去 + decision.

1807.4 True.

True. 来回 can be a noun meaning “a round trip”: 一个来回要两个小时. As an adverb it means “back and forth”.

1807.5 One possible response: 它在客厅里走来走去。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.

- Use the same verb in both places: 走来走去, not 走来跑去.
- It describes a repeated activity, so it rarely takes a result complement: 走来走去, not 走来走去完.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 看不了 can mean cannot read/watch/manage it, depending on context. 没看完 reports that it was not finished. Inability, access and one incomplete attempt should not be merged automatically.

R2. One possible response. 他把门固定住了。这么多菜, 我吃不了。住 gives a result of securing; 不了 gives inability to manage the amount. The same English can gloss different complements poorly.

Recall later. Tomorrow, contrast a potential complement with an actual result using a new action.