

Particles

HSK 3 Grammar

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

Verb + 着 (ongoing state)

■ A door remains in a state

- You describe a door that is standing open, without saying who opened it.
- 门开着。 – 着 presents the continuing open state.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Verb + 着 (ongoing state)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

门开着。

mén kāi zhe

Word guide: 门 – door; 开 – open; 着 – (state).

■ Read examples in context

他坐着看书。

tā zuò zhe kàn shū

Word guide: 他 – he; 坐 – sit; 着 – (state); 看书 – read.

- In the opening example, 门开着。: 着 presents the continuing open state.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- Compare 他正在开门, which focuses on the opening action.
- 着 is not restricted to still positions: 他笑着说 describes speaking while smiling. Its neutral-tone reading zhe differs from 睡着的 zháo.

■ Use the distinction

- 着 presents the continuing open state.
- Compare 他正在开门, which focuses on the opening action. 着 is not restricted to still positions: 他笑着说 describes speaking while smiling. Its neutral-tone reading zhe differs from 睡着的 zháo.

■ Try it with help closed

You describe a door that is standing open, without saying who opened it. 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.

One possible response: 门开着。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Compare 他正在开门, which focuses on the opening action.
- 着 is not restricted to still positions: 他笑着说 describes speaking while smiling. Its neutral-tone reading zhe differs from 睡着的 zháo.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Sentence-final 了 (change of state)

■ Hunger becomes a new situation

- You were not hungry before, but now want food.
- 我饿了。 – Final 了 marks hunger as a new relevant state.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Sentence-final 了 (change of state)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

下雨了。

xià yǔ le

Word guide: 下雨 – rain.

■ Read examples in context

我饿了。

wǒ è le

Word guide: 我 – I; 饿 – hungry.

- In the opening example, 我饿了。: Final 了 marks hunger as a new relevant state.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- This 了 does not mean finished being hungry.
- Verb-了 marks perfective aspect in other uses; do not translate every 了 as a past-tense or completed-action ending.

■ Use the distinction

- Final 了 marks hunger as a new relevant state.
- This 了 does not mean finished being hungry. Verb-了 marks perfective aspect in other uses; do not translate every 了 as a past-tense or completed-action ending.

■ Try it with help closed

You were not hungry before, but now want food. 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.

One possible response: 我饿了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- This 了 does not mean finished being hungry.
- Verb-了 marks perfective aspect in other uses; do not translate every 了 as a past-tense or completed-action ending.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Questions with 呢 (and you? / where?)

■ A short follow-up relies on context

- A friend says where they live and then asks about you.
- 我住在上海，你呢？ – 你呢 asks where you live, borrowing the topic from the preceding clause.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Questions with 呢 (and you? / where?)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

我很好，你呢？

wǒ hěn hǎo nǐ ne

Word guide: 我 – I; 很好 – fine; 你 – you.

■ Read examples in context

我的钥匙呢?

wǒ de yào shi ne

Word guide: 我 – my; 钥匙 – keys.

- In the opening example, 我住在上海, 你呢? : 你呢 asks where you live, borrowing the topic from the preceding clause.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The same 你呢 can ask about your health after 我很好.
- 我的钥匙呢 can ask where the keys are. The noun and 呢 do not determine the full question without context.

■ Use the distinction

- 你呢 asks where you live, borrowing the topic from the preceding clause.
- The same 你呢 can ask about your health after 我很好. 我的钥匙呢 can ask where the keys are. The noun and 呢 do not determine the full question without context.

■ Try it with help closed

A friend says where they live and then asks about you. 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.

One possible response: 我住在上海, 你呢?

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The same 你呢 can ask about your health after 我很好.
- 我的钥匙呢 can ask where the keys are. The noun and 呢 do not determine the full question without context.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

的 / 得 / 地 (the three “de”)

■ One pronunciation fills three different roles

- You describe a careful student's careful reading.
- 认真的学生认真地读书, 读得很清楚。 – 的 modifies 学生; 地 marks the manner of 读; 得 introduces the quality of reading.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **的 / 得 / 地** (the three “de”). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

我的书。

wǒ de shū

Word guide: 我 – my; 的 – (’s); 书 – book.

■ Read examples in context

他跑得很快。

tā pǎo de hěn kuài

Word guide: 他 – he; 跑 – run; 得 – (degree); 很 – very; 快 – fast.

- In the opening example, **认真的学生认真地读书，读得很清楚。**: 的 modifies 学生; 地 marks the manner of 读; 得 introduces the quality of reading.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- Find the grammatical role rather than relying only on the next character.
- 我说的是实话 contains 的 before 是, because 的 closes a noun-like phrase; the simple before-noun rule is a beginner guide.

■ Use the distinction

- 的 modifies 学生; 地 marks the manner of 读; 得 introduces the quality of reading.
- Find the grammatical role rather than relying only on the next character. 我说的是实话 contains 的 before 是, because 的 closes a noun-like phrase; the simple before-noun rule is a beginner guide.

■ Try it with help closed

You describe a careful student's careful reading. 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.

One possible response: 认真的学生认真地读书，读得很清楚。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Find the grammatical role rather than relying only on the next character.
- 我说的是实话 contains 的 before 是, because 的 closes a noun-like phrase; the simple before-noun rule is a beginner guide.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.