

Complements

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.

Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)

■ Choose direction from a viewpoint

- You stand inside a room and invite a visitor at the door to enter.
- **请进来。** – 来 directs the movement toward the viewpoint inside the room.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)**. 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.

请进来!

qǐng jìn lái

Word guide: 请 – please; 进来 – come in.

■ Read examples in context

把书拿来。

bǎ shū ná lái

Word guide: 把 – (把); 书 – book; 拿来 – bring here.

- In the opening example, **请进来。**: 来 directs the movement toward the viewpoint inside the room.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- Choose the speaker's or established narrative viewpoint.
- 进去 is natural from outside when describing movement into a different space; it is not intrinsically wrong for entering a room.

■ Use the distinction

- 来 directs the movement toward the viewpoint inside the room.
- Choose the speaker's or established narrative viewpoint. 进去 is natural from outside when describing movement into a different space; it is not intrinsically wrong for entering a room.

■ Try it with help closed

You stand inside a room and invite a visitor at the door to enter. 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: 请进来。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Choose the speaker's or established narrative viewpoint.
- 进去 is natural from outside when describing movement into a different space; it is not intrinsically wrong for entering a room.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Potential complement 得 / 不 (can / can't do it)

■ Understanding is a possible result

- The recording is clear, but its language is too difficult for you.
- 我听不懂。 – Listening does not achieve understanding.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Potential complement 得 / 不 (can / can't do it)**. 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.

我听得懂。

wǒ tīng de dǒng

Word guide: 我 – I; 听 – listen; 得 – (can); 懂 – understand.

■ Read examples in context

太远了，我看不见。

tài yuǎn le wǒ kàn bú jiàn

Word guide: 太 – too; 远 – far; 我 – I; 看不见 – can't see.

- In the opening example, 我听不懂。: Listening does not achieve understanding.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 听不懂 is about the achievable result, not a ban on listening.
- 能 also expresses ability as well as permission, so do not gloss 能 as permission only.

■ Use the distinction

- Listening does not achieve understanding.
- 听不懂 is about the achievable result, not a ban on listening. 能 also expresses ability as well as permission, so do not gloss 能 as permission only.

■ Try it with help closed

The recording is clear, but its language is too difficult for 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: 我听不懂。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 听不懂 is about the achievable result, not a ban on listening.
- 能 also expresses ability as well as permission, so do not gloss 能 as permission only.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)

■ An unfinished explanation should continue

- A speaker pauses before finishing a story, and you ask for the rest.
- 请说下去。 – 下去 asks the already started speaking to continue.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)**. 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.

请说下去。

qǐng shuō xià qù

Word guide: 请 – please; 说 – speak; 下去 – carry on.

■ Read examples in context

一定要坚持下去!

yí dìng yào jiān chí xià qù

Word guide: 一定 – definitely; 要 – must; 坚持 – persist; 下去 – keep on.

- In the opening example, 请说下去。: 下去 asks the already started speaking to continue.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 说下去 is a continuation use; 走下去 can describe physical movement downwards in another context.
- The complement's meaning depends on the verb and scene.

■ Use the distinction

- 下去 asks the already started speaking to continue.
- 说下去 is a continuation use; 走下去 can describe physical movement downwards in another context. The complement's meaning depends on the verb and scene.

■ Try it with help closed

A speaker pauses before finishing a story, and you ask for the rest. 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: 请说下去。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 说下去 is a continuation use; 走下去 can describe physical movement downwards in another context.
- The complement's meaning depends on the verb and scene.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Result complements 好 / 完 / 错 (how it turned out)

■ Finishing does not prove correctness

- A student finishes all the homework but writes one answer incorrectly.
- 作业做完了, 可是有一道题写错了。 – 完 marks completion, while 错 marks an incorrect result.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Result complements 好 / 完 / 错** (how it turned out). 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.

作业做完了。

zuò yè zuò wán le

Word guide: 作业 – homework; 做 – do; 完 – finish.

■ Read examples in context

我写错了。

wǒ xiě cuò le

Word guide: 我 – I; 写 – write; 错 – wrongly.

- In the opening example, 作业做完了,可是有一道题写错了。: 完 marks completion, while 错 marks an incorrect result.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 做完 does not imply 做对.
- 做好 may mean properly completed or ready, depending on the activity. Select the result that answers the intended question.

■ Use the distinction

- 完 marks completion, while 错 marks an incorrect result.
- 做完 does not imply 做对. 做好 may mean properly completed or ready, depending on the activity. Select the result that answers the intended question.

■ Try it with help closed

A student finishes all the homework but writes one answer incorrectly. 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: 作业做完了，可是有一道题写错了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 做完 does not imply 做对.
- 做好 may mean properly completed or ready, depending on the activity. Select the result that answers the intended question.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.