

Auxiliary Words

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

Sentence + 来着——”(was just) …, what was it again?”

来着 tags onto a sentence to recall **what was happening or said a moment ago** —”(someone) was just …, what was it again?” It’s casual and spoken. It has **no negative form** (never 不 / 没来着), and in a question it appears only with 什么, 谁, or 哪儿.

Structure: Sentence + 来着

{zh: 昨天 |zuó tiān|yesterday / 有 |yǒu|someone / 人 |rén / 来 |lái|came / 找 |zhǎo|looking for / 你 |nǐ|you / 来着 |lái zhe / 。 }

Someone came looking for you yesterday.

{zh: 你 |nǐ|you / 刚才 |gāng cái|just now / 说 |shuō|were saying / 什么 |shén me|what / 来着 |lái zhe / ? }

What were you just saying again?

Remember: 来着 = ”…what was it again?” —a casual tag for recalling the just-past (你刚才说什么**来着**?). Two limits: **no negative** (never 没来着), and in questions only with 什么 / 谁 / 哪儿.

Watch out

- It’s purely for the *recent* past —not the distant past, and not future.