

Verbs, ability & complements

HSK 3

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.

看起来 (looks / seems)

■ An attractive dish has not been tasted

- You judge a dish from its appearance before trying it.
- **这个菜看起来很好吃。** – The speaker offers an impression from appearance.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **看起来 (looks / seems)**. 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.

他看起来很累。

tā kàn qǐ lái hěn lèi

Word guide: 他 – he; 看起来 – looks; 很 – very; 累 – tired.

■ Read examples in context

这个菜看起来很好吃。

zhè ge cài kàn qǐ lái hěn hǎo chī

Word guide: 这 – this; 个 – (measure word); 菜 – dish; 看起来 – looks; 很 – very; 好吃 – delicious.

- In the opening example, **这个菜看起来很好吃。**: The speaker offers an impression from appearance.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 看起来 does not prove taste or underlying quality.
- It also does not prove that the person has never tasted the dish; the sentence only chooses appearance as the basis of this comment.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker offers an impression from appearance.
- 看起来 does not prove taste or underlying quality. It also does not prove that the person has never tasted the dish; the sentence only chooses appearance as the basis of this comment.

■ Try it with help closed

You judge a dish from its appearance before trying 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: 这个菜看起来很好吃。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 看起来 does not prove taste or underlying quality.
- It also does not prove that the person has never tasted the dish; the sentence only chooses appearance as the basis of this comment.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do)

■ One person asks another to act

- A teacher politely asks a visitor to come inside.
- 老师请他进来。 – The visitor is the person expected to enter.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 (make / let / ask someone do). 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.

妈妈让我学钢琴。

mā ma ràng wǒ xué gāng qín

Word guide: 妈妈 – mom; 让 – let; 我 – me; 学 – learn; 钢琴 – piano.

■ Read examples in context

请他进来。

qǐng tā jìn lái

Word guide: 请 – please; 他 – him; 进来 – come in.

- In the opening example, 老师请他进来。: The visitor is the person expected to enter.

- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The person after 请 is also the understood subject of 进来.
- 让 can allow or cause, while 使 can have a non-human cause, as in 这件事使我高兴; these verbs are not interchangeable in every context.

■ Use the distinction

- The visitor is the person expected to enter.
- The person after 请 is also the understood subject of 进来. 让 can allow or cause, while 使 can have a non-human cause, as in 这件事使我高兴; these verbs are not interchangeable in every context.

■ Try it with help closed

A teacher politely asks a visitor to come inside. 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: 老师请他进来。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The person after 请 is also the understood subject of 进来.
- 让 can allow or cause, while 使 can have a non-human cause, as in 这件事使我高兴; these verbs are not interchangeable in every context.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

经过 (after going through)

■ A discussion leads to a decision

- A group decides on a plan after discussing alternatives.
- **经过讨论, 我们决定采用这个方案。** – 经过 presents the discussion as the process preceding the decision.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **经过 (after going through)**. 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.

经过三年的努力, 他成功了。

jīng guò sān nián de nǚ lì tā chéng gōng le

Word guide: 经过 – after; 三 – three; 年 – year; 努力 – effort; 他 – he; 成功 – succeed.

■ Read examples in context

经过讨论，我们决定了。

jīng guò tāo lùn wǒ men jué dìng le

Word guide: 经过 – after; 讨论 – discussion; 我们 – we; 决定 – decide.

- In the opening example, 经过讨论，我们决定采用这个方案。: 经过 presents the discussion as the process preceding the decision.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The process can be brief; it need not be years of effort.
- 经过 also means pass through, as in 经过车站. Check whether a process or a physical route is being described.

■ Use the distinction

- 经过 presents the discussion as the process preceding the decision.
- The process can be brief; it need not be years of effort. 经过 also means pass through, as in 经过车站. Check whether a process or a physical route is being described.

■ Try it with help closed

A group decides on a plan after discussing alternatives. 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: 经过讨论，我们决定采用这个方案。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The process can be brief; it need not be years of effort.
- 经过 also means pass through, as in 经过车站. Check whether a process or a physical route is being described.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

■ Advice differs from a prediction

- A tired friend asks what to do, and you suggest rest.
- 你应该多休息。 – 应该 expresses advice or an obligation in this conversation.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **应该 / 该 (should, ought to)**. 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.

你应该多休息。

nǐ yīng gāi duō xiū xi

Word guide: 你 – you; 应该 – should; 多 – more; 休息 – rest.

■ Read examples in context

该走了!

gāi zǒu le

Word guide: 该 – should; 走 – go.

- In the opening example, **你应该多休息。**: 应该 expresses advice or an obligation in this conversation.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 应该 can also express expectation: 他应该已经到了 means he should have arrived by now.
- Negate advice with 不应该 or 不该; meaning depends on whether the speaker recommends or predicts.

■ Use the distinction

- 应该 expresses advice or an obligation in this conversation.
- 应该 can also express expectation: 他应该已经到了 means he should have arrived by now. Negate advice with 不应该 or 不该; meaning depends on whether the speaker recommends or predicts.

■ Try it with help closed

A tired friend asks what to do, and you suggest 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: 你应该多休息。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 应该 can also express expectation: 他应该已经到了 means he should have arrived by now.
- Negate advice with 不应该 or 不该; meaning depends on whether the speaker recommends or predicts.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

难 + Verb (unpleasant to ...)

■ Bad taste differs from physical difficulty

- A drink tastes unpleasant although swallowing it is easy.
- 这个药很难喝。 – 难喝 evaluates the unpleasant taste.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 难 + Verb (unpleasant to ...). 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.

这个药很难吃。

zhè ge yào hěn nán chī

Word guide: 这 – this; 个 – (measure word); 药 – medicine; 很 – very; 难吃 – bad-tasting.

■ Read examples in context

这首歌很好听。

zhè shǒu gē hěn hǎo tīng

Word guide: 这 – this; 首 – (measure word); 歌 – song; 很 – very; 好听 – nice to hear.

- In the opening example, 这个药很难喝。: 难喝 evaluates the unpleasant taste.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 难喝 is an established word, not a promise that every 难 +verb means unpleasant.
- 难学 means difficult to learn; distinguish conventional evaluations such as 难听 from task difficulty.

■ Use the distinction

- 难喝 evaluates the unpleasant taste.
- 难喝 is an established word, not a promise that every 难 +verb means unpleasant. 难学 means difficult to learn; distinguish conventional evaluations such as 难听 from task difficulty.

■ Try it with help closed

A drink tastes unpleasant although swallowing it is easy. 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: 这个药很难喝。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 难喝 is an established word, not a promise that every 难 +verb means unpleasant.
- 难学 means difficult to learn; distinguish conventional evaluations such as 难听 from task difficulty.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 了 + Duration (did for a length of time)

■ A duration differs from a clock time

- You describe the length of yesterday's sleep.
- 我睡了八个小时。 – 八个小时 measures how long the sleeping lasted.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Verb + 了 + Duration (did for a length of time)**. 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.

我学了三年中文。

wǒ xué le sān nián Zhōng wén

Word guide: 我 – I; 学 – study; 三 – three; 年 – year; 中文 – Chinese.

■ Read examples in context

他睡了八个小时。

tā shuì le bā ge xiǎo shí

Word guide: 他 – he; 睡 – sleep; 八 – eight; 个 – (measure word); 小时 – hour.

- In the opening example, 我睡了八个小时。: 八个小时 measures how long the sleeping lasted.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 八点 names a clock time instead.
- A completed duration alone does not determine whether a longer habit continues: 我学了三年中文 reports three years without automatically proving that study has ended forever.

■ Use the distinction

- 八个小时 measures how long the sleeping lasted.
- 八点 names a clock time instead. A completed duration alone does not determine whether a longer habit continues: 我学了三年中文 reports three years without automatically proving that study has ended forever.

■ Try it with help closed

You describe the length of yesterday's 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.

One possible response: 我睡了八个小时。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 八点 names a clock time instead.
- A completed duration alone does not determine whether a longer habit continues: 我学了三年中文 reports three years without automatically proving that study has ended forever.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 了 + Duration + 了 (have been ...-ing)

■ A duration is relevant up to now

- You have studied Chinese for three years and are still studying.
- 我学了三年中文了。 – The final 了 makes the elapsed three-year period relevant now; continued study is natural here.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Verb + 了 + Duration + 了 (have been ...-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.

我学了三年中文了。

wǒ xué le sān nián Zhōng wén le

Word guide: 我 – I; 学 – study; 三 – three; 年 – year; 中文 – Chinese.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 我学了三年中文了。: The final 了 makes the elapsed three-year period relevant now; continued study is natural here.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The context supplies continuation.
- Compare 我等了一个小时了, 现在终于等到了: the wait can end at the reference point. Two 了 do not guarantee that an action continues indefinitely afterward.

■ Use the distinction

- The final 了 makes the elapsed three-year period relevant now; continued study is natural here.
- The context supplies continuation. Compare 我等了一个小时了, 现在终于等到了: the wait can end at the reference point. Two 了 do not guarantee that an action continues indefinitely afterward.

■ Try it with help closed

You have studied Chinese for three years and are still studying. 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: 我学了三年中文了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The context supplies continuation.
- Compare 我等了一个小时了, 现在终于等到了: the wait can end at the reference point. Two 了 do not guarantee that an action continues indefinitely afterward.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

没办法 + Verb (no way to / can't)

■ A refusal names a practical constraint

- You would like to help but cannot leave work today.
- **今天我没办法帮你。** – The speaker presents helping today as unavailable under the circumstances.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **没办法 + Verb (no way to / can't)**. 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.

我没办法帮你。

wǒ méi bàn fǎ bāng nǐ

Word guide: 我 – I; 没办法 – no way; 帮 – help; 你 – you.

■ Read examples in context

没办法，只能等。

méi bàn fǎ zhǐ néng děng

Word guide: 没办法 – nothing to be done; 只能 – can only; 等 – wait.

- In the opening example, **今天我没办法帮你。**: The speaker presents helping today as unavailable under the circumstances.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 没办法 does not necessarily describe permanent inability.
- 没办法，我只好等 may accept a current constraint; explain the obstacle where the listener needs it.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker presents helping today as unavailable under the circumstances.
- 没办法 does not necessarily describe permanent inability. 没办法，我只好等 may accept a current constraint; explain the obstacle where the listener needs it.

■ Try it with help closed

You would like to help but cannot leave work today. 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: 今天我没办法帮你。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 没办法 does not necessarily describe permanent inability.
- 没办法, 我只好等 may accept a current constraint; explain the obstacle where the listener needs it.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb reduplication (do a bit / give it a try)

■ A short trial is offered politely

- You ask a friend to look briefly at a draft.
- 你看看这个吧。 – Reduplication presents looking as a brief, lighter action.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **Verb reduplication (do a bit / give it a try)**. 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.

你看看这个。

nǐ kàn kan zhè ge

Word guide: 你 – you; 看看 – have a look; 这 – this; 个 – (measure word).

■ Read examples in context

我们休息休息吧。

wǒ men xiū xi xiū xi ba

Word guide: 我们 – we; 休息 – rest; 休息 – rest.

- In the opening example, 你看看这个吧。: Reduplication presents looking as a brief, lighter action.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- Use 看看 or 看一看 for this single-syllable verb, and 休息休息 for 休息.
- Not every verb naturally reduplicates; completed trials can use 看了看 rather than adding 了 anywhere.

■ Use the distinction

- Reduplication presents looking as a brief, lighter action.
- Use 看看 or 看一看 for this single-syllable verb, and 休息休息 for 休息. Not every verb naturally reduplicates; completed trials can use 看了看 rather than adding 了 anywhere.

■ Try it with help closed

You ask a friend to look briefly at a draft. 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: 你看看这个吧。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Use 看看 or 看一看 for this single-syllable verb, and 休息休息 for 休息.
- Not every verb naturally reduplicates; completed trials can use 看了看 rather than adding 了 anywhere.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

很 + Verb (feeling verbs with 很)

■ A feeling can take a degree word

- You express how much you like a new subject.
- 我很喜欢中文。 – 很 modifies the degree of liking, not the number of lessons taken.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 很 + Verb (feeling verbs with 很). 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.

我很喜欢你。

wǒ hěn xǐ huan nǐ

Word guide: 我 – I; 很 – really; 喜欢 – like; 你 – you.

■ Read examples in context

我很想家。

wǒ hěn xiǎng jiā

Word guide: 我 – I; 很 – really; 想 – miss; 家 – home.

- In the opening example, 我很喜欢中文。: 很 modifies the degree of liking, not the number of lessons taken.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- Some mental or evaluative verbs take degree words, including 了解 as well as 喜欢.
- A plain physical action such as 吃 does not take 很 in the same degree pattern.

■ Use the distinction

- 很 modifies the degree of liking, not the number of lessons taken.
- Some mental or evaluative verbs take degree words, including 了解 as well as 喜欢. A plain physical action such as 吃 does not take 很 in the same degree pattern.

■ Try it with help closed

You express how much you like a new subject. 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: 我很喜欢中文。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Some mental or evaluative verbs take degree words, including 了解 as well as 喜欢.
- A plain physical action such as 吃 does not take 很 in the same degree pattern.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

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.