

Auxiliary verbs

HSK 4

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.

不用 (don't need to)

■ No need differs from a ban

- A friend worries unnecessarily and you reassure them.
- 你不用担心。 – The speaker says worrying is unnecessary.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 不用 (don't need 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.

你不用担心。

nǐ bú yòng dān xīn

Word guide: 你 – you; 不用 – don't need to; 担心 – worry.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 你不用担心。: The speaker says worrying is unnecessary.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 不许担心 would be a prohibition, while 不用 removes a need.
- 不用 can also have a literal not-use meaning in a different frame.

■ Use the distinction

- The speaker says worrying is unnecessary.
- 不许担心 would be a prohibition, while 不用 removes a need. 不用 can also have a literal not-use meaning in a different frame.

■ Try it with help closed

A friend worries unnecessarily and you reassure them. 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: 你不用担心。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 不许担心 would be a prohibition, while 不用 removes a need.
- 不用 can also have a literal not-use meaning in a different frame.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

得 (děi) (must / have to)

■ The same character has different pronunciations

- You need to leave in time for an appointment.
- 我得走了。 – 得 is read děi and expresses necessity here.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 得 (děi) (must / have 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.

我得走了。

wǒ děi zǒu le

Word guide: 我 – I; 得 – must; 走 – go.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 我得走了。: 得 is read děi and expresses necessity here.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The unstressed de follows a verb in a complement, while dé occurs in obtaining or gaining.
- Position and meaning determine the reading.

■ Use the distinction

- 得 is read děi and expresses necessity here.
- The unstressed de follows a verb in a complement, while dé occurs in obtaining or gaining. Position and meaning determine the reading.

■ Try it with help closed

You need to leave in time for an appointment. 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: 我得走了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The unstressed de follows a verb in a complement, while dé occurs in obtaining or gaining.
- Position and meaning determine the reading.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.