Complements

HSK 3 Grammar

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)

Come in, go out

- A friend knocks at your door; later your little brother runs off to play outside.
- **请进来！** – "Please come in!" **他出去了。** – "He's gone out." 来 is towards the speaker, 去 is away.

Verb + 来 / 去

- **来** = movement towards the speaker; **去** = movement away from the speaker.
- Combine with direction verbs: 进来/进去, 出来/出去, 上来/上去, 下来/下去, 回来/回去, 过来/过去.

你快下来吧！
nǐ kuài xià lai ba
Word guide: 你 – you; 快 – quickly; 下来 – come down.



A place goes before 来 / 去

- **Verb + place + 来/去**: **他回家去了。** – "He has gone back home." **快进教室来！** – "Come into the classroom, quick!"
- A thing you carry can come after: 他带来了一本书 / 他带了一本书来.

他回家去了。
tā huí jiā qù le
Word guide: 他 – he; 回 – return; 家 – home; 去 – (away).

■ The speaker decides 来 or 去

- Choose by where the speaker is: you are upstairs → 上来 (come up); you are downstairs → 上去 (go up).
- A place word never comes after 来/去: 进教室来, not 进来教室.

■ 拿来, 带去, 送来

- Bringing and taking work the same way: **请把书拿来。** – "Please bring the book (here)."
- **我给他送去了一些水果。** – "I took some fruit over to him."

请把书拿来。
qǐng bǎ shū ná lái
Word guide: 请 – please; 书 – the book; 拿 – bring; 来 – (here).

■ Recap

- **Verb + 来** = towards the speaker; **Verb + 去** = away from the speaker.
- A place goes before 来/去 (回家去, 进教室来); 拿来/带去 work the same way.

Practise this pattern step by step.

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

■ Can you understand him?

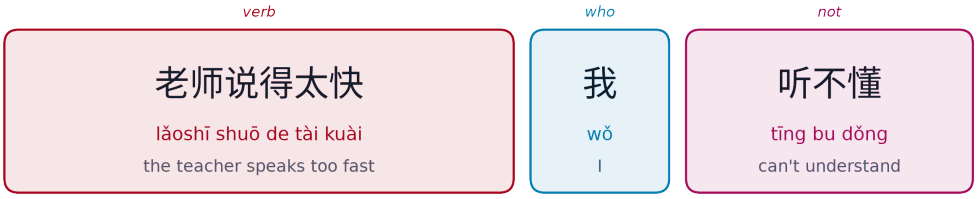
- Your teacher speaks quickly at the start of a new course, and your friend wonders if you follow.
- **老师说得太快，我听不懂。** – "The teacher talks too fast; I can't understand."

■ Verb + 得 / 不 + result

- **Verb + 得 + result** = can (manage to) do it; **Verb + 不 + result** = can't: 听得懂 / 听不懂, 看得见 / 看不见.
- It says whether the result is possible, not whether you are allowed.

我听得懂中文。
wǒ tīng de dǒng Zhōng wén
Word guide: 我 – I; 听 – listen; 得 – (can); 懂 – understand; 中文 – Chinese.

Verb + 得 / 不 + result: can or can't



Common pairs

- **看不见** (can't see), **买不到** (can't get hold of), **吃不完** (can't finish eating), **来得及** (there's still time).
- **这么多菜，我们吃不完。** – "This much food – we can't finish it."

这么多菜，我们吃不完。
zhè me duō cài wǒ men chī bu wán
Word guide: 这么 – so; 多 – much; 菜 – food; 我们 – we; 吃 – eat; 不 – (cannot); 完 – finish.

Where 不 goes

- 不 goes between the verb and the result: 听不懂, not 不听懂.
- Ask with both forms: 你听得懂听不懂? or 你听得懂吗?

听不懂 versus 没听懂

- 听不懂 = can't understand (it is beyond me): 他的上海话我听不懂.
- 没听懂 = didn't understand (this time): 对不起，我没听懂，请再说一遍。

对不起，我没听懂。
duì bu qǐ wǒ méi tīng dǒng
Word guide: 对不起 – sorry; 我 – I; 没 – did not; 听懂 – understand.

Recap

- **Verb + 得 + result** = can; **Verb + 不 + result** = can't (看得见 / 看不见).
- 不 sits between verb and result. 没 + verb + result = it did not happen this time.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)

Don't stop now

- You are halfway through a story and your listener is hooked.
- **说下去，后来怎么样了?** – "Keep going – what happened next?"

Verb + 下去

- **Verb + 下去** = keep on doing, continue from now into the future: 说下去, 读下去, 住下去.
- It is often used with 继续, 要, 想 or 能: 我想在这儿住下去.

请继续说下去。
qǐng jì xù shuō xià qu
Word guide: 请 – please; 继续 – continue; 说 – speak; 下去 – (keep on).



Perseverance

- **学中文不容易，但是你要坚持下去。** – "Learning Chinese isn't easy, but you must keep going."
- **这样下去不行。** – "It can't go on like this." 这样下去 = if things continue this way.

这样下去不行。
zhè yàng xià qu bù xíng
Word guide: 这样 – like this; 下去 – (go on); 不 – not; 行 – OK.

Continuing, not going down

- In this pattern 下去 means "continue", not physical movement down: 读下去 = keep reading.
- With 不 for "can't go on": 我听不下去了 – "I can't bear to listen any more."

下去 versus 起来

- 下去 continues something already going: 唱下去 – "keep singing".
- 起来 starts something new: 唱起来 – "start singing": 大家都唱起来了。

大家都唱起来了。
dà jiā dōu chàng qǐ lai le
Word guide: 大家 – everyone; 都 – all; 唱 – sing; 起来 – (start).

Recap

- **Verb + 下去** = keep on doing it, carry on (说下去, 坚持下去).
- 这样下去 = if this continues; 听不下去 = can't bear to go on. 起来 = start.

Practise this pattern step by step.

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

Finished or not?

- Your mum asks about your homework before you go out to play.
- **作业我做完了！** – "I've finished my homework!" 完 tells the result of the action: it is finished.

Verb + result complement

- **Verb + 好 / 完 / 错** tells how the action ended: 做好 (done properly), 吃完 (eaten up), 写错 (written wrongly).
- 了 normally follows the result: 我写完了, 他看错了.

我写错了一个字。
wǒ xiě cuò le yí gè zì
Word guide: 我 – I; 写 – write; 错 – wrongly; 一个 – one; 字 – character.



Ready, finished, wrong

- **好** = done and ready: **饭做好了，快来吃吧！** – "Dinner's ready, come and eat!"
- **完** = finished, nothing left: 这本书我看完了. **错** = wrong: 对不起，我打错电话了。

饭做好了，快来吃吧！
fàn zuò hǎo le kuài lái chī ba
Word guide: 饭 – dinner; 做 – make; 好 – ready; 快 – quickly; 来 – come; 吃 – eat.

■ Negate with 没, keep the pair together

- Negate with 没 and drop 了: 我还没做完, not 我不做完了.
- Nothing comes between the verb and its result: 做完作业, not 做作业完.

■ 做完 versus 做好

- 做完 = finished, the job is over (maybe not well done).
- 做好 = done properly, ready to use: **你准备好了吗?** – "Are you ready?"

你准备好了吗?
nǐ zhǔn bèi hǎo le ma
Word guide: 你 – you; 准备 – prepare; 好 – ready.

■ Recap

- **Verb + 好 / 完 / 错 (+ 了)** = done properly / finished / done wrongly.
- Negative: **没 + Verb + result** (还没做完). The result follows the verb directly.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)

0311.1 You are inside the room and call to your friend at the door: "Come in!" 进……!

0311.2 You are on the ground floor talking about your friend upstairs: "He went up." Which fits?

- A. 他来上了。
- B. 他上去了。
- C. 他上来了。
- D. 他去上了。

0311.3 Build: "Come into the classroom, quick!"

Arrange all chunks: 快 / 来! / 教室 / 进

0311.4 他进来教室了 is correct.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0311.5 A friend knocks at your door; later your little brother runs off to play outside. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

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

0312.1 The words on the board are too small: "I can't see clearly." 我看 …… 清楚。

0312.2 Which says "I can't understand Cantonese."?

- A. 我不听懂广东话。
- B. 我没听得懂广东话。
- C. 我听懂不广东话。
- D. 我听不懂广东话。

0312.3 Match each form to its meaning.

- 1. 买不到
- 1. 吃不完
- 1. 来得及
- 1. 看得见
- A. there's still time
- B. can't finish eating
- C. can't get hold of
- D. can see

0312.4 Build: "This much food – we can't finish it."

Arrange all chunks: 这么多菜 / 我们 / ， / 吃不完。

0312.5 Your teacher speaks quickly at the start of a new course, and your friend wonders if you follow. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)

0313.1 Encourage: "Keep reading!" 读 ……！

0313.2 Everyone suddenly started laughing. Which fits? 大家都笑 _____ 了。

- A. 过去
- B. 下去
- C. 上去
- D. 起来

0313.3 Build: "It can't go on like this."

Arrange all chunks: 下去 / 不行。/ 这样

0313.4 In 说下去, 下去 means the speaker walks downstairs.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0313.5 You are halfway through a story and your listener is hooked. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

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

0314.1 Complete: "I've eaten up all the dumplings." 饺子我都吃 …… 了。

0314.2 Which says "I haven't finished reading this book yet."?

- A. 这本书我还没看完。
- B. 这本书我还看没完。
- C. 这本书我还没看完了。
- D. 这本书我还不看完了。

0314.3 Match each phrase to its meaning.

- 1. 做好了
- 1. 做完了
- 1. 写错了
- A. written wrongly
- B. finished
- C. done and ready

0314.4 Build: "Are you ready?"

Arrange all chunks: 准备好 / 了 / 吗? / 你

0314.5 Your mum asks about your homework before you go out to play. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

Answers and explanations

■ Direction complement 来 / 去 (toward / away)

0311.1 来

Movement towards the speaker takes 来.

0311.2 B. 他上去了。

He moved away from you (upwards), so 上去.

0311.3 快进教室来!

Verb + place + 来.

0311.4 False.

The place goes before 来: 他进教室来了.

0311.5 One possible response: 请进来!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Choose by where the speaker is: you are upstairs → 上来 (come up); you are downstairs → 上去 (go up).
- A place word never comes after 来/去: 进教室来, not 进来教室.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

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

0312.1 不

Verb + 不 + result = can't. 看不清楚 = can't see clearly.

0312.2 D. 我听不懂广东话。

不 goes between the verb and the result.

0312.3 1–C: 买不到 = can't get hold of; 2–B: 吃不完 = can't finish eating; 3–A: 来得及 = there's still time; 4–D: 看得见 = can see

Verb + 得/不 + result says whether the result is possible.

0312.4 这么多菜，我们吃不完。

Verb + 不 + 完 = can't finish.

0312.5 One possible response: 老师说得太快，我听不懂。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 不 goes between the verb and the result: 听不懂, not 不听懂.

- Ask with both forms: 你听得懂听不懂? or 你听得懂吗?
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Verb + 下去 (keep ...-ing)

0313.1 下去

Verb + 下去 = continue doing it.

0313.2 D. 起来

Starting a new action takes 起来; 下去 continues an action already going.

0313.3 这样下去不行。

这样下去 + 不行.

0313.4 False.

Here 下去 means "continue".

0313.5 One possible response: 说下去，后来怎么样了?

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- In this pattern 下去 means "continue", not physical movement down: 读下去 = keep reading.
- With 不 for "can't go on": 我听不下去了 – "I can't bear to listen any more."
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

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

0314.1 完

吃完 = eaten up, finished.

0314.2 A. 这本书我还没看完。

没 + verb + result, with no 了.

0314.3 1–C: 做好了 = done and ready; 2–B: 做完了 = finished; 3–A: 写错了 = written wrongly

The result word tells how the action ended.

0314.4 你准备好了吗?

准备 + 好 + 了 + 吗.

0314.5 One possible response: 作业我做完了!

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Negate with 没 and drop 了: 我还没做完, not 我不做完了.
- Nothing comes between the verb and its result: 做完作业, not 做作业完.
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