Auxiliary verbs

HSK 4 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.

不用 (don't need to)

My treat

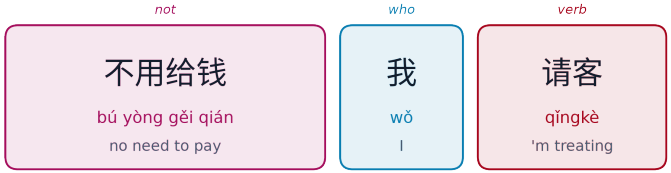
- You take a friend to lunch, and she reaches for her wallet.
- **不用给钱，我请客。** – "You don't need to pay – it's on me."

不用 + Verb = don't need to

- **不用 + Verb** = "there's no need to": 不用担心, 不用客气, 不用去.
- It is the usual negative of 要 / 得 (must) when something is unnecessary.

你不用担心。
nǐ bú yòng dān xīn
Word guide: 你 – you; 不用 – don't need to; 担心 – worry.

请客: it's my treat



Polite replies

- A: 谢谢！ B: **不用谢。** – "No need to thank me."
- A: 要我帮忙吗？ B: **不用了，谢谢。** – "No need, thanks."

不用了，谢谢。
bú yòng le xiè xie
Word guide: 不用 – no need; 谢谢 – thanks.

Not "don't use", not "mustn't"

- 不用 + Verb means "no need to"; "mustn't" is 不能 / 不可以: 这里不能抽烟.
- 不用 + noun can mean "don't use": 不用筷子 – "not use chopsticks". Check whether a verb or noun follows.

不用 versus 别

- 别 + Verb = "don't (do it)", an order: 别去!
- 不用 + Verb = "you needn't", kinder and lighter: 不用去了 – "No need to go any more."

别去!
bié qù
Word guide: 别 – don't; 去 – go.

Recap

- **不用 + Verb** = don't need to; 不用谢 / 不用了 are polite replies.
- "Mustn't" = 不能; "don't!" = 别.

Practise this pattern step by step.

得 (děi) (must / have to)

I have to go

- It is 9 p.m. and you still have an essay due tomorrow morning.
- **我得走了，今天晚上得写完论文。** – "I have to go; I've got to finish my essay tonight."

得 (děi) + Verb = must, have to

- **得** read **děi** before a verb = "must, have to", common in speech: 我得走了, 你得早点儿睡.
- It expresses necessity or obligation.

你得早点儿睡。
nǐ děi zǎo diǎnr shuì
Word guide: 你 – you; 得 – have to; 早点儿 – earlier; 睡 – sleep.

得 (děi): have to



■ Spoken necessity

- **明天有考试，我得复习。** – “There’s an exam tomorrow; I have to revise.”
- **这件事得问老师。** – “We’ll have to ask the teacher about this.”

明天有考试，我得复习。
míng tiān yǒu kǎo shì wǒ děi fù xí
Word guide: 明天 – tomorrow; 有 – there is; 考试 – an exam; 我 – I; 得 – have to; 复习 – revise.

■ The negative is 不用

- “Don’t have to” is 不用, never 不得: 你不用来, not 你不得来.
- Read it děi only before a verb meaning “must”; after a verb (跑得快) it is the particle de.

■ 得 versus 必须 and 要

- 必须 is stronger and more formal: 你必须带身份证.
- 要 can mean “need to / will”: 我要去银行. 得 is the casual “have to”.

你必须带身份证。
nǐ bì xū dài shēn fèn zhèng
Word guide: 你 – you; 必须 – must; 带 – bring; 身份证 – ID.

■ Recap

- **得 (děi) + Verb** = have to, must (spoken).
- Negative = 不用; formal = 必须. After a verb, 得 = de (complement).

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 不用 (don’t need to)

1301.1 Reassure: “You don’t need to come early.” 你 …… 早来。

1301.2 A sign says you mustn’t take photos. Which fits? 这里 _____ 拍照。

- A. 不用
- B. 没用
- C. 不得不
- D. 不能

1301.3 Build: “No need, thanks.”

Arrange all chunks: ， / 谢谢。/ 不用了

1301.4 不用去了 sounds lighter than 别去.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1301.5 You take a friend to lunch, and she reaches for her wallet. 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.

■ 得 (děi) (must / have to)

1302.1 Complete (spoken): “I have to go now.” 我 …… 走了。

1302.2 Which says “You don’t have to come”?

- A. 你不用来。
- B. 你不必须来。
- C. 你不得来。
- D. 你得不来。

1302.3 Build: “There’s an exam tomorrow; I have to revise.”

Arrange all chunks: 明天有考试 / ， / 复习。/ 我得

1302.4 In 他跑得很快, 得 is read děi.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1302.5 It is 9 p.m. and you still have an essay due tomorrow morning. 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

■ 不用 (don't need to)

1301.1 不用

不用 + verb = no need to.

1301.2 D. 不能

Prohibition is 不能; 不用 means no need.

1301.3 不用了，谢谢。

A polite refusal.

1301.4 True.

不用 says it is unnecessary; 别 is an order.

1301.5 One possible response: 不用给钱，我请客。

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.
- 不用 + Verb means "no need to"; "mustn't" is 不能 / 不可以: 这里不能抽烟.
- 不用 + noun can mean "don't use": 不用筷子 – "not use chopsticks". Check whether a verb or noun follows.
- 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.

■ 得 (děi) (must / have to)

1302.1 得

得 (děi) + verb = must.

1302.2 A. 你不用来。

The negative of 得 (must) is 不用.

1302.3 明天有考试，我得复习。

Reason, then 得 + verb.

1302.4 False.

After a verb, 得 is the particle de.

1302.5 One possible response: 我得走了，今天晚上得写完论文。

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.
- "Don't have to" is 不用, never 不得: 你不用来, not 你不得来.
- Read it děi only before a verb meaning "must"; after a verb (跑得快) it is the particle de.
- 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.