



Grammar

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Compliments of Possibility



Verbs can take Complements of Possibility to indicate whether or not an action is possible.

The most important and commonly used Complements of Possibility are derived from Complements of Result and Direction, such as the following:

Verb + 见: 看见、听见
jiàn kànjiàn tīngjiàn

Verb + 到: 找到、买到、收到
dào zhǎodào mǎidào shōudào

Verb + 完: 做完、吃完、用完、花完
wán zuòwán chīwán yòngwán huāwán

Verb + 懂: 听懂、看懂、读懂
dǒng tīngdǒng kàndǒng dùdǒng

Verb + adj. 吃好、写对、洗干净、看清楚、听明白
chīhǎo xiěduì xǐgānjìng kànqīngchǔ tīngmíngbái

Verb + direction. 上来、下去、起来、进去、走过来、爬上去
shànglái xiàqu qǐlái jìnqù zǒu guòlái pá shàngqù



Verb + 得 + Compliment

Affirmative Form Indicating a result can be obtained or a goal can be reached

1. You didn't wear glasses. Can you see clearly.

nǐméi dài yǎn jìng kàn de qīngchǔ ma
你没戴眼镜，看得清楚吗？

2. The mountain is so high. Can you climb to the top?

shān zhè me gāo nǐ pá de shàng qù ma
山 这 么 高，你 爬 得 上 去 吗？

3. There is a lot of homework today. Can you finish it??

4. This book is very difficult. Can your son understand it?

5. Can you understand Chinese?



Verb + 不 + Compliment

Negative Form Indicating a result can't be obtained or a goal can't be reached.

1. Your voice is too soft. We can't hear you.

nǐ de shēngyīn tài xiǎo le wǒmen tīng bu jiàn
你的 声 音 太 小 了，我 们 听 不 见

2. Grandpa's leg very painful that he can't stand up

yéye de tuǐ fēicháng téng zhàn bu qǐlái le
爷爷 的 腿 非 常 疼，站 不 起 来 了

3. I can't find my dog.

4. It's too dim here. I can't see clearly.

5. The bag is too small. I can't fit the cell phone in it.



Complement of Possibility with Objects

Objects can occur either after the complement or at the beginning of a sentence

1. Can you understand Shanghai dialect?

nǐ tīng de dǒng shànghǎi huà ma?
你 听 得 懂 上 海 话 吗 ?

shànghǎi huà nǐ tīng de dǒng ma?
上 海 话 你 听 得 懂 吗 ?

2. I can find that restaurant, but he can't.

3. Can you spend all this money?

4. I'm afraid that I can't do this job well.

5. This dress is so dirty that I can't wash it clearly.