Grammar 9

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:

jiàn kànjiàn tīngjiàn
Verb + 见： 看 见 、 听 见

dào zhǎodào mǎidào shōudào
Verb + 到： 找 到 、 买 到 、 收 到

wán zuòwán chīwán yòngwán huāwán
Verb + 完： 做 完 、吃 完 、 用 完 、 花 完

dǒng tīngdǒng kàndǒng dúdǒng
Verb + 懂： 听 懂 、 看 懂 、读 懂

chīhǎo xiěduì xǐgānjìng kànqīngchǔ tīngmíngbái
Verb + adj. 吃 好 、写 对、洗 干 净 、 看 清 楚 、 听 明 白

shànglái xiàqu qǐlái jìnqù zǒu guòlái pá shàngqù
Verb + direction. 上 来、下 去、起来、进去、 走 过 来、爬 上 去

de
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？

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 (bu) + 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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS