

xué zhōng wén  
学中文  
Studying Chinese

LI XIN YU

shuō huà  
说话  
to talk

huà  
话

word;speech

shàng ge

上个

the previous one

xiě

写

to write

zi  
字

character



de  
得  
(a structural particle)

# Descriptive Complements

The particle 得(de) can be used **after a verb or an adjective**. This lesson mainly deals with 得(de) as it appears **after a verb**. What follows 得(de) in the construction introduced in this lesson is called **a descriptive complement**, which can be an **adjective**, an **adverb**, or a **verb phrase**. In this lesson, the words that function as descriptive complements are **all adjectives**. These complements serve as **comments on the actions** expressed by the verbs that precede 得(de).

## Descriptive Complements

1、他写字写得很好。

tā xiě zì xiě de hěn hǎo

He writes characters well.

很好(hěn hǎo, very well) is a comment on the action 写(xiě, to write)

## Descriptive Complements

2、他昨天睡觉睡得很晚。

tā zuó tiān shuì jiào shuì de hěn wǎn.

很晚(hěn wǎn, very late) is a comment on the action 睡觉 (shuì jiào, to sleep).

## Descriptive Complements

3、妹妹歌唱得很好。

mèi mei gē chàng de hěn hǎo 。

My younger sister sings beautifully.

很好(hěn hǎo, very well) is a comment on the action 唱(chàng, to sing).

## Descriptive Complements

If the complement is an adjective, it is usually **preceded** by 很(hěn, very). If the verb is **followed** by an object, the verb has to be **repeated** before it can be followed by the “得(de)+Complement” structure, e.g.,**写字写得**(xiě zì xiě de) in (1). By repeating the verb, the “verb+object” combination preceding it becomes a “topic” and the complement that follows serves as a comment on it. **The first verb** can be **omitted** if the meaning is clear from the context, as in (3)

fù xí

复习

to review



màn  
慢  
slow

zhī  
枝

(measure word for long, thin, inflexible  
objects such as pens, rifles, ect.)

bǐ  
笔

pen

yì zhī bì  
一枝笔  
a pen

zhāng

张

(measure word for flat objects,  
paper, pictures, ect.)



zhǐ  
纸  
paper

liǎng zhāng zhǐ  
两张纸

Two sheets of paper



dǒng  
懂

to understand

zhēn

真

really

## The Adverb 太(tài,too) and 真(zhēn,really)

When adverb 太(tài,too) and 真(zhēn,really) are used in **exclamatory** sentence, they convey in most cases **not new factual information**. but the speaker's approval,disapproval, etc.If the speaker wants to make a **more “objective”** statement or description, other intensifiers such as **很(hěn,very)**, or **特别(tè bié,especially)** are often used in place of 太(tài,too) or 真(zhēn,really)

The Adverb 太(tài,too) and 真(zhēn,really)

1.A:他写字写得怎么样？

tā xiě zì xiě de zěn me yàng?

How well does he write characters?

One would normally answer:

B:他写字写得很好。

tā xiě zì xiě de hěn hǎo.

He writes characters very well.

## The Adverb 太(tài,too) and 真(zhēn,really)

One would normally answer:

B:他写字写得很好。

tā xiě zì xiě de hěn hǎo.

He writes characters very well.

rather than:

B1:他写字写得真好。

tā xiě zì xiě de zhēn hǎo.

The Adverb 太(tài,too) and 真(zhēn,really)

Compare B1 with C below

B1:他写字写得真好。

tā xiě zì xiě de zhēn hǎo.

C:小李，你写字写得真好！你可以教我吗？

xiǎo lǐ,nǐ xiě zì xiě de zhēn hǎo! nǐ kě yǐ jiāo wǒ ma ?

Little Li, you write characters really well! Could you teach me?

## The Adverb 太(tài,too) and 真(zhēn,really)

When 太(tài,too) is used in an exclamatory sentence, 了(le) usually appears at the end of the sentence:

1、这个电影太有意思了！

zhè ge diàn yǐng tài yǒu yì si le !

This movie is really interesting!

## The Adverb 太(tài,too) and 真(zhēn,really)

2、我的语法太不好了！我得多练习。

wǒ de yǔ fǎ tài bù hǎo le! wǒ děi duō liànxí.

My grammar really is awful! I have to practice more.

3、你跳舞跳得太好了。

nǐ tiào wǔ tiào de tài hǎo le!

You really dance beautifully!

nǎ lǐ  
哪里

where

# 哪里(nǎ li)

哪里(nǎ li), which literally means “where,” is a polite reply to a compliment. In recent times, however, 哪里(nǎ li) has become somewhat old-fashioned. Many people will respond to a compliment by saying 是吗(shì ma, is that so). Some young people in urban areas will also acknowledge a compliment by saying 谢谢(xiè xiè, thanks) instead.

yù      xí  
预习  
to preview

xué  
學

to study; to learn

dì  
第

(prefix for ordinal numbers)

## Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers in Chinese are formed by placing 第(dì) before cardinal numbers, e.g., 第一(dì yī, the first), 第二杯茶(dì èr bēi chá, the second cup of tea), 第三个月(dì sān ge yuè, the third month). However, 第(dì) is not used in names of months: 一月(yī yuè, January), 二月(èr yuè, February), 三月(sān yuè, March). Neither is it used to indicate the birth order of siblings: 大哥(dà gē, oldest brother), 二哥(èr gē, second oldest brother), 三哥(sān gē, third oldest brother)

yǔ fǎ  
语法  
grammar

róng yì  
容易

easy

shēng cí  
生词

new words ; vocabulary

duō

多

many;much

hàn zì  
汉字

Chinese characters



nán  
难  
difficult

## 好不好(hǎo bu hǎo)

Like 行吗(xíng ma) and 好吗(hǎo ma), the expression 好不好(hǎo bu hǎo, is it ok?) can also be used to seek someone's approval of a proposal.

## The Adverb 就(jiù)

The adverb 就(jiù) is used **before a verb** to suggest the **earliness,briefness,or quickness** of the action.

1、他明天七点就得上课。

tā míng tiān qī diǎn jiù děi shàng kè.

He has to go to class [as early as] at 7:00am tomorrow.

2、我们八点看电影，他七点半就来了。

wǒ men bā diǎn kàn diàn yǐng,tā qī diǎn bàn jiù lái le.

We [were supposed to] see the movie at 8:00, but he came [as early as] 7:30

就(jiù) and 才(cái)

compared

The adverb 就(jiù) suggest the **earliness** or promptness of an action in the speaker`s judgment.

The adverb 才(cái) is the opposite. It suggests the tardiness or **lateness** of an action as perceived by the speaker.

When commenting on a past action, 就(jiù) is always used with 了(le) to indicate promptness but 才(cái) is never used with 了.

就(jiù) and 才(cái)  
compared

1.A:八点上课，小白七点就来了。

bā diǎn shàng kè, xiǎo bái qī diǎn jiù lái le.

Class started at 8:00, but Little Bai came [as early as]  
7:00.

B:八点上课，小张八点半才来。

bā diǎn shàng kè, xiǎo zhāng bā diǎn bàn cái lái.

Class started at 8:00, but Little Zhang didn't come until  
8:30.

就(jiù) and 才(cái)

compared

2.A:我昨天五点就回家了。

wǒ zuó tiān wǔ diǎn jiù huí jiā le.

Yesterday I went home when it was only 5:00.

The speaker thought 5:00 was early.

B:我昨天五点才回家。

wǒ zuó tiān wǔ diǎn cái huí jiā.

Yesterday I didn't go home until 5:00.

The speaker thought 5:00 was late.

## Double Objects

Some verbs can take **two object**. The object representing a person, persons, or **an animate entity precedes** the one representing an **inanimate thing**.

1、老师教我们生词和语法。

lǎo shī jiāo wǒ men shēng cí hé yǔ fǎ.

The teacher teaches us vocabulary and grammar.

## Double Objects

2、大哥给了我一瓶水。

dà gē gěi le wǒ yì píng shuǐ.

My big brother gave me a bottle of water.

3、你教我汉字，可以吗？

nǐ jiāo wǒ hàn zì , kě yǐ ma ?

Will you teach me Chinese characters, please?

4、我想问你一个问题。

wǒ xiǎng wèn nǐ yí ge wèn tí.

I'd like to ask you a question.

有(一)点儿(yǒu[yì]diǎnr, somewhat, rather; a little bit)

The phrase 有一点儿(yǒu yì diǎnr) precedes **adjectives or verbs**. It often carries a **negative tone**. The —(yī) in the phrase is optional.

1、我觉得中文有(一)点儿难。

wǒ jué de zhōng wén yǒu(yì)diǎnr nán.

I think Chinese is a little bit difficult.

我觉得中文有(一)点儿容易。 (X)

wǒ jué de zhōng wén yǒu (yì)diǎnr róng yì.

I think Chinese is a little bit easy.

有(一)点儿(yǒu[yì]diǎnr, somewhat, rather; a little bit)

The phrase 有一点儿(yǒu yì diǎnr) precedes **adjectives or verbs**. It often carries a **negative tone**. The —(yī) in the phrase is optional.

2、我觉得这一课生词有点儿多。

wǒ jué de zhè yí kè shēng cí yǒu diǎnr duō .

I think there are a few too many new words in this lesson.  
[The speaker is complaining about it.]

有(一)点儿(yǒu[yì]diǎnr, somewhat, rather; a little bit)

However, when the sentence suggests a change of the situation, the phrase 有一点儿(yǒu yì diǎnr) can carry a positive tone, e.g.

3、我以前不喜欢他，现在有(一)点儿喜欢他了。

wǒ yǐ qián bù xǐ huan tā , xiàn zài yǒu (yì)diǎnr xǐ huan tā  
le.

I used to dislike him, but now I somewhat like him.

以前yǐ qián =previously or before.

## 有(一)点儿(yǒu[yì]diǎnr, somewhat, rather; a little bit)

Take care not to confuse **有一点儿**(yǒu yì diǎnr,a little), which is an adverbial used to **modify adjectives**, with **一点儿**(yì diǎnr, a little), which usually **modifies nouns**. In the above sentences, **有一点儿**(yǒu yì diǎnr) cannot be replaced by **一点儿**(yì diǎnr).

有(一)点儿(yǒu[yì]diǎnr, somewhat, rather; a little bit)

4、给我一点儿咖啡。

gěi wǒ yì diǎnr kā fēi.

Give me a little coffee.

5、给我一点儿时间。

gěi wǒ yì diǎnr shí jiān.

Give me a little time.

## 有(一)点儿(yǒu[yì]diǎnr, somewhat, rather; a little bit)

6、我有一点儿忙。

wǒ yǒu yì diǎnr máng .

I am kind of busy.

我一点儿忙。 (X)

wǒ yì diǎnr máng .

7、她有一点儿不高兴。

tā yǒu yì diǎnr bù gāo xìng.

She is a little bit unhappy.

她一点儿不高兴。 (X)

tā yì diǎnr bù gāo xìng.

— TEXT —

(王朋跟李友说话)

王朋:李友，你上个星期考试考得怎么样？

李友:因为你帮我复习，所以考得不错。但是我写中国字写得太慢了。

王朋:是吗？以后我跟你一起练习写字，好不好？

李友:那太好了！我们现在就写，怎么样？

王朋:好，给我一枝笔、一张纸。写什么字？

李友:你教我怎么写“懂”字吧。

王朋：好吧。

— TEXT —

李友:你写字写得真好，真快。

王朋:哪里，哪里。你明天有中文课吗？我帮你预习。

李友:明天我们学第七课。第七课的语法很容易，我都懂，可是生词太多，汉字也有一点儿难。

王朋:没问题，我帮你。

## Queation

- 1、Who writes Chinese characters quickly?
- 2、Which lesson will Li You study tomorrow?
- 3、How does Li You feel about the grammer,vocabulary and characters in the lesson she has prepared?



Language  
practice