day 26 done & doing

Say what's done, what didn't happen and what's happening right now.

了 is one of the most used characters in Chinese: you'll hear it in almost every chat.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
正在	zhèngzài	in the middle of (doing)	正 just, right; straight + 在 at, in
这些	zhèxiē	these	这 this + 些 some, a few
那些	nàxiē	those	那 that + 些 some, a few
哪些	nǎxiē	which (ones)	哪 which + 些 some, a few
有的	yǒude	some (of them)	有 have, there is + 的 of; 's
有些	yǒuxiē	some; somewhat	有 have, there is + 些 some, a few

pattern 了 again: done vs changed vs 没

买了 没买 不买

After a verb, 了 says "done" (我买了 I bought it); at the end of a sentence it says "now it's different" (下雨了). For "didn't", use 没 and drop 了 (我没买); 不 is "don't" or "won't" (我不买 I'm not buying it). 正在 before a verb is the strong "right now".

我买了这些苹果。 **Wǒ mǎi le zhèxiē píngguǒ.** I bought these apples.

天气冷了。 **Tiānqì lěng le.** It's got cold.

有的衣服很贵，我没买。 **Yǒude yīfu hěn guì, wǒ méi mǎi.** Some of the clothes were expensive, so I didn't buy them.

他正在打电话呢。 **Tā zhèngzài dǎ diànhuà ne.** He's on the phone right now.

dialogue anna calls xiaoming

anna 喂，小明！你在家吗？
Wèi, Xiǎomíng! Nǐ zài jiā ma? · Hi, Xiaoming! Are you at home?

xiaoming 在。我在看电视，妈妈正在做饭呢。
Zài. Wǒ zài kàn diànshì, māma zhèngzài zuòfàn ne. · Yes. I'm watching TV, and Mum's cooking right now.

anna 我在超市，我买了一些水果。
Wǒ zài chāoshì, wǒ mǎi le yìxiē shuǐguǒ. · I'm at the supermarket. I bought some fruit.

xiaoming 你买了哪些水果？
Nǐ mǎi le nǎxiē shuǐguǒ? · Which fruit did you buy?

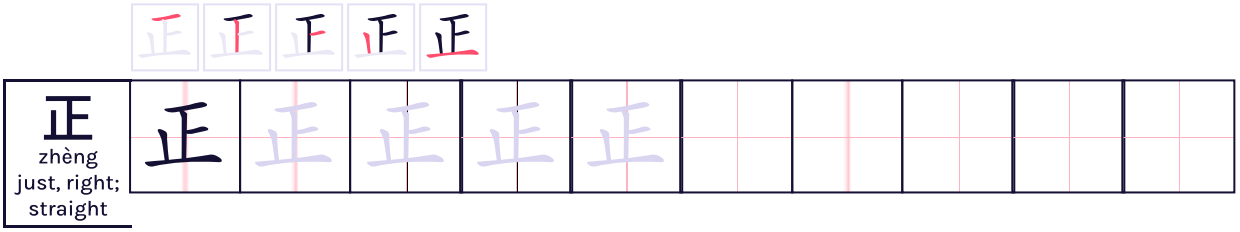
anna 苹果！有的很大，有的很小。
Píngguǒ! Yǒude hěn dà, yǒude hěn xiǎo. · Apples! Some are big, some are small.

xiaoming 你买牛奶了吗？
Nǐ mǎi niúnǎi le ma? · Did you buy milk?

anna 没买。今天的牛奶太贵了，我不买！
Méi mǎi. Jīntiān de niúnǎi tài guì le, wǒ bù mǎi! · No, I didn't. The milk's too expensive today, so I'm not buying it!

xiaoming 下雨了！你坐出租车回家吧。
Xià yǔ le! Nǐ zuò chūzūchē huí jiā ba. · It's started raining! Take a taxi home.

write it trace the grey, then write your own



good to know · 了 isn't a past tense. 昨天我很忙 (I was busy yesterday) needs no 了, and 下雨了 is about now: it has started raining. 没 or 不? 没 is for what didn't happen (我没买 I didn't buy it). 不 is for what you don't or won't do (我不买 I'm not buying it).

Now you can tell a friend what you've done, what you didn't do and what you're doing right now: that's real conversation.
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