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day 11 back to school

Chinese HSK 2 in 22 days
unit 3 · school, health & weather

Say that you've finished, understood or got something wrong.

"I didn't catch that" and "I've finished" are lines you'll use every day, in class and at work.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
开学	kāixué	school starts; term begins	明天开学。 School starts tomorrow.
高中	gāozhōng	senior high school	我妹妹上高中了。 My little sister is in high school now.
班	bān	class (a group of students)	我们班有二十个学生。 There are twenty students in our class.
教室	jiàoshì	classroom	教室里有很多桌子和椅子。 There are lots of desks and chairs in the classroom.
教	jiāo	to teach	王|老师教我们汉语。 Teacher Wang teaches us Chinese.
本子	běnzi	notebook	我的本子在书包里。 My notebook is in my schoolbag.
笔	bǐ	pen, pencil	我没有笔。 I don't have a pen.
书包	shūbāo	schoolbag	你的书包里有什么? What's in your schoolbag?
词	cí	word	这个词是什么意思? What does this word mean?
题	tí	question, exercise (on a test)	这个题我不会。 I can't do this question.
懂	dǒng	to understand	我懂了! I get it!
错	cuò	wrong; a mistake	对不起，我说错了。 Sorry, I said it wrong.
完	wán	to finish; to be over	你吃完了吗? Have you finished eating?

pattern verb + 完/懂/错/好/会: the result

who **verb** **完 / 懂 / 错 / 好 / 会** **了**

Chinese adds the result straight after the verb: 听 listen + 懂 understand = 听懂, to catch what you hear. 写完 is “finish writing”, 说错 “say it wrong”, 学会 “learn how”. For “didn’t”, use 没 and drop 了: 我没听懂. The thing can also go first, as the topic: 汉字我写完了.

我看懂了。 **wǒ kàn dǒng le** I understood it (reading).

我没听懂，请再说一次。 **wǒ méi tīng dǒng qǐng zài shuō yí cì** I didn’t catch that. Could you say it again, please?

汉字我写完了。 **Hànzì wǒ xiě wán le** I’ve finished writing the characters.

我学会了！ **wǒ xué huì le** I’ve got it! (I’ve learned how.)

dialogue first day of term

teacher wang 同学们好！今天开学了。我来介绍一下，这是我们的新教室。
tóngxuémen hǎo jīntiān kāixué le wǒ lái jièshào yíxià zhè shì wǒmen de xīn jiàoshì · Hello, everyone! Term starts today. Let me show you round: this is our new classroom.

anna 我们班的新教室真不错！
wǒmen bān de xīn jiàoshì zhēn búcuò · Our class’s new classroom is really nice!

teacher wang 请大家打开本子。
qǐng dàjiā dǎkāi běnzi · Everyone, please open your notebooks.

anna 王老师，不好意思，我的本子不在书包里。
Wáng lǎoshī bù hǎoyìsi wǒ de běnzi bú zài shūbāo lǐ · Sorry, Teacher Wang, my notebook isn’t in my bag.

teacher wang 没关系，这个本子给你。今天我教你们写汉字，第一个是我的姓：“王”！
méi guānxi zhège běnzi gěi nǐ jīntiān wǒ jiāo nǐmen xiě Hànzì dì yī gè shì wǒ de xìng Wáng · That’s OK, you can have this one. Today I’ll teach you to write characters. The first one is my surname: 王!

teacher wang 安娜，你写完了吗？
Ānnà nǐ xiě wán le ma · Anna, have you finished writing?

anna 写完了。但是这个字我写错了。
xiě wán le dànshì zhège zì wǒ xiě cuò le · Yes. But I wrote this character wrong.

teacher wang 没事，再写一次。……你看，写好了！写得很不错。
méishì zài xiě yí cì nǐ kàn xiě hǎo le xiě de hěn búcuò · No problem, write it once more... Look, you’ve got it! That’s really good.

anna 谢谢老师！我学会了。
xièxie lǎoshī wǒ xué huì le · Thank you! I know how to do it now.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

教
jiāo
to teach

室
shì
room

good to know · No 了 in the “didn’t” form: 我没写完, not 我没写完了. To say you can’t, put 不 inside: 听不懂 “can’t understand (by listening)”. You’ll hear 我听不懂 a lot in your first year! 讠 means speech: it’s on the left of 说, 语, 请, 谢 and today’s 词 (word).

Finished, understood, got it wrong: now you can tell your teacher exactly where you are.
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wishyou.today learning

day 12 the exam is coming

Chinese HSK 2 in 22 days
unit 3 · school, health & weather

Say what's about to happen, what has already happened, and what happens the moment something else does.

Exams, trains, films: life is full of things that are about to start. This is how you say it.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
考	kǎo	to take a test; to test	明天考汉语。 We have a Chinese test tomorrow.
考试	kǎoshì	exam; to take an exam	快要考试了。 The exam is coming up soon.
准备	zhǔnbèi	to prepare; to get ready	你准备好了吗? Are you ready?
开始	kāishǐ	to start, to begin	考试九点开始。 The exam starts at nine.
记得	jìde	to remember	你记得他的名字吗? Do you remember his name?
忘	wàng	to forget	对不起，我忘了。 Sorry, I forgot.
快要	kuàiyào	about to; soon	快要九点了。 It's almost nine.
已经	yǐjīng	already	他已经走了。 He has already left.
时	shí	time; when (in …时)	上课时别说话。 Don't talk during class.

pattern 快要……了: it's about to happen

快要 / 就要 **what happens** **了**

Put 快要 (or just 要) before the event and 了 at the end: 快要考试了, the exam is almost here; 要下雨了, it's going to rain. With a time word, use 就要: 明天就要考试了. 已经……了 says it has already happened, and 都……了 adds surprise: it's already eleven!

快要九点了。 **kuàiyào jiǔ diǎn le** It's almost nine.

明天就要考试了！ **míngtiān jiù yào kǎoshì le** The exam is tomorrow!

要下雨了，我们快回家吧。 **yào xià yǔ le wǒmen kuài huí jiā ba** It's going to rain. Let's hurry home.

都十一点了，你还不睡觉? **dōu shíyī diǎn le nǐ hái bú shuìjiào** It's eleven already and you're still not in bed?

dialogue revising together

xiaoming 安娜，快要考试了吧?
Ānnà kuàiyào kǎoshì le ba · Anna, your exam is coming up soon, isn't it?

anna 是啊，下星期一就要考了。
shì a xià xīngqīyī jiù yào kǎo le · Yes, it's next Monday.

xiaoming 你喝咖啡还是奶茶?
nǐ hē kāfēi háishi nǎichá · Coffee or milk tea?

anna 咖啡！今天我不能睡觉。
kāfēi jīntiān wǒ bù néng shuìjiào · Coffee! No sleeping for me today.

xiaoming 你准备得怎么样?
nǐ zhǔnbèi de zěnmeyàng · How's your revising going?

anna 汉字我都记得，但是一考试就忘！
Hànzì wǒ dōu jìde dànshì yì kǎoshì jiù wàng · I remember all the characters, but the moment there's an exam, I forget them!

xiaoming 没关系，我来帮你。我说词，你写汉字。
méi guānxi wǒ lái bāng nǐ wǒ shuō cí nǐ xiě Hànzì · Don't worry, I'll help you. I'll say the words, you write the characters.

anna 好啊！我们现在就开始吧。
hǎo a wǒmen xiànzài jiù kāishǐ ba · Great! Let's start right now.

xiaoming 都十点了，你还不回家?
dōu shí diǎn le nǐ hái bù huí jiā · It's ten already. Aren't you going home?

anna 我还是再写十个吧，写完就回家！
wǒ háishi zài xiě shí gè ba xiě wán jiù huí jiā · I'd better do ten more. Then I'll go home!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

考
kǎo
to take a test; to test

试
shì
to try

good to know · 快要 can't take an exact time. Say 明天就要考试了, never 明天快要考试了. China's biggest exam is the 高考, the university entrance exam, held every year in early June. 再 can mean "then, after that": 吃了饭再去, eat first, then go. 就 is "right away": 吃了饭就去, go straight after eating.

Coming soon, already done, the moment that: you can now tell a little story in time order.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 13 i don't feel well

Say what hurts, how you feel, and how long something lasted.

When you feel unwell far from home, a few clear words get you help fast.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
身体	shēntǐ	body; health	您身体好吗? How is your health?
手	shǒu	hand	你的手怎么了? What's wrong with your hand?
头	tóu	head	我的头有点儿疼。 My head hurts a bit.
疼	téng	to hurt; sore	我的手很疼。 My hand really hurts.
舒服	shūfu	comfortable; to feel well	你哪儿不舒服? Where don't you feel well?
药	yào	medicine	你吃药了吗? Have you taken your medicine?
药店	yàodiàn	pharmacy, chemist's	药店在医院旁边。 The pharmacy is next to the hospital.
累	lèi	tired	我今天很累。 I'm really tired today.
可能	kěnéng	maybe; possible	他可能不来了。 He probably isn't coming.
一会儿	yīhuìr	a moment; a little while	请等一会儿。 Please wait a moment.
游	yóu	to swim; to travel around	他游得很快。 He swims fast.

pattern verb + how long: 睡了八个小时

who | verb | 了 | how long

How long something lasts goes after the verb: 睡了八个小时, slept for eight hours. With a split verb like 游泳 or 帮忙, the time or the "who" goes in the middle: 游了一个小时泳, 帮我一个忙. After an adjective, 一点儿 means "a bit more": 好一点儿, a bit better.

我休息了一会儿。 **wǒ xiūxi le yíhuìr** I rested for a while.

她跳了两个小时舞。 **tā tiào le liǎng gè xiǎoshí wǔ** She danced for two hours.

你好一点儿了吗? **nǐ hǎo yìdiǎnr le ma** Are you feeling a bit better?

你能帮我一个忙吗? **nǐ néng bāng wǒ yí gè máng ma** Could you do me a favour?

dialogue too much revising

xiaoming 安娜，你怎么了？身体不舒服吗?
Ānnà nǐ zěnme le shēntǐ bù shūfu ma · Anna, what's wrong? Aren't you feeling well?

anna 我头疼，手也有点儿疼。
wǒ tóu téng shǒu yě yǒudiǎnr téng · I've got a headache, and my hand hurts a bit too.

dr li 你经常头疼吗?
nǐ jīngcháng tóu téng ma · Do you often get headaches?

anna 不经常，有时会疼。
bù jīngcháng yǒushí huì téng · Not often, just sometimes.

dr li 你昨天睡了几个小时?
nǐ zuótiān shuì le jǐ gè xiǎoshí · How many hours did you sleep last night?

anna 四个小时。因为快要考试了，我写了很多汉字。
sì gè xiǎoshí yīnwèi kuàiyào kǎoshì le wǒ xiě le hěn duō Hànzì · Four. The exam's coming up, so I wrote loads of characters.

dr li 你可能太累了，眼睛也很累。别看书了，休息一会儿吧。
nǐ kěnéng tài lèi le yǎnjing yě hěn lèi bié kàn shū le xiūxi yíhuìr ba · You're probably just too tired, and your eyes are tired too. No more books; rest for a while.

anna 我要去药店买药吗?
wǒ yào qù yàodiàn mǎi yào ma · Should I go to the pharmacy for some medicine?

dr li 今天别吃药，好好睡觉。明天就好了，也要多运动!
jīntiān bié chī yào hǎo hǎo shuìjiào míngtiān jiù hǎo le yě yào duō yùndòng · No medicine today. Just get a good sleep, and you'll be fine tomorrow. And get more exercise!

dr li 我让我妻子多做一个菜，你在我们家吃吧。
wǒ ràng wǒ qīzi duō zuò yí gè cài nǐ zài wǒmen jiā chī ba · I'll ask my wife to make an extra dish. Eat with us here.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

身
shēn
body

体
tǐ
body, form

good to know · To say what hurts, name the body part, then 疼: 头疼, 手疼. It's the "topic + comment" pattern from day 2, like 他个子很高. 可能 before a verb means "maybe, probably": 他可能不来了. It's softer than saying it for sure. 疼 and 病 share 疒, the "sickbed" part. 药 has 艹 "grass" on top, like 茶 and 菜: many old medicines were plants.

Now you can tell a friend, a doctor or a pharmacist what's wrong, and for how long.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 14 sunny, then cloudy

Talk about the weather and say “although…, but…”.

Weather is the easiest small talk in any language, and a “but” makes it sound like real conversation.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
晴	qíng	sunny, clear	今天是晴天。 It’s a sunny day today.
阴	yīn	cloudy, overcast	明天可能是阴天。 It’ll probably be cloudy tomorrow.
虽然	suīrán	although	虽然很冷，但是天气很好。 It’s cold, but the weather is lovely.
但	dàn	but	我很累，但很高兴。 I’m tired but happy.
周	zhōu	week	一周有七天。 A week has seven days.
长	cháng	long	雨下了很长时间。 It rained for a long time.
这么	zhème	so, this (much)	今天怎么这么热? Why is it so hot today?
那么	nàme	so, that (much); then	上海没有北京那么冷。 Shanghai isn’t as cold as Beijing.
这样	zhèyàng	like this, this way	这样写对吗? Is it right to write it like this?
那样	nàyàng	like that, that way	别那样说。 Don’t say it like that.

pattern 虽然……但是……: although…

虽然 + a fact + 但是 / 但 + the surprise

English says “although” or “but”. Chinese happily uses both: 虽然 starts the first part, 但是 (or the shorter 但) starts the second. You can drop 虽然, but keep 但是.

虽然下雨，但是我们还是去跑步了。 **suīrán xià yǔ dànshì wǒmen háishi qù pǎobù le** It was raining, but we still went running.

虽然他个子不高，但篮球打得很好。 **suīrán tā gèzi bù gāo dàn lánqiú dǎ de hěn hǎo** He isn’t tall, but he plays basketball really well.

虽然今天是阴天，但不冷。 **suīrán jīntiān shì yīn tiān dàn bù lěng** It’s cloudy today, but it isn’t cold.

dialogue sun at last

grandma 安娜，你看，天晴了！我们可以出门了。
Ānnà nǐ kàn tiān qíng le wǒmen kěyǐ chūmén le · Anna, look, it's cleared up! We can go out now.

anna 太好了！这周每天都是阴天。
tài hǎo le zhè zhōu měi tiān dōu shì yīn tiān · Great! It's been cloudy every day this week.

grandma 是啊，雨下了这么长时间。
shì a yǔ xià le zhème cháng shíjiān · Yes, it rained for so long.

anna 奶奶，您今天还去跳舞吗？
nǎinai nín jīntiān hái qù tiàowǔ ma · Grandma, are you still going dancing today?

grandma 去！虽然我七十岁了，但是我每天都跳。
qù suīrán wǒ qīshí suì le dànshì wǒ měi tiān dōu tiào · Of course! I may be seventy, but I dance every day.

anna 您身体真好！
nín shēntǐ zhēn hǎo · You're so fit and healthy!

grandma 你跟我一起去吧。跳舞没有考试那么累！
nǐ gēn wǒ yìqǐ qù ba tiàowǔ méiyǒu kǎoshì nàme lèi · Come with me. Dancing isn't as tiring as exams!

anna 好啊！是那样跳吗？
hǎo a shì nàyàng tiào ma · OK! Do I dance like that?

grandma 不是那样，是这样……对，就这样！
bú shì nàyàng shì zhèyàng duì jiù zhèyàng · Not like that, like this… Yes, just like that!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

长
cháng
long

晴
qíng
sunny, clear

good to know · 这么 is "this" (这么热, this hot); 那么 is "that", for something compared: 没有北京那么冷. Ask with 有: 上海有北京那么冷吗? Is it as cold as Beijing? Dancing in squares and parks, 广场舞, is a favourite pastime of many older people in China, often in the evening. 晴 "sunny" has 日 "sun" on the left, like 明 and 昨. And 雨 "rain" sits on top of 雪 "snow".

Sun, clouds, and a "but": you can now make real small talk with anyone.
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day 15 mission: exam week

Chinese HSK 2 in 22 days
unit 3 · school, health & weather

Get through a whole exam week in Chinese: revise, sit the exam and hear your results.
A mission puts everything from this unit together in one story, the way you'll really use it.

chapter 1 the night before

xiaoming 喂，安娜，你在做什么?
wèi Ānnà nǐ zài zuò shénme · Hello, Anna, what are you doing?

anna 我在准备考试。明天就要考了！
wǒ zài zhǔnbèi kǎoshì míngtiān jiù yào kǎo le · I'm revising. The exam is tomorrow!

xiaoming 你准备得怎么样?
nǐ zhǔnbèi de zěnmeyàng · How's it going?

anna 汉字我都写完了，但是有的词我还不懂。“舒服”是什么意思?
Hànzì wǒ dōu xiě wán le dànshì yǒude cí wǒ hái bù dǒng shūfu shì shénme yìsi · I've written out all the characters, but there are still some words I don't understand. What does 舒服 mean?

xiaoming 就是身体很好，不累。你现在舒服吗?
jiù shì shēntǐ hěn hǎo bú lèi nǐ xiànzài shūfu ma · It means your body feels good, not tired. Do you feel good now?

anna 不太舒服。我写了三个小时，手很累，头也有点儿疼。
bú tài shūfu wǒ xiě le sān gè xiǎoshí shǒu hěn lèi tóu yě yǒudiǎnr téng · Not really. I've been writing for three hours. My hand is tired and my head hurts a bit too.

xiaoming 都十一点了！别看书了，快睡觉吧。我妹妹上高中了，她也有考试，已经睡了。
dōu shíyī diǎn le bié kàn shū le kuài shuìjiào ba wǒ mèimei shàng gāozhōng le tā yě yǒu kǎoshì yǐjīng shuì le · It's already eleven! Stop studying and go to bed. My sister's in high school now. She has exams too, and she's already asleep.

anna 好，我一写完这个题就睡。
hǎo wǒ yì xiě wán zhège tí jiù shuì · OK, I'll go to sleep as soon as I finish this question.

xiaoming 明天早上我给你打电话。你记得拿笔！
míngtiān zǎoshang wǒ gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà nǐ jìde ná bǐ · I'll call you tomorrow morning. Remember your pen!

chapter 2 exam day

teacher wang 同学们，请进教室。我们班的考试九点开始，时间很长，有两个小时。
tóngxuémen qǐng jìn jiàoshì wǒmen bān de kǎoshì jiǔ diǎn kāishǐ shíjiān hěn cháng yǒu liǎng gè xiǎoshí · Everyone, please come into the classroom. Our class's exam starts at nine. It's a long one: two hours.

teacher wang 考试时，别忘了写你们的姓名。
kǎoshì shí bié wàng le xiě nǐmen de xìngmíng · During the exam, don't forget to write your names.

anna 王老师，不好意思，我的笔不在书包里。
Wáng lǎoshī bù hǎoyìsi wǒ de bǐ bú zài shūbāo lǐ · Teacher Wang, sorry, my pen isn't in my bag.

teacher wang 安娜！开学的时候你忘了本子，今天也忘了笔！好吧，我的笔给你。
Ānnà kāixué de shíhou nǐ wàng le běnzi jīntiān yě wàng le bǐ hǎo ba wǒ de bǐ gěi nǐ · Anna! At the start of term you forgot your notebook, and today it's your pen! All right, have my pen.

anna 谢谢老师！
xièxie lǎoshī · Thank you!

teacher wang 九点了，现在开始！
jiǔ diǎn le xiànzài kāishǐ · It's nine. You may begin!

teacher wang 还有十分钟。
hái yǒu shí fēnzhōng · Ten minutes left.

anna 老师，我已经做完了！
lǎoshī wǒ yǐjīng zuò wán le · I've already finished!

teacher wang 那你再看一下，看看有没有写错的字。
nà nǐ zài kàn yíxià kàn kan yǒu méiyǒu xiě cuò de zì · Then look it over again and check for any wrong characters.

chapter 3 caught in the rain

xiaoming 安娜！考得怎么样？
Ānnà kǎo de zěnmeyàng · Anna! How did it go?

anna 不错！题我都看懂了，但头还有点儿疼。
búcuò tí wǒ dōu kàn dǒng le dàn tóu hái yǒudiǎnr téng · Not bad! I understood all the questions, but my head still hurts a bit.

xiaoming 你可能太累了。我们去药店买一点儿药吧。
nǐ kěnéng tài lèi le wǒmen qù yàodiàn mǎi yìdiǎnr yào ba · You're probably just too tired. Let's go to the pharmacy and get some medicine.

anna 好。你看，阴天了！早上是晴天啊！
hǎo nǐ kàn yīn tiān le zǎoshang shì qíng tiān a · OK. Look, it's clouded over! It was sunny this morning!

xiaoming 北京的天气就是这样。快要下雨了，我们快走吧！
Běijīng de tiānqì jiù shì zhèyàng kuàiyào xià yǔ le wǒmen kuài zǒu ba · That's Beijing weather for you. It's about to rain. Let's go, quick!

anna 虽然下雨了，但是我很高兴。考试完了！
suīrán xià yǔ le dànshì wǒ hěn gāoxìng kǎoshì wán le · It's raining, but I'm happy. The exam is over!

xiaoming 雨这么大，我们在药店里等一会儿吧。
yǔ zhème dà wǒmen zài yàodiàn lǐ děng yíhuìr ba · The rain is so heavy. Let's wait in the pharmacy for a bit.

anna 你看外面那些人，跑得那么快！
nǐ kàn wàimiàn nàxiē rén pǎo de nàme kuài · Look at those people outside, running so fast!

xiaoming 我们别那样跑，路不好走。等一会儿，雨就不大了。
wǒmen bié nàyàng pǎo lù bù hǎo zǒu děng yíhuìr yǔ jiù bú dà le · Let's not run like that; the road's slippery. Wait a bit, and the rain will ease off.

chapter 4 the results

teacher wang 安娜，你考得很好！
Ānnà nǐ kǎo de hěn hǎo · Anna, you did really well in the exam!

anna 真的吗？
zhēn de ma · Really?

teacher wang 真的。你的汉字写得很好，一个也没写错。
zhēn de nǐ de Hànzì xiě de hěn hǎo yí gè yě méi xiě cuò · Really. Your characters are great: you didn't get a single one wrong.

anna 因为我每天都写一个小时！
yīnwèi wǒ měi tiān dōu xiě yí gè xiǎoshí · That's because I write for an hour every day!

teacher wang 很好。但是也要休息，别太累了。你的头还疼吗？
hěn hǎo dànshì yě yào xiūxi bié tài lèi le nǐ de tóu hái téng ma · Very good. But rest too. Don't wear yourself out. Does your head still hurt?

anna 不疼了。我吃了药，睡了十个小时！
bù téng le wǒ chī le yào shuì le shí gè xiǎoshí · Not any more. I took some medicine and slept for ten hours!

teacher wang 那就好。下周我教你们新的词。
nà jiù hǎo xià zhōu wǒ jiāo nǐmen xīn de cí · Good. Next week I'll teach you some new words.

anna 好的，老师。这周我休息，想去游一个小时泳。下周再开始学习！
hǎo de lǎoshī zhè zhōu wǒ xiūxi xiǎng qù yóu yí gè xiǎoshí yǒng xià zhōu zài kāishǐ xuéxí · OK. This week I'll rest, and I want to go for an hour's swim. Next week I'll start studying again!

Revise, sit, survive the rain, celebrate: a whole exam week, all in Chinese. Well done!
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