

注釋 LANGUAGE NOTES

怎麼了

怎麼了 is a common phrase meaning “What happened?” “What’s wrong?”

生病了

“I am sick” can be expressed by either 我病了 “I am sick” or 我生病了 (literally “I produced sickness”).

地

地 [dì] can be a noun meaning “ground, earth” such as in 地圖 and 地址. 地 [de] can also be attached to an adjective to transform the whole unit into an adverb, such as 慢慢地 (slowly).

語法 GRAMMAR

The Aspect Particle 了

The aspect particle 了 is usually used in the following situations:

A. Completion of an action: 了 is placed after a verb or at the end of a sentence to indicate the completion of an action.

了: indicate the completion of an action	Pattern	Example
(1) question	V. 了嗎, V. 了沒有	你看醫生了嗎? Did you go to see a doctor? 你看醫生了沒有? Did you go to see a doctor?
(2) Positive answer	V. 了, or sentence ended 了	我看了醫生。 I saw the doctor. 我看醫生了。 I saw the doctor.
(3) Negative answer	(1) 沒有 V. (to negate a completion aspect, indicating that an action didn't take place) (2) 還沒有 ____ 呢 (to indicate a planned action)	我沒有參加旅行。 I didn't go on the trip. 你們去旅行了嗎? Have you gone on your trip yet? 我們還沒有去旅行呢。 We haven't gone on our trip yet.

- 了 must not be regarded as a “past tense” marker. It is an aspect particle indicating action completion. In Chinese, to indicate the present, past, and future tenses, time words are often used, such as 去年, 現在, and 明天.
- Note that 了 is not used in negations in the completion of an action usage.
- Note that when 了 is followed by a quantified object, it is preferred to place 了 after the verb.

e.g., 我看了兩次醫生。

e.g., 我買了三本中文書。

B. New situation: 了 is also used at the end of a sentence to express a situation that has changed.

	Pattern	Example
了: new situation	Sentence end 了	你會開車了嗎? Do you know how to drive? 我會開車了。 I can drive now.
	不... V. 了 (not doing V. any more)	他不吸煙 [xīyān] 了。 He does not smoke any more. 他不喝酒了。 He does not drink any more.

Note: When 了 is placed at the end of a sentence, it may be used to indicate the completion of an action or the change of a situation. For example, the sentence 他去北京了 can mean “He went to Beijing” (i.e., he did the action) or “He is in Beijing now”, depending on the context.

的, 得, and 地

的, 得, and 地 are all pronounced as [de] but have different meanings and functions.

Pattern	Features	Examples
的 + N.	Possessive, structure 的	我的車 my car 上課的筆記 notes taken in class 他是一個認真的學生。 He is a conscientious student.
V. + 得 + Adv./Adj.	Used in a degree of complement sentences	他說中文說得很快。 He speaks Chinese very fast. 他寫漢字寫得很認真。 He writes the characters conscientiously.
Adj. + 地	Manner adverbial, combines with an adjective, similar to “-ly” in English, used before a verb to indicate the attitude or manner of an action	他慢慢地吃飯。 He eats slowly. 他認真地寫漢字。 He writes the characters conscientiously.

Notes: 認真 [rènzhēn]: conscientious; serious
漢字 [hànzi]: Chinese characters