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# 我爸爸爱喝茶

## My Dad Loves Drinking Tea

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我爸爸是医生，今年60岁。他不爱喝水，爱喝茶。天气热的时候喝茶，天气冷的时候也喝茶。

工作的时候喝茶，看电影的时候喝茶，坐出租车的时候喝茶，打电话的时候喝茶，吃饭的时候也喝茶。他喜欢和他的朋友喝茶，也喜欢一个人喝茶。

他太爱喝茶了，天天都喝茶，一天能喝不少茶。

我喝了茶不能睡觉，他不喝茶不能睡觉。有一天，我们家没有茶了，他一天都没睡觉。他说他不能没有茶。

## 生词 Vocabulary

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### Nouns

茶	chá	tea
电影	diànyǐng	movie, film
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi
饭	fàn	food, rice

### Verbs

爱	ài	to love, to be fond of
喝	hē	to drink
工作	gōngzuò	to work
睡觉	shuìjiào	to sleep
吃	chī	to eat
说	shuō	to say

### Adjectives

热	rè	hot
冷	lěng	cold

### Adverbs

也	yě	also
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## 语法点 Grammar Points

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### 1. 太 tài

*adv.* really; too; so; very; excessively

In Chinese, the adverb 太 (tài) is commonly used to modify adjectives. It is similar to the English words “really,” “very,” “so” and “too”. When used in this way, it follows the pattern below:

太 + Adjective + 了

This structure is used with Chinese adjectives to intensify their meanings.

In sentences that feature positive adjectives like 好 (hǎo; good) or 漂亮 (piàoliang; beautiful), adding 太 (tài) makes the positive meaning even stronger.

For example:

这个女孩**太**漂亮了!

Zhège nǚhái **tài** piàoliang le!

This girl is really beautiful!

When 太 (tài) is used with adjectives that generally have negative meanings like 热 (rè; hot) or 累 (lèi; tired), it intensifies the negative meaning of the sentence. In this case, this structure is frequently used to complain about something that the speaker dislikes.

For example:

我今天太累了。

Wǒ jīntiān tài lèi le.

I'm really tired today.

While the most common and basic use of 太 (tài) is with adjectives, it is also possible to use 太 (tài) with certain verbs. These verbs include modal or “helping” verbs such as 会, as well as some psychological verbs like 爱 (ài; love) or 想 (xiǎng; to want to, to wish).

When used to modify verbs, 太 (tài) follows this pattern:

太 + Verb + 了

For example:

他太爱喝茶了。

Tā tài ài hē chá le.

He really loves drinking tea.

If you want to use 太 (tài) to negate an idea or claim, this can be done by adding 不 (bù; not, won't):

Subject + 不太 + Adjective (or certain verbs)

In this case, 不太 (bù tài) generally expresses “not very,” “not really,” “not so” or “not too.” Note that there is no need to add 了 (le) to the end of sentences that use 不太 (bù tài).

For example:

我爸爸不太高兴。

Wǒ bàba bù tài gāoxìng.

My dad isn't too happy.

In this case, 不太 (bù tài) is paired with the adjective 高兴 (gāoxìng; happy). Notice how no 了 (le) is needed at the end of the sentence.

Let's look at another example:

我爸爸不太喜欢喝水。

Wǒ bàba bù tài xǐhuān hē shuǐ.

My dad doesn't really like drinking water.

Here, 不太 (bù tài) is paired with the psychological verb 喜欢 (xǐhuān; to like).

Note that the Chinese adverb 很 (hěn; very) is often used to intensify the meaning of adjectives and certain verbs in much the same way as 太 (tài). However, 太 (tài) is the stronger of the two adverbs. In short, if you only want a little emphasis, use 很 (hěn), but if you want to go for maximum intensity, use 太 (tài).

## 2. 能 néng

*v. can do; be able to; be capable of; possible*

In Chinese, the auxiliary or “helping” verb 能 (néng) is generally translated into English as “can.”

能 (néng) is most commonly used to talk about someone’s ability to do something that he or she didn’t learn or study. In other words, it is used to talk about whether someone is able to do something, not whether he or she knows how to do something that takes time to learn.

When using 能 (néng) in this way, the following structure is used:

Subject + 能 + Verb + Object

Let’s look at an example of how to use 能 (néng) in a sentence:

他能吃六碗米饭。

Tā néng chī liù wǎn mǐfàn.

He can eat six bowls of rice.

Translating the above sentence is relatively straightforward. Eating six bowls of rice isn’t generally something that one needs to study or learn about to be able to do, so using 能 (néng) works well here.

Let’s look at another example:

我爸爸一天能喝不少茶。

Wǒ bàba yītiān néng hē bù shǎo chá.

My dad can drink a whole lot of tea in a day.

In this sentence, 能 (néng) is used to state that the speaker's father has the ability to drink a lot of tea in a day. Since the action of drinking tea doesn't generally require special study or training, 能 (néng) is the appropriate verb to use.

能 (néng) can also be used to talk about whether or not something is possible. It is commonly used to ask polite questions that would generally involve the phrase "Would it be possible" in English.

For example:

你能帮我买一点东西吗?

Nǐ néng bāng wǒ mǎi yīdiǎn dōngxī ma?

Would it be possible for you to help me buy a few things?

When paired with 不 (bù; not, won't), 能 (néng) is also frequently used to say that something is forbidden or should not be done.

For example:

这里不能开车。

Zhèlǐ bù néng kāichē.

You can't drive cars here; Driving cars here is forbidden.

The use of 能 (néng) in this sentence might seem confusing because driving a car is a skill that requires study or training to be able to do. Note, however, that this sentence is not talking about a person's driving ability or lack thereof. Instead, it is talking about whether driving a car in a given location is allowed. Using 不能 (bù néng) here simply means that driving a car is forbidden.

Note that as you continue to study Chinese, you are likely to encounter two other auxiliary verbs that are frequently used to mean "can." These verbs are 会 (huì; can, know how to) and 可以 (kěyǐ; can, to have permission to).

Although these verbs are sometimes used in a way that's similar to 能 (néng), they frequently have different meanings, so it's essential to familiarize yourself with the differences between these three helping verbs.

### 3. 了 le

***grammatical particle.** used to indicate a change of state or overall situation; now*

了 (le) is a very commonly used particle in Mandarin and an important component of Chinese grammar. Due to the fact that it is used in many different ways and can have many different meanings depending on the context, 了 (le) can be confusing for beginners.

In this grammar point, we will focus on one of the simpler uses of 了 (le), which is to indicate a change of state or situation. When used to indicate a change, 了 (le) can be used with either adjectives or verbs.

When using 了 (le) with adjectives to indicate a change in state, follow this pattern:

Subject + Adjective + 了

For example:

妈妈高兴了。

Māmā gāoxìng le.

Mom is happy.

Because the 了 (le) in the above example is used to indicate change, the English translation “Mom is happy” does not actually convey the full meaning of the sentence.

Due to the use of 了 (le) here, it might be more accurate to translate the sentence as “Mom wasn’t happy earlier but now she is.” Earlier, she may have been sad, angry or simply indifferent, but now her emotional state has changed and she is happy.

In addition to its use with adjectives, 了 (le) can also be used with verbs to indicate a change in the overall situation that’s being discussed.

The simplest structure for using 了 (le) with verbs is:

Subject + Verb + 了

For example:

爸爸睡觉了。

Bàba shuìjiào le.

Dad has fallen asleep.

In this sentence, 了 (le) is used to express a change in the father's situation or state. The use of 了 (le) after the verb 睡觉 (shuìjiào; to sleep) tells readers that he was awake recently but now he has fallen asleep.

Sometimes, the grammar of sentences containing the 了 (le) particle can be more complicated. For example:

我们家没有茶了。

Wǒmen jiā méiyǒu chá le.

We are out of tea; We don't have any more tea in the house.

In this example, 了 (le) does not come directly after the verb 有 (yǒu). Instead, the object "tea" comes between the verb and 了 (le), but the overall effect still works to indicate a change of state.

Due to the use of 了 (le) in this sentence, we know that the speaker used to have tea in his or her house. However, that situation has now changed and the tea is all gone.

## 测试 Quiz

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1. 我爸爸几岁?
  - a. 三十岁
  - b. 五十岁
  - c. 六十岁
  - d. 八十岁
  
2. 我爸爸是:
  - a. 学生
  - b. 医生
  - c. 同学
  - d. 老师
  
3. 我爸爸天天都:
  - a. 喝不少水
  - b. 坐出租车
  - c. 喝很多茶
  - d. 看电影
  
4. 我爸爸习惯和谁喝茶?
  - a. 和朋友喝茶
  - b. 和我喝茶
  - c. 和妈妈喝茶
  - d. 和猫喝茶
  
5. 我喝茶不能:
  - a. 打电话
  - b. 睡觉
  - c. 看电影
  - d. 坐出租车

*Answer key on final page of PDF.*

### Wǒ Bàba Ài Hē Chá

Wǒ bàba shì yīshēng, jīnnián 60 suì. Tā bù ài hēshuǐ, ài hēchá. Tiānqì rè de shíhou hēchá, tiān qì lěng de shíhou yě hēchá.

Gōngzuò de shíhou hēchá, kàn diànyǐng de shíhou hēchá, zuò chūzūchē de shíhou hēchá, dǎ diànhuà de shíhou hē chá, chīfàn de shíhou yě hēchá. Tā xǐhuan hé tā de péngyou hēchá, yě xǐhuan yī gè rén hēchá.

Tā tài ài hēchá le, tiāntiān dōu hē chá, yī tiān néng hē bùshǎo chá. Wǒ hēle chá bù néng shuìjiào, tā bù hē chá bù néng shuìjiào.

Yǒu yī tiān, wǒmen jiā méiyǒu chá le, tā yī tiān dōu méi shuìjiào, tā shuō tā bù néng méiyǒu chá.

### My Dad Loves Drinking Tea

My dad is a doctor and this year, he's 60 years old. He doesn't like drinking water, but he loves drinking tea. He drinks tea when the weather is hot and he drinks tea when the weather is cold.

He drinks tea while working, while watching movies, while taking taxis, while talking on the phone and while eating. He likes drinking tea with his friends and he also likes drinking tea alone.

He loves drinking tea so much that he drinks it every day, and every day he drinks quite a lot of it.

When I drink tea, I can't sleep, but when he doesn't drink tea, he can't sleep. One day we didn't have any more tea in the house so he couldn't sleep for a whole day. He says that he can't live without tea.

Quiz Answer Key:

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. b

