

## Appendix: Figurative and Idiomatic Expressions

A notable characteristic of the speech of well-educated native Chinese is their frequent use of figurative and idiomatic *verb + complement* expressions. This aspect of Chinese grammar was covered in Chapter 12, Part I of this book. This appendix is intended to provide students with a bit more exposure to the usage of this type of expressions. As such, it is an extension of section 12.4. The list of figurative and idiomatic *verb + complement* expressions is selected from the table in section 12.3, and it is re-arranged alphabetically by the complement component of these expressions.

### 1. 出 chū: 猜出 cāichū to guess correctly

- ◆ 她以为一看我的样子，就猜得出我的背景，其实她猜错了。

Tā yǐwéi yí kàn wǒde yàngzi, jiù cāi-de-chū wǒde bèijǐng, qíshí tā cāi-cuòle.

*She thought that as soon as she saw what I looked like, she could guess my background, but in fact she guessed wrong.*

### 2. 出来 chūlai: 算出来 suàn-chūlai to calculate, to figure out; 看不出来 kàn-bu-chūlai can't tell by looking; 说不出来 shuō-bu-chūlai cannot say

- ◆ 你算不算得出来我们去美国旅行一趟得花多少钱？

Nǐ suàn-busuan-de-chūlai wǒmen qù Měiguó lǚxíng yítàng děi huā duōshǎo qián?

*Can you calculate how much we will have to pay for a trip to America?*

- ◆ 她很低调，你真看不出来她是个百万富翁！

Tā hěn dīdiào, nǐ zhēn kàn-bu-chūlai tā shì ge bǎiwàn fùwēng!

*She is very low-keyed, you really can't see that she is a millionaire!*

- ◆ 虽然中国父母都很爱孩子，可是他们真说不出来“宝贝，我爱你”这句话。

Suīrán Zhōngguó fùmǔ dōu hěn ài háizi, kěshì tāmen zhēn shuō-bu-chūlai “Bǎobèi, wǒ ài nǐ” zhèjù huà.

*Although Chinese parents all love their children, they really can't come right out and say “Precious, I love you.”*

### 3. 出去 chūqu: 豁出去 huō-chūqu to go for broke, to take out all the stops

- ◆ 这是我最后的机会了，所以我决定豁出去拼了。

Zhè shì wǒ zuìhòude jīhuì le, suǒyǐ wǒ juédìng huō-chūqu pīnle.

*This was my last chance, so I decided to give it my all even if I had to kill myself.*

4. 到 dào: 办不到 bàn-bu-dào cannot do

- ◆ 他的背景很神秘，关系网也非常强大，在这里就没有他办不到的事情。Tāde bèijǐng hěn shénmì, guānxi-wǎng yě fēicháng qiángdà, zài zhèlǐ jiù méiyǒu tā bàn-bu-dàode shìqing.

*His background is very mysterious and his network of connections is exceedingly strong. There is simply nothing that he can't do here.*

5. 得 de: 舍不得 shě-bu-de can't bear to part with; 要不得 yào-bu-de dreadful, unacceptable

- ◆ 我们在这里住了八年了，突然要离开这个可爱的家真有点儿舍不得。Wǒmen zài zhèlǐ zhùle bānián le, tūrán yào líkāi zhèige kě'ài de jiā zhēn yǒudiǎnr shě-bu-de.

*We've lived here eight years now; having to suddenly leave this lovely home is really a bit hard to bear.*

- ◆ 孩子就是不听话，父母也不能打他，这样的教育方法要不得。Háizi jiùshì bù tīnghuà, fùmǔ yě bùnéng dǎ tā, zhèyàngde jiàoyù fāngfǎ yào-bu-de.

*Even if a child is disobedient, parents cannot hit him; such an educational method is not acceptable.*

6. 掉 diào: 扣掉 kòudiào to deduct

- ◆ 月薪6000元，扣掉社保医保和个人所得税，最后拿到手的只有4700元左右。

*Yuèxīn 6000 yuán, kòudiào shèbǎo yībǎo hé gèrén suǒdé-shuì, zuìhòu ná dào-shòude zhǐyǒu 4700 yuán zuǒyòu.*

*A monthly salary of 6,000 yuan, but after deducting social security, medical insurance and individual income tax, one ends up with a take-home pay of only about 4,700 yuan.*

7. 动 dòng: 带动 dài-dòng to spur, to bring along; 劝不动 quàn-bu-dòng unable to persuade

- ◆ 政府扶持汽车产业可以带动相关产业的发展。

*Zhèngfǔ fúchí qìchē chǎnyè kěyǐ dài-dòng xiāngguān chǎnyède fāzhǎn.*

*Government support for the automobile industry can spur development of related industries.*

- ◆ 我苦口婆心地劝他戒烟戒酒，但他烟瘾酒瘾太大了，根本劝不动。Wǒ kǔkǒu-póxīnde quàn tā jièyān jièjiǔ, dàn tā yānyǐn jiǔyǐn tài dà le, gēnběn quàn-bu-dòng.

*I tried and tried to persuade him to give up smoking and drinking, but his addiction to both tobacco and alcohol was too strong, and he simply couldn't be persuaded.*

8. 过 guò: 熬不过 áo-bu-guò *unable to endure (hard times)*; 比不过 bǐ-bu-guò *can't compare with, not up to*; 信不过 xìn-bu-guò *cannot trust*

- 医生说我父亲的病情很重，有可能熬不过这个月了。

Yīshēng shuō wǒ fùqīnde bìngqíng hěn zhòng, yǒu kěnéng áo-bu-guò zhèige yuè le.  
The doctor said my father's illness is very serious. It's possible that he won't be able to get through this month.

- 多半的纽约人觉得世界上的任何一个城市都比不过纽约。

Duōbānde Niǚyuē-rén juéde shìjiè-shangde rènhé yíge chéngshì dōu bǐ-bu-guò Niǚyuē.  
The majority of New Yorkers feel that no other city in the world can compare with New York.

- 要是他信不过你，也不会把这么一大笔钱交给你来投资。

Yàoshì tā xìn-bu-guò nǐ, yě búhuì bǎ zhème dà yìbǐqián jiāogěi nǐ lái tóuzī.  
If he didn't trust you, he wouldn't have given you such a big sum of money to invest.

9. 过 guò + 来 lai/去 qu: 晕过去 yūn-guòqu *to pass out, to faint*; 醒过来 xǐng-guòlai *to awaken, to regain consciousness*; 明白过来 míngbái-guòlai *to suddenly have a clear understanding*; 看得过去 kàn-de-guòqu *passably presentable*; 说不过去 shuō-bu-guòqu *can't be justified or explained away*

- 她一看到血就会晕过去，怎么能学医呢？

Tā yí kàndào xiě jiù huì yūn-guòqu, zěnmé néng xué yī ne?  
She faints at the sight of blood; how can she study to be a doctor?

- 我昨天晚上喝多了，今早醒过来的时候头疼死了。

Wǒ zuótiān wǎnshang hē duō le, jīnzǎo xǐng-guòlaide shíhou tóuténg-sǐle.  
I drank too much last night, and when I woke up this morning I had a dreadful headache.

- 经理让他明天不用来上班了，他才明白过来，原来他被解雇了。

Jīnglǐ ràng tā míngtiān búyòng lái shàngbān le, tā cái míngbái-guòlai, yuánlái tā bèi jiěgù le.  
The manager said that he needn't come to work tomorrow anymore, and only then did he realize that he had been fired.

- 他有车有房，人又好，长得也看得过去，你就别挑了。

Tā yǒu chē yǒu fáng, rén yòu hǎo, zhǎngde yě kàn-de-guòqu, nǐ jiù bié tiāo le.  
He has a house and a car and he's a good person, and he's not bad looking either, so you shouldn't be so choosy anymore.

- 他是因为工作受的伤，公司不给他付医药费是说不过去的。

Tā shì yīnwèi gōngzuò shòude shāng, gōngsī bùgěi tā fù yīyàofèi shì shuō-bu-guòqude.  
He was injured because of his work; there is no excuse for the company not paying his medical expenses.

10. 好 **hǎo**: 做好了 **zuòhǎole** *finished making* (something)

- 妈妈花了一整天，终于把年夜饭做好了。

**Māma huāle yìzhěngtiān, zhōngyú bǎ niányèfàn zuòhǎole.**

*Mother spent a whole day and finally finished cooking the New Year's Eve dinner.*

11. 及 **jí**: 来不及 **lái-bu-jí** *can't make it in time*; 等不及 **děng-bu-jí** *too impatient to wait*

- 现在坐地铁去机场恐怕来不及了，你直接打车去吧。

**Xiànzài zuò dìtiě qù jīchǎng kǒngpà lái-bu-jí le, nǐ zhíjiē dǎ chē qù ba.**

*If you take the Metro to the airport now, you probably won't make it. You should go directly by taxi.*

- 我放春假要跟朋友去澳洲旅行，我都等不及了！

**Wǒ fàng chūnjià yào gēn péngyou qù Àozhōu lǚxíng, wǒ dōu děng-bu-jíle.**

*At spring vacation I'm going to take a trip to Australia with friends; I just can't wait!*

12. 开 **kāi**: 离不开 **lí-bu-kāi** *cannot be away from*; 分不开 **fēn-bu-kāi** *cannot distinguish*; 看开 **kàn-kāi** *to come around to accepting an unpleasant situation*; 想开了 **xiǎng-kāile** *to have thought through, resigned (to a misfortune)*

- 从乡下来的爷爷奶奶不太习惯住在城里，可是又离不开可爱的孙子。

**Cóng xiāngxià láide yéye nǎinai bú tài xíguàn zhùzài chéngli, kěshì yòu lí-bu-kāi kě'ài de sūnzi.**

*The grandpa and grandma, who have come from the countryside, are not used to living in the city, but they can't bear to leave the cute grandson.*

- 他们俩可以说是一见钟情，刚认识一个星期就分不开了。

**Tāmen liǎ kěyǐ shuō shì yíjiàn-zhōngqíng, gāng rènshi yíge xīngqī jiù fēn-bu-kāile.**

*One could say that it was love at first sight for those two, just one week after they met, they became inseparable.*

- 听说他的女朋友把他甩了，我们都劝他看开一点儿。老话说得好，天涯何处无芳草。

**Tīngshuō tāde nǚpéngyou bǎ tā shuǎile, wǒmen dōu quàn tā kàn-kāi yìdiǎnr. Lǎohuà shuōde hǎo, tiānyá héchù wú fāngcǎo.**

*Having heard that his girlfriend ditched him, we all urged him to accept it and not feel bad. This old saying is quite appropriate: "Fragrant grass can be found anywhere."*

- 虽然我不太喜欢女婿，但是也想开了，只要女儿幸福就行了。

**Suīrán wǒ bú tài xǐhuan nǚxù, dànshi yě xiǎng-kāile, zhǐyào nǚ'ér xìngfú jiù xíng le.**

*I don't much like my son-in-law, but I've come to terms with it. It's okay as long as my daughter is happy.*

13. 来 lái: 谈不来 tán-bu-lái *incompatible* (don't have much in common); 处得来 chǔ-de-lái *can get along*; 合不来 hé-bu-lái *incompatible*; 惹来 rě lái *to incur* (trouble)

- 他们第一次见面就很谈得来。那天晚上两个人都喝了不少酒，真是酒逢知己千杯少。

Tāmen dìyīcì jiànmiàn jiù hěn tán-de-lái. Nèitiān wǎnshàng liǎngge rén dōu hēle bùshǎo jiǔ, zhēnshì jiǔ-féng-zhījǐ-qīānbēi-shǎo.

When they first met they hit it off right away. That evening they both drank quite a lot, and it was truly “When meeting a bosom buddy over wine, a thousand cups is not enough.”

- 朋友给她介绍了好几个男朋友，可是都谈不来，所以到现在她还是单身一人。Péngyou gěi tā jièshàole hǎojǐge nán péngyou, kěshì dōu tán-bu-lái, suǒyǐ dào xiànzài tā hái shì dānshēn yìrén.

Friends have introduced quite a few male friends to her, but she didn't hit it off with any of them, so to this day she is still single.

- 他们本来打算一起做生意，后来发现两人的性格合不来，没法儿合伙做生意。Tāmen běnlái dǎsuàn yìqǐ zuò shēngyì, hòulái fāxiàn liǎngge rénde xìnggé hé-bu-lái, méifǎr héhuò zuò shēngyì.

Originally they had planned to go into business together, but later they discovered that their personalities were not compatible and they could not be partners in business.

- 性格外向和性格内向的两个人处得来吗？

Xìnggé wàixiàng hé xìnggé nèixiàngde liǎngge rén chǔ-de-lái ma?

Can two people get along if one is an extrovert and the other an introvert?

- 她生来就很漂亮，为了避免惹来麻烦，她从来不打扮，也穿得很朴素。Tā shēnglái jiù hěn piàoliang, wèile bìmiǎn rě lái máfan, tā cónglái bù dǎbàn, yě chuānde hěn pǔsù.

She is naturally very pretty, so to avoid incurring trouble, she never uses make-up and also dresses plainly.

14. 了 liǎo: 吃不了 chī-bu-liǎo *cannot finish eating*; 免不了 miǎn-bu-liǎo *unavoidable* (synonym of 免不得 miǎnbude); 大不了 dà-bu-liǎo *at the worst, at most*; 长不了 cháng-bu-liǎo *can't last long*; 错不了 cuò-bu-liǎo *can't go wrong*; 管不了 guǎn-bu-liǎo *out of one's authority*; 等不了 děng-bu-liǎo *can't wait any longer*; 死不了 sǐ-bu-liǎo *non-fatal*

- 三个菜够了，点太多的话，到时候吃不了就得兜着走。

Sānge cài gòule, diǎn tài duō dehuà, dào shíhou chī-bu-liǎo jiù děi dōuzhe zǒu.

Three dishes are enough. If we order too much, when the time comes and we can't finish the food, we'll have to carry it away.

- 孩子出国留学，父母免不了会担心。

Háizi chūguó liúxué, fùmǔ miǎn-bu-liǎo huì dānxīn.

When a child goes abroad to study, parents cannot help but worry.

- ◆ 儿子想自己创业，虽然有点冒险，父母也不应该干涉，大不了他经济上有些损失就是了。  
**Érzi xiǎng zìjǐ chuàngyè, suīrán yǒudiǎn màoxiǎn, fùmǔ yě bù yīnggāi gānshè, dà-bu-liǎo tā jīngjì-shàng yǒuxiē sǔnshī jiùshìle.**  
*The son wants to establish an enterprise on his own; even though it's a bit risky, his parents shouldn't interfere; at worst he would just suffer some economic loss.*
  - ◆ 他做什么事情都是三天打鱼两天晒网，这次突然要学书法，我也长不了。**Tā zuò shénme shìqing dōu shì sāntiān dǎyú liǎngtiān shàiwǎng, zhècì túrán yào xué shūfǎ, wǒ kàn yě cháng-bu-liǎo.**  
*Anything he does is a matter of "three days of fishing, two days of sunning the nets" (three days on and two days off). This time he suddenly wants to study calligraphy, but I don't think that will last long either.*
  - ◆ 大家都叫他“股神”，所以买卖股票听他的错不了。  
**Dàjiā dōu jiào tā "gǔshén", suǒyǐ mǎimài gǔpiào tīng tāde cuò-bu-liǎo.**  
*Everybody calls him the "stock wizard," so anyone who wants to buy and sell stocks can't go wrong if they follow his advice.*
  - ◆ 孩子大了，父母就管不了了。父母就应该放手，就像老话说的，儿孙自有儿孙福，莫为儿孙做马牛。  
**Háizi dàle, fùmǔ jiù guǎn-bu-liǎole. Fùmǔ jiù yīnggāi fàngshǒu, jiù xiàng lǎohuà shuōde, érsūn zì yǒu érsūn fú, mò wèi érsūn zuò mǎniú.**  
*When children are grown, parents are no longer in charge. Parents should let go, just as the old saying goes, children and grandchildren have their own blessings, don't be a horse or ox for them.*
  - ◆ 她等了他八年，最后等不了就嫁给别人了。  
**Tā děngle tā bānián, zuìhòu děng-bu-liǎo jiù jiàgěi biérén le.**  
*She waited eight years for him, then finally she couldn't wait any longer and married someone else.*
  - ◆ 看到妻子担心的样子，他笑着安慰她：“放心，我死不了。”  
**Kàndào qīzi dānxīnde yàngzi, tā xiàozhe ānwèi tā: "Fàngxīn, wǒ sǐ-bu-liǎo."**  
*Seeing his wife's worried face, he smiled and consoled her saying: "Don't worry. I won't die."*
15. 起 qǐ: 看不起 kàn-bu-qǐ to look down on, to disdain; 了不起 liǎo-bu-qǐ outstanding, extraordinary
- ◆ 做人要懂得谦虚，自以为了不起的人会被别人看不起。  
**Zuòrén yào dǒngde qiānxū, zì yǐwéi liǎo-bu-qǐde rén huì bèi biérén kàn-bu-qǐ.**  
*One must understand the virtue of modesty, a person who thinks he's a hot shot will be despised by others.*

16. 起来 qǐlai: 躲起来 duǒ-qǐlai to hide; 看起来 kàn-qǐlai the way things look; 说起来 shuō-qǐlai when it comes to talking about...; 做起来 zuò-qǐlai when it comes to doing...

- ◆ 他做生意欠了很多债，害怕债主找上门来，就出门躲起来了。  
Tā zuò shēngyì qiǎnle hěn duō zhài, hàipà zhàizhǔ zhǎo shàngmén lái, jiù chūmén duǒ-qǐlai le.  
*He accumulated heavy debts in business and became afraid that his creditors would come knocking on his door, so he left his home and went into hiding.*
- ◆ 你看起来有心事啊，最近碰到什么不顺心的事情了吗？  
Nǐ kàn-qǐlai yǒu xīnshì a, zuìjìn pèngdào shénme bú shùnxīnde shìqing le ma?  
*You look like you've got something on your mind; have you recently run into some unpleasant problem?*
- ◆ 教自己的母语，说起来好像不难，可是做起来实在不容易。  
Jiāo zìjǐde mǔyǔ, shuō-qǐlai hǎoxiàng bù nán, kěshì zuò-qǐlai shízài bù róngyì.  
*Teaching one's native language may not seem difficult, but when you set about doing it, it is really not easy.*

17. 去 qù: 刨去 páoqù to shave off, excluding; 过得去 guòdeqù can get by

- ◆ 这家小吃店每个月的营收刨去成本和人工的费用，纯利润并不太高。  
Zhèjiā xiǎochī-diàn měigè yuède yíngshōu páoqù chéngběn hé réngōngde fèiyòng, chún lìrùn bìng bú tài gāo.  
*The monthly income from this little snack shop, if we deduct operating costs and labor, the net profit is really not very high.*
- ◆ 我们夫妻俩收入不高，日子算是过得去吧，比上不足比下有余。  
Wǒmen fūqī liǎ shōurù bù gāo, rìzi suàn shì guò-de-qù ba. Bǐ shàng bùzú bǐ xià yǒuyú.  
*The income for the two of us husband and wife is not high, just enough to get by, not quite enough if compared with those who make more, but more than enough if compared with those who make less.*

18. 上 shàng: 看不上 kàn-bu-shàng to find something unappealing; 染上 rǎnshàng infested with; 说不上 shuō-bu-shàng not up to being called; 顾不上 gù-bu-shàng unable to attend to; 配得上 pèi-de-shàng be able to match, good enough for

- ◆ 她是校花，而很多追求她的男生她都看不上。  
Tā shì xiàohuā, ér hěn duō zhuīqiú tāde nánshēng tā dōu kàn-bu-shàng.  
*She is the campus belle, but she is not at all interested in many of the boys who chase after her.*
- ◆ 在中国有不少艾滋病患者是通过输血染上病毒的。  
Zài Zhōngguó yǒu bùshǎo àizībìng huànzhě shì tōngguò shūxuè rǎnshàng bìngdú de.  
*Many sufferers of AIDS in China became infected through blood transfusions.*

- ◆ 他的女朋友说不上漂亮，但性格很温柔。  
Tāde nǚpéngyou shuō-bu-shàng piàoliang, dàn xìnggé hěn wēnróu.  
*His girlfriend can't be called a real beauty, but she has a very gentle personality.*
  - ◆ 他最近工作忙得不得了，家里的事情什么都顾不上。  
Tā zuìjìn gōngzuò mángde bùdéliǎo, jiālìde shìqing shénme dōu gù-bu-shàng.  
*He has recently been extremely busy at work, so he's not been able to deal with anything at home.*
  - ◆ 在父母眼里，能配得上女儿的男朋友一定得有真本事才行。  
Zài fùmǔ yǎnli, néng pèi-de-shàng nǚ'érde nán péngyou yíding děi yǒu zhēn běnshì cái xíng.  
*In the eyes of a girl's parents, any boyfriend worthy of their daughter must have real ability.*
19. 上来 shànglai: 交上来 jiāo-shànglai to submit, to turn in (homework, report, etc.)
- ◆ 学生每星期五交上来的作业就够我忙一个周末了！  
Xuésheng měi xīngqīwǔ jiāo-shànglaide zuòyè jiù gòu wǒ máng yíge zhōumò le.  
*The homework that students turn in every Friday is enough to keep me busy for a whole weekend!*
20. 上去 shàngqu: 弄上去 nòng-shàngqu to get something to go up; 看上去 kàn-shàngqu by the looks of it, seems like
- ◆ 李小姐很会保持青春，看上去一点儿也不像五十岁的人。  
Lǐ Xiǎojiě hěn huì bǎochí qīngchūn, kàn-shàngqu yídiǎnr yě bú xiàng wǔshísuì de rén.  
*Miss Li really knows how to maintain her youth. Looking at her, she doesn't look at all like a fifty-year-old person.*
  - ◆ 一开学我就下了决心，这个学期要把中文课的成绩弄上去。  
Yì kāixué wǒ jiù xiàle juéxīn, zhèige xuéqī yào bǎ Zhōngwén-kède chéngjì nòng-shàngqu.  
*As soon as school began I made up my mind that this semester I would raise my grade in Chinese.*
21. 死 sǐ: 乐死了 lè-sǐle extremely happy (Lit. "happy to death")
- ◆ 老板说我工作很努力，要给我发一个大红包，真把我乐死了！  
Lǎobǎn shuō wǒ gōngzuò hěn nǔlì, yào gěi wǒ fā yíge dà hóngbāo, zhēn bǎ wǒ lè-sǐle!  
*The boss said that I had worked very hard and he wanted to give me a big red envelope (a bonus). This made me extremely happy!*
22. 通 tōng: 想不通 xiǎng-bu-tōng can't figure out, can't see the reason; 说不通 shuō-bu-tōng doesn't make sense
- ◆ 他觉得自己一心一意赚钱养家，可是太太却要跟他离婚，他实在想不通。  
Tā juéde zìjǐ yìxīn-yíyì zhuànqián yǎngjiā, kěshì tàitai què yào gēn tā lǐhūn, tā shízài xiǎng-bu-tōng.  
*He felt that he devoted himself to earning money to support the family, and yet his wife wanted to divorce him. He really couldn't understand it.*



- ◆ 他太太说要跟他离婚的理由是他不顾家，在他的朋友们看来，这根本说不通。Tā tàitai shuō yào gēn tā líhūnde lǐyóu shì tā bú gùjiā, zài tāde péngyoumen kànlai, zhè gēnběn shuō-bu-tōng.

*His wife said the reason she wants to divorce him is that he didn't care for the family, but as his friends saw it, this simply didn't make sense.*

- ◆ 她托了很多关系帮她跟警察说情，结果还是没说通，最后只好付了罚款。Tā tuōle hěn duō guānxi bāng tā gēn jǐngchá shuōqíng, jiéguǒ háishi méi shuōtōng, zuìhòu zhǐhǎo fùle fákǎn.

*She tried to get many people with guanxi to intercede with the police on her behalf, but in the end no-one could talk it through for her, and she had to pay the fine.*

23. 下 xià: 吃不下 chī-bu-xià can't eat (too full); 装得下 zhuāng-de-xià can fit in (a container); 住得下 zhù-de-xià can accommodate (re housing)

- ◆ 我吃饱了，什么都吃不下了。Wǒ chībǎole, shénme dōu chī-bu-xià le.  
*I have eaten my fill. I can't eat any more.*

- ◆ 这个包太小了，除了装个手机和钱包，别的什么都装不下。Zhèige bāo tài xiǎole, chúle zhuāng ge shǒujī hé qiánbāo, biéde shénme dōu zhuāng-bu-xià.  
*This purse is too small. Aside from a cellphone and a wallet, it can't hold anything else.*

- ◆ 他们家的房子很大，全班同学去都住得下。Tāmen jiāde fángzi hěn dà, quánbān tóngxué qù dōu zhù-de-xià.  
*Their family's house is very big. All of the classmates from the class could stay there.*

24. 下来 xiàlai: 拿下来 ná-xiàlai to attain (a goal or prize); 冷静下来 lěngjìng-xiàlai to calm down; 答应下来 dāyìng-xiàlai to promise; 批下来 pī-xiàlai to approve (from above)

- ◆ 法国队这次终于把世界杯拿下来了。Fǎguó-duì zhècì zhōngyú bǎ shìjièbēi ná-xiàlai le.  
*In this match the French team finally captured the world championship.*

- ◆ 你先冷静下来想一想，钱包和护照到底是在哪里丢的？Nǐ xiān lěngjìng-xiàlai xiǎng-yixiǎng, qiánbāo hé hùzhào dàodǐ shì zài nǎli diū de?  
*First calm down and think, where could you have lost your purse and passport?*

- ◆ 既然我们答应下来了，就一定得想办法把这件事情办好。Jìrán wǒmen dāyìng-xiàlaile, jiù yídìng děi xiǎng bànfa bǎ zhèjiàn shìqing bànhǎo.  
*Since we promised, we definitely must think of a way to take care of this matter.*

- ◆ 他要求调到上海分公司的申请终于批下来了，真把他乐坏了！Tā yāoqiú diàodào Shànghǎi fēn-gōngsīde shēnqǐng zhōngyú pī-xiàlaile, zhēn bǎ tā lè-huàile!

*His application for transfer to the Shanghai branch office has finally been approved, making him extremely happy!*

## 25. 下去 xiàqu: 混下去 hùn-xiàqu to continue to muddle through

- 现在谁都知道他干的坏事儿了，看来他在这家公司里很难混下去了。  
Xiànzài shéi dōu zhīdào tā gānde huàishìr le; kànlái tā zài zhèjiā gōngsīlǐ hěn nán hùn-xiàqu le.

*Now that everyone knows about the awful thing that he did, it looks like it'll be hard for him to continue muddling along in this company.*

## 26. 消 xiāo: 吃不消 chī-bu-xiāo unable to take

- 照中国的习俗，父母得给准备结婚的儿子买房买车，这让很多父母都吃不消。  
Zhào Zhōngguóde xísú, fùmǔ děi gěi zhǔnbèi jiéhūnde érzi mǎi fáng mǎi chē, zhè ràng hěn duō fùmǔ dōu chī-bu-xiāo.

*According to Chinese custom, parents must buy a house and a car for a son who is preparing to get married, (but) for a lot parents, this is really hard to take.*

## 27. 着 zháo: 睡不着 shuì-bu-zháo unable to sleep; 猜着了 cāizháo le guessed correctly

- 我晚饭后喝了咖啡，晚上躺在床上半天睡不着。  
Wǒ wǎnfàn-hòu hēle kāfēi, wǎnshang tǎngzài chuángshàng bàntiān shuì-bu-zháo.  
*I drank coffee after supper, so at night I lay in bed for a long time and couldn't go to sleep.*
- 你猜着了，他又一次食言了。Nǐ cāizháo le; tā yòu yíci shíyán le.  
*You guessed it. Once again he went back on his word.*

## 28. 住 zhù: 坐不住 zuò-bu-zhù can't sit still; 忍不住 rěn-bu-zhù can't resist

- 他的演讲又长又无聊，半个小时以后观众就都坐不住了，纷纷起身离去了。  
Tāde yǎnjiǎng yòu cháng yòu wúliáo, bànge xiǎoshí yǐhòu guānzhòng jiù dōu zuò-bu-zhùle, fēnfēn qǐshēn líqùle.  
*His speech was long and boring. After half an hour the audience couldn't sit still anymore and one by one got up and left.*
- 医生不让他喝酒，可是在朋友聚会上，他忍不住还是喝了两口。  
Yīshēng bú ràng tā hējiǔ, kěshì zài péngyou jùhuì-shang, tā rěn-bu-zhù háishi hēle liǎngkǒu.  
*His doctor doesn't allow him to drink, but at a gathering with friends, he couldn't resist drinking a couple of mouthfuls.*