

Grammar Review

1. Word Order in a sentence:

Subject + When + Where + Verb + Object
我 今天晚上 在朋友家 睡觉。
我妹妹 在学校 学 中文。

2. Use of Particle “了”

For an action verb, use of 了 after the verb indicate the completion or accomplishment of the action:

Subject + When + Where + Verb + 了 + Object
我 昨天晚上 在朋友家 喝了 两杯啤酒。
我们 昨天晚上 在朋友家 聊天 了。
(聊天 is a compound verb)

Think about the word order and the negating adverb used for actions that didn't happen in the past:

昨天晚上我们在小高家没有喝啤酒。

For a verb indicating state, feeling or will, use of 了 after the verb signifies a change of status / situation:

我现在是大学生了。 I'm a college student now (I was not before).

我病了。 I'm sick (I was not sick before).

我好了。 I'm fine (I was sick before).

3. Politeness Strategies/Tone softeners: 一下儿、一点儿、吧、呀
4. Politeness Strategies/Asking for approval: 好吗? 、可以吗?
5. Politeness Strategies/Phrases: 请、对不起、谢谢、请等一下
6. Politeness Strategies/Showing modesty: “是吗?”、“哪里, 哪里”
7. 才: to show that something happened later than expected to the speaker
我们晚上八点吃饭, 他九点才来。