

Difficult Abbreviated Grammar Words

Chinese	Roman.	Abbreviation	Parts of speech	Word order	Usage	Example
1.1 MW						
There are many measure words (MW).						
“go” is the most commonly used MW						
“di” is a universal MW for plural (without stating a specific number) and uncountable things (eg. water)						
個	go	MW (piece of)	measure word	MW + noun	-works like “piece of” -works like “the” -indicate possessive	one person yāt go yàhn
啲	dī	MW	measure word	MW + noun	-works like “the” -works like “some” -indicate plurality	some people yāt dī yàhn
1.2 Particles						
There are 3 kinds of particles in total: structural particles (PS), verbal particles (PV) and modal particles (PM).						
1.3 PS						
There are 3 structural particles (PS). They are as follows:						
嘅	ge	PS (ge)	structural particle	modifier + ge + noun	link a modifier and a noun	very tall person hóu gōu ge yàhn
噉	gám	PS (gam)	structural particle	modifier + gám + verb	link a modifier and a verb	carefully walk sú-sām gám hàahng
得	dāk	PS (dak)	structural particle	verb + dāk + degree	link a verb and a degree or potential complement	walk fast hàahng dāk faai
1.4 PM						
There are many modal particles (PM), “a” is just one of the most commonly used modal particles.						
呀	a	PM	modal particle	... + PM	-it suggests tones of sentences	It’s very hot! hóu yih a!
1.5 PV						
A verbal particle (PV) is a verb suffix. It cannot be used alone. It is used after a verb (or an adjective)						
It can be subdivided into aspect markers (MA) and extent markers (ME).						
1.6 PV- MA						
There are 4 aspect markers (MA) and they indicate the state of the actions or aspects of the actions.						
咗	jó	(ed) (done) (jo)	PV – aspect marker	verb/adj + jó	the action is completed	have eaten sihk-jó
過	gwo	(ed) (before) (gwo)	PV – aspect marker	verb/adj + gwo	the action is a certain experience in the past	have been to ...before heui-gwo ...
緊	gán	(ing) (gan)	PV – aspect marker	verb + gán	the action is progressive	putting on a T-shirt jeuk gán T-sēut
住	jyuh	(ing) (go on) (jyuh)	PV – aspect marker	verb + jyuh	the action is continuous	wearing a T-shirt jeuk jyuh T-sēut

1.7 PV- ME

There are 4 extent markers (ME) and they indicate the “extent” of the actions.

埋	màaih	(fin. off) (finish. off) (finishing off)	PV – extent marker	verb + màaih	finishing off for this action	finishing off the food [eat (finishing off) the food] sihk màaih dī yéh
晒	saai	(com.) (completely)	PV – extent marker	verb/adj + saai	do this action completely, entirely	eat all the food [eat (completely) the food] sihk saai dī yéh
極	gihk	(lot) (many) (many times)	PV – extent marker	verb + gihk	do this action many times or do it a lot but still cause no effect to it	no matter how much one eats, one doesn't get fat [eat (many times) still not fat] sihk gihk dōu mē fēih
親	chān	(when.) (whenever)	PV – extent marker	verb/adj + chān	whenever doing something	whenever eat shrimps gets sick [eat (whenever) shrimps gets sick] sihk chān hā dōu behng

Complements

A complement is used after a verb or an adjective.

A Complement is an explanatory element to a verb or an adjective.

Different from verbal particles, they may also be used alone (some of them are unlikely) or with verbal particles.

There are many complements, here are some:

吓	háh	(a bit)	duration complement	verb + háh	the action lasts a short moment if there's PV “ gwo ”: V+gwo+háh	take a look [look (a bit)] tái háh
開	hōi	(habitual)	resultant complement	verb + hōi	have the habit of this action if there's PV “ jó ”: V+hōi+jó	get used to do exercise [do (habitual) exercise] jouh hōi wahn-duhng
慣	gwaan	(get used to)	resultant complement	verb + gwaan	get used to this action if there's PV “ jó ”: V+gwaan+jó	get used to take taxi [take (get used to) taxi] daap gwaan dīk-sí
到	dóu	(succ.) (successfully)	resultant complement	verb + dóu	be successful in doing something if there's PV “ jó ”: V+dóu+jó	I saw him [I saw (successfully) him] ngóh gin dóu kéuih
成	síhng/ sèhng	(accomp.) (accomplished)	resultant complement	verb + síhng	be accomplished in doing something if there's PV “ jó ”: V+síhng+jó	He get this business [do (accomplished) this business] kéuih jouh síhng nī-dāan sāng-yi
完	yùhn	(finish)	resultant complement	verb + yùhn	finish in doing something if there's PV “ jó ”: V+yùhn+jó	finish eating [eat (finish) rice] sihk-yùhn faahn
親	chān	(hurt) (get hurt)	resultant complement	verb + chān	the action cause adversative result if there's PV “ gwo ”: V+chān+gwo	fall and so get hurt [fall (and get hurt)] dī chān

Illustrations of complements

In the following examples, “death: **séi**” is a complement, results of the verb or action before it.

殺死	saat séi	resultant comp.	verb + complement	kill to death
打死	dá séi	resultant comp.	verb + complement	beat to death
斬死	jáam séi	resultant comp.	verb + complement	chop to death