

Potential complements

'Can' may also be expressed by a potential complement

The form is:

affirmative: Verb de [Potential Complement]

negative: Verb bu [Potential Complement]

Which potential complement to use depends on the verb.

It is easier to understand by looking at examples:

Nàge xíngzi zhòng de nábudòng.

'That suitcase is too heavy to carry.'

So ná 'carry' takes the potential complement dòng to produce 'can carry'.

There may be some exceptions to this rule, but most [resultative complements](#) and [directional complements](#) may be turned into potential complements by inserting de after the first character (or bu for the negative form).

Ch

Chái

Dào

Dòng

Jí

Jiàn

Lái

Lio

Q

Qù

Wán

Xià

Zháo

See also



Unknown macro: 'link-window'



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