

”If” statements

HSK 4

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

要是 ... , 就 ... (if – spoken)

■ If I'd known

- Your friend didn't tell you about the party, and you would have loved to go.
- 要是你早告诉我，我就去了。 – “If you'd told me earlier, I would have gone.”

■ 要是 A, (Subject) 就 B

- 要是 = “if”, the spoken partner of 如果. The result clause takes 就 after its subject.
- 的话 can close the condition: 要是你有空的话，就来吧。

要是你有空，就来吧。

yào shì nǐ yǒu kòng jiù lái ba

Word guide: 要是 – if; 你 – you; 有空 – are free; 就 – then; 来 – come.

要是 ..., 就 ...: if (spoken)



■ Real and unreal conditions

- Possible: 要是明天不下雨，我们就去爬山。 – “If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we'll go hiking.”
- Past, unreal: 要是我早点儿出门，就不会迟到了。 – “If I'd left earlier, I wouldn't have been late.”

要是我早点儿出门，就不会迟到了。

yào shì wǒ zǎo diǎnr chū mén jiù bú huì chí dào le

Word guide: 要是 – if; 我 – I; 早 – earlier; 点儿 – a bit; 出门 – left; 就 – then; 不会 – wouldn't; 迟到 – be late.

■ 就 after the subject

- Subject first, then 就: 我就去, not 就我去.
- 要是 is spoken; in an essay, 如果 or 假如 sounds better.

■ 要是 versus 如果 and 只要

- 如果 is neutral and written: 如果有问题, 请联系我.
- 只要 ... 就 = as long as (the condition is enough): 只要有空, 我就来.

如果有问题, 请联系我。

rú guǒ yǒu wèn tí qǐng lián xì wǒ

Word guide: 如果 – if; 有 – there are; 问题 – questions; 请 – please; 联系 – contact; 我 – me.

■ Recap

- 要是 A (的话), Subject + 就 B = if A, then B (spoken).
- Also for unreal past conditions (就不会 ... 了); 如果 is the neutral/written form.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

Choose a pattern, cover its teaching examples, and attempt its questions. Use the labels to find feedback in the separate key.

■ 要是 ... , 就 ... (if – spoken)

1701.1 Complete (spoken): “If you’re tired, have a rest.” 你累了, 就休息一下。

1701.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 要是下雨, 就我们不去。
- B. 我们就要是下雨不去。
- C. 要是下雨, 我们就不去。
- D. 要是下雨, 我们不就去。

1701.3 Build: “If I’d left earlier, I wouldn’t have been late.”

Arrange all chunks: , / 迟到了。 / 就不会 / 要是我早点儿出门

1701.4 如果 suits formal writing better than 要是.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1701.5 Your friend didn’t tell you about the party, and you would have loved to go. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A friend says 要是你有时间，我们所以一起去. Repair the paired result clause.

R2. Use it yourself. Invite someone for tea if they finish early, while keeping the condition uncertain.

Write your responses before opening the key. Compare meaning as well as form; a different valid answer need not copy the model.

Answers and explanations

Check after your attempt. For open tasks, compare the message and the stated criteria, then revise one detail.

■ 要是 ... , 就 ... (if – spoken)

1701.1 要是

要是 + condition, 就 + result.

1701.2 C. 要是下雨, 我们就不去。

要是下雨, 我们就不去 is right: in the result clause, 就 comes after the subject 我们 and before the verb phrase.

1701.3 要是我早点儿出门, 就不会迟到了。

要是 + condition, 就不会 ... 了.

1701.4 True.

要是 is spoken; 如果 is neutral and written.

1701.5 One possible response: 要是你早告诉我, 我就去了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Subject first, then 就: 我就去, not 就我去.
- 要是 is spoken; in an essay, 如果 or 假如 sounds better.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 要是你有时间, 我们就一起去。要是 introduces a condition; 就 gives the consequence in this taught pair. 所以 would frame a reason/result relation differently.

R2. One possible response. 要是你早点儿做完, 我们就一起去喝茶。The invitation depends on early completion; it does not claim that completion has happened.

Recall later. Later, change both the condition and result, checking the subject before 就.