

HSK 4 Grammar 17: "If" statements

HSK 4 要是 ... 就 ..., taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The chatty if

要是 ... 就 ... is the everyday spoken "if ... then ..." — the chatty twin of 如果, and the 就 is what the exam checks.

The frame: 要是 + Condition, 就 + Result

Two ifs, two stamps

你要是真的想我，就给我打电话。(Nǐ yàoshi zhēn de xiǎng wǒ, jiù gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà.) — If you really miss me, then call me.

要是明天不下雨，我们就去爬山。(Yàoshi míngtiān bù xià yǔ, wǒmen jiù qù páshān.) — If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we'll go hiking.

Two extras: 要不是 and the shrink

- 1 **The counterfactual:** 要不是要不是堵车，我早就到了。(Yàobushi dǔchē, wǒ zǎo jiù dào le.) — If not for the traffic, I'd have been here long ago.
- 2 **The shrink after a subject** 你要不来，我们就开始了。(Nǐ yào bù lái, wǒmen jiù kāishǐ le.) — If you don't come, we'll start without you.
- 3 **Try it** 要是周六天气好，我们就在公园野餐。(Yàoshi zhōuliù tiānqì hǎo, wǒmen jiù zài gōngyuán yěcān.) — If the weather's good on Saturday, we'll picnic in the park.
- 4 **Check each** Every one keeps its 就 — the stamp that completes the if.

Decision

要不是 blames the traffic; the shrink keeps the chat rolling.

The if family, sorted

Pattern	Feel	Result word
要是 ... 就 ...	Chatty, spoken, northern	就
如果 ... 就 ...	Neutral if	就
即使 ... 也 ...	Even if — a supposition overridden	也

Watch out: the 就 and the fact line

- The 就 belongs to the pattern: 要是明天不下雨, 我们去爬山 reads unfinished without it.
- 要是 introduces a condition you are waiting on — a real-fact contrast takes 虽然 ... 但是 ...

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Which word opens the result clause of a 要是 sentence? (2) "Even if it doesn't rain" takes which pattern and result word?

- A. 就; 即使 ... 也
- B. 也; 即使 ... 就
- C. 就; 如果 ... 也
- D. 也; 要是 ... 就