

## HSK 4 Grammar 25: Complex Sentence Patterns

HSK 4 Adj 是 Adj/一 ... 就 .../一方面 frames, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

## Three grown-up moves

Concede then pull back; bind two events tight; weigh two sides — moves you already make in English.

## Adj 是 Adj, 但是 ...: the debater's move

Admit the point, keep the reservation

工作忙是忙, 但是我很开心。(Gōngzuò máng shì máng, dànshì wǒ hěn kāixīn.) — Work may be busy, but I'm very happy.

这件衣服好看是好看, 就是不适合我。(Zhè jiàn yīfu hǎokàn shì hǎokàn, jiùshì bù shìhé wǒ.) — This outfit looks nice alright — it just doesn't suit me.

## Try it: the almost-purchase

- 1 **The situation** A phone you admired but didn't buy.
- 2 **Concede** 这个手机快是快 (zhège shǒujī kuài shì kuài) — fast, sure.
- 3 **Pull back** 就是太贵了 (jiùshì tài guì le) — it's just too expensive.
- 4 **Check** The 快 repeats exactly around 是.

### Decision

Fast, sure — it's just too expensive.

## 一 ... 就 ...: the instant trigger

### Automatic follow-on

我一下课就去吃午饭。(Wǒ yí xiàkè jiù qù chī wǔfàn.) — I'll have lunch as soon as class is over.

他一喝酒就脸红。(Tā yì hējiǔ jiù liǎnhóng.) — He goes red the moment he drinks.

## 一方面 ... 一方面 ...: two sides

### Two sides that agree

自己做饭一方面健康，一方面还能省钱。 — Cooking for yourself: healthy on one hand, saves money on the other.

### Two sides that clash

他一方面想改变，一方面又害怕改变。 — He wants to change on one hand, and fears it on the other.

## Check yourself

### Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Must the two adjectives around 是 match? (2) What does 一 mean in 一 ... 就 ...?

- A. Yes; “one”
- B. Yes; the instant-trigger
- C. No; the instant-trigger
- D. No; “one”