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.

- Each has one rule that keeps it working.
- The doubled adjective, the instant 一, the matching 方面 s.

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.

Quick check

Your turn

In 好是好，但是太贵, must the words around 是 match?

A. yes

B. no

Check yourself

Your turn

What does 一 mean in 一 …… 就 ……?

A. one

B. as soon as