”If” statements

HSK 5

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.

假如 … ，就 … (if / supposing)

Try when an opportunity arises

- A friend wants to join a workshop but does not yet have a place. **假如有机会，就去试试。** – if there is an opportunity, give it a try.
- The advice sets a possible condition. It does not announce that a place has already been offered or that trying guarantees success.

Put the condition before the response

- **假如 + condition，… 就 + response** links a supposed situation with a result, plan or suggestion.
- In the original example, 有机会 is the condition and 去试试 is the suggested response. Read the response as advice, not as an action already completed.

假如有机会，就去试试。
jiǎ rú yǒu jī huì jiù qù shì shi
Word guide: 假如 – supposing; 有 – have; 机会 – chance; 就 – then; 去 – go; 试试 – try.

Update the actual condition

- **假如明天有空，我们就去参观。** – if we are free tomorrow, we will go and visit – uses tomorrow’s availability.
- A later message says everyone is free today but busy tomorrow. Today’s free time does not establish the tomorrow condition.

Update the actual condition

假如明天有空，我们就去参观。
Condition: free tomorrow; response: go and visit

Free today; busy tomorrow
Today’s availability does not meet tomorrow’s condition

假如你有空，我们一起去吧。
Conditional invitation; no compulsory 就

Keep the named condition separate from an observed result.

Do not require 就 everywhere

- **假如你有空，我们一起去吧。** – if you have free time, let us go together – is an invitation without 就.
- 就 is a common partner, not a compulsory word in every conditional. The complete second clause still supplies a meaningful response.

Separate if from even if

- **假如下雨，我就不去。** changes the plan if it rains. **就是下雨，我也去。** keeps going despite possible rain.
- A plain if-condition does not report that rain is certain. It also does not list every possible reason a person might choose not to go.

Read condition, response and evidence

- Identify the supposed case and the proposed result or action. Check that any later evidence concerns the same people, time and condition.
- Keep advice separate from guaranteed success. Do not require 就 everywhere or turn an if-condition into a weather report or a complete list of causes.

Practise this pattern step by step.

万一 ... 怎么办? (what if)

Ask for a backup before the picnic

- A picnic group asks **万一下雨怎么办?** – what should we do if it rains? They raise rain as a possible problem to prepare for.
- The question asks for a response. It supplies neither a rain forecast nor a ready-made backup location.

Give the question a response

- **万一 + possible problem + 怎么办?** asks what to do if the problem occurs. A response can give a separate conditional plan.
- For this fictional group, **万一下雨，我们就去室内活动。** means they plan an indoor activity in that case. It does not say the activity has happened.

万一下雨怎么办?
wàn yī xià yǔ zěn me bàn
Word guide: 万一 – what if; 下雨 – rain; 怎么办 – what to do.

Check whether a backup is usable

- The group suggests a school room, but its booking has not been confirmed. **万一下雨怎么办?** does not itself grant permission to use that room.
- A complete plan needs the room's availability and the group's agreed action. Asking the contingency question is only the start.

Check whether a backup is usable

万一下雨怎么办？
Ask for a response to possible rain

万一下雨，我们就去室内活动。
State a backup plan; not completed action

Room booking still unconfirmed
The question does not establish room availability

Keep the named condition separate from an observed result.

Prepare without pretending to measure

- **万一我晚到了，你先进去吧。** – in case I arrive late, go in first – prepares for lateness without making it certain.
- 万一 commonly raises a possibility the speaker treats as unlikely or troublesome. It gives no measured rate and need not mean the worst event imaginable.

A question and a report do different jobs

- **万一下雨怎么办?** raises a contingency. **已经下雨了。** reports that rain has started.
- If a later report confirms rain, use the agreed response and check current facts. The earlier question alone was not evidence of rain.

Separate possibility from preparation

- Name the possible problem, then distinguish asking what to do from specifying an action and confirming it can be carried out.
- Do not turn 万一 into exactly one chance in ten thousand, a forecast, permission to use a room or proof that the backup has already happened.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Clause + 的话 (if / conditional frame)

Ask to be told if a friend goes

- A friend has not decided whether to join a visit. **你去的话，叫我一声。** – if you go, let me know.
- The speaker asks for a message in the going case. The sentence does not confirm the friend's decision or require a telephone call.

Place 的话 after the condition

- **Condition clause + 的话，response** puts 的话 after the case being supposed: **你去的话，叫我一声。**
- **如果你去的话，叫我一声。** can add 如果 before the same condition. The two markers can work together.

你去的话，叫我一声。
nǐ qù de huà jiào wǒ yì shēng
Word guide: 你 – you; 去 – go; 的话 – if; 叫 – call; 我 – me; 一声 – (a shout).

Read a changed condition

- **你不去的话，告诉我。** – if you do not go, tell me – attaches the request to not going.
- Keep 不 inside the condition. It does not mean do not tell me; the requested response remains 告诉我.

Read a changed condition

你去的话，叫我一声。
Going condition; request to be told

你不去的话，告诉我。
Not-going condition; telling remains requested

我听懂了他的话。
His words: noun phrase, not an if-condition

Keep the named condition separate from an observed result.

Do not mistake someone's words for if

- **我听懂了他的话。**
  wǒ tīng dǒng le tā de huà
  Word guide: 我 – I; 听懂 – understood what was said; 了 – completed action; 他 – his (here); 的 – possessive marker; 话 – words. – I understood his words – uses a possessive phrase meaning his words. There is no conditional response here.
- A phrase such as **价格的话，我觉得太高了。** can frame price as the topic. Its context differs from a complete going condition followed by a request.

■ Keep tone and timing in context

- The conditional marker 的话 alone does not make every request polite. Tone, the request itself and the relationship still matter.
- 叫我一声 asks to be told in this conversation. It does not specify an exact minute, promise that a message was sent or prove that the friend already went.

■ Locate the whole condition

- Read the clause before 的话, including any negative word, and the response after it. 如果 may appear before that clause too.
- Use the complete sentence to separate a condition, a topic frame and a noun phrase meaning someone's words. None alone proves completed action.

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.

■ 假如 … ，就 … (if / supposing)

1501.1 Use the lesson target 假如 in this example: If there's a chance, give it a try: …… 有机会，就去试试。

1501.2 {'en': ' 假如 is closest to…', 'zh': ' 假如最接近 ……'}

- A. {'en': ' 如果 (if)', 'zh': ' 如果 (如果)'}
- B. {'en': ' 虽然 (although)', 'zh': ' 虽然 (虽然)'}

1501.3 Every sentence beginning 假如 must include 就 in the result clause.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1501.4 You advise a friend to try if an opportunity arises. What does 假如有机会，就去试试。communicate?

- A. 假如有机会 guarantees an opportunity is already available.
- B. The opportunity is a hypothetical condition for trying.

1501.5 假如有机会，就去试试。means that trying will succeed.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1501.6 The plan is 假如明天有空，我们就去参观。A later message says free today, busy tomorrow. Is today's availability evidence for the named condition?

- A. Yes: free today establishes free tomorrow
- B. No: the condition concerns tomorrow, which the new message says is busy

1501.7 Match the complete sentence to its relationship.

- 1. 假如下雨，我就不去。

- 1. 就是下雨，我也去。
- 1. 假如你有空，我们一起去吧。
- A. Go despite possible rain
- B. If rain occurs, do not go
- C. Invite going together if there is free time

1501.8 假如下雨，我就不去。establishes that rain is the only possible reason for not going.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1501.9 Recall the situation: Try when an opportunity arises. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 万一 ... 怎么办? (what if)

1502.1 Use the lesson target 万一 in this example: What if it rains? …… 下雨怎么办?

1502.2 In the picnic question 万一下雨怎么办? , rain is presented as…

- A. A confirmed current weather observation
- B. A possible problem to prepare for

1502.3 In 万一我晚到了，你先进去吧。, the second clause gives a response rather than asking 怎么办.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1502.4 A picnic group considers a backup plan for rain. What does 万一下雨怎么办? communicate?

- A. 万一 gives an exact measured probability of rain.
- B. The speaker raises a possible problem and asks what to do.

1502.5 万一 gives an exact measured probability of rain.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1502.6 A group asks 万一下雨怎么办? and suggests a school room. Its booking is unconfirmed. What still needs checking?

- A. Nothing: 万一 automatically reserves the room
- B. Whether the room is available and its use is agreed

1502.7 Match the sentence to its job.

- 1. 万一下雨怎么办?
- 1. 万一下雨，我们就去室内活动。
- 1. 已经下雨了。

- A. State a conditional backup plan
- B. Report actual rain
- C. Ask for a contingency response

1502.8 万一下雨，我们就去室内活动。establishes that the indoor activity has already happened.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1502.9 Recall the situation: Ask for a backup before the picnic. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ Clause + 的话 (if / conditional frame)

1503.1 Use the lesson target 的话 in this example: If you go, give me a shout: 你去……，叫我一声。

1503.2 In 你去的话，叫我一声。, the clause before 的话 gives…

- A. The condition for the requested message
- B. Proof that the requested message was already sent

1503.3 {'en': ' 的话 can team up with 如果 (如果 … 的话，…).', 'zh': ' 的话可与如果搭配 (如果 …… 的话,……)。'}

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1503.4 You ask a friend to call if they decide to go. What does 你去的话，叫我一声。communicate?

- A. The requested call depends on the friend's going.
- B. 的话 guarantees that the friend has already gone.

1503.5 你去的话，叫我一声。requires the friend to use a telephone rather than tell the speaker in person.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1503.6 A friend says 你不去的话，告诉我。Which part is negative?

- A. The response: the listener is told not to send a message
- B. The going condition; telling the speaker is still requested

1503.7 Match each complete sentence to the job of its phrase.

- 1. 你去的话，叫我一声。
- 1. 价格的话，我觉得太高了。
- 1. 我听懂了他的话。
- A. Condition followed by a request
- B. His words as a noun phrase

- C. Price used as a topic frame

1503.8 你去的话，叫我一声。establishes that the friend has already gone and sent the requested message.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1503.9 Recall the situation: Ask to be told if a friend goes. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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 group says 万一车晚点怎么办? Someone translates it as The train is definitely late. What does the question actually do?

R2. Use it yourself. Give a fallback plan if a train is late and a normal plan if it is on time.

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.

■ 假如 ... ，就 ... (if / supposing)

1501.1 {'en': ' 假如', 'zh': ' 假如'}

{'en': ' **假如 ... ，就 ...** = if / supposing: 假如有机会, 就去试试.', 'zh': ' **假如 ……, 就 ……** = 假如: 假如有机会, 就去试试。'}

1501.2 A. {'en': ' 如果 (if)', 'zh': ' 如果 (如果)'}

{'en': ' 假如 ≈ 如果, a touch more formal / hypothetical.', 'zh': ' 假如 ≈ 如果, 略书面 / 假设。'}

1501.3 False.

就 is a common partner, not obligatory in every conditional: 假如你有空，我们一起去吧 is natural.

1501.4 B. The opportunity is a hypothetical condition for trying.

The opportunity is a hypothetical condition for trying. 就 is common in the result clause, but not mandatory in every 假如 sentence. The condition is not a statement that the opportunity already exists.

1501.5 False.

The advice names a condition for trying; it does not guarantee the outcome of the attempt.

1501.6 B. No: the condition concerns tomorrow, which the new message says is busy

Keep the time in the condition. Today's availability does not establish tomorrow's availability.

1501.7 1–B: 假如下雨，我就不去。= If rain occurs, do not go; 2–A: 就是下雨，我也去。= Go despite possible rain; 3–C: 假如你有空，我们一起去吧。= Invite going together if there is free time

The if-condition, even-if concession and conditional invitation state different responses.

1501.8 False.

This statement gives one conditional response. It does not rule out every other possible reason for not going.

1501.9 One possible response: 假如有机会，就去试试。

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.
- **假如你有空，我们一起去吧。** – if you have free time, let us go together – is an invitation without 就.

- 就 is a common partner, not a compulsory word in every conditional. The complete second clause still supplies a meaningful response.
- 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.

■ 万一 ... 怎么办? (what if)

1502.1 {'en': ' 万一', 'zh': ' 万一'}

{'en': ' **万一 ... 怎么办?** = what if ...?: 万一下雨怎么办?', 'zh': ' **万一 …… 怎么办?** = 万一 …… 怎么办?: 万一下雨怎么办?'}

1502.2 B. A possible problem to prepare for

The question prepares for a possible problem, not an observed fact. 万一 does not give an exact probability.

1502.3 True.

The first clause raises possible lateness; 你先进去吧 suggests what the listener should do. 万一 is not restricted to questions ending 怎么办.

1502.4 B. The speaker raises a possible problem and asks what to do.

The speaker raises a possible problem and asks what to do. 万一 often frames a contingency worth preparing for. It does not mean exactly one chance in ten thousand or provide any numerical probability.

1502.5 False.

万一 often frames a contingency worth preparing for. It does not mean exactly one chance in ten thousand or provide any numerical probability. The speaker raises a possible problem and asks what to do.

1502.6 B. Whether the room is available and its use is agreed

Raising a contingency does not reserve a room or establish permission to use it.

1502.7 1–C: 万一下雨怎么办? = Ask for a contingency response; 2–A: 万一下雨，我们就去室内活动。= State a conditional backup plan; 3–B: 已经下雨了。= Report actual rain

A question, a proposed response and an actual-weather report supply different information.

1502.8 False.

The sentence supplies a conditional plan, not a completed-action report.

1502.9 One possible response: 万一下雨怎么办?

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.

- **万一我晚到了，你先进去吧。** – in case I arrive late, go in first – prepares for lateness without making it certain.
- 万一 commonly raises a possibility the speaker treats as unlikely or troublesome. It gives no measured rate and need not mean the worst event imaginable.
- 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.

■ Clause + 的话 (if / conditional frame)

1503.1 {'en': ' 的话', 'zh': ' 的话'}

{'en': 'A condition clause followed by 的话 can introduce an if-case: 你去的话，叫我一声。', 'zh': ' 条件小句后接 " 的话 " 引出假设条件：你去的话，叫我一声。'}

1503.2 A. The condition for the requested message

你去 is the case being supposed. 的话 does not mark a completed message.

1503.3 True.

{'en': 'Yes – 如果你去的话，叫我.', 'zh': ' 对 — 如果你去的话, 叫我。'}

1503.4 A. The requested call depends on the friend's going.

The requested call depends on the friend's going. 的话 follows the condition; 如果 can also be used before it. Tone and relationship determine politeness, not 的话 alone.

1503.5 False.

叫我一声 means let me know in this context. The sentence does not specify a telephone.

1503.6 B. The going condition; telling the speaker is still requested

不 belongs to 你不去. 告诉我 remains the requested response in that not-going case.

1503.7 1–A: 你去的话，叫我一声。= Condition followed by a request; 2–C: 价格的话，我觉得太高了。= Price used as a topic frame; 3–B: 我听懂了他的话。= His words as a noun phrase

Read the entire sentence: the same characters 的话 do not make every phrase an if-condition.

1503.8 False.

The statement requests a message in the going case; it reports neither decision nor completion.

1503.9 One possible response: 你去的话，叫我一声。

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.

- **我听懂了他的话。**
  wǒ tīng dǒng le tā de huà
  Word guide: 我 – I; 听懂 – understood what was said; 了 – completed action; 他 – his (here); 的 – possessive marker; 话 – words. – I understood his words – uses a possessive phrase meaning his words. There is no conditional response here.
- A phrase such as **价格的话，我觉得太高了。** can frame price as the topic. Its context differs from a complete going condition followed by a request.
- 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. It asks what to do if an unwelcome possibility occurs. 万一 prepares for a contingency rather than asserting that it has happened or must happen.

R2. One possible response. 万一车晚点，我们就改坐公交车。假如准时到，我们就直接去学校。The two plans depend on different conditions. Neither is evidence of the train's actual status.

Recall later. Later, invent a plausible contingency and a fallback that addresses it.