HSK 5 Grammar 14: Even if" statements

HSK 5 就是, 就算 and 哪怕 ... 也 (even if), taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Three ways to keep the picnic

Pattern	Tone	The case
就是 …… ， 也 ……	plain and steady	a possible case
就算 …… ， 也 ……	casual, doubting or shrugging	a case you wave away
哪怕 …… ， 也 ……	strong and determined	an extreme case

Use the evidence

Each pattern accepts a possible case, then 也 keeps the result. 即使 is the neutral member of the family.

就是 …… ， 也 ……: the plain even if

1. **The frame** 就是 + possible case ， 也 + the action that stays.
2. **Example** 就是明天下雨，我们也会去植物园。Even if it rains tomorrow, we will still go.
3. **Different subjects** 就是老板不同意，我也要把这套方案讲清楚。
4. **Why 也 matters** 就是 can also mean ‘exactly’; 也 in the second half shows it means ‘even if’.

Decision

Keep 也 — it tells the listener the case changes nothing.

Imagined or already real?

Imagined case — 就是

就是明天下雨，我们也会去。

Rain that may come tomorrow.

Known fact — 虽然

虽然下雨，我还是想步行去博物馆。

Rain that is falling right now.

就算: even supposing — so what?

Shape	Example
就算 + case，也 + result	就算你现在出发，也会错过最后一班地铁。
就算 + 再 + adjective，也 + result	就算再远，她也去那家诊所。
就算 + case，又怎么样？	就算评委改了分数，又怎么样？

Use the evidence

The ‘so what?’ question pushes the case aside by itself, so it takes no 也.

哪怕: the extreme case

A heavy case that still cannot stop you

哪怕要排三个小时的队，我也要买到这场演出的票。

Even if I have to queue for three hours, I will still get a ticket for this show.

哪怕再累，她也不会停下今天的实验。

No matter how tired she is, she will not stop today's experiment.

Notice

Choose a case that ought to stop the action — a long wait, a high cost, a real risk. A small problem is too weak for **哪怕**.

A scale of tone

就 是 — the plain spoken ‘even if’.

↓

就 算 — more casual and doubtful; the one that invites ‘so what?’

↓

哪怕 — an extreme case; the speaker is hard to move.

↓

虽然 — not this family: the case has really happened.

Your turn: so what?

Your turn

The perfect score does not impress the speaker. Which sentence sets the score aside?

A. 就算他得了一百分，又怎么样？
B. 就算他得了一百分，也说明他复习了。
C. 虽然他得了一百分，老师还是很高兴。

Your turn: build it

Your turn

The bitterness is extreme, and you drink the medicine anyway. Which sentence is correct?

A. 哪怕再苦，我也喝这碗中药。
B. 哪怕苦再，我也喝这碗中药。
C. 我也哪怕再苦，喝这碗中药。
D. 哪怕再苦，也我喝这碗中药。

Answers: even if

1. **So what?** 就算他得了一百分，又怎么样？The question waves the score away.
2. **The medicine** 哪怕再苦，我也喝这碗中药。再 before 苦; 我 before 也.
3. **Rain you can see** 虽然下雨，我还是想步行去博物馆。A real case takes 虽然.
4. **Your own sentence** 就是这路车很挤，我也坐这路车去图书馆。

Decision

In the score item, the second option still treats the score as evidence; the third reports a real reaction.

Check yourself

Your turn

Even if it costs a whole month's pay, she is determined to buy the concert ticket. Which pattern fits best?

A. 哪怕要花一个月的工资，她也要买这张演唱会的票。
B. 就算要花一个月的工资，又怎么样？
C. 虽然花了一个月的工资，她还是很高兴。