

HSK 5 Grammar 15: If" statements

HSK 5 假如, 万一 and 的话 for conditions, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Three ways to say 'if'

Marker	Tone	Example
假如 , 就	deliberate, often formal	假如我有更多时间, 我就把报告 写得更清楚。
万一 怎 么办?	a slim but worrying chance	万一把护照忘在酒店怎么办?
..... 的话, ...	soft and spoken	你今晚有空的话, 我们一起去 看电影吧。

Use the evidence

All three set a condition. Tone, likelihood and the marker's position are what change.

假如, 就: suppose

- 1 **The frame** 假如 + statement , 就 + result. 假 suggests 'suppose'.
- 2 **An unreal condition** 假如我有更多时间, 我就把这份报告写得更清楚。If I had more time, I would write it more clearly.
- 3 **An undecided condition** 假如公司同意远程办公, 很多同事就不用每天挤地铁了。

Decision

如果 and 要是 are the everyday choices; 假如 leans formal, at home in articles, proposals and speeches.

万一: one in ten thousand

Worry — 万一 怎么办？

出门前再检查一下护照，万一把它忘在酒店怎么办？

What if you left it at the hotel?

Precaution — 万一 , backup

我多存了一份文件，万一电脑突然坏了，数据也不会丢。

In case the computer breaks, the data is safe.

When is it 万一?

- 1 **Slim chance of trouble** 带上转换插头，万一插座不一样呢？Worth preparing for.
- 2 **Ordinary, likely chance** 下雨的话，我们就在家做饭。Likely rain simply moves the plan.
- 3 **The test** Does the chance feel tiny, and is the result unwelcome? Then 万一.

Decision

如果 can carry bad news too; the extra force of 万一 is that the chance feels tiny.

的话: the closing bracket

- 1 **The frame** (如果 or 要是 +) condition + 的话, result.
- 2 **Bare condition** 你今晚有空的话, 我们一起去看看那部新电影吧。
- 3 **With 如果 and 就** 如果价格还是太高的话, 就等打折再买。
- 4 **Wrong places** 的话 inside the result, or before the condition, is wrong.

Decision

的话 closes the condition; 就, if used, stays with the result.

Your turn: which if?

Your turn

Chatting with a roommate: rain is likely, and the plan is simply to cook at home.
Which sentence fits best?

- A. 下雨的话，我们就在家做饭。
- B. 万一下雨，菜就买不到了怎么办？
- C. 假如明天下雨，会议就改到上午。

Your turn: where does 的话 go?

Your turn

Which sentence puts the spoken 'if' marker in the right place?

- A. 你觉得冷的话，就把窗户关上。
- B. 你觉得冷，就把窗户的话关上。
- C. 的话你觉得冷，就把窗户关上。

Answers: tone and place

- 1 **The roommate chat** 下雨的话，我们就在家做饭。 Spoken, likely, no emergency.
- 2 **The window** 你觉得冷的话，就把窗户关上。 的话 closes the condition.
- 3 **The quiet office** 假如办公室安静一点，我今天就能写完这份计划。
- 4 **The last bus** 万一你错过了末班车怎么办？

Decision

The 万一 option in the first item worries about food; the 假如 option moves a formal meeting.

Check yourself

Your turn

You pack an umbrella in case the weather suddenly changes. Which sentence fits?

- A. 带把伞吧，万一突然下雨呢？
- B. 带把伞吧，假如下雨的话就下雨。
- C. 万一带把伞，突然下雨怎么办？