

Conditional Statements

HSK 3 Grammar

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

只要 ... , 就 ... (as long as)

■ A sufficient condition permits entry

- A venue says a valid ticket is enough to enter.
- 只要有票，就能进去。 – The rule presents having a ticket as sufficient for entry.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 只要 ... , 就 ... (as long as). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

只要努力，就能成功。

zhǐ yào nǔ lì jiù néng chéng gōng

Word guide: 只要 – as long as; 努力 – work hard; 就 – then; 能 – can; 成功 – succeed.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 只要有票，就能进去。: The rule presents having a ticket as sufficient for entry.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The statement claims sufficiency within the stated rule; it does not assert that nobody can enter by any other authorised method.
- Contrast 只有有票，才能进去, which makes a ticket necessary.

■ Use the distinction

- The rule presents having a ticket as sufficient for entry.
- The statement claims sufficiency within the stated rule; it does not assert that nobody can enter by any other authorised method. Contrast 只有有票，才能进去, which makes a ticket necessary.

■ Try it with help closed

A venue says a valid ticket is enough to enter. 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.

One possible response: 只要有票，就能进去。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The statement claims sufficiency within the stated rule; it does not assert that nobody can enter by any other authorised method.
- Contrast 只有有票，才能进去, which makes a ticket necessary.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

... , 才 ... (only then / only after)

■ A required action comes before access

- You must finish registration before using an account.
- 完成注册，才能使用账号。 – Registration is presented as a required condition before use.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is ... , 才 ... (only then / only after). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

你努力，才能成功。

nǐ nǔ lì cái néng chéng gōng

Word guide: 你 – you; 努力 – work hard; 才 – only then; 能 – can; 成功 – succeed.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 完成注册，才能使用账号。: Registration is presented as a required condition before use.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The requirement does not promise that registration alone solves every obstacle.
- An account could still need approval; distinguish necessary conditions from sufficient ones.

■ Use the distinction

- Registration is presented as a required condition before use.
- The requirement does not promise that registration alone solves every obstacle. An account could still need approval; distinguish necessary conditions from sufficient ones.

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- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

只有 ... , 才 ... (only if)

■ A necessary condition is not a complete recipe

- A venue permits entry only to people with tickets.
- 只有有票，才能进去。 – Having a ticket is presented as necessary for entry.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 只有 ... , 才 ... (only if). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

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- In the opening example, 只有有票，才能进去。: Having a ticket is presented as necessary for entry.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The rule need not say that a ticket alone is sufficient; identity checks may also be required.
- 只要有票，就能进去 instead presents a ticket as enough under that stated rule.

■ Use the distinction

- Having a ticket is presented as necessary for entry.
- The rule need not say that a ticket alone is sufficient; identity checks may also be required. 只要有票，就能进去 instead presents a ticket as enough under that stated rule.

■ Try it with help closed

A venue permits entry only to people with tickets. 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.

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