

”If” Statements

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

要是…就…—”if …then …”

要是…就… is the everyday spoken ”if …then …” —a casual twin of 如果…就…, especially common in northern China. The 就 opens the result clause.

Structure: 要是 + Condition , 就 + Result

{zh: 你 |nǐ|you / 要是 |yào shì|if / 真 |zhēn|really / 想 |xiǎng|miss / 我 |wǒ|me / , 就 |jiù|then / 给 |gěi / 我 |wǒ|me / 打电话 |dǎ diàn huà|call / 。 }

If you really miss me, then call me.

{zh: 要是 |yào shì|if / 明天 |míng tiān|tomorrow / 不 |bù|doesn't / 下雨 |xià yǔ|rain / , 我们 |wǒ men|we / 就 |jiù|then / 去 |qù|go / 爬山 |pá shān|hiking / 。 }

If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we'll go hiking.

Remember: 要是 = the chatty 如果—same ”if,” more spoken (and northern). Both fire 就 in the result. Bonus pattern: 要不是…= ”if it weren't for…” (要不是堵车, 我早就到了, ”if not for the traffic, I'd be there already”).

Watch out

- After the subject, 要是 can shrink to 要: 你要不来….