

”Even If” Statements

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

就是 , 也 — “even if”

就是 ... 也 ... grants a **hypothetical** and says it **changes nothing** — “even if ..., still ...” (One of a family with 即使, 就算, 哪怕.) Use it for a supposition, not an actual fact — for an actual present fact, use 虽然.

Structure: 就是 + Hypothetical , 也 + Action

{zh: 就是 |jiù shì|even if / 这台 |zhè tái|this / 电脑 |diàn nǎo|computer / 价格 |jià gé|costs / 上万 |shàng wàn|over 10,000 / , 我 |wǒ|I / 也 |yě|still / 会 |huì|will / 买 |mǎi|buy it / 。 }

Even if this computer costs over ten thousand, I'll still buy it.

{zh: 就是 |jiù shì|even if / 他 |tā|he / 变成 |biàn chéng|became / 穷光蛋 |qióng guāng dàn|penniless / , 我 |wǒ|I / 也 |yě|still / 愿意 |yuàn yì|would want / 跟 |gēn|to be with / 他 |tā|him / 在一起 |zài yì qǐ / 。 }

Even if he were penniless, I'd still want to be with him.

Remember: 就是 ... 也 ... = “even if ... still” — a hypothetical, in the same family as 即使 / 就算 / 哪怕, all needing the 也. A real, present fact takes 虽然, not 就是.

Watch out

- This 就是 is “even if,” not “is exactly” — the 也 downstream confirms the “even if” reading.

就算 , 也 — “even if (granting)”

就算 ... 也 ... is a colloquial “even if / even supposing” — often when the speaker **doubts** the hypothetical, or brushes it aside. 就算 ... 又怎么样? = “even if ..., so what?”; 就算再 + Adj + 也 = “no matter how Adj.”

Structure: 就算 + Hypothetical , 也 + Result · 就算 + 再 + Adj , 也 ...

{zh: 就算 |jiù suàn|even if / 你 |nǐ|you / 不想 |bù xiǎng|don't want to / 听 |tīng|hear it / , 我 |wǒ|I / 也 |yě|still / 要 |yào|will / 说 |shuō|say it / 。 }

Even if you don't want to hear it, I'm saying it.

{zh: 就算 |jiù suàn|even if / 他 |tā|he / 来 |lái|came / 了 |le / , 又 |yòu / 怎么样 |zěnmeyàng|so what / ? }

Even if he did come — so what?

Remember: 就算 = “even supposing” — with a shrug of doubt or dismissal. 就算 ... 又怎么样? = “even if so, so what?”; 就算再贵也 ... = “no matter how expensive...”. The colloquial cousin of 即使.

Watch out

- It often dismisses the hypothetical as not mattering — a slightly more “so what” tone than 即使.

哪怕 , 也 — “even if (the extreme)”

哪怕 ... 也 ... grants even the **most serious or extreme** case — “even if ..., still ...” Its tone is **stronger** than 就算 / 即使. 哪怕再 + Adj + 也 = “no matter how Adj.”

Structure: 哪怕 + Extreme Hypothetical , 也 + Result

{zh: 哪怕 |nǎ pà|even if / 他 |tā|his / 爸爸 |bà ba|father / 是 |shì|were / 总统 |zǒng tǒng|president / , 我 |wǒ|I / 也 |yě|still / 不 |bù|wouldn't / 嫁给 |jià gěi|marry / 他 |tā|him / ! }

Even if his father were president, I wouldn't marry him!

{zh: 哪怕 |nǎ pà|no matter how / 再 |zài / 累 |lèi|tired / , 她 |tā|she / 也 |yě|still / 要 |yào|wants to / 健身 |jiàn shēn|work out / 。 }

However tired she is, she still works out.

Remember: 哪怕 = the **STRONGEST** “even if” — it reaches for the most extreme or far-fetched case (哪怕 ... 是总统 ...). Lit. “what's there to fear” → “even granting the worst.” 哪怕再 + Adj + 也 = “no matter how Adj.”

Watch out

- The three “even if”s scale up: 即使 (neutral) → 就算 (casual, doubtful) → 哪怕 (extreme).