

”If” Statements

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

假如……，就……—”if …then …”

假如…就… states a **hypothetical** —”if …, then ….” It’s a more **formal** sibling of 如果 / 要是, at home in both writing and speech.

Structure: 假如 + Statement , 就 + Result

{zh: 假如 |jiǎ rú|if / 我 |wǒ|I / 是 |shì|were / 你 |nǐ|you / , 我 |wǒ|I / 就 |jiù|would / 戒烟 |jiè yān|quit smoking / 。 }

If I were you, I’d quit smoking.

{zh: 假如 |jiǎ rú|if / 你 |nǐ|your / 的 |de / 成绩 |chéng jì|grades / 再 |zài|a little / 好 |hǎo|higher / 一点儿 |yì diǎnr / , 就 |jiù|then / 能 |néng|could / 申请 |shēn qǐng|apply to / 北大 |Běi Dà|Peking University / 了 |le / 。 }

If your grades were a bit higher, you could apply to Peking University.

Remember: 假如 = the formal 如果 (假 = ”suppose”) —same ”if,” dressier register, same 就 in the result. Slots into the if-family: 如果 / 要是 (everyday) 假如 (formal).

Watch out

- Like the others, it pairs with 就—假如…就….

万一……怎么办? —”what if (the worst)”

万一 (literally ”ten-thousand to one”) raises an **unlikely but worrying** possibility —”what if …, in case …, on the off chance.” It’s usually for undesirable scenarios, as a question (怎么办 / 呢) or a statement.

Structure: 万一 + Bad Possibility + 怎么办? · 万一 + …, ……

{zh: 带 |dài|take / 把 |bǎ / 伞 |sǎn|an umbrella / 吧 |ba / , 万一 |wàn yī|what if / 下雨 |xià yǔ|it rains / 呢 |ne / ? }

Take an umbrella —what if it rains?

{zh: 我 |wǒ|I / 要 |yào|will / 记 |jì|write it / 下来 |xià lái|down / , 万一 |wàn yī|in case / 忘 |wàng|I forget / 了 |le / 可以 |kě yǐ|I can / 查 |chá|look it up / 。 }

I’ll write it down —in case I forget, I can look it up.

Remember: 万一 = ”one-in-ten-thousand” = a low-odds, high-stakes ”what if …?” —the worried, better-safe scenario. The set phrase 以防万一 = ”(just) in case.”

Watch out

- It flags a *small chance of big trouble* —for an even-odds ”if,” use 如果.

Topic + 的话, Comment —marking "if"

Tag **的话** onto a clause to softly mark it as a **condition** —"if ..., (then) ...". It's a relaxed, spoken "if," often paired with 如果 / 要是 at the front.

Structure: (如果 +) Condition + 的话, ……

{zh: 你 |nǐ|you / 想 |xiǎng|want / 去 |qù|to go / 的话 |de huà|if / , 我 |wǒ|I / 陪 |péi|will go with / 你 |nǐ|you / 。 }

If you want to go, I'll come with you.

{zh: 不 |bù|not / 喜欢 |xǐ huan|like it / 的话 |de huà|if / 就 |jiù|then / 别 |bié|don't / 买 |mǎi|buy it / 。 }

If you don't like it, don't buy it.

Remember: 的话 = a soft, spoken "if," tagged on the **END** of the condition (你想去的话...). Think of it as a closing bracket on the "if" —droppable, and often paired with a front 如果 / 要是.

Watch out

- It marks the *condition* clause's tail —it doesn't go on the result.