

”If” statements

HSK 4

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.

要是 ... , 就 ... (if – spoken)

■ Advice depends on the stated condition

- You tell a friend to rest if tired.
- 要是你累了, 就休息吧。 – Tiredness is the condition for the advice to rest.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 要是 ... , 就 ... (if – spoken). 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.

要是你累了, 就休息吧。

yào shì nǐ lèi le jiù xiū xi ba

Word guide: 要是 – if; 你 – you; 累 – tired; 就 – then; 休息 – rest.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 要是你累了, 就休息吧。: Tiredness is the condition for the advice to rest.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 要是 is a conversational conditional.
- 就 is common but not compulsory in every 要是 construction.

■ Use the distinction

- Tiredness is the condition for the advice to rest.
- 要是 is a conversational conditional. 就 is common but not compulsory in every 要是 construction.

■ Try it with help closed

You tell a friend to rest if tired. 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: 要是你累了, 就休息吧。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 要是 is a conversational conditional.
- 就 is common but not compulsory in every 要是 construction.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.