

Conditional 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.

只要 ... , 就 ... (as long as)

■ Distinguish enough from required

- A class rule says submitting the form is enough to join.
- **只要交表, 就能参加。** – Submitting the form is presented as sufficient under this rule.

■ 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, 就有希望。

zhǐ yào nǔ lì jiù yǒu xī wàng

Word guide: 只要 – as long as; 努力 – work hard; 就 – then; 有 – have; 希望 – hope.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **只要交表, 就能参加。**: Submitting the form is presented as sufficient under this rule.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- A sufficient condition need not be the only route.
- The grammar expresses the stated rule rather than proving that the rule holds in every real situation.

■ Use the distinction

- Submitting the form is presented as sufficient under this rule.
- A sufficient condition need not be the only route. The grammar expresses the stated rule rather than proving that the rule holds in every real situation.

■ Try it with help closed

A class rule says submitting the form is enough to join. 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: 只要交表，就能参加。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- A sufficient condition need not be the only route.
- The grammar expresses the stated rule rather than proving that the rule holds in every real situation.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

除非 ... , 才 ... (only if / unless)

■ A requirement need not be the sole requirement

- You will not go unless a friend goes.
- 除非你去，我才去。 – The friend's going is treated as necessary for your going.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 除非 ... , 才 ... (only if / unless). 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.

除非你去，我才去。

chú fēi nǐ qù wǒ cái qù

Word guide: 除非 – unless; 你 – you; 去 – go; 我 – I; 才 – only then; 去 – go.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 除非你去，我才去。: The friend's going is treated as necessary for your going.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- This does not guarantee you will go whenever the friend does; other obstacles may remain.
- 除非 ... 否则 ... gives another common way to state the restriction.

■ Use the distinction

- The friend's going is treated as necessary for your going.
- This does not guarantee you will go whenever the friend does; other obstacles may remain. 除非 ... 否则 ... gives another common way to state the restriction.

■ Try it with help closed

You will not go unless a friend goes. 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: 除非你去，我才去。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- This does not guarantee you will go whenever the friend does; other obstacles may remain.
- 除非 ... 否则 ... gives another common way to state the restriction.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.