

Conditional statements

HSK 5

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.

一旦 ... , 就 ... (once ..., then ...)

■ A trigger is not a report that it occurred

- You advise someone about what follows a decision.
- 一旦决定, 就别后悔。 – Once the decision is made, the advice applies.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 一旦 ... , 就 ... (once ..., then ...). 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.

一旦决定, 就别后悔。

yí dàn jué dìng jiù bié hòu huǐ

Word guide: 一旦 – once; 决定 – decide; 就 – then; 别 – don't; 后悔 – regret.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 一旦决定, 就别后悔。: Once the decision is made, the advice applies.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 一旦 presents the trigger condition.
- The sentence does not say a decision has already been made or force 就 in every possible construction.

■ Use the distinction

- Once the decision is made, the advice applies.
- 一旦 presents the trigger condition. The sentence does not say a decision has already been made or force 就 in every possible construction.

■ Try it with help closed

You advise someone about what follows a decision. 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: 一旦决定，就别后悔。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 一旦 presents the trigger condition.
- The sentence does not say a decision has already been made or force 就 in every possible construction.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.