

”If” statements

HSK 6

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.

假使 ... , 就 ... (if / supposing)

■ Prepare for a possibility without asserting it

- An outdoor event has a backup plan if rain arrives tomorrow.
- 假使明天下雨，我们就改在室内活动。 – Rain is a hypothetical condition; moving indoors is the planned response.

Prepare for a possibility without asserting it

SITUATION

An outdoor event has a backup plan if rain arrives tomorrow.

SPEAKER MEANING

Rain is a hypothetical condition; moving indoors is the planned response.

CHECK THE LIMIT

就 is a common partner, not a compulsory word in every conditional.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 假使 ... , 就 ... (if / supposing): 假使明天下雨，活动就取消。; 假使他不同意，我们就再想办法。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

假使有问题，就来找我。

jiǎ shǐ yǒu wèn tí jiù lái zhǎo wǒ

Word guide: 假使 – supposing; 有 – have; 问题 – problem; 就 – then; 来 – come; 找 – find; 我 – me.

- In the opening situation: 假使明天下雨，我们就改在室内活动。
- Rain is a hypothetical condition; moving indoors is the planned response.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- 就 is a common partner, not a compulsory word in every conditional.
- 假使有困难, 请告诉我 is natural without 就. The condition may never happen.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 假了使明天下雨 needs repair here. Write 假使明天下雨 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- Rain is a hypothetical condition; moving indoors is the planned response. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- 就 is a common partner, not a compulsory word in every conditional. 假使有困难, 请告诉我 is natural without 就. The condition may never happen.

■ Try it with help closed

An outdoor event has a backup plan if rain arrives tomorrow. 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: 假使明天下雨, 我们就改在室内活动。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 就 is a common partner, not a compulsory word in every conditional.
- 假使有困难, 请告诉我 is natural without 就. The condition may never happen.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.