

Conditional Statements

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

... ... — “as long as”

... ... gives a **sufficient** condition — “as long as A, then B.” A on its own is **enough** to guarantee B (even if it isn’t the only route there).

Structure: + Condition , + Result

{zh: |zhǐ yào|as long as / |nǐ|you / |nǚ lì|hard / |xué xí|study / , |jiù|then / |huì|will / |yǒu|make / |jìn bù|progress / 。 }

As long as you study hard, you’ll make progress.

{zh: |zhǐ yào|whenever / |xià yǔ|it rains / , |tā|she / |jiù|then / |xīn qíng|mood / |bù hǎo|bad / 。 }

Whenever it rains, she’s in a bad mood.

Remember: lock the pairs: = “**enough** → **then**” (**sufficient**); = “**the only way** → **then**” (**necessary**). reaches for , reaches for .

Watch out

- Swapping for quietly turns “as long as” into “only if” — mind the partner.

... ... / ... — “unless”

means “unless.” Two common frames: **Result**, + **Condition** (“won’t X unless Y”), and **X**, **Y** (“only if X, then Y”). It often partners / (“otherwise”). All the weight falls on the one needed condition.

Structure: Result , + Condition · + Condition , + Result

{zh: |wǒ|I / |bù|won’t / |qù|go / , |chú fēi|unless / |nǐ|you / |yě|too / |qù|go / 。 }

I won’t go unless you go too.

{zh: |chú fēi|only if / |lǎo bǎn|the boss / |gěi|gives / |wǒ|me / |jiā xīn|a raise / , |wǒ|I / |cái|then / |huì|will / |liú xià lái|stay / 。 }

Only if the boss gives me a raise will I stay.

Remember: = “**the one exception that changes things.**” = “only if ... then”; = “unless ..., otherwise” It’s a close kin of, both spotlighting the single needed condition.

Watch out

- ... and ... point opposite ways — leads to the good result, to the bad alternative.