

”Even If” Statements

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

即使 ... 也 ... — “even if”

即使 ... 也 ... grants a **hypothetical** and then says it changes **nothing** — “even if A, still B.” The clause after 即使 is a supposition you’re entertaining; the 也 clause overrides it.

Structure: 即使 + Condition , (Subject +) 也 + Result

{zh: 即使 |jí shǐ|even if / 你 |nǐ|you / 不 |bù|don’t / 想 |xiǎng|want / 让 |ràng|to let / 我 |wǒ|me / 去 |qù|go / , 我 |wǒ|I / 也 |yě|still / 要 |yào|will / 去 |qù|go / 。 }

Even if you don’t want me to go, I’m still going.

{zh: 即使 |jí shǐ|even if / 你 |nǐ|you / 很 |hěn|very / 有钱 |yǒu qián|rich / , 也 |yě|still / 买不到 |mǎi bu dào|can’t buy / 幸福 |xìng fú|happiness / 。 }

Even if you were rich, you couldn’t buy happiness.

{zh: 即使 |jí shǐ|even if / 你 |nǐ|you / 没胃口 |méi wèi kǒu|have no appetite / , 也 |yě|still / 要 |yào|should / 吃 |chī|eat / 一点 |yì diǎn|a little / 。 }

Even if you’ve no appetite, you should still eat a bit.

Remember: 即使 = “even IF” (a supposition); 虽然 = “even THOUGH” (an actual fact). Hypothetical → 即使 ... 也 ...; real situation → 虽然 ... 但是 The 也 in the second clause is non-negotiable.

Watch out

- Close cousins arrive at HSK 5: 就算 ... 也 and 哪怕 ... 也 (both “even if”), a touch more colloquial.