”If” Statements

HSK 4 Grammar

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

要是 … ，就 … (if – spoken)

If I’d known

- Your friend didn’t tell you about the party, and you would have loved to go.
- **要是你早告诉我，我就去了。** – “If you’d told me earlier, I would have gone.”

要是 A，(Subject) 就 B

- **要是** = “if”, the spoken partner of 如果. The result clause takes 就 after its subject.
- 的话 can close the condition: 要是你有空的话，就来吧.

要是你有空，就来吧。
yào shi nǐ yǒu kòng jiù lái ba
Word guide: 要是 – if; 你 – you; 有空 – are free; 就 – then; 来 – come.

要是 …，就 …: if (spoken)



Real and unreal conditions

- Possible: **要是明天不下雨，我们就去爬山。** – “If it doesn’t rain tomorrow, we’ll go hiking.”
- Past, unreal: **要是我早点儿出门，就不会迟到了。** – “If I’d left earlier, I wouldn’t have been late.”

要是我早点儿出门，就不会迟到了。
yào shi wǒ zǎo diǎnr chū mén jiù bú huì chí dào le
Word guide: 要是 – if; 我 – I; 早 – earlier; 点儿 – a bit; 出门 – left; 就 – then; 不会 – wouldn’t; 迟到 – be late.

就 after the subject

- Subject first, then 就: 我就去, not 就我去.
- 要是 is spoken; in an essay, 如果 or 假如 sounds better.

要是 versus 如果 and 只要

- 如果 is neutral and written: 如果有问题，请联系我.
- 只要 … 就 = as long as (the condition is enough): 只要有空，我就来.

如果有问题，请联系我。
rú guǒ yǒu wèn tí qǐng lián xì wǒ
Word guide: 如果 – if; 有 – there are; 问题 – questions; 请 – please; 联系 – contact; 我 – me.

Recap

- **要是 A (的话)，Subject + 就 B** = if A, then B (spoken).
- Also for unreal past conditions (就不会 … 了); 如果 is the neutral/written form.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

要是 … ，就 … (if – spoken)

1701.1 Complete (spoken): “If you’re tired, have a rest.” …… 你累了，就休息一下。

1701.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 要是下雨，就我们不去。
- B. 我们就要是下雨不去。
- C. 要是下雨，我们就不去。
- D. 要是下雨，我们不就去。

1701.3 Build: “If I’d left earlier, I wouldn’t have been late.”

Arrange all chunks: ， / 迟到了。 / 就不会 / 要是我早点儿出门

1701.4 如果 suits formal writing better than 要是.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1701.5 Your friend didn’t tell you about the party, and you would have loved to go. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

Answers and explanations

■ 要是 … ，就 … (if – spoken)

1701.1 要是

要是 + condition, 就 + result.

1701.2 C. 要是下雨，我们就不去。

要是下雨，我们就不去 is right: in the result clause, 就 comes after the subject 我们 and before the verb phrase.

1701.3 要是我早点儿出门，就不会迟到了。

要是 + condition, 就不会 … 了.

1701.4 True.

要是 is spoken; 如果 is neutral and written.

1701.5 One possible response: 要是你早告诉我，我就去了。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Subject first, then 就: 我就去, not 就我去.
- 要是 is spoken; in an essay, 如果 or 假如 sounds better.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.