

”If” Statements

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

..... , — “if ... then ...”

... ... states a **hypothetical** — “if ..., then” It’s a more **formal** sibling of / , at home in both writing and speech.

Structure: + Statement , + Result

{zh: |jiǎ rú|if / |wǒ|I / |shì|were / |nǐ|you / , |wǒ|I / |jiù|would / |jiè yān|quit smoking / 。 }

If I were you, I’d quit smoking.

{zh: |jiǎ rú|if / |nǐ|your / |de / |chéng jì|grades / |zài|a little / |hǎo|higher / |yì diǎnr / , |jiù|then / |néng|could / |shēn qǐng|apply to / |Běi Dà|Peking University / |le / 。 }

If your grades were a bit higher, you could apply to Peking University.

Remember: = the formal (= “suppose”) — same “if,” dressier register, same in the result. Slots into the if-family: / (everyday) → (formal).

Watch out

- Like the others, it pairs with —

..... — “what if (the worst)”

(literally “ten-thousand to one”) raises an **unlikely but worrying** possibility — “what if ..., in case ..., on the off chance.” It’s usually for undesirable scenarios, as a question (/) or a statement.

Structure: + Bad Possibility + · + ... ,

{zh: |dài|take / |bǎ / |sǎn|an umbrella / |ba / , |wàn yī|what if / |xià yǔ|it rains / |ne / ? }

Take an umbrella — what if it rains?

{zh: |wǒ|I / |yào|will / |jì|write it / |xià lái|down / , |wàn yī|in case / |wàng|I forget / |le / |kě yǐ|I can / |chá|look it up / 。 }

I’ll write it down — in case I forget, I can look it up.

Remember: = “one-in-ten-thousand” = a low-odds, high-stakes “what if...?” — the worried, better-safe scenario. The set phrase = “(just) in case.”

Watch out

- It flags a *small chance of big trouble* — for an even-odds “if,” use .

Topic + , Comment — marking “if”

Tag onto a clause to softly mark it as a **condition** — “if ..., (then)” It’s a relaxed, spoken “if,” often paired with / at the front.

Structure: (+) Condition + ,

{zh: |nǐ|you / |xiǎng|want / |qù|to go / |de huà|if / , |wǒ|I / |péi|will go with / |nǐ|you / 。 }

If you want to go, I’ll come with you.

{zh: |bù|not / |xǐ huan|like it / |de huà|if / |jiù|then / |bié|don’t / |mǎi|buy it / 。 }

If you don’t like it, don’t buy it.

Remember: = a soft, spoken “if,” tagged on the **END of the condition** (...). Think of it as a closing bracket on the “if” — droppable, and often paired with a front / .

Watch out

- It marks the *condition* clause’s tail — it doesn’t go on the result.