

Conditional Statements

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

..... , — “once ... then ...”

... sets up a **trigger** — “once (something happens), then (consequence).” It looks ahead to a possible future turning point. Unlike ... (which links two *real* events in quick succession), frames a **hypothetical** threshold.

Structure: + Condition , (Subject) + Consequence

{zh: |yǒu xiē|some / |rén|people / |yí dàn|the moment / |yǒu|they
have / |le / |qián|money / , |jiù|then / |biàn|change / |le / 。 }

Some people change the moment they have money.

{zh: |yí dàn|once / |nǐ|your / |de / |gōng sī|company / |shàng
shì|goes public / |nǐ|you / |jiù|then / |kě yǐ|can / |biàn chéng|become
/ |yǒu qián rén|rich / 。 }

Once your company goes public, you'll be rich.

Remember: = “if/when ever X happens (then...)” — a **HYPOTHETICAL threshold**. Contrast ... (HSK 4), which chains two *actual* events in instant succession (). looks to a maybe-future; ... reports a real link.

Watch out

- is about a *possible* future turning point — don't use it for a habitual or already-happened link (that's ...).