”Even If” Statements

HSK 5 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.

就是 … ，也 … (even if)

Keep a plan despite possible rain

- A friend has decided to attend an indoor club meeting. **就是下雨，我也去。** – even if it rains, I will still go.
- The possible rain does not reverse that stated decision. The sentence is not a weather report or proof that the friend has already arrived.

Join the conceded case to the decision

- In this pattern, **就是 + case，subject + 也 + decision** links the obstacle to the decision that survives it.
- In **就是下雨，我也去。**, 下雨 is the conceded case and 我也去 is the maintained decision. Read both clauses before choosing the meaning of 就是.

就是下雨，我也去。
jiù shì xià yǔ wǒ yě qù
Word guide: 就是 – even if; 下雨 – rain; 我 – I; 也 – still; 去 – go.

Compare a condition that changes the plan

- **假如下雨，我就不去。** – if it rains, I will not go – makes rain a reason to change the plan.
- **就是下雨，我也去。** keeps going despite that same possible obstacle. Changing the connective and the conclusion changes the relationship.

Compare a condition that changes the plan

就是下雨，我也去。
Rain is conceded; going remains the stated plan

假如下雨，我就不去。
Rain would change the decision to not going

这就是我的书。
Identifies the book; no even-if relationship

A conceded case is not, by itself, evidence that it occurred.

Separate identification from concession

- **这就是我的书。** – this is exactly my book – identifies the book. It contains no even-if obstacle followed by a surviving conclusion.
- The characters 就是 alone cannot settle the meaning. A complete sentence and its context separate identification from this concessive pattern.

Check what was actually observed

- A later message says **已经下雨了。** – it has started raining. That separate report supplies the actual weather information.
- A statement of intention still is not an arrival record. The friend can later revise the plan; an earlier concessive sentence does not make future events certain.

Keep the two jobs apart

- For concessive 就是 … 也 …, identify the conceded case and the conclusion that survives it. Do not treat the case as proven by the pattern alone.
- For identifying 就是, ask what is being identified. Use separate reports for actual rain, actual arrival or a later changed decision.

Practise this pattern step by step.

就算 … ，也 … (even if)

Value an attempt despite possible failure

- A team says **就算失败，也值得。** – even if the attempt fails, it is still worthwhile. They value what they can learn from trying.
- The evaluation survives the conceded failure. This does not say failure is certain or that the attempt has already succeeded.

Keep the two clauses connected

- **就算 + conceded case，… 也 + conclusion** asks the listener to grant a case without abandoning the conclusion.
- In the original example, 失败 is the conceded case and 也值得 is the evaluation. The people and attempt can be understood from the surrounding conversation.

就算失败，也值得。
jiù suàn shī bài yě zhí dé
Word guide: 就算 – even if; 失败 – fail; 也 – still; 值得 – worth it.

Do not require a worst case

- **就算这个办法便宜，也不一定适合我们。** – even if this method is cheap, it may not suit us – grants a favourable price point.
- Cheapness is not the worst possible outcome. 就算 can concede a point in an argument while refusing the conclusion that the point alone is enough.

Do not require a worst case

就算失败，也值得。
Failure conceded; worthwhile evaluation remains

就算这个办法便宜，也不一定适合我们。
Cheapness conceded; suitability remains uncertain

Conceded case can be imagined or already known
Use the surrounding evidence, not the connective alone

A conceded case is not, by itself, evidence that it occurred.

Use context for what is known

- Before a result is announced, **就算失败，也值得。** can discuss an imagined failure. It does not establish that the team failed.
- In a different conversation, a receipt already shows a low price. The speaker can grant that known price with 就算这个办法便宜 while still questioning suitability.

Keep evaluation separate from permission

- The team's worthwhile judgement belongs to that stated attempt and those speakers. Another person can disagree about its value.
- The sentence supplies no permission to ignore a budget, an agreed rule or a safety requirement. Those need their own facts and decisions.

Concede a case without overclaiming

- Find what the speaker is willing to grant and which conclusion remains. Check the wider context before calling the granted case imagined or known.
- Do not turn 就算 into certainty, always the worst case, everyone agrees, or a calculation: its job here is an even-if relationship.

Practise this pattern step by step.

哪怕 … ，也 … (even if)

Maintain an intention despite difficulty

- A learner says **哪怕再难，我也要学。** – however difficult it is, I still intend to learn it. The difficulty is being conceded.
- The learner states determination. The sentence does not report mastery or give a measured probability of success.

Find the case and the intention

- In **哪怕 + case，… 也 + conclusion**, the first clause gives a case the speaker is prepared to allow; the second keeps the conclusion.
- In **哪怕再难，我也要学。**, 再难 extends the conceded difficulty. It does not mean I will study only after the task becomes harder.

哪怕再难，我也要学。
nǎ pà zài nán wǒ yě yào xué
Word guide: 哪怕 – even if; 再 – even; 难 – hard; 我 – I; 也 – still; 要 – will; 学 – learn.

Allow a very small amount too

- **哪怕只有五分钟，我也要练习。** – even if I have only five minutes, I still intend to practise – concedes a small amount of time.
- The learner keeps the practice intention with that small allowance. The sentence does not promise that a whole course will be completed in five minutes.

Allow a very small amount too

哪怕再难，我也要学。
Severe difficulty allowed; learning intention stays

哪怕只有五分钟，我也要练习。
Small time allowance; practice intention stays

哪怕有空，我也不去。
Free time allowed; refusal to go stays

A conceded case is not, by itself, evidence that it occurred.

Keep the conclusion's direction

- **哪怕再难，我也要学。** keeps the intention to learn. **哪怕有空，我也不去。** keeps a refusal to go, even with free time.
- 也 does not make a negative decision positive. Read 不 in the maintained conclusion before reporting what the speaker intends.

Separate a small chance from no chance

- **哪怕只有一点希望，我们也要试一试。** allows even a little hope and keeps an intention to try. 一点 gives no exact percentage.
- This sentence alone does not state what the speakers would decide if there were no hope at all. A minimal amount and zero are different cases.

■ Read the actual allowance

- Name the conceded case: severe difficulty, little time or a little hope. Then state the actual conclusion, including any negative word.
- Keep intention separate from completed action and measured success. Do not replace a small amount with zero or invent a numerical probability.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 就是 … ，也 … (even if)

1401.1 Use the lesson target 就是 in this example: Even if it rains, I'll still go: …… 下雨，我也去。

1401.2 Here 就是 means…

- A. even if (a concession)
- B. exactly / precisely

1401.3 就是 here pairs with 也 in the main clause.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1401.4 You plan to go even if rain occurs. What does 就是下雨，我也去。communicate?

- A. The possible rain does not change the speaker's decision.
- B. The sentence proves it is raining now.

1401.5 就是下雨，我也去。shows that the friend is already at the meeting.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1401.6 Match each complete sentence to its relationship.

- 1. 就是下雨，我也去。
- 1. 假如下雨，我就不去。
- 1. 这就是我的书。
- A. Do not go if rain occurs
- B. Identify the book
- C. Keep going despite possible rain

1401.7 The friend first says 就是下雨，我也去。Which later message actually reports rain?

- A. 已经下雨了。
- B. 就是下雨，我也去。

1401.8 假如下雨，我就不去。maintains going in the rainy case, just like 就是下雨，我也去。

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1401.9 Recall the situation: Keep a plan despite possible rain. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 就算 … ，也 … (even if)

1402.1 Use the lesson target 就算 in this example: Even if we fail, it's worth it: …… 失败，也值得。

1402.2 就算 is closest to…

- A. 因为 (because)
- B. 即使 / 就是 (even if)

1402.3 就算 must concede the worst possible case, so a favourable price cannot be conceded.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1402.4 A team values the attempt even if it fails. What does 就算失败，也值得。communicate?

- A. 就算失败 says failure is certain.
- B. The speaker keeps the evaluation despite the imagined failure.

1402.5 就算失败 says failure is certain.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1402.6 Match each part of 就算这个办法便宜，也不一定适合我们。to its job.

- 1. 这个办法便宜
- 1. 不一定适合我们
- A. Suitability remains uncertain
- B. Price point being granted

1402.7 A receipt already confirms the method is cheap. A speaker says 就算这个办法便宜，也不一定适合我们。Must cheapness be an unknown imagined fact?

- A. No: the speaker can grant the known cheapness and still question suitability
- B. Yes: 就算 forbids granting a known fact

1402.8 A team's 就算失败，也值得。gives permission to break a separately agreed spending limit.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1402.9 Recall the situation: Value an attempt despite possible failure. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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.

■ 哪怕 … ，也 … (even if)

1403.1 Use the lesson target 哪怕 in this example: Even if it's hard, I'll still learn it: …… 再难，我也要学。

1403.2 哪怕 leans on…

- A. an extreme / minimal supposition
- B. the most likely everyday case

1403.3 哪怕 pairs with 也 in the main clause.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1403.4 A learner is determined to continue despite difficulty. What does 哪怕再难，我也要学。communicate?

- A. The speaker accepts an extreme obstacle without abandoning the intention.
- B. 哪怕 always means the condition is certain to happen.

1403.5 哪怕再难，我也要学。reports that the learner has already mastered the subject.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1403.6 Match each conceded case to what it allows.

- 1. 哪怕再难
- 1. 哪怕只有五分钟
- 1. 哪怕只有一点希望
- A. Even a little hope
- B. Even severe difficulty
- C. Even a small amount of time

1403.7 A friend says 哪怕有空，我也不去。What decision survives having free time?

- A. Not going; the negative word remains in the conclusion
- B. Going, because 也 cancels 不

1403.8 哪怕只有一点希望，我们也要试一试。establishes the same decision when there is no hope at all.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1403.9 Recall the situation: Maintain an intention despite difficulty. Decide what the speaker wanted to communicate. 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

■ 就是 … ，也 … (even if)

1401.1 就是

就是 … ，也 … = even if: 就是下雨, 我也去.

1401.2 A. even if (a concession)

就是 … 也 … = even if; it sets up a hypothetical.

1401.3 True.

Yes – 就是 …，也 ….

1401.4 A. The possible rain does not change the speaker's decision.

The possible rain does not change the speaker's decision. The sentence does not assert that it is raining. 就是 also has an identifying or emphatic use outside this concessive frame.

1401.5 False.

The speaker states a maintained decision, not an arrival report.

1401.6 1–C: 就是下雨，我也去。= Keep going despite possible rain; 2–A: 假如下雨，我就不去。= Do not go if rain occurs; 3–B: 这就是我的书。= Identify the book

The even-if, ordinary if-condition and identifying uses make different claims.

1401.7 A. 已经下雨了。

已经下雨了 reports a changed actual weather state. The even-if sentence by itself does not report rain.

1401.8 False.

The if-sentence says not go if it rains; the even-if sentence keeps going despite rain.

1401.9 One possible response: 就是下雨，我也去。

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.
- **这就是我的书。** – this is exactly my book – identifies the book. It contains no even-if obstacle followed by a surviving conclusion.
- The characters 就是 alone cannot settle the meaning. A complete sentence and its context separate identification from this concessive pattern.
- 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.

■ 就算 … ，也 … (even if)

1402.1 就算

就算 … ，也 … = even if: 就算失败, 也值得.

1402.2 B. 即使 / 就是 (even if)

就算 = even if / even supposing; pairs with 也.

1402.3 False.

就算这个办法便宜, 也不一定适合我们 concedes a favourable price point while keeping suitability uncertain. A conceded case need not be the worst case.

1402.4 B. The speaker keeps the evaluation despite the imagined failure.

The speaker keeps the evaluation despite the imagined failure. 就算 introduces a conceded case. It need not mean the speaker predicts that this case will actually occur.

1402.5 False.

就算 introduces a conceded case. It need not mean the speaker predicts that this case will actually occur. The speaker keeps the evaluation despite the imagined failure.

1402.6 1–B: 这个办法便宜 = Price point being granted; 2–A: 不一定适合我们 = Suitability remains uncertain

Granting cheapness does not establish that the method suits the group.

1402.7 A. No: the speaker can grant the known cheapness and still question suitability

The receipt supplies the price evidence. The concessive statement grants that point without accepting suitability.

1402.8 False.

A worthwhile evaluation is not permission to ignore another rule; the spending limit has its own authority.

1402.9 One possible response: 就算失败，也值得。

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.
- Before a result is announced, **就算失败，也值得。** can discuss an imagined failure. It does not establish that the team failed.
- In a different conversation, a receipt already shows a low price. The speaker can grant that known price with 就算这个办法便宜 while still questioning suitability.
- 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.

■ 哪怕 … ，也 … (even if)

1403.1 哪怕

哪怕 … ，也 … = even if: 哪怕再难, 我也要学.

1403.2 A. an extreme / minimal supposition

哪怕只有一点希望 = even just a sliver of hope.

1403.3 True.

Yes – 哪怕 …，也 ….

1403.4 A. The speaker accepts an extreme obstacle without abandoning the intention.

The speaker accepts an extreme obstacle without abandoning the intention. 哪怕 can also introduce a minimal case, as in 哪怕只有一点希望. It does not specify a probability for the condition.

1403.5 False.

The speaker maintains an intention to learn; mastery is a different claim requiring evidence.

1403.6 1–B: 哪怕再难 = Even severe difficulty; 2–C: 哪怕只有五分钟 = Even a small amount of time; 3–A: 哪怕只有一点希望 = Even a little hope

哪怕 can allow both a severe obstacle and a minimal amount; none of these phrases states an exact success probability.

1403.7 A. Not going; the negative word remains in the conclusion

The free-time case is conceded, but 我也不去 keeps the refusal to go.

1403.8 False.

A little hope and no hope are different cases. The sentence alone does not give the zero-hope decision.

1403.9 One possible response: 哪怕再难，我也要学。

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.
- **哪怕再难，我也要学。** keeps the intention to learn. **哪怕有空，我也不去。** keeps a refusal to go, even with free time.
- 也 does not make a negative decision positive. Read 不 in the maintained conclusion before reporting what the speaker intends.
- 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.