

Conditional Statements

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

一旦 , 就 — “once ... then ...”

一旦 ... 就 ... sets up a **trigger** — “once (something happens), then (consequence).” It looks ahead to a possible future turning point. Unlike 一 ... 就 ... (which links two *real* events in quick succession), 一旦 frames a **hypothetical** threshold.

Structure: 一旦 + Condition , (Subject) 就 + Consequence

{zh: 有些 |yǒu xiē|some / 人 |rén|people / 一旦 |yí dàn|the moment / 有 |yǒu|they have / 了 |le / 钱 |qián|money / , 就 |jiù|then / 变 |biàn|change / 了 |le / 。 }

Some people change the moment they have money.

{zh: 一旦 |yí dàn|once / 你 |nǐ|your / 的 |de / 公司 |gōng sī|company / 上市 |shàng shì|goes public / , 你 |nǐ|you / 就 |jiù|then / 可以 |kě yǐ|can / 变成 |biàn chéng|become / 有钱人 |yǒu qián rén|rich / 。 }

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

Remember: 一旦 = “if/when ever X happens (then...)” — a **HYPOTHETICAL threshold**. Contrast 一 ... 就 ... (HSK 4), which chains two *actual* events in instant succession (一下课就走). 一旦 looks to a maybe-future; 一 ... 就 ... reports a real link.

Watch out

- 一旦 is about a *possible* future turning point — don't use it for a habitual or already-happened link (that's 一 ... 就 ...).