# Conditional 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.

## 一旦 … ，就 … (once …, then …)

### Once it starts

- A forest ranger warns visitors about fires in the dry season.
- **一旦着火，就很难控制。** – "Once a fire starts, it's very hard to control."

### 一旦 A，就 B = once A happens, B

- **一旦** introduces a possible event (often serious or decisive); **就** gives what follows from it.
- It can follow the subject: 你一旦决定了，就别后悔.

**你一旦决定了，就别后悔。**
*nǐ yí dàn jué dìng le jiù bié hòu huǐ*
Word guide: 你 – you; 一旦 – once; 决定 – decide; 就 – then; 别 – don't; 后悔 – regret it.

一旦……就……: once it happens, the result follows

一旦
着火

就
很难控制

**Meaning**
Once a fire starts, it's very hard to control.

### Warnings and decisive moments

- **习惯一旦养成，就很难改变。** – "Once a habit is formed, it's hard to change."
- **一旦有消息，我就通知你。** – "As soon as there's news, I'll let you know."

**习惯一旦养成，就很难改变。**
*xí guàn yí dàn yǎng chéng jiù hěn nán gǎi biàn*
Word guide: 习惯 – a habit; 一旦 – once; 养成 – formed; 就 – then; 很 – very; 难 – hard; 改变 – to change.

### A possible, important event

- 一旦 is for an event that may happen and matters; for everyday "as soon as", 一 … 就 … is more natural: 我一到家就给你打电话.
- Pair it with 就 after the subject of the result: 一旦下雨，比赛就取消.

### 一旦 versus 如果 and 一 … 就 …

- 如果 = if (neutral possibility).
- 一旦 = once (the moment it happens, consequences follow) – stronger and often a warning.

**如果下雨，我们就不去。**
*rú guǒ xià yǔ wǒ men jiù bú qù*
Word guide: 如果 – if; 下雨 – it rains; 我们 – we; 就 – then; 不 – not; 去 – go.

### Recap

- **一旦 A，(Subject) 就 B** = once A happens, B (often serious).
- Everyday sequences use 一 … 就 …; neutral conditions use 如果.

Practise this pattern step by step.

## Practice without the models

### 一旦 … ，就 … (once …, then …)

**1901.1** Complete: "Once you've decided, don't regret it." 你 …… 决定了，就别后悔。

**1901.2** Everyday routine: "As soon as I get home, I take a shower." Which fits best?

- A. 我一旦到家才洗澡。
- B. 我到家一旦洗澡。
- C. 我一到家就洗澡。
- D. 我一旦到家就洗澡。

**1901.3** Build: "Once a habit is formed, it's hard to change."

Arrange all chunks: 改变。/ 就很难 / 习惯一旦养成 / ，

**1901.4** 一旦 often carries a warning tone.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

**1901.5** A forest ranger warns visitors about fires in the dry season. 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

### ■ 一旦 … ，就 … (once …, then …)

**1901.1** 一旦

一旦 + decisive event, 就 + result.

**1901.2** C. 我一到家就洗澡。

An ordinary routine takes 一 … 就 …; 一旦 is for weighty events.

**1901.3** 习惯一旦养成，就很难改变。

一旦 A，就 B.

**1901.4** True.

It stresses consequences once something happens.

**1901.5 One possible response:** 一旦着火，就很难控制。

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.
- 一旦 is for an event that may happen and matters; for everyday "as soon as", 一 … 就 … is more natural: 我一到家就给你打电话.
- Pair it with 就 after the subject of the result: 一旦下雨，比赛就取消.
- 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.