

”If” Statements

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

..... , — “if ... then ...”

is a formal, written word for “if, supposing, in the event that.” It opens a hypothetical condition, and the result clause usually carries (or). It’s a close sibling of / / — the difference is register, not meaning.

Structure: + Condition , (/) + Result

{zh: |jiǎ shǐ|if / |méi yǒu|there were no / |shuǐ|water / , |shēng mìng|life / |jiù|then / |wú fǎ|couldn’t / |cún zài|exist / 。 }

If there were no water, life couldn’t exist.

{zh: |jiǎ shǐ|if / |nǐ|you / |shì|were / |wǒ|me / , |nǐ|you / |huì|would / |zěn me|how / |zuò|do it / ? }

If you were me, what would you do?

Remember: = a formal/written “if, supposing” (= “suppose”) — same meaning as / / , just dressier; the result takes / . Climb the register ladder: (casual) → → → / (literary).

Watch out

- In everyday speech it sounds bookish — use / .