

Different Ways to Say "If..." in Chinese

Part 1

如果.....

- (1) We often use “如果” when talking about something that might happen, might be true, or might have happened.

We'll stay at home if it rains.

Rúguǒ xià yǔ, wǒmen jiù dāi zài jiāli.

如果下雨，我们就待在家里。

(Lit. If rain, we then stay at home)

If you need any help, I can help you.

Rúguǒ xūyào bāngzhù, wǒ kěyǐ bāng nǐ.

如果需要帮助，我可以帮你。

(Lit. If need help, I can help you)

If Dad were here, he would know what to do.

Rúguǒ bàba zài zhèr, tā huì zhīdào zěnmě zuò.

如果爸爸在这儿，他会知道怎么做。

(Lit. If dad were here, he would know how to do)

If she hadn't joined, we wouldn't have won.

Rúguǒ tā bù cānjiā, wǒmen dōu bú huì yíng.

如果她不参加，我们都不会赢。

(Lit. If she hadn't joined, we wouldn't have won)

- (2) Note that we can use 如果.....的话, or的话 to replace 如果, so the above four sentences become:

We'll stay at home if it rains.

(Rúguǒ) xià yǔ dehuà, wǒmen jiù dāi zài jiāli.

(如果) 下雨的话，我们就待在家里。

(Lit. If rain, we stay at home)

If you need any help, I can help you.

(Rúguǒ) xūyào bāngzhù dehuà, wǒ kěyǐ bāng nǐ.

(如果) 需要帮助的话, 我可以帮你。

(Lit. If need help, I can help you)

If Dad were here, he would know what to do.

(Rúguǒ) bàba zài zhèr dehuà, tā huì zhīdào zěnmē zuò.

(如果) 爸爸在这儿的话, 他会知道怎么做。

(Lit. If dad were here, he would know how to do)

If she hadn't joined, we wouldn't have won.

(Rúguǒ) tā bù cānjiā dehuà, wǒmen dōu bú huì yíng.

(如果) 她不参加的话, 我们都不会赢。

(Lit. If she hadn't joined, we wouldn't have won)

(3) Now let's look at two other sentence patterns.

需要.....的话: if necessary

可能.....的话: if possible

Taste the soup and add salt and pepper if necessary.

Cháng yíxià zhè ge tāng, xūyào dehuà, jiā diǎnr yán hé hújiāo.

尝一下这个汤, 需要的话, 加点儿盐和胡椒。

(Lit. Taste the soup, if need add a little salt and pepper)

If necessary, you can contact me anytime.

Xūyào dehuà, kěyǐ suíshí liánxì wǒ.

需要的话, 可以随时联系我。

(Lit. If need, can anytime contact me)

If possible I'd like to get there before noon.

Kěnéng dehuà, wǒ xiǎng zhōngwǔ qián dào nàlǐ.

可能的话, 我想中午前到那里。

(Lit. If possible, I want to before noon get there)

Come home from work early, if possible.

Kěnéng dehuà, gōngzuò wán jǐnzǎo huí jiā.

可能的话，工作完尽早回家。

(Lit. If possible, after work early come home)

(4) We can also use 如果, 如果不 to say if so, if not

如果.....: if so

如果不.....: if not

I might be late. If so, please start the meeting without me.

Wǒ kěnéng huì chídào. Rúguǒ chídào le, nǐmen xiān kāi huì.

我可能会迟到。如果迟到了，你们先开会。

(Lit. I might be late. If so, you first start the meeting)

I think it's supposed to rain tomorrow. If so, the game will have to be postponed.

Wǒ juéde míngtiān kěnéng huì xià yǔ. Rúguǒ xià yǔ dehuà, bǐsài jiù děi tuīchí le.

我觉得明天可能会下雨。如果下雨的话，比赛就得推迟了。

(Lit. I think tomorrow might rain. If so, the game will have to be postponed)

I think I can fix it tomorrow. If not, you'll have to wait till Friday.

Wǒ juéde wǒ míngtiān néng xiū hǎo tā, Rúguǒ bù xíng, nǐ jiù děi děngdào zhōuwǔ le.

我觉得我明天能修好它，如果不行，你就得等到周五了。

(Lit. I think I tomorrow can fix it, if not, you will have to wait till Friday)

You should study hard. If not, you won't pass the test.

Nǐ yīnggāi hǎohǎo xuéxí. Rúguǒ bù xué, jiù tōngbuguò kǎoshì.

你应该好好儿学习。如果不学，就通不过考试。

(Lit. You should study hard. If not, won't pass the test)

Part 2

是否.....: if

是否+ Verb, Verb不Verb

是否+ Adj, Adj不Adj

We usually use these two sentence patterns to state a fact, a situation, or an event that someone asks about, or is not certain about.

I wonder if you could help me.

Bù zhīdào nǐ shìfǒu néng bāng wǒ. = Bù zhīdào nǐ néngbunéng bāng wǒ.

不知道你是否能帮我。= 不知道你能不能帮我。

(Lit. I don't know you if can help me)

I doubt if anyone will remember me.

Bù zhīdào shìfǒu yǒu rén huì jìde wǒ. = Bù zhīdào yǒu méiyǒu rén huì jìde wǒ.

不知道是否有人会记得我。= 不知道有没有人会记得我。

(Lit. I don't know if anyone will remember me)

I'm not sure if this is the right way or not.

Bú quèdìng zhè tiáo lù shìfǒu duì. = Bú quèdìng zhè tiáo lù duìbuduì.

不确定这条路是否对。= 不确定这条路对不对。

(Lit. I'm not sure this way right or not)

I don't know if what I am saying makes any sense.

Bù zhīdào wǒ shuō de shìfǒu míngbai. = Bù zhīdào wǒ shuōde shìbushì míngbai.

不知道我说的是否明白。= 不知道我说的是不是明白。

(Lit. I don't know what I am saying make any sense)

Part 3

即使: even if

“即使” is used to emphasize that, although something may happen or may be true, it won't change a situation.

I wouldn't tell you even if I knew.

Jíshǐ wǒ zhīdào, yě bú huì gàosu nǐ.

即使我知道，也不会告诉你。

(Lit. Even if I know, won't tell you)

I'm going out tomorrow even if it rains.

Jíshǐ míngtiān xià yǔ, wǒ yě yào chūqù.

即使明天下雨，我也要出去。

(Lit. Even if tomorrow rain, I'm going out)

He won't talk to you even if you do go there.

Jíshǐ nǐ zhēn qù le nàr, tā yě bú huì lǐ nǐ.

即使你真去了那儿，他也不会理你。

(Lit. Even if you do go there, he won't talk to you)

Even if you think you won't be successful, you should try it at least.

Jíshǐ nǐ juéde bú huì chénggōng, yě yào shì yíxià.

即使你觉得不会成功，也要试一下。

(Lit. Even if you think won't be successful, at least try it)