

► II. Sentences with 只要……就

Selected examples from the textbook:

只要电视一转播职业棒球赛，我爸爸早早就坐在电视机前了。 (Lesson 13)

只要你装一个卫星接收天线，就可以看中央台、凤凰台、东森台等十几个中文台的节目。 (Lesson 18)

The conjunction 只要 is usually followed by the adverb 就 to mean “if only” or “so long as.” Note that in most cases 只要 should be placed in the first half of a sentence. If there is a personal pronoun in the second half of the sentence, it should precede 就.

Sentence structures:

S + 只要 + V1 + O1, (S2) + 就 + (AV) + V2 + O2

S + 只要 + (不/没有) + V1 + (过) + O1, (S2) + 就 + (AV) + V2 + O2

Examples:

Question: Zěnmé cái néng zhǎodào Zhāng Yīmóu dǎoyǎn de diànyǐng?

怎么才能找到张艺谋导演的电影？

How can I find movies directed by Zhang Yimou?

Answer: Zhǐyào nǐ wèn nà ge túshūguǎnyuán, tā jiù huì gàosù nǐ.

只要你问那个图书管员，他就会告诉你。

As long as you ask that librarian, he will tell you.

(Incorrect: 只要你问那个图书管员，就他会告诉你。)

Question: Nǐmen míngtiān kàn bù kàn nà ge gùshi piān?

你们明天看不看那个故事片？

Are you going to watch that feature film tomorrow?