

Conditionals

- Conditional clauses have two parts: the **if-clause** (hypothesis) and the **main clause** (the result).
If you post the invitations today, they will arrive on time.

if-clause

main clause

- When the **if-clause** comes before the main clause, we separate the two clauses with a comma.
If you work hard, you will succeed.
 We don't use a comma when the **if-clause** follows the main clause. *You will succeed if you work hard.*

There are four types of conditionals:

	If-clause (hypothesis)	Main clause (result clause)	Use
Type 0 general truth or scientific fact	if/when + present simple	present simple	something which is always true
	<i>If/When water freezes, it turns into ice.</i>		
Type 1 real in the present/future	if + any present form (present s., present cont. or present perf.)	future/imperative/can/may/ might/must/should + bare inf./present simple	something likely to happen in the present or the future
	<i>If you finish work early, we'll go for a walk.</i> <i>If you have finished your coffee, we can pay the bill.</i> <i>If you're ill, see a doctor! If you burn yourself, it hurts.</i>		
Type 2 unreal in the present or advice	If + past simple or past continuous	would/could/might + bare infinitive	imaginary situation contrary to facts in the present; also used to give advice
	<i>If I had money, I would travel round the world. (but I don't have money – untrue in the present)</i> <i>If I were you, I would take an umbrella. (advice)</i>		
Type 3 unreal in the past	If + past perfect or past perfect continuous	would/could/might + have + past participle	imaginary situation contrary to facts in the past; also used to express regrets or criticism
	<i>If we hadn't left so early, we would have missed the plane.</i>		



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



Wishes

	Form	Use
I wish (if only) (wish/regret about the present)	+ past simple / past continuous	wish/regret about a present situation we want to be different
<i>I wish you studied more.</i> (It's a pity you don't.)		
I wish (if only) (wish/regret about the present)	+ could + bare infinitive	wish/regret in the present concerning lack of ability
<i>I wish I could drive a car.</i> (But I can't.)		
I wish (if only) (regret about the past)	+ past perfect	regret that something happened or didn't happen in the past
<i>I wish I had taken your advice.</i> (But I didn't. It's a pity I didn't take it.)		
I wish (if only) (impossible wish for a future change)	+ subject + would + bare inf. (a. 'wish' and 'would' should have different subjects. We never say: I wish I would, He wishes he would, etc b. wish + inanimate subject + would is used to express the speaker's lack of hope, or disappointment)	wish for a future change unlikely to happen or wish to express dissatisfaction; polite request implying dissatisfaction or lack of hope

- In wishes we go one tense back. This means that we use the past simple in the present or the past perfect in the past. *He's ill. He wishes he weren't ill.* (present)
I overslept yesterday. I wish I hadn't overslept yesterday. (past)
- After **I wish** we can use **were** instead of **was** in all persons. *I wish I was/were richer.*
- **If only** means the same as **I wish** but it is more dramatic. *If only I was/were richer.*

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Conditionals / Wishes / Unreal Past

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Read what Conrad says, then write what he wishes, as in the example.



- I didn't check the forecast.
- It has been raining all day.
- My tent is leaking; I can't fix it.
- I didn't buy a good tent.
- The mosquitoes are biting me.
- I didn't bring any insect repellent.

- 1 *I wish I had checked the forecast.*
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

- Conditionals are usually introduced by **if** or **unless** (= if not).

Unless

Study this example situation:

The club is for members only.

You can't go in **unless** you are a member.

This means:

You can't go in *except if* you are a member. *or*

You can go in *only if* you are a member.

Unless = except if.



Some more examples of **unless**:

- ☐ I'll see you tomorrow **unless** I have to work late. (= except if I have to work late)
- ☐ There are no buses to the beach. **Unless** you have a car, it's difficult to get there.
(= except if you have a car)
- ☐ 'Shall I tell Liz what happened?' '**Not unless** she asks you.' (= only if she asks you)
- ☐ Sally hates complaining. She wouldn't complain about something **unless** it was really bad
(= except if it was really bad)
- ☐ We can take a taxi to the restaurant – **unless** you'd prefer to walk. (= except if you'd prefer to walk)

Instead of **unless** it is often possible to say **if ... not**:

- ☐ **Unless** we leave now, we'll be late. *or* **If** we don't leave now, we'll ...

I'll be back tomorrow **unless there is a plane strike** = if there is no/not plane strike

He'll accept the job **unless the salary is too low** = if the salary isn't too low.

If you don't reserve a ticket, you won't get a seat.

Unless you reserve a ticket, you won't get a seat. (NOT: ~~Unless you don't reserve ...~~)

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Fill in: *if* or *unless*.

- 1 *Unless* you take a taxi, you won't get to the airport on time.
- 2 it rains heavily tomorrow, I won't go to football practice.
- 3 you have booked a table, you won't be able to eat here tonight.
- 4 I have enough time this weekend, I'll visit my grandmother.
- 5 you are willing to study very hard, you'll never pass the test.
- 6 I find a cheap flight, I won't be going abroad this summer.
- 7 he sets his alarm, he won't wake up on time in the morning.
- 8 I go to Paris, I'll buy lots of souvenirs.

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Rephrase the following using *unless*.

- 1 If the neighbours don't stop shouting, I'll call the police.

Unless the neighbours stop shouting, I'll call the police.

- 2 If he doesn't pay the fine, he may go to prison.

- 3 If the traffic isn't heavy, we should arrive by 10 pm.

- 4 If the buses aren't running, we'll get a taxi.

- 5 If the athlete doesn't improve his speed, he won't break the record.

- 6 If the weather doesn't act better, we will cancel the football game.

conditionals). The following expressions can be used instead of 'if': **providing, provided (that), as long as, in case, on condition (that), but for (= without), otherwise, or else, what if, supposing, even if, only if.**

You will get a seat **providing/provided (that)/as long as/only if** you reserve a ticket.

Only if you reserve a ticket **will you get** a seat. (When we begin the sentence with "only if", we invert the subject and the verb of the result clause.)

Reserve a ticket, **otherwise/or else** you won't get a seat.

What if it rains, will you still go for a picnic with him?

Supposing it rains, will you still go for a picnic with him?

Will you still go for a picnic with him **even if** it rains?

But for him, I wouldn't have been able to pass the test. (If it hadn't been for him – without his help)

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Underline the correct item.

1 A: Could we have a table for four, please?

B: Only if/Supposing you have a reservation, sir. We are very busy tonight.

2 A: Would you like to go bowling this evening, Steve?

B: I'd love to; **providing/unless** I finish this report by 5 o'clock.

3 A: **Unless/As long as** you train hard, you won't be ready to run the marathon next month.

B: I know; I'm trying to run a few kilometres every day.

4 A: Hurry up **or else/but for** we'll miss the train!

B: I'm walking as fast as I can!

5 A: **But for/Only if** Tom's mistake, we would have won that game.

B: I know, but we shouldn't blame him.

6 A: **Supposing/Provided** you forgot your wallet at home, what would you do?

B: I'd probably borrow some money from a classmate.

- We do not normally use **will**, **would** or **should** in an *if*-clause. However, we can use **will**, **would**, **should** in conditionals to make a **request** or express **insistence**, **annoyance**, **doubt** or **uncertainty**.
*If you **will/would** calm down for a minute, I will be able to help you.* (request – Will you please calm down?)
*If you **will** **make** that noise, I'll send you out.* (insistence – If you insist on making that noise ...)
*If you **will** **take** my iPod again without asking, I'll never lend you anything.* (annoyance – If you do that again, I'll be very annoyed.)
*If you **should** need any help, ask me.* (uncertainty – I am not sure you will need help.)

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What do the *if*-clauses express: *request*, *insistence*, *annoyance* or *uncertainty*?

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 If you will wash up afterwards, I'll make lunch. | <i>request</i> |
| 2 If you will listen to that awful music, you could at least wear headphones. | |
| 3 If you will lend me the money, I can pay you back on payday. | |
| 4 If he should come, tell him to wait for me. | |
| 5 If the dog will keep barking, I'll let it out. | |
| 6 If you will let me use your computer, I'll be very grateful. | |
| 7 If you would stop shouting, we can try to sort this problem out. | |
| 8 If you should have any difficulty, call me. | |
| 9 If you will continue ignoring me, I will leave. | |
| 10 If you should solve the puzzle, I'll give you a prize. | |