

‘0 CONDITIONAL’

- General truths (in the present)

If I work, I get tired.

If you stare into the Sun, your eyes hurt.

If / when / whenever / every time I think listen to this song, I cry.

- General truths (in the past)

If it was snowing, we always made a snowman.

When she was sad, she ate chocolate.

‘1ST CONDITIONAL’

- Real (probable) situations

I’ll call you if I get the test results.

If you keep driving like that, you’ll have an accident.

The condition (the IF clause) is always in the present tense:

If you pay me, I’ll help you paint.

If she comes by, I’ll give her your book.

- ✓ The clause order is NOT fixed (except for the comma)

If you pay me, I’ll help you paint = I’ll help you paint if you pay me

If she comes by, I’ll give her your book = I’ll give her your book if she comes by

- ✓ The result is usually expressed in the future tense or with a modal verb

We’ll be late if we don’t hurry up.

If you get wet, you should change your clothes.

If you come early, we can discuss the problem together.

She may be angry if you don’t compliment on her new dress.

If you don’t know how to solve this problem, you had better consult an expert.

- ✓ In polite requests both clauses are in the future

If you will wait, I’ll call the manager.

If you will send me the documents, I will effect the transaction more quickly.

Alternatives to IF:

EVEN IF

She won’t forgive you even if you apologise on your knees.

IFF

A rectangle is a square iff all its sides are the same length.

IF SO

Jack might be late. If so, we’ll start without him.

IF NOT

Mary must know the answer. If not, we’re going to have to guess.

OTHERWISE

You must pay me now, otherwise I’ll get the money after the weekend.

I’ll start packing now, otherwise I’ll have to do it tomorrow in the morning.

IN CASE

Take your umbrella in case it starts raining.

In case you have any questions, e-mail me before the weekend.

UNLESS

I won’t tell you unless you ask nicely.

I’ll book the tickets unless you call me this afternoon and tell me not to.

AS LONG AS

As long as you keep your mouth shut, I’ll send you a cheque every month.

SO LONG AS

I’ll keep my end of the bargain so long as you keep yours.

AS SOON AS

I’ll give you a call as soon as I learn about her condition.

THE MOMENT

I’ll copy the documents the moment they arrive.

ONCE

Once you find my keys, don’t forget to lock the door.

UNTIL	We won't work until you pay us what you owe us.
TILL	He'll keep talking till someone tells him to be quiet.
PROVIDED (THAT)	I'll let you in provided (that) you show your ID.
PROVIDING	He'll agree to participate providing he's well paid.
ON CONDITION THAT	On condition that you tidy my room, I'll let you use my computer.
ONLY IF	The Sphinx will help you only if you solve the riddle.
SUPPOSE	Suppose I don't have the money on me, will I be able to pay later?
SUPPOSING	Supposing she is late, will we depart without her?
BEFORE	I won't sell you a gun before I see your permit.
AFTER	I'll buy this car after I see its license.
NO MATTER WHAT	No matter what, I'll always stand by you.
WHATEVER	Whatever happens, you can't tell my wife.
SHOULD	<u>If you should</u> see her, tell her I have her notebook. <u>Should you see</u> her, tell her...
HAPPEN TO	<u>If you happen to</u> be in the neighbourhood, you must drop by. <u>Should you happen to</u> be in the neighbourhood...
IF + ADJECTIVE	If interested, apply in writing. She's a wonderful girl, if a bit too talkative (although).

Exercise 1 (Thomson and Martinet 2009: u62) Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

1. If I (see) him, I (give) him a lift.
2. The table (collapse) if you (stand) on it.
3. If he (eat) all that, he (be) ill.
4. If I (find) your passport, I (telephone) you at once.
5. The police (arrest) him if they (catch) him.
6. If he (read) in bad light, he (ruin) his eyes.
7. Someone (steal) your car if you (leave) it unlocked.
8. What (happen) if my parachute (not open)?
9. If he (wash) my car, I (give) him \$10.
10. If she (need) a radio, she can (borrow) mine.
11. If you (not go) away, I (send) for the police.
12. I (be) very angry if he (make) any more mistakes.
13. If he (be) late, we (go) without him.
14. She (be) absolutely furious if she (hear) about this.
15. If you (put) on the kettle, I (make) tea.
16. If you (give) my dog a bone, he (bury) it at once.
17. If we (leave) the car here, it (not be) in anybody's way.
18. He (be) late for the train if he (not start) at once.
19. If you (come) late, they (not let) you in.
20. If he (go) on telling lies, nobody (believe) the word he says.

Exercise 2 (Thomson and Martinet 1996: u140) Reply to the following sentences as shown in the example:

If Tom meets us at the station, we'll be all right.

But what if he doesn't meet us?

1. If he pays me tonight, I'll have enough money for the tickets.
2. If I get a work permit, I'll stay for another six months.
3. If I pass this exam, I'll go to the university next October.
4. If he agrees to let me go on working after marriage, I'll marry him (refuse).
5. I'm going to say to the boss 'I can't work with Smith. Either I go or he goes. You'll have to choose between us.'
6. If I can find a cheap room, I'll stay for a fortnight.
7. Your parachute should open after ten seconds.
8. Provided you remember the password, you'll be in no danger (forget).
9. Tell the police the truth. I'm sure they'll believe you.
10. If the baby is a girl, we're going to call her Ann.

Exercise 3 (Matasek 2003: Unit 87) Rewrite the sentences using 'unless'

1. If you don't grease the mechanism, it will break down.
2. Jack will be expelled from school if he doesn't start attending lessons.
3. They won't settle any matter if you don't offer a bribe.
4. If you don't hurry up, we won't get tickets.
5. If the baby doesn't stop crying soon, we will have to call a doctor.
6. You will spoil the toy if you don't handle it gently.
7. If the driver doesn't slow down, he will cause an accident.
8. Nobody will like the girl if she doesn't become more friendly.
9. I will tell my parents if you don't stop laughing at me so rudely.
10. If the weather doesn't improve, we will have to forget about going sunbathing.

Exercise 4 (Matasek 2003: Unit 87) Rewrite the sentences using 'if'

1. Unless I am informed about everything, I will write a complaint.
2. You will be moved to a lower group unless you make a quick progress.
3. Unless you stop quarrelling all the time, you will never reach an agreement.
4. Unless there is a bigger demand for our products, we will go bankrupt.
5. The children will be punished unless they stop being unruly.

Exercise 5 (Matasek 2003: Unit 88) Rewrite the sentences using 'if you should' and 'should you'

1. If he comes again, tell him we have no vacancies.
2. If they happen to discover your identity, you will get into trouble.
3. If things get worse, you can always ask me for help.
4. If the culprit manages to escape punishment, the public will go crazy.
5. If your lorry stops dead on the road, call for help by the satellite.
6. If it begins to rain, don't go out climbing.
7. If you forget my personal data, ask Mrs Lewis for help.
8. If there is a long queue, we'll try passing the border somewhere else.
9. If one of the candidates resigns, you will take the place.
10. If postmen go on strike, mail will not be delivered.

Exercise 6 (Matasek 2003: Unit 88) Rewrite the sentences using 'if you happen to' and 'should you happen to'

1. If somebody finds the document, my life will be in danger.
2. If you fail to pass the exam, don't show a sign of irritation.
3. If the chairman asks you to comment, remember to be brief.
4. If anyone offers you a low price jewellery, refuse firmly.
5. If the older boys tease you, stay cool.

Exercise 7 (Matasek 2003: Unit 89) Rewrite the sentences using ‘provided that’ and ‘on condition that’

1. I won't work for you if you don't offer a higher salary to me.
2. We'll come to the party on condition that you don't serve alcoholic drinks.
3. Unless Alex apologises for his bad behaviour, we won't invite him anymore.
4. I will take the children for a walk on condition that it gets warmer.
5. We won't dance unless you change unless you change the music.
6. I can tell you the news if you promise to keep it secret.
7. You will never find true friends unless you change your lifestyle.
8. The terrorists will set the hostages free on condition that they're paid a ransom.
9. We'll keep the dog at home if you promise to look after it.
10. He will never lose weight if he doesn't reduce the number of meals.
11. I will let you go if you promise to come back before midnight.
12. We can lend you out car if you return it clean.
13. Mary will be accepted for the job if she continues her studies.
14. I will leave you the keys to my house if you do not bring in strangers.
15. You may eat the cherries if they are ripe.

Exercise 8 (Eastwood 2002: u144) Rewrite the sentences using a conditional.

1. Rachel might fail her driving test. But she can take it again.
2. United might lose. If they do, Tom will be upset.
3. The office may be closed. In that case Mark won't be able to get in.
4. Nick may arrive a bit early. If he does, he can help Tom to get things ready.
5. The party might go on all night. If it does, no one will want to do any work tomorrow.
6. Emma may miss the train. But she can get the next one.
7. Is Mathew going to enter the race? He'll probably win it.

Exercise 9 (Alexander 1998: u14.1D) Rewrite sentences using an imperative.

0. If you start earlier, you will make it in before dinner.
Start earlier OR you won't make it before dinner.
Start earlier AND you'll make it in time.
00. If you don't do your homework, you'll have to stay in detention.
Do your homework OR you'll have to stay in detention.
Don't do your homework AND you'll have to stay in detention.
1. If you ask me nicely, I'll mend it for you.
2. If you crash my car, I'll never forgive you.
3. If you work late tonight, I'll pay you well.
4. If you don't hurry, you'll be late.
5. If you don't take a taxi, you'll miss your train.
6. If you don't stop shouting, I'll slap you.
7. If you fail to pay, I'll cut off the electricity.
8. If you don't stop borrowing money, you'll be in trouble.

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