

## The First Conditional

The first conditional has the **Present Simple** after 'if', then the **Future Simple** in the main clause:

- if + present simple, ... will + infinitive

It's used to talk about things which might happen in the future. Of course, we can't know what will happen in the future, but this describes possible things, which could easily come true.

- If it **rains**, I **won't go** to the park.
- If I **study** today, I'**ll go** to the party tonight.
- If I **have** enough money, I'**ll buy** some new shoes.
- She'**ll be** late if the train **is** delayed.
- She'**ll miss** the bus if she **doesn't leave** soon.
- If I **see** her, I'**ll tell** her.

We are talking about the future. We are thinking about a particular condition or situation in the future, and the result of this condition. There is a real possibility that this condition will happen.

Here are some examples:

<i>if</i>	condition	result
	<b>Present Simple</b>	<i>will + V<sub>1</sub></i>
If	it <i>rains</i> ,	I <i>will stay</i> at home.
If	I see Mary,	I will tell her.
If	they do not pass their exam,	their teacher will be sad.
result	<i>if</i>	condition
<i>will + base verb</i>		<b>Present Simple</b>
I <i>will tell</i> Mary	if	I <i>see</i> her.
He <i>will invite</i> Tara	if	she <i>is</i> free tomorrow.
Their teacher <i>will be</i> sad	if	they <i>do not pass</i> their exam.

Often when we are talking about present situations, we use **unless** instead of **if...not**.

**Unless** means **except if** or simply it means **if...not**.

Both of these examples have the same meaning and refer to the present time.

"You can't go on vacation **unless** you save some money."

"**If** you **don't** save some money, you can't go on vacation."

"You will feel cold **if** you **don't** wear a coat."

"You will feel cold **unless** you wear a coat."

*Unless* is good to use when it highlights an exception to what is generally true. In this example I only have one reason why i may be late: traffic (vehicles on the road):

"I'll arrive at 10am **unless** there is traffic."

"I'll arrive at 10am **if** there **isn't** traffic."

## Practice

### A) Put the verb into the correct First Conditional form:

1. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out tonight, I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema.
2. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (get) back late, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) angry.
3. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (not / see) each other tomorrow, we \_\_\_\_\_ (see) each other next week.
4. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (come), I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) surprised.
5. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) here, we \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late.
6. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on holiday this summer, we \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Spain.
7. If the weather \_\_\_\_\_ (not / improve), we \_\_\_\_\_ (not / have) a picnic.
8. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / go) to bed early, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) tired tomorrow.
9. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) all this cake, we \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) sick.
10. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (not / want) to go out, I \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner at home.

### B) Complete each sentence. Write *IF* or *UNLESS* in the blank.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ you clean your room right now, I'll take you shopping later.
2. You won't be able to go to any parties \_\_\_\_\_ you start doing your homework better.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ you practice your violin more, I will give it away.

4. You'll get into any college you want \_\_\_\_\_ you continue to get good grades. We're proud of you!

**C) Rewrite the following sentences, using UNLESS instead of IF ... NOT.**

1. If you don't know the answer to the question, you won't put your hand up.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Unless you know the answer to the question, you won't put your hand up.* \_\_\_\_\_

2. If it doesn't rain tonight, we'll water the trees tomorrow.

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3. If he doesn't wear a scarf and his jumper, he will catch a cold.

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4. A man can't join the army if he isn't good health.

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5. If you don't phone me from London twice a week, I'll be really upset.

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**D) Choose the correct verb form a or b to complete each sentence.**

1 Unless we ... flying, we won't reduce global warming.

**a** stop

**b** will stop

2 Unless we ... the way we travel, we will have serious environmental problems.

**a** change

**b** will change

3 If you pay to offset carbon emissions, you ... better.

**a** feel

**b** will feel

4 Is it OK for me to fly if I ... an organisation which funds carbon offset projects?

**a** pay

**b** will pay

5 The situation ... better unless we do something immediately.

**a** gets

**b** won't get

6 If we don't travel so much, we ... carbon emissions.

**a** reduce

**b** will reduce

Match the beginnings (1–7) with the endings (a–g) to make sentences.

1 If people don't stop flying,

2 People won't stop flying

3 If it becomes more expensive to fly,

4 If we fly less frequently,

5 Carbon emissions will continue to increase

6 If we pay to offset our carbon emissions,

7 If we continue flying,

**a** carbon emissions will be reduced.

**b** global warming will get worse.

**c** the air quality will get better.

**d** people will look for alternative ways  
to travel.

**e** unless the prices increase.

**f** unless we stop flying.

**g** we'll have to pay a carbon tax.