

69 Present conditions



1 Form

CONDITION (<i>if ...</i>) present tense	RESULT present tense
<i>If you put the card in,</i>	<i>the lights come on.</i>
<i>If you look directly at the sun,</i>	<i>it damages your eyes.</i>
<i>If plants don't get water,</i>	<i>they die.</i>
<i>If you need any help,</i>	<i>ask the teacher.</i>

When we are talking about real situations in the present, BOTH verbs are in the present tense. Notice the position of the comma (,):

*If you **put** the card in, the lights **come on**.*

If we write the result first, a comma is not necessary:

*The lights **come on** if you **put** the card in.*

*Plants **die** if they **don't get** water.*

2 Use

We use *if* or *when* + present tenses

- to talk about real situations:
*If you **turn** the key, the engine **starts**.*
- to say that one event always follows another:
*When I **go** to bed late, I **feel** tired the next day.*
- to describe rules:
*If a player **drops** the ball, he/she **is** out.*

NATURAL ENGLISH When we are speaking to someone, we often use the *if* part of the sentence alone:

*'Do you like curry?' 'Yes, **if it's not too spicy**.'*

We use *if* + the imperative to give instructions or advice:

*If it's **raining**, **take** an umbrella.*



Notice that we don't repeat the subject:

~~*X If you want more information, you look on our website.*~~

✓ If you want more information, look on our website.



We don't use *to* after *please*:

~~*X If you need anything, please to call reception.*~~

✓ If you need anything, please call reception.

Practice

- 1 Complete the sentences. Use the words from the box.

The Automatic House



- 0 When your car enters the drive, the garage doors*open*.....
- 1 If you into a room, the lights come on.
- 2 When you on the sofa, the TV switches on.
- 3 When you the taps, water comes out.
- 4 it is hot, the windows open.
- 5 If it cold, the heating system turns on.
- 6 If you the house, the door locks itself.

gets
leave
open
sit
touch
walk
when

- 2 Match the two parts of the sentences. Then choose the correct words in *italics*.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 If you turn the key, | A your skin gets burnt. |
| 1 When I drink too much coffee, | B when I <i>am</i> / <i>will be</i> late for work. |
| 2 If you <i>stay</i> / <i>will stay</i> in the sun for a long time, | C the engine(<i>starts</i>) / <i>started</i> . |
| 3 If you need more information, | D if you <i>have</i> / <i>had</i> any problems. |
| 4 My boss gets angry | E <i>press</i> / <i>you will press</i> the red button. |
| 5 If the machine doesn't start, | F I <i>get</i> / <i>will get</i> a headache. |
| 6 You <i>don't</i> / <i>didn't</i> need a passport | G if you never travel anywhere. |
| 7 Phone this number | H please <i>to visit</i> / <i>visit</i> our website. |

- 3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** There are five more grammar mistakes in the text. Find and correct them.

Welcome to the **PENRITH HOTEL**

- | | |
|---|--|
| + All our rooms are non-smoking. If you ^{wish} wished to smoke, please use the balcony. | + Guests must leave their rooms by 12.00. Please contact reception when you plan to leave after 12.00. |
| + If you want breakfast in your room, please to phone reception. | + If there is a fire, please leaving by the stairs; do not use the lift. |
| + We provide 24-hour room service. If you needing any items from our room service menu, please call 200. | + If there is anything we can do to make your stay more enjoyable, please told us. |