

unless

Unless is used when we say that if something does not happen, something else will happen (or be true) as a result.

*If you don't help me, I won't be able to lift this.
I won't be able to lift this **unless** you help me.*

otherwise

Otherwise is another way of saying **if not**. It can also come at the end of a separate sentence.

*Help me with this, **otherwise** I won't be able to lift it.
I help me with this. I won't be able to lift it **otherwise**.*

if only

- **If only** can be used as a way of emphasizing **if**.
*If **only you'd told** me, I could have helped you.*
- The **if only** clause can also be used alone as an exclamation.
*If **only you'd told me!***

provided / providing (that), as long as, on condition (that)

These are more emphatic ways of saying **only ... if**.

*You can **only** go to the party, **if you are home** before 12.00.
You can go to the party, **provided you are home** before 12.00.
You can go to the party, **as long as you are home** before 12.00.
You can go to the party, **on condition that you are home** before 12.00*

even if

- **Even if** can also be used in conditional sentences to emphasize **if**.
***Even if you begged him** to take the money, he wouldn't accept.*

if (you) should ..., if you happen to ...

- **If + should** emphasizes that an event is not very likely, or to make a request seem more indirect or polite.
*If you **should see him** tomorrow, could you give him my message?*
- **If + happen to** has a similar effect, and can be used with **should** to emphasize unlikelihood or distance. Phrases such as **by any chance** are also used in the same way.
*If you **happen to be** in the neighbourhood, do drop in and see us.
If you **should happen by any chance** to find the money, can you send it back?*

if (I) were to ...

- This is often used in writing which speculates about the future.
*If the government **were to lower** taxes, they would certainly win votes.*
- This can also make an event seem less likely.
*If I **were to offer you** more money, would you stay in the job?*

if (it) were / was not for / hadn't been for ...

This describes how one event depends on another

*If **it were not for Helen**, our team would be the worst in the area!
(If Helen wasn't a really good player...)
If **it hadn't been for Jim**, the child would have drowned.
(If Jim hadn't jumped in to rescue the child ...)*

but for

We can use *but for* to mean 'if it were not for'.

But for your assistance, we would not have succeeded.

supposing, suppose, imagine

These are ways of expressing conditions without *if*.

Supposing you had 1.5 million. What would you spend it on?

Imagine you were president. How would you change the country?

if so / if not

These can refer to a previous sentence and form a condition.

If Jean is too ill to play, Mary can play instead.

Jean may be too ill to play. If so, Mary can play instead.

Jean may still be able to play. If not, Mary can play instead.

leaving out if

In everyday speech, we can use an imperative phrase + *and* + *will* clause instead of an *if*-conditional sentence.

If you come over here, I'll show you what I mean.

Come over here and I'll show you what I mean.

if + adjective

In informal instructions, we can leave out the verb *to be* in phrases with adjectives such as *interested*, *necessary* etc

If you are interested, phone this number.

If interested, phone this number.

if I might, if I can / could ...

Might and *can* / *could* are used in an *if*-clause which stands alone as a very polite request.

If I could just have another look. (=Could I have another look?)

If I might help you with your coat

had (I) ..., were (I) ..., should (I) ...

It is possible to begin formal conditional sentences by inverting *had* or *were* or *should* and the subject, leaving out *if* (see **Unit 40**).

1 Underline the correct form.

- a Small dogs can be carried on a passenger's knee *if only / provided* they do not cause inconvenience to passengers.
- b *Even if / Supposing* you could visit any country in the world. Where would you go?
- c I would like to thank the many colleagues who have made invaluable contributions: *unless / but for* their help, this project would not have been possible.
- d You must register your copy of the CD-ROM online, *otherwise / unless* it will not work.
- e If the government *were to / should* balance the budget, it would be able to increase spending.
- f You can easily get into trouble *if you happen to be / on condition that you are* in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- g We will give you a guaranteed price of €150 for your old computer, *even if / otherwise* it doesn't work.
- h According to the survey, most people are happy to welcome foreigners to their country, *as long as / otherwise* they don't start behaving like foreigners.
- i Please don't interrupt the lesson *as long as / unless* you have an important point to make.
- j *If he should happen to have / If it hadn't been for* a leg injury, Adams would probably have won the race.

2 Choose the correct option, A, B or C, to complete each sentence about security issues.

- a C leaving valuable property in parked cars, their cars wouldn't be broken into.
b _____ a serious crime, what exactly should you do?
c Please do not use the 999 emergency number _____ you are reporting a genuine emergency.
d _____ you were travelling abroad, what could you do to improve your personal safety?
e _____ the information provided by members of the public, the police would have a much more difficult job.
f Police often conduct security checks in this area so they may stop you, and _____ you might be asked for your identity card or passport.
g _____ any objectionable items on the website, let us know and we will have them removed.
h _____ CCTV cameras installed in the store, many shoplifters would escape detection.
i _____ people locked all their doors and windows, there would be fewer break-ins.
j _____ your computer has a virus protection program, you might still fall victim to e-mail scams or malicious software.

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|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a | A Unless people stopped | B Imagine | C If only people stopped |
| b | A Unless you witness | B If you were to witness | C C If only you witness |
| c | A if | B provided | C unless |
| d | A Supposing | B If so | C As long as |
| e | A Supposing | B Provided that | C If it were not for |
| f | A otherwise | B if so | C even if |
| g | A Unless you notice | B If you happen to notice | C If you were to notice |
| h | A If there were to be | B If only there were | C If it weren't for |
| i | A If only | B Otherwise | C Even if |
| j | A Unless | B Even if | C On condition that |