CONDITIONAL EXPRESSIONS

Doing the Right Thing

Imagine you accidentally crash into an expensive car while parking in a shopping mall. Nobody sees you, and there is no visible damage to your own vehicle. **Even if** you are afraid of paying for the repairs, you should leave your contact information for the owner. You should take responsibility for your actions, **provided that** you want others to treat you with the same honesty.

Now imagine finding a wallet full of money on the street. You might be tempted to keep it, especially **unless** you think someone could identify you. However, the right thing to do is to look for identification and try to return it. You can keep the money **only if** you have made a reasonable effort to find its owner and local rules allow you to do so.

What if your best friend asks you to lie to protect them from the consequences of a mistake? You can support your friend **on the condition that** you do not have to be dishonest yourself. **As long as** you act with respect and explain your reasons, a true friend should understand your decision.

In the end, doing the right thing is not always easy. **Whether or not** someone is watching, our choices reveal our values.

Conditional expressions

Conditional expressions introduce a condition that must be met for something to happen, or describe a situation despite a condition.

Expression	Meaning / use	Example
Even if	Something happens despite a condition.	Even if nobody sees you, tell the truth.
Unless	If not; introduces a negative condition.	Unless you apologize, they may not forgive you.
On the condition that	Only if a specific condition is met.	You can borrow my car on the condition that you drive carefully.
Provided that	Only if; similar to as long as.	You can keep it provided that it belongs to you.
As long as	If; emphasizes a necessary condition.	As long as you are honest, I will support you.
Only if	Specifies a necessary condition.	You can enter only if you have a ticket.
Whether or not	Regardless of whether something happens.	I will tell the truth whether or not you agree.

Important grammar rules

- Use the present simple after these expressions when referring to future conditions: Even if it rains tomorrow, I will go.
- Unless already means if not, so avoid double negatives: Unless you hurry, you'll be late.
- Only if emphasizes a necessary condition. It can also trigger inversion when placed at the beginning of a sentence: Only if you apologize will I forgive you.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 1. Choose the correct expression

Complete each sentence by selecting the correct option.

1. _____ you made a mistake, you should admit it.

   A. Even if B. Unless C. Only if

2. You cannot borrow my laptop _____ you promise to take care of it.

   A. whether or not B. unless C. provided that

3. You can use the meeting room _____ you leave it clean.

   A. as long as B. even if C. whether or not

4. _____ you apologize, your colleague may refuse to forgive you.

   A. On the condition that B. Unless C. Even if

Exercise 2. Use the expressions in the box. Use each expression once.

EVEN IF | UNLESS | PROVIDED THAT | ON THE CONDITION THAT | WHETHER OR NOT

1. You should tell the truth, _____ it causes an uncomfortable situation.

2. _____ you apologize, your colleague may refuse to forgive you.

3. You may take the lost item home _____ the police confirm that you can keep it.

4. I will lend you my car _____ you promise to drive responsibly.

5. I will report the accident _____ the other driver accepts my apology.

Exercise 3. Rewrite each sentence using the expression in parentheses. Keep the original meaning.

1. If you don't tell the owner about the damage, you won't be acting honestly. (unless)

_____

2. I will help you, but you must tell me the whole truth. (provided that)

_____

3. I will report the lost wallet regardless of whether the owner offers me a reward. (whether or not)

_____

4. You can use my parking space, but you must return it to me by Monday. (on the condition that)

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS