

## 1 Introduction



Vicky and Rachel are talking about possible future actions. They may catch the bus, or they may miss it.

## 2 First Conditional: If we hurry, we'll catch the bus

| IF-CLAUSE |   |                                | MAIN CLAUSE |                                |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| If        | + | PRESENT SIMPLE                 | + will      |                                |
| If we     |   | <b>hurry,</b>                  | we          | <b>'ll catch the bus.</b>      |
| If we     |   | <b>miss it,</b>                | there       | <b>'ll be another one.</b>     |
| If it     |   | <b>doesn't rain,</b>           | we          | <b>'ll be having a picnic.</b> |
| If I      |   | <b>don't practise my golf,</b> | I           | <b>won't get any better.</b>   |

The verb in the if-clause (e.g. **hurry**) is in the Present Simple, not the future.

NOT ~~If we'll hurry, we'll catch the bus.~~

But we can use **will** in the if-clause when we make a request.

*If you'll just wait a moment, I'll find someone to help you.* (= Please wait a moment ...)

We can use the Present Continuous (e.g. **are doing**) or the Present Perfect (e.g. **have done**) in the if-clause.

*If we're expecting visitors, the flat will need a good clean.*

*If you've finished with the computer, I'll put it away.*

The main clause often has **will**. But we can use other modal verbs (e.g. **can**).

*If you haven't got a television, you **can't** watch it, can you?*

*If Henry jogs regularly, he **might** lose weight.*

*If Matthew is going to a job interview, he **should** wear a tie.*

The if-clause usually comes first, but it can come after the main clause.

*If I hear any news, I'll phone you. / I'll phone you **if** I hear any news.*

## 3 More uses of the First Conditional

We can use First Conditionals in offers and suggestions.

*If you need a ticket, I can get you one.    If you feel like seeing the sights, we can take a bus tour.*

We can also use them in warnings and threats.

*If you go on like this, you'll make yourself ill.    If you don't apologize, I'll never speak to you again.*

## A First Conditional (1–3)

Read the conversation and then choose the correct forms.

Rachel: Have you heard about the pop festival?

Vicky: Yes, (►) it's/it'll be good if Express are playing. They're a great band.

Rachel: Will you be able to go, Nick?

Nick: If (1) I ask/I'll ask my boss, he'll give me some time off work, I expect.

Vicky: How are we going to get there?

Rachel: Well, if (2) there are/there'll be enough people, we can hire a minibus.

Vicky: I won't be going if (3) it's/it'll be too expensive.

Rachel: It (4) isn't costing/won't cost much if we all (5) share/will share the cost.

Nick: If (6) I see/I'll see the others later on tonight, (7) I ask/I'll ask them if they want to go.

## B First Conditional (1–3)

Comment on the situations. Use *if* + the present tense + *will/can*.

- It might rain. If it does, everyone can eat inside.

If it rains, everyone can eat inside.

- The children mustn't go near Nick's dog. It'll bite them.

If the children go near Nick's dog, it'll bite them.

- 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 Matthew going to enter the race? He'll probably win it.