

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 £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 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 |