

69 Present conditions



1 Form

| CONDITION (if ...) 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, _____
1 When I drink too much coffee, _____
2 If you *stay* / *will stay* in the sun for a long time, _____
3 If you need more information, _____
4 My boss gets angry _____
5 If the machine doesn't start, _____
6 You *don't* / *didn't* need a passport _____
7 Phone this number _____

A your skin gets burnt.
B when *I am* / *will be* late for work.
C the engine *(starts)* / *started*.
D if you *have* / *had* any problems.
E *press* / *you will press* the red button.
F *I get* / *will get* a headache.
G if you never travel anywhere.
H *please to visit* / *visit* our website.

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

Welcome to the **PENRITH HOTEL**

wish

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