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 emphasis 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 ...)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 I 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**).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

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*

LIVEWORKSHEETS