

● grammar summary

Most tenses are possible in sentences with *if*.

If you're happy, I'm happy. He won't come tomorrow if he came yesterday.

If you've been to Paris, you've seen the Eiffel Tower.

Note the following three important structures:

● present tenses for future:

With *if*, we use **present tenses** to talk about the future.

I'll phone you if I have time. (NOT ... if I will have time.)

● if + past, ... would ...

We can use **past tenses** with *if* to show that something is **not real** or **not probable now**.

(We normally use **would** in the other part of the sentence.)

If I had more money, I would buy a car now.

● if + past perfect, ... would have ...

To talk about **unreal past events** – things that did not happen – we use **if + past perfect**.

(We normally use **would have + past participle** in the other part of the sentence.)

I'm sorry you had all those problems. If you had asked me, I would have helped you.

● pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 284.

① Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

▷ If I would have gone to London, I had seen Alex. ✗

1 If I'm sleepy, I drink a cup of coffee. ...

2 If I could drive, I could get a better job. ...

3 We'll go and see Max and Chris if we'll be in Berlin. ...

4 If he's from Switzerland, he probably understands French. ...

5 If we left early tomorrow morning, we would arrive before 12.00. ...

6 You can't come in here unless you don't have a ticket. ...

7 If he would work harder, he passed his exams. ...

8 I wouldn't do that if I were you. ...

9 If you didn't help me, I would have been in trouble. ...

If it's Tuesday, this must be Belgium.

(Title of film about American tourists in Europe)

*If you can keep your head when all
about you are losing theirs,
... you'll be a man, my son.*

(Rudyard Kipling)

*If you were the only girl in the world,
and I were the only boy ...*

(Song by Clifford Grey)

*If you can keep your head when all
about you are losing theirs,
you just don't know what's going on.*

(British Army saying)

if: position; *unless*

When we use *if*, there are two possibilities.

1 Start with *if* and use a comma (,).

If bbbbbb, aaaaa

If you're too hot, take your coat off.

If Ann saw us, why didn't she say 'hello'?

2 Put *if* between the two parts of the sentence.

Aaaaa if bbbbbb

Take your coat off if you're too hot.

Why didn't Ann say 'hello' if she saw us?

① Use *if* to put these sentences together in two ways.

▷ Joe works at Brown's. He probably knows Annie.

If Joe works at Brown's, he probably knows Annie.

Joe probably knows Annie if he works at Brown's.

1 I can't sleep. I get up and read.

2 You take books from my room. Please tell me.

3 You're hungry. Why don't you cook some soup?

4 She arrived this morning. She will probably phone us this evening.

5 We catch the first train. We can be in London by 9.00.

We can use *unless* to mean '*if ... not*', '*except if*'.

You can't come in unless you have a ticket. (= 'You can't come in if you don't have a ticket.')

Unless I'm very tired, I go to bed about midnight. (= 'Except if I'm very tired ...')

② Rewrite these sentences with *unless*.

▷ Children can't go in if they are not with an adult.

Children can't go in unless they are with an adult.

▷ If you don't give me my money, I'm going to the police.

Unless you give me my money, I'm going to the police.

1 You can't park here if you don't live in this street.

2 If you are not over 15, you can't see this film.

3 I don't drive fast except if I'm really late.

4 If I'm not going fishing, I get up late on Sundays.

5 We usually go for a walk after supper if there isn't a good film on TV.

→ For the difference between *if* and *when*, see page 280.

if: future *I'll phone you if I hear from Alice.*

Most tenses are possible in sentences with *if*.

If you're happy, I'm happy. He won't come tomorrow if he came yesterday.
If you've been to Paris, you've seen the Eiffel Tower.

But after *if*, we normally use a present tense to talk about the future.

If it is sunny tomorrow, we'll eat in the garden. I'll phone you if I hear from Alice.
I'll be sorry if I don't pass this exam.

1 Make sentences with *if*.

I'm afraid the bus will be late.

- ▷ → get to work late again *If the bus is late, I'll get to work late again.*
- ▷ → lose my job *If I get to work late again, I'll lose my job.*
- 1 → not find another job
- 2 → lose my flat
- 3 → move back to my parents' house
- 4 → get very bored
- 5 → go swimming every day
- 6 → look very good
- 7 → meet interesting people
- 8 → go to lots of parties
- 9 → have a wonderful time

2 Put in the correct verb forms.

- ▷ If it *rains*, we *will have* the party inside. (*rain; have*)
- 1 I happy if I my exam. (*be; pass*)
- 2 If you now, you the train. (*leave; catch*)
- 3 John says he as a taxi-driver if he money. (*work; need*)
- 4 If I free tomorrow evening, I you on Friday. (*not be; see*)
- 5 Mary Chinese next year if she time. (*study; have*)
- 6 I you to the station if I find my car keys. (*drive; can*)
- 7 If he her, he a happy life. (*marry; not have*)
- 8 you smoking if the doctor you that you must? (*stop; tell*)
- 9 If we to the boss very politely, he to us? (*talk; listen*)

3 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: names of languages

Anna is going to work in another country next year. See if you can make sentences with the correct language names. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Arabic	Chinese ✓	Dutch	German	Greek	Portuguese	Swahili
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- ▷ (*China*) *If she goes to China, she will have to learn Chinese.*
- 1 (*Egypt*) If she
- 2 (*Brazil*)
- 3 (*Holland*)
- 4 (*Kenya*)
- 5 (*Greece*)
- 6 (*Austria*)

→ We also use present tenses for the future after time conjunctions: see page 221.

not real / not probable *If dogs could talk, ...*

We use *if* + past tense + *would* to talk about things that are not real or not probable now.

IF ... + PAST TENSE *WOULD + INFINITIVE (WITHOUT TO)*

If I had a million dollars, I would build a big swimming pool.
If you were the President, what would you do?
If dogs could talk, they would tell some interesting stories.
If he didn't travel so much, he'd have more money.

Contractions (see page 277): *I would* → *I'd*, *you would* → *you'd*, etc

1 Put in the correct forms of the verbs.

- If people *had* four arms, life *would be* easier. (*have; be*)
 1 If my cat open the fridge, it all my food. (*can; eat*)
 2 If Ann and Bill here, they what to do. (*be; know*)
 3 If I the answer, I you. (*know; tell*)
 4 If your boss you to work on Sunday, you it? (*ask; do*)
 5 If you read people's thoughts, what you ? (*can; do*)

2 Complete each sentence with the correct forms of the correct verbs.

- 1 I a car if I enough money. (*have, buy*)
 2 If I you to marry me, what you? (*say, ask*)
 3 Alex his work on time if he so much. (*finish, not talk*)
 4 I Chinese if I more time. (*have, study*)
 5 If the programmes better, I more TV. (*be, watch*)
 6 This a nice country if it so much. (*not rain, be*)
 7 I Carola better if she about herself all the time. (*not talk, like*)

3 Make sentences in two ways.

- My parents don't live near here, so I don't see them at weekends.
If my parents lived near here, I would see them at weekends.
I would see my parents at weekends if they lived near here.
- 1 We won't play cards because Jane and Peter aren't here.
If Jane and Peter were here, we would play cards.
 We
- 2 We haven't got enough money so we won't buy a new car.

- 3 Fred doesn't answer letters, so I don't write to him.

- 4 I won't take your photo because I can't find my camera.

- 5 I don't enjoy opera because I can't understand the words.

4 QUESTIONNAIRE: WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF ...?
Write sentences. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1 If you heard a strange noise in your house in the night, would you:

A go and look? B phone the police? C hide under the bedclothes?

If I heard a strange noise in my house in the night, I would

2 If you found a lot of money in the street, would you:

A keep it? B try to find the person who had lost it? C take it to the police?

3 If you saw a child stealing from a shop, would you:

A tell the child to stop? B tell a shop assistant? C do nothing?

4 If a shop assistant gave you too much change, would you:

A tell him/her? B take the money and say nothing?

5 If you found a dead mouse in your kitchen, would you:

A throw it out? B ask somebody to throw it out? C run?

6 If you found a suitcase on the pavement outside a bank, would you:

A take it into the bank? B take it to the police? C take it home? D leave it?

7 If you found a friend's diary, would you:

A read it? B give it to him/her without reading it?

5 What would you do if you had a free year and a lot of money? Write three or more sentences.

travel round the world	study	go to	(other answers)
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1 If I

2 If I

3 If I

After *I* and *we*, we can use *should* with the same meaning as *would* in British English.

If I had more time, I should/would learn the saxophone.

If I go ..., I will ...; If I went ..., I would ...

The difference between *if I go* and *if I went* (for example) is **not** a difference of **time**. We can use both *if I go/see* etc and *if I went/saw* etc to talk about the **present or future**. With *if*, a past tense does not mean 'past time'; it means 'not real' or 'not probable'.

PROBABLE/POSSIBLE

If I go to London, I'll visit Tony.
If I see Ann, I'll give her your address.

NOT REAL/NOT PROBABLE

If I went to the moon, I would take a lot of photos.
If I saw the Prime Minister, I would say 'hello'.

1 Choose the best sentence-beginning.

- If I live / *lived* to be 75, ...
- 1 If I *live* / *lived* to be 175, ...
 - 2 If dogs *can* / *could* talk, ...
 - 3 If I *go* / *went* shopping next week, ...
 - 4 If Switzerland *starts* / *started* a war against Australia, ...
 - 5 If the government *gives* / *gave* everybody a month's holiday with pay, ...
 - 6 If you *need* / *needed* help one day, ...
 - 7 If everybody *gives* / *gave* 10% of their money to poor countries, ...
 - 8 If everybody *thinks* / *thought* the same as me, ...
 - 9 If I *am* / *was* the most intelligent person in the world, ...
 - 10 If prices *go* / *went* up next year, ...

2 Choose the best way to continue the sentences.

- I'm not going to open the window. If I *open* / *opened* the window, it *will* / *would* be too noisy.
- Maybe I'll open a window. But if I *open* / *opened* a window, it *will* / *would* be very noisy.
- 1 I'm going to get up early tomorrow. If I *have* / *had* time, I'll / I'd walk to work.
 - 2 If I *have* / *had* time, I'll / I'd walk to work, but it's just not possible.
 - 3 'I may get a job in Germany.' 'If you *get* / *got* it, what *will* / *would* your boyfriend say?'
 - 4 'There's a job in Germany, but I don't think I'll get it.' 'If you *get* / *got* it, what *will* / *would* your boyfriend say?'
 - 5 We never leave food on the table. If we *do* / *did*, the cat *will* / *would* eat it.
 - 6 'Shall I put this on the table?' 'If you *do* / *did*, the cat *will* / *would* eat it.'
 - 7 I'll probably go to university. But if I *go* / *went*, I *won't* / *wouldn't* earn any money for three years.
 - 8 I'm not going to go to university. If I *go* / *went* to university, I *won't* / *wouldn't* earn any money for three years.

The laws of work

1. If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong.
2. If a job looks easy, it's difficult. If it looks difficult, it's impossible.
3. If you think a job will take two hours, it will take four days. If you think it will take four days, it will take eight weeks. And so on.
4. If you throw something away, you will need it the next day.
5. If you do what everybody wants you to do, somebody won't like it.
6. If you explain so clearly that nobody can misunderstand, somebody will.

If I were you, ...

We sometimes use *were* instead of *was* after *if*. This is usually rather formal.

If I were taller I would play basketball. If John were here, he would know what to do.

We often say *If I were you, I would / I'd ...*, when we want to give people advice.

If I were you, I'd get a new car. I wouldn't stand there if I were you.

1 Write sentences with *if I were you*, using the expressions in the box.

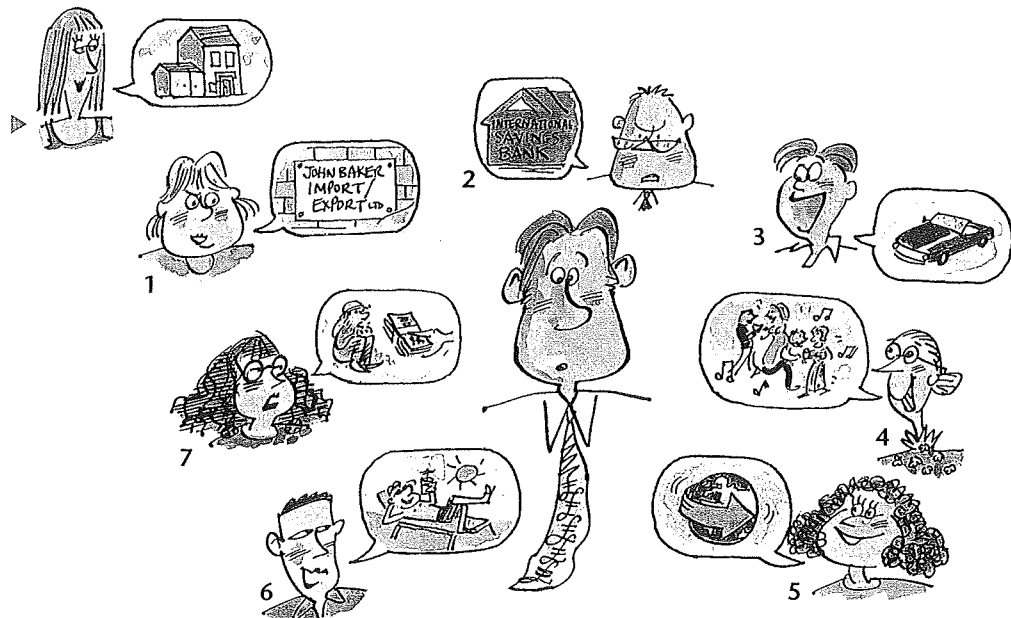
call the police at once fly not sell it join a club see a doctor ✓ take a holiday

- 'I feel ill.' 'If I were you, I'd see a doctor.'
- 'I'm really tired.' 'If
 - 'I haven't got any friends.' 'If
 - 'Shall I take the train to Scotland?' 'I would
 - 'Somebody has stolen my car.' 'If
 - 'John wants to buy my motorbike.' 'I

2 John Baker has won a lot of money in the lottery. His family and friends are giving him advice. Look at the pictures and use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

buy a sports car buy a house ✓ give the money away have a big party
put the money in the bank start a business stop work travel round the world

- JOHN'S GIRLFRIEND: 'If I were you, I'd buy a house.'
- HIS MOTHER:
 - HIS FATHER:
 - HIS BROTHER:
 - HIS GRANDMOTHER:
 - HIS SISTER:
 - HIS FRIEND JOE:
 - HIS FRIEND STEPHANIE:



could = 'would be able to' We could go cycling if ...

We can use **could** to mean 'would be able to'.

If you arrived early, we **could** talk about the meeting. If Joe came, he **could** help with the dog.

Sometimes we use **could** twice: once as a past tense (to say that something is not real / not probable), and once for **would be able to**.

If I **could** sell my car, I **could** buy a computer.

1 Complete the sentences with **could** and expressions from the box.

ask her to help ✓	get up late	go and see him	go cycling	go to the cinema more often
have breakfast in the garden	read the paper ✓	watch a film	write to Henry	

- If Alice was here, ~~we could ask her to help~~.....
- If I could find my glasses, ~~I could read the paper~~.....
- 1 If John was at home, we
- 2 If the TV was working, we
- 3 If we had bikes,
- 4 If it was Saturday, I
- 5 If it was warmer, we
- 6 If I could find my address book,
- 7 If we lived in a town,

2 Andy is reading the job advertisements. Unfortunately he can't do much (see the box). Look at the advertisements and write sentences with **if he ... he could ...**

Andy doesn't speak Japanese ✓	he doesn't have a passport	he can't drive
he can't cook	he doesn't like children	he doesn't like animals
		he can't swim

- ~~If he spoke Japanese, he could get a job~~..... at the Grand Hotel.
- 1 If he could drive, at Calloway Ltd.
- 2 at Patterson Travel.
- 3 at Fred's Café.
- 4 at Crowndale School.
- 5 at the City Zoo.
- 6 at the Leisure Centre.

RECEPTIONIST

required immediately
at the Grand Hotel.
Must speak Japanese.
Phone 69423.

Calloway Ltd

needs energetic young
SALES ASSISTANT.
Must have driving
licence. Phone 33446.


Courier needed by
PATTERSON TRAVEL.
Must have passport.
Phone 44576.

ASSISTANT COOK

needed at Fred's
Cafe. Phone 65712.

Welfare Officer
required at
Crowndale School.
Must like children.
Phone 88759.

The CITY ZOO requires
Assistant Keeper.
No experience necessary,
but must like animals.

The Leisure Centre 
needs Attendant,
starting immediately.
Must be able to swim.

unreal past *If a had happened, b would have happened.*

When we use *if* to talk about **unreal past** events – things that **didn't happen** – we use the **past perfect** and **would have + past participle**.

IF ... + PAST PERFECT

WOULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

If the weather had been better, we would have gone to the sea. (But it wasn't, so we didn't.)
If you had asked me, I would have helped you. (But you didn't, so I didn't.)
If Mary had seen you, what would you have said? (But she didn't.)
If she hadn't gone skiing, she wouldn't have fallen and broken her leg. (But she did.)

1 Put in the correct verb forms.

- 1 If I here yesterday, I would have come to see you. (*be*)
- 2 If Joe harder, he would have passed his exams. (*work*)
- 3 If you a map with you, you wouldn't have got lost. (*take*)
- 4 We would have won the game if we so badly. (*not play*)
- 5 If I had gone to university, I medicine and become a doctor. (*study*)
- 6 you if you had driven more slowly? (*crash*)
- 7 You badly if you hadn't drunk all that coffee. (*not sleep*)
- 8 If you on holiday with us, you a wonderful time. (*come; have*)
- 9 If my car, I here at 8 o'clock. (*not break down; be*)
- 10 you harder at school last year if you the teachers? (*study; like*)
- 11 She married if she to leave home. (*not get; not want*)
- 12 you me if I you? (*help; ask*)

2 Getting up early is bad for you. Read the text in the box and make sentences.

get up early → catch the 8.15 train → sit by a beautiful foreign woman
 → fall in love and marry her → go to live in her country → work in her father's diamond business
 → become very rich → go into politics → die in a revolution

- *If I had got up early, I would have caught the 8.15 train.*
- 1 If I had caught and married her.
 - 2 and married her.
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7

3 Hot weather is good for you. Read the text and complete the sentences.

It was hot, so my mother opened the door. A cat came in and ate her supper, so she went to the shop to buy food. In the shop she saw an advertisement for a secretary. So she got a new job, and met my father. I'm glad it was a hot day!

- *If it hadn't been hot, my mother wouldn't have opened* the door.
- 1 If she hadn't opened the door, the cat her supper.
 - 2 her supper, the shop.
 - 3 the shop, the advertisement.
 - 4 the advertisement, a new job.
 - 5 a new job, my father.

test yourself *if*

1 Use *if* to put these sentences together in two ways.

I need help. I ask my brother.

- 1 If
- 2 if

2 Put in the correct verb forms.

- I'm sure John *will help* you if you ask him. (*help*)
- 1 If you your glasses, you would see much better. (*clean*)
 - 2 I and see you tomorrow if I have time. (*come*)
 - 3 If she spoke more slowly, perhaps I her. (*understand*)
 - 4 If you at 12.00, you will arrive at 3.20. (*leave*)
 - 5 I my car if I needed money. (*sell*)

3 Correct (✓) or not (X)?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ► I get up and watch TV if I can't sleep. ✓ | 3 If he would eat more, he wasn't so thin. ... |
| 1 I'll be very happy if I'll pass the exam. ... | 4 If I don't see you today, I see you tomorrow. ... |
| 2 If she's from Greece, she speaks Greek. ... | |

4 Choose the best way to continue the sentences.

- 1 I'm not going to buy a car. If I *buy / bought* a car, I *will / would* spend all my money on it.
- 2 Maybe I'll go and see Sandra. But if I *go / went* and *see / saw* her, I'll / I'd have to talk to her stupid brother.
- 3 My parents live a long way away. If they *live / lived* nearer, I *will / would* see them more often.
- 4 We're going to stay at home this evening. If we *go / went* out, we *won't / wouldn't* do anything interesting.

5 Rewrite these sentences with *unless*.

- 1 You can't go there if you don't have a visa.
- 2 If you don't go now, I'll call the police.

6 Correct (✓) or not (X)?

- 1 If I could cook, I could get a job in a restaurant. ...
- 2 You won't catch the bus unless you don't run. ...
- 3 If it didn't rain, I would have played tennis. ...
- 4 I would put on a sweater if I were you. ...
- 5 Everything would have been OK if I hadn't lost my keys. ...

7 Put in the correct verb forms.

- 1 If I coffee last night, I better. (*not drink; sleep*)
- 2 If my parents more money, I to university after I left school. (*have; go*)
- 3 Annie to Brazil last year if she Pete. (*go; not meet*)

8 More difficult questions