

9 GRAMMAR FOCUS

► Conditional sentences with *if* clauses

Possible situation (present)

If you **get** a high-paying job,
If you **have** more cash to spend,
If you **can buy** anything you want,
If you **don't save** your money,
If you **have to get** a weekend job,

Consequence (future with *will*, *may*, or *might*)

you'll **have** more cash to spend.
you'll **be able to buy** anything you want.
you **won't save** your money.
you **may have to get** a weekend job.
you **might not have** any free time.



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A Match the *if* clauses in column A with the appropriate consequences from column B. Then compare with a partner.

A

1. If you eat less fast food, b
2. If you walk to work every day, c
3. If you don't get enough sleep, e
4. If you change jobs, f
5. If you don't study regularly, a
6. If you travel abroad, d

B

- a. you may not learn to speak fluently.
- b. you might feel a lot healthier.
- c. you'll stay in shape without joining a gym.
- d. you'll be able to experience a new culture.
- e. you won't be able to stay awake in class.
- f. you may not like it better than your old one.

B Add your own consequences to the *if* clauses in column A. Then practice with a partner.

"If you eat less fast food, you will probably live longer."

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- The *if* clause can come before or after the main clause: **If** I change my eating habits, I'll feel healthier./I'll feel healthier **if** I change my eating habits. Always use a comma when the *if* clause comes before the main clause.
- For the future of *can*, use *will be able to*: If you save some money, you'll **be able to buy** a car. (NOT: . . . you'll ~~can buy~~ a car.)
- For the future of *must*, use *will have to*: If you get a dog, you'll **have to take care of** it. (NOT: . . . you'll ~~must take~~ care of it.)

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. If you exercise (exercise) more often, you' ll feel (feel) more energetic.
2. If you join (join) a gym, exercise will become (become) part of your routine.
3. You won't have to (not have to) worry about staying in shape if you work out (work out) three or four times a week.
4. If you ride (ride) a bike or run (run) a few times a week, you will lose (lose) weight and you will gain (gain) muscle.
5. You will sleep (sleep) better at night if you exercise (exercise) regularly.
6. If you start (start) exercising, you might not have (might/not have) as many colds and other health problems.