

## If we go ... If you see ... etc.

A



If can be at the beginning of a sentence or in the middle:

If at the beginning

- If we go by bus, it will be cheaper.  
 If you don't hurry, you'll miss the train.  
 If you're hungry, have something to eat.  
 If the phone rings, can you answer it, please?

if in the middle

- It will be cheaper if we go by bus.  
 You'll miss the train if you don't hurry.  
 I'm going to the concert if I can get a ticket.  
 Is it OK if I use your phone?

In conversation, we often use the **if**-part of the sentence alone:

- ☐ 'Are you going to the concert?' 'Yes, **if I can get a ticket**.'

B

If you see Ann tomorrow ... etc.

After **if**, we use the present (*not* will). We say '**if you see ...**' (*not* if you will see):

- ☐ If you **see** Ann tomorrow, can you ask her to call me?  
☐ If I'm late this evening, don't wait for me. (*not* if I will be)  
☐ What shall we do **if it rains**? (*not* if it will rain)  
☐ If I **don't feel** well tomorrow, I'll stay at home.

C

if and when

If I go out = it is possible that I will go out, but I'm not sure:

- ☐ A: Are you going out later?  
☐ B: Maybe. **If I go out**, I'll close the windows.

When I go out = I'm going out (for sure):

- ☐ A: Are you going out later?  
☐ B: Yes, I am. **When I go out**, I'll close the windows.

Compare **when** and **if**:

- ☐ **When** I get home this evening, I'm going to have a shower.  
☐ If I'm late this evening, don't wait for me. (*not* When I'm late)  
☐ We're going to play tennis **if** it doesn't rain. (*not* when it doesn't rain)

## Exercises

**99.1** Write sentences beginning with **if**. Choose from the boxes.

If +

~~you don't hurry~~  
you pass the exam  
you fail the exam  
you don't want this magazine  
you want those pictures  
you're busy now  
you're hungry  
you need money

+

we can have lunch now  
you can have them  
I can lend you some  
you'll get a certificate  
~~you'll be late~~  
I'll throw it away  
we can talk later  
you can do it again

- 1 If you don't hurry, you'll be late.
- 2 If you pass .....
- 3 If .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....
- 8 .....

**99.2** Which is right?

- 1 If I'm / ~~I'll be~~ late this evening, don't wait for me. (I'm is right)
- 2 Will you call me if I give / I'll give you my phone number?
- 3 If there is / will be a fire, the alarm will ring.
- 4 If I don't see you tomorrow morning, I call / I'll call you in the evening.
- 5 I'm / I'll be surprised if Michael and Jane get / will get married.
- 6 Do you go / Will you go to the party if they invite / they'll invite you?

**99.3** Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

- 1 I'm going to the concert if I can get a ticket.
- 2 If you don't hurry, you'll miss the train.
- 3 I don't want to disturb you if .....
- 4 If you go to bed early tonight, .....
- 5 Turn the TV off if .....
- 6 Tina won't pass her exams if .....
- 7 If I have time tomorrow, .....
- 8 We can go to the beach tomorrow if .....
- 9 I'll be surprised if .....

**99.4** Write **if** or **when**.

- 1 If I'm late this evening, don't wait for me.
- 2 I'm going to do some shopping now. .... I come back, we can have lunch.
- 3 I'm thinking of going to see Tom. .... I go, will you come with me?
- 4 .... you don't want to go out tonight, we can stay at home.
- 5 Is it OK .... I close the window?
- 6 John is still at school. .... he leaves school, he wants to go to college.
- 7 Shall we have a picnic tomorrow .... the weather is good?
- 8 We're going to Madrid next week. We don't have anywhere to stay – we hope to find a hotel  
..... we get there. I don't know what we'll do ..... we don't find a room.

# If I had ... If we went ... etc.

A

Dan likes fast cars, but he doesn't have one.  
He doesn't have enough money.

If he **had** the money, he **would buy** a fast car.

Usually **had** is *past*, but in this sentence **had** is *not past*. If he **had** the money = if he had the money *now* (but he doesn't have it).

If I had the money ...



DAN

If	I	<b>had / knew / lived</b> (etc.) ... ,	I	<b>would ...</b>
	you	<b>didn't have / didn't know</b> (etc.) ... ,	you	<b>wouldn't ...</b>
	it	<b>were ... ,</b>	it	<b>could ...</b>
	they	<b>could ... ,</b>	they	<b>couldn't ...</b>

You can say:

- ☐ If he **had** the money, he would buy a car.
- or He would buy a car **if he had** the money.

I'd / she'd / they'd etc. = I **would** / she **would** / they **would** etc. :

- ☐ I don't know the answer. If I **knew** the answer, I'd **tell** you.
- ☐ It's raining, so we're not going out. We'd **get** wet **if we went** out.
- ☐ Jane lives in a city. She likes cities. She **wouldn't be** happy **if she lived** in the country.
- ☐ If you **didn't have** a job, what **would** you **do**? (but you *have* a job)
- ☐ I'm sorry I can't help you. I'd **help** you **if I could**. (but I *can't*)
- ☐ If we **had** a car, we **could travel** more. (but we *don't* have a car, so we *can't* travel much)

B

If (I) **was/were** ...

You can say: **if** I/he/she/it **was** or  
**if** I/he/she/it **were**

- ☐ It's not a very nice place. I wouldn't go there **if I were you**. (or ... **if I was** you)
- ☐ It would be nice **if the weather was** better. (or ... **if the weather were** better)
- ☐ What would Tom do **if he were** here? (or ... **if he was** here)

I wouldn't go out if I were you.



C

Compare:

**if I have / if it is** etc.

- ☐ I must go and see Helen.  
**If I have** time, I **will go** today.  
(= maybe I'll have time, so maybe I'll go)
- ☐ I like that jacket.  
**I'll buy** it **if it isn't** too expensive.  
(= maybe it will not be too expensive)
- ☐ I'll **help** you **if I can**. (= maybe I can)

**if I had / if it was** etc.

- ☐ I must go and see Helen.  
**If I had** time, I **would go** today.  
(= I don't have time today, so I will not go)
- ☐ I like this jacket, but it's very expensive.  
**I'd buy** it **if it wasn't** so expensive.  
(= it is expensive, so I'm not going to buy it)
- ☐ I'd **help** you **if I could**, but I can't.



**100.1** Complete the sentences.

- I don't know the answer. If I knew the answer, I'd tell you.
- I have a car. I couldn't travel very much if I didn't have a car.
- I don't want to go out. If I ..... to go out, I'd go.
- We don't have a key. If we ..... a key, we could get into the house.
- I'm not hungry. I would have something to eat if I ..... hungry.
- Sue enjoys her work. She wouldn't do it if she ..... it.
- He can't speak any foreign languages. If he ..... speak a foreign language, perhaps he would get a better job.
- You don't try hard enough. If you ..... harder, you would have more success.
- I have a lot to do today. If I ..... so much to do, we could go out.

**100.2** Put the verb in the correct form.

- If he had the money, he would buy a fast car. (he/have)
- Jane likes living in a city. She wouldn't be happy if she lived in the country. (she/not/be)
- If I wanted to learn Italian, ..... to Italy. (I go)
- I haven't told Helen what happened. She'd be angry if ..... (she/know)
- If ..... a map, I could show you where I live. (we/have)
- What would you do if ..... a lot of money? (you/win)
- It's not a very good hotel. .... there if I were you. (I/not/stay)
- If ..... nearer London, we would go there more often. (we/live)
- It's a shame you have to go now. .... nice if you had more time. (it/be)
- I'm not going to take the job. I'd take it if ..... better. (the salary/be)
- I don't know anything about cars. If the car broke down, ..... what to do. (I/not/know)
- If you could change one thing in the world, what ..... ? (you/change)

**100.3** Complete the sentences. Choose from the box and put the verb in the correct form.

<b>we (have) a bigger house</b>	<b>it (be) a bit cheaper</b>
<b>we (buy) a bigger house</b>	<b>the air (be) cleaner</b>
<b>we (have) some pictures on the wall</b>	<b>I (watch) it</b>
<b>every day (be) the same</b>	<b>I (be) bored</b>

- I'd buy that jacket if it was a bit cheaper .....
- If there was a good film on TV tonight, .....
- This room would be nicer if .....
- If there wasn't so much traffic, .....
- Life would be boring if .....
- If I had nothing to do, .....
- We could invite all our friends to stay if .....
- If we had more money, .....

**100.4** Complete the sentences. Use your own ideas.

- I'd be happier if I could get a better job .....
- If I could go anywhere in the world, .....
- I wouldn't be very happy if .....
- I'd buy ..... if .....
- If I saw an accident in the street, .....
- The world would be a better place if .....