

## A

## Unless

Study this example situation:

The club is for members only.

You can't go in **unless you are a member**.

This means:

You can't go in *except if* you are a member.

You can go in *only if* you are a member.

**Unless** = except if.



Some more examples of **unless**:

- ☐ I'll see you tomorrow **unless I have to work late**. (= except if I have to work late)
- ☐ There are no buses to the beach. **Unless you have a car**, it's difficult to get there. (= except if you have a car)
- ☐ 'Shall I tell Liz what happened?' '**Not unless** she asks you.' (= only if she asks you)
- ☐ Sally hates to complain. She wouldn't complain about something **unless it was really bad**. (= except if it was really bad)
- ☐ We can take a taxi to the restaurant – **unless you'd prefer to walk**. (= except if you'd prefer to walk)

Instead of **unless** it is often possible to say **if ... not**:

- ☐ **Unless we leave now**, we'll be late. or **If we don't leave now**, we'll ...

## B

## As long as / provided / providing

**as long as** or **so long as**  
**provided (that)** or **providing (that)** } All these expressions mean 'if' or 'on condition that'.

For example:

- ☐ You can borrow my car { **as long as** / **so long as** } you promise not to drive too fast.  
(= you can borrow my car, but you must promise not to drive too fast – this is a condition)
- ☐ Travelling by car is convenient { **provided (that)** / **providing (that)** } you have somewhere to park.  
(= but only if you have somewhere to park)
- ☐ **Providing (that)** / **Provided (that)** } the room is clean, I don't mind which hotel we stay at.  
(= the room must be clean – otherwise I don't mind)

## C

## Unless / as long as etc. for the future

When you are talking about the future, do *not* use **will** after **unless** / **as long as** / **so long as** / **provided** / **providing**. Use a *present* tense (see Unit 25):

- ☐ I'm not going out **unless it stops** raining. (*not unless it will stop*)
- ☐ **Providing** the weather **is** good, we're going to have a picnic tomorrow.  
(*not providing the weather will be good*)