

GRAMMAR

Advanced clauses

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_3112G

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can use comparative and conditional clauses.
- I can use comparative clause structures to write statements and rules.

Advanced clauses

This lesson is about **clause structures**.

We'll look at **comparative** clauses, as well as some **conditional** clauses.

Read the sentences below. Can you guess which uses a comparative clause and which uses a conditional clause?



It's easier to read in a foreign language than to speak it!

Don't open the door unless you know who is outside.

Comparative clauses: *than* + to-infinitive clause

Read the example sentences. Complete the blue box.

It's better to get along with your co-workers **than to** argue with them.

We are happier to help you out **than to** see you struggling.

It's much harder to do the right thing **than to** do the easy one.

- We can make **comparative clauses** using ***than*** followed by ***to* + infinitive clause**.
- Identify the **comparative adjective** and say which two things are being compared in each sentence.

Write sentences using *than* + *to*-infinitive clauses

Choose some of the adjectives below. **Write** your own sentences with comparative clauses.

easy

stressful

rewarding

content

challenging

happy

Share your sentences in the chat!

Comparative clauses: *rather than* + non-finite clause

Read the examples. Complete the blue box.

I would like to work from home today **rather than go** into the office.

Rather than go into the office, I would like to work from home today.

- We can use the phrase ***rather than*** + a **non-finite clause** to make comparisons.
- It's possible to put this clause at the beginning of the sentence.

- Which action is **more favoured** than the other in these sentences?
- What grammatical difference do you notice between the two sentences?



A **non-finite** clause contains a verb which **doesn't show tense**

Write ten facts about yourself

Practise using comparative clauses.

Write **ten statements** using comparative clauses.

*I prefer to get work done at weekends **rather than** stay late after work.*

*In my experience, it's **easier to study** a language online **than to travel** to a class.*



Comparative clauses: *as if/as though* + finite clause

Andrew looked at me *as though I'd just made* a huge mistake.

Andrew looked at me *as if I'd just made* a huge mistake.

We partied *as if it was* the end of the world.
It looks *as though you've met* each other before!

- We can also make **comparative clauses** using the conjunctions *as if/as though* + **finite clause**.
- These conjunctions can be used **interchangeably**.
- We use this structure for **imaginary** situations, or situations which seem likely or possible.



A **finite** clause contains a verb which **shows tense**



You'll be here in ten minutes? *As if!* I know what you're like.



Does the speaker believe the person they are talking to?





Match the sentence parts

Match the sentence parts. **Form** sentences with *as if/as though*.

E.g. 1. (c) *He looked (at me) as if he might cry.*

1 He looked at me.

2 We spent lots of money.

3 The girl stood at the crossing.

4 The house was in a very bad condition.

5 We hugged.

a We acted like we were millionaires.

b It didn't look like it had been lived in for years.

c He looked like he might cry.

d It felt like we hadn't seen each other in years.

e She didn't seem to know which direction to go.

Conditional clauses: *unless* and *provided (that)*

Read the sentences. Complete the blue boxes.

Unless something changes, I'll see you at the airport at 12pm.
I'll see you at the airport at 12pm **unless** something changes.

You can have a raise **provided that** you work extra hard.

- Identify the **main clause** and the **conditional clause** in the sentences above.
- Note the positioning of the conditional clause. It can come **before or after** the main clause.

- _____ means ***except if***
- _____ means ***if/only if***



Multiple choice

1 I'll give you a quote for your article, _____ I can stay anonymous.

a. unless

b. provided that

2 I won't be able to meet you _____ I get my work done first.

a. unless

b. provided that

3 _____ you keep the music low after 11, we don't mind.

a. unless

b. provided that



Transform the sentences

Write sentences based on the prompts that contain a conditional clause with *unless* or *provided (that)*.

1 We can win this game. We need to avoid injuries beforehand.



We can win this game, provided that we avoid injuries beforehand.

2 The party will be in the garden. I hope it doesn't rain.



3 Your name will be on the brochure. You have to make a donation.



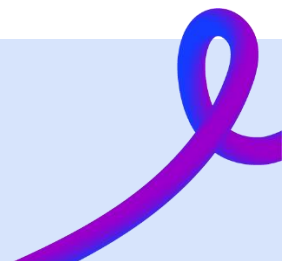
4 I'm not sure it's a good idea to get a puppy. You have to promise to take care of it



5 You can't drive. You don't have a licence.



6 Yeah sure, you can wear it. But please don't spill anything on it!





Explain the rules!

Complete this activity in breakout rooms.

Compare the rules that each group has come up with afterwards in the class. Are they similar?

Imagine you are a manager onboarding a new employee. **Write ten rules**, using *unless* and *provided (that)*.

You can use the kitchen facilities, provided that you clean up after yourself.





Discuss

Answer the questions below, using the clauses you have learned!
Do you have anything in common with your classmates?

- 1 Do you prefer to eat at home or in a restaurant when celebrating a special occasion? Why?
- 2 Are you more comfortable in a small group of friends or in large social groups?
- 3 Have you ever been asked a favour that you didn't want to do? Why not?





End of the lesson

Idiom

As if!

Meaning: Use this to respond to or describe an undesired situation – to express that you think something is ridiculous and very unlikely to happen.

Example: They asked if we wanted to join them. As if!



Additional practice



Practise using *rather than* + non-finite clause

Make a sentence using each of the phrases together with *rather than* + non-finite clause.



pay more

know now

finish it today

change suppliers

stay at home

reschedule

keep it a secret

find a better
candidate

find another job



Airport rules

Imagine you are at the airport. Can you think of ten different clauses that you might read around the airport that would use *unless* and/or *provided that*?





Answer key

P.9: Real-life language: As if! Is an expression used to say that you doubt something is true.

P.10:

2. a We spent money as if/as though we were millionaires
3. e The girl stood at the crossing as if/as though she didn't know which direction to go
4. The house looked as if/as though it hadn't been lived in for years.
5. We hugged as if/as though we hadn't seen each other in years.

P.12: 1. b 2. a 3. b

P.13: Answer ideas:

2. The party will be in the garden, provided that it doesn't rain; The party will be in the garden, unless it rains.
3. Your name will be on the brochure, provided that you make a donation
4. We're not getting a puppy unless you promise to take care of it
5. You can't drive unless you have a licence
6. You can wear it, provided that you don't spill anything on it!



Summary

Comparative clauses – **than** + **to** infinitive:

- We can make **comparative clauses** using **than** followed by **to + infinitive clause**.
- *It's better to get along with your co-workers **than to** argue with them.*
- *We are happier to help you out **than to** see you struggling.*

Comparative clauses: **rather than** + **non-finite clause**:

- We can use the phrase **rather than** + a **non-finite clause** to make comparisons.
- It's possible to put this clause at the beginning of the sentence.
- ***Rather than go*** into the office, I would like to work from home today.

Comparative clauses: **as if/as though** + **finite clause**:

- We can also make **comparative clauses** using the conjunctions **as if/as though** + **finite clause**. We use this structure for **imaginary** situations, or situations which seem likely or possible.
- *We partied **as if it was** the end of the world.*
- *It looks **as though you've met** each other before!*

Conditional clauses: **unless** and **provided (that)**:

- **Unless** means **except if**. **Provided (that)** means **if/only if**.
- *I'll see you at the airport at 12pm **unless** something changes.*
- *You can have a raise **provided that** you work extra hard.*



Vocabulary

rewarding

As if!

a raise

injury

to spill

