

A



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

If ... , ... (*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** ... (*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.
- Do you mind **if** I use your phone? (= Is it OK if I use it?)

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 phone 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: Perhaps. **If I go out**, I'll close the window.

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 window.



- **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')

Make sentences beginning with **if**. Choose from the boxes.

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

! 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 write to me if I give / I'll give you my address?
- 3 If there is / will be a fire, the alarm will ring.
- 4 If I don't see you tomorrow morning, I phone / I'll phone you in the evening.
- 5 I'm / I'll be surprised if Martin and Julia get / will get married.
- 6 Do you go / Will you go to the party if they invite / they'll invite you?

! 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 go swimming if
- 4 If you go to bed early tonight,
- 5 Turn the television 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

! Put in **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 Tim. I go, will you come with me?
- 4 you don't want to go out tonight, we can stay at home.
- 5 Do you mind I close the window?
- 6 John is still at school. he leaves school, he wants to go to university.
- 7 Shall we have a picnic tomorrow the weather is good?
- 8 We're going to Madrid next week. We haven't got anywhere to stay – we hope to find a hotel
 we arrive. I don't know what we'll do we don't find anywhere.