

**1 Look at the verb tenses in these sentences:**

We will start **when** we are ready. I'll ask him **if** I see him.

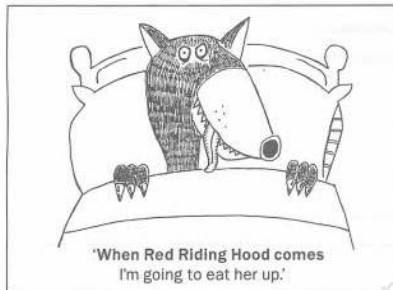
I'll wait for you in the car tomorrow **while** you are **doing** the shopping.

We are going to get married **as soon as** we have enough money.

You normally use a present tense to talk about the future in clauses with *if* or with time words like *when, while, before, as soon as, after, until*.

Look at these sentences. The *if* clause or the time clause is indicated in each one:

I will come round tomorrow **if** I have time. **If** I see Jack I will give him your message.



You will break those glasses **if** you're not careful. I'm not coming **until** I'm ready.

**2 There are some very common expressions with *if*. You should practise these expressions:**

If I can If I have time If you like If you want (to)

Notice that all these phrases use a present tense to talk about the future:

A Will you do the shopping?

B Yes, if I have time.

A Will you be home early tonight?

B Yes, I will if I can.

A Shall we go to the cinema?

B Yes, we can if you like.

A May I borrow this book?

B Yes of course, if you want to.

**3 When you think something might happen and might be important in some way you can say *What if ...?* or *Suppose ...?* with the present tense:**

What if it rains? What if it breaks? Suppose you hurt yourself? Suppose you fall ill?

**A Match the clauses to make sentences:**

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 I'll take an umbrella             | if you take a taxi.               |
| 2 I'm sure we will enjoy the match  | as soon as your father gets home. |
| 3 Would you like a hot drink        | if it rains.                      |
| 4 You will probably catch the train | before you go to bed?             |
| 5 We will have dinner               | if anyone comes to the door.      |
| 6 You will hear the dog bark        | if we can get tickets.            |

**B Rewrite these sentences using the word given:**

- 1 You will go to town tomorrow and I will look after the children.  
When you go to town tomorrow I will look after the children.
- 2 Mary will be late. I will meet her at the station.  
If \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Bill is going to write to me. I will tell you all his news.  
\_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 You will go to the supermarket. You can buy some bread.  
If \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 I won't go to bed. Peter will get home at midnight.  
\_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 She is going to finish her homework. She can't go out.  
\_\_\_\_\_ until after \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 The weather will probably be very bad next week. We will be on our holidays.  
\_\_\_\_\_ while \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 You will get your exam results next week. Then you can write to Mary.  
When \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 You won't get home till after midnight. Your mother will be very worried.  
If \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 I will pay you the money. I will get a job.  
\_\_\_\_\_ as soon as \_\_\_\_\_

Look at the sentences again and underline all the *if* clauses and time clauses.

**C Make short dialogues from these tables:**

A Come round and see us tomorrow.  
A Could you help me with this?  
A Would you mind doing this?  
A Will you give this to Peter?  
A Can I borrow your pen?  
A Will you phone us when you get there?

B Yes, I will if I can.  
B Sure, if you like.  
B Yes, of course, if you want me to.