

If we go . . . If you see . . . , etc.



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

If at the beginning

- If we take the 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 take the 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 tonight, don't wait for me. (*not if I will be*)
- What should we do **if it rains?** (*not if it will rain*)
- **If I don't feel** well tomorrow, I'll stay 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** tonight, I'm going to take a shower.
- **If I'm late** tonight, don't wait for me. (*not When I'm late*)
- We're going to play basketball **if it doesn't rain.** (*not when it doesn't rain*)

100.1 Write sentences beginning with *If*. Choose from the boxes.

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

If +

+

we can have lunch now
 you can have them
 I can lend you some
 you'll get your license
~~you'll be late~~
 I'll throw it away
 we can talk later
 you can take it again

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

100.2 Which is right?

1. If I'm / ~~I'll be~~ late tonight, 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 afternoon.
5. I'm / I'll be surprised if Martin and Jane get / will get married.
6. Do you go / Will you go to the party if they invite / they'll invite you?

100.3 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 television off if _____
6. Tina won't pass her driving test if _____
7. If I have time tomorrow, _____
8. We can go to the beach tomorrow if _____
9. I'll be surprised if _____

100.4 Write *if* or *when*.

1. If I'm late tonight, don't wait for me.
2. I'm going 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. Is it OK _____ I close the window?
6. John is still in high school. _____ he finishes, he wants to go to college.
7. Do you want to go on a picnic tomorrow _____ the weather is good?
8. We're going to Mexico City next week. We're going to look for a hotel _____ we get there. I don't know what we'll do _____ we don't find a room.