

Unless As long as and provided/providing

A

Unless

Study this example situation:



The club is for members only.

You can't play tennis there **unless** you are a member.

This means:

You can't play tennis there **except** if you are a member *or*

You can play tennis there **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)
- Don't tell Sue what I said **unless** she asks you. (= except if she asks you)
- "Should I tell Sue what you said?" "Not **unless** she asks you." (= only if she asks you)
- I don't like fish. I wouldn't eat it **unless** I was extremely hungry. (= except if I was/were extremely hungry)

We often use **unless** in warnings:

- We'll be late **unless** we hurry. (= except if we hurry)
- **Unless** you work much harder, you won't pass the exam.
- I was told I wouldn't pass the exam **unless** I worked harder.

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

- Don't tell Sue what I said if she **doesn't** ask you.
- We'll be late if we **don't** hurry.

B

As long as, etc.

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

For example:

- You can use my car **{ as long as / so long as }** you drive carefully.
(= You can use my car, but you must drive carefully – this is a condition.)
- Traveling 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)** } she studies hard, she'll pass her exams.
(= She must study hard – if she does this, she will pass.)

C

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 also Unit 24):

- We'll be late **unless** we hurry. (*not unless we will hurry*)
- **Providing** she studies hard, she will pass the exam. (*not Providing she will study*)

Exercises

111.1 Write a new sentence with the same meaning. Use *unless* in your sentence.

1. You need to work a lot harder, or you won't pass the exam.
You won't pass the exam unless you work a lot harder.
2. Listen carefully, or you won't know what to do.
You won't know what to do _____.
3. She has to apologize to me, or I'll never speak to her again.
I'll _____.
4. You have to speak very slowly, or he won't be able to understand you.
_____.
5. The company has to offer me more money, or I'm going to look for another job.
_____.

111.2 Write a new sentence with the same meaning. Use *unless* in your sentence.

1. You are allowed into the club only if you're a member.
You aren't allowed into the club unless you're a member.
2. I'm going to the party only if you go, too.
I'm not going _____.
3. The dog will attack you only if you move suddenly.
_____.
4. He'll speak to you only if you ask him a question.
_____.
5. The doctor will see you today only if it's an emergency.
_____.

111.3 Choose the correct word or expression for each sentence.

1. You can use my car unless / as long as you drive carefully. (*as long as* is correct)
2. I'm playing tennis tomorrow unless / providing it rains.
3. I'm playing tennis tomorrow unless / providing it doesn't rain.
4. I don't mind if you come in late unless / as long as you come in quietly.
5. I'm going now unless / provided you want me to stay.
6. I don't watch TV unless / as long as I have nothing else to do.
7. Children are allowed to use the swimming pool unless / provided they are with an adult.
8. Unless / Provided they are with an adult, children are not allowed to use the swimming pool.
9. We can sit here in the corner unless / as long as you'd rather sit over there by the window.
10. A: Our vacation cost a lot of money.
B: Did it? Well, that doesn't matter unless / as long as you enjoyed yourselves.

111.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

1. We'll be late unless *we hurry* _____.
2. I like hot weather unless _____.
3. I like hot weather provided _____.
4. Kate reads a newspaper every day as long as _____.
5. I don't mind walking home so long as _____.
6. I like to walk to work in the morning unless _____.
7. We can meet tomorrow unless _____.
8. You can borrow the money providing _____.
9. You won't achieve anything unless _____.