

## 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 Anna tomorrow ..., etc.

After **if**, we use the present (*not* will). We say "**if you see ...**" (*not* if you will see):

- ☐ If you **see** Anna 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)



97.1 Write sentences beginning with **if**. Choose from the boxes.

If +

~~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

+

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 .....

97.2 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 John and Rachel get / will get married.
- 6 Do you go / Will you go to the party if they invite / they'll invite you?

97.3 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 TV off if .....
- 6 Rachel 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 .....

97.4 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 Tom. .... 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.