

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

A



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)

# Exercises

## 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.