

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 go by 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 go by 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 this evening, don't wait for me. (*not if I will be*)
- What shall we do **if it rains**? (*not if it will rain*)
- If I don't feel** well tomorrow, I'll stay at 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 this evening, I'm going to have a shower.
- If** I'm late this evening, don't wait for me. (*not When I'm late*)
- We're going to play tennis **if** it doesn't rain. (*not when it doesn't rain*)

99.1 Write sentences beginning with if. Choose from the boxes.

If +	you don't hurry you pass the exam you fail the exam 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 a certificate you'll be late I'll throw it away we can talk later you can do it again
------	---	---	--

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

99.2 Which is right?

- 1 If I'm / ~~I'll be~~ late this evening, 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 evening.
- 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?

99.3 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 exams if
- 7 If I have time tomorrow,
- 8 We can go to the beach tomorrow if
- 9 I'll be surprised if

99.4 Write if or when.

- 1 If I'm late this evening, don't wait for me.
- 2 I'm going to do some 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 at school. he leaves school, he wants to go to college.
- 7 Shall we have a picnic tomorrow the weather is good?
- 8 We're going to Madrid next week. We haven't got anywhere to stay – we hope to find a hotel we get there. I don't know what we'll do we don't find a room.