

GRAMMAR · LESSON 13 · B1

If we plan it right, the fair will be brilliant.

First Conditional — if + present simple, will + base verb

The first conditional is the grammar of real plans and real consequences. **If** + present simple in one clause, **will** + base verb in the other. It connects a possible condition to its likely result.

🕒 50 min

↔ Conditional

📄 CEFR B1

👤 Ages 11-16

What you'll learn

- Form the first conditional: **if + present simple, will + base verb**.
- Never put **will in the if-clause** — the #1 B1 exam mistake.
- Use **unless = if not**, and variations: **might, can, imperative, be going to** in the result.

1

WARM-UP · 4 MIN

If this happens, then what?

- | | |
|----|--|
| Q1 | If it rains after school, what will you do? |
| Q2 | If your best friend moves away, how will you feel? |
| Q3 | If you pass all your exams, what will you do to celebrate? |
| Q4 | Finish: "If I don't eat breakfast tomorrow, I ..." |

2

GRAMMAR FOCUS · 18 MIN

The if-will formula

The first conditional has two parts: a **condition** (if-clause) using **present simple**, and a **result** using **will + base verb**. The situation is real and possible.

If + present simple , **will + base verb**

IF-CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
<p>Present simple — even though the meaning is future. Never use <i>will</i> here. <i>If it rains ... If she passes ... If we don't hurry ...</i></p>	<p>will + base verb — the likely consequence. <i>... we'll stay inside. ... her parents will be proud. ... we'll miss the train.</i></p>

Word order: if-clause first → comma. Result first → no comma. Both correct.

Variations in the result clause

MAY/MIGHT/COULD	<p>Less certain result. <i>If the weather improves, we might go hiking.</i></p>
CAN	<p>Ability/permission depending on condition. <i>If you finish homework, you can watch TV.</i></p>
IMPERATIVE	<p>Direct instruction. <i>If you see her, tell her I called.</i></p>
UNLESS	<p>Unless = if ... not. <i>Unless you study, you won't pass.</i></p>

⚠ Three classic B1 mistakes

- ❑ ~~If I will see her, I will tell her.~~ ❑ **If I see her, I'll tell her.**
- ❑ ~~If it will rain we stay home.~~ ❑ **If it rains, we'll stay home.**
- ❑ ~~I'll call if I will arrive early.~~ ❑ **I'll call if I arrive early.**

3

KEY VOCABULARY · 6 MIN

Ten words for plans and consequences

Word	POS	Meaning	Example
condition	<i>n</i>	something that must be true for something else to happen	<i>There's one condition: if it rains, we cancel.</i>
consequence	<i>n</i>	the result of an action	<i>If you skip practice, the consequence is clear.</i>
to depend on	<i>phr v</i>	to be decided by something	<i>It depends on the weather.</i>
to arrange	<i>v</i>	to plan or organise	<i>If everyone agrees, I'll arrange the meeting.</i>
to postpone	<i>v</i>	to move to a later time	<i>If it rains, we'll postpone the fair.</i>
volunteer	<i>n/v</i>	person who works without pay; to offer to help	<i>If more people volunteer, we'll have enough help.</i>
deadline	<i>n</i>	last date by which something must be done	<i>If we miss the deadline, they won't accept our entry.</i>
to guarantee	<i>v</i>	to promise something will happen	<i>I can't guarantee success if we don't practise.</i>
outcome	<i>n</i>	the final result	<i>The outcome will depend on the weather.</i>
in case	<i>conj</i>	because something might happen	<i>Take a jacket in case it gets cold.</i>

4

READING · 12 MIN

If We Plan It Right

If We *Plan It Right*THE PULSE · ISSUE 15
ONE FAIR, FORTY IF-SENTENCES

Elif, 15, is organising her school's first sustainability fair in Ankara. Every decision is an if-sentence. Plus four more teens whose plans depend on a single "if."

E

Elif, 15

Ankara · Turkey

"If we get more than twenty volunteers, we'll have enough people for six stalls."

Elif's notebook is full of *if* sentences. "**If we get** more than twenty volunteers, **we'll have** enough people for six stalls," she wrote in September. "**If the head teacher says** yes to the courtyard, **we'll set up** outside. **If she doesn't, we'll use** the gym." By October, her notebook had forty-three *if*-sentences in it.

The grammar came naturally. "**If it rains** on the day, **we'll move** everything indoors," she told the committee. Her English teacher, Ms Demir, said: "Elif, you just used perfect first conditionals for twenty minutes straight! **If** + present simple, **will** + base verb. Every time." Elif looked confused. "I was just ... planning."

That is exactly the point. The first conditional is the grammar of **real plans and real consequences**. "**Unless** someone brings a speaker, **nobody will hear** the presentations." (*Unless = if ... not.*)

Sometimes the result isn't *will* — it's softer. "**If enough parents come**, we **might** raise 500 lira." "**If you see** the art teacher, **tell** her we need paint." The *if*-clause always stays in the **present simple**. The result can use *will*, *might*, *can*, *could*, or a direct command.

The fair happened on a cool Saturday in November. It didn't rain. Twenty-eight volunteers showed up. "The first conditional is about **possible futures**," Elif said. "Some happen. Some don't. But you plan for all of them." Ms Demir gave her extra credit for grammar.

... FOUR MORE IF-LIVES ...

M

Mateo, 14 · Buenos Aires · Argentina

Football

"**If I pass** the fitness test, **they'll invite** me to the second round. **If I don't, I'll try** again in six months." His coach: "**Unless he gives** everything, **he won't make** it."

P

Priya, 13 · Mumbai · India

Monsoon

"**If the rains come** early, **school will close** for a day or two. **If the streets flood, we'll have** online classes." Her mother: "**If you don't take** your raincoat, **you'll get** soaked."

J Jonas, 16 · Berlin · Germany

Scholarship

"If I get the scholarship, I'll spend a year in Vancouver. If I don't, I'll stay in Berlin." His teacher: "If they ask about your motivation, be honest."

C Cleo, 14 · Cape Town · South Africa

Load-shedding

"If the power goes off during class, we'll use the generator. If I don't charge my laptop before stage 4, I won't be able to do homework."

If-clause (present simple)

Result clause (will / modal / imperative)

5

PRACTICE · 8 MIN

8 quick choices

1	If she ___ hard, she'll pass the exam. · A) will study B) studies C) studied
2	We'll miss the bus if we ___ now. · A) don't leave B) won't leave C) didn't leave
3	If it rains, we ___ the match to next week. · A) postpone B) postponed C) 'll postpone
4	___ you study, you won't pass. · A) If B) Unless C) When
5	If you see Maya, ___ her about the meeting. · A) tell B) you'll tell C) told
6	If I finish early, I ___ go for a run. · A) will can B) going to C) might
7	I'll call you as soon as I ___ at the airport. · A) will arrive B) arrive C) am arriving
8	Take your umbrella ___ it rains. · A) in case B) unless C) if will

6

SPEAKING · 5 MIN

Your if-will plans

Q 1	What will you do if it rains this weekend?
Q 2	What happens if you forget homework?
Q 3	Plan a class party with 3 first conditionals.
Q 4	What won't happen unless you prepare now?
Q 5	A big decision: If I choose A ... If I choose B ...

7

WRITING · 10 MIN

"My event plan"

8

COMPREHENSION QUIZ · 6 MIN

10 questions

1	If the train ____ on time, we'll be there by noon. · A) will arrive B) arrives C) arrived D) arriving
2	I ____ you know if anything changes. · A) let B) will let C) letting D) am let
3	If you ____ eat breakfast, you'll be hungry by 10. · A) won't B) don't C) didn't D) aren't
4	____ she calls, we won't know what time to meet. · A) If B) Unless C) When will D) If will
5	If the weather improves, we ____ go hiking. · A) might B) will can C) going to D) must to
6	If you see Ravi at lunch, ____ him this note. · A) give B) you'll give C) giving D) gave
7	We'll start as soon as the director ____. · A) will arrive B) arrives C) is arriving D) arrived
8	If it ____ too cold, we'll move the barbecue indoors. · A) will get B) gets C) got D) is getting
9	Take an umbrella ____ it rains on the way home. · A) unless B) if will C) in case D) because will
10	If I ____ enough money by June, I ____ a new guitar. · A) save / 'll buy B) will save / buy C) saved / would buy D) save / bought



ANSWER KEYS

Check your answers

Practice · Part 5

1	B — studies	<i>If-clause = present simple.</i>
2	A — don't leave	<i>Negative if-clause = present simple.</i>
3	C — 'll postpone	<i>Result = will + base verb.</i>
4	B — Unless	<i>Unless = if not.</i>
5	A — tell	<i>Imperative in result.</i>
6	C — might	<i>Less certain result. 'Will can' never exists.</i>
7	B — arrive	<i>Time clause with 'as soon as' = present simple.</i>
8	A — in case	<i>Precaution = in case.</i>

Quiz · Part 8

1	B — arrives	<i>If-clause = present simple.</i>
2	B — will let	<i>Result = will + base verb.</i>
3	B — don't	<i>Negative if = present simple.</i>
4	B — Unless	<i>Unless = if not.</i>
5	A — might	<i>Less certain result.</i>
6	A — give	<i>Imperative.</i>
7	B — arrives	<i>Time clause = present simple.</i>
8	B — gets	<i>If-clause = present simple.</i>
9	C — in case	<i>Precaution.</i>
10	A — save / 'll buy	<i>First conditional: present + will. Option C is second conditional (imaginary).</i>

Excellent work on Lesson 13! You now own the first conditional: *if + present simple, will + base verb* — for real, possible plans. In **Lesson 14**, we flip everything: the **Second Conditional** — *if + past simple, would + base verb* — for imaginary, unlikely, or impossible situations. Same structure, different world.