

Grammar Conditionals

When do we Use 'Unless' and 'If not'? 2

The conjunction **unless** means **if not**, for example:

I will talk to you on Monday **unless** *my meeting runs late.*
I will talk to you on Monday **if** *my meeting **doesn't run** late.*

1. The **unless** clause becomes the 'if' clause; the tense remains the same
2. If positive, the main verb becomes negative; if negative, it becomes positive
3. The result clause remains the same; note: 'if' can be replaced by 'as long as'

Unless can be in first or mid-position in a sentence, and the clauses can be reversed. It often represents the idea:
UNLESS STH POSITIVE HAPPENS (+) > STH NEGATIVE WILL HAPPEN (-)

We can use **unless** to:

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| A. threaten / warn | Unless you lose weight, you risk developing diabetes. |
| B. justify | I can't work any harder, unless I work 24 hours a day! |
| C. advise | Unless you enjoy being penniless, you should get a job. |
| D. change your mind | I'll wear the blue jumper, unless this looks better? |
| E. add a last-minute thought | Clint and Danni aren't coming – unless they find a babysitter. |

Match two clauses to make a sentence, then say which of the five groups it belongs to:

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| 1. If you don't really need to buy a new coat today, ____ | a) You'll feel tired in the morning, |
| 2. Unless my wife agrees, ____ | b) the sauce won't taste right. |
| 3. ____ if you don't do any prep. | c) I won't get that tax refund |
| 4. ____ unless you get your beauty sleep. | d) we won't be able to go to the concert. |
| 5. Unless you're going to email her, ____ | e) I won't be able to join the cricket club. |
| 6. ____ if you don't start to appreciate me more! | f) You're going to fail the test |
| 7. Unless I'd eaten them, ____ | g) we wouldn't have met her at Easter. |
| 8. Unless the venue reduces the prices, ____ | h) you should buy a card for Auntie Jen. |
| 9. ____ unless the film has already begun. | i) I would tell the teacher! |
| 10. ____ if I hadn't! | j) It wouldn't be viable to meet after work, |
| 11. ____ unless the government changes the rules. | k) I won't continue the lessons with him |
| 12. ____ unless you give them special food. | l) it's worth waiting for the sale. |
| 13. ____ if they don't begin to improve. | m) the yoghurts would've gone off. |
| 14. Unless you use chopped tomatoes ____ | n) The birds won't come to the garden |
| 15. If we can't persuade the neighbours to be quieter, ____ | o) Nobody woulda used the Xbox, |
| 16. ____ unless the weather takes a turn for the worse. | p) We can have a lovely walk, |
| 17. If your sister hadn't changed her ways, ____ | q) I'm leaving you, Malcolm, |
| 18. If you didn't give me my book back, ____ | r) We can go to the pub, |
| 19. ____ unless I left early – and I can't. | s) Let's go to the cinema, |
| 20. ____ if you don't want to order a takeaway? | t) we will have to move house. |