



Don't worry – if you forget something, I'll bring it along later!



Oh no! It's Sue's birthday tomorrow. I must buy her a present. She'd never forgive me if I forgot her birthday!

Presentation

Real conditionals

You use *if* with a present tense followed by *will* in the main clause to talk about a real situation, i.e. a situation which is possible in the future:

If you forget something, I'll bring it along later. (The man thinks that it's possible that the woman will forget something.)

These sentences are often called first conditionals.

See Units 91 and 92 for more information about real conditionals.

Unreal conditionals

You use *if* with the past simple followed by *would* in the main clause to talk about an imagined situation in the present or the future, i.e. a situation that is either impossible or possible but not probable:

If I forgot her birthday, she'd never forgive me. (He doesn't think it's probable. He's imagining the situation.)

When you use the past simple with *if*, it does not refer to the past. It refers to the present or future.

These sentences are often called second conditionals.

See Unit 93 for more information about unreal conditionals.

1 Choose the correct option.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 If you wash the car,
a I'd give you five pounds. | b I'll give you five pounds. |
| 2 I'll come into town with you
a if you want. | b if you'll want. |
| 3 If she didn't like you,
a she won't phone you. | b she wouldn't phone you. |
| 4 If he was really unhappy,
a he'd left his job. | b he'd leave his job. |
| 5 If you want a good job,
a you must pass your exams. | b you'd need to study harder. |
| 6 You definitely won't pass your exam
a if you wouldn't study harder. | b if you don't study harder. |
| 7 If you hear a strange noise in the night,
a you must call the police. | b you'd have to call the police. |
| 8 Please come straight back here
a if you don't find him. | b if you won't find him. |

2 Complete the sentences with the present simple, past simple, will or would form of the verb in brackets.

- If I don't see you later, I (send) you a text message.
- If you didn't have to work, what (you / do)?
- Jenny will be happy to help if you (have) any problems.
- If you (wait) a minute, I can help you with those bags.
- I wouldn't do that if I (be) you.
- They (do) anything if you gave them enough money.
- What (you / do) if the bus doesn't come?
- How would you react if it (happen) to you?

3 Write sentences about the situations using *if* and the words in bold.

- I don't have any money. I can't buy a car. **had**
If I had some money, I'd buy a car.
- It may rain tomorrow. We may not play football. **won't**
.....
- I like my job. That's why I do it. **wouldn't**
.....
- I have to work tomorrow. I need to go to bed early. **didn't**
.....
- I'll probably see Tom later today. I can tell him about the party. **I'll**
.....
- I don't know if you have any money. I can pay the bill. **don't**
.....