



When it's sunny, we usually go to the beach. If it rains, we stay at home and read.



If it's sunny tomorrow, we'll go to the beach.

Presentation

If + present simple, present simple

You use *if* or *when* with the present simple followed by the present simple in the main clause to talk about facts and things which are generally true:

If it's sunny, we go to the beach.

When it's sunny, we go to the beach.

If it rains, we stay at home.

When it rains, we stay at home.

This is often called the zero conditional.

If + present simple, will

You can also use *if* with the present simple to talk about a possible future situation or action. You use *will* / *won't* in the main clause to talk about the result of that situation or action:

If it's sunny tomorrow, we'll go to the beach.

This is often called the first conditional.

Note that you use *if* with the present simple, not *will*, to talk about the future.

(don't say *If it will be sunny tomorrow, we'll go to the beach.*)

You can also use the present simple to talk about the future after time conjunctions.

Position of if

You can use *if* in two possible positions.

- *if*-clause first: *If it rains, we'll stay at home.*
- main clause first: *We'll stay at home if it rains.*

When the *if*-clause is at the beginning of the sentence, you use a comma to separate it from the main clause.

If it's sunny, we'll go to the beach.

if or when?

When you talk about things that are generally true, you can use *if* or *when*. There's no difference.

If it's sunny / When it's sunny ... If it rains / When it rains ...

When you talk about situations in the future, there is a difference between *if* and *when*.

If I see Jim, I'll let him know. (You don't know if you're going to see Jim, but you know it's a possibility.)

When I see Jim, I'll let him know. (You know you are definitely going to see Jim.)

Exercises

1 Match 1–6 with a–f.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 I'll be really surprised | <input type="checkbox"/> | a if he passes all his exams. |
| 2 I'll take a break | <input type="checkbox"/> | b when the teacher isn't in the classroom. |
| 3 If you talk to Ruth, | <input type="checkbox"/> | c they'll cancel the flight. |
| 4 It's really cold | <input type="checkbox"/> | d when I finish this exercise. |
| 5 If the storm doesn't stop, | <input type="checkbox"/> | e when the wind blows from the north. |
| 6 The children always behave badly | <input type="checkbox"/> | f will you tell her about the party? |

2 Choose the correct verb form.

- If it ^(s) / *will be* sunny, we'll need suncream.
- I *bring* / *'ll bring* my torch if we go out late tonight.
- If they *go* / *'ll go* in the car, they always take a satnav.
- She only plays video games if she *doesn't* / *won't* have any homework.
- We *call* / *'ll call* you tomorrow if we can get a signal.
- You *stop* / *will stop* at the lights if they are red.
- If I see Mark at work, I *tell* / *'ll tell* him to call you.
- My dog won't hurt you if you *speak* / *'ll speak* to him.

3 Ⓢ Complete the conversation with the present simple or *will* future form of the verbs in brackets. Then listen and check.

Conversation 1

A: What do you usually do at the weekend?

B: If I ¹ (not / have) any work to do, we ² (often / go) away somewhere.

Conversation 2

C: What are you doing this weekend?

D: I'm not sure. If the weather ³ (be) good, we ⁴ (take) the kids to the zoo.

Conversation 3

E: Is Tim here today?

F: I don't know. I haven't seen him.

E: Well, if you ⁵ (see) him, ⁶ (you let) me know, please? I need to talk to him.

Conversation 4

G: The receptionist isn't here today. She's not well.

H: OK. I'll tell Laura. She ⁷ (usually / cover) on reception if the receptionist ⁸ (be) absent.

4 Complete these sentences so that they are true for you.

- I'll tomorrow if
- If I have time this evening,
- If I have any free time during the week, I usually