

FCE

condition clauses

form	meaning/use	example
as / so long as + Present Simple	but only if	I'll come as / so long as you pay.
(just) in case + Present Simple	because it is possible that (sth happens)	Take an umbrella just in case it rains.
on condition that + Present Simple	but only if (sth else happens)	I'll lend you the money on condition that you give it back soon.
provided/providing (that) + Present Simple	but only if (sth happens)	We'll get there on time provided we leave now.
suppose/supposing + Present Simple	imagine that	Supposing you fall ill, what will you do?
unless + Present Simple	except if (sth happens as is true in future)	We won't go for a walk unless it's sunny.
whether (... or not) + Present Simple	introducing future possibilities or alternatives	Whether we win or not depends on how committed we are.

(See also 5a.)

- When a clause beginning with *if*, *whether*, *when*, etc. is the object of the sentence, we can use *will*:

I doubt ^{OBJECT} *if/whether* David will come.
 I don't know *when* they'll come back.

Practice

Underline the correct expression in the following sentences.

Example: You can drop in and see us whenever / ~~on condition~~ you like.

- Until / ~~When~~ he arrives, everyone must stand.
- We're not going to stop digging until / ~~as soon as~~ we find the ancient ruins.
- They're going to check the building before / ~~as long as~~ the President arrives.
- Those flowers will be in bloom immediately / ~~by the time~~ spring comes.
- Please phone your dad by the time / ~~immediately~~.
- Supposing / ~~In case~~ you had a baby girl – what would you call her?
- Whether / ~~If~~ Chelsea wins the Cup depends on Dennis being on good form.
- When / ~~After~~ the Smiths arrive, ask them to wait outside my office.
- As soon as / ~~Before~~ you hear the alarm, run for the exit.
- You'll recover quickly once / ~~provided~~ you rest.