

Conditionals Exercise 1

How could you rewrite the following sentences using the suggested alternative conditional words?

Example **as long as**

I'll go **if** you go too

Answer: I'll go **as long as** you go too.

As long as

1. You should put more paper in the photocopier tray. That way you will not have any problems.

Only if

2. Do not include that book in the reference list unless you have used it in the main text.

Otherwise

3. If lectures are boring students will not want to attend.

Provided that

4. If you include all the correct references you will not be plagiarising.

Providing that

5. If you have already answered the first question, you can do the second question.

Supposing

6. She will graduate next year if she passes all her courses.

Unless

7. Don't take this course if you are not ready to study statistics.

When

8. If we read the results carefully we are more aware of the limitations in the study.

Whenever

9. We always have to wear goggles if we enter the lab.

Whether or not

10. They will invest in the project even if it does not make a lot of money.

Answers to Conditionals Exercise 1

As long as

1. You should put more paper in the photocopier tray. That way you will not have any problems.

Answer: **As long as** you put more paper in the photocopier tray you will not have any problems.

Details – type 5 conditional - prediction. You could also reverse this sentence: *You will not have any problems, **as long as** you put more paper in the photocopier tray.*

Only if

2. Do not include that book in the reference list unless you have used it in the main text.

Answer: **Only** include that book in the reference list **if** you have used it in the main text.

Details – type 5 conditional – command. N.B. *only* and *if* can be separated. If you keep *only* and *if* together the sentence is like this: *Include that book in the reference list **only if** you have used it in the main text.*

Otherwise

3. If lectures are boring students will not want to attend.

Answer: type 5 conditional – prediction. Lectures should be interesting, otherwise students will not want to attend.

Details – N.B. You *cannot* reverse the clauses in this sentence.

Provided (that)

4. If you include all the correct references you will not be plagiarising.

Answer: **Provided that** you include all the correct references, you will not be plagiarising.

Details – type 3 conditional - implication. You could also reverse this sentence: *You will not be plagiarising, **provided that** you include all the correct references*

You could also omit the word *that*: **Provided** you include all the correct references, you will not be plagiarising.

Providing (that)

5. If you have already answered the first question, you can do the second question.

Answer: **Providing (that)** you have already answered the first question, you can do the second question.

Details – type 6 conditional with a present perfect – possible plan. You could also reverse this sentence: *You can do the second question, **providing that** you have already answered the first question.*

You could also omit the word *that*: **Providing** you have already answered the first question, you can do the second question.

Supposing

6. She will graduate next year if she passes all her courses.

Answer: She will graduate next year, **supposing** she passes all her courses.

Details – type 5 conditional – prediction. You could also reverse this sentence: **Supposing** *she passes all her courses, she will graduate next year.*

Unless

7. Don't take this course if you are not ready to study statistics.

Answer: Don't take this course **unless** you are ready to study statistics.

Details – type 5 conditional – command. N.B. *Unless = if not*. That means that you don't need *not* with *unless*. The negative meaning of *not* is included in the negative prefix *un*.

You could also reverse this sentence: *Unless you are ready to study statistics, don't take this course.*

When

8. If we read the results carefully we are more aware of the limitations in the study.

Answer: **When** we read the results carefully we are more aware of the limitations in the study.

Details – type 2 conditional – habit. You could also reverse this sentence: *We are more aware of the limitations in the study **when** we read the results carefully.*

Whenever

9. We always have to wear goggles if we enter the lab.

Answer: We have to wear goggles **whenever** we enter the lab.

Details – type 2 conditional – habit. You could also reverse this sentence: **Whenever** *we enter the lab we have to wear goggles*. N.B. You do not need to include *always* if you have the word *whenever*.

Whether or not

10. They will invest in the project even if it does not make a lot of money.

Answer: They will invest in the project **whether or not** it makes a lot of money.

Details – type 5 conditional – prediction. You can separate the phrase *whether or not*: They will invest in the project **whether** it makes a lot of money **or not**.

You could also reverse this sentence: *Whether or not it makes a lot of money, they will invest in the project.*

N.B. If you use *whether or not* the verb later in the sentence becomes positive, without *not*: *whether or not it **makes** a lot of money*. Compare this to the original, where *even if* is followed by a negative verb: *even if it **does not make** a lot of money*.

Conditionals Exercise 2 (This is similar to Exercise 1 but has different sentences.)

How could you rewrite the following sentences using the suggested alternative conditional words?

Example **as long as**
I'll go **if** you go too.

Answer: I'll go **as long as** you go too.

As long as

1. The research will continue if there is enough funding.

Only if

2. Don't vote unless you like this person.

Otherwise

3. You can only do the quiz if you have access to the Internet.

Provided that

4. This experiment is likely to succeed if we follow all the steps correctly.

Providing that

5. As long as I have all my data I will finish my thesis next year.

Supposing

6. If you are interested in language you could study linguistics.

Unless

7. The students have an excellent attitude to their studies, but they will drop the subject next year if it is not interesting.

When

8. Nothing can compensate for the lack of data, if you consider the matter carefully.

Whenever

9. I always become confused if I read the guidelines for using the printer.

Whether or not

10. People can participate in the study even though they are not enrolled in this course.

Answers to Conditionals Exercise 2

As long as

1. The research will continue if there is enough funding.

Answer: The research will continue **as long as** there is enough funding.

Details – type 5 conditional – prediction. You could also reverse this sentence: **As long as there is enough funding, the research will continue.**

Only if

2. Don't vote unless you like this person.

Answer: **Only** vote **if** you like this person.

Details – type 5 conditional – command. N.B. *only* and *if* can be separated. If you keep *only* and *if* together the sentence is like this: *Vote **only if** you like this person.*

Otherwise

3. You can only do the quiz if you have access to the Internet.

Answer: You need access to the Internet, **otherwise** you will not be able to do the quiz.

Details – type 3 conditional – implication. N.B. You *cannot* reverse the clauses in this sentence.

Provided (that)

4. This experiment is likely to succeed if we follow all the steps correctly.

Answer: This experiment is likely to succeed **provided that** we follow all the steps correctly.

Details – type 3 conditional – implication. You could also reverse this sentence: **Provided that we follow all the steps correctly, this experiment is likely to succeed.**

You could also omit the word *that*: **Provided we follow all the steps correctly, this experiment is likely to succeed.**

Providing (that)

5. As long as I have all my data, I will finish my thesis next year.

Answer: **Providing that** I have all my data, I will finish my thesis next year.

Details – type 5 conditional – prediction. You could also reverse this sentence: *I will finish my thesis next year, **providing that** I have all my data.*

You could also omit the word *that*: **Providing I have all my data, I will finish my thesis next year.**

Supposing

6. If you are interested in language, you could study linguistics.

Answer: **Supposing** you are interested in language, you could study linguistics.

Details – type 6 conditional – advice. You could also reverse this sentence: *You could study linguistics, **supposing** you are interested in language.*

Unless

7. The students have an excellent attitude to their studies, but they will drop the subject next year if it is not interesting.

Answer: The students have an excellent attitude to their studies, but they will drop the subject next year **unless** it is interesting.

Details – type 5 conditional – prediction. N.B. *Unless* = *if not*. That means that you don't need *not* with *unless*. The negative meaning of *not* is included in the negative prefix *un*.

You could also reverse this sentence: *The students have an excellent attitude to their studies, but unless it is interesting they will drop the subject next year.*

When

8. Nothing can compensate for the lack of data, if you consider the matter carefully.

Answer: Nothing can compensate for the lack of data, **when** you consider the matter carefully.

Details – type 3 conditional – implication. You could also reverse this sentence: **When** you consider the matter carefully, nothing can compensate for the lack of data.

Whenever

9. I always become confused if I read the guidelines for using the printer.

Answer: I become confused **whenever** I read the guidelines for using the printer.

Details – type 2 conditional – habit. You could also reverse this sentence: **Whenever** I read the guidelines for using the printer I become confused. N.B. You do not need to include *always* if you have the word *whenever*.

Whether or not

10. People can participate in the study even though they are not enrolled in this course.

Answer: People can participate in the study whether or not they are enrolled in this course.

Details – type 6 conditional – possible plan. You can separate the phrase *whether or not*:
*People can participate in the study **whether** they are enrolled in this course **or not**.*

You could also reverse this sentence: **Whether or not** they are enrolled in this course, people can participate in the study.

N.B. If you use *whether or not* the verb becomes positive, without *not*: **whether or not** they are enrolled in this course. Compare this to the original, where *even though* is followed by a negative verb: *even though they are **not** enrolled in this course.*

Conditionals Exercise 3

How can you express these ideas using conditional constructions? You may use *I* or *you* in your sentence, and choose the tense you prefer. Would any of these conditional sentences work, and mean the same, with a word other than *if*? Possible answers are given after each question, together with a reference to a number from the conditionals chart which gives more detail about the type of conditional used.

Example 1 I don't know whether I'm going to Australia. Let's suppose I go. What can I do there?

Answer: If you go to Australia, you can stroke a kangaroo.

or If I went to Australia, I could see the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

or **Supposing** you go/went to Australia, you can/could visit a wildlife park.

Example 2 I wish the weather was good. I want to go to the beach.

Answer: If the weather was good, I would go to the beach.

or **Supposing** the weather was good, I would go to the beach.

or **Providing that** the weather is good, I will go to the beach.

or **As long as** the weather is good, I will go to the beach.

1. I have a degree but I didn't do any work.
2. How can I get experience in speaking English?
3. I know I have to enrol in a course. What happens when I have enrolled?
4. I wanted to learn Japanese when I was younger, but I did not have the opportunity. Years later, I was offered a university scholarship in Tokyo, and I wanted to go. I didn't go, though, because I couldn't speak Japanese.

5. I hope I won't fail my end of semester exams. How can I make sure I pass?
6. My friend may arrive before I get home. In that case, please ask her to ring me.
7. I've always wanted to study in Australia, and they tell me I can go if I win a scholarship. Do you think that's true?
8. You went to the lecture. I'm sure you saw him. You can't have avoided seeing him.
9. I always feel much happier when the sun is shining.
10. I'm not sure whether I'll ever meet a billionaire. Perhaps they give money to people who ask them for it. Maybe I could ask them for \$10,000.
11. I wish the library was open right now. I want to borrow a book.
12. Every time we finished an online quiz, we celebrated by having a coffee.
13. It is true that oil floats when you put it in water.
14. I can't play the violin, but the ability to play it would make me very happy at the moment.

Answers to Conditionals Exercise 3

There are many possible answers. Here are some suggestions.

1. Possible answers using conditional type 3 (all times; implication):

If you've got a degree, you must have worked hard for it.

Unless you bought your degree off the Internet, you probably did some work for it!

2. Possible answers using conditional type 6 (advice):

If you make friends with native speakers you can get experience in speaking English.

Supposing you make friends with native speakers, you can get experience in speaking English.

3. Possible answers using conditional type 5 (future time; prediction):

If you enrol in a course you will be able to study that subject for a semester.

When you enrol in a course you will be able to study that subject for a semester.

Supposing you enrol in a course, you will be able to study that subject for a semester.

4. Possible answers using conditional type 9 (past time):

If I had learned Japanese, I would have gone to university in Tokyo.

Even though I wanted to learn Japanese, I could not.

It's a pity I didn't learn Japanese when I was younger, **otherwise** I would have gone to Tokyo.

I would have gone to Tokyo **provided/providing that** I could speak Japanese.

He/She would not go to Tokyo **unless** he/she spoke Japanese.

I would **only** have gone to Tokyo **if** I had spoken Japanese.

5. Possible answers using conditional type 6 (future time; advice):

If you want to pass, you should do lots of practice.

Supposing you want to pass, you should do lots of practice.

You will pass, **provided/providing that** you do lots of practice.

You will fail **unless** you practise.

Practice will determine **whether or not** you pass.

You should practise, **otherwise** you may fail.

You will **only** pass **if** you practise.

You will pass, **as long as** you practise.

6. Possible answers using conditional type 5 (future time; command):

If my friend comes, please ask her to ring me.

Supposing my friend comes, could you ask her to ring me?

7. Possible answers using conditional type 5 (future time; prediction):

If you win a scholarship you'll be able to study in Australia.

Supposing you win a scholarship, you'll be able to study in Australia.

Provided (that) you win a scholarship, you'll be able to study in Australia.

Providing (that) you win a scholarship, you'll be able to study in Australia.

8. Possible answers using conditional type 4 (past time; inference):

If you went to the lecture, you must have seen him.

As long as you went to the lecture, you must have seen him.

Provided/Providing that you went to the lecture, you must have seen him.

You must have seen him **when** you went to the lecture.

9. Possible answers using conditional type 2 (present time; habit):

If the sun is shining, I feel happy.

Whenever the sun is shining, I feel happy.

As long as the sun is shining, I feel happy.

10. Possible answers using conditional type 7 (future time; future dream):

If I met a billionaire, I could ask them for \$10,000.

If I were to meet a billionaire, I could ask them for \$10,000, **provided/providing that** they give money to people who ask them for it.

I'm not sure **whether or not** I'll ever meet a billionaire.

11. Possible answers using conditional type 8 (present time):

If the library was/were open right now I would borrow a book.

Supposing the library was/were open right now, I would borrow a book.

12. Possible answers using conditional type 2 (past time):

If we finished an online quiz, we celebrated by having a coffee.

Whenever we finished an online quiz, we celebrated by having a coffee.

13. Possible answers using conditional type 1 (outside time; scientific fact):

Oil floats **if** you put it in water.

Supposing you put oil in water, it floats.

Whenever you put oil in water, it floats.

14. Possible answers using conditional type 7 (present time; present dream):

If I could play the violin, I would be very happy.

Supposing I could play the violin, I would be very happy.