


# UNIT 40 In case

a) Study this example situation:



Geoff is a football referee. He always wears two watches during a game because it is possible that one watch will stop.

He wears two watches **in case one of them stops**.

**In case one of them stops** = 'because it is possible that one of them will stop'.

Here are some more examples of **in case**:

- John might phone tonight. I don't want to go out **in case he phones**. (= because it is possible that he will phone)
- I'll draw a map for you **in case you can't find our house**. (= because it is possible that you won't be able to find it)

b) Do not use **will** after **in case**. Use a present tense when you are talking about the future:

- I don't want to go out tonight **in case John phones**. (*not* 'in case John will phone')

c) **In case** is not the same as **if**. Compare these sentences:

- We'll buy some more food **if** Tom comes. (= Perhaps Tom will come; if he comes, we'll buy some more food; if he doesn't come, we won't buy any more food.)
- We'll buy some more food **in case** Tom comes. (= Perhaps Tom will come; we'll buy some more food now, whether he comes or not; then we'll *already* have the food *if* he comes.)

Compare:

- This letter is for Ann. Can you **give** it to her **if** you see her?
- This letter is for Ann. Can you **take** it with you **in case** you see her?

d) You can use **in case** to say why someone did something in the past:

- We bought some more food **in case Tom came**. (= because it was possible that Tom would come)
- I drew a map for her **in case she couldn't find our house**.
- We rang the bell again **in case they hadn't heard the first time**.

e) 'In case of ...' is different from **in case**. **In case of fire** means 'if there is a fire':

- **In case of fire**, please leave the building as quickly as possible.
- **In case of emergency**, telephone this number. (= if there is an emergency)

# UNIT 40 Exercises

**40.1** Tom is going for a long walk in the country. He has decided to take these things with him: his camera, some chocolate, an umbrella, a towel, a map and some lemonade. He is taking these things because:

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| perhaps he'll need a drink                  | perhaps he'll lose his way |
| perhaps he'll want to have a swim           | perhaps it will rain       |
| perhaps he'll want to take some photographs | perhaps he'll get hungry   |

Now write sentences with **in case** saying why Tom has decided to take these things.

Example: He's going to take his camera in case he wants to take some photographs.

- 1 He's going to take some chocolate in case .....
- 2 He's going to take .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

**40.2** In this exercise you have to write sentences with **in case**.

Example: It was possible that John would phone. So I didn't go out.

I didn't go out in case John phoned.

- 1 It was possible that he would come to London one day. So I gave him my address.  
I gave him my address in case .....
- 2 It was possible that I wouldn't see her again. So I said goodbye.  
I said .....
- 3 It was possible that her parents were worried about her. So she phoned them.  
She .....
- 4 It was possible that I would forget the name of the street. So I wrote it down.  
.....
- 5 It was possible that they hadn't received my first letter. So I wrote them a second letter.  
.....

**40.3** This time you have to put **in case** or **if** in these sentences.

Examples: John might phone tonight. I don't want to go out **in case** he phones.

Could you give this book to Tom **if** you see him?

- 1 I hope you'll come to London sometime. .... you come, you must visit us.
- 2 I've just painted the door. I'll put a Wet Paint notice next to it ..... someone doesn't realise the paint is still wet.
- 3 We have fitted a burglar alarm to the house ..... somebody tries to break in.
- 4 The alarm will ring ..... somebody tries to break into the house.
- 5 Write your name and address on your bag ..... you lose it.
- 6 Go to the lost property office ..... you lose your bag.
- 7 I was advised to arrange insurance ..... I needed medical treatment while I was on holiday abroad.