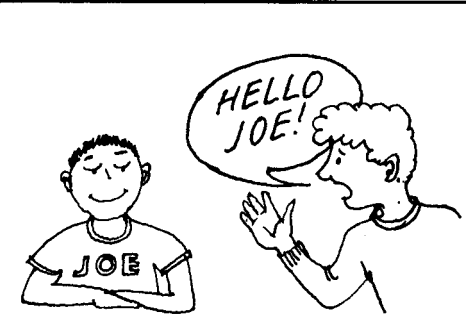


UNIT 41 Unless, as long as and provided/providing (that)

a) Unless

Study this example situation:



Joe can't hear very well. If you speak to him normally, he can't hear you. If you want him to hear you, you have to shout.

Joe can't hear **unless** you shout.

This means: 'Joe *can* hear *only if* you shout'. **Unless** means **except if**. We use **unless** to make an exception to something we say.

Here are some more examples of **unless**:

- Don't tell Ann what I said **unless she asks you**. (= except if she asks you)
- I'll come tomorrow **unless I have to work**. (= except if I have to work)
- I wouldn't eat fish **unless I was extremely hungry**. (= except if I was extremely hungry)

We often use **unless** in warnings:

- We'll be late **unless we hurry**. (= except if we hurry)
- **Unless you work harder**, you're not going to pass the examination. (= except if you work harder)
- The man said he would hit me **unless I told him where the money was**. (= except if I told him)

Instead of **unless** it is possible to say **if ... not**:

- Don't tell Ann what I said **if she doesn't ask you**.
- We'll be late **if we don't hurry**.

b) As long as provided (that) providing (that)

These expressions mean **but only if**:

- You can use my car **as long as (or 'so long as') you drive carefully**. (= but only if you drive carefully)
- Travelling by car is convenient **provided (that) you have somewhere to park**. (= but only if you have somewhere to park)
- **Providing (that) she studies hard**, she should pass the examination. (= but only if she studies hard)

c) When you are talking about the future, do *not* use **will** with **unless, as long as, provided or providing**. Use a *present* tense:

- We'll be late **unless we hurry**. (*not* 'unless we will hurry')
- **Providing she studies hard ...** (*not* 'providing she will study')

See Unit 9 for more information about this rule.

Unit 41 Exercises

41.1 *In this exercise you have to read a sentence and then write a new sentence with the same meaning. Use **unless** in your sentences.*

Example: You must study more or you won't pass the examination.

You won't pass the examination unless you study more.

1 You must listen carefully or you won't know what to do.

You won't know what to do

2 We must hurry or we'll miss the train.

We'll

3 You must speak very slowly or he won't be able to understand you.

He

4 My salary must be increased or I'll look for another job.

5 She must apologise to me or I won't forgive her.

41.2 *Now you have to read a sentence with **only if** and then write a new sentence with **unless**.*

Example: Joe can hear only if you shout. Joe can't hear unless you shout.

1 I'm going to the party only if you go too.

I'm not going to the party

2 You are allowed into the club only if you are a member.

You're not

3 The dog will attack you only if you move.

The dog

4 He'll speak to you only if you ask him a question.

He

41.3 *This time you have to choose the correct word or expression for each sentence.*

Example: You can use my car

unless
as long as

 you drive carefully. ('as long as' is correct)

1 I'm playing tennis tomorrow

unless
providing

 it's raining.

2 We're going to start painting the house tomorrow

unless
provided

 it's not raining.

3 You can smoke in here

unless
as long as

 you leave a window open to let the smoke out.

4 George doesn't trust anyone. He won't lend you any money

unless
as long as

 you promise in writing to pay him back.

5 The children can stay here

unless
providing

 they don't make too much noise.

6 I'm going now

unless
provided

 you want me to stay.

7 I can't understand why he's late

unless
as long as

 he didn't get our message.