

**A**

**Unless**

Study this example situation:

The club is for members only.  
You can't go in **unless you are a member**.

This means:

You can't go in *except if* you are a member.  
You can go in *only if* you are a member.

**Unless** = except if.



Some more examples of **unless**:

- I'll see you tomorrow **unless I have to work late**. (= except if I have to work late)
- There are no buses to the beach. **Unless you have a car**, it's difficult to get there.  
(= except if you have a car)
- 'Shall I tell Liz what happened?' **'Not unless she asks you.'** (= only if she asks you)
- Sally hates to complain. She wouldn't complain about something **unless it was really bad**.  
(= except if it was really bad)
- We can take a taxi to the restaurant – **unless you'd prefer to walk**. (= except if you'd prefer to walk)

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

- Unless we leave now**, we'll be late. or **If we don't leave now**, we'll ...

**B**

**As long as / provided / providing**

**as long as** or **so long as**  
**provided (that)** or **providing (that)** } All these expressions mean 'if' or 'on condition that'.

For example:

- You can borrow my car { **as long as** / **so long as** } you promise not to drive too fast.  
(= you can borrow my car, but you must promise not to drive too fast – this is a condition)
- Travelling by car is convenient { **provided (that)** / **providing (that)** } you have somewhere to park.  
(= but only if you have somewhere to park)
- Providing (that)** / **Provided (that)** } the room is clean, I don't mind which hotel we stay at.  
(= the room must be clean – otherwise I don't mind)

**C**

**Unless / as long as** etc. for the future

When you are talking about the future, do *not* use **will** after **unless / as long as / so long as / provided / providing**. Use a *present* tense (see **Unit 25**):

- I'm not going out **unless it stops** raining. (*not unless it will stop*)
- Providing** the weather **is** good, we're going to have a picnic tomorrow.  
(*not providing the weather will be good*)

# Exercises

## 115.1 Write a new sentence with the same meaning. Use **unless** in your sentence.

1 You must try a bit harder or you won't pass the exam.  
You won't pass the exam unless you try a bit harder.

2 Listen carefully or you won't know what to do.  
You won't know what to do .....

3 She must apologise to me or I'll never speak to her again.  
.....

4 You have to speak very slowly or he won't be able to understand you.  
.....

5 Business must improve soon or the company will have to close.  
.....

## 115.2 Write sentences with **unless**.

1 The club isn't open to everyone. You're allowed in only if you're a member.  
You aren't allowed in the club unless you're a member.

2 I don't want to go to the party alone. I'm going only if you go too.  
I'm not going .....

3 Don't worry about the dog. It will attack you only if you move suddenly.  
The dog .....

4 Ben isn't very talkative. He'll speak to you only if you ask him something.  
Ben .....

5 Today is a public holiday. The doctor will see you only if it's an emergency.  
The doctor .....

## 115.3 Which is correct?

1 You can borrow my car unless / as long as you promise not to drive too fast.  
(as long as is correct)

2 I'm playing tennis tomorrow unless / providing it rains.

3 I'm playing tennis tomorrow unless / providing it doesn't rain.

4 I don't mind if you come home late unless / as long as you come in quietly.

5 I'm going now unless / provided you want me to stay.

6 I don't watch TV unless / as long as I've got nothing else to do.

7 Children are allowed to use the swimming pool unless / provided they are with an adult.

8 Unless / Provided they are with an adult, children are not allowed to use the swimming pool.

9 We can sit here in the corner unless / as long as you'd rather sit over there by the window.

10 A: Our holiday cost a lot of money.

B: Did it? Well, that doesn't matter unless / as long as you enjoyed yourselves.

## 115.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

1 We'll be late unless we get a taxi .....

2 I like hot weather as long as .....

3 It takes about 20 minutes to drive to the airport provided .....

4 I don't mind walking home as long as .....

5 I like to walk to work in the morning unless .....

6 We can meet tomorrow unless .....

7 I can lend you the money providing .....

8 You won't achieve anything unless .....