

First conditional & future time clauses (B1)

Quick idea

- Use the **first conditional** for real/likely results in the future.
- Use **future time clauses** with *when / as soon as / before / after / until / once / while* to talk about future time. No future form inside those clauses.

Comma rule: put a comma after the time/if clause when it comes first. No comma when it comes second.

Core form

Pattern

if + present → will + base

if + present → modal / imperative

when/after/etc. + present → will + base

Example

If it rains, we'll stay home.

If you finish early, you can leave. • **Call** me *if you need anything.*

We'll start *when everyone arrives.*

We sometimes use **present perfect** in the time clause to emphasise completion: *After you've finished, we'll go.*

Meaning & variations

- **Real condition** The if-clause speaks about a possible situation in the future; the main clause is the result.
- **Modals in the main clause** You may/might/can/should/must use a modal instead of will: *If he doesn't train harder, he **might** lose.*
- **Imperatives** are fine in results: *If you're cold, **close** the window.*
- **unless** = *if not*: *I won't go on holiday **unless** I save money.*
- **as long as / provided (that)** = condition/requirement: *You can borrow it **as long as** you bring it back tomorrow.*

Mini reference

Clause type	Verb form inside the clause	Typical result clause
If (real condition)	Present Simple / Present Perfect	will / modal / imperative
When / As soon as / Before / After / Until / Once / While	Present Simple (or Present Perfect)	will / modal / imperative
Unless (= if not)	Present Simple	will / modal / imperative
In case (reason/prevention)	Present Simple	Often imperative or take/bring etc.