

Conditionals: Unless, Supposing, As Long As

Unless

Unless expresses a conditional relationship where something must NOT happen for a result to occur. Conditionals with **unless** generally come after the main clause.

We will have a barbecue in our backyard on Saturday unless it rains.

Julie doesn't buy anything unless it's on sale.

I won't go to the party unless Sarah invites me.

Supposing

Supposing is used to introduce hypothetical ideas. It means “what if?” Sentences with **supposing** usually contain only the conditional clause, phrased as a question.

Supposing I hadn't helped you?

Supposing we had missed our flight?

Supposing it rains on our wedding day?

As Long As

As long as generally means “since” in conditional sentences. It can also mean “if”, especially when talking about the future.

As long as you're not busy, would you help me carry these boxes? (=since)

As long as the weather is good, we're going camping next week. (=if)

Fill in the blanks with **UNLESS**, **SUPPOSING** or **AS LONG AS**.

1. I won't speak to Jeff again _____ he apologizes for his behaviour.
2. _____ you're at home, can you take a message if Ann calls?
3. _____ you had hurt yourself moving that furniture by yourself?
4. Students won't graduate _____ they pass the final exam.
5. Our team will win _____ the goal keeper doesn't make a mistake.
6. Our team will win _____ the goal keeper makes a mistake.
7. _____ the other candidate had won the election?
8. _____ we've paid for this food, we shouldn't waste it!
9. Marion's birthday party on Saturday will be a surprise _____ someone tells her.
10. _____ we paint our living room orange?

Complete the dialogue with UNLESS, SUPPOSING or AS LONG AS.

A: Where should we go for our vacation this year?

B: _____ we go to British Columbia?

A: Well...I'll go to British Columbia _____ we don't have to camp the whole time.

B: Okay. _____ we camp for one or two nights, and stay in a hotel the rest of the time?

A: That sounds good. But I don't want to camp _____ the campground has showers and electricity.

B: Fine. We'll find a place with showers. It will be perfect _____ you don't complain about the mosquitoes.

A: No problem. After we camp, _____ we stay in a fancy hotel in Vancouver?

B: We can stay in a fancy hotel _____ you're going to pay for it.

A: That's not fair! I don't want to go _____ you pay half.

B: I'll pay half _____ we stay in inexpensive hotels. I don't want to waste money on hotels. We can use our money for sightseeing and shopping.

A: Inexpensive hotels? Are you serious? _____ we forget about going to British Columbia? We could go to a resort in the Caribbean!