

1. [ɪf] *n*

условие, оговорка; предположение

your ifs and buts - ваши претензии и отговорки

it is a very big if - это очень сомнительно

there are too many ifs in the way - слишком много препятствий на пути

◇ if ifs and ans were pots and pans - *посл.* ≅ если бы да кабы

2. [ɪf] *cj*

1. **вводит условные придаточные предложения**

1) **реального условия** если

if you come, you will see him - если вы придёте, вы увидите его

if (it is) necessary - если (это будет) необходимо, при необходимости, в случае необходимости

2) **не соответствующего или противоречащего действительности условия** если (бы)

if it should rain, stay at home - если вдруг пойдёт дождь, не выходи из дому

if I were you, I would not do it - (если бы я был) на вашем месте я не сделал бы этого

if it were not for the storm, the ship would have come in time - если бы не шторм, судно прибыло бы вовремя

3) **содержащие положение, из которого следует неизбежный вывод** если, раз

if $x = a$ and $y = a$ then $x = y$ - если /раз/ $x = a$ и $y = a$, то $x = y$

if (it be) so - если это так

if that is the case - в таком случае, если дело обстоит именно так

if that is the case you will have to come earlier - если это так, вам придётся прийти раньше

if he said it then it must be true - если он это сказал, значит, это действительно так

4) **выражающие повторность** если; (всякий раз) когда

if I don't know the way, I always ask - если /когда/ я не знаю дорогу, я спрашиваю

2. **вводит уступительные придаточные предложения (часто even if)** даже если, хотя, пусть

I will do it, (even) if it kills me - я это сделаю, даже если это будет стоить мне жизни

if I am wrong, you are at least not absolutely right - пусть я ошибаюсь, но и вы не совсем правы

pleasant weather, if rather cold - приятная погода, хотя и прохладная

3. **вводит косвенный вопрос или дополнительное придаточное предложение** ли

ask if he has come - спроси, пришёл ли он

I wonder if he will go - интересно, пойдёт он или нет

4. **вводит предложения (часто восклицательные), выражающие**

1) **желание (часто if only)** если бы; хотя бы

if only I had known! - если бы я только знал!

if only he comes in time! - только бы он пришёл вовремя!

if it would only rain! - хотя бы пошёл дождь!

you should look in to see us, if only for a minute - ты бы заглянул к нам хотя бы на минутку

if only I could get out of this crowd I'd feel much better - только бы выбраться из этой толпы, и я бы почувствовал себя гораздо лучше

2) **удивление, негодование и т. п. (обычно с *гл.* в отрицательной форме):**

if he hasn't kicked his football through the window! - подумать только, он запустил футбольным мячом в окно!

if ever I heard the like of that! - никогда ничего подобного не слышал!

5. **в сочетаниях с числительными** целых, по крайней мере

she is sixty if she is a day - ей не менее 60 лет

he weighs eighteen stone if a round - он весит добрых 100 кг

6. **в сочетаниях:**

if any - если это имеет место, если таковой имеется **и т. п.**

mistakes, if any, should be corrected in ink - ошибки, если они имеются, должны быть исправлены чернилами

if and when - если и когда (*выражает неопределённость*)

I'll do it if and when I like it - я сделаю это, если и когда мне вздумается

if anything - даже /скорее/ наоборот, возможно даже; во всяком случае

the weather was cold, if anything - погода была скорее холодная

if anything, the water is warmer today - вода сегодня во всяком случае теплее (*чем вчера*)

if anything, you ought to apologize - возможно даже, тебе следует извиниться

she is not older than her sister, if anything she is younger - она не старше своей сестры, а, по всей вероятности, моложе

if anywhere - если вообще где-нибудь

you will find it in London, if anywhere - если это вообще можно найти, то только в Лондоне; это вы нигде не найдёте, кроме как в Лондоне

if at all - если вообще есть /будет, нужно **и т. п.** /

he will pay you next year if at all - он тебе заплатит в будущем году, если вообще заплатит

if you like (*как вводное предложение*) - если хотите, пожалуй, если можно так выразиться

it is a duty, if you like, rather than a pleasure - это, пожалуй /если хотите/, обязанность, а не развлечение

if not - а) если не ... (то); не то ...; nobody if not he - если не он, то никто; leave him alone, if not, you will regret it - оставьте его в покое, не то пожалеете; б) что-что, а уж ...

he was nothing if not discreet - что бы вы ни говорили, несдержанным его не назовёшь

- used to say that one thing can, will or might happen or be true, depending on another thing happening or being true
 - If you see him, give him this note.
 - I'll only stay if you offer me more money.
 - If necessary I can come at once.
 - You can stay for the weekend if you like.
 - If anyone calls, tell them I'm not at home.
 - If he improved his IT skills, he'd (= he would) easily get a job.
 - You would know what was going on if you'd (= you had) listened.
 - They would have been here by now if they'd caught the early train.
 - If I was in charge, I'd do things differently.
 - (rather formal) If I were in charge...
 - Even if** (= although) you did see someone, you can't be sure it was him.

2. when; whenever, every time

- If metal gets hot it expands.
- She glares at me if I go near her desk.

3. (formal) used with will or would to ask sb politely to do sth

- If you will sit down for a few moments, I'll tell the manager you're here.
- If you would care to leave your name, we'll contact you as soon as possible.

4. used after ask, know, find out, wonder, etc. to introduce one of two or more possibilities

Syn: †whether

- Do you know if he's married?
- I wonder if I should wear a coat or not.
- He couldn't tell if she was laughing or crying.
- Listen to the tune and see if you can remember the words.

5. used after verbs or adjectives expressing feelings

- I am sorry if I disturbed you.
- I'd be grateful if you would keep it a secret.
- Do you mind if I turn the TV off?

6. used to admit that sth is possible, but to say that it is not very important

- If she has any weakness, it is her Italian.
- So what if** he was late. Who cares?

7. used before an adjective to introduce a contrast

- He's a good driver, if a little over-confident
- We'll only do it once— **if at all** .

8. used to ask sb to listen to your opinion

- If you ask me, she's too scared to do it.
- If you think about it, those children must be at school by now.
- If you remember, Mary was always fond of animals.

9. used before could, may or might to suggest sth or to interrupt sb politely

- If I may make a suggestion, perhaps we could begin a little earlier next week.

Word Origin:

Old English gif, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **of** and German **ob**.

Grammar Point:

if / whether

Both **if** and **whether** are used in reporting questions which expect 'yes' or 'no' as the answer: ▪ She asked if/whether I wanted a drink., although **whether** sounds more natural with particular verbs such as **discuss**, **consider** and **decide** . When a choice is offered between alternatives **if** or **whether** can be used: ▪ We didn't know if/whether we should write or phone. In this last type of sentence, **whether** is usually considered more formal and more suitable for written English.

Idioms: †if I were you ▪ †if and when ▪ †if anything ▪ †if not ▪ †if only ▪ †it's not as if ▪ †only if

noun (informal)

a situation that is not certain

- If he wins— and **it's a big if** — he'll be the first Englishman to win for fifty years.
- There are still a lot of **ifs and buts** before everything's settled.

Word Origin:

Old English gif, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **of** and German **ob**.

if

1. if¹ **S1 W1** /ɪf/ **BrE** [°] **AmE** [°] **conjunction**

[Language: Old English; Origin: gif]

1. used when talking about something that might happen or be true, or might have happened:

- " We'll stay at home if it rains.
- " If you need money, I can lend you some.
- " If I didn't apologize, I'd feel guilty.
- " If you had worked harder, you would have passed your exams.

- What would happen to your family if you were to die in an accident?
 - If Dad were here, he would know what to do.
 - Taste the soup and add salt and pepper if necessary.
 - I want to get back by five o'clock if possible.
 - I think I can fix it tomorrow. If not, you'll have to wait till Friday.
 - Is the book available, and if so, where?
 - The missiles can be fired only if the operator types in a six-digit code.
 - We'll face that problem if and when it comes along (=if it happens or when it happens).
 - If by any chance you can't manage dinner tonight, perhaps we can at least have a drink together.
2. used to mention a fact, situation, or event that someone asks about, or is not certain about:
- He stopped to ask me if I was all right.
 - I don't know if what I am saying makes any sense.
 - I doubt if anyone will remember me.
 - I'm not sure if this is the right road or not.
3. used to mention a type of event or situation when talking about what happens on occasions of that type:
- If I go to bed late, I feel dreadful in the morning.
 - Plastic will melt if it gets too hot.
4. used when saying what someone's feelings are about a possible situation:
- You don't seem to care if I'm tired.
 - I'm sorry if I upset you.
 - It would be nice if we could spend more time together.
5. **spoken** used when making a polite request:
- I wonder if you could help me.
 - I'd be grateful if you would send me further details.
 - Would you mind if I open a window?
 - If you would just wait for a moment, I'll try to find your papers.
6. used when you are adding that something may be even more, less, better, worse etc than you have just said:
- Brian rarely, if ever, goes to bed before 3 am.
 - Their policies have changed little, if at all, since the last election.
 - Her needs are just as important as yours, if not more so.
 - The snow was now two feet deep, making it difficult, if not impossible, to get the car out.
7. **even if** used to emphasize that, although something may happen or may be true, it will not change a situation:
- I wouldn't tell you even if I knew.
 - Even if she survives, she'll never fully recover.
8. **if anything** used when adding a remark that changes what you have just said or makes it stronger:
- It's warm enough here in London. A little too warm, if anything.
9. **spoken** used during a conversation when you are trying to make a suggestion, change the subject, or interrupt someone else:
- If I might just make a suggestion, I think that the matter could be easily settled with a little practical demonstration.
 - If I could just take one example to illustrate this.
10. **if I were you spoken** used when giving advice and telling someone what you think they should do:
- I wouldn't worry about it if I were you.
11. **if only**
- a) used to express a strong wish, especially when you know that what you want cannot happen:
- If only he had talked to her sooner!
 - If only I weren't so tired!
- b) used to give a reason for something, although you think it is not a good one:
- Media studies is regarded as a more exciting subject, if only because it's new.
12. used to say that, although something may be true, it is not important:
- If he has a fault at all, it is that he is too generous.
 - Her only problem, if you can call it a problem, is that she expects to be successful all the time.
13. used when adding one criticism of a person or thing that you generally like:
- The eldest son was highly intelligent, if somewhat lazy.
 - Lunch was a grand if rather noisy affair.
- ⇒ **as if** at ↑**as**²(9), ⇒ **if ever there was one** at ↑**ever**(15), ⇒ **what if ... ?** at ↑**what**¹(18)
- • •

GRAMMAR

When you are using **if** to talk about something that might happen in the future, use the present tense or the present perfect in the if-clause, not 'will' or 'shall':

- If I see him (NOT will see him), I'll tell him.
- If she hasn't come home by midnight, call the police.

You can use **won't** to talk about someone being unwilling to do something in the future:

- If the bank won't listen, say that you are going to move your account.

When you are using **if** to talk about something that is unlikely to happen or is impossible, use the past tense in the if-clause, not 'would':

- If someone gave me (NOT would give me) the money, I'd buy a car tomorrow.

In formal English or in writing, use **were**, not 'was', even when the subject of the clause is singular:

- If I were in that position, I'd get legal advice.

In normal conversation, you can use **was** with a singular subject:

- If I was ten years younger, I'd go out with him.

When you are using **if** to talk about something that did not happen, use the past perfect tense in the if-clause:

- If they had tried (NOT would have tried) to stop the demonstration, there would have been a riot.

if, whether

If and **whether** are both used to introduce clauses mentioning things that someone asks about or is uncertain about:

- I'm not sure if I heard him correctly.
- I don't know whether he is guilty.

Whether can also be used after a preposition, before the phrase 'or not', and before a 'to' infinitive, but **if** cannot:

- the question of whether (NOT if) the injuries had caused Mary's death
- Nobody knew whether or not the technique worked.
- He won't decide whether to become a candidate until next year.

...

THESAURUS

- **if** used when talking about the possibility that something might happen or be true: He faces a long prison sentence if the court finds him guilty. | If scientists' predictions are correct, average global temperatures could rise by 6 degrees.
- **unless** if something does not happen, or if someone does not do something: The star is difficult to see unless the sky is very clear. | Doctors said they could not treat the boy unless his parents gave their permission.
- **whether or not** used when saying that it does not matter if something happens or not, or if something is true or not: Most people will get better on their own, whether or not they receive medical treatment. | I'm still going, whether she likes it or not.
- **otherwise** used when saying that there will be a bad result if someone does not do something, or if something does not happen: Drink plenty of water – otherwise you will become dehydrated.
- **in case** in order to deal with something that might happen: She did not think it would rain, but she took her umbrella just in case. | It is best to keep a medical kit ready in case of emergency.
- **as long as/provided that** only if something else happens or is true: Visitors are welcome, as long as they bring their own tent. | Anyone can join the course, provided that there is space available. | As long as you can find a computer, you can access an internet-based bank account wherever you are.
- **on condition that** used when you agree to do something only if someone first agrees to do something else: He was offered the job on condition that he went on a month-long training course.

II. **if**² *BrE* ¹ *AmE* ¹ *noun* [countable] *informal*

1. **ifs and buts** *British English*, **ifs, ands, or buts** *American English* if you do not want any ifs and buts, you want someone to do something quickly without arguing:

▪ No ifs and buts – just make sure the job is done by tomorrow!

2. **and it's a big if** used to say that something is not likely to happen:

▪ The team will go racing next year if – and it's a very big if – they can raise £6 million.

3. something that may or may not happen:

▪ There are too many ifs in this plan of yours.

if

Freakuency Pack

12500 **37**^{MCW}

15000 **41**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k IF**⁹⁷⁶⁷¹¹

if ⁹⁷⁶²⁷⁹

ifs ⁴³²

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

139751 **52**⁸¹⁰⁸⁴² *cs*

45621 **385**¹⁰⁵¹⁵⁹ *cs22*

38345 **646**⁶⁰⁰¹⁹ *csw*

207 **48334**²³⁷ *nn1*

6 **340552**⁶ *csa*

5 **354956**⁶ *nnu*

5 **391052**⁵ *pphis1*

5 **391114**⁵ *ppy*