

Pre-Intermediate 3
Unit 4 Grammar
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Unless

unless = if not, except if

Examples:

You won't pass unless you study.

unless you study = if you don't study.

You wouldn't pass unless you studied.

unless you studied = If you didn't study

They wouldn't succeed unless they tried hard.

unless they tried hard. = If they didn't try hard.

✗ He won't pass unless he doesn't study.

✓ He won't pass if he doesn't study.

✓ He won't pass unless he studies.

Point:

When the if-clause begins with "unless", the verb in the if-clause should be positive but the overall meaning of the if-clause is negative. In other words, don't use a negative verb after "unless".

More Examples:

You can't get a job unless you have experience.

(you can only get a job if you have experience).

Unless you call me to say you're not coming, I'll see you at the theatre.

(I will see you there if you do not call to say you are not coming).

They threatened to kill him unless he did as they asked.

unless he did as they asked = if he didn't do as they asked

Most wild animals won't attack unless they are provoked.

unless they are provoked = if they are not provoked

I can't let you in unless you give the password.

unless you give the password = if you don't give the password

Students are not allowed to handle these chemicals unless they are under the supervision of a teacher.

unless they are under the supervision of a teacher = if they are not under the supervision of a teacher

Ellipsis in Conditional Sentences

Ellipsis: a situation in which words are left out of a sentence but the sentence can still be understood

In a conditional sentence, when the verb phrase in the if-clause is the same as the verb phrase in the main clause, it is possible to omit the second verb phrase and just keep the auxiliary verb or add an auxiliary verb if there isn't any.

Examples:

If you **ate ice cream**, I would **eat ice cream**, too.

If you ate ice cream, I would, too. **Ellipsis**

If you didn't **eat ice cream**, I wouldn't **eat ice cream**, either.

If you didn't eat ice cream, I wouldn't, either. **Ellipsis**

I would **eat ice cream** if you **ate ice cream**, too.

I would eat ice cream if you **did**, too. **Ellipsis**

I wouldn't **eat ice cream** if you didn't **eat ice cream**, either.

I wouldn't eat ice cream if you didn't, either. **Ellipsis**

Source:

[Pre-Intermediate 3 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://Pre-Intermediate 3 (anglophone.ir))