

SPECULATING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Examples

1. If people **consume** too much sugar, experts say health problems **will** surely **follow**.
2. If I **eat** more fruit, I probably **won't eat** as many sweet desserts.
3. What **will happen** if I **eat** too much sugar?
4. You **won't get** dessert **unless** you **finish** your vegetables.
5. If you **like** garlic, you **should taste** this dish.

Explanations

1. The first conditional can be used when one talks about what may happen in the future if a certain condition occurs.
***If you eat right, you will have** some health problems.
2. The first conditional consists of a conditional clause and a result clause. **If** is used in the conditional clause, and the verb is in the simple present tense or the present progressive tense.
***If Sue cares** about her health, she **won't eat** so much sugar.
***If she is leaving** this late, she **won't get** there before the movie starts.
3. The result clause is usually in the future tense. Modal verbs can also be used.
***If you eat more fruit and vegetables, you'll feel** better.
***If you call a taxi now, we can get** to the airport on time.
4. A comma is used to separate the two clauses when the **if** clause is first.
***If you follow a healthful diet, you'll have** more energy.
5. **Unless** is used to express negative conditions. It means, "If not." A negative word is not typically used in an "unless" clause.
***I won't be able to attend** the dinner **unless** vegetarian dishes are served.

6. **Should, ought to**, and imperatives are used in the result clauses to give advice.

*You **should go** to that concert if you can.

*If you go to that restaurant, **try** their pie.

Exercise 1: Now You're Cooking

Directions: Complete the paragraph. Write the correct form of the word in parentheses in each blank.

If a good cooking school (1. **accept**) _____ me, I (2. **take**) _____ a course in sauces and another course in desserts. I (3. **work**) _____ with some of the finest chefs, and I (4. **learn**) _____ to prepare perfect hollandaise sauce if I (5. **pay**) _____ attention and (6. **study**) _____ very hard. I (7. **make**) _____ rich desserts and wonderful pastries when I (8. **practice**) _____ with the pastry chef. And the best part will be eating everything I cook!