THE FIRST CONDITIONAL WITH **UNLESS**

**Examples**

1. You can’t be the winner **unless** you have all the counters.
2. But not everyone can have a turn **unless** you bring more than one spinner.
3. **Unless** you listen carefully, you won’t understand what to do.

**Explanations**

1. **Unless** means “if not” or “except if.” **Unless** is used to express negative conditionals.

   *I won’t go **unless** you go.*

2. When the **unless** clause comes first, a comma is used between the clauses.

   *Unless you hurry, you’ll miss the bus.*

   When it comes second, a comma is not used.

   *You’ll miss the bus **unless** you hurry.*

Exercise 2: What We Tell Our Children

*Directions: Complete each sentence. Write if or unless in the blank.*

1. ________________ you clean your room right now, I’ll take you shopping later.
2. You won’t be able to go to any parties ________________ you start doing your homework better.
3. ________________ you practice your oboe more, I am going to give it away.
4. You’ll get into any college you want ________________ you continue to get good grades. We’re proud of you!

Exercise 3: Unless You Do It

*Directions: Complete each sentence with your own idea.*

1. Unless ________________, you won’t speak English fluently.
2. My country will continue to have economic problems unless ________________.
3. Contestant Number Three will never win the game unless ________________.
4. Unless ______________________________, you won’t make friends in your new school.
5. You won’t succeed unless ____________________________________________________.

Exercise 3: Complete Thoughts
Directions: Complete each sentence. Use the first conditional.

1. If I have enough money, _____________________________________________________.
2. I’ll call you tomorrow ______________________________________________________.
3. David won’t go unless ______________________________________________________.
4. Rose will help you fix that problem ____________________________________________.
5. If Mike and Phil arrive on time, ______________________________________________.
6. If you can help me, _________________________________________________________.
7. Unless Jackie finishes her work, ______________________________________________.
8. Christine won’t cooperate if _________________________________________________.

Exercise 4: What’s the Question?
Directions: Read each answer and write a logical question on the line. Use the underlined words as cues.

1. ________________________________________________________
   Yes, I’ll take the course over again if I fail it.

2. ________________________________________________________
   If my uncle gives me some money, I’ll buy a radio.

3. ________________________________________________________
   Wendy’ll call Josephine if she needs help with her essay.

4. ________________________________________________________
   They’ll go by themselves unless Ben comes soon.

5. ________________________________________________________
   I’ll read a good book if he doesn’t come over.