

**unless**

1. [ʌn'les, ən'les]-] *сj*

1. если не, пока не

I will come unless I change my mind - я приду, если не передумаю  
 unless you start at once, you will be late - если (только) вы не отправитесь немедленно, вы опоздаете  
 unless I am mistaken - если я не ошибаюсь

2. разве только, если только; не считая

we had no snow this winter, unless in the mountain districts - в этом году у нас не было снега, если не считать горных районов  
 unless it be for Henry nobody saw it - никто не видел этого, разве только Генри  
 he never does anything unless compelled to - он ничего не делает, пока /если/ его не заставишь  
 pay them unless you hear to the contrary - заплатите им, если только не получите других /противоположных/ указаний  
 I shan't come, unless you really want me to - я не приду, разве что вы очень этого захотите; я приду только в том случае, если вы этого действительно хотите  
 unless and until - только после того как; не раньше чем  
 unless and until it has been approved by the electors - только после того, как это будет одобрено избирателями

3. *в грам. знач. суц.* «если не», оговорка

let's have no unlesses - давайте без оговорок

2. [ʌn'les, ən'les]-] *prep арх.*

кроме, за исключением

**unless**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**un-less** *BrE* [ən'les] <sup>m</sup> *NAme* [ən'les] <sup>m</sup> *conjunction*

1. used to say that sth can only happen or be true in a particular situation

- You won't get paid for time off unless you have a doctor's note.
- I won't tell them— not unless you say I can.
- Unless I'm mistaken, she was back at work yesterday.
- He hasn't got any hobbies— unless you call watching TV a hobby.

2. used to give the only situation in which sth will not happen or be true

- I sleep with the window open unless it's really cold.
- Unless something unexpected happens, I'll see you tomorrow.
- Have a cup of tea— unless you'd prefer a cold drink? **Unless** is used to talk about a situation that could happen, or something that could be true, in the future. If you know that something has not happened or that sth is not true, use **if... not**
- If you weren't always in such a hurry (= but you are) , your work would be much better.
- Your work would be much better unless you were always in such a hurry.

Word Origin:

[**unless**] late Middle English: from <sup>↑</sup>on or <sup>↑</sup>in (assimilated through lack of stress to <sup>↑</sup>un-) + <sup>↑</sup>less.

**unless**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**un-less** *S1 W1* /ʌn'les, ən-/ *BrE* <sup>m</sup> *AmE* <sup>m</sup> *conjunction*

[**Date:** 1400-1500; **Origin:** on less than 'on a lower condition than' (1400-1500)]

1. used to say that something will happen or be true if something else does not happen or is not true:

- Unless some extra money is found, the theatre will close.
- I think you should complain – unless, of course, you are happy with the way things are.
- He won't go to sleep unless you tell him a story.
- I can't leave her unless I know she's all right.

2. **not unless** only if:

- 'Will you go with her?' 'Not unless she wants me to.'
- • •

**GRAMMAR**

**unless, if ... not, in case, or (else)**

Use **unless** to say that something will happen or be true if something else does not happen or is not true. Do not use 'will' or 'shall' after **unless**. Use the present tense or present perfect:

- Businesses will not survive unless they satisfy (NOT will satisfy) their customers.

If you want to mention something that did in fact happen or is in fact true, use **if ... not**:

- If he had not tripped, he would have won (=but he did trip).
- I would go out if it wasn't raining (=but it is raining).

Use **in case** when talking about something that is or should be done because something might happen:

- Take a sweater in case you get cold (NOT unless you get cold).

Use **or** or **or else** to say what bad thing will definitely happen if something else does not happen:

- You'd better go, or else you'll miss the train (NOT unless you miss the train).
- • •

**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.

## unless

Freakuency Pack

12500 **881**<sup>MCW</sup>  
 15000 **1439**<sup>COCA</sup>  
 RANGE: **1k** **UNLESS** <sup>29158</sup>  
 unless <sup>29158</sup>  
 COCA 500k Unlemmatized  
<sup>21833</sup> **1447**<sup>29135</sup> **cs**  
<sup>13</sup> **222763**<sup>13</sup> **jj**  
<sup>10</sup> **258475**<sup>10</sup> **nn1**