

## Even if it had not rained, would we have played?

Conditional Clauses are adverb clauses based on cause/effect relationships. They're very closely related to Result Clauses and Reason Clauses; all three describe situations that result from certain *conditions* being met.

The Conditional Clause describes how something will happen *if certain conditions are met*. In other words, *conditions*, if met, will *cause* a certain *effect*.

**If/Then Conditional:** If it rains, the game will be cancelled.

*If it rains* is the Conditional Clause. The stated condition is the occurrence of rain. Occurrence of the stated condition will cause the effect named in the independent clause: *the game will be cancelled*.

### FOUR POSSIBILITIES

There are four ways to describe the relationship between rain and cancellation.

1. **It rains**, and the game is cancelled.
2. **It rains**, and the game is not cancelled.
3. **It does not rain**, and the game is cancelled.
4. **It does not rain**, and the game is not cancelled.

We have been describing Possibility 1: It rains, and the game is cancelled. This is the condition described by: *If it rains, the game will be cancelled*.

What conditionals describe the other possibilities?

1. **It rains**, and the game is cancelled.  
*If it rains, the game will be cancelled.*  
*Unless it rains, the game will not be cancelled.*  
*Only if it rains will the game be cancelled.*
2. **It rains**, but the game is not cancelled.  
*Even if it rains, the game will not be cancelled.*
3. **It does not rain**, but the game is cancelled.  
*Even if it does not rain, the game may be cancelled.*
4. **It does not rain**, and the game is not cancelled.  
*If it doesn't rain, the game will not be cancelled.*  
*Unless it rains, the game will not be cancelled.*  
*Only if it rains will the game be cancelled.*

### THE OPPOSITES

Surprisingly, the opposite of "If it rains, the game will be cancelled" *is not necessarily* "If it does not rain, the game will not be cancelled."

1. If it rains, the game will be cancelled.  
**Opposite:** Even if it rains, the game will not be cancelled.  
**Opposite:** Unless it rains, the game will not be cancelled.  
**Opposite:** Only if it rains will the game be cancelled.

### THE CERTAIN FUTURE CHART

If you know enough to predict the results with certainty.

	<b>The game will be cancelled.</b>	<b>The game will be played.</b>
<b>if</b>	<i>If</i> it rains, the game <b>will be cancelled.</b> (other conditions might also cancel the game)	<i>If</i> it doesn't rain, the game <b>will be played.</b> (no matter what the other conditions might be)
<b>only if</b>	<b>Only if</b> it rains <b>will</b> the game <b>be cancelled.</b> (nothing but rain can cancel this game)	<b>Only if</b> it doesn't rain <b>will</b> the game <b>be played.</b> (other conditions might also need to be met)
<b>even if</b>	<b>Even if</b> it doesn't rain, the game <b>will be cancelled.</b> (for some other reason you already know)	<b>Even if</b> it rains, the game <b>will be played.</b> (even rain will not be enough to cancel this important game)
<b>unless</b>	<b>Unless</b> the weather is good, the game <b>will be cancelled.</b> (there's no chance the game will be played in rain)	<b>Unless</b> it rains, the game <b>will be played.</b> (no matter what the other conditions might be)

### THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE CHART

In some cases, meeting the conditions only results in a possibility, not a certainty.

	<b>The game may be cancelled.</b>	<b>The game may be played.</b>
<b>if</b>	<i>If</i> it rains, the game <b>may be cancelled.</b> (a light rain, for example, may not cancel the game)	<i>If</i> it doesn't rain, the game <b>may be played.</b> (cold temperatures, for example, may cause cancellation)
<b>only if</b>	<b>Only if</b> it rains <b>may</b> the game <b>be cancelled.</b> (rain may or may not cancel this game)	<b>Only if</b> it doesn't rain <b>may</b> the game <b>be played.</b> (other conditions may also need to be met)
<b>even if</b>	<b>Even if</b> it doesn't rain, the game <b>may be cancelled.</b> (for some other possible reason you already know)	<b>Even if</b> it rains, the game <b>may be played.</b> (if the game is considered important enough to play)
<b>unless</b>	<b>Unless</b> the weather is good, the game <b>may be cancelled.</b> (a choice will be made about weather at game time)	<b>Unless</b> it rains, the game <b>may be played.</b> (rain would cancel the game and other conditions may)

### THE KNOWN PAST CHART

The game was either played or cancelled, and you know which.

	<b>The game was cancelled.</b>	<b>The game was not cancelled.</b>
<b>if</b>	<i>If</i> it hadn't rained, the game <b>wouldn't have been cancelled.</b>	<i>If</i> it had rained, the game <b>would have been cancelled.</b>
<b>only if</b>	<b>Only if</b> it hadn't rained <b>would</b> the game <b>have been played.</b>	<b>Only if</b> it had rained <b>would</b> the game <b>have been cancelled.</b>
<b>even if</b>	<b>Even if</b> it hadn't rained, the game <b>would have been cancelled.</b>	<b>Even if</b> it had rained, the game <b>would not have been cancelled.</b>
<b>unless</b>	<b>Unless</b> the weather was good, the game <b>was going to be cancelled</b>	<b>Unless</b> it had rained, the game <b>was not going to be cancelled.</b>

### THE UNKNOWN PAST CHART

The game was either played or cancelled, but you're only speculating about which.

	<b>The game may have been cancelled.</b>	<b>The game may not have been cancelled.</b>
<b>if</b>	<i>If</i> it rained, the game <b>would have been cancelled.</b>	<i>If</i> it didn't rain, the game probably <b>wasn't cancelled.</b>
<b>only if</b>	<b>Only if</b> it rained <b>would</b> the game <b>have been cancelled.</b>	<b>Only if</b> it didn't rain <b>would</b> the game <b>have been played.</b>
<b>even if</b>	<b>Even if</b> it didn't rain, the game <b>was probably cancelled.</b>	<b>Even if</b> it did rain, the game <b>was probably played.</b>
<b>unless</b>	<b>Unless</b> the weather was good, the game <b>was probably cancelled</b>	<b>Unless</b> it rained, the game <b>was probably played.</b>