

**IF Sentences (Conditionals)**

If it rains, the picnic will be cancelled. = comma  
(pres.) (future)

The picnic will be cancelled if it rains. = no comma  
(future) (pres)

VARIETIES of IF (All of these are adverb clauses)

**in case** = (I don't think this will happen, but) if...  
**in the event that** = same meaning as "in case" – but more formal

In case I'm not home, leave a message. (I don't think so, but...)  
In the event that the president resigns, the vice president will take over.

**whether or not** = if or not – doesn't matter  
**even if** = same meaning, but uses the unexpected part

We will have a picnic whether or not it rains. (= if it rains, or if it doesn't)  
We will have a picnic even if it rains. (make sure to use the UNEXPECTED answer)

NOTE:

They will be happy whether or not they have a lot of money. (If or if not = it doesn't matter)

They will be happy even if they don't have a lot of money. (unexpected)

**unless** = if + not

You can't go if you don't have a ticket. You can't pass if you don't take the final exam.

You can't go unless you have a ticket. You can't pass unless you take the final exam.

**only if** = there is ONLY ONE way or chance

You will lose weight only if you stop eating so much. (one way to lose weight)  
You will receive an attendance award only if you have never been absent.  
(one way)

STRANGE ORDER WHEN YOU BEGIN THIS SENTENCE WITH ONLY IF (like a yes/no question word order)

NOTE:

hv S V

Only if you stop eating so much will you lose weight.

hv S V

Only if you have never been absent will you receive an attendance award.