

UNIT 28 if, when, whenever

1. 'if' is used in much the same way as 'as long as' in Topic 27. It shows that a condition has to be carried out before an event or incident can happen.

Example A

Unless I can finish my homework, I will not join you at the mall.

Answer 1

If I can finish my homework, I will join you at the mall.

Answer 2

I will join you at the mall if I can finish my homework.

NOTE:

In both answers, 'not' has been excluded. This is because 'if' indicates that the condition (of completing one's homework) has been carried out.

Teachers frequently set an 'unless' sentence in a question where you have to use 'if' in your answer. It pays to practise such questions diligently.

2. 'when' is used to indicate 'at the time'.

Example B

Brenda was involved in an accident. Brenda injured both her legs.

Answer

Brenda injured both her legs **when** she was involved in an accident.

NOTE:

Here, there is a need to switch the order of the two given sentences. Otherwise, your answer will not make sense. Mention Brenda's name once only. 'She' is used when Brenda is mentioned again.

3. 'whenever' is used to show something which happens every time an action or event is carried out.

Example C

If I gobble my food, I will get a stomachache.

Answer 1

Whenever I gobble my food, I will get a stomachache.

Answer 2

I will get a stomachache **whenever** I gobble my food.

NOTE:

Answer 2 shows that in certain sentences, you may have to change the order of the information given so that your answer makes sense and is grammatically correct. A comma is usually necessary when you begin a sentence with 'whenever'.

EXERCISE

For each question, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

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1. Don't shout unless you want to wake Mother.

If _____

2. I always put on weight during vacations.

Whenever _____

3. Olly's leash slipped from my fingers. Olly ran off.

when _____

4. If Leonard passes this way, he will give the beggar some money.

whenever _____

*5. The smoke wafting from the flames set off the fire alarm.

when _____

6. Linda should take care of her health or she will fall sick.

if _____

7. We should wash the dishes. Then, Mother will praise us.

If _____

8. The parrot will get cranky if it is not fed on time

Whenever _____

9. Tim dropped the picture and the frame smashed

when _____

*10. Roller coaster rides make me dizzy

whenever _____