

Tikrit University

College of Nursing

Basic Nursing Sciences



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English

(First Conditional)

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First Conditional

If clause and main clause

All conditional sentences have two parts: the **if clause** and the **main clause**. It doesn't matter which clause comes first, but when the **if clause** comes first, we should put a **comma** after it.

- *If it rains, we'll stay home*
- *We'll stay home if it rains.*

If + present, future

In the first conditional, the verb in the **if clause** is **present**, and the verb in the **main clause** is future (**will**).

- *If you **don't go** to sleep, you **'ll be** very tired tomorrow.*

The **if clause** may have a present or a future meaning, but the **verb** is **always in the present** (NOT future)

- *If you **will be** a good boy tomorrow, mummy will buy you a present. ✗*
- *If you **are** a good boy tomorrow, mummy will buy you a present. ✓*

Main clause: will, modal verb, imperative

In the **main clause**, we can use **may, might, can, must, or should** instead of **will**.

- *If he doesn't train harder, he **may/might** lose the championship.*
- *If your room is tidy, you **can** leave.*
- *If you want to lose weight, you **must/should** eat less sugary things.*

Or we can also use an **imperative** instead of **will**.

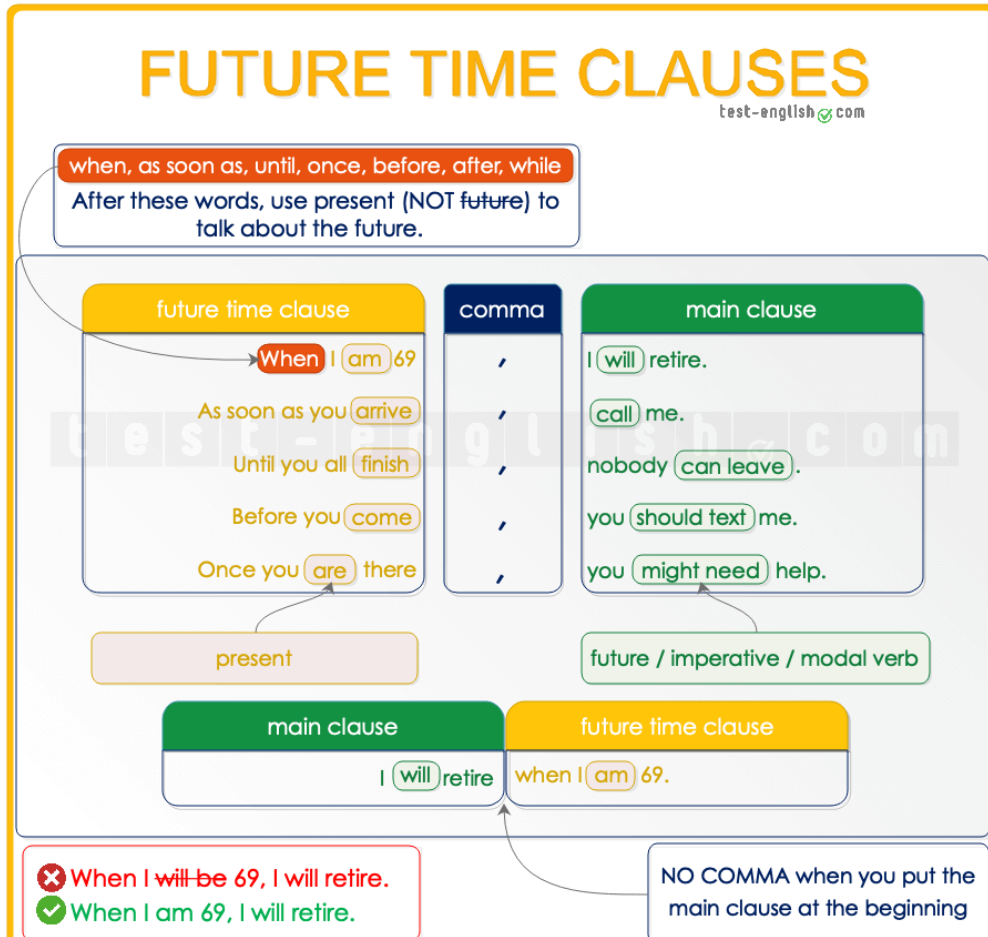
- *If you arrive after midnight, **ring** me on my mobile.*

Unless = if (not)

We can also use **unless** in conditional sentences to mean **if ... (not)**

- I won't go on holiday **unless** I save some money.
- = I won't go on holiday **if** I **don't** save some money.

Future time clauses – Grammar chart



When, as soon as, before, after, until

When we use a verb after **when**, **as soon as**, **before**, **after** or **until** to talk about the future, we must use this verb in the present tense (NOT future). We use the future in the other part of the sentence.

- I'll retire when I'll be 70. ❌
- I'll retire when I'm 70. ✅
- I won't call you until I will arrive. ❌
- I won't call you until I arrive. ✅

Similar to first conditional

Future time clauses are similar to the first conditional. There's a **main clause** and a **when/after/etc. clause**. We use the verbs in these clauses in the same way as in the first conditional.

We use a comma when the **when/after/etc. clause** is at the beginning of the sentence. But we don't use a comma if the **when/after... clause** is at the end of the sentence.

- *I'll retire when I'm 70.*
- *When I'm 70, I'll retire.*

We use the present in the **when/after/etc. clause** and we use the future in the **main clause**.

- *Before you go to sleep, daddy will tell you a story.*

In the **main clause**, we can also use **may, might, can, must, should** or an **imperative** instead of **will**.

- *As soon as you finish, you can leave.*
- *After you arrive, call me.*