# Grammar Reference

## 1. Grammar Reference: Subject-verb inversion in conditional statements

In past unreal conditional sentences, *if* can be replaced by inverting the subject and the auxiliary verb *had* but this mostly occurs in more formal speech and writing.

Examples:    If they ***had been*** unable to work together, the search engine ***might never have been*** created.
***Had*** they ***been*** unable to work together, the search engine ***might never have been*** created.

With past unreal conditionals, the event in the *if* clause presents something that did not happen that is contrary to fact.

Examples:    It wasn't a nice day. We didn't have a good time.
***If*** it had been a nice day, we ***would have had*** a good time.

This inversion can also be done with negative sentences. Negative forms are not contracted and *not* and *had* are separated.

Examples:    ***If*** this company ***hadn't*** created Hello Kitty, it ***wouldn't have become*** nearly so successful.
***Had*** this company not ***created*** Hello kitty, it ***wouldn't have become*** nearly so successful.

In present and future conditionals, *if* can be replaced by putting *should* at the beginning of the sentence. Should, <u>does not</u> express advice or obligation. In the should clause, the base form of the verb is used.

Examples:    ***If*** you ***want*** to buy natural skin care products, this company offers over 1,200 choices.
***Should*** you ***want*** to buy natural skin care products, this company offers over 1,200 choices.

*If* you'*re* looking for a competent employee, Jenn is your lady.
*Should* you *be* looking for a competent employee, Jenn is your lady.

## 2. Grammar Reference: Adverb clauses of condition

Conditional sentences do not have to use *if,* but the tense agreement is the same as *if* conditional statements.

The following expressions are used instead of *if* with conditional sentences and modify the main clause in the sentence: *assuming (that), on the condition (that), provided (that), supposing (that),* and *whether or not.*

*Provided (that)* and *on the condition (that)* introduces a condition on which another situation depends.

Examples: I would take almost any job *provided that* there were opportunities to learn.
I would only take a job *on the condition that* it offered long-term security.

Whether or not also introduces a condition that DOES NOT influence another situation. Or not may be placed after whether or at the end of the clause.

Examples:  I would quit a job that required me to be dishonest, *whether or not* it was high paying.
*Whether or not* it involves travel, I'm going to have to take this job.
*Whether* it involves travel *or not*, I'm going to have to take this job.

*Assuming (that)* introduces an assumption upon which another condition depends.

Examples:  I wouldn't mind working in an office, *assuming that* I had the freedom to be creative.

*Supposing (that)* introduces a possible condition that could influence another situation.

Examples:    *Supposing* I had the choice, I would prefer to work with a group rather than by myself.

*In the event (that)* and *(just) in case* also introduce a condition on which another situation depends.

Examples:    *In the event that* a replacement cannot be found, you'll have to take on extra responsibilities.
Here's a number to call *just in case* the copy machine breaks down.

*Even if* introduces a condition which, if it is true, doesn't affect the outcome of a situation. *Even if* is usually used with still.

Example:    I'm still going to call in sick to work tomorrow *even if* I'm not actually sick.