



PUC SPEL Online is a web-based English language tutoring system developed by PUC to help you improve your English vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. You can access the online courses from your own computer with an internet connection and at any time you are available. The course provides convenience and flexibility for you to practice your English independently outside of your classrooms with the support of online tutors.

<https://pucspel.online>
✉ spelonline@puc.edu.kh
📍 PUC South Campus

Grammar Reference

Sequence of tenses with 'if'

In sentences containing subordinate clauses expressing **conditions** (i.e., introduced by '**if**', '**suppose**', '**unless**', etc.), the **sequence of tenses** is as follows:

- '**if**' + **present** **future**

Example:

If you **go** to the beach, I'll **come** with you.

- '**if**' + **preterite** **present conditional**

Example:

If you **went** to the beach, I **would come** with you.

- '**if**' + **past perfect** **past conditional**

Example:

If you **had gone** to the beach, I **would have come**.

Use

- To describe **future situations and conditions** that are **very likely to happen**, use the **if** + **present** + **future** form. This form is sometimes called the **real conditional** because it is used to talk about highly probable events.

Example: **If** they **arrive** late, I'll **show** them where the meeting room is.

We'll **sign** the contract **if** they **agree** to our conditions.

- To talk about **future situations and conditions** that are **more theoretical and slightly less likely**, you may use the **if** + **preterite** + **present conditional** form.

Example: **If** sales **rose**, our budget **would increase**.

Our performance **would improve** **if** we **hired** a specialist.

- To describe what **could have been done** in a **past situation**, but can **no longer be changed**, use the **if + past perfect + past conditional** form. This is the **conditional form** used to **express regrets** and to say **how a situation might have been different**.

Example: **If they had finished** the report on time, we **would have proceeded** to the second stage of the project.

She **would have come** to the conference **if she had found** a flight from London.

Note. You may **inverse the structure** of these **conditional forms** to achieve the **same meaning**.

Example: **If you went** to lunch now, I **would go** with you. (I **would go** with you **if** you **went** to lunch now.)

Verbs expressing impressions and feelings

Verbs expressing **impressions** and **feelings**- '**to look**', '**to sound**', '**to smell**', '**to taste**', '**to feel**'- may be followed by:

- the preposition '**like**'

Example: He **looks like** his father.
It **sounds like** you're angry.
It **smells like** smoke.
It **feels like** velvet.
This cake **tastes** just **like** the one I had yesterday.

- **'as if / as though'**

Example:

You **look as if** you didn't (or don't) understand me.

It **sounds as if** you weren't (or aren't) listening to me.

It **smelt as if** she had burnt something.

These potatoes **taste as if** I added too much salt.

I **felt as if** I were (or was) going to fall asleep.

- an **adjective**

Example:

He **looks happy**.

This ice cream **tastes very good**.

It **feels funny** to write with my left hand.

I **felt so sick!**

Note. **'To be', 'to seem', and 'to appear'** (all of which can indicate impressions) may also be followed by **'like'** and **'as if'**.

Example:

What **was** the dinner **like**?

She **seems as if** she's going to get very mad.

Expressions followed by the gerund

The following expressions are followed by **gerunds** (verbs ending in **'-ing'**):

- **to be worth**

Example: **It's worth trying**, you know!

- **it's no use**

Example: **It's no use waiting** here.

- **it's no good**

Example: **It's no good staying** outside.

- **there's no**

Example: **There's no knowing** what he thinks about it.