

## CONDITIONALS SUMMARY

### **I The condition refers to the present or the future.**

**If + present simple** / present continuous ...

... **present simple** / **future simple** / modal verb / imperative

If you help me, it **is** easy. = When you help me, it is easy.

If you help me, I **will / can / may / might** do it.

If you aren't working, **help** me, **will** you? = will you help me?

### **II The condition is a hypothetical one; it can refer to the present or the future.**

**If + past simple ... simple conditional** / modal verb / perfect conditional

If I were rich, I **would / could / might / would be able to** buy a sports car.

If I were rich, I **would have** bought that sports car we saw.

### **III The condition refers to a hypothetical past.**

**If + past perfect ... perfect conditional** / simple conditional / modal verb

If I had been more careful, I **wouldn't have** broken my ankle.

If I had been more careful, I **wouldn't** have a broken ankle.

If I had been more careful, I **could / might / would be able to** go skiing with you.

## OTHER TYPES OF CONDITIONALS

**unless** (= a menos que) is used mainly to avoid having two negative sentences together:

He won't pass **if** he **doesn't** study. = He won't pass **unless** he studies.

Be careful, however: not all negative sentences can use "unless" instead of "if ... not":

Si no tuviera tanto trabajo te ayudaría = If I didn't have so much work I would help you.

It is incorrect to say: \* "Unless I had so much work I would help you".

Similarly, "I could buy a new mobile if I hadn't spent all my money on a computer."

→ \* I could buy a new mobile unless I had spent all ...

**provided / provided** (= if but only if) is used to express a stronger causal relationship. We can translate it as "siempre y cuando":

I will help you **provided** you do your share. = I will only help you if you do your share.

**as long as** is similar to "provided", but is also used to express a condition that needs to be sustained in time:

My parents will pay for my university studies **as long as** I get good grades.

**in case** is translated as "por si (acaso)", so it is used in a similar way to a conditional sentence:

If it rains you will need an umbrella. → You should take an umbrella in case it rains.