



Mini Lesson 005 - Using 'Unless' in Conditional Sentences

The word "unless" is a useful tool in English to create conditional sentences with a twist. It adds an exception to a general rule, similar in meaning to "except if." This is particularly handy when you want to specify the one condition that could prevent something from happening.

- **I'll attend the conference unless I catch a cold.**
- **They go hiking every weekend unless the weather is terrible.**
- **A: Will you be at the meeting? B: Yes, unless something urgent comes up.**

Additional Notes:

- "Unless" generally introduces a negative condition, but it keeps the sentence structure positive. For example, "I won't go unless she invites me" is equivalent to "I will only go if she invites me."
- Be careful not to confuse "unless" with "if not." They are similar but can change the emphasis in a sentence. For instance, "I'll help you if you ask" vs. "I won't help unless you ask."



Let's Practice!

Rewrite the following sentences to include "unless."

1. We'll start the project / the client changes the plan.

2. She'll join the soccer team / she doesn't pass the tryouts.

3. I love cooking / I'm too tired after work.

4. Walking is a great way to stay fit / you have an injury.

5. He avoids junk food / he's at a party.

6. They will visit the museum / it's closed for renovations.

7. She won't watch horror movies / she's with friends.

8. You won't finish the assignment / you stay focused.

9. He usually reads before bed / he's really exhausted.

10. The kids don't play outside / it's a sunny day.



Answers:

1. We'll start the project **unless** the client changes the plan.
2. She'll join the soccer team **unless** she doesn't pass the tryouts.
3. I love cooking **unless** I'm too tired after work.
4. Walking is a great way to stay fit **unless** you have an injury.
5. He avoids junk food **unless** he's at a party.
6. They will visit the museum **unless** it's closed for renovations.
7. She won't watch horror movies **unless** she's with friends.
8. You won't finish the assignment **unless** you stay focused.
9. He usually reads before bed **unless** he's really exhausted.
10. The kids don't play outside **unless** it's a sunny day.