

Joining two sentences using if and unless

Note that unless means if not and hence it would be wrong to use another not in clauses with unless. Study the following examples.

If- and unless-clauses are used to talk about a condition – something which must happen first so that something else can happen. In if and unless-clauses we use a present tense to refer to the future.

She must consult a doctor. Otherwise she will not know what her problem is.

If she does not consult a doctor, she will not know what her problem is.

Unless she consults a doctor, she will not know what her problem is. (NOT Unless she does not consult a doctor she will not know what her problem is.)

The typist should be careful. Otherwise she will lose her job.

If the typist is not careful, she will lose her job.

Unless the typist is careful, she will lose her job.

He will have to make the payment in time. Otherwise his house will be confiscated.

If he does not make the payment in time, his house will be confiscated.

Unless he makes the payment in time, his house will be confiscated.

You must use your time wisely. Otherwise you will not be able to do much.

If you do not use your time wisely, you will not be able to do much.

Unless you use your time wisely, you will not be able to do much.