

IF Clauses

If clauses are just what they sound like -- clauses that start with IF. Simple enough, but there are a few rules to learn.

When an if clause expresses a situation that the speaker thinks of as true or definite, or when the speaker makes a basic assumption, **si** (if) is followed by a verb in the present tense.



Si llueve, no vamos de compras.

If it rains, we're not going shopping.

Si esta bicicleta no funciona bien, vamos a devolverla.

If this bicycle doesn't work well, we'll return it.

When an if clause expresses something that is hypothetical or contrary to fact or doubted, the verb in the main clause will be in the conditional tense. In this case, the verb that follows si (if) is in the past subjunctive tense.

Si **tuviera** dinero, la compraría.

If I had money, I'd buy it.

Ellos **irían** con nosotros si **estuvieran** aquí.

They'd go with us if they were here.

Si **fueras** más cuidadoso, no **romperías** las cosas.

If you were more careful, you wouldn't break things.

As noted with the past subjunctive, como si means "as if" and is followed by the past subjunctive.

André gasta dinero como si fuera millonario.

Andre spends money as if he were a millionaire.

