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## If you should... = if you happen to ...

We can use "should" in an if-clause to talk about something which is possible but not likely.

- If he should call, tell him I will ring back. / If I should see him, I'll ask him to ring you.
- If you should find it, don't tell anyone. / If you should find it, put it somewhere safe.
- If there should be a problem, don't hesitate to call.

## If it/that will...

Conditional ("if") sentences are made of two parts. One shows a result and the other a condition that has to be met for the result to be achieved. Example : If you help me today, I will help you tomorrow. However, **if we are talking about future results rather than conditions**, an if - will clause is used.

- If it will save our marriage, I'll try to give up drinking. (*Future result : it will save our marriage*)
- I'll pay the course fees, if that will persuade you to apply to university. (*Future result : it will persuade to apply to university*)
- Take the whole of next week off, if that will help you to recover. (*Future result : it will help you to recover*)
- If it will make you feel more comfortable , you can bring a friend or relative with you. (*Future result : it will make you feel more comfortable*)

## If you will... = if you insist on

In this case the if-clause does not refer to future possibility, but instead has the same meaning as the verb insist on. In this usage a lot of word stress is placed upon will:

- If you will smoke twenty a day, it's not surprising you have a hacking cough. (*If you insist on smoking so much, it's not surprising you have a hacking cough.*)
- If she will eat so many chocolates, it's hardly surprising she has a spotty face. (*If she insists on eating so many chocolates, it's hardly surprising she has a spotty face.*)

## If you won't... = if you refuse to

Similarly, the negative of will in the if-clause has the same meaning as refuse to.

As you read these examples, remember to place heavier word stress than normal on won't:

- If she won't come with us, there's nothing we can do to make her. (*If she refuses to come with us, there's nothing we can do to make her.*)
- What shall we do, if she won't agree to have the operation? (*what shall we do, if she doesn't want to have the operation?*)

**If we apply it to an inanimate object, we'd take it as personification:**

- If my car won't start, we'll have to walk.

## If you will/would... = if you wouldn't mind

Here we are using if + will or if + would as polite requests with the same meaning as if you wouldn't mind.

- If you'll just fill in this form before you go, you can hand it in to reception. (*If you wouldn't mind filling in this form before you go, you can leave it with reception.*)
- If you would take a seat, the doctor will see you in five minutes. (*If you wouldn't mind taking a seat, the doctor will see you in five minutes.*)
- If you will come this way, the manager will see you now. (*If you wouldn't mind to come this way...*)