

As long as, provided that and on condition that

CEFR B1-B2 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

Three formal ways to say "only if", the present simple after them, and the difference from if and unless.

The rule

As long as: the everyday strong condition

- As long as means only if, and it is the most common of the three in speech.
- "You can come as long as you are quiet." The permission holds only when the condition holds.
- So long as is a slightly less common variant with the same meaning.
- The clause after as long as uses the present simple for future meaning.

Provided that: conditions in rules and deals

- Provided that means on the condition that, and it sounds formal.
- "We will sign the contract provided that the price stays the same."
- Providing that is a variant used in the same way.
- The that is often left out in speech: "provided the price stays the same".

On condition that: the formal legal choice

- On condition that is the most formal of the three and appears in laws, contracts and news reports.
- "He was released on condition that he stayed in the city."
- The same meaning can appear as on one condition.
- The clause still takes the present simple for the future, even in a past sentence with tense changes.

No will after the condition

- After if, unless, as long as, provided that and on condition that, use the present simple for a future event.
- Write "provided that she calls", not "provided that she will call".
- Will belongs in the main clause: "We will start provided that she calls."
- Won't and other future forms follow the same rule inside the condition.

How strong is the condition?

- If is neutral: the condition may or may not be met.
- As long as and provided that suggest the speaker demands the condition: the action depends on it.
- Unless means if not, and it reverses the condition: "We will not start unless she calls."
- Only if is the strongest and often moves to the front for emphasis: "Only if she calls will we start."

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. You can borrow my laptop ___ you bring it back tomorrow.

2. We will start the meeting ___ everyone arrives.

3. She will sign the contract ___ the terms stay the same.

4. He was freed ___ he reported to the police every week.

5. You will pass the exam ___ you revise.

6. We will not go out ___ the rain stops.

7. I will cook ___ you prefer to order a pizza.

8. The hotel accepts pets ___ they are small.

9. You may leave early ___ you finish your work first.

10. The loan is approved ___ you pay it back within a year.

11. ___ the weather is good, we will have a picnic.

12. You can use my car ___ you drive carefully.

13. She will help you ___ you ask her politely.

14. We will go to the park ___ it does not rain.

15. He agreed to the interview ___ his family was not mentioned.

16. The shop will replace the phone ___ you have the receipt.

17. I will wait here ___ you come back.

18. You can join the club ___ you pay the fee.

19. We will finish the project ___ everyone does their part.

20. The dog stays outside ___ it is cold.

Answer key

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1. **as long as** — As long as sets the firm condition for the permission.
2. **provided that** — Provided that introduces the condition for starting.
3. **provided that** — Provided that is the formal condition in an agreement.
4. **on condition that** — On condition that is the formal legal pattern.
5. **as long as** — As long as gives the condition that must hold.
6. **unless** — Unless means if not, so the going depends on the rain stopping.
7. **unless** — Unless reverses the condition: I cook if you do not order.
8. **as long as** — As long as states the condition for accepting the pets.
9. **provided that** — Provided that introduces the condition for leaving early.
10. **on condition that** — On condition that is the formal condition in a loan agreement.
11. **Provided that** — Provided that introduces the condition before the main clause.
12. **so long as** — So long as is a variant of as long as with the same condition meaning.
13. **provided** — Provided means on condition that and introduces the condition.
14. **as long as** — As long as holds the plan to the dry weather condition.
15. **on condition that** — On condition that suits the formal agreement about the interview.
16. **provided that** — Provided that sets the condition for the replacement.
17. **as long as** — As long as makes the waiting depend on the return.
18. **on condition that** — On condition that states the formal requirement for joining.
19. **provided that** — Provided that introduces the condition for finishing.
20. **unless** — Unless means if not, so the dog goes out when it is not cold.