# 49. SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS INTRODUCING CONDITIONAL CLAUSES (*if, in case, unless…*)

Subordinating conjunctions are words or phrases that introduce dependent clauses in a sentence.

Conditional clauses are dependent clauses used to describe the conditions under which something may or may not happen.
The most common subordinating conjunctions that introduce conditional clauses are: *if, in the event that, in case, unless, even if,* and *whether… or not.*

| EXAMPLES | FUNCTION |
|---|---|
| *If Mr. Johnson cannot raise enough money, he will drop out of the senatorial race.* | *If* is used to express a condition that is necessary in order for something to happen. |
| *In case there is a fire emergency, employees should use the stairs to exit the building.* | *In case* is used to express a condition that has a little chance of happening. |
| *In the event that the president dies in office, the vice-president will replace him.* | *In the event* means *in case,* but it is used in very formal documents. |
| *Linda will serve five years in jail unless the parole board releases her early for good behavior.* | *Unless* is used to express a condition under which something will not happen. *Unless* means *if* [*someone/something*] *does not happen.* |
| *Even if Marianne loses her job in the Department of Health, I think she will continue to work in the government.* | *Even if* used to express a condition that will have no effect on a decision or an event. |
| *The subway fare will increase whether the mayor supports it or not.* | *Whether… or not* also introduces a condition that will have no effect on a decision or an event. |

**Note:** Do not use two subordinating conjunctions introducing conditional clauses in the same sentence.

 **Incorrect:** *If in case the trains do not run, there will be additional buses to serve commuters.*
 **Correct:** *If the trains do not run, there will be additional buses to serve commuters.*