

If vs When

Use **if** when you're not sure something will happen: *If I see Ana, I'll tell her.* Use **when** when you're sure it will: *When I see Ana tomorrow, I'll tell her.* Both take the Present Simple for the future, not will.

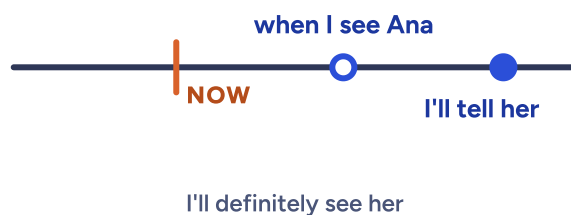
IF · MAYBE

If I see Ana, I'll tell her.



WHEN · FOR SURE

When I see Ana, I'll tell her.



1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- _____ I wake up tomorrow, I'll call you.
a) When b) If
- _____ I win, I'll buy everyone a drink.
a) When b) If
- When the train _____, we'll get on.
a) arrives b) will arrive
- _____ you're ever in Cluj, let me know.
a) If b) When
- _____ the meeting finishes, I'll send you the notes.
a) If b) When

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. When I will arrive, I'll call you.

2. When it rains tomorrow, we'll stay in.

3. If I'm 30 next year, I'll have a big party.

3. Your turn

Write two sentences about your own life: one with **If** and one with **When**. Then explain the difference to a partner.

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/compare/if-vs-when

If vs When

1. Choose the right answer

1. **a) When** You're sure you'll wake up: when.
2. **b) If** You might not win: if.
3. **a) arrives** After when, use the Present Simple for the future.
4. **a) If** It may never happen: if.
5. **b) When** The meeting will certainly finish: when.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **When I arrive, I'll call you.** After when, use the Present Simple for the future.
2. **If it rains tomorrow, we'll stay in.** You can't be sure it will rain, so use if.
3. **When I'm 30 next year, I'll have a big party.** Turning 30 is certain, so use when.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.