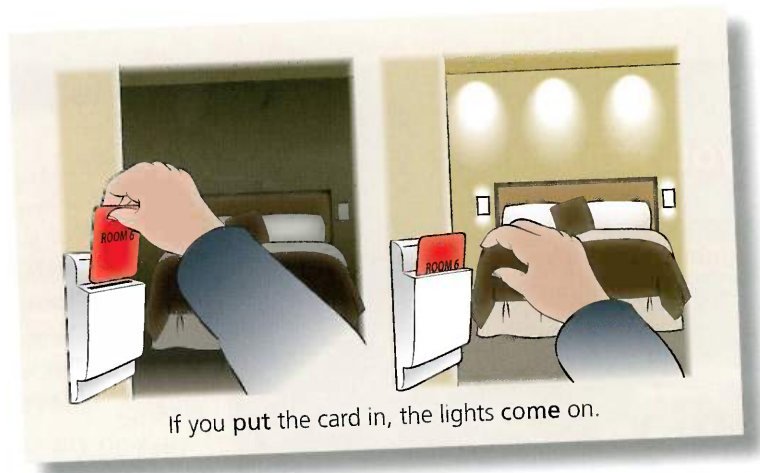


69 Present conditions



1 Form

CONDITION (if ...) present tense	RESULT present tense
If you put the card in,	the lights come on .
If you look directly at the sun,	it damages your eyes.
If plants don't get water,	they die .
If you need any help,	ask the teacher.

When we are talking about real situations in the present, BOTH verbs are in the present tense. Notice the position of the comma (,):

If you **put** the card in, the lights **come on**.

If we write the result first, a comma is not necessary:

The lights **come on** if you **put** the card in.

Plants **die** if they **don't get** water.

2 Use

We use *if* or *when* + present tenses

- to talk about real situations:
*If you **turn** the key, the engine **starts**.*
- to say that one event always follows another:
*When I **go** to bed late, I **feel** tired the next day.*
- to describe rules:
*If a player **drops** the ball, he/she **is** out.*

NATURAL ENGLISH When we are speaking to someone, we often use the *if* part of the sentence alone:

'Do you like curry?' 'Yes, **if it's not too spicy**.'

We use *if* + the imperative to give instructions or advice:

If it's **raining**, **take** an umbrella.



Notice that we don't repeat the subject:

X *If you **want more information**, you **look on our website**.*

✓ *If you **want more information**, **look on our website**.*



We don't use *to* after *please*:

X *If you **need anything**, **please to call reception**.*

✓ *If you **need anything**, **please call** reception.*