

SI CLAUSES

**HYPOTHESIS
CONSTRUCTIONS
USING « SI »**

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Si il fait beau demain, j'irai a la plage.

If the weather is nice tomorrow, I will go to the beach



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- **Si clauses (hypothetical / conditional sentence = conditional clause + Result produced by that condition)**
- The construction of hypothetical statements (if clauses) requires the use of specific tenses.
- Hypotheses in French are quite similar to English hypotheses: you need to understand whether you are wishing to change a future, present, or past event. Then apply the correct tenses.
- In English, such sentences are called "if/then" constructions. The French *si*, of course, means "if" in English. There is no equivalent for "then" per se in French conditional sentences.

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In French there are three main SI Clauses

- 1. Si + present + present/futur/ impératif**
- 2. Si + imparfait / conditionnel present**
- 3. Si + plus que parfait/conditionnel passé**

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1) **Si + present+ presnt/futur/imperatif**

- **Si tu veux tu peux aller au concert**
- **Demain, s'il pleut, tu iras au musée, et s'il fait beau, tu iras à la plage**
- **Si tu veux acheter une robe, achète la rouge.** (we all know how hypothetical the weather forecast is....)
Hypothesis **That CAN Become Real** –(called Hypothesis on the future in French)
- Use these constructions if you are talking about something that is happening in the future, or right now, but with a strong chance of it becoming a reality = full hope.

Note:

Instead of the simple future, we can also use the near future construction: aller + infinitive.

Si tu manges trop de glace, tu vas avoir mal au ventre.

If you eat too much ice-cream, you're going to have a tummy ache

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2. Si + imparfait + conditionnel present

- **S'il faisait beau maintenant, tu irais à la plage** (but it's raining now)
If it was nice out now, you would go to the beach. The statements for this sort of hypothesis often end with a “but + stating the real situation”.
- **Si elle était riche, elle achèterais un bateau.**
If she was rich, she would buy a boat (but she is not rich...)

Note:

This hypothesis CANNOT become a reality right now. However it often carries a notion of wish: she is not rich, but maybe one day she'll be rich. It's raining now, but maybe it will clear up and then you'll go to the beach.

3. Si + plus-que-parfait + conditionnel passé

Hier, s'il avait fait beau, tu serais allé(e) à la plage
(but it rained all day...)

Yesterday, if the weather had been nice, you would have gone to the beach.

Note:

This hypothesis CANNOT become a reality at all. You are talking about a past event. You are saying what you would have done if the conditions had not been what they were.

Reminder:

The plus-que-parfait follows the same agreement rules as passé composé, but with être / avoir in imparfait.

The conditionnel passé follows the same agreement rules as passé composé, but with être / avoir in conditionnel present.

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Observez

Si j'avais de l'argent, je voyagerais.

Si tu veux tu peux aller au concert.

Si tu veux acheter une robe, achète la rouge.

Si tu manges des légumes, je te donneras une glace.

Si j'avais eu de bonnes notes, je serais devenue médecin.

Testez - vous

1. Si je me lève tôt, je _____
(promener)
2. Si je parle trop vite, _____
(s'arreter)
3. Si je perds mon portefeuille, je _____
de l'argent. (emprunter)
4. Si je ne réussis pas à cet examen, mes parents
_____ (ne me pas aider) a suivre mes
études.
5. Si je ne trouve pas mes clés, je _____ ne
pas pouvoir) ouvrir l'armoire.

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6. Si j'avais un souhait, je _____

7. Si je n'avais qu'une semaine à vivre, je

8. Si j'étais le président, je _____

9. Si j'étais riche, je _____

10. Si j'étais toi, je _____

11. Si j'avais connu Mahatma Gandhi, je

12. Si j'avais inventé la voiture hybride, je

13. Si j'avais visité la Côte-d'Ivoire,
je _____

14. Si j'étais né(e) en France, je _____

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