

5.2. *Only if* and *unless*

5.2.0. Overview

The simple conditional is one of a group of connectives whose other members can be expressed using it and negation.

5.2.1. *Only if*

If the simple conditional trims the content of an unconditional assertion, a second conditional offers a trimmed denial, ruling out the truth of the main clause in cases where the subordinate clause is false.

5.2.2. Necessary and sufficient conditions

The implicatures of an *only-if* conditional are associated with the idea of necessary conditions while the implicatures of an *if* conditional are associated with the idea of sufficient conditions.

5.2.3. *Unless*

Although it may be obscured by implicatures, the content of *unless* is provided by the phrase *if not*, a common dictionary definition for it.

5.2.4. Three forms compared

The implicatures associated with conditionals can make it difficult to distinguish the three conditionals but, once they are distinguished, some couple mnemonic devices point to their symbolic forms.