

Lesson Plan: Conditional meaning with *unless* and *otherwise*

Level: Intermediate (B1/B2)

Time: 60 minutes

Objective

Students will be able to **use *unless* and *otherwise*** to talk about conditions and consequences, especially for **rules, advice, and warnings**.

Target Structures

- **Unless + present simple**, main clause (future/result)

*You'll be late **unless** you leave now.*

- Statement + **otherwise**

*Leave now; **otherwise**, you'll be late.*

1. Warm-up (5–8 minutes)

Activity: What happens if...?

- Write on the board:

If you don't study, what happens?

- Elicit:

You will fail the exam.

- Reformulate:

*You will fail the exam **unless** you study.*

*You should study hard; **otherwise**, you'll fail the exam.*

Purpose: Activate conditional thinking using familiar *if* structures.

2. Presentation (12–15 minutes)

Step 1: Introduce unless

Write:

- If you don't wear a seatbelt, you'll get a fine.

Ask students to rewrite:

- You'll get a fine **unless** you wear a seatbelt.

Highlight:

- **unless = if ... not**
- Verb tense: **present simple after unless**
- Avoid double negatives
 - ✗ unless you don't study
 - ✓ unless you study

Step 2: Introduce otherwise

Write:

Turn off your phone. Otherwise, the teacher will be angry.

Highlight:

- *Otherwise* shows a **negative result** if the first action doesn't happen.
- Often used after a **command or advice**.
- Punctuation: usually after a period or semicolon.

3. Controlled Practice (10–12 minutes)

Activity 1: Choose the correct option

1. You'll miss the bus ____ you leave now.
(unless / otherwise)
2. Save your work; ____ you'll lose it.
(unless / otherwise)

Activity 2: Rewrite using unless

- If you don't hurry, you'll be late.
→ You'll be late **unless** you hurry.

Check answers together.

4. Semi-Controlled Practice (10 minutes)

Activity: Match & Combine

Students match two parts:

- Drink enough water ____
- Charge your phone ____

Possible answers:

- unless you want to get dehydrated
- otherwise it will die

Students explain their choices in pairs.

5. Freer Practice (12–15 minutes)

Activity: Advice Posters

In small groups, students create advice for:

- Exams
- Health
- Online safety

They must use both forms:

- *You won't pass **unless** you study hard.*
- *Don't steal; **otherwise**, you'll go to jail.*

Groups present their ideas.

6. Error Correction & Feedback (5 minutes)

Write common mistakes:

- ✗ You'll feel weak unless you don't eat.
- ✗ Otherwise you will be late, leave now.

Elicit corrections:

- ✓ You'll feel weak unless you eat.
- ✓ Leave now; otherwise, you'll be late.

7. Wrap-up / Homework (3 minutes)

Quick Check

- Students say one sentence with **unless** or **otherwise**.

Homework

- Write **6 sentences** giving advice using *unless* and *otherwise*.