

HYPOTHETICAL CLAUSES

SEQUENCE OF TENSES
(same as in English)

IF + PRESENT, FUTURE
IF + IMPARFAIT, CONDITIONAL
IF + PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT, PAST CONDITIONAL

If I go, I will be happy.
Si j'y vais, je serai content(e).
If I went, I would be happy.
Si j'y allais, je serais content(e).
If I had gone, I would have been happy.
Si j'y étais allé(e), j'aurais été content(e).

OTHER USES OF SI

SUGGESTION: SI + imparfait = WHAT IF

Si on allait au zoo demain? What if we went to the zoo tomorrow?

EXPRESSION OF WISH OR REGRET: SI + imparfait = IF ONLY

Ah! Si j'étais plus grand, plus beau, plus riche! If only I were taller, more handsome, richer!

SI = WHETHER

*Ils ne savent pas encore si ils vont en vacances ou pas.
They don't know yet whether they are going on vacation.*

SI CLAUSES

IF = SI

SI + IL = S'IL

DON'T MISTAKE HYPOTHETICAL CLAUSES WITH REGULAR CLAUSES WITH IF

*Si tu ne comprends pas, pose des questions!
Si tu ne comprends pas, j'espère que tu poseras des*

IF + PRESENT, IMPERATIVE/PRESENT

NO ORDER OF CLAUSES

IF CAN BE IN THE FIRST CLAUSE, OR THE SECOND. THE SEQUENCE OF TENSES REMAINS THE SAME.

*Je m'amuserai, si j'y vais.
Je m'amuserais, si j'y allais.
Je me serais amusé(e), si j'y étais allé(e).*

Saying YES to a negative statement

*Mais si, je t'ai dit que ce produit était nuisible à l'environnement.
But yes, I told you that product was harmful to the environment.*