

Function	KEY-WORD and structure
Show strong disapproval <i>A: I feel terrible. B: If you will go to bed late, what do you expect?</i>	WILL in the IF-clause
Politely ask people to do things <i>If you'll wait here, I'll inform the manager to attend you. If you would take a seat, I'll tell the director you're here. If I could just get a word in here ...</i>	WILL, GOING TO, WOULD or COULD in the IF-clause
Talk about imaginary, more unlikely events <i>If we were not to worry about our income, it would make our lives far easier.</i>	IF... WERE+ TO-infinitive
Talk about unreal, hypothetical events or situations <i>If the meeting was going well, I might go out for a walk.</i>	MIGHT/COULD in the main clause
Talk about a desired outcome <i>If it would remove some financial concerns, we could be involved in drawing up plans for a new building.</i>	WOULD in the IF-clause
Refer to something we want to change <i>I wish people would read more on the importance of zoos. I wish I could stop famine all around the world.</i>	IF ONLY / WISH + WOULD / I COULD ...
Talk about unlikely situations in a more formal context <i>Were they to break the contract, we would take them to court.</i>	We start with WERE
Talk about possible future situations in a more formal context <i>Should you wish to change your wedding arrangements, we will provide you with all you need.</i>	We start with SHOULD
Make possible future events seem more unlikely <i>If you should happen to miss the bus, I could drive you there myself.</i>	IF ... SHOULD / HAPPEN TO / SHOULD HAPPEN TO ...
Speculate about how things might have been different in the past in a more formal context <i>Had I known about his past, I would never have fired him.</i>	We start with HAD
Thank somebody for something <i>But for your help, we would have been in deep water now.</i>	BUT FOR followed by a noun

