

If and WHEN

COMPARE:

IF	WHEN
We use if for things we are not sure will happen.	We use when for things we are sure will happen.
<i>I will watch the news if I finish dinner before 9.00.</i> (Perhaps I will finish dinner before 9.00 but I'm not sure)	<i>I will watch the news when I finish dinner.</i> (I'm sure I will finish dinner)
<i>I will visit the Big Ben if I go to London.</i> (Perhaps I will go to London, perhaps I won't)	<i>I will visit the Big Ben when I go to London.</i> (I'm sure I will go to London)

✓ After **if** and **when** we use the present simple to talk about the future:

I'll watch TV when I finish dinner
She will have a shower when she gets up.
We'll take a taxi if we miss the bus.
I'll stay at home if it rains.

✓ We can begin the sentence with **when** or **if**.

When I finish dinner, I'll watch TV.
If it rains, I'll stay at home

We often use a comma when we begin with **when** or **if**.

EXERCISE

WHAT WILL YOU DO?. Make true sentences.

- 1- When I finish this exercise, ...
- 2- When I get up tomorrow, ...
- 3- If I feel ill tomorrow, ...
- 4- If it rains this weekend, ...