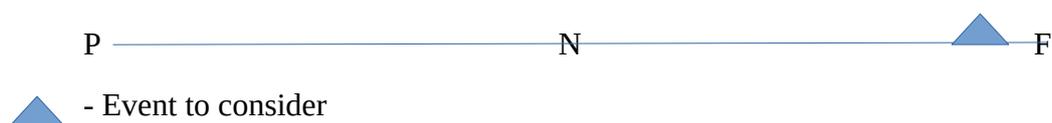# Grammar Tips & Tricks

1. Future Tense:

a) Simple future
Straightforward, scheduled plans made for the future. Format: Will + verb (infinitive)

E.g - I **will** drink this juice/ Tomorrow, I **will** go to the cinema... / I **will** sing at 4 p.m.
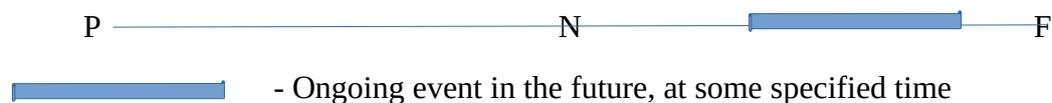
P ———————————————————— N ———————————————— ▲ F

▲ - Event to consider

b) Future Continuous
An action that will be going on in the future at a specified time.

Usually, specifying something along the lines of "This time tomorrow/ next week/next month/ next year..."; **Format:** will + be + verb-ing (present participle)

E.g. - When you come home, I **will be baking** croissants / This time, next month, I **will be sipping** on a lime mint cooler / By next Wednesday, I **will be learning** Quantum Mechanics
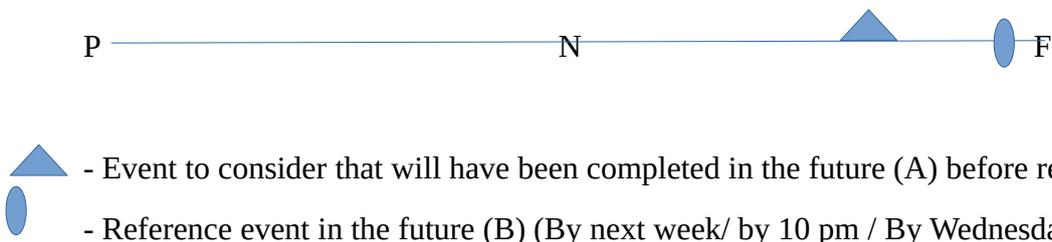
P ———————————————————— N ———————— ▬▬▬▬▬ F

▬▬▬▬▬ - Ongoing event in the future, at some specified time

c) Future Perfect
An action in the future (A) that's completed before a specific time in the future is mentioned(B).

Usually uses "By...."; **Format:** will + have + past participle

E.g – By Wednesday, I **will have read** the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy books / By 10 pm, I **will have eaten** dinner / By tomorrow, **we will have understood** conditionals in English Grammar (*hint hint*) / By 2030, we **will have discovered** a pattern for predicting prime numbers

P ———————————————————— N ———————— ▲ ⬮ F

▲ - Event to consider that will have been completed in the future (A) before reference

⬮ - Reference event in the future (B) (By next week/ by 10 pm / By Wednesday / By 2030)

d) Future perfect continuous
An ongoing event that starts at one point in the future (or present) (A) and is relevant to consider at a point that's further in the future (B)

Usually: specifies a point of reference in the future ("By...", but indicates that the action in question is still going on- the action may have even started in the present and continues upto the point of reference). **Format:** Will + have + been + verb-ing (present participle)

E.g – By next month, I **will have been practising** for my recital / By Tuesday, I **will have been reading** "The Restaurant at the End of the Universe" for a whole week! / By 10 pm I **will have been reading** for 4 hours straight.

P ——————————————————— N ——————— ▭ F

▭ - Activity that starts at some point in the future (or present) and continues upto and beyond the reference event (A)

◗ - Reference point in the future. (B)

2. Conditionals

Overview
Conditionals describe the result of a certain condition. The if clause tells you the condition (If you study hard) and the main clause tells you the result (you will pass your exams). The order of the clauses does not change the meaning.

If you study hard, you will pass your exams.

You will pass your exams if you study hard.

Zero Conditional
We use the zero conditional to talk about things that are generally true, like scientific facts, rules and agreements.

If I drink coffee late, I can't sleep at night.
When the sun is eclipsed, there is no light,
Until the bird lands, it flies.
Unless you water plants, they die.

"If" indicates that a condition is to be met so that the main clause can be met as well, "when" indicates a time-based condition (when it's hot, it gets red) and "unless" indicates that if one condition is not met, the other will not happen.

Format: if/when/unless + present simple -> present simple.

First Conditional
We use the first conditional to talk about events that are likely and possible to happen in the future (or not happen) based on a condition in the present being met (or not met). (Real future events)

If you drink this, you will die.
If you eat this, you'll feel spry;
Unless you study hard, you will struggle,
Unless you have a wand, you will stay a muggle;
Until you drink water, your throat will feel dry,
Until you call the dog to wake up, she will lie;
As long as you create, you will be cheery,
As long as you sleep late, you will be weary.

"Unless" -> If condition 1 is not met in the present, Condition 2 won't happen in the future.

"Until" -> It's a time-based condition; only *when* condition 1 is met, will condition 2 happen.

"If" -> If condition 1 is met in the present, condition 2 will happen in the future.

"As long as" -> For the time that condition 1 continues to be met (in the present), condition 2 will happen in the future.

Format: If/when/until/unless + present simple -> future simple

Second Conditional
These represent events that could hypothetically happen in the present (alternate timeline) or imagined future.

If I had a dog, I would be happier,
If I was a crocodile, I would be snappier,
Unless you read the story, you could be confused,
Unless she understood the game, the referee she would amuse,
Suppose she went home, she would feel cozy,
Suppose she won the lotto, would life be rosy?

"If" -> In some imagined situation, condition 1 would result in the hypothetical, alternate timeline event of condition 2.

"Suppose" -> Presents the same as "if"; the use of "suppose" clearly indicates an imagined scenario.

"Unless" -> If some condition isn't met, it would result in a (usually undesirable) situation.

Format: If/Suppose/Unless + past simple -> would/could + infinitive

Third Conditional
This represents regret or remorse about an unchangeable past. The situation is more unlikely to happen than the Second Conditional and is the least likely to be influenced.

If you had read the book, you would have saved your friend,
If I had savoured the sweet, I would have had more for the end;
Had I understood the riddle, I would have opened the gates,
Had she saved the gold, she could have offered it to the Fates;
Unless you had listened, you would not have been able to solve the puzzle,
Unless she had remembered, there would have been quite a tussle!

Format: If/Unless + past perfect -> would + have + been + past participle.