



If v Whether

If and whether are both subordinating conjunctions and can often be interchanged. They both introduce a conditioner uncertainty in meaning. However, there are a few rules that tell us when to use one or the other.

Use Both

We can use *if* and *whether* in the following situations:

- Reported speech

He asked if we could go to town.

He asked whether we could go to town.

- When we're not sure about something

I don't know if she's coming to the meeting.

I don't know whether she's coming to the meeting.

In general, *whether* is used in more formal situations while *if* in more everyday situations.

Use If

We can only use *if* in conditional sentences.

If I were you, I would apologise.

We will cancel the event if it rains.

If I had woken earlier today, I would have had time fo breakfast.

Use Whether

- After prepositions

I'm not interested in whether you can come.

It depends on whether she replies.

- Before to + infinitive

I can't decide whether to take my coat.

We're still thinking about whether to put in an offer.

- Phrase "or" / "or not" (two or more options)

I'd like to know whether to wait or stay.

Please confirm whether we got the bid or not.