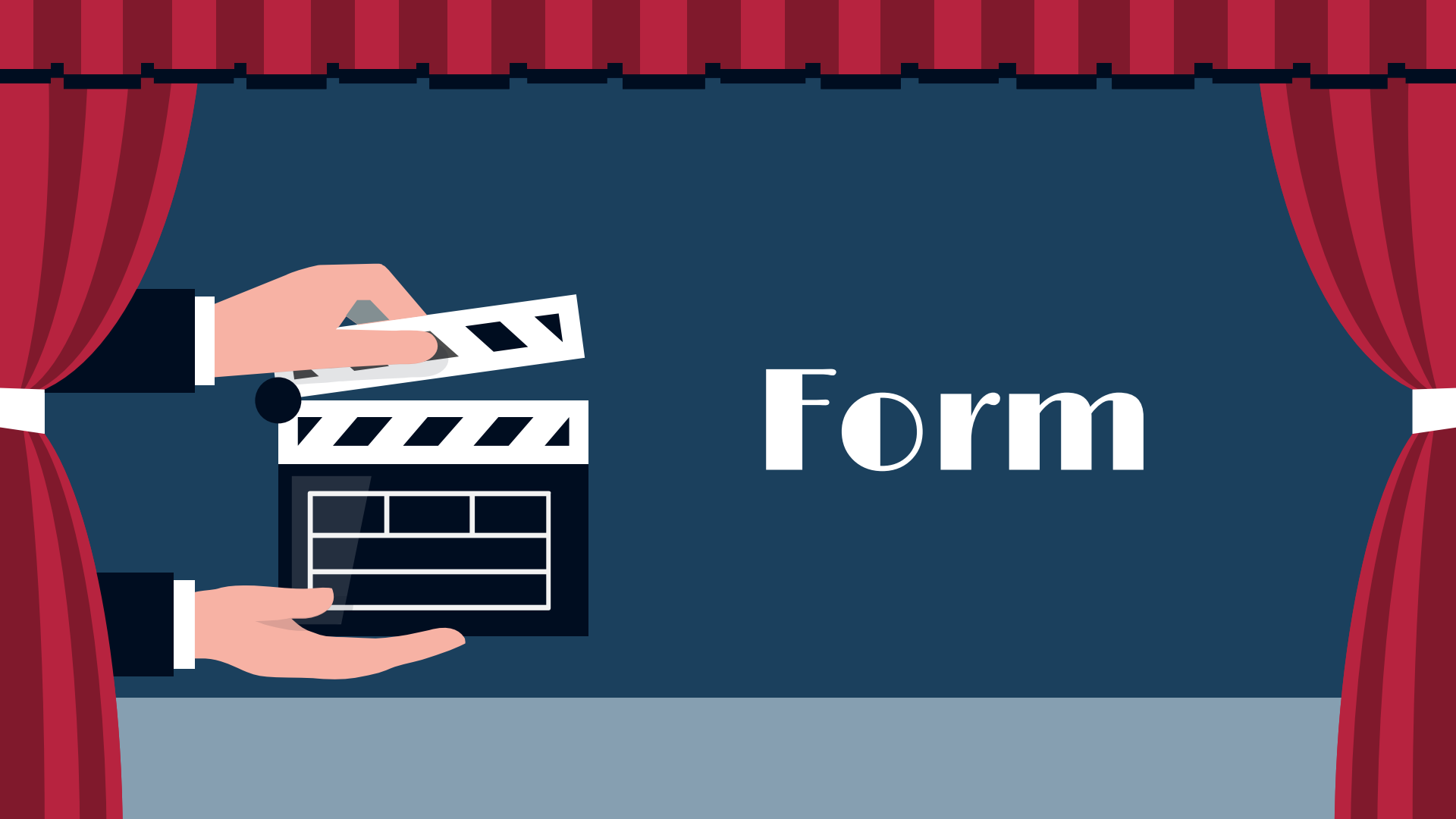




The first conditional

★ An overview of the rules
to jog your memory ★



Form

How do we form the first conditional?

subordinate clause

★ if/unless + present form

OR

★ have + past participle

+

main clause

★ will (or other modal auxiliary) + infinitive

OR

★ imperative

Example 1

If anything goes wrong, I'll contact your agent.

subordinate clause

→

if + present form

main clause

→

will + infinitive

Example 2

Unless there is a traffic jam, we will be on time for the premiere.

subordinate clause

→

Unless + present form

main clause

→

will + infinitive

Example 3

If you have left the dressing room open, we may find a fan inside

subordinate clause

→

have + past participle

main clause

→

modal auxiliary + infinitive

Example 4

Don't ring me up, unless the script changes.



main clause

→

imperative

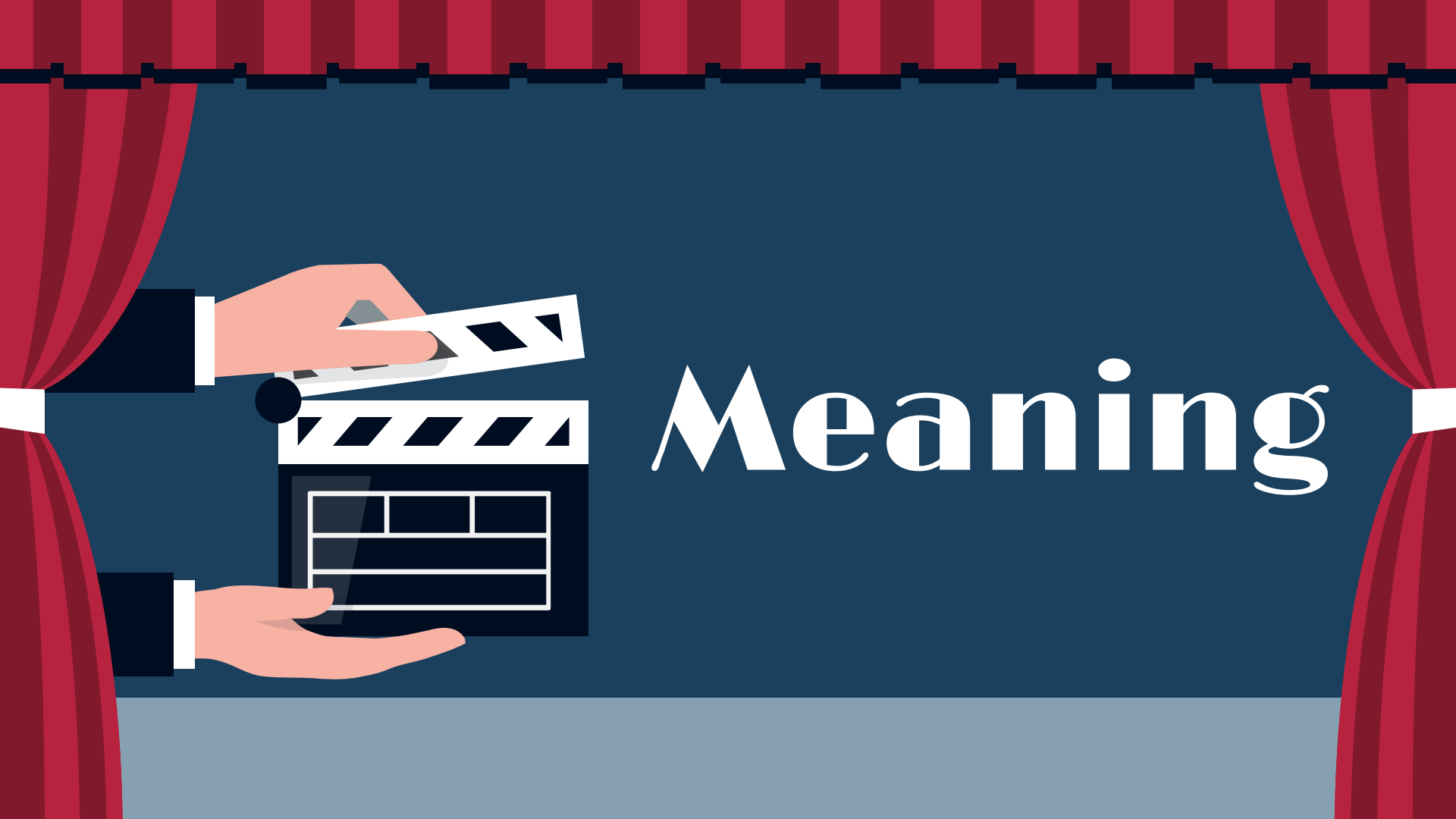


subordinate clause

→

unless + present form

!!! Caution: main and subordinate clauses can change order in a sentence!



Meaning

When do we use the first conditional?

To express a **real possibility/likelihood** in the **present or future**.

Example

If you keep acting like that towards your fans,
he will fire you.

→ It is possible that the person will be fired soon
if they keep acting that way towards their fans.