Grammar: Unreal Time

CONDITIONAL TYPE 1: "UNLESS" + PRESENT

With "if"	With "unless"
You will be sick if you don't stop eating.	You'll be sick unless you stop eating.
I won't pay if you don't provide the goods immediately.	I won't pay unless you provide the goods immediately.
If you don't study dilligently, you'll never understand trigonometry.	Unless you study dilligently, you'll never understand trigonometry.

CONDITIONAL TYPE 2: "UNLESS" + PAST

With "if"	With "unless"
If he wasn't very ill, he would be at work.	Unless he was very ill, he would be at work.
I wouldn't eat that food if I wasn't really hungry.	I wouldn't eat that food unless I was really hungry.
She would be here by now if she wasn't stuck in traffic.	She would be here by now unless she was stuck in traffic.

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CONDITIONAL TYPE 3: "UNLESS" + "PAST PERFECT"

With "if"	With "unless"
Our director would not have signed the contract if she hadn't had a lawyer present.	Our director would not have signed the contract unless she had had a lawyer present.
I wouldn't have phoned him if you hadn't suggested it.	I wouldn't have phoned him unless you'd suggested it.
They would have shot her if she hadn't given them the money.	They would have shot her unless she'd given them the money.

A. Language in context

Read the text.

Why do you think these musicians decided to perform in the street?

In this month's issue...

SUPPOSE YOU WERE WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND YOU HEARD A STREET PERFORMER PLAYING. Would you take him or her seriously and stop to listen? Unless you really liked the song, the answer is probably no. Well, maybe it's time you stopped taking street performers for granted. A number of famous performers started their careers on street corners, including Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, and Rod Stewart. Even after becoming famous, some musicians have performed on the streets, including Sting, Paul McCartney, and Bon Jovi.

Just think – next time you want to see a show and wish you had tickets, take time out to listen to the street performer outside the venue. Imagine how you would feel if you stopped to listen and saw that it was your favorite musician. You never know!