**Using whether**

**Whether** is used when someone does not know which of the two possibilities is true.

- She asked me whether I was married.
- I don’t know whether she will come.
- I asked whether she had received the letter.

**Whether ... or...** is often used as a double conjunction.

- She doesn’t know whether her son is dead or alive.
- I don’t know whether the answer is right or wrong.

**Whether** is also used to suggest that it doesn’t matter which of the two possibilities is true because the situation will remain the same.

- **Whether** we go by road or rail, the journey will take at least four hours.

**Whether... or not**

- Jenny is going abroad **whether** she likes it **or not**.
- Jenny is going abroad **whether or not** she likes it.

**Whether and if**

Both **whether** and **if** can be used to introduce indirect **Yes/No questions**.

- She asked if I liked English films. OR She asked whether I liked English films.

Before an infinitive, we use **whether**. **If** is not possible in this case.

- I can’t decide whether to accept that job. (NOT I can’t decide if to accept that job.)

After a preposition, use **whether**.

- There are doubts about whether the judgment was fair.

**Whether** can be followed by ‘or not’. **If** is not possible in this case.

- The question is **whether or not** we have the right to interfere. (NOT The question is if or not...)

Source: [www.englishgrammar.org](http://www.englishgrammar.org)
Both **whether** and **if** are possible when ‘or’ appears later in the sentence; however, **whether** is considered more correct.

- It is not clear **whether** the source of information is reliable **or not**. (Formal)
- It is not clear **if** the source of information is reliable **or not**. (Very informal)