

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

**REAL CONDITIONALS:
PROBABLE CONSEQUENCE**

ZERO CONDITIONAL

talk about habits or things people generally do:

“If I'm really tired I take a nap in the afternoon.”



explaining natural phenomena and processes:

“Water boils when/if you heat it to 100°C.”



explaining how things work:

“It opens when/if you press this button.”



talking about usual consequences / results:

“Students understand less, if they don't listen in class .”



The use:

we use it to talk about things that are **generally true**
(present simple sentence with “if”)

“If / when you do X, usually Y happens.”

The form:

condition

+

result

IF + PRESENT SIMPLE

PRESENT SIMPLE

If you press this button,

it opens.

If they have extra money,

they spend it on sweets

Complete:

If employees don't deliver results,

If, you say "Bless you!"

If you heat ice,

If I have an afternoon just for myself,

FIRST CONDITIONAL

plan your future:

“If she gets this job, she'll move to London .”



discuss “plan B”:

“If it rains we'll take a taxi .”



give a warning:

“If you don't stop, you'll go to your room .”



motivate:

“If I do ten more, I'll get some ice-cream .”



negotiate:

“If you wash the dishes, I will clean the bathroom .”



The use:

we use it to talk about **possible results** of present or future actions:

*“If you **do X**, it's very likely **Y will happen**”*

The form:

condition

IF + PRESENT SIMPLE

+

result

WILL + VERB

If you exercise,

you will loose weight.

If I get a raise,

I will buy a new car.

Sometimes we use other modal verbs, not only *will*, in conditional sentences:

*If you don't know, you **should** ask her.*

*If you want to go, I **can** buy the tickets.*

*If it rains, we **might** stay in.*

Complete:

If the weekend is sunny,

If, he will quit his job

If this doesn't work,

If, we will get a divorce.

UNREAL CONDITIONALS: HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS

SECOND CONDITIONAL

daydream:

“If I won the lottery, I would buy a castle in France .”



complain and make excuses:

“If they paid me more, I would work harder .”



talk about hypothetical situations:

“If I was the president, there would be no schools .”



give advice:

“If I were you, I wouldn't do it .”



The use:

we use it to talk about **impossible**
or very **unlikely** situations and their consequences
now and in the future:

*“If you **did X** (although it's not possible),
Y would happen.”*

The form:

condition

IF + PAST SIMPLE

+

result

WOULD + VERB

If I had more money,

I would go on holiday.

If he wasn't sick,

he could play with us.

Talk about these hypotheticals:

- winning a lot of money
- changing careers
- picking up a new hobby
- making changes in your organization
- making changes in your country
- meeting someone famous

THIRD CONDITIONAL

expressing regret:

“If I hadn't partied so much, I would have studied more and gotten better grades .”



analysing mistakes:

“If we had read the instructions right away, we would have finished by now .”



blaming:

“If you had listened to me, we wouldn't have missed the turn .”



The use:

we use it to talk about **impossible** changes that we would like to make to the past

*“If you had done X,
Y would have happened.”
(none of it is possible
as we can't change the past)*

The form:

condition

IF + PAST PERFECT

+

result

**WOULD + HAVE
+ PAST PARTICIPLE**

If I had studied more,

I'd have passed the exam.

If he hadn't lied,

they wouldn't have fired him.

BLAME GAME!

You were supposed to send an important report, but you missed the deadline.

I wouldn't have missed the deadline...