

CONDITIONALS: IF CLAUSES (Types 0, 1, 2, 3 & Mixed)

Zero Conditional

Structure used to talk about **general truths**, or **scientific facts**, things which always happen under certain conditions.

If + simple present	, simple present
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Ex:

If you steal, you go to jail.

Phosphorus burns if you expose it to air.

If you walk under the rain, you get wet.

You get wet if you walk under the rain.

First Conditional

Structure used to talk about **possible present** or **future** situations (likely to happen) and their consequences.

If + simple present/present continuous	, will can / may imperative	+ base form
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Ex:

If I get the money, I will invest it.

If I save enough money this year, I will go to Buenos Aires.

If you come to classes, you will learn a lot.

You will learn a lot if you come to classes.

If you want to lose weight, eat healthier
, do exercise.
, don't eat fast food.

Don't eat fast food if you want to lose weight.

Second Conditional

Structure used to talk about **hypothetical**, **imaginary**, sometimes **impossible** situations in the **present** or in the **future** and their consequences.

If + simple past / past continuous	, would could / might	+ base form
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Ex:

If I had the money, I would buy this car.

If I were you, I wouldn't bet every weekend

If I won the lottery, I'd buy a big house for my family.
I'd buy a big house for my family if I won the lottery.

BUT → The verb to be is always different, it is special.

If I **were / was** sportier, I'd go to the gym every day.

In the expression "If I were you, I'd..." to give advice, you **MUST** use were.

If I **were** you, I would (I'd) start preparing the TOEFL from the very beginning.

Third Conditional

Structure used to talk about **unreal, imaginary, hypothetical situations in the past** and their consequences. In other words, it is used to talk about things which **DID NOT HAPPEN** in the past. Therefore, they are impossible.

If + past perfect simple/continuous	, would could / might	+ have + past participle
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Real Situation in the past:

Peter didn't study for a test, so he failed it.

Third Conditional:

If Peter had studied more, he would have passed the test.
Peter wouldn't have failed the test if he had studied more.

Mixed Conditional

Structure used to **mix second and third conditional**. When the idea mixes a **hypothetical situation in the past with a present or future consequence**.

Real Situation:

Teacher: Please Peter, wake up. We are in class.

Peter: Sorry, I went to bed too late.

Teacher: Well, if you hadn't gone to bed so late, you wouldn't be so tired.

(another option) You could be more awake if you had gone to bed earlier last night.

Be careful with 'd.

'd = would / had

'd + verb base form = would → I'd go

'd + verb past participle = had → I'd gone

Exercise A

What a match! Your favorite team has lost again! So after the game, the supporters discuss what could have been different. Complete the sentences with third conditional.

1. If the midfielders _____ (pass) the ball more exactly, our team _____ (have) more chances to attack.
2. If the forwards _____ (run) faster, they _____ (score) more goals.
3. Their motivation _____ (improve) if they _____ (kick) a goal.
4. If the goalie _____ (jump) up, he _____ (catch) the ball.
5. If the referee _____ (see) the foul, he _____ (award) a penalty kick to our team.
6. Our team _____ (be) in better form if they _____ (train) harder the weeks before.
7. The game _____ (become) better if the trainer _____ (send) a substitute in during the second half.
8. If it _____ (be) a home game, our team _____ (win) the game.
9. If our team _____ (win) the match, they _____ (move) up in the league.

ALL CONDITIONAL FORMS

Exercise B

Using the words in parentheses, complete the sentences below with the appropriate conditional form (zero, first, second, third, or mixed).

1. If I _____ (leave) work early, I'll go to the fitness center with you.
2. If I (have) _____ enough money, I (go) _____ on safari to Kenya. However, my bank account is empty!
3. I really wanted to go on safari to Kenya with my friends, but I couldn't afford to go. If I (have) _____ enough money, I (go) _____ with them.
4. Stop asking me what Amanda bought you for Christmas. Even if I (know) _____ what she bought you, I (tell, not) _____ you.
5. If the weather is nice tomorrow, she (walk) _____ along the river to school.
6. If you help me move tomorrow, I (take) _____ you to a dinner and a movie.
7. If Jerry hadn't stopped to pick that quarter, he (cross) _____ the street when the bus ran the red light. He might have been killed!
8. If Jane spoke Chinese, she (translate) _____ the email for you.

9. If you (throw) _____ a cork into the water, it (float) _____ .
10. You _____ (be) so embarrassed if you _____ (check) the letter before sending it when I told you.

GLOSSARY

Quarter: a coin of 25 cents.

Cork: a small round object that is used for closing bottles, especially wine bottles.

ANSWER KEY

Exercise A

1. If the midfielders HAD PASSED the ball more exactly, our team WOULD HAVE HAD more chances to attack.
2. If the forwards HAD RUN faster, they WOULD HAVE SCORED more goals.
3. Their motivation WOULD HAVE IMPROVED if they HAD KICKED a goal.
4. If the goalie HAD JUMPED up, he WOULD HAVE CAUGHT the ball.
5. If the referee HAD SEEN the foul, he WOULD HAVE AWARDED a penalty kick to our team.
6. Our team WOULD HAVE BEEN in better form if they HAD TRAINED harder the weeks before.
7. The game WOULD HAVE BECOME better if the trainer HAD SENT a substitute in during the second half.
8. If it HADN'T BEEN a home game, our team WOULD HAVE WON the game.
9. If our team HAD WON the match, they WOULD HAVE MOVED up in the league.

Exercise B

1. If I LEAVE work early, I'll go to the fitness center with you.
2. If I HAD enough money, I WOULD GO on safari to Kenya. However, my bank account is empty!
3. I really wanted to go on safari to Kenya with my friends, but I couldn't afford to go. If I HAD HAD enough money, I WOULD HAVE GONE with them.
4. Stop asking me what Amanda bought you for Christmas. Even if I KNEW what she bought you, I WOULDN'T TELL you.
5. If the weather is nice tomorrow, she WILL WALK along the river to school.
6. If you help me to move tomorrow, I WILL TAKE you to a dinner and a movie.
7. If Jerry hadn't stopped to pick that quarter, he WOULD HAVE CROSSED the street when the bus ran the red light. He might have been killed!
8. If Jane spoke Chinese, she WOULD TRANSLATE the email for you.
9. If you THROW a cork into the water, it FLOATS.

10. You WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN so embarrassed if you HAD CHECKED the letter before sending it when I told you.