

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

Conditional clauses express the necessary condition that must be fulfilled for the event in the main clause to be true or fulfilled. The conditional clause may either precede or follow the main clause. In the first case, a comma is placed between the subordinate and the main clauses. Nevertheless, in any case, we have to be careful to keep the sequence of tenses in both sentences:

<u>IF you study hard,</u>	<u>you will pass your exam.</u>
(conditional/ subordinate clause)	(main clause)

Complex/ Compound Sentence

There are three main types of conditional clauses:

1ST TYPE: REAL CONDITION (POSSIBLE CONDITIONS)	
<p style="text-align: center;">CONDITION/ SUBORDINATE CLAUSE:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IF + Present Tense</p> <p><i>If you pull the cat's tail,</i> <i>If you exercise,</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONSEQUENCE/RESULT/MAIN CLAUSE:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WILL + Infinitive</p> <p><i>It will scratch you.</i> <i>You will feel better.</i></p>
<p>USES</p> <p>The first type of conditional is used to express events that are possible and quite probable to become true. Note that the meaning of the sentence is present or future, but the verb in the IF- clause (subordinate clause) is in a present, and not in a future tense.</p>	
<p>VARIATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ SIMPLE PRESENT, - SIMPLE PRESENT (GENERAL OR ZERO CONDITIONAL) It is used for universal truths and automatic or habitual results: <i>If you heat ice, it turns to water.</i> <i>If there is a fire in the forest, trees get burnt.</i> <i>If there is a shortage of any product, prices of that product rise.</i> ❑ SIMPLE PRESENT, - IMPERATIVE It is used for orders or obligations: <i>If Sam asks for my phone number, don't give it to him.</i> <i>If Jon rings, tell him to come here.</i> ❑ SIMPLE PRESENT, - MODAL VERB (CAN: permission/ ability/ MAY: permission, possibility/ MUST and SHOULD: command, request or advice) <i>If the fog gets thicker, the plane may be delayed.</i> <i>If it stops snowing, we can go out.</i> <i>If you see Tom tomorrow, could you ask him to ring me?</i> <i>If you want to lose weight, you should eat less bread.</i> ❑ Variations in the IF- Clause: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IF + PRESENT CONTINUOUS (to express a present action or a future arrangement)/ PRESENT PERFECT (to express a finished action) <i>If you are looking for Peter (present action), you'll find him upstairs.</i> <i>If you're staying for another night (future arrangement), I'll give you a better room.</i> <i>If you have finished dinner, I'll ask the waiter for the bill.</i> 	
2ND TYPE: IRREAL CONDITION	
<p style="text-align: center;">CONDITION/ SUBORDINATE CLAUSE:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IF + Past Tense</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONSEQUENCE/RESULT/MAIN CLAUSE:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SIMPLE CONDITIONAL(WOULD + Infinitive)</p>

<i>If I had a map, If someone tried to blackmail me,</i>	<i>I would lend it to you.(But I haven't a map. Present meaning) I would tell the police.(I don't expect it to happen. Future meaning)</i>
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USES

The second conditional is used to express events which are very difficult or not probable to become true or be fulfilled. The actions expressed with this conditional refer to the hypothetical situations in the present or the future.

Notice that the *Past Tense* in the **if**-clause is not a true past but a subjunctive, which indicates unreality or improbability.

VARIATION

❑ **PAST SIMPLE, - PAST SIMPLE**

It is used when we wish to express automatic or habitual reactions in the past. So the past tense here has a past meaning:

*If anyone **interrupted** him, he **got** angry.*

*If the King **got** angry, heads **rolled**.*

❑ In formal style it can be replaced WAS by **WERE** for all persons:

*If he **weren't** so tired, he **would** come to the party with us.*

*If I **were** rich, I **would** travel a lot.*

❑ We can use the expressions: **IF I WERE YOU**/ **IF YOU WERE ME** to give and ask for advice:

***If I were you**, I **wouldn't** use a mobile phone so often.*

***If you were me**, how **would** you study for the English exam?*

❑ **PAST SIMPLE, - MODAL VERB** (**COULD**: permission/ ability/ **MIGHT**: possibility)

*If you **tried** again, you **might** **succeed**. (possible result)*

*If I **knew** her number, I **could** **ring** her **up**.(ability)*

❑ Variations in the **IF**- Clause:

• **IF + PAST CONTINUOUS/ IF + PAST PERFECT.**

*I hate flying. If we **were going** by boat I'd feel much better.*

*If he **had taken** my advice, he **would** be a rich man now.*

3rd TYPE: IMPOSSIBLE CONDITION

CONDITION/ SUBORDINATE CLAUSE: <i>IF + Past Perfect Tense</i>	CONSEQUENCE/RESULT/MAIN CLAUSE: PERFECT CONDITIONAL(WOULD + HAVE + Past Participle)
<i>If you had worked harder last year, If I had known that you were coming,</i>	<i>You would have probably passed your exam..(But you didn't) I would have met you at the airport. (But I didn't know, so I didn't come)</i>

USES

The Third Conditional is used to talk about things that did not happen in the past. Therefore, we just can think or imagine what would have happened if things had been different.

This type of conditional can also be used to blame or complain about what may/could have been different if someone had done/ hadn't done something in particular.

VARIATION

- ❑ **PAST PERFECT, - PERFECT MODAL VERB** (*COULD*: permission/ ability/ *MIGHT*: possibility)
*If I had been old enough, I **could have voted**.* (ability)
*If we had found him earlier, we **might have saved his life**.* (possibility)
*If our documents had been in order, we **could have left at once**.* (permission)
- ❑ We can use the *Past Perfect Continuous* in the **if**- clause:
*I was wearing a seat belt, but if I **hadn't been wearing** one, I'd have been seriously injured.*
- ❑ In some cases we can combine types 3 and 2:
*The plane I intended to catch crashed and everyone was killed. If I **had caught** that plane I **would be dead** or/ I would have been killed (type 3)*
- ❑ **HAD** can be placed first and **if** omitted:
*If you had obeyed orders, this disaster wouldn't have happened = **Had** obeyed you orders, this disaster wouldn't have happened.*

CONDITIONAL LINKERS

IF and WHEN

When can replace *if* in zero conditionals:

If you heat water to 100 degrees Celsius, it boils.

***When** you heat water to 100 degrees Celsius, it boils.*

In the other types of conditionals, we cannot use *when* instead of *if*.

ONLY IF

Only if makes the condition more restrictive:

*Glucose is dangerous to children **only if** dosage is too high.*

If the *if*-clause is first type, the subject and the auxiliary in the main clause are inverted:

***Only if** you like classical music, **is it** worth coming tonight.*

EVEN IF

Even if emphasises that something will happen, would happen or would have happened whatever the condition:

Even if we leave right now, we still won't catch the train.

I wouldn't go into the water even if I could swim.

Even if we had booked our flight earlier, it wouldn't have been cheaper.

SO/AS LONG AS, PROVIDING/PROVIDED (THAT)

So/As long as and *providing/provided (that)* can be used instead of *if* to express a condition. Note that *providing/provided (that)* is a bit formal:

Providing (that) is more common in speaking; *provided (that)* is more formal and more common in written language.

You can stay here as long as you keep quiet.

Provided/Providing (that) the bills are paid, tenants will not be evicted.

SUPPOSE/SUPPOSING, WHAT IF

Suppose/supposing and *what if* can replace *if*, mainly in everyday conversation, and are often used without a main clause:

Suppose/supposing you won the lottery, what would you do?

Suppose/supposing you can't find a job?

What if you are not accepted to university? What will you do then?

IN CASE and IF

An *in case*-clause gives a reason while an *if*-clause describes a condition:

I'll buy a sandwich in case I get hungry. (I'll buy a sandwich because I may get hungry later.)

I'll buy a sandwich if I get hungry. (I'll buy a sandwich when I get hungry.)

We can use *should* after *in case*:

Take an umbrella in case it should rain.