

Conditional

If people eat too much they get fat.

If I have time I will visit you.

If I had more time I would travel the world.

If I had had time I would have gone to the football match.

Definition and types of conditionals

To talk about things that are possible, you often use if in a sentence. A sentence with if is called a **conditional sentence**.

- If it rains tomorrow, we shall not go to the beach.
- If there's no rice in the cupboard, we'll buy some more.
- If we don't work hard, we'll never learn.
- If we leave now, we'll arrive on time.
- We'll play indoors if it rains.
- You'll get sick if you don't eat good food.
- Sam will do well in his piano recital if he practices regularly.

TYPE	IF-CLAUSE	MAIN CLAUSE	USE	EXAMPLES
0	- PRESENT SIMPLE	- PRESENT SIMPLE	Pure fact	Water turns into ice if it gets cold.
1 PROBABLE CONDITION	if + PRESENT SIMPLE	- FUTURE SIMPLE - IMPERATIVE - MODAL VERB + INFINITIVE	real present real or very probable situation in the present or future.	If he comes late, we'll miss the train. If you don't have enough money, don't buy it.
2 IMPROBABLE CONDITION	if + PAST SIMPLE	- WOULD + BARE INFINITIVE - COULD + BARE INFINITIVE - MIGHT + BARE INFINITIVE - SHOULD + BARE INFINITIVE	unreal present improbable situation in the present or future also used to give advice	If I had money, I would buy a new car (but I don't have enough money) If I were you, I would see a doctor. Would you run away if you saw a ghost?
3 IMPOSSIBLE CONDITION	if + PAST PERFECT	- WOULD HAVE + P. PARTICIPLE - COULD HAVE + P. PARTICIPLE - MIGHT HAVE + P. PARTICIPLE - SHOULD HAVE + P. PARTICIPLE	unreal past unreal or improbable situation in the past also used to express regret and criticism	If you hadn't been rude, your boss wouldn't have fired you (but you were rude and he fired you) She would have passed the exam if she had studied.

Let's practice (01): Rewrite these sentences without changing the meaning of the original one

- I think it will rain tomorrow. We'll have to stay indoors.
If
- David must practise more to be a really good pianist.
If
- If anyone complains, refer them to the manager.
Should
- You have to have a visa to enter China.
Unless
- I need a grant in order to study at university.
I won't
- I cannot afford to buy a PSP.
If
- I couldn't finish the crossword because it was too difficult.
I
- Tommy would love to have a baby sister.
Tommy wishes
- Take my advice – don't move into that neighbourhood.
I
- It rained a lot when we were in England.
I wish
- Suzi has to work very hard. Suzi cannot take more exercise.
Suzi
- You missed a good game on Sunday.
'I wish
- When I was younger, I didn't learn how to play a musical instrument.
'If

14. I didn't bring a map. We got lost.
Had.....
15. Tom was sent to bed last night because he didn't behave himself.
If
16. I don't like Tony because he is always saying nasty things.
I wish.....
17. Drivers do not pay attention to the rules of the road.
There are a lot of accidents.
18. I advise you not to tell anyone.
Unless
19. He didn't recover soon. He didn't follow the doctor's order. (PROVIDED)
.....
20. He may go to prison. He refuses to pay the fine.
Unless
21. The Smiths regret cancelling their trip to Turkey.
The Smiths wish.....

Mixed Conditionals

Unreal conditionals (type II + III) sometimes can be mixed, that is, the time of the if- clause is different from the one of the main clause.

Past --> Present If I had taken an aspirin, I wouldn't have a headache now.
Past --> Future If I had known that you are going to come by tomorrow, I would be in then.
Present --> Past If she had enough money, she could have done this trip to Hawaii.
Present --> Future If I were you, I would be spending my vacation in Seattle.
Future --> Past If I weren't flying to Detroit, I would have planned a trip to Vancouver.
Future --> Present If I were taking this exam next week, I would be high-strung.

Let's practice (02): Use mixed tenses in these sentences

1. If I (be) you, I (check) my facts before I wrote that letter.
2. If you (be) so hungry, you (not miss) breakfast.
3. If he (not/catch) the 5.30 train, he (not arrive) for another two hours.
4. He (feel) very tired today if he (play) rugby yesterday.
5. If the snake bite (be) poisonous, you (feel) very ill now.
6. If I (be) in your position, I (answer) his letter by now.

Let's practice (03): Rewrite the following mixed conditional sentences

1. She isn't at the meeting because she wasn't told about it.
2. I didn't apply for the job. I don't want to work there.
3. He didn't take his job seriously. He's unemployed now.
4. He didn't train every day. He won't win the race.
5. I didn't warn me. Now I'm in a difficult situation.
6. I don't know him very well, so I didn't give him any advice.

NOTES

1. We put a comma after the IF-CLAUSE when it comes first. If we go by plane, it will be more expensive. It will be more expensive if we go by plane.
2. After IF, we can use WERE instead of WAS in all persons If I were you, I wouldn't spend so much time watching TV.
3. We do not usually use WILL, WOULD or SHOULD in an IF-CLAUSE If we take a taxi, we won't be late. However, we use SHOULD after IF when we are less sure about a possibility If I should see him, I'll give it to him. (Perhaps I'll see him but I'm less sure)
4. OTHER LINKING WORDS UNLESS. IF NOT: We'll go for a picnic unless it rains.
PROVIDED (THAT): Children are allowed to go for a ride on the roller coaster provided that they go with an adult. AS LONG AS: As long as he's on time, we won't be late for the meeting.

Let's practice (04): Rewrite these sentences using UNLESS.

We won't buy any fish today if it isn't cheaper than yesterday.

We won't buy any fish today unless it is cheaper than yesterday.

1. If you don't go to the party, they'll be disappointed.

2. I can't help her if she doesn't want to talk to me.

Let's practice (05): Complete the following sentences.

1. If we don't hurry, we will be (be) late.
2. If I see her, I _____ (give) her your message.
3. If you're hungry, I _____ (make) you a sandwich.
4. If he _____ (not/come) to the party, I will be very upset.
5. If she _____ (go) to Paris, she'll send me a postcard.
6. If we _____ (not/be) busy, we'll come with you.

Let's practice (06): Complete with the Second Conditional.

- 1) If he _____ (exercise), he would be healthier.
- 2) If I _____ (be) you, I would call the police.
- 3) I _____ (buy) a new jacket if I had some money.
- 4) I _____ (help) him if I were you.

3. If it doesn't stop raining, we'll stay at home.

4. If he doesn't go to the post office, he won't buy the stamps.

5. George won't come out of hospital if he doesn't feel better.

7. If he does that again, dad _____ (be) very angry.
8. If he _____ (not/finish) his homework, he won't go out.
9. If he _____ (come), I'll talk to him.
10. If she _____ (hurry), she won't be late.
11. If it rains, we _____ (not/go) out.
12. If they are late, they _____ (miss) the bus.

- 5) I would travel round the world if I _____ (win) the lottery.
- 6) If she had time, she _____ (go) to the gym.
- 7) If I _____ (meet) an alien, I wouldn't be scared.
- 8) If I _____ (go) to New York, I would visit the Empire State building.