

Types of conditionals

- Zero conditional
- First conditional
- Second conditional
- Third conditional
- Mixed conditional

Conditional sentences

Conditional clauses are also called conditional sentences or if sentences. **Conditionals describe the result of a certain condition.**

They always have two parts, a **main clause** and an **if clause**. These two parts are closely connected.

The action in the main part can only happen if a certain condition is taking place. This condition has to be expressed in the if clause.

The **if clause tells you the condition** (*If you study hard*) and the main clause tells you **the result** (*you will pass your exams*). The order of the clauses does not change the meaning.

- ☐ *If you study hard, you will pass your exams.*
- ☐ *You will pass your exams if you study hard.*

Using commas in conditional sentences

When the condition is at the beginning of the sentence, you have to separate it from the main clause with a comma. If the condition is at the back of the sentence, you don't use a comma.

Examples:

If he comes to my party, I'll be happy.

I'll be happy if he comes to my party.

Conditional sentences are often divided into different types.

Zero conditional

We use the zero conditional **to talk about things that are generally true, especially for laws and rules.**

- ☐ *If I drink too much coffee, I can't sleep at night.*
- ☐ *Ice melts if you heat it.*
- ☐ *When the sun goes down, it gets dark.*

The structure is: **if/when + present simple >> present simple.**

First conditional

We use the first conditional when we **talk about future situations we believe are real or possible.**

- ☐ *If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we'll go to the beach.*
- ☐ *Arsenal will be top of the league if they win.*
- ☐ *When I finish work, I'll call you.*

In first conditional sentences, the structure is usually:

if/when + present simple >> will + infinitive.

It is also common to use this structure with ***unless, as long as, as soon as*** or *in case* instead of ***if***.

- ☐ *I'll leave as soon as the babysitter arrives.*
- ☐ *I don't want to stay in London unless I get a well-paid job.*
- ☐ *I'll give you a key in case I'm not at home.*
- ☐ *You can go to the party, as long as you're back by midnight.*

Second conditional

The second conditional is used to imagine present or future situations that are impossible or unlikely in reality.

- ☐ *If we had a garden, we could have a cat.*
- ☐ *If I won a lot of money, I'd buy a big house in the country.*
- ☐ *I wouldn't worry if I were you.*

The structure is usually: **if + past simple >> + would + infinitive.**

When **if** is followed by the verb **be**, it is grammatically correct to say **if I were, if he were, if she were and if it were**. However, it is also common to hear these structures with **was**, especially in the **he/she** form.

- ☐ *If I were you, I wouldn't mention it.*
- ☐ *If she was prime minister, she would invest more money in schools.*
- ☐ *He would travel more if he was younger.*

Third conditional

The third conditional is used to imagine a different past. We imagine a change in a past situation and the different result of that change.

- ☐ *If I had understood the instructions properly, I would have passed the exam.*
- ☐ *We wouldn't have got lost if my phone hadn't run out of battery.*

In third conditional sentences, the structure is usually:

If + past perfect >> would have + past participle.

Exercise 1

1. If Mr Brown _____ (sell) his car last year, he would have got more money for it.
2. If Susan takes her driving lessons regularly, she _____ (pass) her driving test.
3. If Mr Jones _____ (watch) the news every evening, he would know more about politics.
4. If Charlie _____ (not stop) eating these green apples, he'll soon feel sick.
5. If you had told me the truth, I _____ (help) you.
6. If old Mrs White heard a strange noise, she _____ (call) the police.
7. If I _____ (have) good luck, I would have won the first prize.
8. If I _____ (be) you, I would throw away all this old junk.
9. If I got the earlier bus, I _____ (can) come home at 5 o'clock.
10. If mother _____ (make) apple pie, I'll give you a piece.
11. If Peter _____ (not leave) earlier, he would miss the bus.
12. If we missed the train, we _____ (take) a taxi.
13. If he _____ (win) a lot of money, he will fly to Paris.
14. If she is ill, she _____ (not come) to our party.
15. We _____ (play) tennis if it stopped raining.

Mixed conditionals

Для чого потрібні Mixed Conditionals?

Для чого вивчати правила умовних речень змішаного типу, якщо цілком достатньо чотирьох основних? Пояснення достатньо просте: Mixed Conditionals стає у пригоді тоді, коли у двох частинах умовного речення йдеться про різні часові періоди. Наприклад, ми

можемо міркувати: **що було б зараз, якби у минулому ми вчинили по-іншому?** Змішані умови дозволяють виразити складні гіпотетичні ситуації, які з'єднують різні періоди часу.

Розуміючи конструкцію **Mixed Conditionals**, ми отримуємо здатність передавати складні ідеї, міркувати про нереальні або неймовірні сценарії та досліджувати взаємодію між причиною та наслідком з більшими нюансами.

У Mixed Conditionals можливі дві різні варіації структури. Для того щоб зрозуміти, який тип використовувати в if clause, а який – у main clause, потрібно звернути увагу на контекст. Кожна комбінація представляє різні наслідки, демонструючи складність і гнучкість англійської мови.

Type 2 + Type 3	
If clause (нереальний стан)	Main clause (гіпотетичний результат)
If + Past Simple	Would + Have + Past Participle
If Kate spoke fluent French,	she would have secured the job in Paris.
Тобто Кейт не володіє вільною французькою мовою (нереальний стан), а якби вона знала французьку, то отримала б у минулому роботу в Парижі (гіпотетичний результат).	
Type 3 + Type 2	
If clause (нереальна умова, ситуація в минулому)	Main clause (нереальний уявний результат у теперішньому часі)
If + Past Perfect	Would/ could/ might + bare inf.
If Brian had won the competition,	he would share the prize money with his friends.
Тобто Браян не виграв змагання, а якщо б виграв тоді (нереальна умова), то потім поділив би грошову винагороду з друзями (уявний результат).	

We use mixed conditionals to mix talking about the present and the past in the same sentence.

The mixed conditional is a combination of the second and third conditionals:

⇒ We can use past simple or continuous in the **if**-clause (to refer to the present or future) and **would/ should/ might have + past participle** in the main clause (to refer to the past).

⇒ We can also use past perfect in the **if**-clause (to refer to the past) and **would/ should/ might + infinitive** (to refer to the present).

- If I **didn't have** (second conditional) *so much work*, I **would have gone** (third conditional) *to the party last night*.
- If I **spoke** (second conditional) *German*, I **would have understood** (third conditional) *them*.
- If I **had won** (third conditional) *the lottery*, I **would be** (second conditional) *rich*.
- If I **hadn't dropped** (third conditional) *school*, I **could have** (second conditional) *a better job now*.

We can use mixed conditionals when we imagine a past change with a result in the present or a present change with a result in the past.

1. Past/Present

Here's a sentence imagining how a change in a past situation would have a result in the present.

- *If I hadn't got the job in Tokyo, I wouldn't be with my current partner.*

So the structure is: **If + past perfect >> would + infinitive.**

2. Present/Past

Here's a sentence imagining how a different situation in the present would mean that the past was different as well.

- *It's really important. If it wasn't, I wouldn't have called you on your holiday.*

And the structure is: **If + past simple >> would have + past participle.**

Alternatives to **if** in conditional sentences

We can use the expressions **as long as**, **provided/ providing (that)**, **on condition (that)**, or **only if** instead of **if** when we want to emphasise (підкреслити) the condition that needs to be present so that something can happen or be done.

- *I'll tell you what really happened **as long as** you keep the secret.*
- *I'll lend you the money **provided (that)** you pay me back next month.*
- *They will speak to the press **on condition (that)** they remain anonymous sources.*
- *We will invest the money, but **only if** you can prove that it's a safe investment.*

Whether or not

We use **whether or not** when there are two alternatives, and we want to say that something will happen or will be true in any of those two alternatives. Compare:

- *I'll help him **if** he needs me.* (=I will help him only if he needs me.)
- *I'll help him **whether or not** he needs me.* (I will help him if he needs me, and I will help him if he doesn't need me, too.)

Even if

We also use **even if** with a similar meaning to 'whether or not'. It is used to emphasise that something will still be true or will happen if another thing happens.

- ***Even if** you apologise, he'll never forgive you.* (=Whether or not you apologise, he'll never forgive you.)

Suppose/supposing (Припустимо/припустимо)

We normally use **suppose** or **supposing** at the beginning of a sentence to make someone imagine a situation. It means 'what would happen if', or simply 'if' (imagining a situation).

- ***Supposing** I got a job, I wouldn't be able to travel with you next summer.*
- ***Suppose** she doesn't believe you, what would you do then?*

Inversion in conditional sentences (Зворот в умовних реченнях)

Should you find

In **first conditional** sentences, it's possible to use **should** at the beginning of the sentence instead of **if**. This form is formal, and it's common to use an imperative form in the main clause.

- ***Should** you find the answer, please let me know as soon as possible.* (=If you find the answer)
- ***Should** you change your mind, you know where to contact us.* (=If you change your mind)

Had we arrived

In **third conditional** sentences, we can invert the auxiliary verb **had** and leave **if** out.

Had we arrived = If we had arrived.

- ***Had we arrived** earlier, we could have prevented the incident.*
- ***Had they looked** further into the data, they might have realised there was a mistake.*

Were we to announce

We can also find cases of inversion with this structure: **were** + subject + **to**. + infinitive. It is used to talk about **future improbable** (неймовірно) **events** (like the **second conditional**).

- ***Were we to announce** the truth, we would receive a lot of criticism.* (=If we announced ...)
- ***Were they to buy** a new house, they would need to sell the old one first.* (=If they bought ...)

Negative forms: **should I not**, **had we not**, **were we not**

When **should**, **had** or **were** are negative, contracted forms are not used, and **not** is used after the subject.

- ***Shouldn't you wish** to retake the test, you must let us know before the end of June.*
- ***Should you not wish** to retake the test, you must let us know before the end of June.*
- ***Hadn't you refused** my invitation, we would have had the most incredible time in our lives.*
- ***Had you not refused** my invitation, we would have had the most incredible time in our lives.*
- ***Weren't** you my brother, I would call the police.*
- ***Were you not** my brother, I would call the police.*

Exercise 2

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences below.

1. Would you know what to do if you (**would be having, were having, would have**) a heart attack?
2. If it hadn't been for you, I (**wouldn't have been, wouldn't be, hadn't be**) here now.
3. As long as she (**needed, needs, will need**) me, I'll be there for her.
4. I wouldn't be living here if I (**would have, had, were having**) the choice.
5. If there hadn't been a fire extinguisher, the house (**had burned, would burn, would have burned**) down.
6. You (**wouldn't be able to, cannot, hadn't been able to**) become a member, unless you receive an invitation.
7. (**Will you be, Had you been, Would you have been**) happier if you had never met her?
8. If I (**had never met, did never met, would never meet**) her, now I would be happier.
9. I (**pass, would pass, 'm going to pass**) the exam even if I have to cheat.
10. They might have spent the whole week at the campsite, provided they (**had brought, would have brought, would bring**) enough food and water.