

Conditionals - Overview

Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

If we don't hurry, we will be late!

2) The order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

There are five main types of conditionals in English:

a) zero conditionals are used to describe things that are always or generally true. Thus we refer to the real and possible situations, general truths, or scientific facts. Zero conditionals follow the pattern:

If + present simple	present simple
<i>If the food is too spicy,</i>	<i>drink milk.</i>

b) conditionals type 1 or first conditionals are used to describe future events that will happen or are likely to happen. These sentences are based on facts, thus we make statements about the real world or particular situations. First conditionals follow the pattern:

If + present simple	future simple
<i>If everything goes according to the plan,</i>	<i>we'll be very rich.</i>

c) conditionals type 2 or second conditionals are used to describe hypothetical, unlikely, or impossible situations. These sentences are not based on facts, thus we can refer to any time. Second conditionals follow the pattern:

If + past simple	would + V
<i>If I won the lottery,</i>	<i>I would put the money in the bank.</i>

d) conditionals type 3 or third conditionals are used to describe a past event that is different to what really happened. These sentences are solely hypothetical, thus there is always some implication of regret. Third conditionals follow the pattern:

If + past perfect	would have + Ved/past participle
<i>If we hadn't slept in,</i>	<i>we wouldn't miss your flight.</i>

e) mixed conditionals refer to conditional sentences that combine two different types of conditional patterns. They are used to refer to a time in the past, and a situation that is ongoing in the present. Mixed conditionals usually follow the pattern:

If + past perfect	would + V
<i>If they had argued less,</i>	<i>they would be a perfect couple.</i>

Short Story Dialogue

- *If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?*
- *If I could live anywhere, I would move to Japan. I think this country is simply amazing.*

And it's very safe there.

- *Well, if you learn Japanese, you can move there.*

– *If I had studied it at high school, I would be there already. It's a dream of mine to live there at some point.*

Independent Practice - Conditionals - Overview

1) Decide which conditional is used.

- a. If you listened to me, you would remember the story.
- b. If I find your scarf at my place, I'll let you know.
- c. Kids love playing outside when it is summer.
- d. If my mom had come later, she wouldn't have noticed the mess.
- e. We would use public transport less often if we bought the car.

2) Underline the correct word or phrase in the following sentences.

- a. What would we do if we *miss/missed* our bus?
- b. He *would have freak out/would have freaked out* if his wife had spent all his money on clothes.
- c. I would be surprised if he *didn't know/didn't knew* the answer.
- d. If you decide to go out with your friends tonight, *let me know/will you let me know* in advance.
- e. I *will be/would be* a famous writer if I had started writing earlier.

Independent Practice: Answers - Conditionals - Overview

1) Decide which conditional is used.

- a. If you listened to me, you would remember the story. (second conditional)
- b. If I find your scarf at my place, I'll let you know. (first conditional)
- c. Kids love playing outside when it is summer. (zero conditional)
- d. If my mom had come later, she wouldn't have noticed the mess. (third conditional)
- e. We would use public transport less often if we bought the car. (second conditional)

2) Underline the correct word or phrase in the following sentences.

- a. What would we do if we miss/missed our bus?
- b. He *would have freak out/would have freaked out* if his wife had spent all his money on clothes.
- c. I would be surprised if he didn't know/didn't knew the answer.
- d. If you decide to go out with your friends tonight, let me know/will you let me know in advance.
- e. I *will be/would be* a famous writer if I had started writing earlier.

Conditionals - Zero Type

Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

If we don't hurry, we will be late!

2) There are five main types of conditionals in English.

Zero conditionals are used to describe things that are always or generally true. Thus we refer to the real and possible situations, general truths, or scientific facts.

If two people fall in love, they become a couple. (In general, people become a couple if they fall in love with each other.)

Use the present simple tense in both parts of the zero conditionals. Note that the order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

IF clause	MAIN clause
If + present simple	present simple
<i>If the temperature is above 0 degrees outside,</i>	<i>the snow melts.</i>
<i>If my friend invites me over,</i>	<i>I always accept her invitation.</i>

Note that we can use *when* instead of *if* without any changes in the meaning.

***When** winter comes, the birds fly to the south.*

Zero conditionals are often used to give instructions. In this case, we use the imperatives in the main clause.

***Call me** if you need any help.*

*If you are not satisfied with your major, **change it**.*

Short Story Dialogue

- *If Josh calls me, tell him I'm busy.*
- *But what if he calls again?*
- *Tell him that I'm still busy.*
- *Why are you ignoring him?*
- *Well, if someone ignores me for a week, I do the same. I know that it is petty, but I'm really annoyed.*

Independent Practice - Conditionals - Zero Type

1) Find mistakes in the following sentences.

- a. If you not want to go, just let me know.
- b. You get green, if you mix yellow and blue.
- c. When people cry, if they feel better afterwards.
- d. If we don't cook anything at home, we eat when at the cafe nearby.
- e. When parents will spend a lot of time with their kids, it helps them to build a strong bond.
- f. You can call anyone if you don't have money on your phone.
- g. My friend always send me funny pictures when he is at work.

2) Write two sentences with zero conditionals and one zero conditional with the imperative.

a.
b.
c.

Independent Practice: Answers - Conditionals - Zero Type

1) Find mistakes in the following sentences.

- a. If you ~~not~~ **don't** want to go, just let me know.
- b. You get green, **(no comma)** if you mix yellow and blue.
- c. When people cry, **if** they feel better afterwards.
- d. If we don't cook anything at home, we eat ~~when~~ at the cafe nearby.
- e. When parents ~~will spend~~ **spend** a lot of time with their kids, it helps them to build a strong bond.
- f. You ~~can~~ **can't** call anyone if you don't have money on your phone.
- g. My friend always ~~sends~~ **sends** me funny pictures when he is at work.

2) Write two sentences with zero conditionals and one zero conditional with the imperative. Sample Answers:

- a. The chocolate melts if you hold it in your hands.
- b. People use umbrellas when it rains.
- c. Let me know when you finish cooking.

Conditionals - Type 1

Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

If we don't hurry, we will be late!

2) There are five main types of conditionals in English.

Conditionals Type 1 or first conditionals are used to describe future events that will happen or are likely to happen. These sentences are based on facts, thus we make statements about the real world or particular situations.

If you don't study, you will fail the exam. (Sometimes you can pass an exam without studying, but this time it won't work.)

Use the present simple tense in the *if* clause and the future simple tense in the main clause. Note that the order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

IF clause	MAIN clause
If + present simple	future simple
<i>If the weather is great,</i>	<i>we'll go to the park.</i>
<i>If you don't stop fighting with each other,</i>	<i>you two will be grounded!</i>

Note that it is possible to use other present tenses (e.g. present continuous, present perfect) in the *if* clause.

If you're going, I'll go too! (if + present continuous, future simple)

If they've already received your information, they will let you know. (if + present perfect, future simple)

First conditionals can be used to give instructions in some particular situation.

If you carry all these bottles at once, you'll drop them. It's too dangerous!

Short Story Dialogue

– *My parents are just too much sometimes! They constantly tell me that if I don't study, I won't pass the exams. If I don't eat healthy, I'll have health problems later in life. If I don't go out more, I won't have friends.*

– *Gosh, that's depressing! I can see where they're coming from though. They're just worried, I suppose.*

– *It'd be better if they were less straightforward.*

Independent Practice - Conditionals - Type 1

1) Underline the correct word or phrase in the following sentences.

- a. If they *want/wanted* to go with us, they will give us a call.
- b. Mia will be furious if Beth *will forgets/forgets* about their plans again.
- c. If *are we/we're* late for class today, Mrs. Smite will be really angry.
- d. What *we will do/will we do* if we miss our train?
- e. We'll just *will find/find* a local supermarket if we get hungry.
- f. If you *will make/make* a mess, you'll clean it up.
- g. Don't worry. No one will judge you *if/what* you say 'No'.

2) Write two sentences with first conditionals and one first conditional with the instruction.

a.
b.
c.

Independent Practice: Answers - Conditionals - Type 1

1) Underline the correct word or phrase in the following sentences.

- a. If they want/wanted to go with us, they will give us a call.
- b. Mia will be furious if Beth will forgets/forgets about their plans again.
- c. If are we/we're late for class today, Mrs. Smite will be really angry.
- d. What we will do/will we do if we miss our train?
- e. We'll just will find/find a local supermarket if we get hungry.
- f. If you will make/make a mess, you'll clean it up.
- g. Don't worry. No one will judge you if/what you say 'No'.

2) Write two sentences with first conditionals and one first conditional with the instruction. Sample Answers:

- a. If I'm busy doing something, I'll respond to your message later.
- b. If the negotiations go smoothly, they'll sign the contract.
- c. If you don't buy a winter coat, you'll freeze in winter.

Conditionals - Type 2

Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

If we don't hurry, we will be late!

2) There are five main types of conditionals in English.

Conditionals Type 2 or second conditionals are used to describe hypothetical, unlikely, or impossible situations. These sentences are not based on facts, thus we can refer to any time.

If Peter cleaned his place, he would let us come in.

Use the past simple tense in the *if* clause and *would + the base form of the verb* in the main clause. Note that the order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

IF clause	MAIN clause
If + past simple	would + V
<i>If I won 1 million dollars,</i>	<i>I would give it to charity.</i>
<i>If you found a formal black dress,</i>	<i>it would look perfect on you.</i>

Note that if we use the verb *to be* in the *if* clause, the form *were* is used even with the 1st and 3rd person. We often use '*If I were you...*' to express our opinion or to give advice.

If I were a chef, I would work at some Italian restaurant.

If I were you, I wouldn't take that job.

Compare the first conditional and the second conditional:

(It is December right now.) If it snows today, we will definitely make a snowman.

(It is May right now.) If it snowed today, we would be surprised.

Short Story Dialogue

- *If I knew what to do, it would help me a lot.*
- *If I were you, I would just listen to my guts.*
- *If I listened to my inner voice, I would certainly make a stupid decision in this situation.*

*I make stupid decisions **when** I'm stressed.*

- *At least it would be your own decision.*

Independent Practice - Conditionals - Type 2

1) Match the sentences.

a. I don't have an umbrella, so if it rained,	1. we would buy a bigger house.
b. If I won a lottery,	2. if you saw a kitten at your entrance door?
c. If we had more money,	3. I would get wet.
d. If I were you,	4. I would buy these shoes.
e. What would you do	5. if he worked out more.
f. If they didn't like each other,	6. I would travel around the world.
g. Terry would be a bodybuilder	7. they wouldn't be friends.

2) Write three sentences with second conditionals.

a.
b.
c.

Independent Practice: Answers - Conditionals - Type 2

1) Match the sentences.

a. I don't have an umbrella, so if it rained,	3. I would get wet.
b. If I won a lottery,	6. I would travel around the world.
c. If we had more money,	1. we would buy a bigger house.
d. If I were you,	4. I would buy these shoes.
e. What would you do	2. if you saw a kitten at your entrance door?
f. If they didn't like each other,	7. they wouldn't be friends.
g. Terry would be a bodybuilder	5. if he worked out more.

2) Write three sentences with second conditionals. Sample Answers:

- a. Where would you be if you could live anywhere in the world?
- b. If I were you, I would ask him out.
- c. If there were more shops nearby, I wouldn't have to spend 30 minutes on a drive.

Conditionals - Type 3

Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

If we don't hurry, we will be late!

2) There are five main types of conditionals in English.

Conditionals Type 3 or third conditionals are used to describe a past event that is different to what really happened. These sentences are solely hypothetical, thus there is always some implication of regret.

If we hadn't booked this trip, we wouldn't have missed her graduation ceremony. (We wanted to be at her graduation ceremony but we missed it because we were on a trip somewhere else.)

Use the past perfect tense in the *if* clause and *would have + the past participle* in the main clause. Note that the order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

IF clause	MAIN clause
If + past perfect	would have + Ved/past participle
<i>If we had bought that lottery ticket,</i>	<i>we would have won.</i>
<i>If Jake hadn't drunk that night,</i>	<i>he wouldn't got into the car accident.</i>

Note that both *would* and *had* can be contracted to *'d*. Remember that *would* never appears in the *if* clause.

*If I **had** known that, I **would** have warned you. = If I'**d** known that, I'**d** have warned you.*

Short Story Dialogue

– *Would you have come to my party if you had known that Meredith was there?*

I definitely wouldn't come to your party if I had known she was there. I'm glad that I saw her standing somewhere in the crowd right when I entered your place and had a chance to avoid the greeting part.

– *If I had known that you two weren't on good terms, I wouldn't have invited her.*

– *It's already in the past. Don't worry about it.*

Independent Practice - Conditionals - Type 3

1) Match the sentences.

a. If Emma would have been more attentive,	1. we wouldn't have been lost.
b. If there had been Wi-Fi,	2. I wouldn't have been staying up late working on my thesis.
c. Erick would have lost the fight	3. we would have won the cup.
d. If I had been better at time management,	4. you would have known the news.
e. If Pam had written a shopping list,	5. she wouldn't have failed the class.
f. If you had called me last week,	6. she wouldn't have forgotten to buy tea.
g. If your team would have scored more goals,	7. if he hadn't worked out every single day.

2) Write three sentences with third conditionals.

a.
b.
c.

Independent Practice: Answers - Conditionals - Type 3

1) Match the sentences.

a. If Emma would have been more attentive,	5. she wouldn't have failed the class.
b. If there had been Wi-Fi,	1. we wouldn't have been lost.
c. Erick would have lost the fight	7. if he hadn't worked out every single day.
d. If I had been better at time management,	2. I wouldn't have been staying up late working on my thesis.
e. If Pam had written a shopping list,	6. she wouldn't have forgotten to buy tea.
f. If you had called me last week,	4. you would have known the news.
g. If your team would have scored more goals,	3. we would have won the cup.

2) Write three sentences with third conditionals. Sample Answers:

- a. If you hadn't woken me up, I would have been late.
- b. If we had arrived earlier, we wouldn't have missed the plane.
- c. If Susan hadn't drunk last night, she wouldn't have been hungover.

Mixed Conditionals

Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

If we don't hurry, we will be late!

2) There are five main types of conditionals in English.

Mixed conditionals refer to conditional sentences that combine two different types of conditional patterns. The mixed conditional is used to refer to a time in the past, and a situation that is ongoing in the present.

If I had won the lottery, I would buy a huge house. (I didn't win the lottery in the past and I'm living in a small apartment right now.)

The most common mixed conditional is when we have a third conditional in the *if* clause (*if + past perfect*) followed by a second conditional (*would + the base form of the verb*) in the main clause. Note that the order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

IF clause	MAIN clause
If + past perfect	would + V
<i>If Kate had studied more,</i>	<i>she would have a better GPA.</i>
<i>If he had started painting the picture in June,</i>	<i>it would be finished now.</i>

The less common mixed conditional is when we have a second conditional in the *if* clause (*if* + *past simple*) followed by a third conditional (*would have* + *past participle*) in the main clause. This conditional refers to an unreal present situation and its possible (but unreal) past result.

If I wasn't afraid of flying, I would have travelled by air. (I am afraid of flying in general. And that time I travelled by train.)

Short Story Dialogue

– *This is kind of upsetting. I know that **if** I had studied more, I would pass the exams successfully and choose another major.*

– *If you feel like you have enough motivation, you can still try. It's never too late to start, right?*

– *Yeah, but **if** I had submitted the documents this summer, I would be able to start studying this month. I guess I have to wait now and study more.*

Independent Practice - Mixed Conditionals

1) Match the sentences.

a. If we had talked more,	1. they would be still together.
b. Patricia would have baked something	2. I would have gone camping.
c. If my parents had argued less,	3. we would be close friends.
d. I would be in Greece now	4. if I had asked her number.
e. If I wasn't afraid of insects,	5. if I had booked the flights.
f. I would go on a date with Kate	6. if he had a car.
g. Mike wouldn't have walked to work	7. if she liked sweet things.

2) Write three sentences with mixed conditionals.

a.
b.
c.

Independent Practice: Answers - Mixed Conditionals

1) Match the sentences.

a. If we had talked more,	3. we would be close friends.
b. Patricia would have baked something	7. if she liked sweet things.
c. If my parents had argued less,	1. they would be still together.
d. I would be in Greece now	5. if I had booked the flights.
e. If I wasn't afraid of insects,	2. I would have gone camping.
f. I would go on a date with Kate	4. if I had asked her number.
g. Mike wouldn't have walked to work	6. if he had a car.

2) Write three sentences with mixed conditionals. Sample Answers:

- a. If I had submitted my homework on time, I would be free now.
- b. She would be happier if she had gone to therapy.
- c. If he had gone to college, he might have a better job.