ENGLISH

Conditionals

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Conditionals are sentences with two clauses, an "if" clause and a main clause, that are closely related. Generally, conditional sentences are often divided into different types.

Types of Conditionals in English

Zero Conditional (Present Real Conditional)

In general, "zero conditional" refers to conditional sentences that express a factual implication, rather than describing a hypothetical situation or potential future circumstance. The grammar term is used particularly when both clauses are in the present tense, however such sentences can be formulated with a variety of tenses/moods, as appropriate to the situation.

How to use: We use the **zero conditional to** talk about things that are always true, like a scientific fact.

ZERO CONDITIONAL



IF + Present Simple, Present Simple.



To talk about things that are always true, like a scientific fact



If you freeze water, it turns into ice.



- And, if you heat water at 100 degrees, it boils.
- If students miss an exam, the professor fails them.
- If my wife has a cold, I usually catch it.
- . I get tired if I work too much.
- If I'm late for dinner, they start eating without me.

> First Conditional (Present or Future Real Conditional)

"First conditional" refers to a pattern used in predictive conditional sentences, i.e. those that concern consequences of a probable future event. In the basic first conditional pattern, the condition is expressed using the present tense. In some common fixed expressions or in old-fashioned or excessively formal, the present subjunctive is occasionally found. The consequence using the future construction with "will" (or "shall").

First Conditional

Structure

IF + Simple Present, Simple Future

(S + will/won't + V(bare form))

Usage

To talk about possibilities in the present or in the future

- Examples If it rains, I will stay at home.
 - If I wake up late, I will miss the bus.



- And, if it's sunny, we'll go to the park.
- If Juan leaves, Paula will be sad.
- If I find your email, I will send you the picture.
- If you study hard, you will pass your exams.

Second Conditional (Present Unreal Conditional)

It should be noted that the "second conditional" refers to a pattern used to describe hypothetical, typically counterfactual situations with a present or future time frame (for past time frames the third conditional is used). And, in the normal form of the second conditional, the condition clause is in the past tense (although it does not have past meaning. The consequence is expressed using the conditional construction with the auxiliary "would".

SECOND CONDITIONAL

Structure

IF+ Past Simple, Present Conditional

(To be: use WERE) (would/wouldn't + Verb (bare form)).

Usage

Imaginary situations in the present or future

Examples

If I won a million dollars, I would buy a new car.



- If I were you, I would quit smoking.
- If I were the president, I would lower taxes.
- They would stay longer if they had more time.
- If I won a million dollars, I could stop working.
- If I had more free time, I could travel around the world.

> Third Conditional (Past Unreal Conditional)

Generally, "third conditional" is a pattern used to refer to hypothetical situations in a past time frame, generally counterfactual (or at least presented as counterfactual). Here the condition clause is in the past perfect, and the consequence is expressed using the conditional perfect.

THIRD CONDITIONAL



IF + Past Perfect, Perfect Conditional

(Would/wouldn't + have + Past Participle)

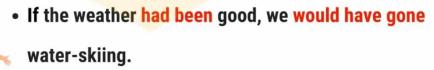
Usage

Imaginary situations in the past



If I had got a gold medal, I would have been happy.









It should be noted that "<u>mixed conditional</u>" usually refers to a mixture of the second and third conditionals (the counterfactual patterns). Here either the condition or the consequence, but not both, has a past time reference.

a) Mixed 1 Conditional (Present result of a past condition)

When the condition refers to the past, but the consequence to the present, the condition clause is in the past perfect (as with the third conditional), while the main clause is in the conditional mood as in the second conditional (i.e. simple conditional or conditional progressive, but not conditional perfect).

Mixed Conditional

Mixed Conditional

Third/ Second Conditional

Structure

IF + Past Perfect, Present Conditional

(would/wouldn't + Verb (bare form)).

Usage

Present result of a past condition

If I had listened to your advice, I wouldn't be in the mess.

Examples

- . If he had checked the map, he wouldn't be lost.
- If I had gone to university, I would be a doctor now.

b) Mixed 2 Conditional (Past result of a present or continuing condition)

When the consequence refers to the past, but the condition is not expressed as being limited to the past, the condition clause is expressed as in the second conditional (past, but not past perfect), while the main clause is in the conditional perfect as in the third conditional.

Mixed Conditional Second/ Third Conditional

Structure

IF + Past Simple, Perfect Conditional

(would/wouldn't + have + Past Participle).

Usage

Past result of a present or continuing condition

Examples

- If I were a good cook, I would have invited them to dinner.
- If you weren't such a poor dancer, you would have got a job in the chorus line in that musical.

How to Use Unless in English

- Unless is similar in meaning to if not and can be used instead of if not in certain types of conditional sentences. Like if, unless is followed by a present tense, a past tense, or a past perfect tense.
- We cannot use unless in questions.
- We don't use will or would in the clause after unless.

HOW TO USE UNLESS



UNLESS + Present Tense (Type 1 Conditional)

With IF

- You will not gain a high score in IELTS exam if you do not learn English every day.
- · You can't get a good mark if you do not study hard.
- . He won't go to sleep if you do not tell him a story.

Equivalent with UNLESS

- You will not gain a high score in IELTS exam unless you learn English every day
- · You can't get a good mark unless you study hard.
- · He won't go to sleep unless you tell him a story.



UNLESS + Past Tense (Type 2 Conditional)

With IF

- . I wouldn't take the train if I didn't have to.
- I wouldn't eat this food if I wasn't really hungry.
- I would not have bought these if they weren't on sale.

Equivalent with UNLESS

- I wouldn't take the train unless I had to.
- I wouldn't eat this food unless I was really hungry.
- I would not have bought these unless they were on sale.



UNLESS + Past Perfect Tense (Type 3 Conditional)

With IF

- If the train hadn't broken down, we would have been on time.
- If he had not come to see me yesterday, I wouldn't have taken him to the movies.
- We would have stayed healthy if we hadn't walked in the rain that night.

Equivalent with UNLESS

- Unless the train hadn't broken down, we were sure to be late.
- Unless he had come to see me yesterday, I wouldn't have taken him to the movies.
- Unless we'd walked in the rain that night, we would have stayed healthy.

How to Use Wish in English

When we want to express a wish/desire in English for a situation to be different to what it actually is then it is very common to use the verb "to wish".

How to Use Wish in English.

- Wish + Past Simple
- Wish + Past Continuous
- Wish + Past Perfect
- Wish + Would
- Wish + To Infinitive

