

ENGLISH

✚ Conditionals

Dr. Ayam A. Taha
Lec.10&11

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

Structure

IF + Present Simple, Present Simple.

Usage

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

Examples



- 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

Structure

IF + Past Perfect, Perfect Conditional

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

Usage

Imaginary situations in the past

Examples



- If I **had got** a gold medal, I **would have been** happy.
- If I **had met** Susan last week, I **would have given** her the book.
- If the weather **had been** good, we **would have gone** water-skiing.
- If you **had got** (**gotten-US**) up earlier, you **would have caught** the earlier train.

➤ Mixed Conditionals

It should be noted that “[mixed conditional](#)” 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.
- If he **had checked** the map, he **wouldn't be** lost.
- If I **had gone** to university, I **would be** a doctor now.

Examples

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

- 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.

Examples

❖ 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*

★ How to Express Wishes in English

We use **WISH** to express that we regret something or we would like something to be different than the way it is.

WISH + Past Simple	We want a situation in the present (or future) to be different.	I wish I ate more vegetables. (but I don't)
WISH + Past Continuous	We want to be doing a different activity in the present (or the future).	I wish it weren't raining now. (It is raining now.)
WISH + Past Perfect	We want to be able to change a situation in the past.	I wish I hadn't done it. (I did it.)

WISH + Would	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We want something to happen.• We want someone to start doing something• We want someone to stop doing something which annoys us	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I wish the lesson would end.• I wish you'd listen to me!• I wish you wouldn't borrow my clothes!
WISH + To Infinitive	We can also use “wish” to express “want” in a formal situation	I wish to make a complaint and would like to see the manager.

I WISH I COULD...