IF CLAUSES SIMPLIFIED

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IF CLAUSES

- In this subject, we have three clauses used in English to express three meanings.

1. If + present simple, future
2. If + past simple, would/could/might + infinitive
3. If + past perfect, would/could/might + have + past participle
If + present simple, future

This type of clause is used to say there are two actions in the sentence. When action 1 happens, then action 2 will happen as a result of action 1.

- If you call me, I will tell you.
- If Mohammed wins, he will celebrate.
- If we score a goal, we will win the match. *(The match is on. The players are saying that a goal will win them the match, so it is something possible to happen. There are two actions here; scoring a goal and winning the match. One will happen when the other happens.)*
If + past simple, would/could/might + infinitive

This type of clause is used to say that something is not going to happen or it is almost impossible to happen.

- If we scored a goal, we would win the match. *(The match is on. The players don’t believe that a goal would come to win them the match.)*
If + past perfect, would/could/might + have + past participle

- This type of clause is simply used to refer to the past, which means nothing can be done about it now as it is in the past.

- If we has scored a goal, we would have won the match. *(The match is over. It is now something happened in the past, which we can’t do anything about now.)*