



CONDITIONAL SENTENCES



ZERO CONDITIONAL (REAL CONDITIONALS)

Real situations are things that are true, have happened, generally happen or are likely to happen

Tenses are normally used in the same way as in other kinds of sentences

- If you **want** to learn the guitar, you really **need** to practise.
- If I **criticised** her unfairly, then I always **apologised**.
- If you **have** toothache like that, you **must** go to the dentist.
- If you're **getting** backache, then you're not **sitting** properly.

THE FIRST CONDITIONAL

IF + present simple + modal verb with future reference (will/shall/may)

A speaker predicts a likely result in the future, if the condition is fulfilled:

- If Sally comes, there will be five of us.
- If you don't go to the dentist, you won't be able to sleep.
- If you decide to go, I'll take you there.

THE SECOND CONDITIONAL

IF + **simple past tense** + **modal verb** with future-in-the-past reference
(would, could, might)

A speaker responds to a possible or hypothetical situation by indicating a possible outcome:

- If I **knew** what you wanted, maybe I **could** help you.
- I **would** do a computer course, if I **had** time.
- I **would** go to the doctor's, if I **wasn't** afraid.

THE THIRD CONDITIONAL

IF + **past perfect tense** + **modal verb** with future-in-the-past reference (would, could, might) + **have** + **-ed participle** (3rd verb form)

A speaker is talking about a past event which didn't happen:

- She **would have gone** to the doctor's, if she **hadn't been** afraid. (=she didn't go)
- If I **had known** about your problems, I **would have helped** you. (=I didn't know)