



## CONDITIONALS

### 1) FIRST CONDITIONAL

#### Form:

- **If + present tense**, + **will** + base form of verb
  - *If it rains, I'll stay at home.*
- **Will + base form of verb** (no comma) + **if + present tense**
  - *I'll stay at home if it rains.*

#### Use:

The first conditional expresses a **possible condition** and a **probable result** in **FUTURE**.

CONDITION → → → → RESULT	RESULT → → → → CONDITION
If I <b>see</b> Jane, I will tell her.	I will tell Jane <b>if I see</b> her.
<b>If it rains</b> tomorrow, we'll stay at home.	We'll stay at home <b>if it rains</b> tomorrow.
<b>If Simon gets</b> a cheap flight, he will go to London next week.	Simon will go to London next week <b>if he gets</b> a cheap flight.
<b>If I don't pass</b> the exam, I'll be sad.	I'll be sad <b>if I don't pass</b> the exam.

### 2) SECOND CONDITIONAL

#### Form:

- **If + past simple**, **would** + base form of verb
  - *If I **had** some money, I **would travel** around the world.*
- **would** + base form of verb (no comma) **if + past simple**
  - *I **would travel** around the world **if I had** some money.*

#### Use:

The second conditional expresses a **hypothetical condition** and **its probable result**. We use the past tense although the speaker is talking about the **PRESENT** or **FUTURE**.

*If I **had** some money, I **would travel** around the world. (... But I don't have the money, so I can't travel anywhere.)*

*If she **was** younger she **would start** her own business. (...But she is too old to do it now.)*

## NOTES:

- ✓ With “I” and “he/she/it” we often use “**were**” instead of “was” in conditional sentences, especially when we write. It is more formal: *If I **were** you, I **would write** him a letter.*
- ✓ Where appropriate, we can also use “**could**” or “**should**” instead of “**would**”.

## PRACTICE: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> conditional

### 1 Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences.

- |                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A You are sure to be late ...         | 1 ...if you explain it to them.    |
| B If I had their address ...          | 2 ...I'll take an umbrella.        |
| C They'll understand it all right ... | 3 ...I could write and ask them.   |
| D If Tom didn't work so much ...      | 4 ...I might lose a bit of weight. |
| E If it rains in the afternoon ...    | 5 ...if you miss the bus.          |
| F If I took more exercise ...         | 6 ... he wouldn't get so tired.    |

### 2 Complete the sentences by putting the verb in brackets in the correct tense.

- 1 If you \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) Liz, she will tell you what to do.
- 2 I won't help you with your homework if you \_\_\_\_\_ (not stop) watching TV.
- 3 They would work harder if they \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) so tired.
- 4 I would have a word with Jack if he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) at home.
- 5 Peggy \_\_\_\_\_ (go) shopping if she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) time in the afternoon.
- 6 If he \_\_\_\_\_ (care) about other people's feelings, he wouldn't behave that way.
- 7 She \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) successful if she doesn't learn to control her temper.
- 8 If you \_\_\_\_\_ (send) this letter now, she \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) it tomorrow.
- 9 You \_\_\_\_\_ (be able/ not) to sleep if you \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) this scary film.
- 10 If I \_\_\_\_\_ (find) your ring, I \_\_\_\_\_ (give) it back to you.
- 11 If her boyfriend \_\_\_\_\_ (phone / not) today, she \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) him.
- 12 If they \_\_\_\_\_ (study / not) harder, they \_\_\_\_\_ (pass / not) the exam.

### 3) THIRD CONDITIONAL

Form:

- **If + past perfect, would + past infinitive** (= "have + past participle")
    - **If I had earned enough money, I would have travelled around the world.**
- OR**
- **I would have travelled around the world if I had earned enough money.**

Use:

The third conditional expresses an **unreal condition** and **its probable result in the PAST**.

*If I **had earned** enough money, I **would have travelled** around the world. (... But I didn't earn enough money, so I couldn't travel.)*

#### PRACTICE: 3<sup>rd</sup> conditional

3 All following sentences refer to the past. Complete them in the form of the third conditional.

1 If I had got up earlier, I would \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) the bus.

2 If I \_\_\_\_\_ (know) it, I wouldn't have gone there.

3 If I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) harder, I \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) the exam.

4 If I \_\_\_\_\_ (not leave) so early, I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) her.

5 If you \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) more carefully, you \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) an accident.

6 If we \_\_\_\_\_ (play) a little better, we \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the match.

7 We \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema if we \_\_\_\_\_ (get) the tickets.

8 I \_\_\_\_\_ (call) Mike if I \_\_\_\_\_ (not lose) his telephone number.

9 If Greg \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) late for work, he \_\_\_\_\_ (not lose) his job.

10 Paula \_\_\_\_\_ (join) the project if she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) more information about it.