



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 see Jane, I will tell her.	I will tell Jane if I see her.
If it rains tomorrow, we'll stay at home.	We'll stay at home if it rains tomorrow.
If Simon gets a cheap flight, he will go to London next week.	Simon will go to London next week if he gets a cheap flight.
If I don't pass the exam, I'll be sad.	I'll be sad if I don't pass 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: 1st and 2nd 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: 3rd 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.