Conditionals

Real conditionals: 0, 1

0 Conditional: if + present simple  present simple

General truths/regular results

If I heat water to 100 C at sea level, it boils.

If you heat water to 100 C at sea level, it’ll boil.

If I borrow my brother’s car, he gets angry.

If == when

1 st conditional: future possibilities, likely to happen (present/future)

If + any present tense  will/be going to/modal verbs/imperative

If it rains, I’ll take an umbrella.

If it’s raining, I’ll take an umbrella.

If it has finished raining, I may not take an umbrella.

If it hasn’t finished raining yet, I’m going to take an umbrella.

If it’s raining, take an umbrella.

If it rains, you should take an umbrella.

He will take an umbrella unless it is sunny. =

Unreal conditionals

2 nd conditional: (present/future), hypothetical; contrary to fact; unlikely

If + past simple/past continuous  would, could, might

If he had more money, he could buy a new car.

If I were tall, I’d play basketball. / If I was tall, I’d play basketball.

If I were you, I would stop smoking. (advice/opinion)

If Trump was President, we wouldn’t have freedom of thought.

Unlikely vs likely

If I win the lottery, I’ll give you half the money.

If I won the lottery, I’d give you half the money.

If I have time tomorrow, I’ll help you.

If I had time tomorrow, I’d help you.

3 rd conditional: impossible past (reality happened)

If + past perfect/past perfect continuous  would have + pp, could have +pp, might have + pp

If he had finished his degree, he would have got a better job and made more money.

If you hadn’t stolen the car, you wouldn’t have gone to prison.

What would you have done if Trump had won the last election? I would have shot him.

What will you do if Trump wins the next election? I will kill him.

Mixed conditional: impossible present result

3 rd  2 nd

If he had finished his degree, he would get a better job and make more money.

If you hadn’t stolen the car, you wouldn’t be in prison.

Other unreal structures

Wishes (Hope is for the future and is real)

Present: I wish I had a million euros.

Past: I wish I had moved to Europe before I was old.

Wish about something that bothers you.

I wish you would shut up.

I wish that dog wouldn’t bark all the time.

I wish he would study more.

If only… If only that dog wouldn’t bark a the time.

Supposing: Supposing I had given that man all my money …

It’s time…

It’s time we went home.

It’s about time we went home.

It’s high time we went home.

I’d rather/I’d sooner

I’d rather you didn’t smoke here. (you are smoking)

I’d sooner you didn’t borrow my car.