**Conditionals Review**

**Meaning and use**

Conditional sentences express a connection between two actions or states. One thing happens because of another. These connections can be general, specific, likely, unlikely, real or imagined.

Although there are quite a few different ways of forming conditional sentences there are common patterns known as zero, first, second and third conditionals.

**Zero conditionals**Used to refer to general truths, scientific facts and the predictable results of particular actions. One thing happens and because of this something else happens. In zero conditionals ***if***and ***when*** have the same meaning.

*If you heat water enough, it boils.*

*When he scores, he celebrates by making a heart shape with his hands.*

*When it’s raining, he stays indoors.*

**First conditionals**   
Used when we want to talk about something that is **likely** to happen in the future after a specific set of circumstances, the condition. **If** is used when the condition is possible and **when**is used when the condition is certain to happen.

*If I go to the shops, I’ll get some bread.* (I might not go to the shops)  
 *When I go to the shops, I’ll get some bread.* (I’m definitely going to the shops)  
 *If you’ve finished your homework by six, you can go out and play.  
  
When you’re having your party, please keep the noise down!*

**Second conditionals**Refer to an imagined present result of an unlikely or impossible present condition.

*If I had the money, I’d travel around the world.*(I don’t have the money)  
 *If I were you, I’d think about leaving him.*(I’m not you)

**Third conditionals**Refer to an imagined past result of something that didn’t happen in the past.

*If I had known you were coming, I wouldn’t have prepared the cheese dish.*(I didn’t know you were coming. I prepared a cheese dish.)  
  
*If I had known then what I know now, I wouldn’t have wasted so much time at university.*(I didn’t know then what I know now. I did waste a lot of time at university.)

**Form**

Conditional sentences usually have two parts. There is the **if clause** (sometimes called the **conditional clause**) and the **result clause**(sometimes called the**main clause**). The clauses can come in any order.   
  
If the **if clause** is first, the two clauses are separated by a comma.  
  
There is no comma if the **result clause** is first.

**Zero conditional**

If clause:  
**if/when + present simple**

Result clause:   
**present simple**

*When I turn it on, it makes a funny noise.*

*If you multiply ten by twelve, what do you get?*

*Milk goes bad if you leave it out too long.*

**First conditional**

If clause:**if/when + present simple**

Result clause:   
**will /’ll + infinitive without to / imperative**

*If it rains, you’ll get wet.*

*If it rains, put your coat on.*

*If you’re leading at half time, I’ll let your dad know.*

*If you’ve won, give me a call as soon as possible.*

**Second conditional**

If clause:**if + past simple**(exception: verb **'to be'** takes **'were'** in 1st and 2nd person)

Result clause:   
**would /’d + infinitive without to**

*If I knew what was wrong, I’d fix it myself.*

*I’d be out on my bike if it weren’t raining so hard.*

**Third conditional**

If clause:  
**if + past perfect**

Main clause:   
**would /’d + have /’ve + past participle**

*If I'd known it'd break, I wouldn't have tried to pick it up.  
  
If you hadn't insisted on changing your shirt we wouldn't have missed the bus.*

**Take note: modals**

Most first, second and third conditional clauses commonly use **will** or **would** but it is possible to use other modal auxiliaries instead. For example:

**First conditional**

*If you go to the shops,****can****you get some bread, please?  
If you go to the shops,****could****you get some bread, please?*

*If I go to the beach at the weekend, I****might****try out my new wet suit.*

*If I get a phone call this afternoon, it****may****be good news.*

*When we go on holiday this year, we****should****book a nicer hotel.*

**Second conditional**

*If I had enough money, I****could****travel around the world.*

*If I were elected, I****might****be able to do some good.*

**Third conditional**

*If you’d told me earlier, I****could’ve****done something about it.*

*If we had caught the right bus, we****might’ve been****on time.*

**Take note: mixed conditionals**

**Mixed conditionals** combine the structure of type 2 and type 3 conditionals when the time (past, present and future) referred to in the if and result clauses are not the same.

**Mixed conditionals**can refer to:

* something that didn’t happen in the past and the result of that condition in the present  
    
  *If you hadn’t left the map at home, we wouldn’t be lost.*(You left the map at home in the past. We are lost now.)
* something that won’t happen in the future and the result of that condition on the past  
    
  *If I weren’t going on holiday next week, I could have accepted that offer of work.*(I am going on holiday in the future which is why I didn’t accept the offer of work in the past.)