**Zero Conditional** **(FACTS)**

This conditional is used to talk about **facts,** **when the result will always happen**.

The 'if' in this conditional can usually be replaced by 'when' without changing the meaning.

FORM: **If** **/ when** + present simple, present simple.

(If clause) (main clause)

For example:

If water **reaches** 100 degrees, it **boils**. (It is always true, there can't be a different result sometimes).

If I **eat** peanuts, I **am** sick. (This is true only for me, maybe, not for everyone, but it's still true that I'm sick every time I eat peanuts)

Here are some more examples:

|  |
| --- |
| * If people **eat** too much, they **get** fat. * If you **touch** a fire, you **get** burned. * Snakes **bite** if they **are** scared |

**First Conditional (POSSIBLE SITUATION)**

It's used to talk about **things which might happen in the future**. Of course, we can't know what will happen in the future, but this describes possible things, which could easily come true.

The first conditional has the [**present simple**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-simple.html) after 'if', then the [**future simple**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/simple-future.html) in the other clause (the main clause):

FORM: **If** + present simple, will + infinitive

(If clause) (main clause)

For example:

* If I **have** enough money, I**'ll buy** some new shoes.
* She**'ll be** late if the train **is** delayed.
* She**'ll miss** the bus if she **doesn't leave** soon.
* If I **see** her, I**'ll tell** her.

**Second Conditional (HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION)**

It talks about things that I don't think will really happen. It's subjective; it depends on my point of view.

The second conditional uses the [**past simple**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple.html) after if, then 'would' and the infinitive:

FORM: **If** + past simple, would + infinitive

(If clause) (main clause)

For example:

* If I **won** the lottery, I **would buy** a big house.(I probably won't win the lottery)
* If I **met** the Queen of England, I **would say** hello.
* She **would travel** all over the world if she **were** rich.\*
* If I **were** you, I **wouldn't go** out with that person.\*

\* We can use '**were**' instead of 'was' with **'I**' and **'he/she/it'**. This is mostly done in formal writing.

**First vs. Zero Conditional:**

The first conditional describes a *particular* situation, whereas the [**zero conditional**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/zero-conditional.html) describes what happens *in general*.  
  
For example (zero conditional): if you sit in the sun, you get burned (here I'm talking about every time a person sits in the sun - the burning is a natural consequence of the sitting)  
  
But (first conditional): if you sit in the sun, you'll get burned (here I'm talking about what will happen today, another day might be different)

**First vs. Second Conditional:**

The first conditional describes things that I think are likely to happen in the future, whereas the second conditional talks about things that I don't think will really happen. It's subjective; it depends on my point of view.  
  
For example (first conditional): If she studies harder, she'll pass the exam (I think it's possible she will study harder and so she'll pass)  
  
But (second conditional): If she studied harder, she would pass the exam (I think that she won't study harder, or it's very unlikely, and so she won't pass)