

8 Conditionals/Wishes/Unreal Past

Conditionals

	If-clause (hypothesis)	Main clause (result clause)	Use
Type 1 real present	If + any present form (Present S., Present Cont. or Present Perfect)	Future/Imperative can/may/might/must/should + bare inf/Present Simple	true or likely to happen in the present or future
	<i>If the weather is nice, we will go on an excursion.</i> <i>If you have done your homework, you can watch TV.</i> <i>If you have a headache, take an aspirin.</i>		
Type 2 unreal present	If + Past Simple or Past Continuous	would/could/might + bare infinitive	untrue in the present; also used to give advice
	<i>If I were you, I wouldn't speak to him again. (advice)</i> <i>If he didn't eat so many sweets, he wouldn't have a problem with his teeth.</i> <i>(but he eats a lot of sweets - untrue in the present)</i>		
Type 3 unreal past	If + Past Perfect or Past Perfect Continuous	would/could/might + have + past participle	imaginary situation contrary to facts in the past; also used to express regrets or criticism

If she had known how to use the mixer, she wouldn't have broken it.

- When the if-clause precedes the result clause, we separate the two clauses with a comma. *If he had been more careful, he wouldn't have caused the accident. but: He wouldn't have caused the accident if he had been more careful. (no comma)*
- Conditionals are usually introduced by **if**. Other expressions are: **unless** (=if not), **providing**, **provided (that)**, **as long as**, **in case**, **on condition (that)**, **but for + -ing form/noun**, **otherwise**, or **else**, **what if**, **supposing**, **even if**, **only if**. *Unless you work more efficiently, you'll be fired.*
I will do it only if you promise not to tell anyone.
- After "if" we normally use **were** instead of **was** for all persons in conditionals type 2 in formal English. *If I were/was you, I would tell her everything.*
- We do not normally use **will**, **would** or **should** in if-clauses. *If you want this, you can have it. (not: if you will want.)* However, **will**, **would** or **should** can be used in if-clauses to make a **request** or express **annoyance**, **doubt/uncertainty** or **insistence**. *If he should come, show him in. (doubt/uncertainty - I doubt that he will come ...)* *If you will/would be more patient, I'll be with you in a minute. (request - Will you please be more patient?)*

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense, then identify the types of conditionals

- 1 If you ...don't put up... (not/put up) this shelf, you won't have anywhere to put your books. (1st type)
- 2 If he (change) jobs, he would be a lot happier.
- 3 If I were you, I (tell) her how you feel.
- 4 If you continue to shout so loudly, you (wake up) the baby.
- 5 Even if he (ask) them, they wouldn't have agreed to come.
- 6 Unless you (feel) any better, you can take the rest of the day off.
- 7 If she (not/threaten) him, he wouldn't have left.
- 8 I (not/trust) him if I were you.
- 9 If you're patient for a few minutes, I (be able) to finish this.
- 10 He (not/go) with her if he had known she would behave so irresponsibly.