CONDITIONALS & ITS TYPES

# Conditionals: Definition, Structure & Examples

Normally conditional sentences are called **conditionals**. These sentences usually contain the conjunction ***IF.*** Sometimes they are called **'if clauses'**.

## Types of Conditionals

There are mainly two types of conditionals:

* [The Real Conditionals](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/conditionals#real) and
* [The Unreal Conditionals](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/conditionals#unreal)

### The real conditionals

**The real conditionals** express factual or habitual conditions which have the possibility to occur in the future or generally occur in the present. Also called Zero conditional sentences and 1st conditional type.

**How to use:** We use the **zero conditional to** talk about things that are always true, like a scientific fact.

**How to use:** We use the [**first conditional**](https://7esl.com/first-conditional/) when we talk about possibilities in the present or in the future

**Example:**

* I’ll go if you give me the ball.
* If I feel better, I’ll certainly play.
* If you do well in the exams, I’ll buy you a gift.
* *If you mix blue and red, you get purple.*
* *If I find her address, I’ll send her an invitation.*

### Structures of the Real Conditionals:

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| **For Future Conditions** |
| ***If +* subject + simple present tense + subject + will/can/may/must + verb in base form. . .**  **Subject + will/can/may/must + verb in base form. . . + *if +* subject + simple present tense** |
| **Example:**   * *If* I have the money, I will buy a new phone. * I can make you cry *if* you keep doing that. * *If* he goes there, he may get robbed. * *If* you go outside, you must wear heavy clothes. |

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| **For Habitual Conditions** |
| ***If +* subject + simple present tense + subject + simple present tense. . .**  **Subject + simple present tense + *if* + subject + simple present tense. .** |
| **Example:**   * *If* I have the money, I always buy the necessary things. * *If* Alex gets a break, he usually calls me. * He works hard if the payment is good. |

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| **For Commands** |
| ***If +* subject + simple present tense + command form (simple present) . . . . .**  **Command form (simple present). . . . . + *if* + subject + simple present tense.** |
| **Example:**   * *If* you have the money, use it wisely. * Please call me *if* you get a chance. |

### The unreal conditionals

**The unreal conditionals** express hypothetical conditions which have no possibility to occur in the past, present or future but describe what could/might have occurred supposedly.Also called 2nd conditional type & 3rd conditional type.

**How to use:** The [**second conditional**](https://7esl.com/second-conditional/) is used to talk about Imaginary situations in the present or future.

**How to use:** We use the [**third conditional**](https://7esl.com/third-conditional/) when we talk about Imagine situations in the past.

**Example:**

* If I were rich, I would travel my whole life.
* If I had a car, I could go anywhere.
* *If he had more time, he would learn karate.*
* If we had not missed the train, we would have reached the city.
* *If she had studied hard last week, she could have passed the exam.*

Structures of Unreal Conditionals:

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| **For Present/Future Conditions** |
| ***If +* subject + simple past tense + subject + would/could/might + verb in base form. . .**  **subject + would/could/might + verb in base form + *if +* subject + simple past tense** |
| **Example:**   * *If* I had the money, I would buy a new phone. * *If* I were the president, I would not support war policies. * *If* he were not ill, he could come with us. * *If* I could play tomorrow, I would definitely win the match. |

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| **For Past Conditions** |
| ***If +* subject + past perfect tense + subject + would/could/might + have+ verb in past participle form**  **Subject + would/could/might + have + verb in past participle form + *if +* subject + simple past tense** |
| **Example:**   * *If* I had played well, we would have won the match. * I could have caught you *if* you had been a little closer. * *If* he had written well, I could have given him a better mark. |

**Note:** There is another structure of unreal conditional which does not use the conjunction ***if***. ***Had*** replaced ***if*** and created a conditional sentence.

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| ***Had* + subject + verb in past participle + subject + would/could/might + have + verb in past participle** |
| **Example:**   * *Had* I reached earlier, I could have caught the train. * Had she found the watch, she would have told me. |

## **How to Use Unless in English**

[**Unless**](https://7esl.com/use-unless/) means if not. We use unless in conditional sentences instead of if not.**Unless** is similar in meaning to **if not** and can be used instead of **if not** in certain types of conditional sentences. Like **if**, **unless** is followed by a present tense, a past tense, or a past perfect tense.We cannot use unless in questions.?We don’t use **will** or **would** in the clause after **unless**.

## **How to Use Wish in English**

When we want to express a wish/desire in English for a situation to be different to what it actually is then it is very common to use the verb “to wish”.

[How to Use Wish](https://7esl.com/use-wish-in-english-i-wish-if-only/) in English. *Wish + Past Simple*

* *Wish + Past Continuous*
* *Wish + Past Perfect*
* *Wish + Would*
* *Wish + To Infinitive*