CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

Zero, First, Second and Third Conditional

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Conditional Sentences

- They are used to express that the action in the main or result clause can or could only take place if a condition is fulfilled.

- What we express in the main/result clause depends or is conditional on what we express in the if-/condition clause.

If it gets colder tonight, I'll turn on the heating.

- We can usually change the order of clause, e.g. we can say *I'll help you if you want* or *If you want, I will help you.*

- Punctuation! We separate the two clauses by a comma if we begin with the if-/condition clause, e.g. *If he catches the fast train, he'll get here early* but we don't use a comma when we begin with the main/result clause, e.g. *He'll get here early if he catches the fast train.*



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Zero Conditional Sentences

If-/condition clause	main/result clause
present simple	present simple
If babies are angry,	*they cry.*
main/result clause	If-/condition clause
present simple	present simple
Snakes bite	*if they are scared.*

- **We use this conditional to express general truths:**

If you touch a fire, you get burned.

If people eat too much, they get fat.



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First Conditional Sentences

If-/condition clause	main/result clause
present simple	future simple
If it gets colder tonight,	*I'll turn on the heating.*
main/result clause	If-/condition clause
future simple	present simple
He'll get here early	*if he catches the fast train.*

- **Sometimes called the "future" conditional. It is used to express a situation that is real or likely in the future:**
  - ***"If I see Toby, I will tell him about the party."***
- **We also use it to talk about a situation that is certain in the future:**
  - ***"As son as I get home, I'll call you."***



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Second Conditional Sentences

If-/condition clause	main/result clause
past simple	would + bare infinitve
If he didn't annoy me so much,	*I would spend more time with him.*
main/result clause	If-/condition clause
Would + bare infinitive	past simple
I would go there right away	*if I got an invitation.*

- **We can use it to talk about things in the future that are probably not going to be true. Maybe I'm imagining some dream for example:**

"If I won the lottery, I would buy a very big house".

- **We can use it to talk about something in the present which is impossible, because it's not true:**

***"If I had his number, I would call him*. (I don't have his number now, so it's impossible for me to call him)."**

- **We use 'were' instead of 'was' with 'I' and 'he/she/it'.**

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Third Conditional Sentences

If-/condition clause	main/result clause
past perfect	would + have + past participle
If you had helped me,	*I would have done better.*
main/result clause	If-/condition clause
would + have + past participle	past perfect
We wouldn't have won	*if you hadn't scored a goal.*

- **It talks about the past. It's used to describe a situation that didn't happen, and to imagine the result of this situation:**

"If she had studied, she would have passed the exam (but, really we know she didn't study and so she didn't pass)"

"If I hadn't eaten so much, I wouldn't have felt sick (but I did eat a lot, and so I did feel sick)."



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