

Intermediate English Grammar

Chapter 2 **Conditional Sentence (part 1)**

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Conditional Sentence

Conditional sentences are used to describe real or hypothetical results of real or hypothetical situations.

They can use many different verb forms.

THE ZERO CONDITIONAL

The zero conditional, also called the “real” conditional, refers to things that are always true. It is used to describe the direct result of an action.



↖
“If” and “when” mean
the same thing in the
zero conditional

Further examples

- If you heat ice, **it melts**.
- If you drop an apple, **it fails**.
- When you put a rock in water, **it sinks**.
- **Oil floats** when you pour it onto water.
- **Water evaporates** if you boil it.

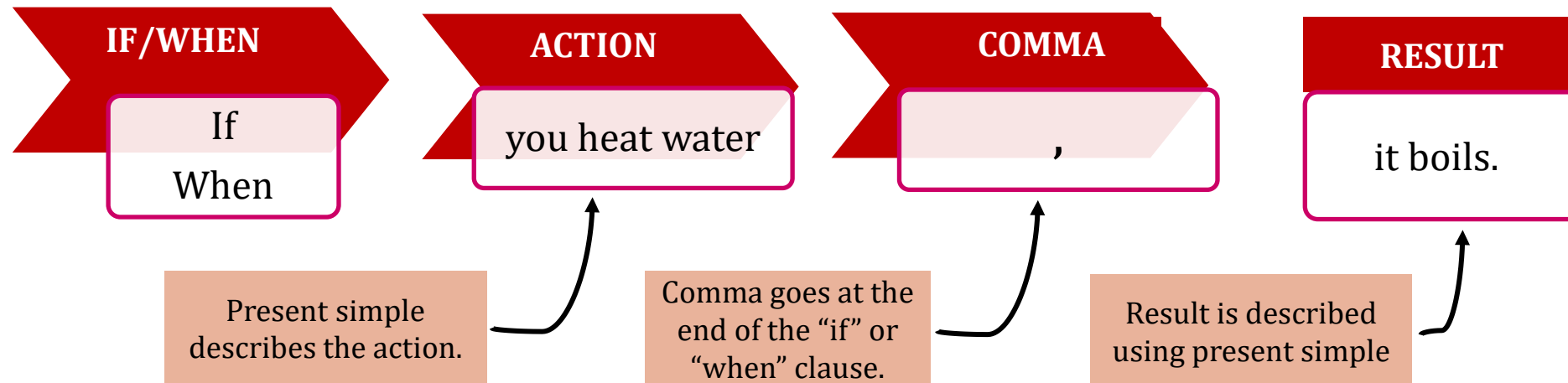
Exercise

1. If I (wake up) late, I (be) late for work.
2. If my husband (cook) , he (burn) the food.
3. If Julie (not/wear) a hat, she (get) sunstroke.
4. If children (not/eat) well, they (not/be) healthy.
5. If people (eat) too many sweets, they (get) fat.

Exercise (answer)

1. If I **wake up** late, I **am** late for work.
2. If my husband **cooks**, he **burns** the food.
3. If Julie **does not wear** a hat, she **gets** sunstroke.
4. If children **do not eat** well, they **are not** healthy.
5. If people **eat** too many sweets, they **get** fat.

HOW TO FORM

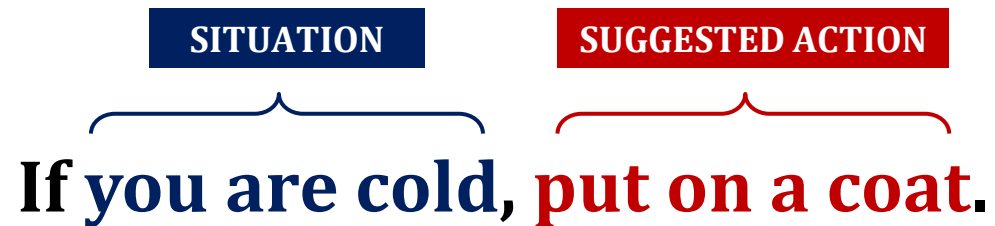


CONDITIONALS WITH IMPERATIVES

Imperatives can be used in conditional sentences. The “if” clause describes a hypothetical situation and the imperative clause describes what someone should do if that hypothetical situation actually happens.

SITUATION **SUGGESTED ACTION**

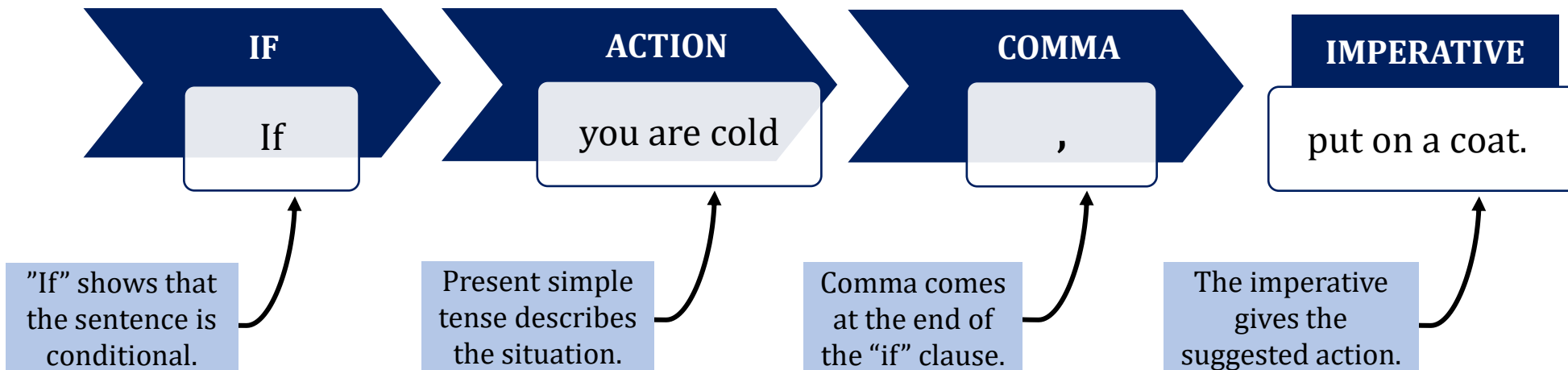
If you are cold, put on a coat.



Further examples

- If you feel sick, **call a doctor.**
- If the traffic is bad, **cycle to work.**
- If the dog is hungry, **feed him.**
- If the children behave badly, **call me.**
- **Don't stay up late** if you are tired.
- **Let me know** if you need help.

HOW TO FORM



THE FIRST CONDITIONAL

The first conditional, also called the “future real” conditional, uses “if” to describe a realistic action that might lead to a future result.

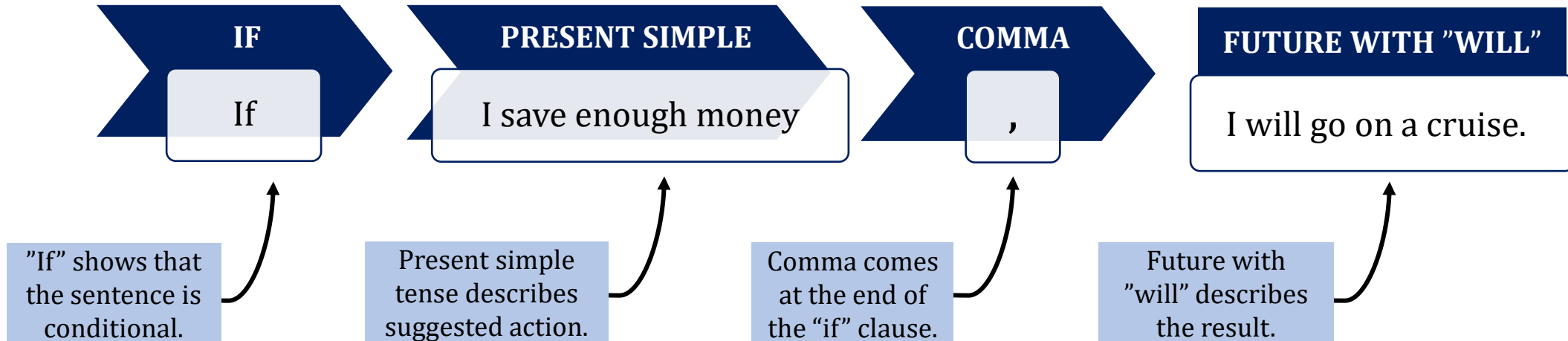
LIKELY ACTION

FUTURE RESULT

If I **save enough money**, **I will go on a cruise.**

HOW TO FORM

The first conditional is usually introduced by an “if” clause, followed by the present simple. The future with “will” expresses the result.



Further examples

- If I go jogging, I will lose weight.
- If it snows, I will go skiing.
- If we go to Africa, we will go on safari.
- If I get the job, I will buy a new suit.
- If I cook, will you do the dishes?
- I won't go outside if it rains.

Exercise

1. If I (go) out tonight, I (go) to the cinema.
2. If you (get) back late, I (be) angry.
3. If we (not/see) each other tomorrow, we (see) each other next week.
4. If he (come), I (be) surprised.
5. They (go) to the party if they (be) invited.

Exercise (answer)

1. If I **go** out tonight, I **will go** to the cinema.
2. If you **get** back late, I **will be** angry.
3. If we **do not see** each other tomorrow, we **will see** each other next week.
4. If he **comes**, I **will be** surprised.
5. They **will go** to the party if they **are** invited.

THE SECOND CONDITIONAL

The second conditional, also called the “unreal” conditional, uses “if” to describe an unlikely or unreal action or event. The described result is also very unlikely.

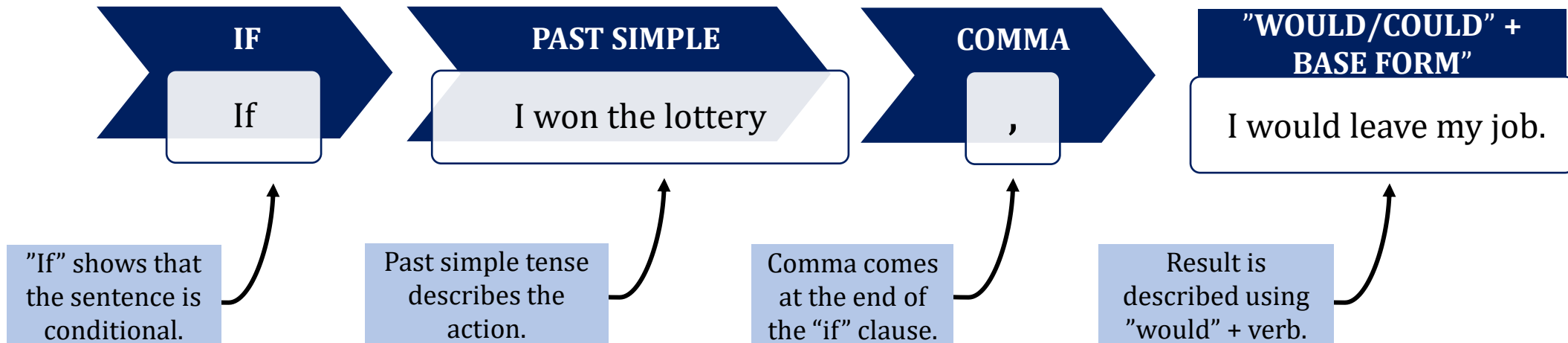
UNLIKELY EVENT

UNLIKELY RESULT

If I won the lottery, I would leave my job.

HOW TO FORM

The second conditional is usually introduced by an “if” clause, with a past simple verb. “Would” or “could” plus the base form of the main verb expresses the result.



Further examples

- If he wasn't so busy, **he would take a break.**
- If I moved to Scotland, **I'd live in a cottage.**
- If I had more time, **I could take up karate.**
- **I would call her** if I knew her number.
- If I saw a ghost, **I would be terrified.**
- If I learned English, **I could visit London.**

Exercise

1. If he (be) younger, he (travel) more.
2. If we (not/be) friends, I (be) angry with you.
3. If I (have) enough money, I (buy) a big house.
4. If I (speak) perfect English, I (have) a good job.
5. We (buy) a house if we (decide) to stay here.

Exercise (answer)

1. If he **was** younger, he **would travel** more.
2. If we **were not** friends, I **would be** angry with you.
3. If I **had** enough money, I **would buy** a big house.
4. If I **spoke** perfect English, I **would have** a good job.
5. We **would buy** a house if we **decided** to stay here.

THE THIRD CONDITIONAL

The third conditional, also called the “past unreal” conditional, is used to describe unreal situations in the past. It is often used to express regret about the past because the hypothetical situation that it describes is now impossible as a consequence of another past action.

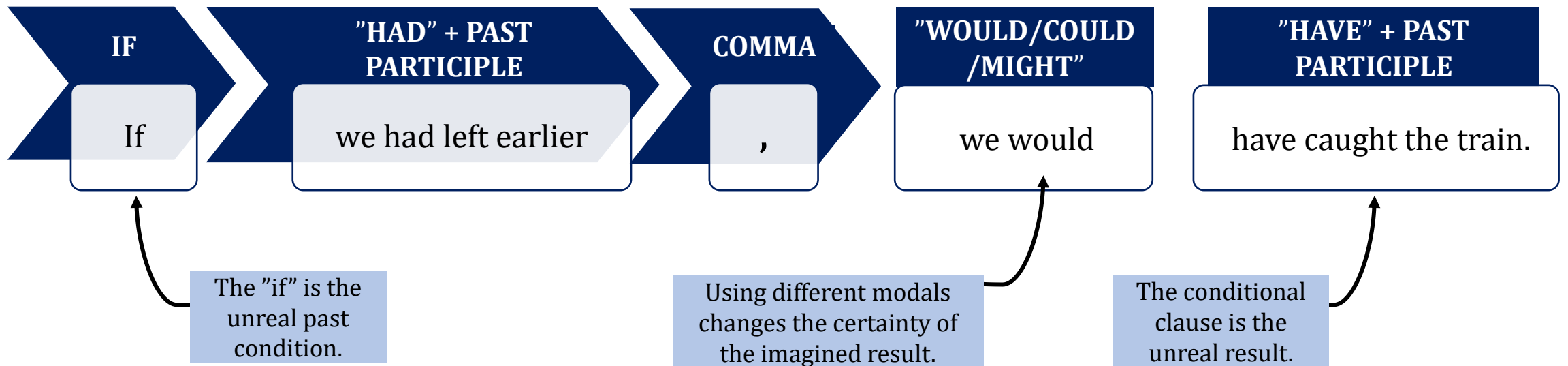


Further examples

- **If I had woken up on time, I would have done my hair.**
- **If I had studied harder, I could have been a doctor.**
- **If you had been wearing a coat, you might have stayed warm.**
- **If I had known it was your birthday, I would have bought you a present.**

HOW TO FORM

The third conditional sentence is formed like the following



Exercise

- If you (not/be) late, we (not/miss) the bus.
- If she(study), she (pass) the exam.
- If we (arrive) earlier, we (see) John.
- If he (become) a musician, he (record) a CD.
- If I (be) born in a different country, I (learn) to speak a different language.

Exercise (answer)

- If you **had not been** late, we **wouldn't have missed** the bus.
- If she **had studied** she **would have passed** the exam.
- If we **had arrived** earlier, we **would have seen** John.
- If he **had become** a musician, he **would have recorded** a CD.
- If I **had been** born in a different country, I **would have learned** to speak a different language.

Thank you!

REFERENCES

Murphy, Raymond & Smalzer, William. *Grammar in use, Intermediate*. Cambridge U. Press, 2019.

DK. *English for Everyone – English Grammar Guide*. Dorling Kindersley Limited, 2016.