

# Intermediate English Grammar

## **Chapter 3** **Conditional Sentence (part 2)**

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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.

# Review

1. If children ..... (not/eat) well, they ..... (not/be) healthy.
2. If we ..... (not/see) each other tomorrow, we ..... (see) each other next week.
3. If I ..... (have) enough money, I ..... (buy) a big house.
4. If I ..... (be) born in a different country, I ..... (learn) to speak a different language.

# Review

1. If children **do not eat** well, they **are not** healthy.
2. If we **do not see** each other tomorrow, we **will see** each other next week.
3. If I **had** enough money, I **would buy** a big house.
4. If I **had been** born in a different country, I **would have learned** to speak a different language.

# THE MIXED CONDITIONAL

## SECOND CONDITIONAL

The second conditional is used to talk about hypothetical situations in the present.

PAST SIMPLE



If I didn't believe in astrology,  
I wouldn't read my horoscope.

"WOULD" + INFINITIVE

# THE MIXED CONDITIONAL

## THIRD CONDITIONAL

The third conditional is used to talk about hypothetical situations in the past.

### PAST PERFECT



If I had known he was an Aquarius,  
I would not have gone out with him.

“WOULD” + “HAVE” + PAST PARTICIPLE

# THE MIXED CONDITIONAL

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## THIRD CONDITIONAL

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"WOULD" + "HAVE" + PAST PARTICIPLE

# Further examples

If you hadn't forgotten to bring the keys,  
we wouldn't be locked out of the house.



Mixed conditionals refer to future situations  
when used with future time markers.

You would be starting at a new school  
tomorrow if you hadn't failed your exams.



# Further examples

Mixed conditionals are often used to express regret.

If I had finished my assignment sooner,  
I could be out with my friends today.



We would be on a beach in Greece by  
now if we hadn't missed our flight.



# **Other Conditional Sentences**

English allows for some variations in conditional sentence structures. These give more information about the context of the conditional.

## CONDITIONAL SENTENCES WITH MODAL VERBS

First, second, and third conditional sentences can use different modal verbs in their “result” clauses.

These can be used to express uncertainty, possibility, or obligation, amongst other things.

# FIRST CONDITIONAL

In the first conditional, “will” can be replaced by a variety of modal verbs to talk about different ideas.

If I save enough money, I will buy a new car.



If I save enough money, I can buy a new car.



Different modal  
verbs can go here.

## SECOND CONDITIONAL

In the second conditional, “would” can be replaced by “could” or “might” to express ability, possibility, or uncertainty.

If I saved enough money, I would buy a new car.



If I saved enough money, I { could  
might } buy a new car.

# THIRD CONDITIONAL

In the third conditional, “would” can be replaced by “could” or “might” to express ability, possibility, or uncertainty.

If I had saved enough money, I would have bought a new car.



If I had saved enough money, I { could  
might } have bought a new car.

# FIRST CONDITIONAL WITH "UNLESS"

"Unless" can be used instead of "if" in conditional sentences. "Unless" means "if... not," so the future result depends on the suggested action not happening.



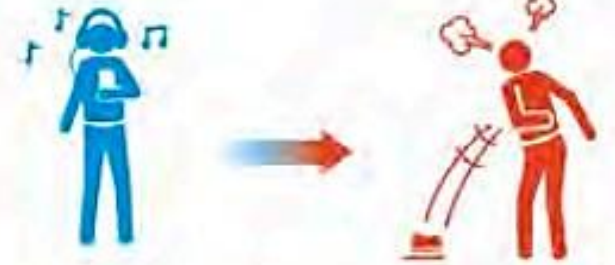
If you don't  
Unless you } study hard, **you will fail your exams.**

# Further examples

If you don't  
Unless you } get up now, you'll be late for work.



I'll be angry { if he doesn't turn  
unless he turns } that music down.



# FORMAL THIRD CONDITIONAL

The third conditional can be made more formal by swapping “had” with the subject and dropping “if”.

If you had attended the meeting, you would have met the manager.



Had you attended the meeting, you would have met the manager.

# Further examples

- **Had I worked** harder at school, I could have studied medicine.
- **Had you listened** to the directions, we could have arrived on time.
- **Had she woken** up earlier, she wouldn't have been late.
- **Had we bought** that house, we couldn't have afforded this trip.

# Conditional Sentences Overview

There are four types of conditional sentences. The zero conditional refers to real situations, but the first, second, and third conditionals all refer to hypothetical situations.

# TYPES OF CONDITIONAL

## The zero conditional

It is used to talk about situations that will always happen. It is used to talk about general truths.

PRESENT SIMPLE

If you play the violin out of  
tune, it sounds terrible.

PRESENT SIMPLE



# TYPES OF CONDITIONAL

## The first conditional

It is used to talk about hypothetical situations that are likely to happen.

PRESENT SIMPLE

If I practice really hard, this  
song will sound great.

"WILL" + BASE FORM



# TYPES OF CONDITIONAL

## The second conditional

It is used to talk about hypothetical situations that are very unlikely to happen, but are usually still possible.

PAST SIMPLE

If I practiced more, that  
song would sound better.

"WOULD" + BASE FORM



# TYPES OF CONDITIONAL

## The third conditional

It is used to talk about hypothetical situations that definitely will not happen. The result is no longer possible because of the imaginary cause in the past.

PAST PERFECT

If I had practiced more,  
I would have sounded better.

"WOULD" + "HAVE" + PAST PARTICIPLE

An illustration of a person in a dark suit holding a violin and bow. A thought bubble above their head shows a person in a red shirt playing a violin. The entire illustration is rendered in a dark blue color.

# USING COMMAS IN CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

When the action comes before the result, a comma separates the two clauses of the conditional sentence. However, when the result comes first, no comma is used.

When **you freeze water**, **ice forms**.



A comma is used if the action comes first.

**Ice forms** when **you freeze water**.



The result can come at the beginning of the sentence.

"If" or "when" can sit between the action and result, without a comma.

# COMMON MISTAKES USING OTHER TENSES IN CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

“Will,” “would,” and “would have” should not be used in the “if” clause when forming conditional sentences.

If I **will** work really hard, this piece will sound great. ❌

“Will” doesn’t go in the “if” clause.

If I **would** practice more, that piece would sound better. ❌

“Would” doesn’t go in the “if” clause.

If I **would have** practiced more, I would have sounded better. ❌

“Would have” doesn’t go in the “if” clause.

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.

# PICTURE SOURCES ON EACH SLIDE

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