

Conditional tenses

Anglais

Terminale



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Conditionals are an important grammar topic in English. They are very common in writing and even in conversation because they express many different ideas which are all different from one another.

This lesson is about the **four** different **types** of conditionals in English. Here they are :

- **Zero Conditional**
- **First Conditional**
- **Second Conditional**
- **Third Conditional**

► ZERO CONDITIONAL

The zero conditional is called the **present real conditional**. It is for **present actions**. This part shows you the structure, common uses, and some example sentences

■ Zero Conditional Structure

Use the [simple present](#) to form both parts of your sentences. Here's the structure :

If + **Simple Present** + **Simple Present**

Let's take a look at an example.

- **If you exercise much, you feel better.**

Both parts use a **simple present** structure. It would be the same with the **third person**:

- **She feels better when she exercises.**

Notice: you can also use **when, as soon as, wherever, whenever, whoever, whatever, ect.** at the beginning.

More Example Sentences:

- If you heat ice, it melts.
- Ice melts if you heat it.
- **Negative**

Negatives use **do not, does not, am not, is not, or are not**, just like the simple present.

If you are not on time, you lose one mark.

If I don't study, I don't do well on tests.

- **Zero Conditional Uses**

You normally see four main uses for the zero conditional. Here they are:

1. **Rules**

- If you take your cell phone into class, it must be turned off.
- Do not use a calculator when you are having a test.

2. **Scientific Facts and General Truths**

- If you heat water to 100 degrees Celsius, it boils.
- When you combine oil and water, they do not mix.

3. **Cause and Effect**

- If you close the door, it locks automatically.
- The computer turns off when you disconnect the battery.

4. **Routine**

- Mr jaabay uses glasses when he reads.
- When I cook, I use olive oil.

► **FIRST CONDITIONAL**

The first conditional is called the future conditional. It is for actions in the future.

- **First Conditional structure**

Second Conditional Structure

If + Simple Past + Modal Verb + Base Verb

This conditional uses simple past, but it's not about the past. That can be difficult to think about. However, the key difference is "if". When you see if plus the simple past, you know it's **hypothetical (not real)**. Think about the difference between these examples:

- I had a bicycle.
- If I had a bicycle...

The first sentence is a statement about having something in the past. You had a bicycle. Maybe it was last week or 1 year ago. It's in the past. The second sentence is not real. (**imagination**)

- If I had a car, I would go to Palmarin twice a week.

You don't have a car. You don't go to Palmarin as you would like. That's the idea of

the second conditional: it's not real.

Examples:

- If I won the lottery, I would buy a house at Somone.
- If she studied more often, she would pass easily.

■ Second Conditional Uses

1. Unreal situations in the present

- If I were the teacher, I would make class shorter.

2. Imagined events

- If I were rich, I would buy a private jet.

3. Impossible present situations

- I would go to the party, if I didn't have to work.

Was vs. Were

Use **"were"** for all subjects.

- If I **were** rich,(I am not rich at all)
- If he **were** older, (he is not older than...)

► THIRD CONDITIONAL

The third conditional is one of the **four main** English conditionals.

The third conditional is for **unreal situations in the past**. This is why it is called the **past unreal conditional**.

■ Third Conditional Structure

If + Past Perfect + Modal Verb + Past Perfect

IF+Past Perfect+Modal Verb+Have +PP

Here are some examples:

Could

- If I had studied for the exam, I could have passed.
- She could have gone if she had had more time.

Should

- If you had known about the exam, you should have studied.
- You should have seen a different movie,if you had gone on time.

Might

- If he had studied harder for the exam, he might have passed.
- Serge might have gone if you had asked him.

Would

- If I had been you, I would have studied harder.
I would have bought a different jacket if I had had enough money.

Third Conditional Uses

Imaginary Situations in the Past

- If I had studied for my exam, I would have passed.
- I could have won the game if I had tried harder.

Advice in the Past

- You should have saved your money.
- You should not have bought so many pairs of shoes.

Notice: *Sometimes, we give advice by showing what we would have done in the same situation.*

- If I had been you, I would not have bought those shoes.

CONTRACTIONS

The combination of a modal verb and “**have**” are contracted to make the following words:

- would've
- could've
- should've

Take a look at some examples:

- If I had tried harder, I **could've** passed my test.
- If he had woken up earlier, he **would've** been on time for class.