

Conditionals: Zero, First, Second, Third, & Mixed (Beginner - Advanced)

The 'ZERO' CONDITIONAL:	IF + SUBJECT + V1 / SUBJECT + V1
To talk about a GENERAL condition or fact. Something that usually happens.	If it rains in Miami, I use an umbrella. I wear a sweater if it is cold. *When it is sunny in Miami, I go to the beach.

The 'FIRST' CONDITIONAL:	IF + SUBJECT + V1 / SUBJECT + WILL + V1
To talk about a REAL POSSIBILITY.	If it rains tomorrow, I will use an umbrella. If I have time, I will call my mom. *When you come to Miami, I will buy you a drink.

We can also use THE IMPERATIVE with Zero and First Conditionals.	If it rains tomorrow, use an umbrella. / *When it rains, use an umbrella. Call your mom if you have time later. / *When you have time, call your mom.
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*Remember that **'WHEN'** shows more certainty than **'IF'**.

The 'SECOND' CONDITIONAL:	IF + SUBJECT + *V2 / SUBJECT + WOULD + V1 *We use the Past Tense form, but we are not speaking about the past.
To talk about an UNREAL POSSIBILITY	I would call my mom if I had time. (I don't have time, so I will not call.) If I won the lottery, I would buy a new car. (Winning doesn't seem possible.) **'To be': 'Were' is used with all subjects, although 'was' is common in spoken English.

The 'THIRD' CONDITIONAL:	IF + SUBJECT + HAD + V3 / SUBJECT + WOULD + HAVE + V3
To talk about an UNREAL POSSIBILITY/CONDITION IN THE PAST	If I hadn't had time, I wouldn't have called my Mom. (I had time, so I called.) If she had been sick, she wouldn't have come to work. (She was not sick.)

MIXED CONDITIONALS: Mixed Conditionals are used to show how a past condition or possibility affects, or would affect, the present, or vice versa: how a present or general condition affects, or would have affected, the past.
<p>Past Condition: If she had been sick, she wouldn't have come to work. (She came to work.) If she had been sick, she would be at home in bed. (She is not in bed.)</p> <p>General Condition: If I were taller, I would score more points when I play basketball. (I don't score many points.) If I were taller, I would have played basketball in high school. (I didn't play basketball in high school.)</p>

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Exercises and Practice

A. A good way to escape boredom is to find a hobby. Using the zero conditional, tell what each person does when they are bored. The first example is done for you.

- 1) Roscoe likes to fish. If Roscoe is bored, he fishes.
- 2) Morgan has a stamp collection. _____.
- 3) Erica loves to cook. _____.
- 4) Michelle calls her boyfriend. _____.
- 5) My mother writes letters. _____.
- 6) Devon drives around town. _____.

B. The American singer Doris Day sang a song called "Que Sera, Sera," which is Spanish for "what will be, will be." While we can't know what the future will be, it's fun to imagine. Using the first conditional, write a one-sentence response to each future prediction.

- 1) You will make a lot of money.
_____.
- 2) You will have six sons.
_____.
- 3) You will travel to Antarctica.
_____.
- 4) You will become famous.
_____.
- 5) You will go to jail.
_____.

C. Zero and First Conditionals: Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- 1. When _____, dogs usually bark and growl.
- 2. If a hurricane comes, _____.
- 3. The teacher will be angry if _____.
- 4. _____ when someone speaks to me in English.
- 5. If my pen is broken or doesn't write, _____.

D. Practice using the imperative with the zero and first conditional:

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1. When you arrive in Miami, _____.
2. Welcome to my house. If you get hungry, _____.
3. Don't get upset if I _____.

E. Please write a five-sentence paragraph about what you would do if world peace were declared tomorrow. Use the *second conditional*, as this is an unreal possibility.

F. Write questions for your partner beginning with a *Wh (question word) + would*. Discuss your answers and report to the class.

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.

G. Zero, First, and Second Conditional. Complete the sentences using the Zero, First, or Second Conditional.

1. If I have to work this Saturday, _____.
2. When I am bored, _____.
3. If I moved to Japan tomorrow, _____.

H. Third Conditional: Using the words in parentheses, complete the text below with the appropriate forms.

1. I was so busy last week that I couldn't make it to my English class. I _____ (love) to attend if I _____ (to be, not) so busy.
2. Tell him I am sorry that I couldn't help him. If I _____ (have) the money, I _____ (lend) it to him when he asked.
3. I grew up in Russia. If I _____ (grew up) in Miami, I _____ (learn) English as a child.

I. Complete the sentences below with the verb in the correct form and tense.

1. Tom had a car accident last week because he was driving too fast.

If he _____ so fast, he _____ an accident.

2. Tom can't go fishing this weekend because he doesn't have a boat.

If he _____ a boat, he _____ fishing.

3. Tom couldn't go to the interview because his car was being repaired.

If he _____ a car, he _____ to the interview.

4. Tom is pretty sure that it will rain tomorrow, so he plans on going to the cinema.

If it _____, he _____ to the cinema.

J. Choose another person (a friend or a famous person) and write a paragraph describing what your life *would be like* and *would have been like* if you had been born as them and now lived their life.

K. Match the correct clauses to form a sentence.

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|--|--------------------------------|
| a If I hadn't studied | 1 I pass the test |
| b If I knew | 2 if I weren't so lazy |
| c When I am wrong | 3 I still wouldn't tell you. |
| d I would go on vacation | 4 I would have failed the test |
| e I would have gone | 5 I'll be sad |
| f If I study | 6 if I'd had time |
| g I would have studied more in high school | 7 if I had the money |
| h If it rains tomorrow | 8 I get really angry |

L. Research and write an alternative history: choose an important event in history and its outcome. Prepare a presentation detailing another scenario or outcome. For example: *What if Japan hadn't attacked Pearl Harbor, dragging the USA into the war? What if the Cuban Missile Crisis hadn't been resolved?*

M. Mixed Conditionals: Complete the sentences below with the verbs in the correct form and tense.

1. Tom is in the hospital because he had a car accident last week.

If he _____ (have) a car accident last week, he
_____ (to be, not) in the hospital now.

2. Tom can't go fishing this weekend because his boat sunk.

If his boat _____ (not, sink), he
_____ (go) fishing this weekend.

3. Tom couldn't find his keys because his house is always so messy.

If his house _____ (to be, not) always so messy, he
_____ (found) his keys.

Thank you for completing our lesson and exercises! If you have any questions, please contact us.

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