

ZERO CONDITIONAL

FORM

In zero conditional sentences, the tense in both parts of the sentence is the simple present.

If clause (condition)

Main clause (result)

If + simple present

simple present

If this thing happens

that thing happens.

As in all conditional sentences, the order of the clauses is not fixed. You may have to rearrange the pronouns and adjust punctuation when you change the order of the clauses, but the meaning is identical. In zero conditional sentences, you can replace "if" with "when", because both express general truths. The meaning will be unchanged.

EXAMPLES

- If you heat ice, it melts.
- Ice melts if you heat it.
- When you heat ice, it melts.
- Ice melts when you heat it.
- If it rains, the grass gets wet.
- The grass gets wet if it rains.
- When it rains, the grass gets wet.
- The grass gets wet when it rains.

FUNCTION

The zero conditional is used to make statements about the real world, and often refers to general truths, such as scientific facts. In these sentences, the time is **now or always** and the situation is **real and possible**.

EXAMPLES

- If you freeze water, it becomes a solid.
- Plants die if they don't get enough water.
- If my husband has a cold, I usually catch it.
- If public transport is efficient, people stop using their cars.
- If you mix red and blue, you get purple.

The zero conditional is also often used to give instructions, using the imperative in the main clause.

EXAMPLES

- If Bill phones, tell him to meet me at the cinema.
- Ask Pete if you're not sure what to do.
- If you want to come, call me before 5:00.
- Meet me here if we get separated.

TYPE 1 CONDITIONAL

FORM

In a Type 1 conditional sentence, the tense in the 'if' clause is the simple present, and the tense in the main clause is the simple future.

If clause (condition)

Main clause (result)

If + simple present

simple future

If this thing happens

that thing will happen.

As in all conditional sentences, the order of the clauses is not fixed. You may have to rearrange the pronouns and adjust punctuation when you change the order of the clauses, but the meaning is identical.

EXAMPLES

- If it rains, you will get wet.
- You will get wet if it rains.
- If Sally is late again I will be mad.
- I will be mad if Sally is late again.
- If you don't hurry, you will miss the bus.
- You will miss the bus if you don't hurry.

FUNCTION

The type 1 conditional refers to a possible condition and its probable result. These sentences are based on facts, and they are used to make statements about the real world, and about particular situations. We often use such sentences to give warnings. In type 1 conditional sentences, the time is the **present or future** and the situation is **real**.

EXAMPLES

- If I have time, I'll finish that letter.
- What will you do if you miss the plane?
- Nobody will notice if you make a mistake.
- If you drop that glass, it will break.
- If you don't drop the gun, I'll shoot!
- If you don't leave, I'll call the police.

In type 1 conditional sentences, you can also use modals in the main clause instead of the future tense to express the degree of certainty, permission, or a recommendation about the outcome.

EXAMPLES

- If you drop that glass, it might break.
- I may finish that letter if I have time.
- If he calls you, you should go.
- If you buy my school supplies for me, I will be able to go to the park.

First Conditional

Choose the correct response for each of the sentences:

1. If you _____ greasy food, you will become fat.
 eat
 will eat
2. If your sister goes to Paris, she _____ a good time.
 has
 will have
3. If he _____ that, he will be sorry.
 will do
 does
4. If I leave now, I _____ in New York by 8:00 PM.
 will arrive
 arrive
5. You _____ on your test if you don't study.
 won't do well
 don't do well
6. They won't know the truth if you _____ them.

- won't tell
 don't tell
7. If I bake a cake, _____ have some?
- will you
 do you
8. If he _____ you, will you answer the phone?
- will call
 calls
9. If you don't go to the party, I _____ very upset.
- am
 will be
10. If you get a haircut, you _____ much better.
- will look
 look

TYPE 2 CONDITIONAL

FORM

In a Type 2 conditional sentence, the tense in the 'if' clause is the simple past, and the tense in the main clause is the present conditional or the [present continuous conditional](#).

If clause (condition)

Main clause (result)

If + simple past

present conditional or present continuous conditional

If this thing happened

that thing would happen.

As in all conditional sentences, the order of the clauses is not fixed. You may have to rearrange the pronouns and adjust punctuation when you change the order of the clauses, but the meaning is identical.

EXAMPLES

- If it rained, you would get wet.
- You would get wet if it rained.
- If you went to bed earlier you wouldn't be so tired.

- You wouldn't be so tired if you went to bed earlier.
- If she fell, she would hurt herself.
- She would hurt herself if she fell.

FUNCTION

The type 2 conditional refers to an unlikely or hypothetical condition and its probable result. These sentences are not based on the actual situation. In type 2 conditional sentences, the time is **now or any time** and the situation is **hypothetical**.

EXAMPLES

- If the weather wasn't so bad, we would go to the park. (But the weather is bad so we can't go.)
- If I was the Queen of England, I would give everyone a chicken. (But I am not the Queen.)
- If you really loved me, you would buy me a diamond ring.
- If I knew where she lived, I would go and see her.

It is correct, and very common, to say "if I were" instead of "if I was".

EXAMPLES

- If I were taller, I would buy this dress.
- If I were 20, I would travel the world.
- If I were you, I would give up smoking.
- If I were a plant, I would love the rain.

In type 2 conditional sentences, you can also use modals in the main clause instead of "would" to express the degree of certainty, permission, or a recommendation about the outcome.

EXAMPLES

- We might buy a larger house if we had more money
- He could go to the concert if you gave him your ticket.
- If he called me, I couldn't hear.

Second Conditional

REMEMBER: The second conditional is used to talk about *unreal* situations in the *present* (things that are impossible, that won't happen, etc.) - Choose the correct response for each of the sentences:

1. If my grandfather were younger, he _____ so many things.

- wouldn't forget
- didn't forget

2. If I _____ more money, I would buy a new car.
- would have
 - had
3. If she had an umbrella, she _____ wet.
- wouldn't get
 - didn't get
4. If we _____ a car, we would get there in 30 minutes.
- would have
 - had
5. I _____ more careful if I were you.
- would be
 - were
6. If animals could talk, I wonder what they _____.
- said
 - would say
7. If she _____ harder, she would make more money.
- will work
 - worked
8. If he changed jobs, he _____ much happier.
- will be
 - would be
9. If it wasn't raining, we _____ to the beach.
- would go
 - will go
10. You wouldn't feel so tired if you _____ more.
- will sleep
 - slept

TYPE 3 CONDITIONAL

FORM

In a Type 3 conditional sentence, the tense in the 'if' clause is the past perfect, and the tense in the main clause is the perfect conditional or the [perfect continuous conditional](#).

If clause (condition)	Main clause (result)
If + past perfect	perfect conditional or perfect continuous conditional
If this thing had happened	that thing would have happened.

As in all conditional sentences, the order of the clauses is not fixed. You may have to rearrange the pronouns and adjust punctuation when you change the order of the clauses, but the meaning is identical.

EXAMPLES

- If it had rained, you would have gotten wet.
- You would have gotten wet if it had rained.
- You would have passed your exam if you had worked harder.
- If you had worked harder, you would have passed your exam.
- I would have believed you if you hadn't lied to me before.
- If you hadn't lied to me before, I would have believed you.

FUNCTION

The type 3 conditional refers to an impossible condition in the past and its probable result in the past. These sentences are truly hypothetical and unreal, because it is now too late for the condition or its result to exist. There is always some implication of regret with type 3 conditional sentences. The reality is the opposite of, or contrary to, what the sentence expresses. In type 3 conditional sentences, the time is the **past** and the situation is **hypothetical**.

EXAMPLES

- If I had worked harder I would have passed the exam. (But I didn't work hard, and I didn't pass the exam.)
- If I had known you were coming I would have baked a cake. (But I didn't know and I didn't bake a cake.)
- I would have been happy if you had called me on my birthday. (But you didn't call me and I am not happy.)

In type 3 conditional sentences, you can also use modals in the main clause instead of "would" to express the degree of certainty, permission, or a recommendation about the outcome.

EXAMPLES

- If I had worked harder I might have passed the exam.
- You could have been on time if you had caught the bus.

- If he called you, you could go.
- If you bought my school supplies for me, I might be able to go to the park.

CONTRACTIONS

Both *would* and *had* can be contracted to 'd, which can be confusing if you are not confident with type 3 conditional sentences. Remember 2 rules:

1. **would never appears in the if-clause** so if 'd appears in the if clause, it must be abbreviating *had*.
2. **had never appears before have** so if 'd appears on a pronoun just before *have*, it must be abbreviating *would*.

EXAMPLES

- If **I'd** known you were in hospital, **I'd** have visited you.
- If **I had** known you were in hospital, **I would** have visited you.
- **I'd** have bought you a present if **I'd** known it was your birthday.
- **I would** have bought you a present if **I had** known it was your birthday.
- If **you'd** given me your e-mail, **I'd** have written to you.
- If **you had** given me your e-mail, **I would** have written to you.

Third Conditional

REMEMBER: The third conditional is used to talk about *unreal* situations in the *past* (things that were impossible, that didn't happen, etc.) - Choose the correct response for each of the sentences:

1. If they hadn't been drunk, the doorman _____.
 - would have let them in
 - had let them in
2. If you _____ your last exam, you would have graduated in May.
 - have not failed
 - hadn't failed
3. My mother _____ this apartment if she had known it was so noisy.
 - wouldn't have rented
 - did not rent
4. I would not _____ to see this movie if I had known how boring it was.
 - go
 - have gone
5. If I hadn't lost my cellphone, I _____ you.
 - would have called
 - would call

6. If I hadn't driven so fast, I _____ into an accident.
- would not get
 - would not have gotten
7. If the store _____ open, I would have bought some food.
- would be
 - had been
8. I _____ on time if I hadn't missed the bus.
- had been
 - would have been
9. If you hadn't changed your hairstyle, I _____ you.
- would have recognized
 - had recognized
10. If I _____ full, I would have eaten more.
- would not have been
 - hadn't been

Mixed Conditionals

Please choose the correct, most natural-sounding response to complete each of the following sentences:

1. If I _____ you, I would apologize to her right away. (to be)
- was
 - were
 - have been
2. If I run into her, I _____ her that you're looking for her. (to tell)
- would tell
 - tell
 - will tell
3. If you _____ that again, I will call the police. (to do)
- to do
 - do
 - will do
4. He would never have asked her out on a date if she _____ him first. (to kiss)

- hadn't kissed
 - didn't kiss
 - will not kiss
5. If you were her, what _____? (to do)
- would you do
 - did you do
 - do you do
6. If she hadn't gone to England, she _____ Orlando Bloom. (to meet)
- would not meet
 - did not meet
 - would not have met
7. If it doesn't start snowing, we _____ this evening. (to go skiing)
- won't go skiing
 - wouldn't go skiing
 - don't go skiing
8. If you had saved some money earlier, you _____ broke right now. (to be)
- would not have been
 - will not be
 - are not
9. If I _____ at the airport so late, I would not have missed my flight. (to arrive)
- didn't arrive
 - hadn't arrived
 - would not arrive
10. If you buy one t-shirt, you _____ the second one free.
- will have gotten
 - would get
 - get