

Conditional sentences

Zero Conditional

If + Present simple----- Present Simple

Possible variations in the If clause and in the main clause

Present Perfect

Present Perfect

Present Continuous

Present Continuous

Can

Can

May

May

If my mother is going shopping , she always buys something for my children

Use:

- **To talk about events or situations that can occur at any time, and often occur more than once and their results**
- **To talk about actions which always have the same result**

If you heat ice, it melts

First Conditional

If + Present simple----- Will/ won'+ inf

Possible variations in the If clause and in the main clause

Present Continuous

Be going to

Present Perfect

Can

Can

May

May

Should

Should

If the Spanish team continues so well, they should win the World Cup

Use:

- To talk about possible future events or situations and their results

Second Conditional

If + Past simple ----- Would + inf

Possible variations in the If clause and in the main clause

Past Continuous

Might

Was going to

Could

I hate flying. If we were going by boat I'd feel much happier

- When "be" is in "if clause", we use the subjunctive "were" for all persons

Use:

- To talk about an improbable future event or situation. The condition is unlikely to be fulfilled because the future event is unlikely to happen
- To describe a hypothetical current situation or event i.e one which is contrary to known fact, It is , therefore, impossible to fulfil the condition

If she were taller, she's be a model.

NOTE:

We can use "should+ inf" or "were to+ infinitive" to emphasize that the condition is unlikely to happen.

If I were to succeed , I'd feel over the moon (if I succeeded..)

Third Conditional

If + Past Perfect Would have + Past Part.

Possible variations in the If clause and in the main clause

**Past Perf. Cont. Would have been DOING
Could / Might**

If I had found him earlier I could have saved his life

Use:

- **To describe a hypothetical situation or event in the past. The past situation or event is contrary to known facts, i.e, it is an unreal or impossible situation.**

NOTE:

- **“HAD” can be placed first and the “IF” is omitted**
Had you obeyed orders this disaster would never have happened.

Mixed Conditional

We have two cases:

1.

If + Past Perfect -- Would

If I hadn't studied I wouldn't be in the advanced course.

Use:

When we refer to a past event which could have had a direct result on a present situation if it had been different.

(Nos referimos a un hecho pasado que de haber sido de otro modo habría cambiado el presente.)

Finish the following sentences:

I'm an only child, if my parents had had another child, I...

My father wanted me to become a doctor, if I had studied Medicine...

The plane I intended to catch crashed and everyone was killed. If I had caught that plane, I...

Now write your own sentences.

2.

If + Simple Past -- Would have+ Past Part

If I were tall, I would have enrolled the army

When we refer to a present event which could have changed a past situation.

Un hecho presente que podría haber cambiado un hecho pasado, es decir, el pasado habría sido diferente ,si el presente fuera diferente.

The “if“ clause takes the simple past.

He doesn't listen to me, If he listened to me....

I Like dogs. If I didn't like dogs;....

I am a bit shy. If I weren't that shy,....

Cristina Cabal