Conditionals

	If-clause (hypothesis)	Main clause (result clause)	Use
Type 1 **real present**	If + any present form (Present S., Present Cont. or Present Perfect)	Future/Imperative can/may/might/must/should + bare inf/Present Simple	true or likely to happen in the present or future

*If the weather **is** nice, we **will go** on an excursion.*
*If you **have done** your homework, you **can watch** TV.*
*If you **have** a headache, **take** an aspirin.*

Type 2 **unreal present**	If + Past Simple or Past Continuous	would/could/might + bare infinitive	untrue in the present; also used to give advice

*If I **were** you, I **wouldn't speak** to him again. (advice)*
*If he **didn't eat** so many sweets, he **wouldn't have** a problem with his teeth.*
(but he eats a lot of sweets - untrue in the present)

Type 3 **unreal past**	If + Past Perfect or Past Perfect Continuous	would/could/might + have + past participle	imaginary situation contrary to facts in the past; also used to express regrets or criticism

*If she **had known** how to use the mixer, she **wouldn't have broken** it.*

- When the if-clause precedes the result clause, we separate the two clauses with a comma. *If he had been more careful, he wouldn't have caused the accident.* but: *He wouldn't have caused the accident if he had been more careful. (no comma)*
- Conditionals are usually introduced by **if**. Other expressions are: **unless** (=if not), **providing, provided (that), as long as, in case, on condition (that), but for + -ing form/noun, otherwise, or else, what if, supposing, even if, only if.** *Unless you work more efficiently, you'll be fired.* *I will do it **only if** you promise not to tell anyone.*
- After "if" we normally use **were** instead of **was** for all persons in conditionals type 2 in formal English. *If I were/was you, I would tell her everything.*
- We do not normally use **will, would** or **should** in if-clauses. *If you **want** this, you can have it. (not: if you will want.)* However, **will, would** or **should** can be used in if-clauses to make a **request** or express **annoyance, doubt/uncertainty** or **insistence**. *If he **should** come, show him in. (doubt/uncertainty - I doubt that he will come ...)* *If you **will/would** be more patient, I'll be with you in a minute. (request - Will you please be more patient?)*

Omission of "if"

If can be omitted in if-clauses. In this case **should, were** and **had** (Past Perfect) come before the subject. *If he should win the race, he'll be very happy.* ➡ *Should he win the race, he'll be very happy.*
If I were you, I wouldn't tell him. ➡ *Were I you, I wouldn't tell him.*
If I had known the truth, I'd have called the police. ➡ *Had I known the truth, I'd have called the police.*