

## All conditional types – table

	use	if clause (condition)	,	main clause (result)
<b>Type 0</b>	to talk about things that are always true or that normally happen	<p><u>present (simple, continuous, perfect)</u></p> <p>If something happens ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>If the food <b>is</b> out of date ...</i></li> <li>2 <i>If I've <b>drunk</b> ...</i></li> <li>3 <i>If you <b>are talking</b> ...</i></li> </ol>	,	<p><u>present (simple, continuous, perfect)</u></p> <p>... the result is true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>... I <b>don't eat</b> it.</i></li> <li>2 <i>... I <b>don't drive</b>.</i></li> <li>3 <i>... I <b>can't concentrate</b>.</i></li> </ol>
<b>Type 1</b>	to talk about a probable event happening in the future	<p><u>present (simple, continuous, perfect)</u></p> <p>If something happens ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>If you <b>study</b> ...</i></li> <li>2 <i>If he <b>doesn't call</b> you ...</i></li> <li>3 <i>If you've <b>come</b> to class ...</i></li> <li>4 <i>If we <b>win</b> ...</i></li> </ol>	,	<p><u>future, imperative, can, must, might, may</u></p> <p>... the result will be true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>... you <b>will pass</b> the exam.</i></li> <li>2 <i>... <b>tell me</b> immediately.</i></li> <li>3 <i>... the exam <b>is going to be</b> easy.</i></li> <li>4 <i>... we'll <b>be celebrating</b> soon.</i></li> </ol>
<b>Type 2</b>	to talk about present or future hypothetical or unreal situations	<p><u>past (simple, continuous)</u></p> <p>If something happened ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>If I <b>won</b> the lottery ...</i></li> <li>2 <i>If you <b>weren't talking</b> ...</i></li> <li>3 <i>If I <b>were</b> you ...</i></li> </ol>	,	<p><u>would/could/might + infinitive</u></p> <p>... the result would be true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>... I <b>would buy</b> a yacht.</i></li> <li>2 <i>... I <b>could concentrate</b>.</i></li> <li>3 <i>... I <b>might wait</b> before taking a decision.</i></li> </ol>
<b>Type 3</b>	to talk about past hypothetical or unreal situations	<p><u>past perfect (simple, continuous)</u></p> <p>If something had happened ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>If you <b>had come</b> to class ...</i></li> <li>2 <i>If he <b>hadn't been wearing</b> a helmet...</i></li> </ol>	,	<p><u>would/could/might + have + past participle</u></p> <p>... the result would have been true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>... you <b>would have passed</b> the exam.</i></li> <li>2 <i>... he <b>could have died</b>.</i></li> </ol>
<b>Mixed conditionals</b>	to talk about a past hypothetical or unreal situation with a present result	<p><u>past perfect (simple, continuous)</u></p> <p>If something had happened ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>If I <b>had won</b> the lottery ...</i></li> <li>2 <i>If I <b>hadn't been wearing</b> a helmet...</i></li> </ol>	,	<p><u>would/could/might + infinitive</u></p> <p>... the result would be true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>... now I <b>would be</b> rich.</i></li> <li>2 <i>... I <b>might be</b> dead now.</i></li> </ol>
	to talk about a present hypothetical or unreal situation with a past result	<p><u>past (simple, continuous)</u></p> <p>If something happened ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>If I <b>spoke</b> German more fluently ...</i></li> <li>2 <i>If I <b>wasn't</b> a woman ...</i></li> </ol>	,	<p><u>would/could/might + have + past participle</u></p> <p>... the result would have been true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>... I <b>might not have had</b> such problems.</i></li> <li>2 <i>... They <b>would have given</b> me the job.</i></li> </ol>

## Mixed conditionals

We use mixed conditionals if we want to mix talking about the present and the past in the same sentence. The mixed conditional is a combination of the **second and the third conditional**:

⇒ We can use past simple or continuous in the **if**-clause (to refer to the present or future), and **would/should/might have + past participle** in the main clause (to refer to the past).

⇒ We can also use past perfect in the **if**-clause (to refer to the past), and **would/should/might + infinitive** (to refer to the present).

- *If I **didn't have** (second conditional) so much work, I **would have gone** (third conditional) to the party last night.*
- *If I **spoke** (second conditional) German, I **would have understood** (third conditional) them.*
- *If I **had won** (third conditional) the lottery, I **would be** (second conditional) rich.*
- *If I **hadn't dropped** (third conditional) school, I **could have** (second conditional) a better job now.*

## Alternatives to if in conditional sentences

### As long as / provided (that) / providing (that) / on condition (that) / only if

We can use the expressions **as long as**, **provided/providing (that)**, **on condition (that)**, or **only if** instead of **if** when we want to emphasize the condition that needs to be present so that something can happen or be done.

- *I'll tell you what really happened **as long as** you keep the secret.*
- *I'll lend you the money **provided (that)** you pay me back next month.*
- *They will speak to the press **on condition (that)** they remain anonymous sources.*
- *We will invest the money, but **only if** you can prove that it's a safe investment.*

### Whether or not:

We use **whether or not** when there are two alternatives and we want to say that something will happen or will be true in any of those two alternatives. Compare:

- *I'll help him **if** he needs me. (=I will help him only if he needs me.)*
- *I'll help him **whether or not** he needs me. (I will help him if he needs me, and I will help him if he doesn't need me, too.)*

### Even if:

We also use **even if** with a similar meaning to 'whether or not'. It is used to emphasize that something will still be true or will happen if another thing happens.

- ***Even if** you apologise, he'll never forgive you. (=Whether or not you apologise, he'll never forgive you.)*

### Suppose/supposing:

We normally use **suppose** or **supposing** at the beginning of a sentence to make someone imagine a situation. It means 'what would happen if', or simply 'if' (imagining a situation).

- ***Supposing** I got a job, I wouldn't be able to travel with you next summer.*
- ***Suppose** she doesn't believe you, what would you do then?*

## Inversion in conditional sentences

### Should you find

In **first conditional** sentences it's possible to use **should** at the beginning of the sentence instead of **if**. This form is formal and it's quite common with an imperative form in the main clause.

- **Should** you find the answer, please let me know as soon as possible. (=If you find the answer)
- **Should** you change your mind, you know where to contact us. (=If you change your mind)

### Had we arrived

In **third conditional** sentences, we can invert the auxiliary verb **had** and leave **if** out. *Had we arrived* = If we had arrived.

- **Had we arrived** earlier, we could have prevented the incident.
- **Had they looked** further into the data, they might have realised there was a mistake.

### Were SUBJECT Were SUBJECT (to)

In second conditional sentences, we can replace **if** by starting the sentence with "**Were**". There are **two** ways to do this depending on whether the verb is "**to be**" or another **action verb**:

- (a) When the second conditional uses an **action verb** (like find, go, or ask), we use the structure **Were + subject + to + infinitive**. This form emphasizes that the situation is very hypothetical or unlikely to happen.
- **Were we to announce** the truth, we would receive a lot of criticism. (=If we announced ...)
  - **Were they to buy** a new house, they would need to sell the old one first. (=If they bought ...)
- (b) When the main verb is **to be**, we can **omit if and begin the sentence with Were**. This is highly formal and is most famously used in the advice-giving phrase "**Were I you...**"
- **Were I you**, I would take the offer immediately. (=If I were you)
  - **Were the weather** better, we could go for a walk. (=If the weather were better)
  - **Were she more** experienced, she would be the perfect candidate. (=If she were more experienced)

### Negative forms: should I not, had we not, were we not

When **should**, **had** or **were** are negative, contracted forms are not possible, and **not** is used after the subject.

- **Should you not wish** to retake the test, you must let us know before the end of June. (NOT ~~Shouldn't you wish~~)
- **Had you not refused** my invitation, we would have had the most incredible time in our lives. (NOT ~~Hadn't you refused~~)
- **Were you not** my brother, I would call the police. (NOT ~~Weren't you~~)