

CONDITIONALS

By: Marcia Criollo Vargas

ZERO CONDITIONAL : Factual conditional

To express a general or scientific fact

If clause: simple present
If also can be replaced by: *when* or *whenever*

Result clause: simple present

Examples:

If it **rains**, the gardens **close** early,

Water **freezes** if the temperature **falls** below zero degrees Celsius.

Whenever the sun **rises**, we **feel** happy.

1ST CONDITIONAL : Factual Conditional

To talk about what will happen in the future under certain conditions

If Clause: simple present

Result clause: will/be going to

If the result is not certain, use can, may, might, should

Examples:

If you **plan** your trip carefully, things **will** go smoothly.

If we **arrive** late, they **are going to** start without us.

If he **hurries up**, he **may** be able to catch the bus.

2ND CONDITIONAL: present unreal

To talk about present unreal or untrue conditions

If clause: simple past or were

Result clause: would+verb
If the result is not certain, use could / might

Examples:

If I **had** the time, I **would** explain the problem to you.

If he **were** here, he **might** make a lot of changes.

It **would be** great if the weather **weren't** so bad.

3RD CONDITIONAL : Past unreal

To talk about past unreal or untrue conditions

If Clause: past perfect
(had+ppv)

Result clause: would have+ppv
If the result is not certain, use could have, might have

Examples:

If they **had known** about the storm, They **would have taken** a different flight.

If you **had told** us about the delay, we **could have made** other arrangements.

I **wouldn't have married** you if I **hadn't gone** to that party.

NOTE: The order of the clauses is not important, but use comma when the *if* clause comes first.

Ppv: past participle verb

MIXED CONDITIONALS : Past unreal

To talk about past unreal or untrue conditions in relation to the present

If Clause: past perfect (had+ppv)

Result clause: would + verb

If the result is not certain, use could, might

Examples:

If I **had prepared** the interview, I **wouldn't be** so nervous.

If we **had left** earlier, we **might be** on time now.

He **wouldn't be** so rebellious if he **had had** a father.

To talk about present unreal or untrue conditions in relation to the past

If Clause: simple past or were

Result clause: would have +ppv

If the result is not certain, use could have, might have.

Examples:

If she **were** honest, she **would have told** us the truth.

If I **spoke** Russian, I **might have understood** the guide.

I **would have assumed** my role if she **weren't** so proud.

NOTE: The order of the clauses is not important, but use comma when the if clause comes first.

Ppv: past participle verb

EXERCISES

If Sam _____ (do) well this year, he_____ apply to medical school.

Water _____(boil) when the temperature _____ (reach)100 degrees. Celsius.

If it _____(be) for her savings, Anna _____(be) able to attend University.

I _____(be) so worried now if I _____(practice) my speech a bit more.

If I _____(be) you, I _____(tell) the truth.

If we _____Japanese. We _____have _____(need) a visa to enter the Country.

If I _____(look) at the expiration date, I_____ (renew) my passport.

If they _____(travel) more often, they _____(be) upset about all the delays.

If you _____up (hurry) now, you _____(find) the store open yet.