

UNIT 8

Introduction to conditionals

There are many different ways of making sentences with *if*. It is important to understand the difference between sentences that express real possibilities, and those that express unreal situations.

Real possibilities

If it rains, we'll stay home.

(if + Present Simple + will)

If you've finished your work, you can go home.

(if + Present Perfect + modal auxiliary verb)

If you're feeling ill, go home and get into bed.

(if + Present Continuous + imperative)

Unreal situations

You would understand me better if you came from my country.

(would + if + Past Simple)

If I were rich, I wouldn't have any problems.

(if + were + would)

If I stopped smoking, I could run faster.

(if + Past Simple + modal auxiliary verb)

There are several patterns that you need to know to understand the variations. Note that a comma is usual when the *if* clause comes first.

8.1 First conditional

Form

if + Present Simple + *will*

Positive

If I find your wallet, I'll let you know.

We'll come and see you on Sunday if the weather's good.

Negative

You won't pass the test if you don't study.

If you lose your ticket, you won't be able to go.

Question

What will you do if you don't find a job?

If there isn't a hotel, where will you stay?

Note that we do not usually use *will* in the *if* clause.

NOT ~~*If you will leave now, you'll catch the train.*~~

~~*If I'll go out tonight, I'll give you a call.*~~

If can be replaced by *unless* (= *if ... not*) or *in case* (= because of the possibility ...).

Unless I hear from you, I'll come at 8.00.

I'll take my umbrella in case it rains.

Use

- 1 First conditional sentences express a possible condition and its probable result in the future.

Condition (if clause)

If I find a sweater in your size,

If you can't do the homework,

If you can find my purse,

If you've never been to Wales,

Result (result clause)

I'll buy it for you.

give me a call.

I might buy you an ice-cream.

you should try to go there one day.

- 2 We can use the first conditional to express different functions (all of which express a possible condition and a probable result).

If you don't stop the noise, I'll phone the police! (a threat)

Careful! If you touch that, you'll burn yourself! (a warning)

I'll post the letter if you like. (an offer)

If you lend me £100, I'll pay you back tomorrow. (a promise)

8.2 Time clauses

Conjunctions of time (*when, as soon as, before, until, after*) are not usually followed by *will*. We use a present tense even though the time reference is future.

I'll call you when I get home.

As soon as dinner is ready, I'll give you a call.

Can I have a word with you before I go?

Wait until I come back.

We can use the Present Perfect if it is important to show that the action in the time clause is finished.

When I've read the book, I'll lend it to you.

I'll go home after I've done the shopping.

8.3 Zero conditional

Zero conditional sentences refer to 'all time,' not just the present or future. They express a situation that is always true. *If* means *when* or *whenever*.

If you spend over £50 at that supermarket, you get a five per cent discount.

8.4 Second conditional

Form

if + Past Simple + *would*

Positive

If I won some money, I'd go around the world.

My father would be proud if he could see me now.

Negative

I'd give up my job if I didn't like it.

If I had a lot of money, I wouldn't spend it all.

Question

What would you do if you saw someone shoplifting?

If you needed help, who would you ask?

Note that *was* can change to *were* in the condition clause.

If I	were rich,	I	wouldn't have to work.
If he		he	

Use

- 1 We use the second conditional to express an unreal situation and its probable result. The situation or condition is improbable, impossible, imaginary, or contrary to known facts.

If I were on the Olympic basketball team, I'd train everyday. (But it's not very likely that I will ever be on the team.)

If my mother knew about my plans, she'd be very surprised. (But she doesn't.)

If Ted needed money, I'd lend it to him. (But he doesn't need it.)

- 2 Other modal verbs are possible in the result clause.

I could buy some new clothes if I had some money.

If I saved a little every week, I might be able to save up for a car.

If you wanted that job, you'd have to apply very soon.

- 3 *If I were you, I'd ...* is used to give advice.

If I were you, I'd apologize to her.

I'd take it easy for a while if I were you.

8.5 First or second conditional?

Both conditionals refer to the present and future. The difference is about probability, not time. It is usually clear which conditional to use. First conditional sentences are real and possible; second conditional sentences express situations that will probably never happen.

If I lose my job, I'll ... (My company is doing badly. There is a strong possibility of being made redundant.)

If I lost my job, I'd ... (I probably won't lose my job. I'm just speculating.)

If there is a nuclear war, we'll all ... (Said by a pessimist.)

If there was a nuclear war, ... (But I don't think it will happen.)

would

Notice the use of *would* in the following sentences:

She'd look better with shorter hair. (= If she cut her hair, she'd look better.)

would to express preference

I'd love a cup of coffee.

Where would you like to sit?

I'd rather have coffee, please.

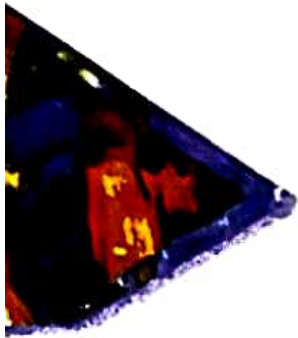
I'd rather not tell you, if that's all right.

What would you rather do, stay in or go out?

would to express a request

Would you open the door for me?

Would you mind lending me a hand?



8

Just imagine!

Conditionals • Time clauses • Base and strong adjectives • Making suggestions

TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

1 Match a line in A with a line in B.

A	B
1 If I had £5 million,	3 I'll tell her the news.
2 If you're going to the post office,	1 I'd give up my job and travel around the world.
3 If I see Anna,	4 you have to work hard.
4 If you want to do well in life,	5 go to bed and rest.
5 If you don't feel well,	2 could you post this letter for me?



What verb forms are used in the two parts of each sentence?

2 Answer these questions about you.

- If you have a problem, who do you talk to?
- If you had a lot of money, what would you do with it?
- What will you do if the weather's nice at the weekend?



A PLACE IN THE SUN

First conditional and time clauses

1 **T 8.1** Jack and Annie are tired of English weather. So they're moving to Spain to live in the sun and grow lemons. Their friend David thinks they're crazy. Listen and complete the conversation with these verbs.

'll only know	will you do (x2)	'll have	'll regret
don't like (x2)	won't earn	won't need	

David You're both mad. I think you'll regret it. You were earning good money here. You won't earn much growing lemons.

Jack We know that, but we won't need a lot of money to live there.

David But what will you do if you can't find anywhere to live?

Annie There are lots of cheap, old farms. We'll have no trouble finding somewhere.

David But you don't even like gardening. What will you do if you don't like farming either?

Jack We'll only know if we don't like farming when we try it.

David Well, OK. But what if you ... ?

T 8.1 Listen again and check. Practise the conversation.

- 2 Have more conversations. What will you do if you ...
- miss your family and friends
 - have problems with the language
 - can't stand the heat
 - want to move back to the UK
 - fall ill
 - run out of money
 - get bored
 - don't like the food

What will you do if you miss your family and friends?

No problem! We'll ...!

- 3 **1.2** Listen to the next part of the conversation. Put the verbs in the correct form.

David Will you keep in touch with friends?

Annie Of course we will. When we get (get) there, we'll give (give) you a call.

David And how will I contact you?

Jack Well, as soon as we find (find) a place to live, we'll send (send) you our address.

David I can always email you.

Jack Yes, email's brilliant for keeping in touch, but you'll have (have to) wait until we be set up (set up) our computers.

Annie And David, I promise, you'll be (be) our first guest when we move (move) into our new home.

David Excellent. I'll look forward to that!

PRACTICE

Another busy day

- 1 Put *if*, *as soon as*, or *before* into each box. Put the verbs in the correct form.

David Bye, darling! Good luck with the interview!
Sue Thanks. I'll need it. I hope the traffic won't be a problem. if I 'm (be) late for the interview, I'll be (be) furious with myself!

David Just stay calm! Call me when you can.

Sue I will. I'll call (call) you on my mobile as soon as I get (get) out of the interview.

David When will you know (know) if you've got the job?

Sue They'll tell (tell) me in the next few days. if they offer (offer) me the job, I 'm going to (accept) it. You know that, don't you?

David Of course. But we'll worry about that later.

Sue OK. Are you going to work now?

David Well, I'm going to (take) the children to school before I go (go) to work.

Sue Don't forget to pick them up as soon as you finish (finish).

David Don't worry, I won't forget. You'd better get going. if you don't hurry (not hurry), you'll miss (miss) the bus.

Sue OK. I'll see (see) you this evening. Bye!

- 1.3** Listen and check. Practise the conversation with a partner.

- 2 With your partner, ask and answer questions using the prompts.

- How/Sue feel if/late for the interview?
- When/call David?
- When/know if she's got the job?
- What/she/do if they offer her the job?
- What/David do before/go to work?
- When/David pick up the children?

How will Sue feel if she's late for the interview?

She'll be furious with herself.

GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Which sentence expresses a future certainty, and which a future possibility?

If I see Anna, I'll tell her.

When I see Anna, I'll tell her.

- 2 Underline the time expressions in the following sentences:

When we get there, we'll give you a call.

As soon as we find a place to live, we'll send you our address.

You'll have to wait until we've set up our computers.

- 3 Which tenses are used in the time clauses?

▶ Grammar Reference 8.1 and 8.2 pp145-146

Conditional forms

4 Match a line in A with a line in B and a sentence in C.

A	B	C
1 If Tony calls,	3 don't wait for me.	7 It would be really useful for work.
2 If you've finished your work,	8 I might take up an evening class.	1 He can reach me there.
3 If I'm not back by 8 o'clock,	6 you have to have a visa.	4 Keep warm and drink plenty of fluids.
4 If you have the flu,	5 please let me know.	5 I'd love to show you around.
5 If you're ever in London,	1 tell him I'm at Alex's.	2 Just be back in 15 minutes.
6 If you go to Russia,	2 you can take a break.	8 I'd love to learn more about photography.
7 I'd buy a computer	7 if I could afford it.	6 You can get one at the embassy.
8 If I had more time,	4 you should go to bed.	3 Go without me and I'll meet you at the cinema.

T 8.5 Listen and check. Practise the sentences.

2 Match the base adjectives in A with the strong adjectives in B.

A Base adjectives		B Strong adjectives	
1	tired	3	great, wonderful, fantastic, superb
2	frightened	1	exhausted
3	good	4	delicious
4	tasty	9	filthy
5	bad	2	terrified
6	pretty, attractive	7	starving
7	hungry	5	horrible, awful, terrible, disgusting
8	angry	11	thrilled, delighted
9	dirty	10	astonished, amazed
10	surprised	12	hilarious
11	happy	6	beautiful, gorgeous
12	funny	8	furious