

## **Conditional Sentences**

Conditional Sentences are the sentences that usually start with “IF”: These sentences are made of two clauses:

**“IF” Clause + Main Clause**

There are **four** types of conditional sentences:

### **(A) Zero Conditional Sentences (Scientific/Universal/General Truth)**

**Examples:**

1. If you boil water to hundred degree Celsius, it boils.
2. If people smoke cigarettes, their health suffers.
3. If you don't brush your teeth, you get cavities.

In the Zero Conditional Sentences both clauses have **SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE (PRESENT INDEFINITE)**.

### **(B) First Conditional Sentences (Present & Future)**

It is possible and also *very likely* that the condition will be fulfilled: It means if the first thing really happens then, the predicted result if possible.

**Examples:**

1. If I find her address, I will send her an invitation.
2. If John has the money, he will buy a Ferrari.
3. If she cuts the vegetables, I will prepare the food.
4. If mother knows it, we will be in serious trouble.
5. If you work really hard, you will pass the test.

Usually, **if clause** is in **SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE (PRESENT INDEFINITE)** and **Main Clause** takes the **SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE (FUTURE INDEFINITE)**.

### (C) Second Conditional Sentences (Imaginary of the unreal situation)

We use it when we talk about a hypothetical situation; something that is almost unlikely to happen; something that you just imagine. It might be possible in theory but not in practical life.

#### *Examples:*

1. If I won a lottery, I would buy a Ferrari.
2. If I became a president, I would make a lot of changes.
3. If I inherited a billion dollars, I would travel to the moon.

We use **simple past tense** in the **if-clause** and an **auxiliary modal verb** (e.g., **could, should, would, might**) in the **main clause**.

### (D) Third Conditional Sentences (Past, too late)

We use it for something that has completely happened in the past. The time frame has gone. Now, it is not possible at all. It shows a regret most of the time.

#### *Examples:*

1. If I had cleaned the house, I could have gone to the movies.
2. If the referee had seen the foul, he would have awarded a penalty kick to our team.
3. If our team had won the match, we would have gone to finals.
4. If it had rained, you would not have attended the party.

we use the **past perfect** (i.e., **had + past participle**) in the **if-clause**. The **modal auxiliary** (**would, could, should, etc.**) + **have + past participle** is used in the **main clause**.

## Exercise

Choose the correct conditional form for each sentence.

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1. If I hadn't overslept, I \_\_\_\_\_ on time.
  - ☐ will have been
  - ☐ would have been
  - ☐ will be
2. If you had eaten a good breakfast, you \_\_\_\_\_ so hungry now.
  - ☐ wouldn't be
  - ☐ can't be
  - ☐ won't be
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ that car if I had had more money at the time.
  - ☐ could have bought
  - ☐ could buy
  - ☐ will buy
4. That horse could have won the race if he \_\_\_\_\_ hurt his leg.
  - ☐ doesn't hurt
  - ☐ hasn't hurt

- ☐ hadn't hurt

5. If I \_\_\_\_\_ harder for the test I would have gotten a better grade.

- ☐ had studied
- ☐ will study
- ☐ did study

6. If it hadn't rained, we \_\_\_\_\_ to the park.

- ☐ will have gone
- ☐ will go
- ☐ would have gone

7. If only we \_\_\_\_\_ the directions!

- ☐ will follow
- ☐ did follow
- ☐ had followed

8. If the road hadn't been icy, we \_\_\_\_\_ an accident.

- ☐ won't have
- ☐ wouldn't have had
- ☐ didn't have

9. He would have gone to work if he \_\_\_\_\_ sick.

- ☐ hadn't been
- ☐ won't be
- ☐ didn't be

10. If I had known you were coming, I \_\_\_\_\_ a cake.

- ☐ will bake
- ☐ would have baked
- ☐ would bake