

1. THE ZERO CONDITIONAL

A: Form the zero conditional with if or when + present + present

For example: When it gets cold, I put on my sweater; if you exercise a lot, you get in shape.

B: The zero conditional can only be used for generalisations and general truths, not particular situations:

For example: When I work late, my wife cooks dinner; if my wife works late then I cook dinner.

C: We can also make instructions using the zero conditional with an imperative:

For example: If you find my wallet, you must call me; if you don't know the answer then ask.

2. THE FIRST CONDITIONAL

A: Make the first conditional with if + will:

For example: If it rains, we will have to cancel the picnic.

B: The first conditional is used for real possibilities and things that might realistically happen:

For example: If you study hard, you will get the grades you need.

C: The first conditional can be used for less likely events, providing that the action is a realistic corollary of the if clause:

For example: If I win the lottery, I will spend the money wisely.

3. THE SECOND CONDITIONAL

A: Make the second conditional with if + would:

For example: If money was no object, I would travel around the world.

B: Use the second conditional for events in the future which are quite unlikely to happen:

For example: If I won the lottery, I would buy a big house.

C: You can also use the second conditional to talk about something in the present which can't happen, because it is untrue or impossible:

For example: I would fly if I had wings; I would tell you the answer if I knew.

4. THE THIRD CONDITIONAL

A: Make the third conditional by combining if + past perfect with would + present perfect:

For example: If I had known you were there, I would have said hello.

B: Use the third conditional to talk about things which would have been different in the past had something been different:

For example: If I had studied harder I wouldn't have done so badly on the exam.

C: You can also use could and might to express degrees of uncertainty regarding the result of an imagined action in the past:

For example: If you had asked for help, I could have helped you; If I had known earlier I might have been able to do something about it.

5. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Complete the questions below with the correct form of the verb:

- 1:** If I _____ (feel) hungry, I _____ (eat) a snack.
- 2:** I finished late yesterday. If I _____ (know) my work would take so long, I _____ (start) earlier.
- 3:** If you _____ (visit) the museum next week, the exhibition _____ (open) still.
- 4:** I _____ (take part) in a marathon if _____ (be better) runner.
- 5:** When it _____ (snow) in winter, the landscape _____ (look) very nice.
- 6:** If I _____ (eat) less for dinner yesterday, I _____ (eat) a dessert also.
- 7:** If you _____ (tell) me the truth, I _____ (believe) you.
- 8:** If you _____ (tell) me that you can fly, I _____ (not believe) you.
- 9:** Tomorrow, I _____ (visit) my friends in their city, if they _____ (are free) to see me.
- 10:** If I _____ (finish) my homework early, I normally _____ (go) for a run.

Answers: 1. feel/eat 2. had
know/would have started 3.
visit/will be 4. would take part/
was a better 5. snows/looks 6.
had eaten/would have eaten 7.
tell/will believe 8. tell/wouldn't
believe 9. visit/will be free 10.
finish/go



Video Lesson 4: Conditionals