

Conditionals

- What are conditionals in English grammar? Sometimes we call them 'if clauses'. They describe the result of something that might happen (in the present or future) or might have happened but didn't (in the past) . They are made using different English verb tenses.
- There are four kinds:
- **The Zero Conditional:**
(if + present simple, ... present simple)
If you heat water to 100 degrees, it boils.
- **The First Conditional:**
(if + present simple, ... will + infinitive)
If it rains tomorrow, we'll go to the cinema.
- **The Second Conditional:**
(if + past simple, ... would + infinitive)
If I had a lot of money, I would travel around the world.
- **The Third Conditional**
(if + past perfect, ... would + have + past participle)
If I had gone to bed early, I would have caught the train.
(Notice we can put 'if' at the beginning, or in the middle. It doesn't matter at all.)

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The Zero Conditional

We can make a zero conditional sentence with two **present simple** verbs (one in the 'if clause' and one in the 'main clause'):

If + present simple, present simple.

This conditional is used when the result will always happen. So, if water reaches 100 degrees, it always boils. It's a fact. I'm talking in general, not about one particular situation. The result of the 'if clause' is always the main clause.

The 'if' in this conditional can usually be replaced by 'when' without changing the meaning.

For example: If water **reaches** 100 degrees, it **boils**. (It is always true, there can't be a different result sometimes). If I **eat** peanuts, I **am** sick. (This is true only for me, maybe, not for everyone, but it's still true that I'm sick every time I eat peanuts)

Here are some more examples:

- If people **eat** too much, they **get** fat.
- If you **touch** a fire, you **get** burned.
- People **die** if they **don't eat**.
- You **get** water if you **mix** hydrogen and oxygen.
- Snakes **bite** if they **are** scared
- If babies **are** hungry, they **cry**

The First Conditional

The first conditional has the **present simple** after 'if', then the **future simple** in the other clause:

if + present simple, ... will + infinitive

It's used to talk about things which might happen in the future. Of course, we can't know what will happen in the future, but this describes possible things, which could easily come true.

- If it **rains**, I **won't go** to the park.
- If I **study** today, I'**ll go** to the party tonight.
- If I **have** enough money, I'**ll buy** some new shoes.
- She'**ll be** late if the train **is** delayed.
- She'**ll miss** the bus if she **doesn't leave** soon.
- If I **see** her, I'**ll tell** her.
- **First vs. Zero Conditional:** The first conditional describes a *particular* situation, whereas the **zero conditional** describes what happens *in general*.

For example (zero conditional): if you sit in the sun, you get burned (here I'm talking about every time a person sits in the sun - the burning is a natural consequence of the sitting)

But (first conditional): if you sit in the sun, you'll get burned (here I'm talking about what will happen today, another day might be different)

(<http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/conditionals.html>)

if clause	main clause
<p>Simple Present</p>	<p>will-future or imperative or Modal + infinitive</p>

<p>If I study,</p>	<p>I will pass the exams.</p>
<p>If you see John tonight,</p>	<p>tell him to e-mail me.</p>
<p>If Ben gets up early,</p>	<p>he can catch the bus.</p>

Make zero conditionals:

For example:

(not / rain / the flowers / die)

If it doesn't rain, the flowers die.

1. (I / wake up late / I / be late for work)

2. (my husband / cook / he / burn the food)

3. (Julie / not wear a hat / she / get sunstroke)

4. (children / not eat well / they / not be healthy)

5. (you / mix water and electricity / you / get a shock)

6. (people / eat / too many sweets / they / get fat)

7. (you / smoke / you / get yellow fingers)

8. (children / play outside / they / not get overweight)

9. (you / heat ice / it / melt)

10. (I / speak to John / he / get annoyed)

First Conditional Form

Make the first conditional

- 1) If I _____ (go) out tonight, I _____ (go) to the cinema.
- 2) If you _____ (get) back late, I _____ (be) angry.
- 3) If we _____ (not/see) each other tomorrow, we _____ (see) each other next week.
- 4) If he _____ (come) , I _____ (be) surprised.
- 5) If we _____ (wait) here, we _____ (be) late.
- 6) If we _____ (go) on holiday this summer, we _____ (go) to Spain.
- 7) If the weather _____ (not/improve) , we _____ (not/have) a picnic.
- 8) They _____ (go) to the party if they _____ (be) invited.
- 9) If I _____ (not/go) to bed early, I _____ (be) tired tomorrow.
- 10) If we _____ (eat) all this cake, we _____ (feel) sick .

ANSWERS

Make zero conditionals:

For example:

(not / rain / the flowers / die)

If it doesn't rain, the flowers die.

1. (I / wake up late / I / be late for work)

If I wake up late, I am late for work.

2. (my husband / cook / he / burn the food)

If my husband cooks, he burns the food.

3. (Julie / not wear a hat / she / get sunstroke)

If Julie doesn't wear a hat, she gets sunstroke.

4. (children / not eat well / they / not be healthy)

If children don't eat well, they aren't be healthy.

5. (you / mix water and electricity / you / get a shock)

If you mix water and electricity, you get a shock.

6. (people / eat / too many sweets / they / get fat)

If people eat too many sweets, they get fat.

7. (you / smoke / you / get yellow fingers)

If you smoke, you get yellow fingers.

8. (children / play outside / they / not get overweight)

If children play outside, they don't

9. (you / heat ice / it / melt)

If you heat ice, it melts.

10. (I / speak to John / he / get annoyed)

If I speak to John, he gets annoyed.

First Conditional Form

Make the first conditional

- 1) If I go (go) out tonight, I will go (go) to the cinema.
- 2) If you get (get) back late, I will be (be) angry.
- 3) If we don't see (not/see) each other tomorrow, we will see (see) each other next week.
- 4) If he comes (come) , I will be (be) surprised.
- 5) If we wait (wait) here, we will be (be) late.
- 6) If we go (go) on holiday this summer, we will go (go) to Spain.
- 7) If the weather doesn't improve (not/improve) , we will not (=won't) have (not/have) a picnic.
- 8) They will go (go) to the party if they are (be) invited.
- 9) If I don't go (not/go) to bed early, I will be (be) tired tomorrow.
- 10) If we eat (eat) all this cake, we will feel (feel) sick .