

English grammar

First conditional

There are four basic types of conditional sentences in the English language. Each type has two parts - the main clause and the if clause.

Zero conditional: *I take my umbrella if it rains.*

First conditional: *I'll call you if I work late.*

Second conditional: *If the bus didn't arrive on time, I would drive you to the airport.*

Third conditional: *She wouldn't have come if I hadn't invited her.*

First conditional

The first conditional refers to the present or future. First conditional sentences are used to speculate about possible situations that can really happen.

If he studies hard, he'll pass the exams.

If we catch the 10.15 train, we will arrive on time.

If you don't get the ticket, what will you do?

We use the present tense in the if clause and will + bare infinitive in the main clause.

Other forms

Apart from the basic form (if + the present simple + will), we can use other verb forms in the first sentences.

If you have finished your dinner, you can ask for the bill.

If you are feeling tired, take a rest.

If he is a good skier, he might make it.

If you want to be slim, you should eat less.

If you meet her, can you let me know?

Note

If is the most frequent expression in the if clauses, but other expressions are also possible.
even if, provided (that), unless, on condition (that), in case

You will leave tonight even if you don't want to.

You can have your birthday party provided that you aren't noisy.

We'll sell you the ranch on condition you pay in cash.

You should take a dictionary with you in case you forget some words.

Unless you do something, she won't come back. (If you don't do anything, ...)

First conditional exercises:

www.e-grammar.org/conditional-1-exercises-pdf/

Our tip: www.e-grammar.org/pdf-books/ All PDF exercises + grammar rules in one place.