CONDITIONAL SENTENCES. TYPES 0, 1, 2 & 3

CONDITIONAL SENTENCE TYPE 0

FORM

If + present simple + present simple

USAGE

Conditional sentences type zero are used to talk about <u>general truths, scientific facts orthings which always happen</u> under certain conditions.

Examples

- If you cross an international date line, the time changes.
- Phosphorus burns if you expose it to air.
- If I wake up early, I go jogging.

Note: You can use "when" instead of "if"

CONDITIONAL SENTENCE TYPE 1

It is often called the **real conditional** because it is used for real or possible situations. These situations take place if a certain condition is met. It is possible, and also very likely, that the condition will be fulfilled.

FORM

If + present simple + future simple (will)

USAGE

Conditional sentences type 1 refers to the future. <u>An action in the future will only happen if a certain condition is fulfilled by that time</u>. We don't know for sure whether the condition actually will be fulfilled or not, but the conditions seem rather realistic, so we think it is likelyto happen.

Examples

- If I have enough time, I'll watch the football match. (I may have time to watch thematch but I'm not sure about it.)

CONDITIONAL SENTENCE TYPE 2

It is often called the **unreal conditional** because it is used for impossible or improbable situations. This conditional provides an imaginary result for a given situation. It is very unlikely that the condition will be fulfilled.

FORM

> **If + past simple + would + bare infinitive**

Was and Were

In conditional type 2, we usually use, in the *if* clause, *were* instead of *was*, even if the pronoun is *I*, *he*, *she* or *it*. *Were* here is a subjunctive form, although *was* is also accepted.

Example

If I were a millionaire, I would buy a castle.

USAGE

Conditional sentences type 2 refers to an <u>action in the present that could happen if the</u> <u>present situation</u> <u>were different.</u> I don't really expect the situation to change because it is veryunlikely.

Example

If I had a lot of money, I would travel around the world. (I can't do it because I don't have enough money.)

CONDITIONAL SENTENCE TYPE 3

It is called the **impossibl*e* conditional** as the condition can't be met because it refers to thepast.

FORM

> **If + past perfect + would + have + past participle**

USAGE

Conditional sentences type 3 refers to situations in the past. They express <u>hypotheticalresults to past given situations</u>.

<u>Example</u>

If he had been careful, he wouldn't have had that terrible accident. (Sometimes, in the past,he was careless. He drove really fast, so he had a terrible accident.)

Remember!

The main clause can also be at the beginning of the sentence. In this case, don't use acomma.

<u>Examples</u>

Type 0: Phosphorus burns if you expose it to air.

Type 1: I will send her an invitation if I find her address.

Type 2: I would travel around the world if I had a million dollars.

Type 3: He wouldn't have had that terrible accident if he had been careful.