

C1 Advanced – Conditionals (1)

For more information, please use the Grammar Reference – SB p 204

1. We use conditional type 0 to refer to situations which are real or certain, and which are generally or always true. They can be rules or scientific facts, too.

- As a rule, I save up if I need money to spend on something.
- Generally, I just use my credit card when I want to buy expensive things for myself.

2. We use conditional type 1 for situations which we think are real or possible, either in the present or in the future.

- Provided I hand in all my assignments on time this semester, my parents will get me something nice this Christmas.
- Even if my parents just give me money as a present, I'm going to go on a shopping spree on Christmas day and spend it all!
- If you think money makes for a good present, think again!

3. Conditional type 2 refers to situations which are imaginary (hypothetical), either impossible or improbable. These situations are about the present or the future.

- If I had a million dollars, I would donate some to charity right now.
- I could travel the world this summer holiday if I had a lot of money.
- If I were / was you, I'd put that in a savings account instead.

4. Conditional type 3 is used for situations which are imaginary (hypothetical), and these are impossible or improbable because they refer to the past. We use it to imagine a different past and different past results.

- What would you have done if you had found the £50 note instead of Amrit?
- Supposing I had found the money, I might have returned it, too. Or I could have splurged on a new pair of trainers.

2. Look at the example sentences again and choose the correct option to determine the form.

a. Conditionals include two clauses. One of them is the **[1] main / [2] big** clause, the other is called the conditional (usually introduced by *if*).

b. In this example, the **[1] conditional / [2] main** clause comes first.

- If I hand in all my assignments on time this semester, /¹ my parents will get me something nice this Christmas. /²

c. It is possible to switch the position of the clauses, but then the comma **[1] is still needed / [2] is not needed**.

- My parents will get me something nice this Christmas /¹ if I hand in all my assignments on time this semester. /²

Type 0:

- As a rule, I save up /¹ **if** I need money to spend on something. /²
- Generally, I use my credit card /¹ **when** I want to buy expensive things for myself. /²

a. Main clause: **[1] present simple / [2] present continuous**

b. Conditional clause: **[1] present simple / [2] present continuous**

c. The two clauses can be connected **[1] only by "if" / [2] by either "if" or "when"**

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Type 1:

- **Provided** I hand in all my assignments on time this semester, /¹ my parents will get me something nice this Christmas. /²
- **Even if** my parents just give me money as a present, /¹ I'm going to go on a shopping spree on Christmas day and spend it all! /²
- **If** you think money makes for a good present, /¹ think again! /²

a. Main clause: **[1] can only use will / [2] can use will, be going to, or the imperative**

b. Conditional clause: **[1] present simple / [2] past simple**

c. The two clauses can be connected **[1] only by if / [2] by various structures e.g. if, as long as, unless (meaning if not), even if, when, provided that, etc.**

Type 2:

- **If** I had a million dollars, /¹ I would donate some to charity right now. /²
- I could travel the world this summer holiday /¹ **if** I had a lot of money. /²
- **If** I were / was you, /¹ I'd put that in a savings account instead. /²

a. Main clause: **[1] would + SHORT INFINITIVE (PRESENT CONDITIONAL) or could, might, may, should / [2] only would + short infinitive**

b. Conditional clause: **[1] present simple / [2] past simple**

c. When using the verb "to be": **[1] it is / [2] it isn't** possible to use "were" instead of "was"

Type 3:

- What would you have done /¹ **if** you had found the £50 note instead of Amrit? /²
- **Supposing** I had found the money, /¹ I might have returned it, too. /²
- **Assuming** I had found the £50 note, /¹ I could have splurged on a new pair of trainers. /²

a. Main clause: **[1] would + past perfect / [2] would + have+ Past Participle (Perfect Conditional) or would + might have, could have**

b. Conditional clause: **[1] past perfect simple / [2] present perfect simple**

c. The two clauses can be connected **[1] only by if / [2] by if, supposing, imagine, assuming, even if / though**