

5.2 First Conditional

We use First Conditional sentences to talk about the possible results of an action. First Conditional sentences refer to the future:

If I tell them the truth, they **won't believe** me.

He **won't pass** his exams **if he doesn't work** hard.

Will he pass his exams **if he works** hard?

We use the Present Simple in the *if*-clause, which describes the condition. We use *will/won't* in the clause describing the result. Either clause may come first in the sentence. We put a comma at the end of the *if*-clause if it comes first in the sentence.

If Vicky pays attention in class, she will do her homework well.

Vicky will do her homework well if she pays attention in class.

If + Present Simple
(condition),

If he works hard,
If George is late again,

will/won't + infinitive
(result)

he **will pass** his exams.
the teacher **will send** him to
the head teacher.

will/won't + infinitive
(result)

He **will pass** his exams
The teacher **will send** George
to the head teacher

if + Present Simple
(condition)

if he works hard.
if he is late again.

3 Put the words in the correct order to make beginnings of sentences. Then match the beginnings (1–5) with the endings (a–e).

1 Andy / carry / will / bag / if / it's / your ☐

2 If / show / watch / you / carefully, / I'll ☐

3 I / you / don't / won't / understand / you / if ☐

4 If / we'll / now, / don't / we / be / leave ☐

5 I / you / help / if / don't / you / won't ☐

a you what to do.

b speak more slowly.

c help me.

d too heavy.

e late for the exam.

4 Write sentences from the prompts. Use the First Conditional.

1 You / not / make friends / if / not speak / new people

2 If / Adam / study / London / improve / English

3 If / I / not / fall asleep / I / finish / my homework

4 We / take / Sociology / next year / if / on the timetable

5 Mum / not happy / if / not pass / my exams

5 Complete the First Conditional sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1 If you _____ (not go) abroad, you
_____ (not learn) a foreign language.

2 If you _____ (not take) it easy, you
_____ (get) sick.

3 Sue _____ (waste) her time if she
_____ (go) travelling.

4 _____ (you/phone) me if you
_____ (have) time?

5 If it _____ (cost) too much,
I _____ (buy) a smaller one.

6 If he _____ (go) backpacking, he
_____ (spend) less.

7 She _____ (do) voluntary work if she
_____ (go) to Africa.

8 You _____ (miss) the train if you
_____ (get up) late.