

21 Zero and first conditional

I can use the zero and first conditional to talk about situations and results.

Zero conditional



We use conditional sentences to talk about the result of a possible situation.

Possible situation ('condition')	Result
If I'm tired,	I go to bed early.

We use the zero conditional to talk about things that are always true – for example, habits or scientific facts.
If you heat chocolate, it melts.
If my dad wakes up early, he goes for a run.

To form the zero conditional, we use the present tense in the if clause and in the main clause.

If + present simple	present simple
If it rains,	we don't do PE.
If I have an exam,	I revise very hard.

We can put the if clause at the start or end of the sentence. When the if clause comes first, we put a comma between the two clauses.

If he's on holiday, he gets up late.
He gets up late if he's on holiday.

1 21.1 Look at the rules from a radio quiz show.

Match the beginnings 1–6 to the endings a–f. Then listen and check.

- If you give a correct answer, ... c
- If you give a wrong answer, ... a
- If you don't answer in ten seconds, ... b
- If the next player answers correctly, ... d
- If you answer five questions correctly, ... e
- If two players finish with the same score, ... f

- you lose one point.
- you get two extra points.
- ~~you get two points.~~
- he or she gets one point.
- there is one more question, and the first person to answer correctly is the winner.
- you get no points and the next player tries to answer.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- If the weather is nice, we usually have dinner outside. (have)
- I get sick if I eat too much chocolate. (feel)
 - If Henry doesn't know a word, he looks it up in a dictionary. (look)
 - If you turn on a light bulb, it gets hot. (get)
 - Teachers take away your phone if you use it in a lesson. (take)
 - If students wear school uniform, the headteacher sends them home. (not wear)
 - If it rains enough, plants don't grow. (not rain)
 - If Helen has her pen, I lend her mine. (have not got)

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

not eat enjoy float forget play
not help not smoke

- If I forget my watch, I don't know the time.
- If people work their jobs, they normally work hard.
 - Jason doesn't get any pocket money if he asks his parents.
 - If you drop a bottle in the sea, it floats.
 - He gets very hungry if he doesn't eat football after school.
 - If you're vegetarian, you don't eat meat.
 - People are healthier if they don't smoke.

First conditional

We use the **first conditional** to talk about a possible future situation and its result.

*If it's sunny tomorrow, **we'll go** for a picnic.*

*If Max wants to come, **I'll buy** another ticket.*

We use the present tense in the **if** clause but a future tense in the main clause.

Future condition	Result
If + present simple	will
If I'm tired tonight,	I'll go to bed early.
If you don't do your homework,	your teacher will be very annoyed.

We do not use **will** in the **if** clause.

If I ~~will be~~ tired tonight, I'll go to bed early.

If I'm tired tonight, I'll go to bed early.

Remember, we can put the **if** clause second. Use a comma when the **if** clause comes first.

We'll miss the train if you're late.

If you're late, we'll miss the train.

* 4 21.2 Listen to Louise and complete the sentences with the phrases in the box.

will do some gardening	will play computer games
will go for a walk	will play tennis
will go to the cinema	will read her book

If her aunt and uncle come, Louise will play tennis. Her brother ¹ _____ and her parents ² _____.

If they don't come, Louise ³ _____, her brother ⁴ _____ and her parents ⁵ _____.

* 5 Circle the correct option.

- If she invites / will invite me, I'll go.
- If Tony passes his test, **he buys** / **he'll buy** a car.
 - She'll earn a lot of money if **she wins** / **she'll win** the competition.
 - If you go to the shops tomorrow, **I meet** / **I'll meet** you there.
 - If he **doesn't** / **won't** understand, I'll explain it.
 - We'll miss** / **We miss** the film if the train is late.
 - If you **don't** / **won't** listen, you won't learn.
 - If you cook dinner, **I** / **I'll** do the washing-up.
 - They won't pass their exams if they **don't** / **won't** work harder.

* 6 Write **if** in the correct place to complete the sentences. Add a comma or capital letter if necessary.

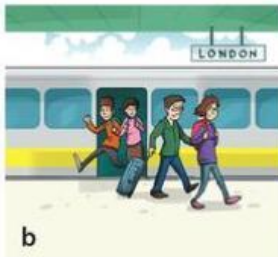
- ^{if} it rains / we won't play tennis.
- ^she'll leave our school ^{if} her parents move to London.

- you go swimming I'll come with you.
- he'll be late there's a lot of traffic.
- they'll laugh you tell that joke.
- we'll remember him we see him.
- you don't like this programme we'll watch something else.
- the post office is busy we won't wait.
- we won't start dinner Sue isn't here.
- the car isn't repaired we won't drive to Scotland.

* 7 21.3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Listen and check.

- If you sell your bike, you ll get a lot of money. (sell, get)
- If they _____ late, we _____ the film. (arrive, miss)
 - I _____ angry if Emily _____ for me. (be, not wait)
 - If you _____ down, we _____. (not slow, crash)
 - Ted _____ silly if he _____ that hat. (look, wear)
 - If Jack _____ the book, I _____ it to him. (need, lend)
 - If you _____ that watch, we _____ you a new one. (lose, not buy)
 - Lucy _____ the race if she _____ harder. (not win, not train)
 - They _____ you if you _____ to them like that. (not help, talk)

- 8 21.4 Listen and match the pictures (a-f) with the *if* clauses (1-6). Then complete the sentences. Listen again and check.



- 1 If the weather's good, we'll go to the beach. d
- 2 If the weather's bad, _____
- 3 If we go to the beach, _____
- 4 If we don't leave early in the morning, _____
- 5 If we go to London, _____
- 6 If it rains all day, _____

- 9 Work in pairs. Imagine you are going to go on holiday. Ask and answer questions using these ideas.

Possible situations

the weather's good it rains
there is a swimming pool there isn't a TV
your car breaks down the plane is delayed
your parents give you some money
you don't like the food

What will you do if it rains?

If it rains, I'll read a lot of books.

- 10 We often use the first conditional to give warnings or advice. Complete the sentences using the verbs in the box or your own ideas.

be angry be locked out be thirsty
get cold get fat get a headache lose
miss not pass not sleep not work

- If you spend a long time on the computer, you'll get a headache.
- 1 If you don't wear your coat, _____.
 - 2 If you drink coffee after dinner, _____.
 - 3 If they get up late, _____.
 - 4 If he eats too many chips, _____.
 - 5 If you lose your keys, _____.
 - 6 If you don't study enough, _____.
 - 7 If she doesn't drink enough water, _____.
 - 8 If he doesn't play well, _____.
 - 9 If you don't charge your phone, _____.
 - 10 If he breaks my tennis racket, _____.

- 11 Read the problems and write advice.

I eat lots of fast food and I feel unhealthy.

If you eat more vegetables, you will feel healthier.

I don't go out much and I don't know many people.

I don't do much homework and I get bad marks at school.

I play a lot of computer games and I get headaches in the evening.

I don't tidy my bedroom and my parents get cross.

12 Write conditional sentences using *if*.

- ▶ we/see your brother – we/say hello
If we see your brother, we'll say hello.
- ▶ I/answer the phone – it/ring
I'll answer the phone if it rings.

- 1 Leo/be hungry – he/eat a sandwich
- 2 I/like the song – I/download it
- 3 we/go to the beach tomorrow – the sun/shine
- 4 you/feel tired – I/carry the bags
- 5 I/buy some more food – the fridge/be empty
- 6 we/not win – we/play badly
- 7 you/not take an umbrella – you/get wet
- 8 Kim/not visit her grandparents – she/has too much homework
- 9 I/not write it down – I/forget
- 10 you/not look for your keys – you/not find them

13 Work in pairs. Look at the flow chart and take turns to make conditional sentences.



If you don't hear your alarm, you'll wake up late.

If you wake up late, you'll miss the bus.

14 GAME

Work in groups. Make your own flow chart. Complete the empty boxes and write the sentences. Which group can finish first? Which group has the best sentences?

you study hard

▼

you pass your exams

▼

▼

▼

▼

If you study hard, you'll pass your exams.

Self-evaluation Rate your progress.

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