CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

How to form and use

Conditional clauses are also called conditional sentences or if sentences. They always have two parts, a main clause and an if-clause. These two parts are closely connected. The action in the main part can only happen if a certain condition is taking place. This condition has to be expressed in the if-clause.
Example: If he comes to my party, I will be happy.
The condition is "If he comes to my party" and the consequence of this condition is "I will be happy".

You can start a conditional clause with the main clause or the if-clause:
If I have a problem, Susan always helps me. or Susan always helps me if I have a problem.

Zero Conditional

The zero conditional is used with general statements, actions that are certainly happening and facts. We use it with things that are true. The present tense is used in both clauses.

If there **is** a problem, I **can** always **talk** to Carol.
Present Tense------ Present Tense

First Conditional - type I

It's possible that something will happen. We use the Conditional I to talk about future situations that are realistic to happen. We use the present tense in the if-clause and the will-future in the main clause.

Colin is an intelligent boy. It is April 15th. The exam is on April 23rd. He has enough time to study for the exam - he can pass it.

If he **studies**, he **will pass** the exam on April 23rd.
Present Tense------ Will Future

Second Conditional - type II

It's possible, but not very probable. We use the Conditional II to talk about future situations that are unreal or nearly impossible to happen. We use the past tense in the if-clause and conditional present in the main clause.

Colin didn't study. He played football. It's April 22nd. Tomorrow is the exam. It is possible, but not very probable that he will pass the exam.

If he **studied**, he **would pass** the exam.
Past Tense ------Conditional Present (would + infinitive)

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Third Conditional - type III

It didn't happen and it is impossible now. We use the Conditional III to talk about past situations that didn't happen. We use the past perfect tense in the if-clause and the conditional perfect in the main clause.

It's April 23rd. Colin didn't pass the exam.

If he **had studied**, he **would have passed** the exam.
PastPerfect ----- Conditional Perfect (would + have + 3rd form)

Using commas in conditional sentences

When the condition is at the beginning of the sentence, you have to separate it from the main clause with a comma. If the condition is at the back of the sentence, you don't use a comma.

Examples: If he comes to my party, I'll be happy. I'll be happy if he comes to my party.

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CONDITIONAL CLAUSES 1

Complete with the zero or first conditional.

1. If you don't tell her the truth, she_____angry with you! (be)
2. Soap_____if you leave it in water. (dissolve)
3. If he rings the bell, the receptionist_____. (come)
4. If I study more, I_____the exam. (pass)
5. Plants die if you_____them. (not water)
6. He_____it if she explains the situation to him. (understand)
7. Milk_____off if you don't keep it in a cool place. (go)
8. Ask the teacher if you_____. (not understand)
9. If they offer me a job, I_____it. (take)
10. I will have to invite Bob if I_____Linda. (invite)
11. I_____if you want to use the car. (not mind)
12. If Jack meets Tom, he_____him the truth. (tell)
13. If Ella has enough money, she_____a new car. (buy)
14. Children_____upset if they're being bullied. (get)
15. Stamps can be good fun if you_____collecting things. (enjoy)
16. What will Charlie do if he_____the job? (not get)
17. It can be hard to access the web if you_____a PC at home. (not have)
18. The heater_____on if you press this switch. (come)
19. If you_____to understand the text, you have to study the new words. (want)
20. If you are going out,_____me know. (let)

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