

Grammar

Conditionals

Recognizing conditionals

1 Do the quiz. Are you a good friend?

2 Complete the examples in 1–4 of the conditional forms from the quiz.

1 ZERO CONDITIONAL

if + Present + Present

If I promise to do something,
I do it.

If a friend _____,
_____ straight
away.

2 FIRST CONDITIONAL

if + Present + *will*

If _____,
_____ later.

If _____,
_____ it looks
good.

3 SECOND CONDITIONAL

if + Past + *would*

My friends _____
if _____ them.

If _____,
_____ someone.

4 THIRD OR PAST CONDITIONAL

if + Past Perfect + *would have*

If _____ the
truth, I _____.

I _____
criticism if it _____
more tactful.

Are you a good friend?



1 You say to a friend, 'I'll give you a ring some time.' But do you?

- a Yes. If I promise to do something, I do it.
- b No, I didn't really mean it. It's just a way of saying goodbye.

2 You get a text from a friend. Do you reply immediately?

- a Yes. If a friend gets in touch with me, I reply straight away.
- b It depends. If I'm with someone, I'll text back later.

3 Your friend has bought a dress she really likes, but you think it's awful. What do you say?

- a If she likes it, I'll tell her it looks good. It doesn't matter what I think.
- b I'll tell her the truth. That's what friends are for.

4 A friend says, 'If anyone asks where I was last night, say I was with you.' Would you lie for your friend?

- a If it was really important, I'd lie. But I'd want to know why it was necessary.
- b No, I wouldn't. They might have done something illegal or wrong.

5 Your friend tells you a secret and says you mustn't tell anyone else. Would you?

- a Of course not. My friends wouldn't tell me secrets if I didn't keep them.
- b If it was very exciting I'd tell someone. How could I keep it to myself?

6 You asked a friend to read your college essay. They returned it and said it wasn't very good. Were you hurt?

- a No. If I hadn't wanted the truth, I wouldn't have asked.
- b Yes. I would have accepted criticism if it had been more tactful.

Quiz answers: Mostly As: You're a true, loyal friend. You really believe that a friend in need is a friend indeed. You would do anything for your friends. Mostly Bs: You put yourself before your friends, and you're not very dependable. Who would want to have you as their best friend?

Types of conditional

3 Complete the examples of each type of conditional using the verbs in brackets.

General conditions (zero conditional)

present	+	present
1 Milk <input type="text"/> (go) off	if	you <input type="text"/> (not keep) it in the fridge.
2 I think music <input type="text"/> (sound) better		you <input type="text"/> (listen) to it on headphones.

Possible conditions (first conditional)

will	+	present
3 Rick <input type="text"/> (give) the presentation	if	you <input type="text"/> (ask) him to.
4 We <input type="text"/> (come) to the party		you <input type="text"/> (invite) us!

4 Match the lines in each box to make zero (0), first (1), second (2), and third (3) conditional sentences.

A	0 Jenny never says thank you 1 I'll help you 2 I wouldn't do that 3 I wouldn't have cooked meat	if	I were you. you do something for her. I'd known you were vegetarian. I have time.
B	0 If I don't sleep well 1 If you drink coffee now 2 If they offered me the job 3 If you'd driven more slowly	,	you wouldn't have crashed. I'd definitely take it. I'm in a bad mood all day. you won't be able to sleep.
C	0 Henry always gets angry 1 Things will get better 2 What would you do 3 Would you have ordered the curry	if	you just wait and try to be patient. you saw a fight in the street? you'd known it was so hot? you criticize his work.

First conditional

if + will / might / must / should

5 Match a line in A with a line in B.

A	B
1 <input type="checkbox"/> If I'm going to be late,	a we might go skiing this winter. We'll see.
2 <input type="checkbox"/> If Tony calls round,	b you'll soon forget it.
3 <input type="checkbox"/> If you don't feel well,	c you'll have to do more exercise.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> If you're ever in London,	d tell him I'll be back in ten minutes.
5 <input type="checkbox"/> If we can afford it,	e try switching it off and on again.
6 <input type="checkbox"/> If you want to get fit,	f you should sit down and get some rest.
7 <input type="checkbox"/> If your computer goes wrong,	g I'll give you a ring and let you know.
8 <input type="checkbox"/> If you don't revise vocabulary,	h you must come and visit us.

Improbable or impossible conditions (second conditional)

would	+	past
5 I <input type="text"/> (go) to that concert	if	it <input type="text"/> (not be) sold out.
6 They <input type="text"/> (buy) a house here		they <input type="text"/> (have) enough money.

Past conditions (third conditional)

would have	+	past perfect
7 Arsenal <input type="text"/> (won)	if	Chelsea <input type="text"/> (not score) a late goal.
8 She <input type="text"/> (become) a star		she <input type="text"/> (gone) to Hollywood.

if won't

would

might

should

won't

wouldn't

might

should if

would

Second conditional

What would you do?

6 Read the social dilemmas 1–6. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

What would you do if ...?

- 1 the ATM gave (give) you £200 but only charged you for £100
- 2 you find (find) a wallet with \$500 in it and the name of a well-known millionaire
- 3 a friend cheat (cheat) in a school exam and got better marks than you
- 4 a work colleague claim (claim) expenses that you knew were false
- 5 a teenage girl you know want (want) to go on a date with a boy she'd met online
- 6 you took (take) a photo of a celebrity doing something wrong, and she asked you not to sell it to a newspaper



7 Read the responses. Match them to the questions 1–6, and put the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

- a I'd ignore (*ignore*) it. Everyone tries to make a bit of money with expenses.
- b I not give (not give) it back, even if I know (know) the owner.
Someone as rich as him miss (miss) it.
- c I not want (not want) to tell the teachers. But if it be (be) an important exam, I be (be) very angry.
- d I sell (sell) it to a newspaper if I not like (not like) the celebrity.
- e I keep (keep) the money. It's just a bank, and they not know (not know) I had it.
- f I tell (tell) her to meet him in a public place and take a friend with her.



Third conditional

8 Write questions and answers about what people didn't do! Use the words in brackets.

- 1 A I haven't travelled much in life. I never had the opportunity, and it's too late now.
B Where would you have gone? (go)
A I'd have gone to South Africa and Japan. (Africa and Japan)
- 2 A It's a shame I never went to university.
B What study? (study)
A I studied psychology. (psychology)
- 3 A I didn't get a bonus, so I decided not to buy a new car.
B What kind buy? (buy)
A I bought a Mercedes. (a Mercedes)

- 4 A I saw the actor Matt Damon in a restaurant. I wish I'd spoken to him.
B What say? (say)
A I told him. (I love his films)
- 5 A It's annoying, but I'm too full to have a dessert.
B Which have? (have)
A I had cheesecake. (cheesecake)
- 6 A We have three lovely daughters. I'd have liked a son, too, but we never had one.
B What call? (call)
A I called him Alfie. (Alfie)