

Conditionals, *if* and *unless*

Conditional sentences have two parts: the *if* clause and the main clause. The *if* clause establishes the condition and the main clause establishes the result.

The *if* clause can come in the first or second half of the sentence. If it is second, we don't use a comma.

If we don't experiment, we won't learn.

We won't learn if we don't experiment.

We can use *unless* to express *if not*.

I won't become a doctor unless I study.

(= I won't become a doctor if I don't study.)

Complete the sentences with *if* or *unless* and the correct form of the verb in brackets to make zero, first, second or third conditional sentences.

Unless ... we spend more on space exploration, we ... learn (not learn) about the universe.

- 1 they (know) Marina's phone number, they would invite her, too.
- 2 He can't see very well he (wear) his glasses – he always needs them.
- 3 I (come) to your party yesterday I hadn't been so ill.
- 4 there (be) a problem, the astronauts will go into space tomorrow at 9.00.
- 5 Humans wouldn't have walked on the moon in 1969 people (not create) space programmes.

1  Choose the correct words.

Type of conditional	<i>if</i> or <i>unless</i> clause	Result clause
Zero	Unless you ¹ hold/ held things in space,	they ¹ move / moved around.
First	If you ² 'll look / look at the sky tonight,	you ³ 'll see / see the planet Jupiter.
Second	If astronauts ⁴ go / went to Venus,	they ⁵ didn't / wouldn't survive.
Third	If I ⁶ hadn't seen / didn't see that film,	I ⁷ won't / wouldn't have understood gravity.

2  Complete the zero conditional sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

be become jump look not fall not stay

Did you know ...?

If you ...look... at the Earth from the Space Station, you can see the the River Amazon.

- 1 If you measure the temperature of the moon at night, it -183 °C.
- 2 If a person on the moon, they can go six times higher than on the Earth.
- 3 If you drop something in space, it
- 4 If a person lives in space for a long time, he or she taller.
- 5 Unless an astronaut sleeps in a special bed, he or she in the same place.

4  Complete the film review with the third conditional form of the verbs in brackets.

Film review: *The Martian* Star rating: *****

If I (not see) this fascinating film, I (not learn) all about the planet Mars.

The story is about a space mission in 2035. By accident, Mark Watney (Matt Damon) is left behind on Mars by the other astronauts. Of course, they (not leave) him unless they (think) he was dead. They later learn that he's alive, but the next mission to Mars is four years away!

To stay alive, Watney starts to grow potatoes – he (not know) how to do this if he

..... (not study) plant science at university. But does he survive? Watch the film to find out!



3  Complete the sentences with the first or second conditional form of the verbs in brackets.

If I (invent) the most intelligent robot in the world, I'd be (be) really famous!

- 1 We (visit) the science museum tomorrow unless the weather (be) bad.
- 2 I (not be) surprised if astronauts (go) to Jupiter in the next sixty years.
- 3 Unless Monica (study) for her science exam, she (do) badly – just like last year.
- 4 What (people / do) if a big meteor suddenly (hit) the Earth?
- 5 He (not win) the competition next week unless he (change) his design.

because (of), due to

We use *because of* and *due to* to say that something happened 'as a result of something'. We use *because* to give reasons.

Note that *because* is followed by subject + verb and *because of* and *due to* are followed by nouns.

They travel because they like to explore.

They didn't travel because of the accident.

The accident was due to bad weather.

Put the words in the correct order.

scientist / That / famous / is / because / developed / she / cure / new / a

That scientist is famous because she developed a new cure.

1 late / arrived / He / due / problem / to / a

2 because / astronaut / The / left / threat / the / of

3 invention / the / liked / We / useful / it / because / was

4 the / became / ill / People / disease / of / because

5 to / due / was / success / Her / work / hard