

"If I had a penny for every time I heard that, I'd be rich!" ... Which IF is that? When do we use it? How many IFs are there? What are their uses? --- You're about to find out...IF you pay attention! 🤪

If it rains,...

If I were you,...



If only I had known,...

If I can do it for you,...

How many IF constructions are there in English? There are four "pure" IFs and some mixed forms. In this worksheet, we'll be looking only at the four "pure" forms.

1. Let's start with the most sure form of IF, the "zero" IF because there is ZERO DOUBT. When one thing happens, the other thing always happens, OR something is always true. Look:

If/When it rains, I (always) take my umbrella.

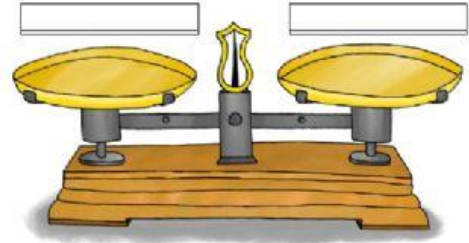
What did you notice about that sentence? CLICK ON, DRAG, and DROP the right words into the right boxes:

conditional

present simple

present simple

conditional

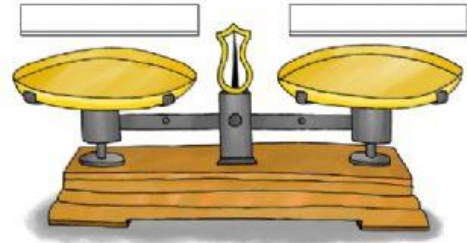


2. Now look at this kind of IF "zero":

When I had my own teeth and I ate hard candy, I (always) crunched it.

What did you notice about that sentence? CLICK ON, DRAG, and DROP the right words into the right boxes:

conditional	simple past
simple past	conditional



Did you notice that we use "when," not "if," when talking about the things that were always true in the past?

Did you notice that there are only two choices of indicative verb tenses for the "zero doubt" IF, and that what goes in one half must also go in the other half? It's like a balance that needs to be level.

3. For IF n. 1, look at this example, and YOU tell ME when we use it:

If I have enough money saved by November, I'll go with Star to India, next Christmas.

- a) TICK the right answer: IF n. 1 is used to express a...: hypothesis | real possibility | fact
- b) TICK the right answer: If it rains a lot,... she'll postpone her trip | she postpones her trip.
- c) TICK: Use "will" (formal/strong) / "-ll" (informal/neutral)... in the IF part | in the other part.

4. For IF n. 2, first listen to this great video in YouTube. Click here: [YouTube: D1TC1n9lhXU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1TC1n9lhXU)
(**TWO HINTS**: click on the gear for the settings, then **(1)** click on speed, and choose 75% if you want, **BUT NO LOWER**, or the sound will be too distorted; **(2)** click on "subtitles" to turn on English subtitles in YouTube ... just beware! "Auto-generated" means that they were generated by a computer ... and they're NOT always right!).



Don't worry. It opens in a different tab. After you have listened to the video, **TICK** the right answer:

- a.) The protagonist, Tevye, really has no strong desire to be rich | longs to be rich.
- b.) Tevye is expressing that you never know, he could be rich one day | he'll never ever be rich.
- c.) We use IF n. 2 to express wishes that can never be fulfilled | hypotheses / possible wishes.
- d.) Which format is right? If + simple past, conditional | If + conditional, simple past
- e) **CLICK ON** [YouTube](#) to open it, then in the YouTube search box **TYPE** *if I had*, and see what songs come up. **LISTEN** to one of your choice, then tell us what the second conditional expresses in it (**UNGRADED**):
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5. For IF n. 3, read this, then **TICK** the right answers: If I hadn't been there, I wouldn't have done it.

- a.) The speaker is expressing something that... could still happen | will never happen because the opportunity has passed.
- b.) The speaker is expressing... a sense of regret | a hope to be able to do it / to not do it.



If I had a penny for every time that... - the four IFs – by S.K. Meyer

- c.) We also use IF n. 3 to express... .. wishes that can never be fulfilled | hypotheses / possible wishes.
d.) WRITE YOUR OWN (UNGRADED):

N.B., for ALL of the IFs, the “if” part can be first (always followed by a comma), or the other part can be first (a comma is optional), and there is NO CHANGE IN MEANING.



6.) CLICK ON the pulldown menus, then CHOOSE the correct parts of these sentences:

If I (a) a penny for every time I've said that, I (b) be rich!

If she (c) only listened to Sam, she (d) in trouble!

Ancient primitive people (e) amazed when the sun (f) out every morning.

The saying goes, “If you (g) my back, I (h) yours.”

I (i) in Shangri-La for 10 years now if only I (j) to my stock broker.

7.) Express your own regret (about something you can share with the class!) (UNGRADED):

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