FIRST AND SECOND CONDITIONAL



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1 Presentation

When we talk about possible or hypothetical situations with **If ...**, we can use a **first conditional** or **second conditional** structure. Study the table below.

Structure	Examples and use
First conditional *If I do ..., I'll (= I will) ...* Instead of **will**, we can use other modal verbs, e.g. **can**, **might**, **may**, **must**, **should**.	According to the weather forecast, it might rain tonight. **If it rains**, **I'll stay** at home. *We use the **first conditional** when there is a real possibility that something will happen in the future.* **If I don't** call you tonight, **you can call** me. **Will you wait** for me **if I am** late?
Second conditional *If I did ..., I'd (= I would) ...* Instead of **would**, we can use **could** or **might**.	At the moment, it's raining. **If it was** sunny, **I'd go** out. *We use the **second conditional** when we imagine a situation or when there is very little or no possibility that something will happen.* What **would you do if you found** a lot of money in the street? **If it wasn't** dark outside, **we could go** out.

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Things to remember

- We do not use **will** or **would** in the **if**-part of a conditional sentence:

  If it ~~will rain~~ rains, I'll stay at home.

- The **if**-part of the sentence can go at the beginning or at the end:

  If it rains, I'll stay at home. I'll stay at home **if it rains**.

- In the **second conditional** we use **if +** *past* (if I did, if I didn't, etc.), but the meaning is *not* past. In this type of structure, the past tense refers to an imaginary or hypothetical situation, such as finding a lot of money in the street:

  What would you do if **you found** a lot of money in the street?

- In a **first conditional** sentence, we can use **when** instead of **if** for things that we are sure will happen:

  When she comes, I'll call you.



2 Practice 1

Put the verb in the correct form to complete each sentence.

1. If global warming continues, temperatures will rise (rise) even higher.
2. What would you do if you _____ (win) a million dollars?
3. If people stopped using cars completely, there _____ (be) much less pollution.
4. When it _____ (rain) again, I won't forget to bring my umbrella.
5. If I spoke English fluently, I _____ (not/need) to take lessons.
6. If Siberia _____ (not/be) so cold, I'd go there in winter.
7. Tom will be at the party tonight. If I see him, I_____ (say) hello.
8. If it _____ (not/rain) so much in England, you wouldn't see so many umbrellas.
9. I_____ (call) you when I get home.
10. Where _____ (you/live) when you move out of your apartment?
11. If you _____ (can) choose any company, which company would you like to work for?

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3 Practice 2

Study each situation and complete the sentence below. Decide whether to use a first or second conditional structure.

1. According to the weather forecast there is a chance of snow tomorrow.
   If it _____ (snow), I_____ (need) to buy a pair of gloves.
2. Patrick is deciding whether to go to France or Spain on his next vacation.
   If Patrick _____ (go) to Spain, he_____ (be) very satisfied.
3. John works 12 hours a day.
   If John _____ (not/be) so busy, he_____ (have) more time for his family.
4. Kate is out of work, but she goes shopping every day.
   If Kate _____ (continue) to go shopping, she_____ (run out) of money.
5. It is a sunny day with clear blue skies.
   If it _____ (rain), I _____ (need) an umbrella.
6. Anne's boss is very demanding.
   If Anne's boss _____ (not/be) so demanding, she _____ (not/be) so stressed.
7. Daniel has an exam tomorrow.
   If Daniel _____ (pass) his exam, he_____ (celebrate) with his friends.
8. Fabio and Carlo are best friends.
   If Fabio and Carlo _____ (not/be) best friends, they probably _____ (not/be) living together.
9. The Olympic Games are held every four years.
   If the Olympics _____ (be) held every year, they _____ (not/be) so interesting.

4 Practice 3

Look at the situations below. Decide if they are impossible/hypothetical or possible and form a conditional sentence for each one. Where possible, try to use other modal verbs instead of will or would, for example can, could, might, may, should, must. Examples:

If it rains this weekend, I may not go out.
If I had a vacation next week, I might go to Portugal.

It will rain this weekend.

You will have a vacation next week.

You speak English fluently.

You will win the lottery.

Your country will win the World Cup.

You will go out tonight with some friends.

You live in another country.

You can fly.

You will meet the president of your country.

You will be late for your next lesson.

You will go to bed later than usual tonight.

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