

REMEMBER

Zero conditional: if/when/whenever + present tense → present tense. Use it for facts, routines and things that generally happen.

First conditional: if/when + present tense → future/modal/imperative. Use it for real or possible future situations.

The if/when clause can come first or second. When it comes first, use a comma.

In suitable contexts, the condition clause can use Present Continuous or Present Perfect, not only Present Simple.

Exercise 1 – Zero or First Conditional?

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Decide whether the meaning requires the zero or first conditional.

1. If a passenger _____ (carry) more than the permitted weight, the airline usually _____ (charge) an extra fee.
2. We _____ (take) the airport bus if the train _____ (not run) tomorrow morning.
3. Whenever Marco _____ (travel) abroad, he always _____ (buy) a local SIM card.
4. If our flight _____ (land) on time tonight, we _____ (catch) the last train to the city centre.
5. Tourists often _____ (get) better prices when they _____ (book) accommodation directly.
6. If Sofia _____ (miss) the connection in Frankfurt, she _____ (have to) wait until the next morning.
7. Whenever a traveller _____ (enter) this country, the border officer _____ (check) their passport.
8. I _____ (send) you the hotel address when I _____ (receive) the confirmation email.
9. If the weather _____ (be) very hot, Liam usually _____ (avoid) sightseeing in the middle of the day.
10. We _____ (not go) hiking tomorrow if the mountain guide _____ (say) the conditions are unsafe.

Exercise 2 – Mix the clause order

Complete the sentences. Notice that the condition clause does not always come first.

1. We usually _____ (choose) a window seat if one _____ (be) available.
2. If Emma _____ (travel) by train, she always _____ (download) her ticket before leaving home.
3. You _____ (need) to show your passport when the hotel receptionist _____ (ask) for identification.
4. If we _____ (leave) before 6 a.m. tomorrow, we _____ (avoid) most of the traffic.
5. The airline _____ (send) passengers a message whenever a flight _____ (be) delayed.
6. We _____ (probably / rent) a car if public transport _____ (not be) convenient.
7. Whenever my brother _____ (fly), he _____ (choose) an aisle seat because he likes to move around.
8. You _____ (feel) less tired after the journey if you _____ (sleep) on the overnight flight.

Exercise 3 – Other present forms in the condition clause

Use the Present Simple, Present Continuous or Present Perfect in the if/when clause. Complete the result clause with an appropriate future form, modal or imperative.

1. If you _____ already _____ (check in) online, you _____ (can / go) straight to security.
2. We _____ (meet) you at the station if you _____ (still / travel) around northern Italy next weekend.
3. When everyone _____ (finish) packing, we _____ (weigh) the suitcases.
4. If Marta _____ (stay) in Lisbon for another week, she _____ (visit) Sintra with us on Saturday.
5. I _____ (book) the train tickets tonight if you _____ (not / buy) them yet.
6. If they _____ (drive) through Austria tomorrow, they _____ (need) a motorway vignette.
7. When you _____ (receive) the boarding passes, _____ (forward) them to the rest of the group.
8. If the hotel _____ (not / confirm) our reservation by this evening, I _____ (call) them.
9. We _____ (be / able to) start sightseeing immediately if the rooms _____ already _____ (be) ready when we arrive.
10. If Luca _____ (still / wait) for his new passport on Friday, he _____ (not be able to) travel with us.

Exercise 4 – IF, WHEN or WHENEVER?

Choose the best connector. In some sentences more than one may be grammatically possible, but choose the one that best matches the meaning.

1. _____ Giulia travels for work, she keeps all her receipts for expenses. (if / when / whenever)
2. We'll text you _____ we arrive at the hostel tonight. (if / when / whenever)
3. _____ the airline loses your luggage, report it before leaving the baggage hall. (if / when / whenever)
4. My father checks the weather forecast _____ he plans a long car journey. (if / when / whenever)
5. _____ our train is cancelled tomorrow, we'll take the coach instead. (if / when / whenever)
6. I'll call you _____ I've gone through passport control. (if / when / whenever)
7. _____ Elena stays in a new city, she tries at least one traditional local dish. (if / when / whenever)
8. We'll go to the beach _____ the weather improves this afternoon. (if / when / whenever)

Exercise 5 – Sentence transformation

Join or rewrite the ideas using the word in brackets. Do not change the meaning. Vary the position of the condition clause as indicated.

1. Airlines usually charge a fee. A passenger changes a non-flexible ticket. (WHEN) – Start with WHEN.

2. We may find a direct flight. Then we will book it immediately. (IF) – Put the IF-clause second.

3. Daniel travels abroad. He always takes a portable charger. (WHENEVER) – Start with Daniel.

4. You may have already completed online check-in. In that case, you can use the bag-drop desk. (IF) – Start with IF.

5. The group may still be visiting the museum at 5 p.m. We will meet them later at the hotel. (IF) – Put the IF-clause second.

6. The plane lands. I will send you a message immediately afterwards. (WHEN) – Start with WHEN.

Exercise 6 – Error correction

Each sentence contains ONE mistake in the conditional structure. Correct it.

1. If our train will arrive before noon, we'll have lunch near the station.

Correction: _____

2. Whenever Chloe travel abroad, she takes a small first-aid kit.

Correction: _____

3. We'll call the airline if we will not receive the confirmation by tonight.

Correction: _____

4. When I will finish packing, I'll check the weight of my suitcase.

Correction: _____

5. If Leo is still travels in Japan next week, he'll send us some photos.

Correction: _____

6. If you have booked the tickets already, you will can choose your seats online.

Correction: _____