

The first conditional

FORM

If + Subject + Simple Present verb + . . . , Subject + will + infinitive verb + . . .

If you drop it, it'll break.

If you come at ten, we'll be ready.

If you phone me, I'll pick you up at the park.

Subject + will + infinitive verb + . . . If + Subject + Simple Present verb + . . .

It'll break if you phone me.

We'll be ready if you come at ten.

I'll pick you up later if you phone me.

USE

- The first conditional refers to the future. It is used when there is a possibility that the if-event might happen.

If it rains, we'll go to the cinema. (= It might rain: it might not)

If the sun shines, we'll go to the beach. [= The sun might shine: it might not]

Note: *going to* is sometimes used in the first conditional to describe a future plan:

If it rains, we're going to visit my mother.

Write these sentences, putting the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the future simple.

1 If the train's late, we (walk).

If the train's late, we'll walk.

2 She (call) you if she (have) time.

She'll call you if she has time.

3 If it costs too much, I _____ (buy) a smaller one.

4 If the doctor can't see me, I _____ (go) somewhere else.

5 If the class _____ (be) full, we _____ (find) another one.

6 What will we do if the taxi _____ (not come)?

7 Will you phone me if there _____ (be) any problems?

8 Tom _____ (ask) Peter if I _____ (see) him tomorrow.

9 I _____ (go) next week, if I _____ (can) get a train ticket.

10 If I _____ (have) to, I _____ (complain) to the manager.

11 If he _____ (see) me here, he _____ (be) really angry.

12 Mary _____ (be) worried if you don't come to the airport.

13 If it _____ (snow) this winter, we _____ (go) skiing.

14 I _____ (lend) them some money if they _____ (ask) me.

15 If you _____ (visit) Oxford, you _____ (see) some interesting old buildings.