

Quick Review: Types of Conditionals

Conditional	Structure	Use	Example
1st (Real future)	If + present simple, will + verb	Real, possible future outcomes	<i>If the patient shows improvement, we will continue the treatment.</i>
2nd (Hypothetical present/future)	If + past simple, would + verb	Unreal or hypothetical situations	<i>If the drug were approved, we would launch a Phase III trial.</i>
3rd (Hypothetical past)	If + past perfect, would have + past participle	Imaginary past situations	<i>If we had followed the protocol, we wouldn't have had adverse events.</i>

Let's analyse some examples in the context of clinical trials:

First Conditional

Used for real and possible future conditions:

- *If we recruit enough participants, the trial will start in July.*
- *If the patient responds well, we will increase the dosage.*

Second Conditional

Used for hypothetical or unlikely present/future:

- *If we had better funding, we would expand the trial internationally.*
- *If the compound were more stable, we would use it in oral form.*

Third Conditional

Used to reflect on past actions or missed opportunities:

- *If the control group had been larger, the results would have been more reliable.*
- *If the researchers had detected the anomaly earlier, the trial would have been halted.*

NOW IT'S UP TO YOU!

Choose the correct option to complete the main clause

1. If the results are statistically significant,
the team (*will publish / would publish*) the findings immediately.
2. If we had followed the correct dosage protocol,
we (*would have avoided / would avoid*) those complications.
3. If the new treatment were more affordable,
more hospitals (*will adopt / would adopt*) it.
4. If the patient consents to participate,
we (*will enroll / would enroll*) her in the study.
5. If we had detected the error in time,
we (*would have corrected / would correct*) the report.
6. If the trial were conducted in multiple countries,
the sample size (*will increase / would increase*) significantly.
7. If we include patients with comorbidities,
it (*will affect / would have affected*) the outcome.
8. If the preliminary data had been inaccurate,
the conclusions (*would be / would have been*) misleading.
9. If the medication causes severe side effects,
the ethics committee (*will suspend / would suspend*) the study.
10. If the placebo effect were stronger,
it (*would impact / will impact*) the results.