

Conditionals - Overview

Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

If we don't hurry, we will be late!

2) The order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

There are five main types of conditionals in English:

a) zero conditionals are used to describe things that are always or generally true. Thus we refer to the real and possible situations, general truths, or scientific facts. Zero conditionals follow the pattern:

If + present simple	present simple
<i>If the food is too spicy,</i>	<i>drink milk.</i>

b) conditionals type 1 or first conditionals are used to describe future events that will happen or are likely to happen. These sentences are based on facts, thus we make statements about the real world or particular situation. First conditionals follow the pattern:

If + present simple	future simple
<i>If everything goes according to the plan,</i>	<i>we'll be very rich.</i>

c) conditionals type 2 or second conditionals are used to describe hypothetical, unlikely, or impossible situations. These sentences are not based on facts, thus we can refer to any time. Second conditionals follow the pattern:

If + past simple	would + V
<i>If I won the lottery,</i>	<i>I would put the money in the bank.</i>

d) conditionals type 3 or third conditionals are used to describe a past event that is different to what really happened. These sentences are solely hypothetical, thus there is always some implication of regret. Third conditionals follow the pattern:

If + past perfect	would have + Ved/past participle
<i>If we hadn't slept in,</i>	<i>we wouldn't miss your flight.</i>

e) mixed conditionals refer to conditional sentences that combine two different types of conditional patterns. They are used to refer to a time in the past, and a situation that is ongoing in the present. Mixed conditionals usually follow the pattern:

If + past perfect	would + V
<i>If they had argued less,</i>	<i>they would be a perfect couple.</i>

Short Story Dialogue

- *If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?*
- *If I could live anywhere, I would move to Japan. I think this country is simply amazing.*

And it's very safe there.

- *Well, if you learn Japanese, you can move there.*

– If I had studied it at high school, I would be there already. It's a dream of mine to live there at some point.

Independent Practice - Conditionals - Overview

1) Decide which conditional is used.

- a. If you listened to me, you would remember the story.
- b. If I find your scarf at my place, I'll let you know.
- c. Kids love playing outside when it is summer.
- d. If my mom had come later, she wouldn't have noticed the mess.
- e. We would use public transport less often if we bought the car.

2) Underline the correct word or phrase in the following sentences.

- a. What would we do if we *miss/missed* our bus?
- b. He *would have freak out/would have freaked out* if his wife had spent all his money on clothes.
- c. I would be surprised if he *didn't know/didn't knew* the answer.
- d. If you decide to go out with your friends tonight, *let me know/will you let me know* in advance.
- e. I *will be/would be* a famous writer if I had started writing earlier.

Independent Practice: Answers - Conditionals - Overview

1) Decide which conditional is used.

- a. If you listened to me, you would remember the story. (second conditional)
- b. If I find your scarf at my place, I'll let you know. (first conditional)
- c. Kids love playing outside when it is summer. (zero conditional)
- d. If my mom had come later, she wouldn't have noticed the mess. (third conditional)
- e. We would use public transport less often if we bought the car. (second conditional)

2) Underline the correct word or phrase in the following sentences.

- a. What would we do if we miss/missed our bus?
- b. He *would have freak out/would have freaked out* if his wife had spent all his money on clothes.
- c. I would be surprised if he didn't know/didn't knew the answer.
- d. If you decide to go out with your friends tonight, let me know/will you let me know in advance.
- e. I will be/would be a famous writer if I had started writing earlier.