



Conditionals

Conditionals are phrases that are used to explain the result of something that might happen (in the present or future), or the result of something that could have happened but didn't (in the past). There are four types of conditional sentences:

1. The Zero Conditional

If + simple present, ... simple present.

Examples: If it rains, the lawn grows.
 People get dehydrated if they don't drink enough water.

The zero conditional is used when the result will always happen. It talks about events in general.

In the zero conditional, *when* can be substituted for *if* in some situations.

Examples: When the cat purrs, it is happy. I feel great when I do regular exercise.

2. The First Conditional

If + simple present, ...will + infinitive.

Examples: If I am hungry, I will make myself dinner. He will put on a jacket if it is raining.

The first conditional is used to talk about things that might happen in the future. It describes a particular situation.

3. The Second Conditional

If + past simple, ...would + infinitive.

Examples: If I moved across the country, I would probably be lonely.
 She would spend all day by the lake if she knew how to swim.

The second conditional can be used to discuss things in the future that probably won't be true. It can also be used to talk about something in the present that is impossible because it is not true.

4. The Third Conditional

If + past perfect, ...would + have + past participle.

Examples: If they had booked their flights on time, they would have been able to leave for vacation today.
 I would have been able to run the whole race if I had trained for it properly.

The third conditional is used to talk about a situation that didn't happen and to imagine the result of that situation.