**CONDITIONAL CLAUSES**

# 1. CONDITIONAL 0 - General truths

If + Present simple , present simple

**USED:** **to describe a general truth.**

*“ If you heat ice, it melts.”*

# 2. CONDITIONAL 1 - Possibility/likelihood in the present or future

If + present simple , future (will/going to) or imperative present continuous may/might/could +infinitive present perfect

**USED:** **to describe what is possible or likely in the present .**

*“ If you´re watching TV, you will see her presenting the news” “If you go to the theatre, you will enjoy the play”*

# 2.1. IF + SHOULD / HAPPEN TO/SHOULD HAPPEN TO

We use if + **should/ happen to** to suggest that something **is rather unlikely to happen**, or **may just happen by chance**.

( should and happen to can be used together)

“ If you **(should) happen to** see her, could you tell her I want to speak to her?”

## 3. CONDITIONAL 2 - Unlikely or contrary to present fact

If + past simple , would/ could / might/… + infinitive past continuous

**USE:** **to talk about something that is contrary to the present facts or unlikely to happen.**

*“ If I were/was the Prime Minister, I´d make health care free”* USE: to refer to something which is unlikely to happen in the future.

*“ I wouldn´t apply for that job unless I thought I had a good chance of getting it”.*

USE: to give advice

*“ If I were you , I´d repeat it once again”*

# 3.1. SUPPOSE/ SUPPOSING /IMAGINE

Suppose , supposing and imagine can be used in place of if. The meaning is similar.

*“ Supposing/Imagine you won the lottery, what would you do with the money?*

**3.2. IF + WAS / WERE TO +INFINITIVE**

# This form is used to make an event seem more hypothetical . But this form is not used with state verbs ( be, believe,…)

*“If they were to find a way of curing malaria, millions of lives would be saved.”*

## 4. THIRD CONDITIONAL: Contrary to fact in the past

If + past perfect , would/could/ might/…+ have + past participle

**USE: to describe something in the past that could have happened but didn´t or that shouldn´t have happened but did.**

*“She could have won the race if she hadn’t broken her leg.”*

# 4.1. FORMAL STYLE

In more formal styles, “if” can be omitted and the auxiliary verb placed before the subject.

* “ If I had been told you were coming, I would have bought tickets for the theatre”

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# 5. MIXED CONDITIONALS

Apart from the conditionals we already know, we can have mixed conditionals depending on what we mean.

## 1. Past condition – Present result

 If I **had studied** Medicine, now I **would be** a doctor.

3rd Cond 2nd Cond

## 2. Present condition – Past result

 If I **were** you, I **would have bought** that beautiful house.

2nd Cond 3rd Cond

# 6. CONDITIONAL LINKING WORDS

Common conditional conjunctions are : ***if, as long as, so long as, unless, even if, providing (that), provided (that), on condition that, no***

***matter how/where/when/ who…***

“ **As long as** you are careful, you can use my laptop.”

“ You won´t see her **unless** you arrive on time.”

“ We´re picnicking **even if** it rains.”

“**Providing/provided (that)** there is enough room, we will rent the apartment”.

“I´ll help you **on condition that** you don´t tell”.

“ **No matter how** hard you try, I will never convince her”.

**7. MODALS IN CONDITIONAL SENTENCES.**

Modal verbs can be used in all types of conditional sentences.

* *“I might send him a letter if I have time.”*
* *“If she had someone to advise her, she wouldn’t do those stupid things.”*
* *“If they had told us about the risk, we might never have gone there”.*

# 8. POLITE CONDITIONALS

“would” and “ should” can be used after “if” in polite expressions.

* *“ I* ***would be grateful*** *if you* ***would consider*** *my application”*
* *“If* ***you wouldn´t mind*** *waiting here, I´ll tell the director “*
* *“If you* ***should require*** *further information, please do not hesitate to contact us”*

## ( a more formal version)

 *“* ***Should you require*** *further information, please do not hesitate to contact us”*