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## CONDITIONALS

A 'conditional' or 'If' sentence describes a condition. In English, we use conditional sentences for a different purpose:

- To make predictions
- To give advice
- To express dreams
- To discuss mistakes in the past
- To make apologies
- To discuss hypothetical, imaginary, contrary-to-the fact situations in the present and the past

*Each conditional sentence contains 2 clauses:* (A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb.)

*If Clause (Dependent) / Main Clause (Independent)*

Punctuation note: Put a comma if the If Clause (Dependent) comes before the Main Clause (Independent). Don't put a comma if the Main Clause comes before the If Clause.

E.G. If you need me, I'll help you./I'll help you if you need me.

### **Each conditional sentence:**

1. Expresses a different meaning
2. Refers to a different time
3. Uses a different combination of tenses



## Conditional sentences fall into two categories:

1. Real
2. Unreal

### Real Conditions / Present Real

- Meaning: Refers to a situation that may or may not happen in the future.
- Time Reference: Future
- Tense Combinations:

#### If Clause

#### Main Clause

Simple Present

will + By (base form of the Verb)

EX. If a student studies, she will pass the test

will + by

Present Continuous

can, should, might + by

Present Perfect Continuous



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*Modals: Can, Have to, Must, Should*

*Used for: Predictions, Probability / Possibility, Uncertainty*

### **Unreal conditions in the present / Present unreal**

- Meaning: Refers to a situation that does not exist (is not real) at the present time.
- Time Reference: Present
- Tense Combinations:

If Clause

Main Clause

Simple  
Past

would + by (base form of the verb)

EX. If I had a million dollars, I would travel around the world.

If the verb to be is used in the If Clause, were used for all the persons.

EX. If she were rich, she would travel around the world.

Past Continuous

would, could, might, should + by

*Modals: Could, Had to*

*Contractions: I'd, you'd, he'd, she'd, we'd, and they'd*

*Used for: Advice, Expressing dreams, Hypothetical, Imaginary, Contrary-to-the fact situations in the present*

### **Unreal conditions in the past / Past unreal**

- Meaning: Refers to a situation that did not happen in the past.
- Time reference: Past
- Tense combinations:

If Clause

Main Clause

Past  
Perfect

would + have + Past Participle

EX. If I had studied for the test, I would have passed.



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Past Perfect  
Continuous

would, could, might, should + have + Past  
Participle

had been + past participle

Passive

*Used for: Discussing mistakes in the past, Past regrets or Hypothetical or Imaginary situations in the past*

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