

Zero Conditional

Usage

We use zero conditional for situations that are **always true or factual** so there can only be one result.

The condition must be true for the result to happen.

Form

'If' clause: **present simple** *comma!*
'Result' clause: **present simple**
If you heat water, it boils.

You can also put the result clause first **without** using a **comma** between the clauses!

'Result' clause

I can't play video games if the power goes out.

NO comma!

'If' clause

DID YOU KNOW?

This use is **similar to**, and can usually be replaced by, a time clause using **'when'**.

Ice melts when it gets warm.

When I go to my favourite restaurant, their food never disappoints.

Children can swim when an adult is present.



First Conditional

Usage

The first conditional is based on **possibility** as opposed to the zero conditional which is based on facts.

The condition might happen, but it also might not happen.

Form


'If' clause: **present simple**  comma
'Result' clause: **future simple** 

If I don't leave now, I will miss the train.

You can also put the result clause first **without** using a **comma** between the clauses!

'Result' clause 

I will take tomorrow off if I finish all my work today.

NO comma! 

'If' clause 

DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to "will", we can use other modal verbs in the result clause.

If it snows tomorrow, our flight might be cancelled.

If it is sunny tomorrow, I can take my dogs to the park.

If I save enough money, I could travel at the end of the year.


Second Conditional

Usage

We use the second conditional to talk about **unlikely or hypothetical situations** in the present or in the future.

The 'result' clause describes the probable outcome or outcomes.


Form

'If' clause: **past simple**  comma!
'Result' clause: **would + bare infinitive**
If I knew the answer, I would tell you.

You can also put the result clause first **without** using a **comma** between the clauses!

'Result' clause 

I would visit every country if I won the lottery.

NO comma! 

'If' clause 

DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to "would", we can use other modal verbs in the result clause.

If I didn't work full-time, I might exercise more.

I could go bungee jumping with you if I wasn't afraid of heights.

If I had extra money, I could buy a summer house.

Third Conditional

Usage

We use the third conditional to talk about a condition from the **past that did not happen**.

The second conditional is used to talk about unlikely situations, whereas the third conditional is used to talk about **impossible situations**.

Form

'If' clause: **past perfect** 

'Result' clause: **would have + past participle** 

If I had seen you, I would have told you.

You can also put the result clause first **without** using a **comma** between the clauses!

'Result' clause 

I wouldn't have missed my flight if I had left earlier.

NO comma! 

'If' clause 



In addition to "**would have**", we can use other past modal verbs in the result clause.

If I had studied hard, I could have passed the exam.

Even if they had told me about the problem, I couldn't have helped.

I might have cancelled my plans if it had rained yesterday.