

AC Grammar Refresher: Conditionals

- Zero Conditional
- First Conditional
- Second Conditional
- Third Conditional

PART 1: INTRO 🙌

Activity 1: We'll go through the basics on one condition... 😊

Complete these sentences with logical endings:

1. If I study hard for my exam, _____. (possible future outcome)



← BULB ICON = ANSWER IN WHITE

2. If it rains tomorrow, _____. (possible future outcome)



3. If you heat water to 100 degrees Celsius, _____. (general truth)



4. If I had known you were coming, _____. (imaginary past outcome)



5. If we win the lottery, _____. (imaginary present outcome)



Which of these is/are:

- a) Possible future outcome(s)
- b) Imaginary present outcome
- c) Imaginary past outcome
- d) General truth

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1b) A few more interesting ones... 🤔 What's your answer and why?

♥ = Alice's version

6. If I could have any superpower, _____ (imaginary present outcome)



7. If you were stranded on a desert island, the one thing you'd bring is _____



8. If you could invent anything, it would be a machine that _____



9. If you met your favourite celebrity, you'd tell/ask them _____



10. If animals could talk, the first thing your pet would say is _____



1c) Which category do all of these conditionals fall under?

- Possible future outcome(s)
- General truth
- Imaginary present outcome
- Imaginary past outcome

1d) 🧠 Knowledge check! Is it refreshing your memory yet?

→ ZERO =

→ FIRST =

→ SECOND =

→ THIRD =

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PART 2: The Basics (Form and Function):

1. Zero Conditional

If you go to bed late, you are grumpy in the morning.

You are grumpy in the morning if you go to bed late.

When you go to bed late, you are grumpy in the morning.

= Zero conditional sentences express **general truths** or **known facts**. Both clauses typically use the present simple tense but there are exceptions for other tenses (although, never the future simple!)

SUBORDINATE IF/WHEN CLAUSE + MAIN CLAUSE (usually present simple)

2. First Conditional

If it rains, I will use my umbrella.

= express **realistic** future situations contingent on something else happening.

SUBORDINATE IF CLAUSE + MAIN CLAUSE [Modal verb (like 'will') / Imperative + main verb]

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3. Second Conditional

If I **won** the lottery [tomorrow], I **would buy** new shoes

If Rebecca **had known** about the party, she **could have** come.

= Second conditionals express **hypothetical** or **unrealistic** present or future events (unlike first).

SUBORDINATE IF [**w. simple past verb**] + MAIN CLAUSE [**incl. “would/could/might” (past tense) + base form of main verb**]

4. Third Conditional

If Clara **had saved** more money, she **could have bought** the bag she wanted.

We **could have seen** the show **if** we **had bought** the tickets in advance.

= express **hypothetical past situations**. They explain how present scenarios would have been altered if something had happened differently in the past.

SUBORDINATE IF [**‘had/have’ + past participle**] + MAIN CLAUSE [**past modal auxiliary “would/could/might” + ‘had/have’ + past participle**]



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ACTIVITY 2. 🤝 **YOUR OWN CONDITIONALS:**

Zero -

First -

Second -

Third -



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PART 3: ZERO CONDITIONALS


ACTIVITY 3: IDENTIFYING

3a) What comes to mind?

Finish my sentences...

- If I make the effort to eat healthy, ...
- If we go to work by bike, ...
- If we eat something someone cooks that you don't like, ...
- If they drink tea with milk, ...
- If you like pineapple on pizza, ...
- If you keep your chocolate in the fridge, ...

Can you think of any more?

 **Note:** Even though some of these may reflect an opinion, they can be considered zero conditionals because they follow a structure of **stating a general truth or habitual action**. In this case it is **subjective** and based on the **speaker's opinion**, but it still fits the zero conditional form.

3b) Identify which of the following are zero conditional. If not, rewrite to fit the zero conditional structure.

1. If you heat ice, it melts.
2. If she has studied hard, she aces the test.
3. If you feel tired, go to bed early.
4. If he eats too much, he got sick.
5. If they are practising every day, they improve quickly.
6. If I am laughing too hard
7. If they have visited Paris, they know how beautiful it is.
8. If you exercise regularly, you feel healthier

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ACTIVITY 4: ZERO CONDITIONAL - TENSES CHECK! 🚫

Zero conditionals can use other tenses other than just the present simple. Match the sentences with the correct tense forms.

(a) Present Simple, (b) Present Continuous, (c) Present Perfect,

(d) Past Simple, (e) Imperative

- E.g. If she **has finished** (finish) her chores, she **watches** (watch) TV. **[c & a]**
- If they **run** (run) every morning, they **feel** (feel) healthier. **[a & a]**
- If she **has finished** (finish) her work, she **relaxes** (relax). [____, ____]
- If they **study** (study) every day, they **improve** (improve) quickly. [____, ____]
- If it **snowed** (snow) last winter, they **built** (build) a snowman. [____, ____]
- If you **have** (have) any questions, **ask** (ask) the teacher. [____, ____]
- If the cat **meows** (meow), it **wants** (want) attention.
- If it ____ (rain) yesterday, we ____ (stay) indoors. [____, ____]
- If you ____ (have) any questions, ____ (ask) the teacher. [____, ____]
- If the dog ____ (bark), it ____ (be) hungry. [____, ____]
- If it ____ (snow) this winter, we ____ (build) a snowman. [____, ____]
- If she ____ (read) a book before bed, she ____ (sleep) better. [____, ____]
- If they ____ (drink) coffee late, they ____ (have) trouble sleeping. [____, ____]



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ACTIVITY 5: Creating Zero Conditionals

Instructions: Rewrite the following sentences to form zero conditional sentences using the specified tenses.

E.g. *When she completes her homework, she watches TV.* (Present Perfect)

- o If she **has completed** her homework, she **watches** TV.
2. When you exercise regularly, you stay fit. (Present Continuous)
- o If ____, you ____.
3. When it was cold, we wore jackets. (Past Simple)
- o If ____, we ____.
4. When you mix red and blue, you get purple. (Present Simple)
- o If ____, ____.
5. When you need help, ask a friend. (Imperative)
- o If ____, ____.



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ACTIVITY 6: Understanding the Exceptions 👍

Explain why the following sentences are zero conditional even though they don't follow the typical present simple + present simple structure.

1. If you are studying hard, you do well in exams.

○ _____



2. If she has called, she gets an answer.

○ _____



3. If it snowed, we built a snowman.

○ _____

○

4. If you are feeling sick, see a doctor.

○ _____



5. If she has already eaten, she skips dessert.

○ _____

○



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PART 4: FIRST CONDITIONALS 🏆

ACTIVITY 7

Complete the following first conditional sentences with appropriate **verbs** and **clauses**.

1. If she _____ (arrive) on time, we _____ (start) the meeting.
2. If you _____ (study) for the test, you _____ (do) well.
3. If it _____ (snow) tonight, we _____ (stay) home.
4. If they _____ (invite) us, we _____ (go) to the party.
5. If you _____ (not wear) a coat, you _____ (catch) a cold.

ACTIVITY 8: Error Correction

Identify which of the following sentences are first conditional. If a sentence is **not** a first conditional, rewrite it to fit the first conditional structure.

- If it rains tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.**
- If she finishes her homework, she can watch TV.**
- If he had more time, he would travel more.**
- If they study hard, they will pass the exam.**
- If you eat too much, you get a stomachache.**



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ACTIVITY 9: Q & A

A: If you don't study for the test, what will happen?

B: If I don't study for the test, I will fail.

A: If the concert is cancelled tomorrow, what will we do?

B: _____

A: If your neighbour invites you to their birthday party, will you go?

B: _____

A: If we leave now, will we catch the flight?

B: _____

A: If I eat too much fruit, what will happen?

B: _____

A: If you see your best friend this afternoon, what will you say?

B: _____

A: If the weather is nice this weekend, what will you plan?

B: _____



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PART 5: SECOND CONDITIONALS

ACTIVITY 10: Let's imagine!

Read each sentence and complete it with a suitable second conditional response. Be creative and think about what could happen in these hypothetical situations.

- If I were invisible for a day, I would _____.
- If you won a lifetime supply of your favourite food, I would _____.
- If I could travel anywhere in the world, I would _____.
- If I could speak any language fluently, I would _____.
- If I were off work/school for a month, I would _____.
- If I _____.

ACTIVITY 11: Second Conditional Chain Discussion

You have the opportunity to meet any historical figure. Discuss who you would choose and why by using second conditionals. Think of as many as you can!

Example:

- A: *If I could meet any historical figure, I would choose Albert Einstein.*
- B: *If we met Albert Einstein, we would ask him about his theory of relativity.*
- A: *If we asked him about his theory of relativity, I would get bored because I don't like science...*

A:

B:

A

B

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PART 6: If we had started this earlier, you would have understood this sooner 😂

THIRD CONDITIONALS 🏆

WARMER: English for Everyone Level 4 (Advanced, Practice Book) - UNIT 32, p.110

Activity 12: Identify the **three third conditional sentences:**

- a) If we had left earlier, we will have caught the train.
- b) If he had studied harder, he would have passed his driving test.
- c) If they had prepared for the storm, their house would be safe.
- d) If I had brought an umbrella, I wouldn't have gotten wet.
- e) If you had called me, I would tell you the news.
- f) If they had practised more, they will have won the match.
- g) If I had known you were in town, I would have invited you to dinner.
- h) If we had taken a taxi, we would not miss the flight.
- i) If she saw the sign, she made the wrong turn.
- j) If I will bake a cake, we could celebrate her birthday.

Question! What makes third conditionals different to second conditionals?

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Activity 13: Alice's Hungarian History Lesson 🤪 USING THIRD CONDITIONALS! 🇭🇺

- If Hungary _____ (not lose) the Battle of Mohács in 1526, the country _____ (not fall) under Ottoman rule for almost 150 years.
- If the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 _____ (succeed), Hungary _____ (not experience) decades of Soviet influence.
- If the Treaty of Trianon _____ (not reduce) Hungary's territory significantly in 1920, the country _____ (remain) a larger and more influential state in Central Europe.
- If Matthias Corvinus _____ (not die) in 1490, he _____ (continue) to expand Hungary's cultural and political influence across Europe.
- If Hungary _____ (join) the European Union in 2004, the country _____ (benefit) from increased economic integration and development opportunities.
- If the Austro-Hungarian Empire _____ (survive) World War I, it _____ (continue) to be a major power in Europe during the 20th century.
- If Hungary _____ (not participate) in the Warsaw Pact from 1955 to 1991, the country _____ (have) a different political and economic trajectory.
- If the Hungarian Revolution of 1848 _____ (succeed), Hungary _____ (gain) greater autonomy from the Austrian Empire earlier.
- If the Mongol invasion of Hungary in 1241 _____ (not devastate) the country, Hungarian history _____ (develop) differently in the Middle Ages.
- If Hungary _____ (not host) the Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix since 1986, the country _____ (miss out) on significant tourism and international exposure.

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PART 7: SUMMARY 🙌

Activity 14: True or False Quiz 🧠

1. Zero conditionals use the present simple tense in both clauses.
💡
2. In first conditional sentences, the main clause often uses "would" + base verb.
💡
3. Second conditional sentences describe real and possible situations.
💡
4. Third conditional sentences talk about hypothetical situations in the past.
💡
5. The word "unless" can replace "if not" in conditional sentences.
💡
6. Zero conditionals can express general truths or scientific facts.
💡
7. First conditional sentences use the structure "If + past simple, ... will + base verb".
💡
8. Second conditional sentences use the structure "If + past perfect, ... would have + past participle".
💡
9. The word "could" can be used in the main clause of second conditionals to express ability.
💡

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10. Third conditional sentences often use "should" in the main clause.



11. In first conditionals, "may" and "might" can be used instead of "will" for less certain outcomes.



12. Second conditional sentences describe unreal or hypothetical present or future situations.



13. In third conditionals, "if only" can be used to express regret.



14. Zero conditionals often use "was" instead of "were" in the if-clause.



15. First conditional sentences use the structure "If + present simple, ... will + base verb".





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ACTIVITY 15: Cambridge *If I do... and if I did.*

Cambridge Grammar in Use (Blue); UNIT 38

- PART A
- PART B
- PART C

ACTIVITY 16: Cambridge *if I knew... I wish I knew*

Grammar in Use (BLUE) UNIT 39

- PART A
- PART B
- PART C
- PART D
- PART E

ACTIVITY 17: Cambridge: *If I had known... I wish I had known*

- PART A
- PART B
- PART C
- PART D

ACTIVITY 18: For more advanced conditional revision...

Cambridge Grammar in Use (Green version); UNIT 84

- If: other conditional patterns with if*
- If I were you...; imagine he were to win*
- If... not and unless; if and whether; etc.*



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ACTIVITY 19: Reflection

Make a note of which activity was the most useful for your learning and which types were the easiest to identify.

Are there any you are not sure about? Bring it to the next lesson to discuss!

My recommended sites for understanding this topic:

- [4 Conditionals In English And When To Use Them | Oxford House Barcelona](#)
- [ALL CONDITIONALS | 0,1,2,3 and MIXED CONDITIONALS - English Grammar | if....](#)

Recommended Textbooks

Cambridge English Grammar in Use Fifth Edition (Blue Book)

Cambridge Advanced English Grammar in Use (Green Book)

English for Everyone Grammar Guide (Units 1-4)