

■ Conditionals

### Zero conditional (if/when/whenever + present tense, present tense)

General or scientific facts and definitions

*If you **burn** fossil fuels, carbon dioxide **is produced**.*

### First conditional (if + present tense, will + bare infinitive / imperative)

Real conditions in the present or future and their results in the present or future

*If we **continue** to pollute our planet, future generations **will suffer**.*

To give conditional instructions

*If the people from Greenpeace **call**, **tell** them I'll call them back later.*

**Watch out!**

Other modals and semi-modals can be used instead of *will* in the result clause in first conditionals. These include *be going to*, *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *shall*, *should*, *have to* and *ought to*.

✓ *We **might** prevent disaster if we change the way we live now.*

### Second conditional (if + past simple / past continuous, would + bare infinitive)

Hypothetical conditions in the present or future and their hypothetical results in the present or future

*What **would** the local government **do if there was** an earthquake in the area?*

**Watch out!**

Other modals can be used instead of *would* in the result clause in second conditionals. These include *might* and *could*.

✓ *If the weather was better, we **could** have a picnic.*



#### vs Grammar

• In British English, we can use both *was* and *were* after *if* with first and third person singular. *Were* is more common in a formal style. In American English, it is usual to use *were*.

UK: *If I **was/were** a gambler, I'd put money on Jim being late.*

US: *If I **were** a gambler, I'd put money on Jim being late.*

• In both British and American English, *were* is usually used in the phrase *If I were you, ...*

### Third conditional (if + past perfect, would have + past participle)

Hypothetical conditions in the past and their results in the past

*A lot more people **would have been trapped** by the flood **if there hadn't been** a warning.*

**Watch out!**

Other modals can be used instead of *would* in the result clause in third conditionals. These include *might*, *could* and *should*.

✓ *If you **hadn't had** a lot of luck, you **could** have lost all your money.*

### Mixed conditionals

Hypothetical conditions in the past and their results in the present

*You **might not be** in so much trouble **if you hadn't started** gambling.*

Hypothetical conditions in the present and their results in the past

***If I were** you, I **would have made** Paula buy her own lottery ticket.*

## Inverted conditionals

More formal form of the first conditional (with <b>should</b> )	<b>Should</b> the drought continue, many people will be forced to leave their villages. (= If the drought should continue ... / If the drought continues ... )
More formal form of the second conditional	<b>Were</b> we to stop using fossil fuels tomorrow, it would still take decades for the planet to recover. (= If we were to stop ... / If we stopped ... )
More formal form of the third conditional	<b>Had</b> Charles Darwin not visited the Galapagos Islands, he might never have developed his theory of evolution. (= If Charles Darwin hadn't visited ... )

### Watch out!

- When the verb to be inverted is negative, we put **not** after the subject.  
✓ **Had we not** attended the meeting, we would have had no idea of the council's plans.
- When the **if** clause comes before the result clause, we usually separate the two clauses with a comma. When the result clause comes first, we do not use a comma.  
✓ **If you share a car to work, you can save on energy.**      ✓ **You can save on energy if you share a car to work.**

## Other conditional structures

As/so long as	We'll go up to the mountains this weekend <b>as long as</b> the weather's okay.
Provided/Providing (that)	You can have a pet <b>provided that</b> you promise to look after it properly.
On condition (that)	Applications for membership are accepted <b>on condition</b> that applicants are over 18.
Suppose/Supposing	<b>Supposing</b> the price of oil tripled tomorrow. What do you think would happen?
If it wasn't/weren't for + noun	I think I'd be quite lonely <b>if it wasn't/weren't for</b> my dog, Buster.
Were it not for + noun	<b>Were it not for</b> my dog, Buster, I think I'd be quite lonely.
But for + noun	<b>But for</b> your help, I wouldn't have been able to quit gambling.
If it hadn't been for + noun	<b>If it hadn't been for</b> your help, I wouldn't have been able to quit gambling.
Had it not been for + noun	<b>Had it not been for</b> your help, I wouldn't have been able to quit gambling.
If ... (should) happen to	<b>If you (should) happen to</b> see Davina, ask her whether she would look after the cats this weekend.
If ... should	<b>If you should</b> see Davina, ask her whether she would look after the cats this weekend.
If ... happened to	<b>If you happened to</b> see someone drop litter in the street, what would you do?
If ... were to	Do you think it would reduce pollution <b>if</b> the government <b>were to</b> introduce a new tax on petrol?
If so/not	Are you concerned about the environment? <b>If so</b> , you might be interested in joining Greenpeace.
Otherwise	You should have your air conditioner serviced, <b>otherwise</b> you'll waste a lot of energy.
Unless	<b>Unless</b> governments act now, the environment is really going to suffer.
In case of + noun	<b>In case of</b> fire, leave the building by the nearest emergency exit.
In case	Take a coat with you <b>in case</b> the weather gets worse.

## Other uses of if

To mean 'if it is true that'	<b>If</b> you were at the meeting, why didn't you raise the issue of recycling?
To mean 'if you are willing to'	<b>If</b> you'll follow me, I'll show you into the park manager's office.
To mean 'I'm saying this in case'	<b>If</b> you like zoos, the one in Singapore is fantastic.



**A Match to make sentences.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 If you stay with us for three days, .....          | A we might get served a bit more quickly.          |
| 2 If you decide not to vote in the election, .....   | B give us a call and we'll come to pick you up.    |
| 3 If you didn't eat your lunch so fast, .....        | C very few people would obey the law.              |
| 4 If there were a few more people working, .....     | D you wouldn't get hiccups, would you?             |
| 5 If you forget to take your passport, .....         | E they have to go through a complicated procedure. |
| 6 If the hire car isn't there when you arrive, ..... | F we'd be happy to give you a good reference.      |
| 7 If the city continues to expand, .....             | G I'm pretty sure they won't let you check in.     |
| 8 If the police didn't fine people, .....            | H more areas of natural beauty will be destroyed.  |
| 9 If you did decide to leave the company, .....      | I we'll have enough time to see a few sights.      |
| 10 If MPs wish to resign, .....                      | J you can't really complain about the government.  |

**B Rewrite using an appropriate conditional form, starting with the words given.**

- Sue didn't get me a birthday present, which is why I didn't get her one.  
If Sue .....
- We didn't pay them on time because they made a mistake with our order.  
If they .....
- The climate is undergoing such radical changes that scientists are worried.  
If .....
- Did California become an important area because they found gold there?  
Would ..... ?
- It's the sunset that attracts tourists to that place.  
If it .....
- There was a traffic jam on the motorway so I was late for my interview.  
If there .....
- I suggest you use a sunblock, and then you won't go red.  
If I were .....
- The accident happened as a result of the driver's not paying attention to the road.  
If the driver .....

**C Complete using the correct form of the verbs in bold. Add any other words you need.**

**17<sup>th</sup> March**

So, today marks one year since I became a Park Ranger. If I (1) ..... (**do**) that then, I never (2) ..... (**have**) so many fantastic experiences. If you (3) ..... (**ask**) me now, I would say that I knew nothing when I started, but I've learnt a huge amount. In a typical day, I'll deal with complaints, check on the running of the park and lead guided tours, if any (4) ..... (**book**). If it's low season, I (5) ..... (**have**) time to check on forest management and fire control measures. It can get stressful at times, especially if visitors to the park (6) ..... (**get**) lost or injured. We had a case last week, which wouldn't (7) ..... (**happen**) if the woman involved (8) ..... (**be**) a bit more careful. You see, if you (9) ..... (**wander**) around a large National Park like this without a map, you're bound to get lost. This particular case might (10) ..... (**be**) so bad if it (11) ..... (**start**) raining. She was only wearing light clothes, so she was wet through and freezing when we found her. I dread to think what might (12) ..... (**happen**) if we hadn't!





