Conditional Sentences



The Zero Conditional

Read these sentences.

- If we wake up early, we get more time in a day.
- If we save water, we make the planet better.

Read the sentences again. These are **zero conditional** sentences.

A **zero conditional** sentence:

- conveys general truths and facts
- uses simple present sentence
- is imperative
- can use ‘if’ and ‘when’ interchangeably



The First Conditional

Read these sentences.

- If you join the Adventure Club, you will get a chance to climb the Himalayas.
- If I join the Theatre Club, I will get a chance to act in the school plays.
- If the principal allows me to join both, I will be seen everywhere except the classroom!





REMEMBER

- If is used in sentences where we want to talk about a possibility of something happening.
- These sentences have two parts:
  - ✓ one part of the sentence is in the simple present tense
  - ✓ the second part of the sentence is in the future tense, using ‘will’.

    Example: If your school allows you, you will be able…
- Sentences that begin with if are called the **first conditional** sentences.

The Second Conditional

Read these sentence.

- If I had learnt German, I would have become a translator.
- If I knew how to paint, I would gift you a painting.
- If I visited Egypt, I would see the Pyramids of Giza.
- If father bought a glider plane, I would learn how to fly it.





REMEMBER

- In such sentences, there is every possibility that something will *not* happen.
- In these sentences, the first part is in the simple past tense, in the second part we use ‘would’.

  Example: If I had learnt German, I would become a translator.

These sentences are called **second conditional** sentences.



The Third Conditional

Kavita: If the Earth did not have gravity, we would be floating about in the air.

Rosie: If dogs could have spoken, they would have told us some interesting stories.

Komal: If I had been a hammer, I would have hammered some sense into all of you!

Harish: If we had stopped fooling around, we could have done some serious work and finished the project on time.





REMEMBER

Third conditional sentences are about 'impossible' conditions. The conditions are usually in the past, so we cannot change what has already happened. We can only express a wishful thought.

- A **third conditional sentence** consists of two clauses:
  - ✓ an 'if' subordinate clause.
  - ✓ a main clause.

Example:

If I had practised regularly, ('if' clause)

I would have been selected for the school cricket team. (main clause)



Complete these conditional sentences.

1. If I had time, I _____ shopping with you.
2. If you _____ English, you will get along with them perfectly.
3. If they had gone for a walk, they _____ the lights off.
4. If she _____ to see us, we will go to the zoo.
5. I would have told you, if I _____ him.
6. Would you mind if I _____ the window?

