

➡ CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

Conditional sentences are used to talk about a possible situation and its results.

They usually consist of two parts: the *if*-clause and the main clause. The *if*-clause can come before or after the main clause.

I. Types of Conditional Sentences

There are three types of conditional sentences: sentences of **real condition** (type 1) and sentences of **unreal condition** (types 2 and 3).

	IF	THEN
Type 1	present	will
Type 2	past	would
Type 3	past perfect	would have

Types	Example	Meaning
1.	If you drop a piece of bread it will land with the buttered side down.	an event that may happen in the future
2.	a. If Steve were ¹ / was here, he'd know what to do. b. He would tell me the news if he came .	a. imaginary situation at present b. an event that is unlikely to happen in the future
3.	He would have told me the news if he had come .	an event that was possible in the past but did not happen

e.g. If I were you... / if I were in your place... (NOT "was")

Если бы я был на твоём месте...

If it were not for... / were it not for ... (NOT "was")

Если бы не...

Conjunctions other than if

as / so long as provided (that) / providing (that) on (the) condition that	при условии, что в том случае, если
unless	если (только) не
even if	даже если хотя бы и
suppose / supposing	если (бы) предположим (что...) допустим (что...)

Modal verbs in conditional sentences

You can use **might** and **could** in place of **would** in Type 2 and 3 conditional sentences.

If the weather were nicer
we **would** go out.
we **could** go out. (= we would be able to go out)
we **might** go out. (= perhaps we would go out)

If the weather had been nicer
we **would** have gone out.
we **could** have gone out. (= we would have been able to go out)
we **might** have gone out. (= perhaps we would have gone out)

Exercise 1.

Paraphrase the sentences using the conjunctions in brackets.

Model: If I could live close enough to attend cultural events, I still (not move) out of London. (even if)
Even if I could live close enough to attend cultural events, I still wouldn't move out of London.

1. If Brian (not finish) the work in time, what shall we do? (supposing)
2. If I (keep) letters it would never have occurred to me to keep his. (even if)
3. He says he'll go parachuting if you (do) too. (provided (that))
4. You'll be quite safe if you (follow) my instructions. (as long as)
5. What if your plan (not work) – what will you do then? (suppose)
6. If we (get) support from the trade unions, we will surely win the election. (provided)
7. I'll lend you the money if you (pay) it back within three weeks. (on condition (that))
8. You don't expect me to join the army, do you? What if I (get) killed? (suppose)
9. You should always wear a helmet when you're riding your bike – what if you (fall off)? (supposing)
10. If there (be) no objections, we will begin with item three on the agenda. (provided (that))

Exercise 2.

Paraphrase the sentences using the conjunctions in brackets.

Model: I have to call Pete tonight or he won't come round.

Pete won't come round unless I phone him tonight. (Unless I phone him tonight, Peter won't come round.)

1. Some extra money must be found or the theatre will close. The theatre unless
2. The company will have to sell more shares, or it will go bankrupt. Unless
3. The doctors have to operate immediately or she'll die. Unless.....
4. Let's hurry up or we'll be late. We unless
5. Listen to the instructions carefully or you won't know what to do. You unless

Model: Tokyo life will suit you only if you like crowds. Tokyo life won't suit you unless you like crowds.

1. You can get a job only if you've got experience.
2. She will lose weight only if she sticks to a diet.
3. He will be able to collect the necessary sum only if he saves every penny.
4. You can reproduce textbooks only if you have written permission.
5. She will be able to sort out this problem only if she listens to what her teachers are saying

Exercise 3.

Open the brackets using Conditional 1 for perfectly possible situations or Conditional 2 for unlikely suppositions.

1. I don't think we'll sell this flat. But if we (sell) the flat, how much do you think we (get)?
2. They say there're snakes here. What we (do) if we (see) one?
3. Can't you see you're playing with fire? If you (get) caught, you (end up) in jail.
4. It seems unlikely that they will change their plans at this stage. But if they (do), it (improve) the situation greatly.
5. Listen! I'm serious. I (fire) you if you (not change) your attitude to work.

6. They'll have to take a chance with that old car and pray that it doesn't break down on the road. If it (do) they (be) in big trouble.
7. Max and Rita do not think of buying a house. Buying a house (place) a big financial burden on the young couple.
8. If you (continue) to cause trouble the company (be forced) to dismiss you.
9. What's the point of buying a car? If I (buy) a car I (have) one big headache.
10. I don't think he is the President's most likely successor. I (be) surprised if he (be) elected.
11. We can't offer the job to someone with so little experience. It (be) too risky if we (do).
12. I know you've been working too hard. If you (keep on) doing that, you (break down).

Exercise 4.

Rewrite the sentences as Conditionals 2 or 3.

Model: I would write to her, but I don't know her address. -- I would write to her if I knew her address.
Our chairman was unwell, otherwise he would have been with us that evening. -- If our chairman hadn't been unwell, he would have been with us that evening.

1. She must have been deeply hurt, or she wouldn't have burst into tears.
2. You don't really love me or you'd come back again.
3. Clark would probably have won the race but his car went out of control and crashed.
4. He was a man of incomparable kindness and generosity, otherwise he wouldn't have acted the way he did.
5. She wanted to make a statement about cruelty to animals, otherwise she wouldn't have thrown paint over the fur coats.
6. He would have gone to the US but he was denied a visa.
7. I was in the right place at the right time, or I wouldn't have met you.
8. He's a very fortunate person, or he wouldn't have so many friends.
9. We were unable to get the funding, otherwise we would have never abandoned the project.
10. He would make friends easily, but he has an unpleasant manner.

Exercise 5.

Paraphrase the sentences using Conditionals 2 or 3.

1. She didn't put the milk back in the fridge and it went off.
2. As he found the work unsatisfying he resigned.
3. The reason she's so irritable is because she's tired.
4. Pat missed the last flight, and therefore had to stay the night at the airport.
5. The reason I walked out was because I was bored.
6. The car broke down and so we had to walk all the way home.
7. People dislike me because I'm handsome and successful.
8. MPs were indignant as the government had not consulted them about starting price reforms.
9. Sarah wasn't at school last week, with the result that she missed an important test.

Exercise 6.

Paraphrase the sentences using Conditionals 2 and 3.

1. He was overweight because he was living on a diet of junk food.
2. Unable to have children of their own, Penny and Ralph are considering adopting a child.
3. John is writing a thesis at the moment, so he has no time to spare.
4. I'm standing out against his idea because it's impracticable.

5. The reason we didn't recognize him was because he was wearing a false beard.
6. As they have much in common they are getting on very well.
7. They were criticizing the government because it failed to limit air pollution.
8. Elephants are dying out because they are being hunted for the ivory from their tusks.
9. I'm angry because he's dictating to me what I should do and what I shouldn't do.
10. Terrified residents are complaining because aircraft are flying low over their homes.

Exercise 7.

Open the brackets using the correct form of the verb.

1. If we had known about the ozone layer, we (can, ban) aerosol sprays years ago.
2. If I didn't live in a safe neighbourhood I (may, feel) less secure.
3. If I could have anything I wanted I (may, buy) a large house next to the ocean.
4. If she had racked her brains for a week she (cannot, think up) anything that would humiliate Tom more bitterly.
5. Well, as a matter of fact, it (may, be) better if I didn't mention his name.
6. If the bombs had exploded in another city, they (may, be seen) as a serious threat to security. But the two that went off in Thailand on April 7th did not cause much alarm.
7. If it were possible to speak to the unborn, one never (can, explain) to them how it feels to be alive.
8. If he had known that much about this business he (may, do) better.
9. If I had his telephone number, I (can, get) in touch with him.
10. If she hadn't run away from him, he (may, have to bear) that burden for the rest of his life, and with such a handicap he never (can, reach) the position he did.

Exercise 8.

Open the brackets using Conditionals 2 and 3.

1. If someone (tell) me ten years ago that this was the future I (laugh).
2. It (not surprise) him if she (be) angry or (make) a scene, or if she (cry); he (can, cope) with that; but her calmness frightened him.
3. I wish I could go to Italy now. The peasants (call) me "Don" and (take off) their hats if I (meet) them. I (go) hunting through the chestnut woods. The peasants (be) honoured if I (eat) at their houses.
4. He (be) dead in a week if he (see) everyone who wants to see him.
5. It (be) a bad world if you (not get) a good laugh now and then.
6. It's a chance in a thousand, and I think it (be) madness if you (not take) it.
7. She realized that it (be) a bitter blow to his pride if he ever (have) an inkling how little he meant to her.
8. She wondered what they (think) if they really (know) how unromantic the life of a successful actress was.
9. Dick was certain that Maisie (laugh) at him if he (be forced) to wear spectacles.
10. You mustn't mind what other people do. If their souls (be) your souls, it (be) different.
11. If I (be) in your place, I probably (do) the same thing.
12. Rosa was pleasant and easy to live with and she adored him, but Michael knew if she (die) or (go away) he (get along) without her. He simply (find) someone else to do the things she did for him.

II. Mixed Conditional Sentences

		If-clause	Main Clause
1	Past action and its present consequences	Type 3	Type 2
2	Present (general) fact and its past consequences	Type 2	Type 3

1. Past action: You ate too much.
 Present Consequences: You have a stomach-ache.
*If you **hadn't eaten** too much (type 3), you **wouldn't have** a stomach-ache (type 2).*
2. Present (general) fact: He is not a careful driver.
 Past Consequences: He met with an accident.
*If he **were** a careful driver (type 2), he **wouldn't have met** with an accident (type 3).*

Exercise 9.

Combine the sentences using mixed Conditionals.

- I missed the supper. I'm starving.
- She grew up in Paris. She knows it well.
- The soup is tasteless. You didn't put enough salt during the cooking.
- He's got no manners. He told a rude joke.
- She has been studying for her doctorate for three years. She is able to offer expert advice.
- His flat was badly damaged during the fire. He's staying at a hotel.
- The food has been stored for a long time. It is not safe to eat.
- Nick has been offered two well-paid jobs. He is in a dilemma which one to choose.
- The headteacher gave Bob a very good reference. She has a high opinion of his abilities.
- I don't have enough money. I telephoned many airlines to find out the cheapest price.
- John had a heart attack last year. He can't have a healthy and active life now.
- Alice spent a few years in Florence. Her Italian is very good.
- I have been self-employed very long. I can't imagine having to work for someone.
- You've been shouting. The baby is awake.

III. Reduced Conditional Clauses

But for If it were not for If it had not been for	если бы не
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e.g. *If it were not for him* I would never have become a doctor.

Если бы не он, я бы никогда не стал врачом.

Exercise 10.

Paraphrase the sentences using if it were not for, if it had not been for, but for.

- Thanks to your carelessness these important documents were lost.
- Our flight was delayed due to a strike of air-traffic controllers.
- Because of the snow schools have been closed and children told to stay at home.
- He is being criticized for his failure to complete the work.
- Without his influence, the outcome of the conflict would have been unpredictable.
- He's not playing in the afternoon's game because of his leg injury.
- Without your advice, I wouldn't have made the right choice.
- I'm sure it's because of the children that she hasn't left her husband.
- Many young people postponed starting families because of the recession.

IV. Inversion

In a literary style, structures *were I / you / he / etc.*, *had I / you / he / etc.* can be used instead of *if I / you / he / etc. were, if I / you / he / etc. had.*

e.g. *Were you really ill, I might feel more sympathetic.*

Had I known he was ill, I would never have shouted at him.

Exercise 11.

Make the sentences emphatic using inversion.

1. If he had considered things from my point of view, he would have understood me better.
2. If it had not been for the flood, the crops wouldn't have been wiped out completely.
3. If she were really ill, Jack might feel more sympathetic.
4. If John had been caught cheating, he would have failed the course.
5. If I were in his place, I would also seek comfort and understanding.
6. If I had known I was developing diabetes, I would have cut down on sugar.
7. If it were not for the safety belt, his injuries might have been more serious.
8. If it had not been for that timely intervention, the terrorist operation would have claimed over 300 lives.
9. If they were not deeply religious, human bombs would not be willing to die in the cause of Allah.
10. If I had been in Cindy's position, I would never have left the child unattended in the playground.

Exercise 12.

Translate into English using Conditionals 2 and 3.

1. Если бы наши потребительские товары были более высокого качества, они бы были конкурентоспособны.
2. Я бы мог сохранять спокойствие, если бы ситуация не требовала принятия срочных мер.
3. Было бы бестактно с его стороны затронуть этот вопрос.
4. Я бы послушался ее совета, если бы не считал, что она утратила чувство реальности.
5. Джон был бы последним глупцом, если бы не вкладывал деньги в образование своих детей.
6. Если бы он не был зачислен в университет, ему бы не удалось избежать призыва (to be drafted) в армию.
7. Полиция не была бы встревожена, если бы в обращении не было несколько тысяч фальшивых банкнот.
8. Если бы я был на вашем месте, я бы сократил (to cut down on) потребление сахара.
9. Экономические санкции не были бы введены, если бы страна не нарушила соглашение.
10. На вашем месте я бы не завидовал их успеху.

Exercise 13.

Translate into English using Conditionals 2 and 3.

1. Диана не злопамятна. На твоём месте я бы не беспокоился.
2. Если бы он привел более убедительные аргументы, ему бы удалось доказать свою правоту.
3. Он не стал бы баллотироваться на пост президента, если бы не считал, что может принести пользу государству.
4. Если бы не был введен запрет на продажу слоновой кости, слоны были бы полностью истреблены.

5. Если бы жизнь была менее напряженной (stressful), люди бы жили дольше.
6. Было бы легко поставить диагноз, если бы болезнь протекала обычным образом.
7. С ним было бы гораздо приятнее общаться, если бы он не стремился навязать всем свои взгляды.
8. Тираж газеты не упал бы, если бы цена на нее не была повышена на 45 пенсов.

Exercise 14.

Translate into English using reduced conditional clauses.

1. Если бы не Книга рекордов Гиннеса (The Guinness Book of Records), мы бы не узнали о многих необычных людях и их достижениях.
2. Если бы не усилия президента Картера, количество безработных не сократилось бы более, чем на миллион в 1977 году.
3. Если бы не Уотергейтский скандал, президенту Никсону не пришлось бы уйти в отставку.
4. Правительство не ввело бы запрет на импорт электротоваров, если бы не желание поддержать своего производителя.
5. Если бы не упорный труд и большие усилия, они бы не достигли всего задуманного (all they set out to do).
6. Если бы не хорошее чувство юмора и природный оптимизм, он бы считал свое положение безнадежным.
7. Если бы не отсутствие опыта работы, выпускники колледжей не испытывали бы трудностей с трудоустройством.
8. Если бы не недостаток профессиональной подготовки, Стивенсон мог бы претендовать (aspire to) на руководящую должность.
9. Если бы не поддержка родных и друзей, она бы не сумела завершить образование.

Exercise 15.

Translate into English using inversion.

1. Предупреди они меня заранее, я бы принял меры предосторожности.
2. Будь она на вашем месте, она бы с радостью приняла приглашение посетить Лондон и провести несколько дней в Эдинбурге.
3. Знай он заранее, что потеряет высокооплачиваемую работу, он бы отложил деньги на черный день.
4. Получи я такое предложение в двадцатилетнем возрасте, я бы непременно согласился.
5. Будь она менее чувствительной, она бы сдержалась и не расплакалась.