

## THE ZERO CONDITIONAL

The zero conditional is used for when the time being referred to is now or always and the situation is real and possible. The zero conditional is often used to refer to general truths. The tense in both parts of the sentence is the simple present. In zero conditional sentences, the word "if" can usually be replaced by the word "when" without changing the meaning.

If clause            Main clause

If + simple present      simple present

If this thing happens    that thing happens.

If you heat ice    it melts.

If it rains            the grass gets wet.

Read more about how to use the zero conditional.

## TYPE 1 CONDITIONAL

The type 1 conditional is used to refer to the present or future where the situation is real. The type 1 conditional refers to a possible condition and its probable result. In these sentences the if clause is in the simple present, and the main clause is in the simple future.

If clause            Main clause

If + simple present      simple future

If this thing happens    that thing will happen.

If you don't hurry      you will miss the train.

If it rains today    you will get wet.

Read more about how to use the type 1 conditional.

## TYPE 2 CONDITIONAL

The type 2 conditional is used to refer to a time that is now or any time, and a situation that is unreal. These sentences are not based on fact. The type 2 conditional is used to refer to a hypothetical

condition and its probable result. In type 2 conditional sentences, the if clause uses the simple past, and the main clause uses the present conditional.

If clause            Main clause

If + simple past    present conditional or present continuous conditional

If this thing happened    that thing would happen. (but I'm not sure this thing will happen) OR  
that thing would be happening.

If you went to bed earlier            you would not be so tired.

If it rained            you would get wet.

If I spoke Italian I would be working in Italy.

Read more about how to use the type 2 conditional with the present conditional and how to use the present continuous conditional in type 2 conditional sentence.

### **TYPE 3 CONDITIONAL**

The type 3 conditional is used to refer to a time that is in the past, and a situation that is contrary to reality. The facts they are based on are the opposite of what is expressed. The type 3 conditional is used to refer to an unreal past condition and its probable past result. In type 3 conditional sentences, the if clause uses the past perfect, and the main clause uses the perfect conditional.

If clause            Main clause

If + past perfect    perfect conditional or perfect continuous conditional

If this thing had happened            that thing would have happened. (but neither of those things really happened) OR

that thing would have been happening.

If you had studied harder            you would have passed the exam.

If it had rained    you would have gotten wet.

If I had accepted that promotion            I would have been working in Milan.

Read more about how to use the type 3 conditional with the perfect conditional tense, and how to use the perfect continuous conditional in type 3 conditional sentences.

#### MIXED TYPE CONDITIONAL

The mixed type conditional is used to refer to a time that is in the past, and a situation that is ongoing into the present. The facts they are based on are the opposite of what is expressed. The mixed type conditional is used to refer to an unreal past condition and its probable result in the present. In mixed type conditional sentences, the if clause uses the past perfect, and the main clause uses the present conditional.

If clause            Main clause

If + past perfect or simple past    present conditional or perfect conditional

If this thing had happened            that thing would happen. (but this thing didn't happen so that thing isn't happening)

If I had worked harder at school I would have a better job now.

If we had looked at the map        we wouldn't be lost.

If you weren't afraid of spiders    you would have picked it up and put it outside.