

# CONDITIONALS – 0, 1, 2 AND 3

Conditional sentences are sentences discussing hypothetical situations and their consequences. Full conditional sentences contain two clauses: the condition and the consequence or apodosis.

→ If it rains [condition], (then) the picnic will be cancelled [consequence].

## GENERAL STRUCTURE

If [conditional verb], [consequence verb]  
conditional clause      consequence clause

Or

[consequence verb] if [conditional verb]  
consequence clause      conditional clause

## FORMS

### 0

The zero conditional is used for common truths, stuff which is always true.

#### STRUCTURE

Both verb forms are in the present.

The “if” can be replaced by “when” or “whenever”.

#### EXAMPLES

- If you **heat** water to 100 degrees celsius, it **boils**.
- If you **don't** eat for a long time, you **get** hungry.
- If the sea **is** stormy, the waves **are** high.

### 1

The first conditional is used for conditions that are POSSIBLE or PROBABLE to come true.

#### STRUCTURE

The conditional verb is the present verb form and consequence verb is normally the will future

#### EXAMPLE

- If it **rains** on Sunday, we **will not go** swimming.
- I **will tell** dad if you **don't help** me.

### 2

The second conditional is used for things that are not true now and also probably won't be in the future.

#### STRUCTURE

The conditional verb in the 2<sup>nd</sup> verb form and consequence verb is the “would [could, should, might] + infinitive”-form.

## EXAMPLES

- If she **were** [**was**] at work today, she **would know** how to deal with this client.
- If I **won** the lottery, I **would buy** a car.
- If he **said** that to me, I **would run** away.

## 3

The third conditional is used for talking about things that have happened (so they're impossible), but discuss what would be different if not.

## STRUCTURE

The conditional verb is had with the 3<sup>rd</sup> verb form and consequence verb is the “would [could, should, might] + have + infinitive”-form.

## EXAMPLES

- If you **had called** me, I **would have come**.

## FURTHER RESOURCES &amp; SOURCE

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conditional\\_sentence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conditional_sentence)

<http://www.ego4u.de/de/cram-up/grammar/conditional-sentences>