

Zero Conditional

Usage

We use zero conditional for situations that are **always true** if something happens.

Form

'If' clause: **present simple**

'Result' clause: **present simple**

If I am late, I call a taxi.

comma!

****You can also put the result clause first **without** using a **comma** between the clauses!****

He doesn't mind

if Sam cycles home from school.

'Result' clause

No comma!

'If' clause

Note

This use is **similar to**, and can usually be replaced by, a time clause using '**when**'

When I am late, I call a taxi.

**He doesn't mind
when Sam cycles home from school.**

First Conditional

Usage

We use the first conditional to talk about **possible situations** in the future

Form

'If' clause: **present simple**

'Result' clause: **future simple**

comma!

If it storms tomorrow, our flight might get cancelled.

You can also put the result clause first **without** using a **comma** between the clauses!

'Result' clause

I will feel energetic

No comma!

if I drink my vitamins everyday.

'If' clause

Note

We can also replace "if" in the first conditional by other phrases such as: *unless, as long as, in case or as soon as.*

Unless there is a dangerous storm, our hike will continue tomorrow.

Second Conditional

Usage

We use the second conditional to talk about **unreal situations** in the present or in the future.

Form

'If' clause: **past simple**

'Result' clause: **would + verb**

If I had extra money, I would buy another house.

****You can also put the result clause first **without** using a **comma** between the clauses!****

**I would learn another language
if I had more time.**

Note

you can also use 'could' in the if clause. The verb that follows 'could' will be in the infinitive form not past simple.

If you could meet anyone in the world, who would you meet?

Third Conditional

Usage

We use the third conditional to talk about a condition from the past that **did not happen**.

Form

'If' clause: **past perfect**

'Result' clause: **would + have + past participle**

If I had studied, I would have passed the exam.

You can also put the result clause first **without** using a **comma** between the clauses!

I wouldn't have been stressed
if I created a study plan.

'Result' clause

'If' clause

No comma!

Note

We can also use the third conditional to imagine a different outcome as it is too late for the condition or the result to happen.

If there wasn't traffic this morning, I would have been on time.