

Conditionals

87 The zero conditional

- We use the zero conditional to talk about something that is always true as a result of a possible action or situation: *If you keep milk in a fridge, it stays fresh longer.*
- To form zero conditional sentences, we use *if/when* + present simple + present simple: **When she gets home early, she goes for a run in the park.**
- The *if/when* clause can come at the beginning of the sentence or after the main clause. When it comes at the beginning, we put a comma (,) after it: **If I have dinner late, I don't sleep well. I don't sleep well if I have dinner late.**

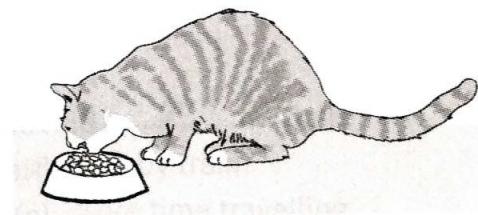
PRACTICE

87a Match the two parts of the zero conditional sentences.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 0 Water turns into steam | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a if you want cheap air tickets. |
| 1 If you want to visit the USA, | <input type="checkbox"/> | b if you have a good Internet connection. |
| 2 You have to book early | <input type="checkbox"/> | c when you heat it to 100°C. |
| 3 When babies are hungry, | <input type="checkbox"/> | d if you drive fast. |
| 4 I get cold feet | <input type="checkbox"/> | e they cry. |
| 5 Cars use more petrol | <input type="checkbox"/> | f if I don't wear woollen socks in winter. |
| 6 Downloading music is quick | <input type="checkbox"/> | g you need a visa. |

87b Complete the zero conditional sentences. Use the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 When they *go* on holiday, a neighbour *feeds* their cat. (go, feed)
- 1 He early when he study a lot. (get up, have to)
- 2 If I late, I usually to the college. (not be, walk)
- 3 What if you problems getting to sleep? (you / do, have)
- 4 If James to see her, she the door. (come, not answer)
- 5 When I advice, I usually to my older brother. (need, talk)
- 6 your mobile when you in a restaurant? (you / turn off, be)



88 The first conditional

- We use the first conditional to talk about something that may happen in the future, as a result of a possible action or situation: *If it's sunny later, we'll go to the beach.*
- To form first conditional sentences, we use *if* + present simple + *will*/modal verb/imperative: *If it rains later, we won't go out. If your flight isn't late, I can meet you at the airport. If you see Di, tell her to ring me.*
- The *if* clause can come at the beginning of the sentence or after the main clause. When it comes at the beginning, we put a comma (,) after it: *If it gets colder, we'll light a fire. We'll light a fire if it gets colder.*

►► For future time clauses with *when*, *after*, *before* and *as soon as*, see Unit 84.

PRACTICE

88a Circle the correct answer.

- 0 I call / 'll call you if the train arrives / will arrive late.
- 1 Dr Lee *doesn't* / *can't* see you today if you *don't* / *won't* have an appointment.
- 2 If we walk / 'll walk faster, we get / 'll get to the cinema on time.
- 3 If you go / 'll go to the supermarket, buy / you buy some milk.
- 4 They get / won't get lost if they take / 'll take a map with them.
- 5 If you see / will see a snake, you don't / mustn't touch it!
- 6 Don't / You don't tell John where I am if he asks / 'll ask you.
- 7 We catch / 'll catch the last bus home if we hurry / 'll hurry.
- 8 If he *doesn't tell* / *not tell* her the truth, she *might be* / *is* very angry.

88b Complete the conversation. Use the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- A: Do you think Tina will be OK in Paris?
- B: I'm sure she (0) **'ll be** (be) happy if she (1) (make) friends quickly and if she (2) (feel) lonely at first, she (3) (can / phone) us.
- C: She's going soon. If we (4) (not organise) a party now, it (5) (might / be) too late.
- D: She (6) (be) disappointed if she (7) (not get) a present from us. If we all (8) (give) some money, we (9) (can / get) something nice.
- A: If you (10) (see) her, (11) (ask) her if there's anything she needs, but (12) (not mention) the party. Then it'll be a surprise!

88c Write first conditional questions.

- 0 I / get into / the concert / if / I / not buy / a ticket in advance?
Will I get into the concert if I don't buy a ticket in advance?

- 1 if / I / phone / you at six o'clock / you / be / at home?

- 2 what / we / do / if / the restaurant / not serve / vegetarian food?

- 3 Jean / be / angry / if / we / not arrive / on time?

- 4 if / I / get / a laptop / where / I / should / buy / it?

- 5 who / you / go / on holiday with / if / you / win / the competition?

- 6 if / you / go away / this weekend / I / can / have / a party in the flat?

88d Match the questions in 88c with the answers.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a No, she won't. | <input type="checkbox"/> | e They do. I checked. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b Yes, I will. | <input type="checkbox"/> | f On the Internet. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c Probably with David. | <input type="checkbox"/> | g No, you won't. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d No, you can't! | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

88e Complete the conversation. Use the correct form of the verbs in the box.

book do find go look might / find
 not be able to / stay not know spend

- A: Where shall we go this summer?
- B: I'd like to go to New York, but it's really expensive. If we (0)*go*..... there, we (1) very long. How about going round Europe by train?
- A: No way! If we (2) that, we (3) more time travelling than visiting places.
- B: What do you suggest?
- A: Let me search the Internet. If I (4) online, you never know, I (5) a cheap flight to somewhere really exciting.
- B: But how (6) you a cheap flight if you (7) where we're going?
- A: There are websites that have special offers.
- B: Well, if you see two cheap flights to New York, (8) them! Because that's where I want to go.

89 unless

- We can use *unless* in first conditional sentences to mean *if not*: *Your English won't get better unless you study more.* (Your English won't get better if you don't study more.)
- We usually use *unless* with an affirmative verb: *They won't let you into the club unless you wear a tie.*

PRACTICE

89a Complete the sentences. Use *if* or *unless*.

- 0 I won't go to university this year *unless* I can study medicine.
- 1 I won't be able to study medicine I get good exam results.
- 2 I don't get good exam results, I'll take my exams again next year.
- 3 I'll have time to go travelling I don't go to university.
- 4 But I work this summer, I won't have enough money to go travelling.
- 5 I won't find a summer job I start looking for one soon.
- 6 I contact my uncle, he might give me a job in his company.
- 7 My uncle won't give me a job I do well at school.
- 8 But I do well at school, I'll have good exam results and I won't need a job!

89b Re-write the sentences.

- 0 She won't believe you if you don't tell her the truth.
She won't believe you unless *you tell her the truth*
- 1 I won't come to the barbecue if you don't invite my boyfriend as well.
I won't come to the barbecue unless
- 2 Unless we get to the airport early, we won't get a window seat on the plane.
If, we won't get a window seat on the plane.
- 3 Frozen food can be bad for you unless you cook it very well.
Frozen food can be bad for you if
- 4 If he doesn't listen to people, he'll never have many friends.
Unless, he'll never have many friends.
- 5 That plant will die if she doesn't water it more often.
That plant will die unless
- 6 If you don't phone to say sorry, Helen will never forgive you.
Unless, Helen will never forgive you.
- 7 We'll never finish unless we get some help.
We'll never finish if

90 The second conditional

- We use the second conditional to talk about:
 - the result of an action or situation that is imaginary or impossible: *If he was younger, he'd get the job.* (This is impossible; he cannot become younger.)
 - an action that is not likely to happen in the present or future: *If I won the lottery, I'd buy a house.* (This is not likely. I probably won't win the lottery.)
- To form second conditional sentences, we use *if* + past simple + *would*: *If she knew the answer, she would tell us.*
- In formal English, we use *were* after *if* instead of *was*: *If he were younger, he'd get the job.*
- We can use *if I were you* to give advice: *If I were you, I'd tell the truth.*
- The *if* clause can come at the beginning of the sentence or after the main clause. When it comes at the beginning, we put a comma (,) after it: *If I knew the answer, I'd tell you. I'd tell you if I knew the answer.*

PRACTICE

90a Circle the correct answer.

- A: I've got a problem. John lent me his MP3 player and I've lost it. What (o) *did* / *would* you do if you (1) *were* / *'d be* me?
B: I (2) *bought* / *'d buy* him a new one.
A: What about you, Danny? (3) *Would* / *Did* you buy him a new one?
C: No, I (4) *didn't* / *wouldn't*. I (5) *told* / *'d tell* him what happened and wait to see what he said first.
-
- A: If you (6) *found* / *'d find* a wallet in the street, what (7) *did* / *would* you do?
B: If it (8) *had* / *would have* identification in it, I (9) *took* / *'d take* it to the police.
A: And if it (10) *didn't* / *wouldn't* have any, (11) *did* / *would* you keep the money?
B: Yes, I (12) *did* / *would*. Why do you ask?
A: I've just found one and I don't know what to do.

90b Complete the conversations. Use the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- A: I feel exhausted. I don't sleep at night.
B: I think you'd sleep better if you (o) *did* (do) some exercise during the day. And if you (1) (sleep) better, maybe you (2) (not be) so irritable!
-
- A: Becky's not doing well at school.
B: She (3) (get) better marks if she (4) (not watch) so much TV. Then she (5) (be able to) study whatever she wanted at university.
-

- A: I don't know what to do. If I (6) (have) some money, I (7) (go away) in August, but I spend all the money I get.
- B: If I (8) (be) you, and if I (9) (need) some money to go on holiday, I (10) (ask) my parents to lend me some.

90c Write second conditional questions.

- 0 if / you / find / someone's diary / what / you / do?
 A: *If you found someone's diary, what would you do?* B: I'd read it.
- 1 if / you / see / a ghost / you / be / frightened?
 A: B: Yes, I would!
- 2 if / Sarah / have / a problem / who / she / talk to?
 A: B: She'd talk to you.
- 3 Marc / come / to the party / if / I / ask / him?
 A: B: No, he wouldn't.
- 4 what / you / do / if / you / be / in Kate's position?
 A: B: I'd tell the truth.
- 5 if / you / can / go / anywhere / where / you / go?
 A: B: I'd go to Cuba.

90d Re-write the sentences.

- 0 I'm busy, so I'm not going to the party tonight.
 If *I wasn't busy, I'd go to the party tonight*
- 1 Toni doesn't want to see us, so he doesn't phone us.
 If
- 2 We don't eat out because it's so expensive.
 If
- 3 You won't get in the football team because you don't come to training sessions.
 If
- 4 The students enjoy your lessons, so they come to every class.
 If
- 5 She practises every day, so she's very good.
 If
- 6 I won't win the lottery, so I'll carry on working.
 If