



IF-CLAUSES CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

1. Possibility/reality
2. Unreality
3. Impossibility

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1. FUTURE - POSSIBLE (FIRST CONDITIONAL)

It is **possible** to fulfill a **condition** which is given in the if-clause.

Formation

If-Clause	Main Clause
Simple Present	Simple Future or Infinitive/imperative or Modal + Infinitive (<i>may, might, should</i>)

If-Clause	Main Clause
If you study hard,	you will pass the exam.
If you see John tonight,	tell him to e-mail me.
If Ben gets up early,	he can catch the bus.



Future-Possible

The if-clause can be at **the beginning (followed by a coma)** or at the end of the sentence.

If-Clause	Main Clause
If you study hard,	you will pass the exams.
You will pass the exams	if you study hard.



2. Unreal (second conditional)

It is **theoretically possible** to fulfill a **condition** which is given in the if-clause.

Formation

If-Clause	Main Clause
Simple Past	would + infinitive or could + infinitive or might + infinitive

If-Clause	Main Clause
If you studied hard,	you would pass the exam.
If you studied ,	you could pass the exams.
If you studied ,	you might pass the exams.

Both **were** and **was** are possible in the second conditional, with no change in meaning

If I **was/were** a politician, I'd make big changes. If I **were** you, I'd quit.

Unreality

The if-clause can be **at the beginning (followed by a coma)** or at the end of the sentence.

If-Clause	Main Clause
If you studied ,	you would pass the exams.
You would pass the exams	if you studied .



3. Past – impossible (third conditional)

It is **impossible** to fulfill a **condition** which is given in the if-clause.

Formation

If-Clause	Main Clause
Past Perfect	would + have + past participle or could + have + past participle or might + have + past participle

If-Clause	Main Clause
If you had studied hard,	you would have passed the exams.
If you had studied,	you could have passed the exams.
If you had studied,	you might have passed the exams.

Impossibility

The if-clause can be at the beginning (followed by a coma) or at the end of the sentence.

If-Clause	Main Clause
If you had studied hard ,	you would have passed the exams.
You would have passed the exams	if you had studied hard .

