

# CONDITIONALS : IF SENTENCES



## MIXED CONDITIONALS

Often, things that did or did not happen in the past have results which continue or are still important in the present. We can emphasise this by using if with a simple past and would have + past participle in the main clause, or by using if with a past perfect and would in the main clause.

2 <sup>ND</sup> CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE				3 <sup>RD</sup> CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE	
Present condition and a past result. We use it to express that due to certain present conditions something already happened in the past.					
IF	SUBJECT	PAST SIMPLE	COMMA	SUBJECT	PERFECT CONDITIONAL
IF	HE	WERE SO GOOD	,	HE	WOULD HAVE WON
3 <sup>RD</sup> CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE			2 <sup>ND</sup> CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE		
The first one has a condition in the past and a present result. We use it to express that if something had been different in the past there would be a present result.					
IF	SUBJECT	PAST PERFECT	COMMA	SUBJECT	PRESENT CONDITIONAL
IF	HE	HAD PASSED THE EXAM	,	HE	WOULD BE HAPPY (NOW)

## INVERTED CONDITIONALS

Conditional sentences with inversion are more formal than those that follow the usual word order.

INVERSION		EXAMPLE SENTENCES		
AUX VERB	SUBJECT	VERB	NORMAL	INVERTED
<b>SHOULD - 1<sup>ST</sup> CONDITIONAL</b> No contractions <del>X Shouldn't you</del> ✓ Should you not	NOUN PRONOUN	BARE INFINITIVE	If you need more information...	<b>Should you</b> need more information...
<b>WERE - 2<sup>ND</sup> CONDITIONAL</b> No contractions <del>X Weren't I to</del> ✓ Were I not to	NOUN PRONOUN	TO INFINITIVE	If I were you, I would ... If he were to find out that they ... If the ceremony were not to take place in...	<b>Were I you</b> , I would ... <b>Were he to</b> find out that they... <b>Were the ceremony not to</b> take place in...
<b>HAD - 3<sup>RD</sup> CONDITIONAL</b> No contractions <del>X Hadn't you</del> ✓ Had you not	NOUN PRONOUN	PAST PARTICIPLE	If I had known that sooner, I would ... If you had not been late, you...	<b>Had I known</b> that sooner, I would ... <b>Had you not</b> been late, you ...

## IF + SHOULD

We can use if with should to refer to events which might happen by chance or by accident.

If you should bump into Carol, can you tell her I'm looking for her? (If by chance you bump into Carol.)

If the government should ever find itself in this situation again, it is to be hoped it would act more quickly.

## IF + WILL /IF + WOULD

Will and would can be used in conditional clauses, either with the meaning of 'being willing to do something', or to refer to later results

If Clare will meet us at the airport, it will save us a lot of time. (if Clare is willing to meet us)

If you would all stop shouting, I will try and explain the situation!

## IF YOU WON'T = if you refuse to

The negative of will in the if-clause has the same meaning as refuse to.

As you read these examples, remember to place heavier word stress than normal on won't:

If she won't come to Sardinia with us, there's nothing we can do to make her. (If she refuses to come to Sardinia ...)

What shall we do, if she won't agree to have the operation? (what shall we do, if she doesn't want to have the operation?)

If we apply it to an inanimate object, we'd take it as personification:

If my car won't start, we'll have to walk.

## IF and POLITENESS

In speaking, we often use if followed by will, would, can or could to introduce a polite request.

IF CLAUSE	MAIN CLAUSE
If you will step this way please,	I will show you to your table.
If you would care to leave your name,	we'll contact you as soon as possible
If you would like to follow me. (= Please follow me.)	
If you'll just tell Julie that her next client is here. (=Can you tell Julie that ...)	
If I could just say one more thing ... (more polite than Listen to me, I want to say something.)	
If we can move on to the next point for discussion. (more polite than Can we move on ...)	