CONDITIONALS : IF SENTENCES

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B2

ZERO CONDITIONAL (also called real conditional)

Some conditions seem more real to us than others. Real conditionals refer to things that are true, that have happened, or are very likely to happen.

IF	SUBJECT	PRESENT SIMPLE	COMMA	SUBJECT	PRESENT SIMPLE
IF	YOU	HEAT ICE	,	IT	**MELTS**

REVERSING THE ORDER OF CLAUSES : We can put the main clause at the beginning. Then we don't use a comma between the two clauses.

SUBJECT	PRESENT SIMPLE	IF	SUBJECT	PRESENT SIMPLE
I	GET TIRED	IF	I	RUN

FIRST CONDITIONAL

We use the first conditional to talk about the result of an imagined future situation, when we believe the imagined situation is quite likely.

IF	SUBJECT	PRESENT SIMPLE	COMMA	SUBJECT	FUTURE SIMPLE
IF	IT	RAINS	,	I	**WON'T/CAN'T/MAY NOT/ GO** OUT

REVERSING THE ORDER OF CLAUSES : We can put the main clause at the beginning. Then we don't use a comma between the two clause

SUBJECT	FUTURE SIMPLE	IF	SUBJECT	PRESENT SIMPLE
YOU	WILL MISS THE BUS	IF	YOU	DON'T RUN

SECOND CONDITIONAL

We use the second conditional to talk about the possible result of an imagined situation in the present or future.
We say what the conditions must be for the present or future situation to be different.

IF	SUBJECT	PAST SIMPLE	COMMA	SUBJECT	PRESENT CONDITIONAL
IF	I	WERE RICH	,	I	**WOULD/COULD/MAY/MIGHT TRAVEL** THE WORLD

REVERSING THE ORDER OF CLAUSES : We can put the main clause at the beginning. Then we don't use a comma between the two clauses.

SUBJECT	PRESENT CONDITIONAL	IF	SUBJECT	PAST SIMPLE
I	WOULD HELP YOU	IF	I	HAD TIME

THIRD CONDITIONAL

We use the third conditional when we imagine a different past, where something did or did not happen, and we imagine a different result.

IF	SUBJECT	PAST PERFECT	COMMA	SUBJECT	PERFECT CONDITIONAL
IF	YOU	HAD STUDIED	,	YOU	**WOULD/COULD/MAY/MIGHT HAVE PASSED** THE EXAM

REVERSING THE ORDER OF CLAUSES : We can put the main clause at the beginning. Then we don't use a comma between the two clauses.

SUBJECT	PERFECT CONDITIONAL	IF	SUBJECT	PAST PERFECT
HE	WOULD HAVE COME	IF	HE	HAD HAD TIME

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.

2ND CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE				3RD 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

REVERSING THE ORDER OF CLAUSES : We can put the main clause at the beginning. Then we don't use a comma between the two clauses.

3RD CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE			2ND CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE		
SUBJECT	PERFECT CONDITIONAL	IF	SUBJECT	PAST SIMPLE	
HE	WOULD HAVE COME	IF	HE	WEREN'T BUSY	

3RD CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE			2ND 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)

REVERSING THE ORDER OF CLAUSES : We can put the main clause at the beginning. Then we don't use a comma between the two clauses.

2ND CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE			3RD CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE		
SUBJECT	PRESENT CONDITIONAL	IF	SUBJECT	PAST PERFECT	
WE	WOULD BE THERE NOW	IF	WE	HAD LEFT EARLIER	