



Chapter 8: Just imagine!

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Part 1

Grammar (conditional)

Introduction to conditionals

There are many different ways of making sentences with *if*. It is important to understand the difference between sentences that express real possibilities, and those that express unreal situations.

Real possibilities

If it rains, we'll stay home.

(*if* + Present Simple + *will*)

If you've finished your work, you can go home.

(*if* + Present Perfect + modal auxiliary verb)

If you're feeling ill, go home and get into bed.

(*if* + Present Continuous + imperative)

Unreal situations

You would understand me better if you came from my country.

(*would* + *if* + Past Simple)

If I were rich, I wouldn't have any problems.

(*if* + *were* + *would*)

If I stopped smoking, I could run faster.

(*if* + Past Simple + modal auxiliary verb)

There are several patterns that you need to know to understand the variations. Note that a comma is usual when the *if* clause comes first.

8.1 First conditional

Form

if + Present Simple + *will*

Positive

If I find your wallet, I'll let you know.

We'll come and see you on Sunday if the weather's good.

Negative

You won't pass the test if you don't study.

If you lose your ticket, you won't be able to go.

Question

What will you do if you don't find a job?

If there isn't a hotel, where will you stay?

Note that we do not usually use *will* in the *if* clause.

NOT ~~*If you will leave now, you'll catch the train.*~~

~~*If I'll go out tonight, I'll give you a call.*~~

If can be replaced by *unless* (= *if ... not*) or *in case* (= because of the possibility ...).

Unless I hear from you, I'll come at 8.00.

I'll take my umbrella in case it rains.

Grammar (conditional)

Use

- 1 First conditional sentences express a possible condition and its probable result in the future.

Condition (if clause)

*If I find a sweater in your size,
If you can't do the homework,
If you can find my purse,
If you've never been to Wales,*

Result (result clause)

*I'll buy it for you.
give me a call.
I might buy you an ice-cream.
you should try to go there one day.*

- 2 We can use the first conditional to express different functions (all of which express a possible condition and a probable result).

*If you don't stop the noise, I'll phone the police! (a threat)
Careful! If you touch that, you'll burn yourself! (a warning)
I'll post the letter if you like. (an offer)
If you lend me £100, I'll pay you back tomorrow. (a promise)*

Grammar (conditional)

8.2 Time clauses

Conjunctions of time (*when, as soon as, before, until, after*) are not usually followed by *will*. We use a present tense even though the time reference is future.

*I'll call you **when** I get home.*

***As soon as** dinner is ready, I'll give you a call.*

*Can I have a word with you **before** I go?*

*Wait **until** I come back.*

We can use the Present Perfect if it is important to show that the action in the time clause is finished.

***When** I've read the book, I'll lend it to you.*

*I'll go home **after** I've done the shopping.*

8.3 Zero conditional

Zero conditional sentences refer to 'all time,' not just the present or future. They express a situation that is always true. *If* means *when* or *whenever*.

If you spend over £50 at that supermarket, you get a five per cent discount.

8.4 Second conditional

Form

if + Past Simple + would

Positive

If I won some money, I'd go around the world.

My father would be proud if he could see me now.

Negative

I'd give up my job if I didn't like it.

If I had a lot of money, I wouldn't spend it all.

Question

What would you do if you saw someone shoplifting?

If you needed help, who would you ask?

Note that *was* can change to *were* in the condition clause.

If I	were rich,	I	wouldn't have to work.
If he		he	

Grammar (conditional)

Use

- 1 We use the second conditional to express an unreal situation and its probable result. The situation or condition is improbable, impossible, imaginary, or contrary to known facts.

If I were on the Olympic basketball team, I'd train everyday. (But it's not very likely that I will ever be on the team.)

If my mother knew about my plans, she'd be very surprised. (But she doesn't.)

If Ted needed money, I'd lend it to him. (But he doesn't need it.)

- 2 Other modal verbs are possible in the result clause.

*I **could** buy some new clothes if I had some money.*

*If I saved a little every week, I **might** be able to save up for a car.*

*If you wanted that job, you'd **have to** apply very soon.*

- 3 *If I were you, I'd ...* is used to give advice.

If I were you, I'd apologize to her.

I'd take it easy for a while if I were you.

Examples/homework

3 Zero conditional

Complete the sentences with some advice.

- 1 If you have a headache, take some aspirin.
- 2 If you can't get to sleep, _____

- 3 If you get sunburned, _____

- 4 If you want to stop smoking, _____

- 5 If you have a problem at school, _____

- 6 If you can't wake up in the mornings, _____

4 Time clauses

1 Combine the sentences with the time expressions in brackets. Use the Present Simple.

- 1 I'll cook supper. I'll come home. (as soon as)
I'll cook supper as soon as I come home.
- 2 I want to finish my work. We're going out. (before)

- 3 She's going to look after the cat. I'll be away on holiday. (while)

- 4 I'll email you. I'll arrive. (as soon as)

- 5 We'll find a hotel. We'll arrive in Paris. (when)

- 6 She won't speak to him. He'll say sorry. (until)

- 7 Drink your coffee. It'll get cold. (before)

Examples/homework

2 Choose the time expression which best completes the sentence.

- 1 *Before / If / When* we get to our holiday resort, we'll send you a postcard.
- 2 Don't worry, we won't get lost. But *if / until / when* we do, we'll call you on our mobile.
- 3 Laura, please wash the dishes *until / after / while* you've finished your meal.
- 4 *As soon as / If / Before* we get to London, we'll go straight to see Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.
- 5 Could you please get your hair cut *while / before / until* you go to your sister's wedding?
- 6 I'll wait *until / when / as soon as* you finish.
- 7 *Before / Until / As soon as* you've finished your homework, you can go out with your friends.

Conditionals 2

5 Second conditional

T 8.2 Rewrite the sentences with the second conditional.

- 1 I can't take you to the airport because I haven't got a car.
If I had a car, I could take you to the airport.
- 2 I've got a headache. I'm not going swimming.

- 3 I don't know the answer, so I can't tell you.

- 4 We won't have a holiday this year because we haven't got any money.

- 5 I haven't got any spare time so I won't learn Russian.

- 6 We haven't got a big house. We can't invite friends to stay.

- 7 There aren't any eggs, so I won't make a cake.

Examples/homework

7 Correcting mistakes

Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

1 I'll make some tea when everyone will arrive.

I'll make some tea when everyone arrives.

2 If I could go anywhere in the world, I'll go to Fiji.

3 If I'll see Jane, I'll tell her to phone you.

4 If I have lots of money, I'd buy an aeroplane.

5 When I'll go back to university, I'll email you.

6 If you would know my brother, you'd know what I mean!

8 I'd rather ...



I'd rather (= I would rather) + infinitive means the same as *I'd prefer to*.

I don't like studying. **I'd rather be** outside playing tennis.



Say what you would rather do in these situations.

1 If you had to choose between going snowboarding or going sailing, which would you choose?

I'd rather go _____

2 If you're thirsty, would you rather have a coffee or a cold drink?

3 If you could choose between travelling by plane or by train, which would you rather do?

4 You have to choose between fizzy mineral water or still mineral water.

5 What do you want to watch on TV, the news or a quiz show?
