## Conditionals

## Zero conditional

The zero conditional is used for things which always happen (or what to do) under certain conditions.
Clause 1: if + present simple Clause 2: present simple If water is heated to $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, it boils.
Clause 1: if + present simple Clause 2: imperative If the alarm sounds, evacuate the building.

## First conditional

The first conditional is used for possibilities in the future.

Clause 1: if + present simple Clause 2: will (not)
If the conference is in Germany, I'II go to it.

## Second conditional

The second conditional is used for unreal situations in the present.

Clause 1: if + past simple
Clause 2: would (not)
If I had an instruction manual, I'd be able to repair the fault.
(But I don't have a manual, so in reality I can't repair the fault.)

## Third conditional

The third conditional is used for unreal situations in the past.

## Active

Clause 1:
if + had (not) + past
participle
If they had replaced the turbine bolts,

## Passive

Clause 1:
if + had (not) + been + past participle
If the turbine bolts had
been replaced,

Clause 2:
would (not) + have + past participle the accident would not have happened.

Clause 2:
would (not) + have + been + past participle the accident would have been avoided.
(But in reality the bolts were not replaced, so the accident actually happened.)

## If I do ... and If I did

Compare these examples:
(1) USA: Shall we go by bus or by train?

JESS: If we go by bus, it will be cheaper.
For Jess, it is possible that they will go by bus, so she says:

If we go by bus, it will be ...

(2) Lisa and Jess decide to go by train.

Later, Jess talks to Joe.
JOE: How are you going to travel?
JEss: We're going by train. If we went by bus, it would be cheaper, but the train is quicker.

Now Jess knows they are not going to travel by bus, so she says:

If we went by bus, it would be ... (not If we go ...)


When we imagine something that will not happen, or we don't expect that it will happen, we use if + past (if we went / if there was / if you found etc.). But the meaning is not past:

What would you do if you won a lot of money? (we don't really expect this to happen)
$\square$ If there was (or were) an election tomorrow, who would you vote for?

For if ... was/were, see Unit 39C.
Compare if I find and if I found:
I think I left my watch at your house. If you find it,
 can you call me?
but If you found a wallet in the street, what would you do with it?
We do not normally use would in the if-part of the sentence:
I'd be very scared if somebody pointed a gun at me. (not if somebody would point)
(If we went by bus, it would be cheaper. (not If we would go)
But you can use if ... would when you ask somebody to do something:
(from a formal letter) I would be grateful if you would let me know your decision as soon as possible.

In the other part of the sentence (not the if-part) we use would ('d) / wouldn't:
What would you do if you were bitten by a snake?
I'm not going to bed yet. I'm not tired. If I went to bed now, I wouldn't sleep.Would you mind if I used your phone?
Could and might are also possible:
If I won a lot of money, I might buy a house. (= it is possible that I would buy a house)

- If it stopped raining, we could go out. (= we would be able to go out)


## Exercises

38.1 What do you say in these situations?

1 Of course you don't expect to win the lottery. Which do you say?
a If I win the lottery, I'll buy a big house.
b If I won the lottery, I'd buy a big house.
(b is correct)
2 You're not going to sell your car because it's old and not worth much. Which do you say? a If I sell my car, I won't get much money for it.
b If I sold my car, I wouldn't get much money for it.
3 You often see Sarah. A friend of yours wants to contact her. Which do you say?
a If I see Sarah, I'll tell her to call you.
b If I saw Sarah, I'd tell her to call you.
4 You don't expect that there will be a fire in the building. Which do you say?
a What will you do if there is a fire in the building?
b What would you do if there was a fire in the building?
5 You've never lost your passport. You can only imagine it.
a I don't know what I'll do if I lose my passport.
b I don't know what I'd do if I lost my passport.
6 Somebody stops you and asks the way to a bank. Which do you say?
a If you go right at the end of this street, you'll see a bank on your left.
b If you went right at the end of this street, you'd see a bank on your left.
7 You're in a lift. There is an emergency button. Nobody is going to press it. Which do you say?
a What will happen if somebody presses that button?
b What would happen if somebody pressed that button?
38.2 Put the verb into correct form.

1 I'd be very scared if somebody pointed (point) a gun at me.
2 I can't afford to buy a car. If I (buy) a car, I'd have to borrow the money.
3 Don't lend Amy your car. If she (ask) me, I wouldn't lend her mine.
4 If the computer factory closed down, many people (lose) their jobs.
5 I don't think Gary and Emma will get married. (be) amazed if they did.
6 What would you do if you
(be) in a lift and it (stop) between floors?
7 If somebody (give) me $£ 10,000$, 1 $\qquad$ (have) a very long holiday.
38.3 Write sentences beginning If ..

1 We've decided not to catch the 10.30 train. (arrive too early)
If we caught the 10.30 train, we'd arrive too early.
2 Kevin is not going to do his driving test now. (fail) If he
3 We've decided not to stay at a hotel. (cost too much)
If
4 Sally isn't going to leave her job. (not / get another one)
5 We've decided not to invite Ben to the party. (have to invite his friends too)
6 I'm not going to tell him what happened. (not / believe me)

### 38.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

1 If I won a lot of money, I'd buy a house.
2 I'd be very angry if
3 If you bought a car,
4 I'd be surprised if
5 Would you mind if

## Scroll down for the key.

Study this example situation:
Sarah wants to phone Paul, but she can't do this because she doesn't know his number. She says:

If I knew his number, I would phone him.
Sarah says: If I knew his number ... . This tells us that she doesn't know his number. She is imagining the situation. The real situation is that she doesn't know his number.


When we imagine a situation like this, we use if + past (if I knew / if you were / if we didn't etc.).
But the meaning is present, not past:
$\square$ There are many things I'd like to do if I had more time. (but I don't have time) If I didn't want to go to the party, I wouldn't go. (but I want to go)
We wouldn't have any money if we didn't work. (but we work)If you were in my position, what would you do?

- It's a pity he can't drive. It would be useful if he could.

We use the past in the same way after wish (I wish I knew / I wish you were etc.). We use wish to say that we regret something, that something is not as we would like it to be:

I wish I knew Paul's phone number.
(= I don't know it and I regret this)
Do you ever wish you could fly?
(you can't fly)
It rains a lot here. I wish it didn't rain so much.It's very crowded here. I wish there weren't so many people. (there are a lot of people)
I wish I didn't have to work tomorrow, but unfortunately I do.


## If I were / if I was

After if and wish, you can use were instead of was (if I were / I wish it were etc.).
If I was / I wish it was are also possible. So you can say:
If I were you, I wouldn't buy that coat.
I'd go for a walk if it weren't so cold.
or If I was you,...
I wish she were here.
or ... if it wasn't so cold.
or I wish she was here.

We do not normally use would in the if-part of the sentence or after wish:
If I were rich, I would travel a lot. (not If I would be rich)
Who would you ask if you needed help? (not if you would need)
I wish I had something to read. (not I wish I would have)
Sometimes wish ... would is possible: I wish you would listen. See Unit 41.
Could sometimes means 'would be able to' and sometimes 'was/were able to':

She could get a better job
if she could speak English.
I I wish I could help you.
(she could get = she would be able to get)
(if she could speak = if she was/were able to speak)
( I wish I could = I wish I was able)

## Exercises

39.1 Put the verb into the correct form.

1 If I knew ( $1 /$ know) his number, I would phone him.
2 I wouldn't buy ( $1 /$ not / buy) that coat if I were you.
3 (I help) you if I could, but I'm afraid I can't.
4 We don't need a car at present, but we would need a car if (we / live) in the country.
5 If we had the choice, $\qquad$ (we / live) in the country.
This soup isn't very good.
(it / taste) better if it wasn't so salty.
I wouldn't mind living in England if the weather (be) better
If I were you,
( $1 /$ not/ wait).
( $1 / \mathrm{go}$ ) now
9 You're always tired. If (you / not / go) to bed so late every night, you wouldn't be tired all the time.
10 I think there are too many cars. If
f (there / not / be) so many cars, (there / not / be) so much pollution.
39.2 Write a sentence with if ... for each situation.

1 We don't see you very often because you live so far away.
If you didn't live so far away, we'd see you more often.
2 It's a nice book but it's too expensive, so I'm not going to buy it. I it if so
3 We don't go out very often - we can't afford it. We more often
4 I can't meet you tomorrow - I have to work late. If
5 It would be nice to have lunch outside but it's raining, so we can't. We
6 I don't want his advice, and that's why I'm not going to ask for it. If
39.3 Write sentences beginning I wish ... .

1 I don't know many people (and I'm lonely). I wish I knew more people.
2 I don't have a computer (and I need one). I wish
3 Helen isn't here (and I need to see her)
It's cold (and I hate cold weather).
I live in a big city (and I don't like it).
I can't go to the party (and I'd like to).
7 I have to get up early tomorrow (but I'd like to sleep late).
I don't know anything about cars (and my car has just broken down)
9 I'm not feeling well (and it's not nice).
39.4 Write your own sentences beginning I wish ... .

1 (somewhere you'd like to be now - on the beach, in New York, in bed etc.) I wish I
2 (something you'd like to have - a motorbike, more friends, lots of money etc.)
3 (something you'd like to be able to do - sing, travel more, cook etc.)
4 (something you'd like to be - beautiful, strong, younger etc.)

Scroll down for the key.

## If I had known ... I wish I had known ...

Study this example situation:
Last month Gary was in hospital for a few days. Rachel didn't know this, so she didn't go to visit him. They met a few days ago.
Rachel said:
If I'd known you were in hospital, I would have gone to see you.
Rachel said: If I'd known (= If | had known) you were in hospital. This tells us that she didn't know.
We use if + had ('d) ... to talk about the past (if I had known/been/done etc.):
I didn't see you when you passed me in the street. If I'd seen you, of course I would have said hello. (but I didn't see you)
I didn't go out last night. I would have gone out if | hadn't been so tired. (but I was tired)
If he had been looking where he was going, he wouldn't have walked into the wall. (but he wasn't looking)
The view was wonderful. If I'd had a camera with me, I would have taken some pictures.
(but I didn't have a camera)
Compare:
I'm not hungry. If I was hungry, I would eat something. (now)
I wasn't hungry. If I had been hungry, I would have eaten something. (past)
Do not use would in the if-part of the sentence. We use would in the other part of the sentence:
If I had seen you, I would have said hello. (not If I would have seen you)
Note that ' $d$ can be would or had:
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { If I'd seen you, } & \text { (I'd seen }=1 \text { had seen) } \\ \text { I'd have said hello. } & \text { (I'd have said = I would have said) }\end{array}$
We use had (done) in the same way after wish. I wish something had happened = I am sorry that it didn't happen:I wish I'd known that Gary was ill. I would have gone to see him. (but I didn't know)
I I feel sick. I wish I hadn't eaten so much cake. (I ate too much cake)
Do you wish you'd studied science instead of languages? (you didn't study science)
Do not use would have ... after wish:
The weather was cold when we were on holiday. I wish it had been warmer. (not I wish it would have been)

Compare would (do) and would have (done):
If I'd gone to the party last night, I would be tired now. (I am not tired now - present)
mixed conditional ( $\left.3^{\text {rd } d}+2^{\text {nd }}\right)$
If I'd gone to the party last night, I would have met lots of people. (I didn't meet lots $3^{\text {rd }}$ conditional

Compare would have, could have and might have:
we would have gone out.
we could have gone out.
If the weather hadn't been so bad,
(= we would have been able to go out)
we might have gone out.
(= perhaps we would have gone out)

## Exercises

40.1 Put the verb into the correct form.

1 I didn't see you when you passed me in the street. If I'd seen (1/see) you, I would have said (1/say) hello.
2 Sam got to the station just in time to catch the train to the airport. If (he / miss) the train, (he / miss) his flight too
3 I'm glad that you reminded me about Rachel's birthday. ( 1 / forget) if (you / not / remind) me
4 I wanted to send you an email, but I didn't have your email address. If (1 / have) your address, (I / send) you an email.
5 A: How was your trip? Was it good?
8: It was OK, but (we / enjoy) it more if the weather (be) better.
6 I took a taxi to the hotel, but the traffic was bad. quicker if
(1/walk).
7 I'm not tired. If
( / / be) tired, I'd go home now.
8 I wasn't tired last night. If
(I / be) tired, I would have gone home earlier.
40.2 For each situation, write a sentence beginning with If.

1 I wasn't hungry, so I didn't eat anything. If I'd been hungry, I would have eaten something.
2 The accident happened because the road was icy. If the road the accident
3 I didn't know that Joe had to get up early, so I didn't wake him up. If 1 that he had to get up early,
4 Unfortunately I lost my phone, so I couldn't call you. If
5 Karen wasn't injured in the crash because she was wearing a seat belt.
6 You didn't have breakfast - that's why you're hungry now.
7 I didn't get a taxi because I didn't have enough money
40.3 Imagine that you are in these situations. For each situation, write a sentence with I wish.

1 You've eaten too much and now you feel sick.
You say: I wish I hadn't eaten so much
2 There was a job advertised in the paper. You decided not to apply for it. Now you think that your decision was wrong.
You say: I wish I
3 When you were younger, you never learned to play a musical instrument. Now you regret this. You say:
4 You've painted the gate red. Now you think that red was the wrong colour. You say:
5 You are walking in the country. You'd like to take some pictures, but you didn't bring your camera.
You say:
6 You have some unexpected guests. They didn't phone you first to say they were coming. You are very busy and you are not prepared for them.
You say (to yourself):

## Scroll down for the key.

## When I do / When I've done When and if

Study this example:

'I'll phone you when I get home' is a sentence with two parts:
the main part: I'll phone you
and the when-part: when I get home

The time in the sentence is future (tomorrow), but we use a present tense ( 1 get) in the when-part of the sentence.

We do not use will in the when-part of the sentence

Some more examples:
We'll go out when it stops raining. (not when it will stop)When you are in London again, come and see us. (not When you will be)
(said to a child) What do you want to be when you grow up? (not will grow)
The same thing happens after while / before / after / as soon as / until or till:
What are you going to do while I'm away? (not while I will be)I'll probably go back home on Sunday. Before I go, I'd like to visit the museum.
Wait here until (or till) I come back.
You can also use the present perfect (have done) after when / after / until / as soon as:
Can I borrow that book when you've finished with it?Don't say anything while lan is here. Wait until he has gone.
If you use the present perfect, one thing must be complete before the other (so the two things do no happen together):

When I've phoned Kate, we can have dinner
(= First I'll phone Kate and after that we can have dinner.)
Do not use the present perfect if the two things happen together:
When I phone Kate, I'll ask her about the party. (not When I've phoned)
It is often possible to use either the present simple or the present perfect:
I'll come as soon as I finish. or I'll come as soon as I've finished
You'll feel better after you have or You'll feel better after you've had something to eat. something to eat.

After if, we normally use the present simple (if I do / if I see etc.) for the future:
$1^{\text {st }}$ conditional
It's raining hard. We'll get wet if we go out. (not if we will go)I'll be angry if it happens again. (not if it will happen)Hurry up! If we don't hurry, we'll be late.

## When and if

We use when for things which are sure to happen:
time clause
I'm going out later. (for sure) When I go out, I'll get some bread.
We use if (not when) for things that will possibly happen:
$1^{\text {st }}$ conditionalI might go out later. (it's possible) If I go out, I'll get some breadIf it is raining this evening, I won't go out. (not When it is raining)
Don't worry if I'm late tonight. (not when I'm late)
If they don't come soon, I'm not going to wait. (not When they don't come)

## Exercises

25.1 Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. All the sentences are about the future. Use will/won't or the present simple (I see / he plays / it is etc.).

When you are (you / be) in London again, come and see us.
I want to see Sophie before (she / go) out.
Call me when (you / know) what time you're going to get here.
I'm going out now. (you / be) here when
( $1 /$ get) back?
I think everything will be fine, but if (there / be) any problems,
(I / call) you, OK?
We must do something soon before (it / be) too late.
Anna looks very different now. When
(you / see) her again,
(you / not / recognise) her.
Steve has applied for the job, but he isn't really qualified for it.
surprised if (he / get) it.
9 I'm going to be away for a few days. If (you / need) to contact me while
( $1 /$ be) away, here's my mobile number.
10 I don't want to go without you.
(1/ wait) for you until
(you / be) ready.
25.2 Make one sentence from two.

1 It will stop raining soon. Then we'll go out
We'll go out when it stops raining.

2 I'll find somewhere to live. Then I'll give you my address.
1 when
3 I'll do the shopping. Then I'll come straight back home.
after
4 It's going to get dark. Let's go home before that.
before
5 She must apologise to me first. I won't speak to her until then. until
25.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

1 A friend of yours is going on holiday. You want to know what she is going to do. You ask: What are you going to do when you are on holiday$?$

2 A friend is visiting you. She has to go soon, but you'd like to show her some pictures. You ask: Do you have time to look at some pictures before $?$
3 You want to sell your car. Mark is interested in buying it, but he hasn't decided yet. You ask: Can you let me know as soon as$?$

4 Your friends are going to Hong Kong soon. You want to know where they're going to stay. You ask: Where are you going to stay when $?$
5 The traffic is very bad in your town, but they are going to build a new road. You say: I think things will be better when they
25.4 Put in when or if.

1 Don't worry if I'mlate tonight.
2 Be careful. You'll hurt yourself you fall.
3 I'm going to Rome next week. I'm there, I hope to visit a friend of mine.
4 I'm going shopping. you want anything, I can get it for you.
5 I don't see you tomorrow, when will I see you again?
6 I'm going away for a few days. I'll call you I get back.
7 I hope Sarah can come to the party. It will be a shame she can't come.
8 We can eat at home or, you prefer, we can go to a restaurant.

## Scroll down for the key.

## Key to Exercises

38.2
2 bought
3 asked
4 would lose
5 'd be / would be
6 were ... stopped
7 gave ... 'd have / would have
38.3
2 If he did his driving test now, he'd
fail (it) / ... he would fail (it).
fail(it) /... he would fail (it)
3 If we stayed at a hotel, it would cost too much.
1 If she left her johs, sha movidn's get another one.
5 If we invited Ben (to the party), we'd have to invite his friends too. / ... we would have to ...
6 If I told him what happened, he wouldn't believe me.

## 38.4

Example answers:
2 I'd be very angry if somebody broke into my house.
3 If you bought a car, it would cost you a lot to maintain it.
4 I'd be surprised if the economic situation Improved.
5 Would you mind if I didn't go out with you tonight?

## UNIT 39

## 39.1

3 I'd help / I would help
4 we lived
5 we'd live / we would live
6 It would taste
7 were/was
8 I wouldn't wait ... I'd go / I would go
9 you didn't go
10 there weren't ... there wouldn't be
39.2

2 I'd buy it / 1 would buy it if it weren't/wasn't so expensive.
3 We'd go out / We would go out more often if we could afford it.
4 If I didn't have to work late, I could meet you tomorrow. or ... I'd meet / I would meet ... or ... I'd be able to meet ...
5 We could have lunch outside if it werent anining ' wasut latung
6 If I wanted his advice, l'd ask for it / I would ask for it.
39.3

2 I wish I had a computer
3 I wish Helen were/was here.
4 I wish it weren't/wasn't (so) cold.
5 I wish I didn't live in a big city.
6 I wish I could go to the party.
7 I wish I didn't have to get up early tomorrow.
8 I wish I knew something about cars.
3 I wish I werc fceling / wos fccling better.
39.4
fixamels ancwarsi
1 I wish I was at home.
2 I wish I had a big garden.
3 I wish I could tell jokes.
4 I wish I was taller.

## UNIT 40

40.1

2 If he'd missed/he had missed (the train), he'd have missed / he would have missed (his flight too)
3 I'd have forgotten / I would have forgotten (if) you hadn't reminded
4 I'd had / I had had (your address), I'd have sent / I would have sent (you an email)
5 we'd have enjoyed / we would have enjoyed (it more if the weather) had been (better)
6 It would have been (quicker if) I'd walked / I had walked
7 I were / I was
8 I'd been/ I had been
40.2

2 If the roard harin't heen iry, the accident wouldn't have happened.
3 If l'd known / If I had known that Joe had to get up early. I'd have woken / I would have woken him up.
4 If I hadn't lost my phone (or If I'd had my phone), I'd have called you / I would have called you / I would have been able to call you / I could have called you
5 If Karen hadn't been wearing a seat bèlt, she'd hàve been injured/she would have been injured (in the crash). or .. she might/could have been injured
6 If you'd had / If you had had breakfast, you wouldn't be hungry now.
 money, I'd have got / I would have got a taxi.

## 40.3

2 I wish I'd applied / I wish I had applied forit. or ... for the job.
3 I wish I'd learned / I wish I had learned to play a musical instrument (when I was younger). or I wish I could play ... / | wish I was able to play
4 I wish I hadn't painted it red.
or ... the gote red.
5 I wish l'd brought / I wish I had brought my camera. or I wish I had my camera (with me)
6 I wish they'd phoned / I wish they had phoned me first (to say they were coming), or
I wish I'd linown / I wi3h I had known they were coming.

## UNIT 25

25.1

2 she goes
3 youknow
4 Will you be ... I get
5 there are . I'll call / I will call
it's/it is
7 you see ... you won't recognise / you will not recognise
8 I'll be / I will be ... he gets
9 you need ... I'm/I am
10 I'll wait / I will wait ... you're / you are
25.2

2 I'll give you my address when
I find somewhere to live. or
... when l've found somewhere to live.
3 I'll come straight back home after I do the shopping. or ... after I've done the shopping
Let's go home before it gets dark
5 I won't speak to her until she apologises. or
... until she has apologised.
25.3

2 you go / you leave
3 you decide or you've decided / you have decided
4 you're in Hang Kong / you go to Hong Kong
5 build the new road or 've built the new road / have built the new road
25.4

2 if
When
If
5 If
when
7 if
8 if

