

# CONDITIONAL SENTENCES IN ENGLISH

Conditional sentences are used to express that the action in the main clause (without 'if') can take place if a certain condition (in the 'if' clause) is fulfilled. There are four types of conditional sentences in English: zero, first, second and third.

a) **Zero conditional** talks about things which are always true, scientific facts, general truths.

E.g. If you heat water, it boils. If we cross an international date line, the time changes.

The tense that is used in both clauses is **Present Simple**.

b) **First conditional** is used for real or possible situations and it refers to future. An action in the future will happen if a certain condition is fulfilled by that time, and we think it is likely to happen.

The form is the following: **If + Present Simple.....+ Simple Future**

E.g. If I find Julie's address, I'll send her an invitation.  
If we don't see Jim this afternoon, we'll call him tomorrow morning.

c) **Second conditional** is often called 'unreal conditional' because it is used to express unreal, imaginary or hypothetical situations from the present point of view. An action could happen if the present situation was different. The form is the following: **If + Past Simple....+ would + infinitive**

E.g. If I had enough money, I would buy a new car.  
Susan would pass the exam if she studied harder.

d) **Third conditional** refers to situations in the past, expressing hypothetical results of past situations. It is very unlikely that the condition will be met since it refers to the past.

The form is the following: **If + Past Perfect...+ would have + Past Participle**

E.g. They wouldn't have had that terrible accident if they had been careful. (meaning: They had an accident because they weren't careful).  
If I had known the truth about him, I wouldn't have gone out with him. (meaning: I went out with him but I didn't know the truth about him).

The main clause can be at the beginning (e.g. They wouldn't have had that terrible accident if they had been careful.) without changing the meaning of the whole sentence. Also, a very common example of the second conditional is the use of the phrase '**If I were you...**' (as in 'If I were you, I would apply for that job.') for giving advice or an opinion on a certain matter.

## I Match the clauses 1-8 with the corresponding ones a) - h)

1. We'll have a presentation today...
2. You wouldn't have missed the train...
3. If they saw his report...
4. I'll call you...
5. If you send your order by fax...
6. We would not be the leading company in our business...
7. If you had read the paper...
8. Jenny would apply for that job abroad...

- a) if you had woken up earlier.
- b) if the conference room is free at 1 p.m.
- c) they would fire him for all the wrong data he had put in it.
- d) if we delivered poor quality.
- e) if I finish earlier.
- f) you would have seen the advertisement.
- g) we will deliver the goods immediately.
- h) if she spoke better German.

Key: 1b, 2a, 3c, 4e, 5g, 6d, 7f, 8h

## II Put the verbs in the brackets in the correct tense.

- a) If I \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the lottery, I would have a chance to hit the jackpot.
- b) Our team would have moved up in the league if they \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the match.
- c) You \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) the 8:00 train if you hurry up.
- d) I \_\_\_\_\_ (help) the poor if I were a star.
- e) If he \_\_\_\_\_ (not accept) our offer, we'll have to withdraw it.
- f) What would you say if your boss \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) you to work all weekend?
- g) If I'd taken that job, I don't think I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very happy.
- h) Jack will get a promotion if he \_\_\_\_\_ (continue) to work hard.

Key: a) played, b) had won, c) will catch, d) would help, e) doesn't accept, f) asked, g) would have been, h) continues



Ljiljana Breulj Štimac,  
Smart Business  
Program Manager

## SMART Business

Palinovečka 19 (Vrbani III), Zagreb

Mob: +385 91 3874 357

Tel: +385 1 3874 355

E-mail: [business@smart-jezici.hr](mailto:business@smart-jezici.hr)

Web: <http://business.smart-jezici.hr/>

Za individualnu nastavu koja se održava tijekom dana (do 15h) u prostorijama Vaše tvrtke posebna cijena: **120,00kn/h\*!**

Akcija vrijedi za sve pravne osobe koje ugovore tečaj do 31. siječnja 2013.

\*cijena ne uključuje PDV i vrijedi za ugovorene tečajeve u Vašem uredu

**SMART**  
BUSINESS