

A Conditional Overview

Review conditionals to use when explaining conditions and results.

1. Discuss

Discuss the following with a partner.

1. How would you spend \$100,000 in 12 hours?
2. If you could make one change to the world, what would it be?
3. Where would you live if you could live anywhere in the world?



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2. All four Conditionals

A. Read the information about the four conditionals in English.

Conditional statements describe the result of a condition. The **if clause** tells you the condition (**If** you study hard,) and the main clause tells you the result (you **will** pass the exam.) The order of the clauses does not change the meaning, but remember to use a comma when the **if clause** is first.

0. The **zero conditional** is used to talk about things that are generally true, especially for laws and rules.

	Real condition,	inevitable result.
e.g.	If it rains,	the ground gets wet.
Verb forms	present simple	present simple

1. The **first conditional** (also known as the real conditional) is used to talk about future situations we believe are real or possible.

	Possible condition,	probable result.
e.g.	If I drink coffee now,	I won't sleep well tonight.
Verb forms	present simple	will + basic infinitive

2. The **second conditional** (also known as the unreal conditional) is used to imagine present or future situations that are impossible or unlikely.

	Hypothetical condition,	possible result.
e.g.	If I won the lottery,	I would buy a new house.
Verb forms	past simple	would + basic infinitive

3. The **third conditional** is used to reflect on a change in a past condition and a possible past result of that change. It is often used to express regret.

	Expired past condition,	possible past result.
e.g.	If I had studied harder,	I would have passed the test.
Verb forms	past perfect	would have + past participle

B. Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1. If it's sunny this weekend,
2. If you sit in the sun too long,
3. If I were the Prime Minister/President,
4. If I'd studied harder,
5. If I hadn't gone to bed so late,
6. If I weren't studying English,
7. If I'd had a day off today,

C. Share your sentences with a partner or the class.

3. Unless in Conditionals

A. Read the information about using the conjunction unless in conditional clauses.

Conditional clauses can begin with **unless** and it generally means 'if ... not' or 'except, on the condition'.

With if

Equivalent with unless

- | | |
|--|---|
| 0. If you don't save some money, you can't go on vacation. | You can't go on vacation unless you save some money. |
| 1. If you don't stop eating, you will be sick. | You'll be sick unless you stop eating. |
| 2. I wouldn't eat that if I wasn't really hungry. | I wouldn't eat that unless I was really hungry. |
| 3. I wouldn't have called him if you hadn't suggested it. | I wouldn't have called him unless you had suggested it. |

Unless is good to use when it draws attention to an exception to what is generally true. In this example, I only have one reason why I may be late, traffic:

I'll arrive at 10 a.m. if there isn't traffic.

I'll arrive at 10 a.m. unless there is traffic.

In some situations, **unless** is not exactly interchangeable with 'if ... not'. Consider this example:

I'll be annoyed if I don't arrive at 10 a.m.

I'll be annoyed unless I arrive at 10 a.m.

(Being late will annoy me.)

(The only thing that can prevent me from being annoyed is arriving at 10 a.m.)

B. Complete the conditional sentences by circling the correct alternative.

1. **If / Unless** you don't slow down, we'll crash!
2. It is illegal to enter an establishment that serves alcohol **if / unless** you are over 18.
3. In my country, **if / unless** you cannot speak English, it's difficult to get a good job.
4. We'll be late **if / unless** we leave soon.

5. **If / Unless** I'm not feeling better tomorrow, I'll go to the doctor.
6. **If / Unless** you don't make loan repayments on time, your car will be repossessed.
7. You'll lose your job **if / unless** you improve your attitude and become easier to work with.
8. I'll join you on Sunday **if / unless** I'm not working.

C. Rewrite the sentences using 'unless' in place of 'if' and 'if ... not'.

1. If the bus is late, we will go on foot.

.....

2. We will miss the train if we don't leave now.

.....

3. If she doesn't submit her assignment today, she will fail the course.

.....

4. The plants won't grow if you don't water them.

.....

4. Conditional Dominoes



they wouldn't have asked you.	If there isn't a traffic jam,
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I'll be home by five o'clock.	If people aren't ill,
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they usually don't go to the doctor.	If they don't like your appearance at the interview,
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they won't give you the job.	If you don't finish your homework now,
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I won't let you watch TV.	If didn't drink so much coffee,
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I'd be able to sleep.	If the weather isn't fine,
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we won't go fishing.	If she didn't want to buy a house,
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she wouldn't save any money.	If an attractive stranger asked me out for dinner,
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I'd say yes!	If you heat water to 100 degrees,
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it boils.	If I had a lot of money,
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I'd travel around the world.	If I had gone to bed early,
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I wouldn't have slept in.	If you don't hurry,
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you'll miss the train.	If I spoke English fluently,
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I'd get a job in the UK.	If we had looked at the map,
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we wouldn't be lost.	If you weren't afraid of spiders,
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you'd have just picked it up and put it outside.	If they hadn't needed your help,
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A Conditional Overview



Level:	Intermediate: B1 Upper-Intermediate: B2
Updated:	Aug 25, 2022
Language:	Function: Describing cause and effect. Making predictions. Talking about the past. Talking about the future. Forms: Conditional forms. Verb forms.
Teaching time:	90 minutes.
Overview:	Students review and discuss conditional clauses or 'if then' statements in English. If a particular condition is true, then a particular result happens. Students review the four conditionals and will be able to understand which to use and in which circumstance. The conjunction 'unless' is introduced and student practice using it in conditional statements.

0. PREPARATION

Cut up the dominoes on Page 4; one set for each student group of 2 or 3.

1. DISCUSS

A warm up activity helps set the mood for the topic/lesson and is a good opportunity to assess students' ability to generate language as well as elicit target vocabulary used in the lesson. If students struggle to engage with their partners, ask questions to encourage participation. Allow a few minutes for students to complete the activity and continue the conversation if interesting.

Elicit answers from students to share with the class.

2. ALL FOUR CONDITIONALS

- In pairs or as a class, students read and discuss the information about conditionals. Board the examples and discuss if necessary. At this level, students should be able to discuss the differences between the conditionals and how they are used.
- Individually, students complete the sentences with their own ideas. Answers will vary.
- In pairs, students share their sentences with a partner or elicit sentences from students to share with the class. As an extended activity, ask students to identify which conditional is used in each of the sentences.
 - First conditional (talking about the future)
 - Zero or First conditional
 - Second conditional
 - Third conditional
 - Third conditional
 - Second conditional
 - Third conditional

3. UNLESS IN CONDITIONALS

- In pairs or as a class, student read and discuss the information about conditional clauses and conditionals. Board examples if necessary. Answer any questions that arise.
- Individually, students circle the correct alternative to complete the sentences. Students can compare their answers with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers as a class.
 - If you don't slow down, we'll crash!
 - It is illegal to enter an establishment that serves alcohol

unless you are over 18.

- In my country, if you cannot speak English, it's difficult to get a good job.
 - We'll be late unless we leave soon.
 - If I'm not feeling better tomorrow, I'll go to the doctor.
 - If you don't make loan repayments on time, your car will be repossessed.
 - You'll lose your job unless you improve your attitude and become easier to work with.
 - I'll join you on Sunday if I'm not working.
- C. Individually, students rewrite the sentences using 'unless' in place of 'if' and 'if ... not'. Students can refer to Part 3A for help. Answer any questions that arise. Students can compare their answers with a partner or check answers as a class.
- Unless the bus is on-time, we will go on foot.
 - We will miss the train unless we leave now.
 - Unless she submits her assignment today, she will fail the course.
 - The plants won't grow unless you water them.

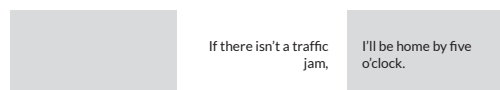
4. CONDITIONAL DOMINOES

Divide students into groups of 2 or 3 and distribute the dominoes equally among the students in the group.

Any student can start by laying down any of his/her dominoes face up. For groups of 3 there will be one extra domino; this can be placed face up in the middle to start the activity.

Explain there are 16 unique sentences and they do not make a story. Students try to complete the two sentences on the first card and continue one card at a time.

For example, the 'if' clause matches the colored side of the domino: "If there isn't a traffic jam, I'll be home by five o'clock."



Alternatively, in pairs, students place all of the dominoes face up and work together to make the matches.

- If there isn't a traffic jam, I'll be home by five o'clock.
- If people aren't ill, they usually don't go to the doctor.
- If they don't like your appearance at the interview, they won't give you the job.
- If you don't finish your homework now, I won't let you watch TV.

5. If didn't drink so much coffee, I'd be able to sleep.
6. If the weather isn't fine, we won't go fishing.
7. If she didn't want to buy a house, she wouldn't save any money.
8. If an attractive stranger asked me out for dinner, I'd say yes!
9. If you heat water to 100 degrees, it boils.
10. If I had a lot of money, I'd travel around the world.
11. If I had gone to bed early, I wouldn't have slept in.
12. If you don't hurry, you'll miss the train.
13. If I spoke English fluently, I'd get a job in the UK.
14. If we had looked at the map, we wouldn't be lost.
15. If you weren't afraid of spiders, you'd have just picked it up and put it outside.
16. If they hadn't needed your help, they wouldn't have asked you.