

CONDITIONALS

ZERO CONDITIONAL: If + present simple, present simple

We use the zero conditional to talk about general facts, and situations which are always true (results that necessarily follow from the condition).

If you don't drink, you get thirsty.

If I eat lots of chocolate, I get fat.

*When it's sunny, he goes to the park.

*we can use "when" to refer to regular activities

FIRST CONDITIONAL: If + present simple, will + infinitive

We use the first conditional to talk possible or probable situations in the future (results are a real possibility from the condition).

If **they finish** work early, **they'll** go to a bar.

If **we go** to the beach, **we'll** have fun.

*When **he finds out**, **he'll be very** angry about what you said.

*we can use "when" to refer to certain situations

SECOND CONDITIONAL: If + past simple, would + infinitive

We use the second conditional to talk improbable, impossible, hypothetical or imaginary situations in the present or future (results reflect an unreal possibility).

*If I were a bird, I would fly high in the sky.

If he had a million euros, he would travel around the world.

If there were enough, I would go there.

*it is more grammatically correct to use "were", even for "I", "he" and "she".

THIRD CONDITIONAL: If + past perfect, would + present perfect

We use the third conditional to talk about hypothetical or imaginary situations in the past (results of an unreal condition in the past).

If you hadn't been there, I would have failed.

If she hadn't studied medicine in Milan, she would have studied engineering in Rome.

If I had known about the problem, I wouldn't have tried to do it.