

Conditional Sentences

B1

Grammar Reference

A conditional sentence has an **if-clause** (condition) and a **main clause** (result). When the if-clause comes first, use a comma.

If-clause + , + main clause — or — main clause + if-clause			
Type	If-clause	Main clause	Use
Zero	present simple	present simple	facts / general truths
First	present simple	will + infinitive	real / possible future
Second	past simple	would + infinitive	imaginary / hypothetical

■ **Important:** Never use *will* or *would* in the if-clause. ✗ If it will rain ... ✗ If I would have ...

■ **First vs Second:** First = possible. Second = imaginary/unlikely. If I find a job (possible) vs If I found a job (imaginary).

Exercise 1: Sentence Transformation

Rewrite each sentence using the connector given. Do not change the meaning.

Question 1

If it rains tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.

Rewrite using: **Unless**

Model: Unless it stays dry tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.

Question 2

If I had more money, I would travel the world.

Rewrite using: **Were**

Model: Were I to have more money, I would travel the world.

Question 3

If you heat water to 100 degrees, it boils.

Rewrite using: **When**

Model: When you heat water to 100 degrees, it boils.

Question 4

She will pass the exam if she studies harder.

Rewrite using: **provided**

Model: She will pass the exam provided she studies harder.

Question 5

If I were you, I would apologise immediately.

Rewrite using: **In your position**

Model: In your position, I would apologise immediately.

Question 6

Unless you leave now, you will miss the last train.

Rewrite using: **If**

Model: If you do not leave now, you will miss the last train.

Question 7

If you mix red and blue, you get purple.

Rewrite using: **Mixing**

Model: Mixing red and blue gives you purple.

Exercise 2: Error Identification

Each sentence has one error. Circle the wrong word and select the correct reason.

Question 1

If it will rain, we will cancel the picnic. → **Remove "will" from if-clause — use present simple after "if" in first conditional.**

Question 2

If I had more money, I will travel the world. → **"Will" should be "would" — second conditional uses would, not will.**

Question 3

If I would win the lottery, I would buy a house. → **Remove "would" from if-clause — never use "would" after "if".**

Question 4

If she would study harder, she will pass. → **Remove "would" from if-clause — never use "would" after "if".**

Question 5

If you mix red and blue, you will get purple. → **"Will get" should be "get" — zero conditional uses present simple in both clauses.**

Question 6

If I were you, I would not never apologise. → **"Never" creates a double negative with "not" — use one or the other, not both.**

Question 7

She will pass if she would studies harder. → **Remove "would" from if-clause — never use "would" after "if".**

Exercise 3: Gap Fill

Choose the correct verb form to complete each conditional sentence.

Question 1

If it rains tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.

Question 2

If you heat water to 100 degrees, it boils.

Question 3

If I had a million euros, I would buy a house.

Question 4

She will miss the train if she does not leave now.

Question 5

If he worked harder, he would get better results.

Question 6

Plants die if they do not get enough sunlight.

Question 7

If we leave now, we will catch the last bus.

Question 8

I would apply for that job if I were you.

Exercise 4: Matching

Match each if-clause (1–8) with the correct result clause (a–h).

If-clause	Result clause
1. If you freeze water, → a	a) it turns to ice.
2. If it rains this weekend, → b	b) we will stay at home.
3. If I had wings, → c	c) I will come to your party.
4. If she misses the deadline, → d	d) you get green.
5. If you mix yellow and blue, → e	e) he would get a promotion.
6. If he worked harder, → f	f) I would fly everywhere.
7. If I am free tonight, → g	g) her boss will be angry.
8. If she were the president, → h	h) she would change the tax laws.

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

Exercise 5: Sentence Sort

Write **0** (Zero), **1** (First), or **2** (Second) next to each sentence.

1. If she calls, I will answer immediately. **[1]**
2. If you heat metal, it expands. **[0]**
3. If it rains tomorrow, I will take an umbrella. **[1]**
4. If you mix red and white, you get pink. **[0]**
5. If we lived in Spain, we would speak Spanish every day. **[2]**
6. Water evaporates if you leave it in the sun. **[0]**
7. He will be upset if you cancel the plans. **[1]**
8. If I were taller, I would be a basketball player. **[2]**
9. If I had more time, I would learn to paint. **[2]**

Exercise 7: Paragraph Gap Fill

Read each paragraph and choose the connector that best fits the meaning and flow.

Passage 1

Learning to drive can be a stressful experience. If you practise regularly, you will improve much faster. Many learners feel nervous at first — if they make mistakes, this is completely normal. Once you pass your test, you will feel much more confident on the road. Although the test seems difficult, most people pass within a few attempts.

Passage 2

Many people dream of starting their own business. If you have a good idea and enough money, it is possible to succeed. However, the reality is that most new businesses fail within the first year. This does not mean you should give up. If you plan carefully and research your market, your chances of success are much higher. If things go wrong — and they often do — you need to be ready to adapt quickly.

ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Exercise 1: Sentence Transformation (model answers)

1. Unless it stays dry tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.
2. Were I to have more money, I would travel the world.
3. When you heat water to 100 degrees, it boils.
4. She will pass the exam provided she studies harder.
5. In your position, I would apologise immediately.
6. If you do not leave now, you will miss the last train.
7. Mixing red and blue gives you purple.

Exercise 2: Error Identification

1. will (1st) — remove from if-clause: If it rains ...
2. will — should be "would": second conditional
3. would (1st) — remove from if-clause: If I won ...
4. would — remove from if-clause: If she studied ...
5. will get — should be "get": zero conditional, present simple
6. never — double negative with "not": remove "never"
7. would — remove from if-clause: If she studies ...

Exercise 3: Gap Fill

1. rains 2. heat 3. had 4. does not leave
5. worked 6. do not get 7. will 8. would

Exercise 5: Sentence Sort

- If you heat metal, it expands. [0]
If it rains tomorrow, I will take an umbrella. [1]
If I had more time, I would learn to paint. [2]
Water evaporates if you leave it in the sun. [0]
If she calls, I will answer immediately. [1]
If I were taller, I would be a basketball player. [2]
If you mix red and white, you get pink. [0]
He will be upset if you cancel the plans. [1]
If we lived in Spain, we would speak Spanish every day. [2]

Exercise 7: Paragraph Gap Fill

Passage 1: [1] If [2] if [3] Once [4] Although

Passage 2: [1] If [2] However [3] If [4] If