

First, Second & Third Conditionals — Lesson 3

B2 Grammar Lesson — Student Worksheet

Grammar Focus

1st — Real Future

If + present simple, will + infinitive

If you email her today, she'll reply by Friday.

2nd — Unreal Present/Future

If + past simple, would + infinitive

If I had more space, I would keep old photos.

3rd — Unreal Past

If + past perfect, would have + p.p.

If I had checked the address, I wouldn't have got lost.

Exercise 1 — Error Identification

Each sentence contains one error, or may be correct. Underline the error and write why it's wrong (or write 'no error').

1. If they will renovate the kitchen, they'll need a bigger budget.

Correction / reason: _____

2. If I practised more often, I will improve my pronunciation.

Correction / reason: _____

3. If she had known about the allergy, she wouldn't have used peanuts.

Correction / reason: _____

4. If I live closer to town, I would walk to work.

Correction / reason: _____

5. If you had signed up earlier, you would get the discount.

Correction / reason: _____

6. If the meeting overruns, we'll reschedule the next call.

Correction / reason: _____

Exercise 2 — Gap Fill

Put the verb in brackets into the correct conditional form.

1. If it ____ (be) sunny tomorrow, we'll have lunch outside.

2. If I ____ (have) a bigger kitchen, I would cook more often.

3. They would have avoided the fine if they ____ (pay) on time.

4. If he ____ (not / rest) his ankle, it will take longer to heal.

5. If we ____ (update) the software, it would run much faster.

6. She wouldn't have caught the flu if she ____ (get) the vaccine.

7. If you don't water the plant, it ____ (die).

8. If I ____ (not / live) so far from the office, I would cycle to work.

Exercise 3 — Sentence Transformation

Rewrite each sentence using the conditional type shown, keeping the same meaning.

1. I'm not confident in French, so I don't take client calls in French. *(rewrite as a 2nd conditional)*

2. He didn't wear sunscreen, so he got badly sunburnt. *(rewrite as a 3rd conditional)*

3. Maybe the flight will be cancelled — email us if that happens. *(rewrite as a 1st conditional)*

4. I don't have enough experience, so I don't apply for senior roles. *(rewrite as a 2nd conditional)*

5. They didn't read the contract carefully, so they missed the cancellation clause. *(rewrite as a 3rd conditional)*

6. Perhaps the venue will be free next Saturday — we might book it then. *(rewrite as a 1st conditional)*

Exercise 4 — Build the Sentence

Put the words below into the correct order to make a complete conditional sentence.

1. , / it / gets / kettle / the / If / hot. / you / boil

2. better / drank / if / I / less / sleep / coffee. / would / I

3. she / we / helped / If / , / her. / for / help / had / would / have / asked

4. flight / , / will / the / If / miss / connection. / we / the / delayed / is

5. vegetables. / had / would / I / I / a / , / If / garden / bigger / grow

6. we / a / overspent / if / We / have / had / made / wouldn't / budget.

Exercise 5 — Which Conditional Fits?

Read each situation and write the letter of the response that uses the most appropriate conditional. (Options are on the accompanying HTML lesson; here, write your own best sentence.)

1. A supplier is deciding whether to lower their prices — it's a realistic, open possibility next quarter.

2. You're daydreaming about a completely different, imaginary lifestyle you don't actually have.

3. A friend's flight was overbooked last week — it's over and can't be changed now.

4. You're giving a colleague general, realistic advice about tomorrow's site visit.

5. You're imagining what you'd do with a talent you don't have and are unlikely to develop.

6. Looking back, you regret not asking for feedback earlier in your last project.

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

Each sentence has one grammar mistake. Write out the full corrected sentence.

1. If I will pass the exam, I'll celebrate with my classmates.

2. If he was more patient, he would explained things more clearly.

3. If they would have arrived on time, they would have caught the opening speech.

4. If you don't renew your licence, you will losing your permit.

5. If I would be the teacher, I would set less homework.

6. If we had ordered more stock, we would have enough for the sale.

Exercise 7 — Your Own Sentences

Respond to each situation with a full conditional sentence of the type requested.

1. Write a 1st conditional sentence about what you'll do if it's sunny this weekend.

2. Write a 2nd conditional sentence about a place you'd love to live but don't.

3. Write a 3rd conditional sentence about a decision you regret from your past.

4. Write a 1st conditional sentence giving a friend advice about moving house.

5. Write a 2nd conditional sentence imagining what you would do if you won a free trip anywhere in the world.

6. Write a 3rd conditional sentence about how a past event in your country could have gone differently.

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B2 Grammar Lesson — Answer Key

Exercise 1 — Error Identification

1. If they will renovate the kitchen, they'll need a bigger budget.

Error: "If they will renovate the kitchen" — Wrong verb form in the if-clause

1st conditional if-clauses use present simple, not 'will': 'If they renovate the kitchen...'

2. If I practised more often, I will improve my pronunciation.

Error: "I will improve my pronunciation" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

After a past-simple if-clause, the main clause needs 'would': 'I would improve'.

3. If she had known about the allergy, she wouldn't have used peanuts.

Error: No error — No error — sentence is correct

Correctly formed 3rd conditional (past perfect + would have + past participle).

4. If I live closer to town, I would walk to work.

Error: "If I live closer to town" — Wrong verb form in the if-clause

'Would' signals 2nd conditional, so the if-clause needs past simple: 'If I lived closer to town...'

5. If you had signed up earlier, you would get the discount.

Error: "you would get the discount" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

A past-perfect if-clause needs 'would have + past participle': 'you would have got'.

6. If the meeting overruns, we'll reschedule the next call.

Error: No error — No error — sentence is correct

Correctly formed 1st conditional (present simple + will).

Exercise 2 — Gap Fill

1. If it **is** (be) sunny tomorrow, we'll have lunch outside.
2. If I **had** (have) a bigger kitchen, I would cook more often.
3. They would have avoided the fine if they **had paid** (pay) on time.
4. If he **doesn't rest** (not / rest) his ankle, it will take longer to heal.
5. If we **updated** (update) the software, it would run much faster.
6. She wouldn't have caught the flu if she **had got** (get) the vaccine.
7. If you don't water the plant, it **dies** (die).

8. If I **didn't live** (not / live) so far from the office, I would cycle to work.

Exercise 3 — Sentence Transformation

1. I'm not confident in French, so I don't take client calls in French. *(2nd conditional)*

If I were confident in French, I would take client calls in French.

2. He didn't wear sunscreen, so he got badly sunburnt. *(3rd conditional)*

If he had worn sunscreen, he wouldn't have got badly sunburnt.

3. Maybe the flight will be cancelled — email us if that happens. *(1st conditional)*

If the flight is cancelled, email us.

4. I don't have enough experience, so I don't apply for senior roles. *(2nd conditional)*

If I had enough experience, I would apply for senior roles.

5. They didn't read the contract carefully, so they missed the cancellation clause. *(3rd conditional)*

If they had read the contract carefully, they wouldn't have missed the cancellation clause.

6. Perhaps the venue will be free next Saturday — we might book it then. *(1st conditional)*

If the venue is free next Saturday, we'll book it then.

Exercise 4 — Build the Sentence

1. If you boil the kettle, it gets hot.

2. I would sleep better if I drank less coffee.

3. If she had asked for help, we would have helped her.

4. If the flight is delayed, we will miss the connection.

5. If I had a bigger garden, I would grow vegetables.

6. We wouldn't have overspent if we had made a budget.

Exercise 5 — Which Conditional Fits?

1. A supplier is deciding whether to lower their prices — it's a realistic, open possibility next quarter.

If they lower their prices, we'll order in bulk.

2. You're daydreaming about a completely different, imaginary lifestyle you don't actually have.

If I lived off the grid, I would grow all my own food.

3. A friend's flight was overbooked last week — it's over and can't be changed now.

If she had arrived earlier, she wouldn't have lost her seat.

4. You're giving a colleague general, realistic advice about tomorrow's site visit.

If it rains tomorrow, we'll move the visit indoors.

5. You're imagining what you'd do with a talent you don't have and are unlikely to develop.

If I could sing, I would join a choir.

6. Looking back, you regret not asking for feedback earlier in your last project.

If I had asked for feedback sooner, the final result would have been much better.

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

1. If I will pass the exam, I'll celebrate with my classmates.

If I pass the exam, I'll celebrate with my classmates.

2. If he was more patient, he would explained things more clearly.

If he were more patient, he would explain things more clearly.

3. If they would have arrived on time, they would have caught the opening speech.

If they had arrived on time, they would have caught the opening speech.

4. If you don't renew your licence, you will losing your permit.

If you don't renew your licence, you will lose your permit.

5. If I would be the teacher, I would set less homework.

If I were the teacher, I would set less homework.

6. If we had ordered more stock, we would have enough for the sale.

If we had ordered more stock, we would have had enough for the sale.

Exercise 7 — Model Answers

Accept any grammatically correct sentence of the requested conditional type that logically fits the prompt. Models below.

1. Write a 1st conditional sentence about what you'll do if it's sunny this weekend.

If it's sunny this weekend, I'll have a barbecue in the garden.

2. Write a 2nd conditional sentence about a place you'd love to live but don't.

If I lived by the sea, I would swim every morning.

3. Write a 3rd conditional sentence about a decision you regret from your past.

If I had started saving earlier, I would have bought a house by now.

4. Write a 1st conditional sentence giving a friend advice about moving house.

If you label the boxes clearly, unpacking will be much easier.

5. Write a 2nd conditional sentence imagining what you would do if you won a free trip anywhere in the world.

If I won a free trip anywhere in the world, I would visit New Zealand.

6. Write a 3rd conditional sentence about how a past event in your country could have gone differently.

If the company had invested sooner, they wouldn't have lost so many customers.