

First, Second & Third Conditionals — Lesson 4

B2 Grammar Lesson — Student Worksheet

Grammar Focus

1st — Real Future

If + present simple, will + infinitive

If the shop restocks tomorrow, I'll buy it.

2nd — Unreal Present/Future

If + past simple, would + infinitive

If I ran my own company, I would offer remote working.

3rd — Unreal Past

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

If I had set my alarm, I wouldn't have overslept.

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 we will move offices, the team will need new desks.

Correction / reason: _____

2. If she rehearsed more, she will feel calmer on stage.

Correction / reason: _____

3. If we had booked in advance, we wouldn't have paid the surcharge.

Correction / reason: _____

4. If I have a garden, I would grow my own herbs.

Correction / reason: _____

5. If you had told me you were coming, I would prepare dinner.

Correction / reason: _____

6. If the wifi goes down, we'll switch to mobile data.

Correction / reason: _____

Exercise 2 — Gap Fill

Put the verb in brackets into the correct conditional form.

1. If it ____ (be) foggy tomorrow, the flight might be delayed.

2. If I ____ (know) how to swim, I would join the diving club.

3. We would have found seats if we ____ (arrive) earlier.

4. If they ____ (not / fix) the leak soon, the ceiling will be damaged.

5. If she ____ (train) harder, she would qualify for the finals.

6. He wouldn't have crashed if he ____ (check) his mirrors.

7. If you drop the glass, it ____ (break).

8. If I ____ (not / spend) so much on takeaways, I would save more money.

Exercise 3 — Sentence Transformation

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

1. I'm not patient enough, so I don't teach beginner classes. (rewrite as a 2nd conditional)

2. She didn't proofread the email, so she sent it full of typos. (rewrite as a 3rd conditional)

3. Maybe the store will run out of tickets — reserve yours if that seems likely. (rewrite as a 1st conditional)

4. I don't have a spare room, so I don't offer to host guests. (rewrite as a 2nd conditional)

5. He didn't charge his phone, so he missed the important call. (rewrite as a 3rd conditional)

6. Perhaps the roadworks will finish next week — traffic should improve 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 / goes / out / milk / If / off. / you / leave

2. I / healthier / if / would / feel / exercised / daily. / I

3. he / , / he / If / money. / ahead / would / had / have / saved / booked

4. bridge / we / take / different / If / a / route. / will / the / , / closes

5. guitar. / had / would / I / I / more / , / If / time / free / learn

6. they / the / panicked / if / They / have / had / read / wouldn't / instructions.

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 landlord is deciding whether to renew the lease — it's a realistic, open possibility this month.

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

3. A colleague's laptop crashed last week and the work wasn't backed up — it's over and can't be changed now.

4. You're giving a colleague general, realistic advice about a delivery expected later today.

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

6. Looking back, you regret not learning to negotiate before your last salary review.

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

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

1. If I will get a scholarship, I'll study abroad next year.

2. If she was more direct, she would negotiated a better deal.

3. If they would have tested the software, they would have caught the bug.

4. If you don't confirm the booking, you will losing your table.

5. If I would be the coach, I would train the team twice a week.

6. If we had checked the schedule, we would arrive at the right terminal.

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 you get some free time this evening.

2. Write a 2nd conditional sentence about a language you'd love to speak fluently 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 starting a new job.

5. Write a 2nd conditional sentence imagining what you would do if you didn't need to sleep.

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

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B2 Grammar Lesson — Answer Key

Exercise 1 — Error Identification

1. If we will move offices, the team will need new desks.

Error: "If we will move offices" — Wrong verb form in the if-clause

1st conditional if-clauses use present simple, not 'will': 'If we move offices...'

2. If she rehearsed more, she will feel calmer on stage.

Error: "she will feel calmer on stage" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

After a past-simple if-clause, the main clause needs 'would': 'she would feel'.

3. If we had booked in advance, we wouldn't have paid the surcharge.

Error: No error — No error — sentence is correct

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

4. If I have a garden, I would grow my own herbs.

Error: "If I have a garden" — Wrong verb form in the if-clause

'Would' signals 2nd conditional, so the if-clause needs past simple: 'If I had a garden...'

5. If you had told me you were coming, I would prepare dinner.

Error: "I would prepare dinner" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

A past-perfect if-clause needs 'would have + past participle': 'I would have prepared'.

6. If the wifi goes down, we'll switch to mobile data.

Error: No error — No error — sentence is correct

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

Exercise 2 — Gap Fill

1. If it **is** (be) foggy tomorrow, the flight might be delayed.
2. If I **knew** (know) how to swim, I would join the diving club.
3. We would have found seats if we **had arrived** (arrive) earlier.
4. If they **don't fix** (not / fix) the leak soon, the ceiling will be damaged.
5. If she **trained** (train) harder, she would qualify for the finals.
6. He wouldn't have crashed if he **had checked** (check) his mirrors.
7. If you drop the glass, it **breaks** (break).

8. If I **didn't spend** (not / spend) so much on takeaways, I would save more money.

Exercise 3 — Sentence Transformation

1. I'm not patient enough, so I don't teach beginner classes. *(2nd conditional)*

If I were patient enough, I would teach beginner classes.

2. She didn't proofread the email, so she sent it full of typos. *(3rd conditional)*

If she had proofread the email, she wouldn't have sent it full of typos.

3. Maybe the store will run out of tickets — reserve yours if that seems likely. *(1st conditional)*

If the store runs out of tickets, reserve yours.

4. I don't have a spare room, so I don't offer to host guests. *(2nd conditional)*

If I had a spare room, I would offer to host guests.

5. He didn't charge his phone, so he missed the important call. *(3rd conditional)*

If he had charged his phone, he wouldn't have missed the important call.

6. Perhaps the roadworks will finish next week — traffic should improve then. *(1st conditional)*

If the roadworks finish next week, traffic will improve.

Exercise 4 — Build the Sentence

1. If you leave milk out, it goes off.
2. I would feel healthier if I exercised daily.
3. If he had booked ahead, he would have saved money.
4. If the bridge closes, we will take a different route.
5. If I had more free time, I would learn guitar.
6. They wouldn't have panicked if they had read the instructions.

Exercise 5 — Which Conditional Fits?

1. A landlord is deciding whether to renew the lease — it's a realistic, open possibility this month.

If he renews the lease, we'll redecorate the flat.

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

If I worked from a beach town, I would start every day with a swim.

3. A colleague's laptop crashed last week and the work wasn't backed up — it's over and can't be changed now.

If she had saved her work more often, she wouldn't have lost the file.

4. You're giving a colleague general, realistic advice about a delivery expected later today.

If the courier arrives, sign for the package at reception.

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

If I had unlimited funding, I would open a community library.

6. Looking back, you regret not learning to negotiate before your last salary review.

If I had learned to negotiate, my starting salary would have been higher.

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

1. If I will get a scholarship, I'll study abroad next year.

If I get a scholarship, I'll study abroad next year.

2. If she was more direct, she would negotiated a better deal.

If she were more direct, she would negotiate a better deal.

3. If they would have tested the software, they would have caught the bug.

If they had tested the software, they would have caught the bug.

4. If you don't confirm the booking, you will losing your table.

If you don't confirm the booking, you will lose your table.

5. If I would be the coach, I would train the team twice a week.

If I were the coach, I would train the team twice a week.

6. If we had checked the schedule, we would arrive at the right terminal.

If we had checked the schedule, we would have arrived at the right terminal.

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 you get some free time this evening.

If I get some free time this evening, I'll read a few chapters of my book.

2. Write a 2nd conditional sentence about a language you'd love to speak fluently but don't.

If I spoke fluent Italian, I would spend a year working in Rome.

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

If I had kept in touch with my old classmates, I would have a much bigger network now.

4. Write a 1st conditional sentence giving a friend advice about starting a new job.

If you ask lots of questions in the first week, you'll settle in much faster.

5. Write a 2nd conditional sentence imagining what you would do if you didn't need to sleep.

If I didn't need to sleep, I would get so much more done every day.

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

If the council had built the cycle lanes sooner, traffic would have been much lighter.