THE CONDITIONAL

Conditional sentences have two parts: if-clause and the main clause. In the sentence "if the weather is nice, we will go out", "if the weather is nice" is the if-clause, and "we will go out" is the main clause.

When **the if-clause** begins the sentence, use a comma to separate the two clauses as in the example aforementioned. However, when it finishes the sentence there is no need for a comma.

Example: If the weather is nice, we will go out. / We will go out if the weather is nice.

In English there are four basic **conditional structures**:

I. THE ZERO CONDITIONAL

The zero conditional (also called conditional type 0) is a structure used for talking about scientific facts and general truths, the time is now or always and the situation is real and possible.

IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)	MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)
If + simple present	Simple present
If you heat ice,	it melts.
MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)	IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)
Simple present	If + simple present
Plants die	if they don't get enough water.

Examples:

- If you **freeze** water, it **becomes** a solid.
- Phosphorus **burns** if you **expose** it to air.

II. THE FIRST CONDITIONAL

The first conditional (also called conditional type 1) is a structure used for talking about possibilities in the present or in the future, and the situation is real. They refer to a possible condition and its probable result.

IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)	MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)
If + simple present	Simple future
If it is sunny,	we will go to the park.
MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)	IF-CALUSE (CONDITION)
Simple future	If + simple present
We will miss the train	if you don't hurry .

Examples:

- If you **cook** the supper, I **will wash** the dishes.
- Peter will buy a new car if he gets his raise.

N.B:

"if" can be replaced by unless which means "if ... not".

- Unless he hurries up (if he doesn't hurry up), he will arrive late.
- They won't lose some weight unless they exercise regularly (if they don't exercise regularly.)

III. THE SECOND CONDITIONAL

The second conditional (also called conditional type 2) is a structure used for talking about unreal situations in the present or in the future, the time is now or any time. They are not based on fact, and they refer to an unlikely or hypothetical condition and its probable result.

IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)	MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)
If + simple past	Present conditional
If I had two million Dollars,	I would buy a big house.
MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)	IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)
Present conditional	If + simple past
You wouldn't be so tired	if you went to bed earlier.

Examples:

- If Mary **spoke** Japanese, she **would move** to Japan.
- What would you do if you won the lottery?

Exception:

In the second conditional, the form "was" is not considered grammatically correct. In written English or in testing situations, you should always use "were". However, in every day conversations "was" is often used.

Examples:

- If I were you, I would give up smoking.
- She would buy a beautiful car if she were rich.

IV. THE THIRD CONDITIONAL

The third conditional (also called conditional type 3) is a structure used to express regrets and complaints about situations that have already happened in the past. The facts are opposite of what is expressed; they refer to an unreal past condition and its probable past result.

IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)	MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)
If + past perfect	Perfect conditional
If he had had more money,	he would have travelled to America.
MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)	IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)
Perfect conditional	If + past perfect
You would have passed the exam	if you had worked harder.

Examples:

- If you had driven more carefully, you would not have had an accident.
- What city would you have chosen if you had decided to move to the United States?

Exercise 01: say whether the sentences are in conditional type 0, 1, 2 or 3.

- 1. If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we will have a picnic
- 2. If you had come to class every day, you would have had no troubles.
- **3.** They will tell him the truth if he comes.
- **4.** If I were you, I would not do that.
- 5. They won't come unless you invite them.
- **6.** If you mix red and blue, you get purple.

Exercise 02: put the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

I think you were very rude to her; I would apologize if I (be) you.						
Diana would have been here earlier if she (not miss) the train.						
You get water if you (mix) hydrogen and oxygen.						
What will you (do) if you (lose) the match?						
You wouldn't have lost your job if you (work) seriously.						
If he (be) the president, he would help the poor.						
Exercise 03: choose the correct verb to fill in the blanks.						
I would give everyone £100 if I (be) the Queen of England.						
a)was b)were						
If you (start) the engine, you hear that strange sound.						
a)would start b)start						
If you work hard, you (win) the prize.						
a)will win b)would win						
I (believe) you if you hadn't lied to me before.						
a)would have believed b)would believed						
The fuse blows if you (press) that button.						
a)pressed b)press						
If I (speak) Portuguese, I would have less trouble in Brazil.						
a)spoke b)speak						

Teacher: Miss Adrar

THE CORRECTION OF THE THREE EXERCISES

Exercise 01: say whether the sentences are in conditional type 0, 1, 2 or 3.

- 1. If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we will have a picnic. (conditional type 1)
- 2. If you had come to class every day, you would have had no troubles. (conditional type 3)
- **3.** They will tell him the truth if he comes. (**conditional type 1**)
- **4.** If I were you, I would not do that. (**conditional type 2**)
- 5. They won't come unless you invite them. (conditional type 1)
- **6.** If you mix red and blue, you get purple. (**conditional type 0**)

Exercise 02: put the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

- 1. I think you were very rude to her; I would apologize if I were you.
- 2. Diana would have been here earlier if she hadn't missed the train.
- 3. You get water if you mix hydrogen and oxygen.
- **4.** What will you **do** if you **lose** the match?
- 5. You wouldn't have lost your job if you had worked seriously.
- **6.** If he were the president, he would help the poor.

Exercise 03: choose the correct verb to fill in the blanks.

1.	I would give everyone £100) if I were the Queen of England.
	a)was	b)were
2.	If you start the engine, you	hear that strange sound.

b)start

3. If you work hard, you will win the prize.

a)would start

a)will win b)would win

4. I would have believed you if you hadn't lied to me before.

a)would have believedb)would believedThe fuse blows if you press that button.

a)pressed b) press

6. If I **spoke** Portuguese, I would have less trouble in Brazil.

a)spoke b) speak