



University Centre Abdelhafid Boussouf E-learning Centre



English - Level 2

Lesson 02

If Clause and Conditional Sentences.

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Objectives of the Lesson

This lesson has been designed to make students able to express things that may happen in the present and future.

1. What is a Conditional Sentence?

A conditional sentence is based on the word ‘if’. There are always two parts to a conditional sentence – one part beginning with ‘if’ to describe a possible situation, and the second part which describes the consequence.

For example:

If it rains, we'll get wet.

We can also invert the two parts of a conditional sentence so that the ‘if’ part comes second, and this is especially common in questions. For example:

What will you do if you miss the train?

How can you finish the project if you don't have a computer? What happens if the students don't pass an exam?

There are four types of conditional sentences:

0 – The zero conditional

1 – The first conditional

2 – The second conditional

3 – The third conditional

It is also possible to mix the second and third conditional. Let's look at each conditional to see how we use them.

- Conditionals describe the result of a certain condition. The *if* clause tells you the condition (*If you study hard*) and the main clause tells you the result (*you will pass your exams*). The order of the clauses does not change the meaning.

If you study hard, you will pass your exams.

You will pass your exams if you study hard.

- Conditional sentences are often divided into different types.

1.1 Zero conditional:

_We use the zero conditional to talk about things that are generally true, especially for laws and rules.

If I drink too much coffee, I can't sleep at night. When the sun goes down, it gets dark.

The structure is: *if/when* + present simple >> present simple.

_We use the zero conditional to talk about permanent truths, such as scientific facts, and general habits. The structure is simple:

If + present simple,	present simple.
50% possibility	100% certainty

Here are some examples:

If you heat water to 100°, it boils. If you eat a lot, you put on weight.

If it doesn't rain for a long time, the earth gets very dry. If we go out with friends, we normally go to a restaurant. If I'm tired, I go to bed early.

1.2 First conditional:

We use the first conditional when we talk about future situations we believe are real or possible.

If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we'll go to the beach. Arsenal will be top of the league if they win.

When I finish work, I'll call you.

In **first conditional sentences**, the structure is usually: *if/when* + present simple >> *will* + infinitive.

It is also common to use this structure with *unless*, *as long as*, *as soon as* or *in case* instead of *if*.

I'll leave as soon as my father arrives.

I don't want to stay in London unless I get a well-paid job. I'll give you a key in case I'm not at home.

You can go to the party, as long as you're back by midnight. If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we'll go to the beach.

When I finish work, I'll call you.

If + present simple,	will + verb can + verb must + verb imperative form
50% possibility	100% certainty

Here are some other examples:

*If you're free later, we **can** go for a walk.*

*If they're hungry, I'll **make** some sandwiches. If he **studies***

*hard, he'll **do** well in the exam. If we **arrive** late, we **must** get a taxi.*

*He'll **call** if he **needs** help.*

*Take a break if you're **tired**.*

2. Cause and Effect relationship:

In the cause and effect relationship, one or more things happen as a result of something else.

2.1 Cause: cause is a catalyst, a motive, or an action that brings about a reaction—or reactions. cause leads to an effect.

2.2 Effect: is a condition, occurrence, or result generated by one or more causes. Effects are outcomes.

