

## CONDITIONALS · ZERO/FIRST/SECOND CONDITIONAL

### Zero Conditional

We use the Zero Conditional (*If* + Present Simple, Present Simple) to talk about facts, rules and situations which are always true (one thing always follows the other).

Snow **melts** *if/when* you **heat** it. (this is what always happens)

*If/When* you **eat** too many sweets, you **get** fat.

*If/When* you **press** this button, the computer **comes** on.

### First Conditional

We use the First Conditional (*If* + Present Simple, *will* + infinitive without *to*) to talk about possible future events which depend on other events happening in the future.

*If* you **study** hard all year, you'll **pass** your exams. (passing exams in the future depends on studying)

She'll help you *if* she **has** more time tomorrow.

*If* the weather **is** fine, we'll **go** to the beach.

### Second Conditional

We use the Second Conditional (*If* + Past Simple, *would* + infinitive without *to*) to talk about unreal, impossible or unlikely situations in the present or in the future.

*If* I **had** your figure, I **would become** a model. (but I don't have your figure and I think it's unlikely)

We **wouldn't be** late for school every day *if* she **got up** ten minutes earlier. (but she doesn't get up 10 minutes earlier)

*If* Tom **were** taller, he **would play** basketball much better. (but Tom is not taller)

*If* I **knew** her telephone number, I **would call** her. (but I don't know her telephone number)

In conditional sentences instead of *if* we can also use: *when* (*if* something is sure to happen), *provided that*, *as soon as*, *as long as*, *unless* (= *if not*).

I'll switch on the light **when** it gets dark.

He'll lend you his car **provided that** you bring it back tomorrow.

They'll call us **as soon as** their plane lands.

I'll help you with maths **as long as** you help me to write my English essay.

She won't let me watch TV **unless** I tidy up my room first. (She won't let me watch TV if I don't tidy up my room first.)

In the Second Conditional sentences after *I*, *he*, *she* and *it* we can use both **was** and **were**. *Were* is more common than *was* in a written and formal language.

*If* he **was/were** more ambitious, he **would apply** for a more challenging position.

### 1 Circle the option which has a similar meaning to the original sentence. Explain your choice.

1 If it snows heavily, we won't go skiing.

a It might snow heavily.

b It doesn't snow.

2 If she was interested, she wouldn't keep cancelling dates with you.

a She might be interested.

b She isn't interested.

3 If I had a lot of money, I still wouldn't give up my job.

a I might have a lot of money.

b I don't have a lot of money.

4 If they needed your help, they would call you.

a They might need your help.

b They don't need your help.

5 If my boss wants me to work on Saturday, I'll say 'No'.

a My boss might want me to work on Saturday.

b My boss doesn't want me to work on Saturday.

### 2 Unjumble the sentences to form conditional sentences.

1 would / could / us / if / about / speak / humans / animals / they / complain

*If* animals could speak, they would complain about us humans.

2 take / you / aspirin / will / down / feel / if / better / an / you / lie / and

You \_\_\_\_\_.

3 them / rude / and / if / him / people / ignores / he / are / to / calm / stays

*If* people \_\_\_\_\_.

4 didn't / she / take / breathing / jogging / problems / have / she / would / up / if

She \_\_\_\_\_.

5 school / if / hurry / late / Tom / we / be / doesn't / up / will / for

*If* Tom \_\_\_\_\_.

6 apologise / I / her / were / to / you / I / wouldn't / if

I \_\_\_\_\_.

3 Circle the correct verb form in each sentence.

- 1 If I go to bed after midnight, I am always / 'll always be / would always be tired in the morning.
- 2 I don't / won't / wouldn't tell you anything if you can't keep a secret.
- 3 If he could speak good English, he finds / will find / would find a well-paid job in London.
- 4 I don't / won't / wouldn't trust these people if I were you.
- 5 George comes / will come / would come if you promise not to talk about school all the time.
- 6 If plants don't have enough water, they die / will die / would die.
- 7 Is it / Will it / Would it be all right if I used your mobile phone?

4 Which of the conditional sentences would probably be used by the following people?

- 1 The best student in class.
  - a If I pass the test, I don't have to study at the weekend.
  - b** If I pass the test, I won't have to study at the weekend.
  - c If I passed the test, I wouldn't have to study at the weekend.
- 2 Somebody who works all Saturdays.
  - a I help you if I'm free on Saturday.
  - b** I'll help you if I'm free on Saturday.
  - c I'd help you if I were free on Saturday.
- 3 One of the candidates to a local government.
  - a If I am elected, I try to make the public transport in our city better.
  - b** If I am elected, I'll try to make the public transport in our city better.
  - c If I was elected, I'd try to make the public transport in our city better.
- 4 A member of the worst basketball team at school.
  - a If we win all the matches, we have a big party.
  - b** If we win all the matches, we'll have a big party.
  - c If we won all the matches, we'd have a big party.
- 5 A 70-year-old woman who comes from a long living family.
  - a If I live to be 80, I'm still very active.
  - b** If I live to be 80, I'll still be very active.
  - c If I lived to be 80, I'd still be very active.

5 Complete the gaps with the verbs in brackets to form correct conditional sentences (the Zero Conditional, the First Conditional or the Second Conditional).

- 1 If you aren't (not be) careful, you'll burn yourself.
- 2 Would you go to the headmaster if they \_\_\_\_\_ (start) bullying you again?
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ (not lend) him any money even if I had some.
- 4 If she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a choice, she always chooses ice cream for pudding.
- 5 I would be so happy if he \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) me out.
- 6 If you heat ice, it \_\_\_\_\_ (turn) to water.
- 7 What will you do if she \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) not to come after all?
- 8 It's very simple, kids: if you \_\_\_\_\_ (not behave) properly, you don't get your treat.
- 9 Would you know what to do if you \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) your passport on holiday abroad?
- 10 If Tom invites me to his party, I \_\_\_\_\_ (not accept) his invitation.

6 Read the situations and form correct conditional sentences (use the First Conditional or the Second Conditional).

- 1 Steven is not tall, so he doesn't play basketball well.  
If Steven was/were taller, he would play basketball well.
- 2 We might have some more sweets. If so, we want to share them among the kids.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Sarah wants to ask her boss for a pay rise, but she's worried about making him angry.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 I'm upset because I have to help my mother with the housework and I can't go to the cinema with my friends.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 I think you should call a taxi now. The alternative is to walk there.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 I don't think Southampton FC will win this match. The winner gets promoted to the Premiership.  
\_\_\_\_\_

7 Complete the gaps with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Then answer the questions using conditional sentences (the Zero Conditional, the First Conditional or the Second Conditional).

1 What would you do if you found (find) a lot of money in the street?

If I found a lot of money in the street, I would go on a long holiday.

2 What will you talk about if your English teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) you to prepare a presentation?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 What would happen if there \_\_\_\_\_ (be) no grades at school?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 What do you usually do if you \_\_\_\_\_ (get) very angry?

\_\_\_\_\_

5 What will you do if it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) all day on Saturday?

\_\_\_\_\_

6 What would you do if you \_\_\_\_\_ (see) someone stealing something in the supermarket?

\_\_\_\_\_

7 What do you do if you \_\_\_\_\_ (have) problems falling asleep?

\_\_\_\_\_

**EXAM PRACTICE**

8 Read the email below and complete the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

Hi Bridget,

That's good news about this good looking guy, but do you really want to go? If I <sup>1</sup> were (be) you, I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not accept) the invitation.

It's just too risky. If you <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to a disco with strangers, anything can happen. You simply don't do things like that.

And what <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you/do) if you <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (want) to go back home and he and his friends <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) like dancing all night? How are you going to get home on your own?

You <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (do) what you want, of course. But it's always better to be safe than sorry so just to be on the safe side I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a mobile phone and some money for a taxi.

Sorry if I sound like your Mum :-)

Take care,

Klara

9 Look at the exam task below. Match points a-c to the proper sections of the email above.

While you were in Ireland last summer you met Bridget and since then you have become really good friends. Bridget has recently visited you and you have just received an email from her in which she wrote:

Thanks again for a wonderful time in your city. I loved it! Guess what happened yesterday on the plane home! I met the most good looking and intelligent guy. And we're going to the disco with his friends on Saturday! I'll keep you posted.

Write her an email in which you:

- express your surprise that Bridget wants to go out with complete strangers
- speculate what could happen
- make some suggestions

Begin your email like this: *Hi Bridget,*