There are 4 main types of if sentences in English, often called conditional sentences. These sentences are in two halves (clauses):

- the if part (if clause)
- the other part where you can use words such as can, will, may, might, could and would (main clause)

**ZERO CONDITIONAL** is a structure used for talking about general truths -- things which always happen under certain conditions (note that most zero conditional sentences will mean the same thing if "when" is used instead of "if"). The zero conditional is used to talk about things which are always true -- scientific facts, general truths, and so on.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>if clause</th>
<th>main clause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>If + Present Simple</strong></td>
<td><strong>Present Simple</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you heat the water to 100 degrees,</td>
<td>it boils.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1st CONDITIONAL** is a structure used for talking about possibilities in the present or in the future. The first conditional is used to talk about things which are possible in the present or the future -- things which may happen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>if clause</th>
<th>main clause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>If + Present Simple</strong></td>
<td><strong>Future Simple, can, may</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you study hard,</td>
<td>you will pass the test.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2nd CONDITIONAL** is a structure used for talking about unreal situations in the present or in the future. The second conditional is used to talk about things which are unreal (not true or not possible) in the present or the future -- things which don't or won't happen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>if clause</th>
<th>main clause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>If + Past Simple</strong></td>
<td><strong>would, could, might</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I had a million dollars,</td>
<td>I would buy a big house.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**3rd CONDITIONAL** is a structure used for talking about unreal situations in the past. The third conditional is used to talk about things which DID NOT HAPPEN in the past. If your native language does not have a similar construction, you may find this a little strange, but it can be very useful. It is often used to express criticism or regret.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>if clause</th>
<th>main clause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>If + Past Perfect</strong></td>
<td><strong>would/could/might have + Past Participle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I had studied harder,</td>
<td>I would have passed the exam.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the "if" clause comes first, a comma is usually used. If the "if" clause comes second, there is no need for a comma –

Water boils if you heat it to 100 degrees.

You will pass the test if you study hard.

I would buy a big house if I had a million dollars.

I would have passed the exam if I had studied harder.
**Make Zero Conditional sentences, use cues.**

Jane / eat / too much chocolate / she / get / sick

You / not / eat / you / die

You / heat / ice / it / melts

---

**Make 1st Conditional sentences, put the verbs in brackets in correct form.**

If you _______ (not study), you _______ (fail) the test.

I _______ (lend) you my umbrella if you _______ (need) it.

If I _______ (be late), I _______ (call) you.

---

**Write 2nd Conditional sentences, put the verbs in brackets in correct form.**

If you _______ (leave) your job, you _______ (travel) around the world.

If you _______ (be) nicer to him, he _______ (lend) you the money.

It _______ (be) nice if the rain _______ (stop)!

---

**Write 3rd Conditional sentences, put the verbs in brackets in correct order.**

He crashed his car, because he fell asleep while driving.

If he _______ (fall) asleep while driving, he _______ (crash) his car.

I lost my job because I was late for work.

I _______ (loose) my job if I _______ (be) late for work.

We couldn't go to the concert, because we didn't have enough money.

If we _______ (have) enough money, we _______ (go) to the concert.

---

**Put the verb in brackets in correct form.**

If I _______ (be) you, I wouldn't risk.

If they had waited another month, they could probably _______ (get) a better price for their house.

It's quite simple really. When it's cold, water _______ (freeze).

If he decides to accept that job, he _______ (regret) it for the rest of his life.

If he hadn't been driving so fast, he _______ (hit) the motorcyclist.

If he _______ (be) more careful, he would have spotted the mistake.

If she goes on passing her exams, _______ (be) qualified to practise as a lawyer.

If I pay you twice as much, will you _______ (able) to finish by Tuesday?

If only I'd invested in that company, I _______ (become) a millionaire by now.
Make Zero Conditional sentences, use cues.
Jane / eat / too much chocolate / she / get / sick
If Jane eats too much chocolate, she gets sick.
You / not / eat / you / die
If you don’t eat, you die.
You / heat / ice / it / melts
If you heat ice, it melts.

Make 1st Conditional sentences, put the verbs in brackets in correct form.
If you don’t study (not study), you will fail (fail) the test.
If I lend you my umbrella if you need (need) it.
If I am late (be late), I will call (call) you.

Write 2nd Conditional sentences, put the verbs in brackets in correct form.
If you left (leave) your job, you could travel (travel) around the world.
If you were (be) nicer to him, he might lend (lend) you the money.
It would be (be) nice if the rain stopped (stop)!

Write 3rd Conditional sentences, put the verbs in brackets in correct order.
He crashed his car, because he fell asleep while driving.
If he hadn’t fallen (fall) asleep while driving, he wouldn’t have crashed (crash) his car.
I lost my job because I was late for work.
I wouldn’t have lost (lose) my job if I hadn’t been (be) late for work.
We couldn’t go to the concert, because we didn’t have enough money.
If we had had (have) enough money, we could have gone (go) to the concert.

Put the verb in brackets in correct form.
If I were you, I wouldn’t risk it.
If they had waited another month, they could probably have got (get) a better price for their house.
It’s quite simple really. When it’s cold, water freezes.
If he decides to accept that job, he will regret (regret) it for the rest of his life.
If he hadn’t been driving so fast, he wouldn’t have hit (hit) the motorcyclist.
If he had been (be) more careful, he would have spotted the mistake.
If she goes on passing her exams, she’ll be (be) qualified to practise as a lawyer.
If I pay you twice as much, will you be able (able) to finish by Tuesday?
If only I’d invested in that company, I would have become (become) a millionaire by now.