

First year S2  
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Unit 7: **Environment and Sustainability**  
Lecture 2: Grammar

## The Conditional

### Conditional Type 0 (Zero Conditional)

#### Form:

If + present simple, present simple

#### Structure:

If + subject + present simple, subject + present simple

#### Examples:

- If you heat water to 100°C, it boils.
- If people eat too much sugar, they gain weight.

#### Use

We use the zero conditional to talk about:

- General truths
- Scientific facts
- Habits
- Things that are always true

#### Note:

You can replace 'if' with 'when' (often without changing the meaning).

- When you mix red and blue, you get purple.

Both clauses are in the present simple.

### Conditional Type 1 (First Conditional)

#### Form

If + present simple, will + stem

#### Structure

If + subject + present simple, subject + will + verb

### Examples:

- If it rains, I will stay home.
- If you study, you will pass the exam.

### Use

We use the first conditional to talk about:

- Real or possible future situations
- Things that are likely to happen

### Notes

The if-clause uses present simple, not future.

- NOT: If it will rain
- Correct: If it rains

Other modal verbs can replace will:

- can
- may
- might
- should

### Example:

- If you finish, you *can* leave early.

## Conditional Type 2 (Second Conditional)

### Form

If + past simple, would + stem

### Structure

If + subject + past simple, subject + would + verb

### Examples:

- If I won the lottery, I would travel the world.
- If she studied, she would pass.

### Use

We use conditional type two to talk about:

- Unreal or imaginary situations in the present or future
- Hypothetical situations
- Wishes, dreams or unlikely situations

### Notes

Use were instead of was with I/he/she/it (formal English).

- If I were rich, I would buy a castle.

You can use:

- could (ability)
- might (possibility)

### Example:

- If I had time, I could learn Japanese.

## Conditional Type 3 (Third Conditional)

### Form

If + past perfect, would have + past participle

### Structure:

If + subject + had + past participle, subject + would have + past participle

### Examples:

- If I had studied, I would have passed.
- If they had left earlier, they would have arrived on time.

### Use

We use conditional type three to talk about:

- Unreal situations in the past
- Regrets
- Things that did NOT happen

### Notes

Other modal variations:

- could have (ability)
- might have (possibility)

**Examples:**

- If she had tried, she might have succeeded.

**Extra Useful Notes (All Conditionals)**

**1- Comma Rule**

- Use a comma when the if-clause comes first.

**Example:**

- If it rains, I will stay home.

No comma when reversed:

- I will stay home if it rains.

**2- Switching Clause Order**

You can change order without changing meaning.

**Example:**

- If you study, you will pass.
- You will pass if you study.

## Practice

### Task one: Complete the Sentences (Zero Conditional)

*Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.*

1. If temperatures \_\_\_\_\_ (rise), ice \_\_\_\_\_ (melt).
2. If people \_\_\_\_\_ (burn) fossil fuels, greenhouse gases \_\_\_\_\_ (enter) the atmosphere.
3. If sea levels \_\_\_\_\_ (increase), coastal areas \_\_\_\_\_ (flood).

### Task two: Complete the Sentences (First Conditional)

*Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.*

1. If global temperatures \_\_\_\_\_ (rise), glaciers \_\_\_\_\_ (melt) faster.
2. If people \_\_\_\_\_ (burn) fossil fuels, greenhouse gases \_\_\_\_\_ (increase).
3. If sea levels \_\_\_\_\_ (rise), coastal areas \_\_\_\_\_ (experience) flooding.
4. If farmers \_\_\_\_\_ (not adapt) to climate change, crops \_\_\_\_\_ (fail).
5. If storms \_\_\_\_\_ (become) stronger, they \_\_\_\_\_ (damage) more homes.
6. If governments \_\_\_\_\_ (take) action now, climate conditions \_\_\_\_\_ (improve) in the future.
7. If ice sheets \_\_\_\_\_ (continue) to melt, sea levels \_\_\_\_\_ (go up).
8. If rainfall patterns \_\_\_\_\_ (change), farmers \_\_\_\_\_ (struggle) to grow crops.

### Task three: Complete the Sentences (Second Conditional)

*Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.*

1. If people \_\_\_\_\_ (use) less fossil fuel, the planet \_\_\_\_\_ (be) healthier.
2. If governments \_\_\_\_\_ (invest) more in renewable energy, pollution \_\_\_\_\_ (decrease).
3. If glaciers \_\_\_\_\_ (not melt) so quickly, sea levels \_\_\_\_\_ (rise) more slowly.
4. If farmers \_\_\_\_\_ (have) better technology, they \_\_\_\_\_ (adapt) more easily to climate change.

5. If temperatures \_\_\_\_\_ (not increase) so rapidly, extreme weather \_\_\_\_\_ (be) less frequent.
6. If humans \_\_\_\_\_ (care) more about the environment, climate change \_\_\_\_\_ (slow down).
7. If cities \_\_\_\_\_ (plant) more trees, the air \_\_\_\_\_ (become) cleaner.
8. If people \_\_\_\_\_ (know) more about climate change, they \_\_\_\_\_ (make) better choices.

#### **Task four: Complete the Sentences (Third Conditional)**

*Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.*

1. If humans \_\_\_\_\_ (reduce) greenhouse gas emissions earlier, global temperatures \_\_\_\_\_ (not rise) so quickly.
2. If governments \_\_\_\_\_ (take) climate change seriously in the past, many disasters \_\_\_\_\_ (be avoided).
3. If people \_\_\_\_\_ (not burn) so many fossil fuels, the atmosphere \_\_\_\_\_ (not become) so polluted.
4. If farmers \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) better for climate changes, they \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) fewer crops.
5. If scientists \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) more support earlier, they \_\_\_\_\_ (develop) better solutions.
6. If coastal cities \_\_\_\_\_ (build) stronger protections, floods \_\_\_\_\_ (cause) less damage.
7. If glaciers \_\_\_\_\_ (not melt) so rapidly, sea levels \_\_\_\_\_ (not rise) so much.
8. If humans \_\_\_\_\_ (protect) forests in the past, the environment \_\_\_\_\_ (remain) healthier.

#### **Task five: Choose the Correct Conditional Type**

*Complete each sentence using the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use Conditional Type 1, 2, or 3.*

1. If people \_\_\_\_\_ (reduce) greenhouse gas emissions now, global temperatures \_\_\_\_\_ (slow down) in the future.
2. If humans \_\_\_\_\_ (care) more about the environment, the planet \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in better condition today.

3. If governments \_\_\_\_\_ (act) earlier, many coastal cities \_\_\_\_\_ (not suffer) from flooding today.
4. If temperatures \_\_\_\_\_ (continue) to rise, glaciers \_\_\_\_\_ (melt) faster.
5. If people \_\_\_\_\_ (not burn) fossil fuels in the past, the atmosphere \_\_\_\_\_ (not become) so polluted.
6. If farmers \_\_\_\_\_ (have) more resources, they \_\_\_\_\_ (adapt) more easily to climate change.
7. If sea levels \_\_\_\_\_ (rise) further, many coastal areas \_\_\_\_\_ (be) at risk.
8. If scientists \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) more funding years ago, they \_\_\_\_\_ (develop) better climate solutions by now.

Answers:

**Task One: Zero Conditional**

- 1- rise, melts
- 2- burn, enter
- 3- increase, flood

**Task Two: First Conditional**

- 1- rise, will melt
- 2- burn, will increase
- 3- rise, will experience
- 4- do not adapt, will fail
- 5- become, will damage
- 6- take, will improve
- 7- continue, will go up
- 8- change, will struggle

**Task Three: Second Conditional**

- 1- used, would be
- 2- invested, would decrease
- 3- did not melt, would rise
- 4- had, would adapt
- 5- did not increase, would be
- 6- cared, would slow down
- 7- planted, would become
- 8- knew, would make

**Task Four: Third Conditional**

- 1- had reduced, would not have risen
- 2- had taken, would have been avoided
- 3- had not burned, would not have become
- 4- had prepared, would have lost
- 5- had received, would have developed
- 6- had built, would have caused
- 7- had not melted, would not have risen
- 8- had protected, would have remained

**Task Five: Mixed Conditional Types**

- 1- reduce, will slow down
- 2- cared, would be
- 3- had acted, would not suffer
- 4- continue, will melt
- 5- had not burned, would not have become
- 6- had, would adapt
- 7- rise, will be
- 8- had received, would have developed