



B2 —

**How to talk about possibilities, dreams,
and regrets**

**Focus: Zero, First, Second, Third, and Mixed
conditionals**

Complete overview table

Conditional	Structure	Use / meaning	Examples
Zero	If/When + present simple → present simple	General truths, facts, routines, cause-effect rules	<i>If you heat ice, it melts.</i>
First	If + present simple → will + base verb	Real future possibilities, predictions, warnings, offers	<i>If it rains today, I'll stay home.</i>
Second	If + past simple → would + base verb	Unreal / hypothetical present or future situations; dreams	<i>If I had more time, I would learn Italian.</i>
Third	If + past perfect → would have + past participle	Unreal past situations; regrets; imagined outcomes	<i>If she had left earlier, she wouldn't have missed the train.</i>
Mixed	Various combinations (past → present / present → past)	Linking different time frames; complex hypothetical thinking	<i>If I had slept earlier (past), I would feel better now (present).</i>
			<i>If I were braver (present), I would have confronted him yesterday (past).</i>

Zero conditional breakdown

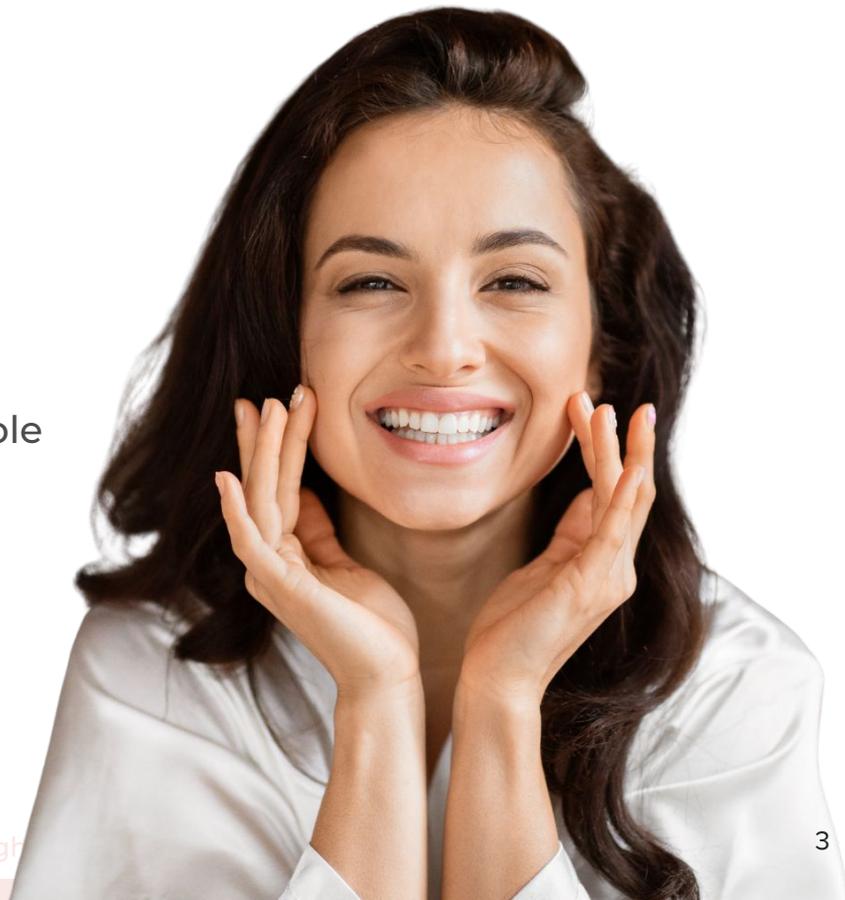
What it's used for:

- Scientific facts
- General truths
- Habits and routines
- Cause-and-effect relationships
- Things that are always true

Structure: If / When + present simple → present simple

Examples

- *If water reaches 100°C, it boils.*
- *When people smile, they feel better.*
- *If you don't water plants, they die.*
- *If I drink coffee at night, I can't sleep.*



Zero conditional mini practice

Complete the sentences:

1. If you exercise regularly, you _____ (feel) healthier.
2. When students practise often, their skills _____ (improve).
3. If you heat butter, it _____ (melt).
4. When I don't sleep enough, I _____ (be) tired.

First conditional breakdown

What it's used for:

- Real future possibilities
- Predictions based on conditions
- Warnings, offers, promises
- Decisions based on likely outcomes

Structure: If + present simple → will + base verb

Examples

- *If I finish work early, I'll call you.*
- *If she studies more, she will pass the test.*
- *If it gets colder, we'll stay inside.*
- *If you don't hurry, you'll be late.*



First conditional mini practice

Complete the sentences:

1. If I see Lucia tomorrow, I _____ (tell) her the news.
2. If the weather is good, we _____ (go) to the beach.
3. She will miss the bus if she _____ (not leave) soon.
4. If Kurt feels better, he _____ (join) the meeting.

Second conditional breakdown

What it's used for:

- Unreal or imaginary situations in the present/future
- Dreams and fantasies
- Advice
- Polite expressions



Structure: If + past simple → would + base verb

(Note: “were” is often used instead of “was” for all subjects in formal English.)

Examples

- *If I were rich, I would travel the world.*
- *If Lucia lived in London, she would speak more English daily.*
- *If he worked less, he would feel happier.*
- *If you ate healthier food, you would have more energy.*

Second conditional mini practice

Complete the sentences:

1. If I won the lottery, I _____ (travel) everywhere.
2. She would learn Spanish if she _____ (have) more time.
3. If we lived near the beach, we _____ (swim) every day.
4. What would you do if you _____ (be) the boss?

Third conditional breakdown

What it's used for:

- Hypothetical past
- Regrets
- Criticism about past choices
- Imagining different outcomes

Structure: If + past perfect → would have + past participle

Examples

- *If she had called me, I would have helped her.*
- *If I had known about the job, I would have applied.*
- *If Kurt had woken up earlier, he wouldn't have been late.*
- *If they had prepared better, they would have won.*



Third conditional mini practice

Complete the sentences:

1. If I had studied harder, I _____ (pass) the exam.
2. She would have arrived on time if she _____ (not oversleep).
3. If they had left earlier, they _____ (avoid) traffic.
4. I would have bought it if it _____ (be) cheaper.

Mixed conditionals breakdown

What they're used for:

To link different time periods:

- Past → Present result
- Present → Past result

Structure Types

- **Past condition → Present result:** If + past perfect → would + base verb
If I had slept more, I would feel better now.
- **Present condition → Past result:** If + past simple → would have + past participle
If Kurt were braver, he would have asked her out yesterday.

Examples

- *If she had finished university (past), she would have a better job now (present).*
- *If I weren't afraid of flying (present), I would have travelled last year (past).*
- *If you had listened earlier, you wouldn't be confused now.*
- *If he didn't hate hospitals, he would have visited his uncle yesterday.*



Mixed conditional mini practice

Identify the time relationship and complete the sentence:

1. If I _____ (save) more money last year, I would own a car now.
2. If she were more organised, she _____ (not miss) the interview yesterday.
3. If they had eaten earlier, they _____ (not be) hungry now.
4. If he weren't so tired, he _____ (join) us last night.

The Three Messages [1/2]

Last Sunday evening, Lucia sat alone in her kitchen, staring at the three unread messages on her phone. Each message represented a different possibility in her life — one that she might chase, one that she dreamed of, and one that she regretted not taking earlier.

The first message was from her old university friend, Matteo, inviting her to join a short online course in digital storytelling. If she takes the course, she will improve her creative writing skills — something she had always wanted to do. But she also knew that if she doesn't manage her time carefully, she will fall behind in her current job. She sighed. Real possibilities often come with real responsibilities.

The second message was from a travel agency she had followed for years. “Special offer: Two weeks in Japan.” *If I had more savings, I would book this trip immediately*, she thought. Travelling through Japan had been her dream since childhood, but dreams often waited for the “right moment.”

If I lived closer to Tokyo, she laughed softly, I would probably spend every weekend exploring temples and eating ramen.

The Three Messages [2/2]

The third message was the hardest one to read — a reminder from last year’s job application portal.

“Your application was reviewed. Thank you for your interest.”

It was the job she had wanted the most. She never submitted her final documents because she felt she wasn’t ready.

If I had completed that application, she whispered, I might have been living a different life today.

Lucia closed her eyes.

Maybe she couldn’t change the past, but she could still shape the future.

If I start making small decisions today, she thought, I will create fewer regrets tomorrow.

She finally opened the first message and smiled.

“Hi Matteo, count me in.”

Matching activity

Match the sentence beginnings (A-F) with the correct endings (1-6).

A. If Lucia takes the course,	1. she would explore the city every weekend.
B. If she had saved more money last year,	2. she will have fewer regrets in the future.
C. If she lived in Tokyo,	3. she would be able to travel to Japan now.
D. She would have gotten the job	4. she will improve her creative skills.
E. If she starts planning better,	5. she would have received an interview invitation.
F. If she had finished the application,	6. she would already own a plane ticket.

Gap-fill exercise

Complete the conditional sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets:

1. If Lucia _____ (work) less overtime, she would have more free time.
2. If she had checked her emails earlier, she _____ (respond) to Matteo immediately.
3. If she _____ (go) to Japan, she will take hundreds of photos.
4. She would feel more confident if she _____ (not doubt) herself so much.
5. If she had booked the trip last year, she _____ (travel) with her friend Sofia.
6. If Lucia improves her English, she _____ (apply) for more international positions.
7. If she _____ (know) about the offer earlier, she would have taken the course sooner.
8. She would organise her goals better if she _____ (use) a planner.

Speaking activity: “What if ...?”

Possibilities (First Conditional):

1. If you make one positive change this year, what will it be? Why?
2. What will you do if the perfect job opportunity appears unexpectedly?

Dreams (Second Conditional):

1. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?
2. What would your life look like if you didn't have to work for money?

Regrets (Third Conditional):

1. If you could change one decision from the past, what would it be?
2. What would have happened if you had taken a different career path earlier?

Mixed Conditional Practice:

1. If you had grown up in another country, how do you think you would be different today?
2. If you were more confident now, what past opportunities would you have taken?



Fix the conditional [1/2]

Identify the mistake and rewrite the sentence correctly:

1. If I will see Matteo later, I tell him the news.
2. She would passed the test if she studied harder.
3. If Lucia didn't missed the deadline, she would get the job.
4. If he would live in Italy, he will speak Italian every day.
5. If she had more time, she will start the course.
6. If they would have left earlier, they would arrived on time.

Fix the conditional [2/2]

Identify the mistake and rewrite the sentence correctly:

7. If I know about the meeting, I would have joined.
8. She would travel more if she will have money.
9. If he had woke up earlier, he would feel better now.
10. If I would be you, I would take the opportunity.
11. If Lucia will improve her English, she would apply for the job.
12. If I had more savings, I would have bought the trip last year.

Conditional transformation exercise [1/2]

Zero → First Conditional

Rewrite the general truth as a real future possibility.

1. **Zero:** *If you don't drink water, you feel tired.*
First: _____
2. **Zero:** *If people save money, they become more financially secure.*
First: _____
3. **Zero:** *If you practise every day, your skills improve.*
First: _____

First → Second Conditional

Rewrite the real future possibility as an unreal / hypothetical situation.

1. **First:** *If Lucia studies tonight, she will finish her project.*
Second: _____
2. **First:** *If he buys the course, he will learn new skills.*
Second: _____
3. **First:** *If they arrive early, they will find good seats.*
Second: _____

Conditional transformation exercise [2/2]

Second → Third Conditional

Rewrite the hypothetical present / future as an unreal past situation.

1. **Second:** *If she were more confident, she would speak more in meetings.*

Third: _____

2. **Second:** *If I had more money, I would travel more often.*

Third: _____

3. **Second:** *If he didn't live so far away, he would visit more frequently.*

Third: _____

Third → Mixed Conditional

Rewrite the unreal past situation as a past → present mixed form.

1. **Third:** *If she had taken the job, she would have moved to London.*

Mixed: _____

2. **Third:** *If I had gone to bed earlier, I would have felt better yesterday.*

Mixed: _____

3. **Third:** *If they had saved money, they would have travelled last year.*

Mixed: _____



Thank you for your support.

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