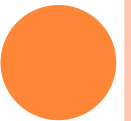


Conditionals

-English Live Center-



THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF CONDITIONAL SENTENCES:

***Real**

***Unreal**

(describes real-life situations)

(describes unreal, imaginary situations)



PRESENT REAL CONDITIONALS

CAN BE USED...

- to talk about what you normally do in real-life situations.

Form



If / When + Simple Present , + Simple Present

or

Simple Present + **if / when** + Simple Present



EXAMPLES...

○ **If** I **go** to a friend's house for dinner, I usually **take** a bottle of wine or some flowers.

If / When + simple present

, simple present

○ **When** I **have** a day off from work, I often **go** to the beach.

Both "if" and "when" are used in the Present Real Conditional.



“if”

→ suggests that something happens less frequently.

“when”

→ suggests that something happens regularly.

Let's see the examples again:

- **If** I have a day off from work, I usually go to the beach.
(*I **rarely** have days off from work.*)
- **When** I have a day off from work, I usually go to the beach.
(*I **regularly** have days off from work.*)

PAST REAL CONDITIONALS

DESCRIBES...

- what you used to do in particular real-life situations.
- suggests that your habits have changed and you do not usually do these things today.

FORM

If / When + Simple Past, Simple Past

or

Simple Past + **if / when** + Simple Past



EXAMPLES...

- When I **had** a day off from work, I often **went** to the beach. Now, I never get time off.

If / When + Simple Past, Simple Past

- If the weather **was** nice, she often **walked** to work. Now, she usually drives.



ALSO WE HAVE THE FORM “USED TO”...



expresses the idea that something was an old habit that stopped in the past.

Examples:

- When I had a day off from work, I **used to go** to the beach. Now, I never get time off.
- If the weather was nice, she **used to walk** to work. Now, she usually drives.



FUTURE REAL CONDITIONALS

DESCRIBES...

- what you think you will do in a specific situation in the future.
- It is different from other Real Conditional forms because, unlike the present or the past, you do not know what will happen in the future.
- It is called "**real**" because it is still possible that the action might occur in the future.

FORM

If / When + Simple Present , + Simple Future

or

Simple Future + **if / when** + Simple Present



EXAMPLES...

- If the weather **is** nice, she **is going to walk** to work.
It depends on the weather.

If / When + Simple Present , + Simple Future

- Jerry **will help** me with my homework **when he has** time.
I have to wait until he has time.

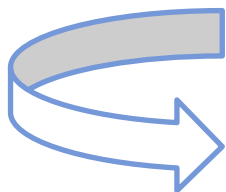
Simple Future + **if / when** + Simple Present



Now, let's talk about
Unreal
Conditionals...



PRESENT UNREAL CONDITIONAL



is used to talk about what you would generally do in imaginary situations.

FORM

If + Simple Past , + would + verb

or

would + verb + **if** + Simple Past

Note: Only the word "**if**" is used with the Present Unreal Conditional because you are discussing imaginary situations. "**When**" cannot be used.

EXAMPLES...

- If I **owned** a car, I **would drive** to work. But I don't own a car.

If + Simple Past , + would + verb

- She **would travel** around the world if she **had** more money. But she doesn't have much money.

would + verb + **if** + Simple Past



EXCEPTION IF I WERE ...

- In the Present Unreal Conditional, the form "was" is not considered grammatically correct. You should always use **“were”**.

Examples...

- If he **were** French, he would live in Paris.
- I would play basketball if I **were** taller.

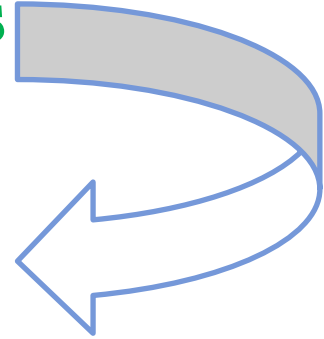


EXCEPTION



Conditional with Modal Verbs

- would + can = could
- would + shall = should
- would + may = might



↓ The words "can," "shall", "may" and "ought to" cannot be used with "would" because they include conditional." Instead, they must be used in these special forms.



EXAMPLES...

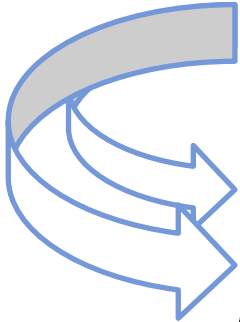
- If I went to Egypt, I **would can** learn Arabic. ❓
- If I went to Egypt, I **could** learn Arabic. ❓

- If she had time, she **would may** go to the party. ❓
- If she had time, she **might** go to the party. ❓

- If he invited you, you really **would should** go. ❓
- If he invited you, you really **should** go. ❓



PAST UNREAL CONDITIONAL



*to talk about imaginary situations in the past.

*to describe what you would have done differently or how something could have happened differently if circumstances had been different.

FORM

If + Past Perfect , + would have + past participle

or

would have + past participle + **if** + Past Perfect

Note: Only the word "if" is used with the Past Unreal Conditional because you are discussing imaginary situations. "When" cannot be used.



EXAMPLES...

- If I **had owned** a car, I **would have driven** to work. But I didn't own one, so I took the bus.

If + Past Perfect , + would have + past participle

- She **would have traveled** around the world if she **had had** more money. But she didn't have much money, so she never traveled.

would have + past participle + **if** + Past Perfect



EXCEPTION



Conditional with Modal Verbs

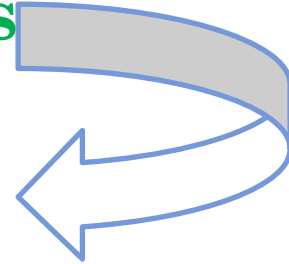
- would have + can = could have
- would have + shall = should have
- would have + may = might have



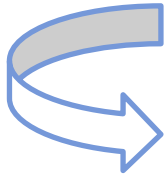
They include Conditional, so you cannot combine them with "would have."

Examples:

- If I had gone to Egypt, I **could have learned** Arabic.
- If she had had time, she **might have gone** to the party.



FUTURE UNREAL CONDITIONAL



to talk about imaginary situations in the future. It is only used when a speaker needs to emphasize that something is impossible.

It can be used in three different forms...

FORM 1 (Most Common Form)

If + Simple Past , would + verb

Or

would + verb + **if** + Simple Past

Examples:

- I am busy next week. If I **had** time, I **would come** to your party. *I can't come.*
- Jerry **would help** me with my homework tomorrow if he **didn't have** to work. *He does have to work tomorrow.*



FORM 2



Native speakers often prefer this form over Form 1 to emphasize that the conditional form is in the future rather than the present.

If + were + present participle , would be + present participle

or

would be + present participle + **if** + were + present participle

Examples:

- If I **were going** to Fiji next week, I **would be taking** my scuba diving gear with me.
I am not going to go to Fiji and I am not going to take my scuba gear with me.
- If I **were not visiting** my grandmother tomorrow, I **would help** you study.
I am going to visit my grandmother tomorrow.
- I am busy next week. If I **had** time, I **would be coming** to your party. *In result I am not going to come to your party.*



FORM 3

is a variation of Form 2 to emphasize that the conditional form is a plan or prediction in the same way "be going to" is used to indicate a plan or prediction.

If + were going to + verb , would be + present participle

Or

would be + present participle + if + were going to + verb

Examples:

- If I **were going to go** to Fiji next week, I would be taking my scuba diving gear with me.
I am not going to go to Fiji and I am not going to take my scuba gear with me.
- If I **were not going to visit** my grandmother tomorrow, I would help you study.
I am going to visit my grandmother tomorrow.



CONTINUOUS CONDITIONAL

Present Unreal Conditional + Continuous

 is used to discuss imaginary situations which could be happening at this very moment.

FORM

- **If-clause:** were + present participle


 If the sun **were shining**, I would go to the beach.
Unfortunately, it is raining so I can't go.

- **Result:** would be + present participle

 If I were in Hawaii, I **would be lying** on the beach.
But I am not in Hawaii.




PAST UNREAL CONDITIONAL + CONTINUOUS

 is used to discuss imaginary situations happening at a very specific time in the past or over a period of time in the past.

FORM

***If-clause:** had been + present participle

 If he **had been standing** near the house when the wall collapsed, it would have killed him.

Luckily, he moved away before the wall fell.

***Result:** would have been + present participle

If you had gone to his house last night, he **would have been sitting** on his couch in front of the TV.

But you didn't go to his house, so you didn't see what he was doing.

FUTURE UNREAL CONDITIONAL + CONTINUOUS



can be used like the Future Continuous in imaginary situations to emphasize interruptions or parallel actions in the future. The future is indicated with words such as "tomorrow," "next week" or "in a couple of days."

FORM

- **If-clause:** were + present participle

If he **were staying** in that hotel **next week** while the conference is being held, he might be able to meet some of the key speakers and tell them about our new product.

I don't think he will be able to stay at the hotel, so he won't be able to meet anybody there.

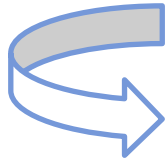
- **Result:** would be + present participle

If I **were able** to go to the train station **tonight** to meet Sandra, I **would be standing** on the platform waiting for her when she arrives.

I won't be able to go to the train station, so I will not be standing there when she arrives.



MIXED CONDITIONALS



Sometimes **Unreal** Conditional sentences are mixed. This means that the time in the if-clause is not the same as the time in the result.

Patterns

PAST Unreal

PRESENT Unreal

- If I had won the lottery, I would be rich.
But I didn't win the lottery in the past and I am not rich now.



PAST Unreal

FUTURE Unreal

- If she had signed up for the ski trip last week, she would be joining us tomorrow.
But she didn't sign up for the ski trip last week and she isn't going to join us tomorrow.

PRESENT Unreal

PAST Unreal

- If Sam spoke Russian, he would have translated the letter for you.
But Sam doesn't speak Russian and that is why he didn't translate the letter.

PRESENT Unreal

FUTURE Unreal

- If I didn't have so much vacation time, I wouldn't go with you on the cruise to Alaska next week.
But I do have a lot of vacation time and I will go on the trip next week.

FUTURE Unreal

PAST Unreal

- If I weren't going on my business trip next week, I would have accepted that new assignment at work.
But I am going to go on a business trip next week, and that is why I didn't accept that new assignment at work.

FUTURE Unreal

PRESENT Unreal

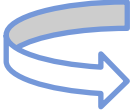
- If I were going to that concert tonight, I would be very excited.
But I am not going to go to that concert tonight and that is why I am not excited.



The use of “WERE TO” in Conditionals



"WERE TO" IN THE PRESENT

 can be used in the present to emphasize that the conditional form is extremely unlikely or unthinkably horrible. Notice that this special form is only used in the if-clause.

FORM

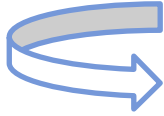
If + were to + verb ... , ...

Examples:

- If she **were to be** rich, she would be horribly obnoxious.
It is very unlikely that she would be rich.
- If I **were to have** no friends, who would I spend my time with?
Having no friends is a horrible thought.



"WERE TO" IN THE FUTURE



can be used in the future to emphasize that the conditional form is extremely unlikely or unthinkably horrible.

FORM

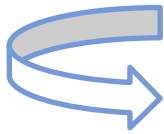
If + were to + verb ..., ...

Examples:

- If I **were to lose** my job **next year**, I would probably not find a new one quickly.
Loosing my job would be terrible.
- If he **were to fail** his driving test **tomorrow**, he would have to take it again.
He is not likely to fail his driving test.



"WERE TO" IN THE PAST



can be used in the past to emphasize that the conditional form is extremely unlikely or unthinkably horrible. Notice that this special form is only used in the if-clause.

FORM

If + were to have + past participle ..., ...

Examples:

- If the fire **were to have destroyed** the building, it would have been a tragic cultural loss.
The thought of such a loss is too horrible to consider.
- If the dam **were to have burst**, the entire town would have been destroyed.
Such destruction is too horrible to consider.



Questions?

