#### **Conditional Sentences / If-Clauses**

Conditional Sentences are also known as Conditional Clauses or If Clauses. They are used to express that the action in the main clause (without if) can only take place if a certain condition (in the clause with if) is fulfilled. There are three types of Conditional Sentences.

## **Conditional Sentence Type 1**

 $\rightarrow$  It is possible and also *very likely* that the condition will be fulfilled.

Form: *if* + Simple Present, will-Future, present or imperative

e.g. If I find her address, I'll send her an invitation.

e.g. If you study hard, you can pass all the exams

e.g. If he behaves well, buy him a present!

## **Conditional Sentence Type 2**

→ It is possible but very unlikely, that the condition will be fulfilled.

**Form:** *if* + Simple Past, Conditional I (= would + Infinitive)

e.g. If I found her address, I would send her an invitation.

## **Conditional Sentence Type 3**

→ It is *impossible* that the condition will be fulfilled because it refers to the past.

Form: if + Past Perfect, Conditional II (= would + have + Past Participle)

e.g. If I had found her address, I would have sent her an invitation.

## **Exceptions**

Sometimes Conditional Sentences Type I, II and III can also be used with other tenses.

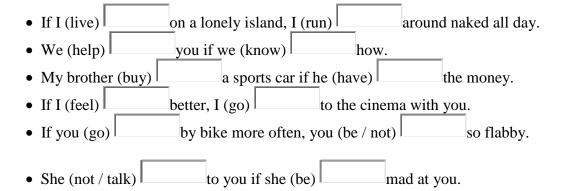
### **Exercises on Conditional Sentences**

#### **Conditional Sentence Type 1**

<ul> <li>If Caroline a</li> </ul>	nd Sue	(prepare) the salad, Phil	(decorate) the
house.			
• If Sue mushrooms.	(chop) the oni	ons for the salad, Caroline	(slice) the
• Jane furniture.	(hoover) the	sitting room if Aaron and Tim	(move) the

• If Bob	(tidy) up the kitchen, Anita	_(clean) the toilet.
• Elainebottles.	(buy) the drinks if somebody	(help) her carry the

### **Conditional Sentence Type 2**



### **Conditional Sentence Type 3**

• I (write)	you a postcard if I (have)	your address.
• If I (not / break)	my leg, I (take part)	in the contest.
• If it (not/ start)	to rain, we (walk)	to the museum.
• We (swim)	in the sea if there (not / be)	so many sharks there
• If she (take)	the bus, she (not / arrive)	on time.

# **Exceptions for Conditional Sentences**

So far you have only learned the basic rules for Conditional Sentences. It depends on the context, however, which tense to use. So sometimes it's possible for example that in an IF Clause Type I another tense than <u>Simple Present</u> is used, e.g. <u>Present Progressive</u> or <u>Present Perfect</u>.

## **Conditional Sentences Type I (likely)**

Condition refers to:		IF Clause Mair		Main Clause
future action	Simple Present	If the book is interesting,	Future I Imperative Modal Auxiliary	I will buy it. buy it. you can buy it.
action going on now	Present Progressive	If he is snoring,	Future I Imperative Modal Auxiliary	I will wake him up. wake him up. you can wake him
finished action	Present Perfect	If he has moved into his new flat,	•	upwe will visit himvisit him.

Condition refers	IF Clause		Main Clause	
			Modal Auxiliary	we can visit him.
		w 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Future I	I will congratulate her.
improbable action	<sup>n</sup> Infinitive	If she should win this race,	Imperative Modal Auxiliary	congratulate her. we can congratulate her.
present facts	Simple Present	If he gets what he wants,	Simple Present	he is very nice.

# **Conditional Sentences Type II (unlikely)**

Condition refers to:		IF Clause	N	<b>Iain Clause</b>
present / future event	Simple Past	If I had a lot of money,	Conditional I	I would travel around the world.
consequence in the	Simple Past	If I knew him,	Conditional II	I would have said hello.

# **Conditional Sentences Type II (impossible)**

Condition refers to:		IF Clause	Main Clause	
present	Past Perfect	If I had known it,	Conditional	II would not be here now.
past	Past Perfect	If he had learned for the test,	Conditional II	he would not have failed it.

#### Exercise:

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• I am tryin	ng to reach Sue on the phone now, but I'm afraid s	the is not there because
If she (be)	at the office, she (answer)	the phone.
• A couple	of minutes ago, I tried to reach Sue on the phone	, but I'm afraid she is not there because
If she (be)	at the office, she (answer)	the phone.
I want to	ring a friend now, but I don't know his phone nur	mber.
If I (know)	his phone number, I (ring)	him.
• A week a	go, I wanted to ring a friend, but I don't know his	phone number.
If I (know)	his phone number, I (ring)	him.
	you, I (do / not) this.	what she is planning is a good idea.