

# The First Conditional

Conditionals in English are sentence structures that we use to talk about **results, causes, possibilities or hypothetical situations**. They usually have two parts:

- **Condition (if-clause)** → the situation
- **Result (main clause)** → what happens because of that situation

## How do we use and make the First Conditional in English?

**Use:** real or likely situations in the future (things that are possible or realistic)

**Structure:**

If + present simple, will + base form

**For example:**

- If **the weather is** nice, **we will go** to the beach.
- If **they arrive** early, **we'll start** the meeting.
- If I **see** her, I'll **tell** her the news.
- If **he doesn't hurry**, **he'll miss** the train.
- If **you eat now**, **you won't feel** hungry later.
- If **Frank doesn't study**, **he won't pass** the exam.

You can put the **main clause first if you want**. We often do this if we want to emphasise the result. When we do this, we do not usually use a comma.

For example:

- **We'll start** the meeting if **they arrive** early.
- **You won't feel** hungry later if **you eat now**.

## Other Modal Verbs

Sometimes we can use other **modal verbs** (can, may, might, must, should) or "**have to**" instead of "will". The sentence still needs to be about a future possibility.

For example:

- If Frank studies hard, he **can** pass the exam.
- They **may** leave if they finish early.
- If it rains, we **might** stay home.
- You **must** speak to your boss if you see her today.
- If you go to New York, you **should** see a Broadway show.
- You **have to** take off your shoes if you visit the temple.

## When

We can also use "**when**" instead of "if" in some sentences, but it means that the condition is expected or certain (not just a possibility).

For example:

- **When** the weather is nice, we will go to the beach.
- I will call you **when** I finish work.

## Questions

We can use the first conditional in **questions**.

For example:

- If the weather is nice, **will we go** to the beach?
- **May they leave** if they finish early?

## Imperatives

We can also use the first conditional in **imperative sentences**. In these sentences, we do not use "will".

For example:

- If you see Ethel, **tell** her to call me.
  - **Take** an umbrella if it rains.
- 

## Comparisons

The **zero** and **first conditional** are similar, but not exactly the same. We use the **zero conditional** if something **always happens or usually happens**. We use the **first conditional** if something **will likely happen on this specific occasion**.

Compare:

<b>Zero Conditional</b>	If I'm late, <b>my boss gets</b> angry.	always or usually true
<b>First Conditional</b>	If I'm late, <b>my boss will get</b> angry.	real possibility this time

**!** Often people use the first conditional instead of the zero conditional, even if technically the zero conditional is more correct.

For example:

- If **you heat** ice, **it will melt**.

The **first** and **second conditional** can look similar, but they are used for very different kinds of situations. The important difference is how **real or likely** the situation is. We use the **first conditional** to talk about **real, possible situations in the future**. We use the **second conditional** to talk about **imaginary, hypothetical or unlikely situations now or in the future**.

Compare:

<b>Zero Conditional</b>	If Frank studies, he passes his exams.	always or usually true
<b>First Conditional</b>	If Franks studies, he will pass his exams.	real possibility this time
<b>Second Conditional</b>	If Frank studied, he would pass his exams.	imaginary or unlikely

A simple way to remember it:

- **First Conditional** = "maybe yes"
  - **Second Conditional** = "probably not"
- 

## Spanish and Portuguese Translations

**En:** If Frank studies, he will pass his exams.

**Sp:** Si Frank estudia, aprobará sus exámenes.

**Pt:** Se Frank estudar, ele passará nos exames.