

Conditionals, wish clauses

■ Conditionals

TYPE	STRUCTURE		USE
	Subordinate clause	Main clause	
Type 0	If + Present Simple	Present Simple	To talk about consequences that always happen whenever the condition happens. It's used to talk about general facts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>If</i> can be substituted by <i>when</i> or <i>whenever</i>. > <i>When you heat water to 100°C, it boils.</i>
Type 1	If + Present Simple (Imperative, Present perfect, Present continuous)	Future Simple (Imperative, Going to future, Modal verb)	To talk about future consequences that will probably happen since the condition is likely to occur. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>If</i> + subject + <i>happen</i> + to inf. is used in spoken English to talk about something which may be possible. > <i>If you happen to find the CD I mentioned, please give me a call.</i>
Type 2	If + Past Simple	Conditional Simple (Modal verb)	To talk about consequences that are improbable based on conditions that are not likely to happen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In formal sentences, the verb <i>to be</i> is <i>were</i> for all persons in the subordinate clause. In the <i>if</i>-clause, to talk about imaginary future situations, the modal <i>should</i> or the expression <i>were to</i> may be used. > <i>If Carmen were to find out what she could do on this tablet, she wouldn't stop using it!</i>
Type 3	If + Past Perfect	Conditional Perfect (Modal verb)	To talk about consequences that might have happened in the past if the condition had occurred.
Mixed	If + Past Perfect	Conditional Simple	To talk about possible present consequences if some conditions had taken place in the past.
	If + Past Simple	Conditional Perfect	To talk about consequences that might have happened in the past if the condition (though unlikely) were true in the present.

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- The position of subordinate and main clause may be changed but, when the sentence starts with the subordinate clause, it is followed by a comma.
 - Other conjunctions are: *Unless* (= if not) - *Whether* (when two possibilities are being discussed or to indicate doubt) - *In case* (possibility) - *Provided/Providing (that)*, *As/So long as*, *On (the) condition (that)*, *Supposing (that)/Imagine (that)* (to emphasise the condition)
 - In formal sentences, when the main verb of the subordinate clause is *were*, *should* or *had*, the conjunction *if* may be omitted but an inversion of subject-auxiliary is necessary.
> *Had I known about that software before, I would have bought it immediately.*

■ Wish clauses

TYPE	STRUCTURE		USE
	Main clause	Subordinate clause	
Present	Subj. + WISH	Subj. + Past Simple	To talk about desires that look highly unlikely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In formal sentences, the verb <i>to be</i> is <i>were</i> for all persons in the subordinate clause.
Past	Subj. + WISH	Subj. + Past Perfect	To talk about regrets or desires that are no longer feasible since they refer to the past.
Present/ Future	Subj. + WISH	Subj. + Conditional Simple	To talk about desires linked to something or someone else.

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- If only* can substitute subj. + *wish* to express a stronger feeling of desire.
 - For present desires, the expression *I wish* can be substituted, informally, with *it's (high) time* or *I'd rather*.

1 Identify the type of the given conditional clauses (1, 2, or 3) and then transform them into the other two types.

1. We will pollute less if we use renewable sources of energy more. ☐
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.....
2. My parents would have bought an electric car if there had been a recharging station near our house. ☐
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3. If the CV was well written, it would be considered more favourably. ☐
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4. If you had called the technician, you would have solved the problem. ☐
.....
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2 Say what type of conditional the sentence is and complete it with the right verb tense.

1. If the company hadn't launched their latest model of smartphone, they (not, increase) their sales. Type ☐
2. If people reduce e-waste, there (be) less water and soil pollution. Type ☐
3. We could have caused less damage to the Earth, if we (use) fossil fuels less.
Type ☐
4. (you, ask) for more technical staff if you were in my position?
Type ☐
5. If the demand (increase), the company will produce more microchips. Type ☐
6. If you recharge the battery when it is not fully discharged, it (start) losing its charge more rapidly. Type ☐

7. We (reduce) the production of hydroelectric power if it doesn't rain enough this year. Type ☐
8. If they (offer) me a good job, I would surely accept. Type ☐
9. If she (can, use) this software, I would hire her immediately. Type ☐
10. Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you (need) any technical information. Type ☐
11. When two opposite charges come one next to the other, they (attract) each other. Type ☐
12. The recruiters (be) more willing to see you again if you had come to the interview on time. Type ☐

3 Complete the following wish clauses with the appropriate tense.

1. I wish it (rain) so we would see many more umbrellas!
2. I wish my colleagues (stop) smoking right in front of the entrance door, it's annoying!
3. My manager wishes the plants (be) closer to the company offices... everything would be much easier!
4. I wish the car dealer (tell) me about this problem! I wouldn't have bought a hybrid car!
5. It was a terrible experience for me... I wish I (never, apply) for that position!
6. I wish my supervisor (teach) me what I need to do in my job... he never even looks at me!
7. If only I (have) her phone number, I would tell her about the good news.
8. We all wish we (reach) the goals about climate by 2050.