

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> + <i>to</i> 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.



- 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.



- 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*.

12 Identify the type of conditional clause (1, 2, 3) and then transform the sentence into the other two types.

1. You will generate your own energy if you install solar panels on the roof. ☐

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2. If they had used concrete and steel for the wall structures, the house would have withstood the earthquake. ☐

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3. How much energy would you save if you insulated your house? ☐

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4. If the worker had worn protective gloves, he wouldn't have hurt his hand. ☐

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13 Say what type of conditional the sentence is and complete it with the right verb tense.

- If we had burnt fewer fossil fuels, there (not be) so much pollution in the air. Type ☐
- If they give us a 10% discount, we (buy) a new computer. Type ☐
- We could have had a better result, if we (use) CAD software. Type ☐
- (you, ask) for more safety measures if you were in my position? Type ☐
- If we (not reduce) the amount of CO₂ in the air, pollution will increase. Type ☐
- If you send me an e-mail with the project now, I (be able) to see it real time. Type ☐
- If we (reduce) our carbon footprint, we would contribute to the environment recovery. Type ☐
- If they (offer) me a job as software programmer, I would have accepted it. Type ☐



- If she (can speak) English fluently, she would find a job in the automobile industry more easily. Type ☐
- Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you (need) any further information. Type ☐
- When one works with machine tools, one always (wear) protective goggles. Type ☐
- Farmers could produce biogas if they (make) use of anaerobic digesters. Type ☐

14 Complete the following wish clauses with the appropriate tense.

- I wish I (have) a robot to help me in the housekeeping.
- I wish my colleagues (stop) smoking right in front of the entrance door, it's annoying!
- I wish the factory (not be) so far from my house. It takes me one hour to get there.
- I wish the car dealer (tell) me about this problem! I wouldn't have bought the car!
- It was a terrible experience for me... I wish I (never, apply) for that position.
- I wish I (can) do something to improve the quality of our life.
- If only I (have) her phone number, I would tell her about the good news.
- I would buy an electric car if only I (can) afford it.