

Conditional Sentence Structure

Zero Conditional

The zero conditional describes situations that are always true. It has the same meaning as when or whenever. (Example: If it rains, I drive to work.)

Formation: IF CLAUSE (Simple Present) + MAIN CLAUSE (Simple Present)

First Conditional

The first conditional is used to speculate about possible situations that can really happen at present or in future. (Example: If you pass your driver's test, I'll buy you a car.)

Formation: IF CLAUSE (Simple Present) + MAIN CLAUSE (Future)

Second Conditional

Second conditional sentences speculate about situations that will probably never happen at present or in future. (Example: If I meet Brad Pitt, I would propose to him!)

Formation: IF CLAUSE (Simple Past) + MAIN CLAUSE (Conditional)

Third Conditional

Third conditional sentences always refer to the past. (Example: If I had studied German in school, I would know four languages now.)

Formation: IF CLAUSE (Past Perfect) + MAIN CLAUSE (Conditional)