

### Condition clauses

They are introduced by subordinating conjunctions like "if, unless". These clauses are used to talk about (im)possible situations.

#### Uses:

- "If": **If the weather gets better, we will go for a walk.**
- "Unless" (=if not, except if): **You can't get a job unless you've got the experience.**

**Word order:** conditional clauses can have an initial and a final position (i.e. before or after the main clause).

1) subordinating conjunction + subject + verb ..., / subject + main verb ...:

**If the weather gets better, we will go for a walk.**

2) subject + main verb .../ subordinating conjunction + subject + verb ...:

**We will go for a walk if the weather gets better.**

- Types of conditional clauses:

1) First conditional - it describes what will probably happen:

**If you go by train, you'll get there earlier.** (=It's probable)

2) Second conditional:

It describes situations which are unlikely to happen or hypothetical:

**If you had longer legs, you could run faster.** (=A hypothesis)

It can also describe what may possibly happen:

**If you went by train, you would get there earlier.** (=It's a possibility)

3) Third conditional - it describes past situations that didn't happen. It is frequently used to express regret about things that can now never happen.

**If we had gone by car, we would have saved time.**

#### Tenses used:

1) First conditional: after the subordinating conjunction we use a present tense. In the main clause we typically use a future or imperative form:

**If she finishes work early, she will go home.**

**If you get home before six, phone me.**

2) Second conditional: after the subordinating conjunction we use the past simple. In the main clause we typically use "would" or "could" + infinitive:

**If I lived to be 100, I would have a big party.**

**If he spoke English, he could get a job in a hotel.**

In the second conditional we can use "were" with "I, she, he, it":

**If I was/were better qualified, I would apply for the job.**

When we use the second conditional expression "If I were you, I would..." (to give advice), only "were" is possible here:

**If I were you, I wouldn't argue with my employer.**

When we talk about imaginary situations, we can use "would/could" without an if-clause.

**My ideal holiday would be a week in Lanzarote.**

3) Third conditional: after the subordinating conjunction we use the past perfect. In the main clause we typically use "would have" or "could have" + past participle:

**If I had known you were coming, I could have cooked a proper meal.**

**If you had been kinder to her, she wouldn't have left.**