

The Four Conditionals in English.

AND HOW TO REMEMBER EACH



SECOND CONDITIONAL



IF I DRANK COFFEE TONIGHT, I WOULDN'T SLEEP WELL.

UNREAL POSSIBILITY

THIRD CONDITIONAL



IF I HAD DRUNK COFFEE LAST NIGHT, I WOULDN'T HAVE SLEPT WELL.

IMPOSSIBILITY



FIRST CONDITIONAL



IF I DRINK COFFEE TONIGHT, I WON'T SLEEP WELL.

REAL POSSIBILITY

ZERO CONDITIONAL



IF I DRINK COFFEE AT NIGHT, I DON'T SLEEP WELL.

CERTAINTY

teejr

Conditionals



IF CLAUSE + MAIN CLAUSE

ZERO Conditional

Used to talk about things that are generally true or scientific facts.

If + present simple ... present simple

If the weather is good,
If it rains,
If you freeze water,

I go to the beach.
the grass gets wet.
it turns into ice.

FIRST Conditional

Used to talk about a possible condition and its probable result in the future.

If + present simple ... will + infinitive

If the weather is good tomorrow,
If you don't hurry,
If I have enough time,

I will go to the beach.
you will miss the train.
I will exercise.

SECOND Conditional

Used to talk about an unlikely or hypothetical condition and its probable result now or in the future.

If + past simple ... would + infinitive

If the weather were good,
If I had a lot of money,
If you went to bed earlier,

I would go to the beach.
I would travel around the world.
you wouldn't be so tired.

THIRD Conditional

Used to talk about an imaginary condition and its probable result in the past.

If + past perfect ... would have + past participle

If the weather had been good,
If you hadn't eaten so much,
If I had studied harder,

I would have gone to the beach.
you wouldn't have felt sick.
I would have passed the exam.

NO PROBABILITY ←
A LOW PROBABILITY
A HIGH PROBABILITY →



IL PERIODO IPOTETICO (QUADRO RIASSUNTIVO)

La situazione che si vuole descrivere...

... succede sempre.

... succede in circostanze specifiche.

... succederebbe se dovesse realizzarsi una circostanza improbabile o una situazione immaginaria.

... sarebbe successa se le circostanze fossero state diverse.

**ZERO
CONDITIONAL**

**FIRST
CONDITIONAL**

**SECOND
CONDITIONAL**

**THIRD
CONDITIONAL**

(if/when) Present Simple + Present Simple

(if/when) Present Simple + futuro con will

if + Past Simple + would/wouldn't + infinito senza to

if + Past Simple + would/wouldn't + have + participio passato

*She calls when she wants to speak to you.
When/If she wants to speak to you, she calls.*

*She will call if she wants to speak to you.
When/If she wants to speak to you, she will call.*

*If I ruled the world, I would live in a palace.
I would live in a palace if I ruled the world.*

*She would have called if she had wanted to speak to you.
If she had wanted to speak to you, she would have called.*