

# **Lesson 6 – Conditionals**

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

## Learning Objectives

**After this lesson, students will be able to:**

- Define what conditional sentences are.
- Determine the structure and functions of each conditional.
- Compare commonly confused tenses.
- Provide examples for each type of conditionals.
- Compare and contrast all types of conditionals.
- Recognize the importance of learning about the conditionals.

# Lesson 5. Conditionals

A **conditional sentence** is a sentence that gives a condition (e.g., *If it snows*) and the outcome of the condition occurring (e.g., *the game will be cancelled*). Sometimes we call them 'if clauses'. They describe the result of something that might happen (in the present or future) or might have happened but didn't (in the past). They are made using different English verb tenses.



**Type 0**

**Zero  
Conditionals**

*If you add two and two, you get four.*



**Type 2**

**Second  
Conditionals**

*If I won the lottery, I would buy a yacht.*



**Type 1**

**First  
Conditionals**

*If it rains later, we will stay home.*



**Type 3**

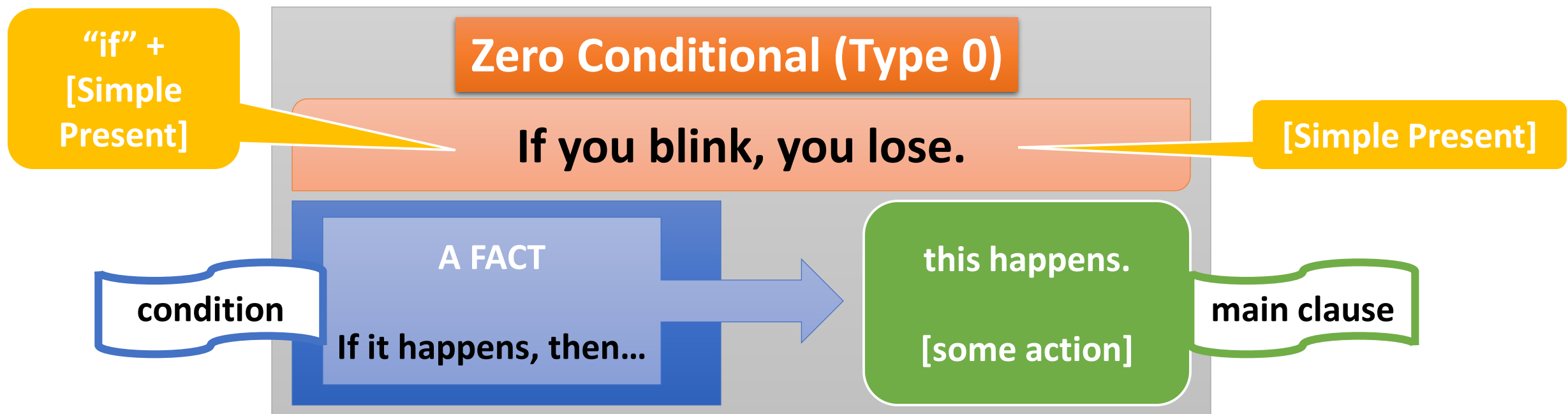
**Third  
Conditionals**

*If I had studied harder, I would have passed the test.*

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

A **zero-conditional sentence** expresses a general fact (i.e., a situation where one thing always causes another). (With a zero-conditional sentence, the message is expressed as a fact. That doesn't mean it's true of course.)

**Structure:** With a zero-conditional sentence, the **simple present tense** is used in both clauses. Also, the words if and when are interchangeable.



# Lesson 6. Conditionals

## Some Real-Life Examples of Zero Conditional Sentences

- ➔ If you **rest**, you **rust**. (Actress Helen Hayes)
- ➔ If you **think** you can, you **can**. And if you **think** you can't, you **are** right. (Business magnate Henry Ford)
- ➔ You **do** ill if you praise, but you do worse if you **censure**, what you do not understand. (Polymath Leonardo da Vinci)

## More Examples:

- ➔ If people **eat** too much, they **get** fat.
- ➔ If you **touch** a fire, you **get** burned.
- ➔ People **die** if they **don't eat**.
- ➔ You **get** water if you **mix** hydrogen and oxygen.
- ➔ Snakes **bite** if they **are** scared
- ➔ If babies **are** hungry, they **cry**.



# Lesson 6. Conditionals

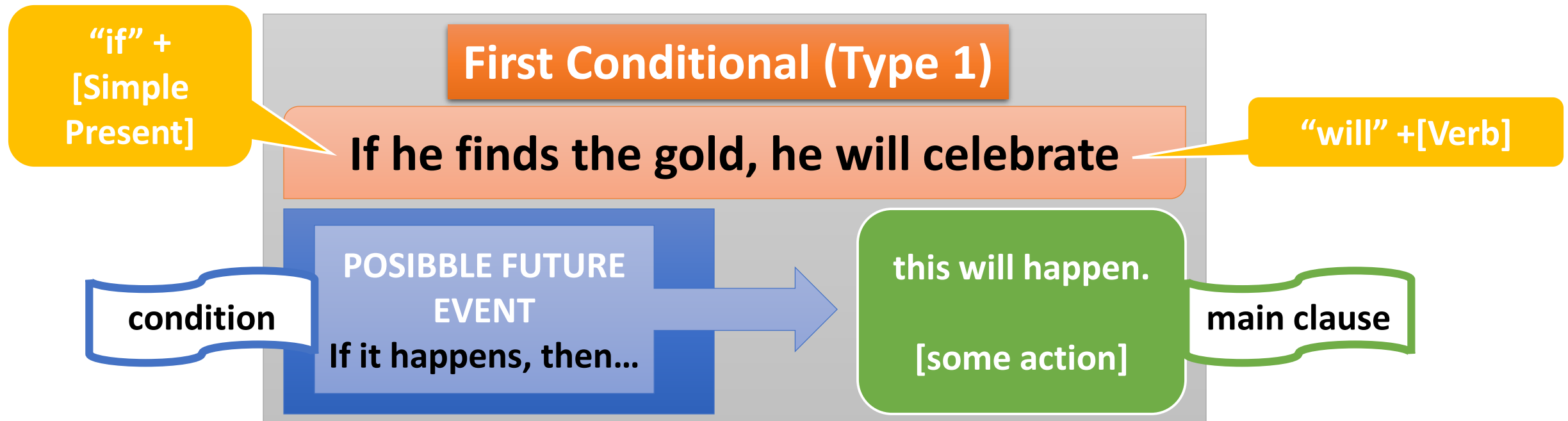
**Rewrite the following in the correct structure of zero conditionals.**

1. (I / wake up late / I / be late for work)
2. (my husband / cook / he / burn the food)
3. (Julie / not wear a hat / she / get sunstroke)
4. (children / not eat well / they / not be healthy)
5. (you / mix water and electricity / you / get a shock)
6. (people / eat / too many sweets / they / get fat)
7. (you / smoke / you / get yellow fingers)
8. (children / play outside / they / not get overweight)
9. (you / heat ice / it / melt)
10. (I / speak to John / he / get annoyed)
11. (I / feel good the next day / I / go to bed early)
12. (lots of people / come / Jenny / have a party)
13. (she / buy expensive clothes / she / go shopping)
14. (my daughter / pass her exams / she / work hard)
15. (David / be sick / he / drink milk)
16. (the river / freeze / it / be very cold)
17. (I / like to visit the museums / I / be in a new city)
18. (I / cycle to work / the weather / be fine)
19. (my flatmate / clean it really well / she / clean the house)
20. (everybody / be grumpy / it / rain a lot)

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

A **first-conditional** sentence states the result of a hypothetical, but possible, future event (e.g., If you rest) occurring. It's used to talk about things which might happen in the future. Of course, we can't know what will happen in the future, but this describes possible things, which could easily come true.

**Structure:** With a first-conditional sentence, the simple present tense is used in the if-clause, and the simple future tense used in the main clause.



# Lesson 6. Conditionals

## Some Real-Life Examples of First Conditional Sentences

- ➔ If one swain [young lover] **scorns** you, you **will** soon **find** another. (Roman poet Virgil)
- ➔ If I **like** a food, even if it's bad for me, I **will eat** it. (Reality TV star Kim Kardashian)

## More Examples:

- ➔ If it **rains**, I **won't go** to the park.
- ➔ If I **study** today, I **ll go** to the party tonight.
- ➔ If I **have** enough money, I **ll buy** some new shoes.
- ➔ She **ll be** late if the train **is** delayed.
- ➔ She **ll miss** the bus if she **doesn't leave** soon.
- ➔ If I **see** her, I **ll tell** her.



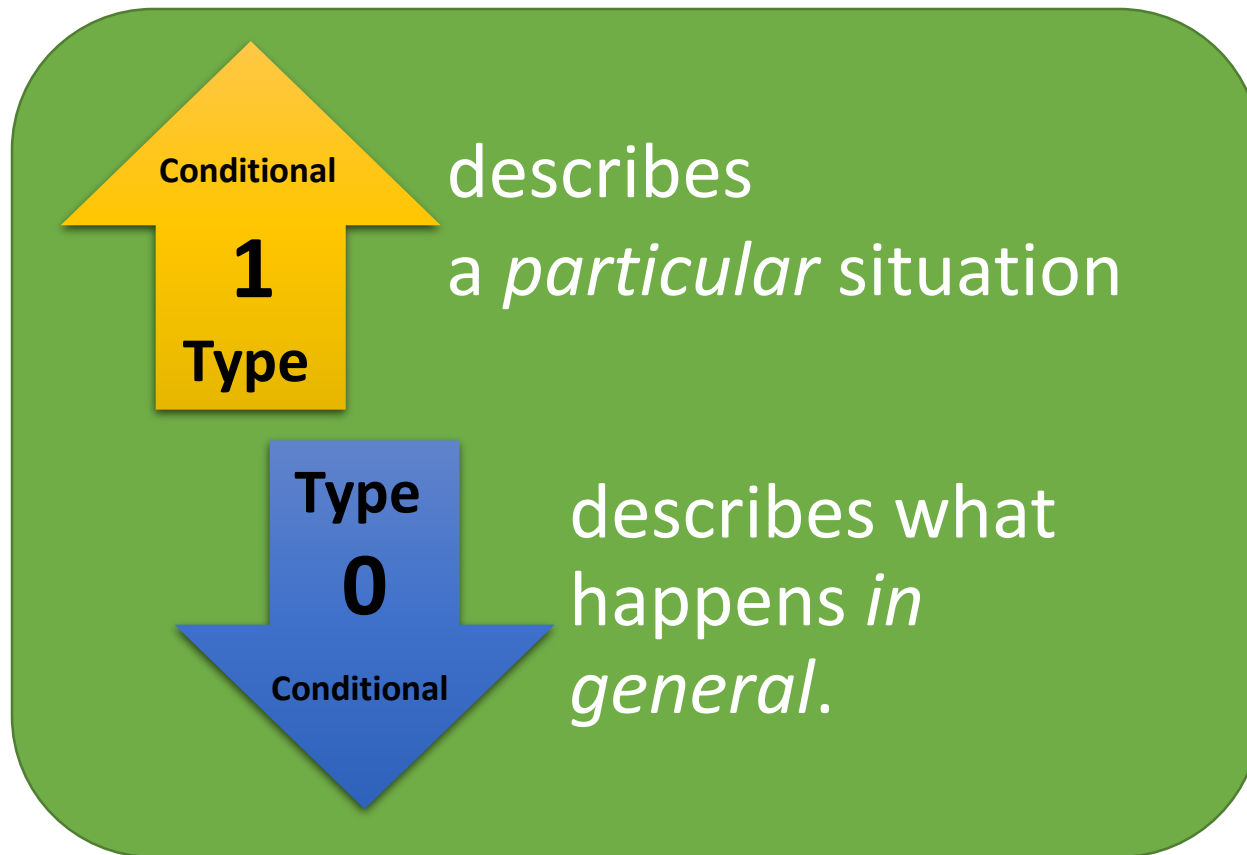


# Lesson 6. Conditionals

## Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of verbs of first conditionals.

1. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out tonight, I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema.
2. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (get) back late, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) angry.
3. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (not / see) each other tomorrow, we \_\_\_\_\_ (see) each other next week.
4. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (come), I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) surprised.
5. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) here, we \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late.
6. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on holiday this summer, we \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Spain.
7. If the weather \_\_\_\_\_ (not / improve), we \_\_\_\_\_ (not / have) a picnic.
8. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / go) to bed early, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) tired tomorrow.
9. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) all this cake, we \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) sick.
10. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (not / want) to go out, I \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner at home.
11. I \_\_\_\_\_ (come) early if you \_\_\_\_\_ (want).
12. They \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the party if they \_\_\_\_\_ (be) invited.
13. She \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in London if she \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a job.
14. He \_\_\_\_\_ (not / get) a better job if he \_\_\_\_\_ (not / pass) that exam.
15. I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new dress if I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) enough money.
16. She \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner if you \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the supermarket.
17. They \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on holiday if they \_\_\_\_\_ (have) time.
18. We \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late if we \_\_\_\_\_ (not / hurry).
19. She \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a taxi if it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain).
20. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / go) if you \_\_\_\_\_ (not / come) with me.

# Lesson 4. Active and Passive Voice



For example:

**(zero conditional):**

If you sit in the sun, you get burned.  
(here I'm talking about every time a person sits in the sun - the burning is a natural consequence of the sitting)

But

**(first conditional):**

If you sit in the sun, you'll get burned.  
(here I'm talking about what will happen today, another day might be different)

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

Make random if-clauses in zero and first conditionals based on the following topics below:



**routine**



**people**



**weekends**



**evening**



**family**

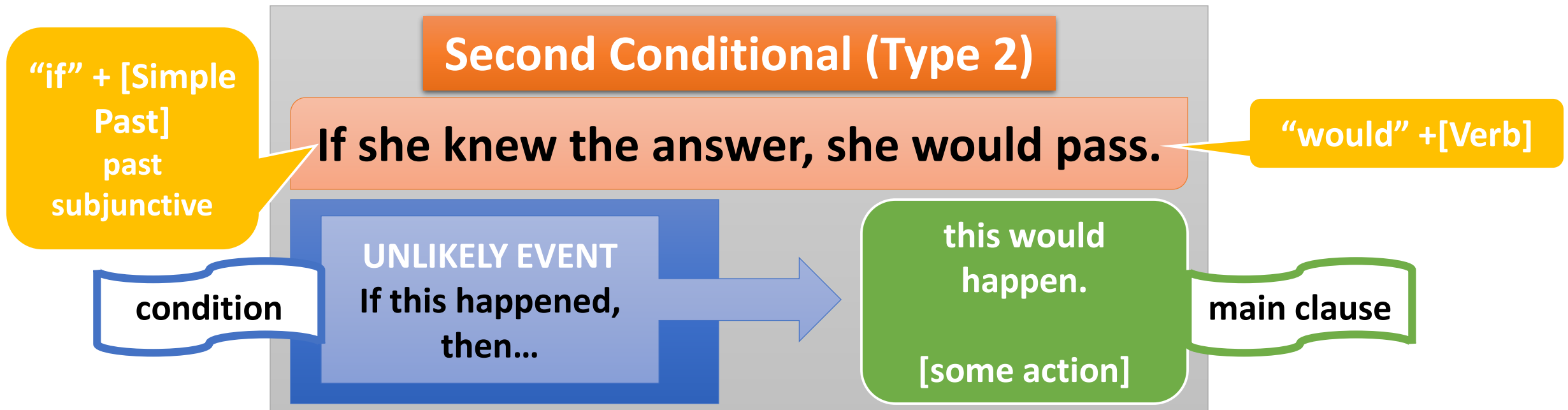


**hobby**

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

A **second-conditional sentence** states the result of an unlikely event occurring (e.g., *If the boat sank*) or an untruth being truth (e.g., *If they were on time*). Nowadays, it's safe to say that the simple past tense is used in the if-clause, but in fact it's the past subjunctive, which is identical to the simple past tense apart from when I and he/she/it are used with the verb to be (e.g., *If I were millionaire, If she were to try*).

**Structure:** With a second-conditional sentence, the simple past tense is used in the if-clause, and would (rarely should or could) with the base form of a verb is used in the main clause.



# Lesson 6. Conditionals

## Functions of Type 2 Conditionals

1. We can use it to talk about things in the future that are probably not going to be true.

Examples:

- ➔ If I **won** the lottery, I **would buy** a big house.  
(I probably won't win the lottery)
- ➔ If I **met** the Queen of England, I **would say** hello.
- ➔ She **would travel** all over the world if she **were** rich.
- ➔ She **would pass** the exam if she ever **studied**.  
(She never studies, so this won't happen)

2. We can use it to talk about something in the present which is impossible, because it's not true.

Examples:

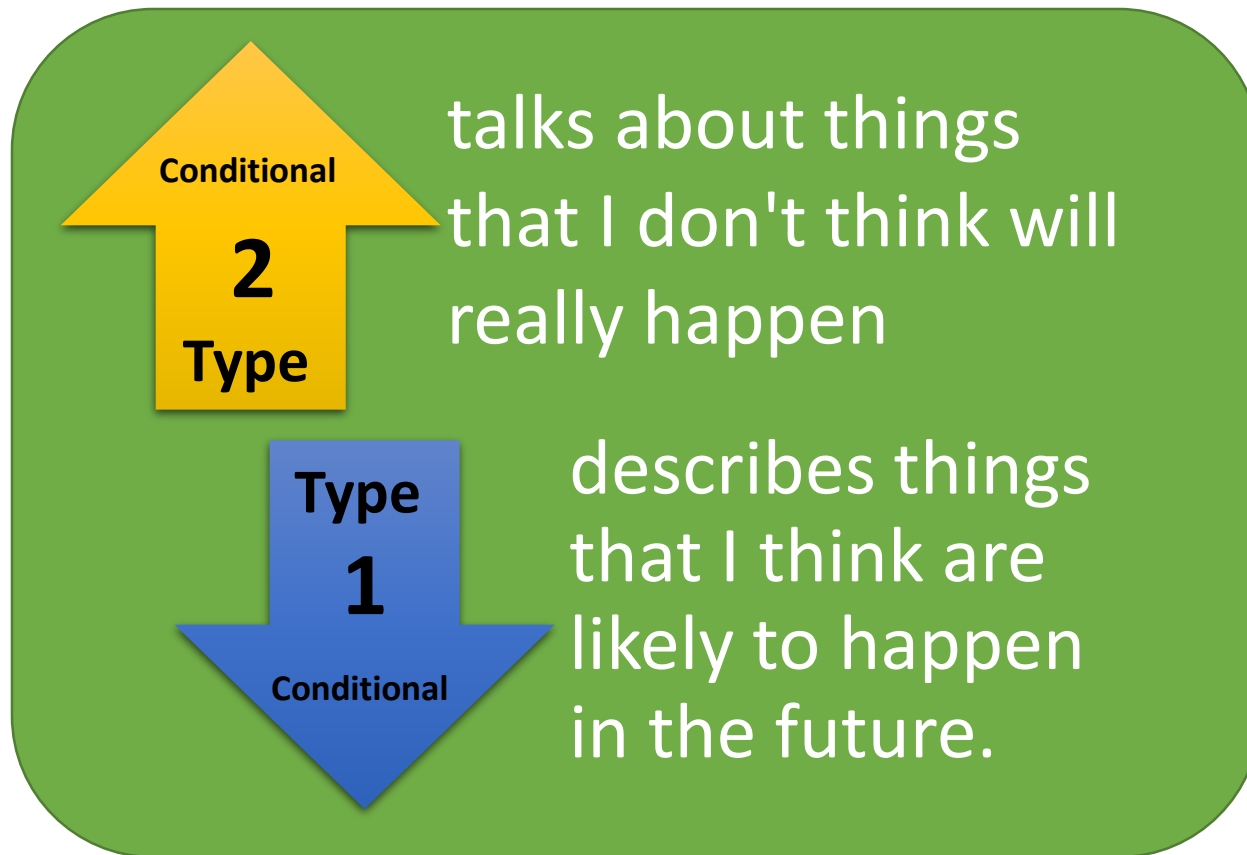
- ➔ If I **had** his number, I **would call** him.  
(I don't have his number now, so it's impossible for me to call him).
- ➔ If I **were** you, I **wouldn't go** out with that man.

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

## Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of verbs of second conditionals.

1. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) you, I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a new job.
2. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) younger, he \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) more.
3. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (not/be) friends, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) angry with you.
4. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) enough money, I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a big house.
5. If she \_\_\_\_\_ (not/be) always so late, she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) promoted.
6. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the lottery, we \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) the world.
7. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a better job, we \_\_\_\_\_ (be) able to buy a new car
8. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) perfect English, I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a good job.
9. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Mexico, I \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) Spanish.
10. If she \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) the exam, she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) able to enter university
11. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) happier if she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) more friends.
12. We \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a house if we \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to stay here.
13. They \_\_\_\_\_ (have) more money if they \_\_\_\_\_ (not / buy) so many clothes.
14. We \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to dinner if we \_\_\_\_\_ (have) time.
15. She \_\_\_\_\_ (call) him if she \_\_\_\_\_ (know) his number.
16. They \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Spain on holiday if they \_\_\_\_\_ (like) hot weather.
17. She \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) the exam if she \_\_\_\_\_ (study) more.
18. I \_\_\_\_\_ (marry) someone famous if I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a movie star.
19. We never \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late again if we \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new car.
20. You \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) weight if you \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) less.

# Lesson 6. Conditionals



For example:

**(first conditional):**

If she studies harder, she'll pass the exam.  
(I think it's possible she will study harder and so she'll pass)

But

**(second conditional):**

If she studied harder, she would pass the exam.  
(I think that she won't study harder, or it's very unlikely, and so she won't pass)

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

Make random if-clauses in second conditionals based on the following topics below:



**technology**



**romance**



**economy**



**nature**



**fashion**



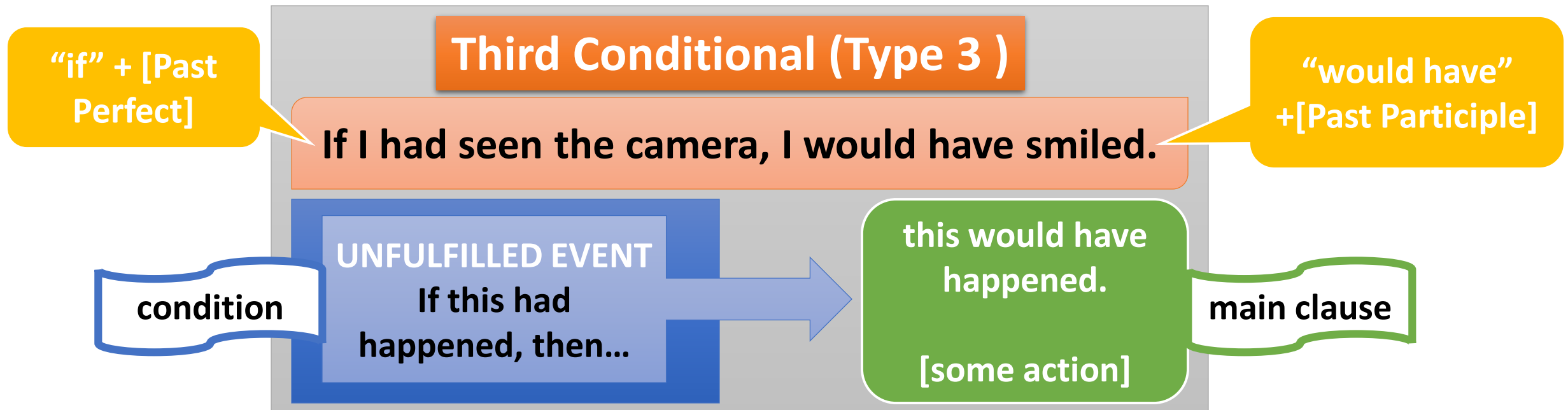
**arts**



# Lesson 6. Conditionals

**Third-conditional sentences** express how the situation would be different if the past had been different. It talks about the past. It's used to describe a situation that didn't happen, and to imagine the result of this situation.

**Structure:** With a third-conditional sentence, the past perfect tense is used in the if-clause, and would have (rarely could have) with a past participle is used in the main clause.



# Lesson 6. Conditionals

## Functions of Type 3 Conditionals

1. to express the past consequence of an unrealistic action or situation in the past.
2. to express regrets – describing things we are sorry happened or didn't happen.

## Some Real-Life Examples of Third Conditional Sentences

- ➔ If my lawyer and I **had communicated** properly in January 1958, this whole history **would have been** entirely different.  
(Inventor of the laser Gordon Gould, who fought unsuccessfully to patent it)
- ➔ If I **had learned** education, I **would not have had** time to learn anything else.  
(Business magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt)
- ➔ If I **had known** how hard it would be to do something new in the payments industry, I **would never have started** PayPal.  
(Co-founder of PayPal Peter Thiel)

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

## Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of verbs of third conditionals.

1. If you \_\_\_\_\_(not / be) late, we \_\_\_\_\_(not / miss) the bus.
2. If she \_\_\_\_\_(study), she \_\_\_\_\_(pass) the exam.
3. If we \_\_\_\_\_(arrive) earlier, we \_\_\_\_\_(see) John.
4. If they \_\_\_\_\_(go) to bed early, they \_\_\_\_\_(not / wake) up late.
5. If he \_\_\_\_\_(become) a musician, he \_\_\_\_\_(record) a CD.
6. If she \_\_\_\_\_(go) to art school, she \_\_\_\_\_(become) a painter.
7. If I \_\_\_\_\_(be) born in a different country, I \_\_\_\_\_(learn) to speak a different language.
8. If she \_\_\_\_\_(go) to university, she \_\_\_\_\_(study) French.
9. If we \_\_\_\_\_(not / go) to the party, we \_\_\_\_\_(not / meet) them.
10. They \_\_\_\_\_(be) late if they \_\_\_\_\_(not / take) a taxi.
11. He \_\_\_\_\_(be) happier if he \_\_\_\_\_(stay) at home.
12. She \_\_\_\_\_(pass) the exam if she \_\_\_\_\_(study) harder.
13. We \_\_\_\_\_(not / get) married if we \_\_\_\_\_(not / go) to the same university.
14. If he \_\_\_\_\_(take) the job, he \_\_\_\_\_(not / go) travelling.
15. She \_\_\_\_\_(not / meet) him if she \_\_\_\_\_(not / come) to London.
16. He \_\_\_\_\_(take) a taxi if he \_\_\_\_\_(have) enough money.
17. I \_\_\_\_\_(call) you if I \_\_\_\_\_(not / forget) my phone.
18. We \_\_\_\_\_(come) if we \_\_\_\_\_(be) invited.
19. She \_\_\_\_\_(not / do) it if she \_\_\_\_\_(know) you were ill.
20. He \_\_\_\_\_(be) on time if he \_\_\_\_\_(leave) earlier.

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

Make random if-clauses in third conditionals based on the following topics below:



friendship



time



health



family



traveling



education

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

Type	Structure		Function
	If clauses	Main Clause	
zero conditional	present simple	present simple	real condition + inevitable result
first conditional	present simple	<i>will</i> + base verb	possible condition + probable result
second conditional	past simple	<i>would</i> + base verb	hypothetical condition + possible result
third conditional	past perfect	<i>would have</i> + past participle	expired past condition + possible past result

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

**Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of verbs of conditionals.**

1. If you ----- (follow) the doctor's advice, you ----- (make) a complete recovery by this time.
2. When people ----- (smoke) cigarettes, their health ----- (suffer).
3. Do you think there ----- (be) less conflict in the world if all people ---- (spoke) the same language?
4. People ----- (take) any notice of the warning if there ----- (be) any scientific proof.
5. Do you think you ----- (be) happier now if you ----- (marry) someone else?
6. If you ----- (leave) your office early, you ----- (be) with us now.
7. Frank is not going to the graduation ceremony tomorrow because he broke his leg skydiving last week. But Frank ----- (go) to the graduation ceremony if he ----- (break) his leg last week.
8. ----- (take) a couple of extra traditional Turkish gifts with you in case you ----- (meet) any other members of the Scholz family during your Aunt's funeral.
9. If you ----- (give) me your tape recorder and a cassette in plenty of time, then, of course, I ----- (record) the lecture for you on the day of your Aunt's funeral.
10. If I ----- (know) you would be on your own all weekend, I ----- (invite) you over to our house.

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

There are some fairly common hiccups related to tense worth covering and also a point on using commas.

## (Point 1) Using a comma with an if-clause.

When the if-clause precedes the main clause, use a comma after the if-clause.

- ➔ If I **were** white, I **could capture** the world. (African-American actress Dorothy Dandridge, 1922-65)
- ➔ If you **steal** from one author, it's plagiarism; if you **steal** from many, it's research. (Playwright Wilson Mizner)

If the main clause precedes the if-clause, don't use a comma before the if-clause (unless you think it helps the reader).

- ➔ Dreams **grow** if you **grow**. (Author Zig Ziglar)
- ➔ There **are** consequences if you **act** militarily, and there **are** big consequences if you **don't act**. (US Diplomat Dennis Ross)

## Here's an example that sums everything up:

There **are** economic risks if we **leave**. If we **remain**, there **are** economic risks. (Politician Michael Gove)

# Lesson 6. Conditionals

## (Issue 2) Using the wrong tense in one of your clauses.

Tense errors can creep in. Below are the most common ones with each structure.

**Zero-conditional Structure.** To express something as a fact, writers should use the zero-conditional structure (*if + simple present tense, simple present tense*). However, writers sometimes use the first-conditional structure (*if + simple present tense, simple future tense*), which states the result of a possible future event occurring.

➔ If you sleep, you **will** dream. ❌

➔ When dogs die, they **will** go to doggy heaven. ❌

(In both examples, the *will* should be deleted.)

With this mistake, the sentence structure is grammatically sound. It's the wrong sentence structure though, which affects the intended meaning.

**First-conditional Structure.** With the first-conditional structure, writers sometimes use the simple future tense (instead of the simple present tense) in the if-clause.

➔ If you **will** get some sleep, you will feel better.

➔ You can have everything in life you want if you **will** just help other people get what they want. (Author Zig Ziglar)



# Lesson 6. Conditionals

(In both examples, the *will* should probably be deleted.)

These haven't been marked as wrong because this structure is sometimes used to emphasize that the future action must occur. (And, that's a good get-out if you're ever picked up for this mistake.)

**Second-conditional Structure.** With the second-conditional structure, writers sometimes use the simple present tense (instead of the simple past tense) in the if-clause.

➔ If you **become** an insomniac, you would understand. ❌  
(*If you became an insomniac* would be correct.)

The next most common mistake is to use *will* (instead of *would*) in the main clause.

➔ If you became an insomniac, you will understand. ❌  
(*You would understand* would be correct.)

**Third-conditional Structure.** With the third-conditional structure, writers sometimes use *would have* (instead of the past perfect tense) in the if-clause.

➔ If you **would have** slept last night, you would have beaten your record. ❌  
(*If you had slept last night* would be correct.)

## Key Points

- When the if-clause is before the main clause, use a comma.
- Do not use a comma when the if-clause is after the main clause.

**The End**