First vs Second Conditional

B1-B2 | 60 QUESTIONS | SIX EXERCISES + ANSWER KEY

Choose between real future possibilities and imaginary or unlikely situations.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Quick guide: first or second conditional?

FIRST CONDITIONAL

If + present simple, will + verb

If it rains, we'll stay inside.

Real or possible future situations

SECOND CONDITIONAL

If + past simple, would + verb

If I had a car, I'd drive to work.

Imaginary or unlikely situations

Remember: do not normally use will or would in the if-clause.
Unless means if not: Unless you hurry, you'll miss the bus.
For advice, we often say: If I were you, I'd ...

Exercise 1: First or second?

Write 1 for the first conditional or 2 for the second conditional.

01. If it rains tonight, we'll stay in. _____

02. If I lived by the sea, I'd swim every morning. _____

03. If you call me later, I'll explain everything. _____

04. If she knew his address, she'd write to him. _____

05. If our train is late, we'll take a taxi. _____

06. If I were the head teacher, I'd introduce longer breaks. _____

07. If Theo finishes early, he'll help you. _____

08. If we had a larger kitchen, we'd cook together more often. _____

09. If I see Ella tomorrow, I'll give her the book. _____

10. If they didn't live so far away, we'd visit them more often. _____

Complete the Conditional Sentences

Exercise 2: First conditional

Complete each sentence using the correct present simple and will forms.

01. If it _____ (rain) tomorrow, we _____ (stay) at home.

02. I _____ (call) you if I _____ (finish) work before six.

03. If she _____ (not / leave) now, she _____ (miss) the bus.

04. We _____ (have) a picnic if the weather _____ (be) good on Saturday.

05. If your phone _____ (run) out of battery, I _____ (lend) you mine.

06. You _____ (feel) better if you _____ (get) some sleep tonight.

07. If he _____ (not / study), he _____ (not / pass) the test next week.

08. If I _____ (find) the file, I _____ (send) it to you.

09. If they _____ (arrive) early, we _____ (start) at nine.

10. What _____ you _____ (do) if your flight _____ (be) cancelled tomorrow?

Exercise 3: Second conditional

Complete each sentence using the past simple and would. Use were in If I were you.

01. If I _____ (have) more free time, I _____ (learn) Japanese.

02. We _____ (go) hiking more often if we _____ (live) near the mountains.

03. If I _____ (be) you, I _____ (ask) for help.

04. If Oliver _____ (know) the answer, he _____ (tell) us.

05. They _____ (buy) a bigger flat if they _____ (earn) more.

06. If we _____ (have) a larger garden, we _____ (grow) vegetables.

07. I _____ (travel) more if flights _____ (not / cost) so much.

08. If Anna _____ (speak) Italian, she _____ (apply) for that job.

09. What _____ you _____ (do) if you _____ (win) a trip around the world?

10. If we _____ (not / have) so much homework, we _____ (go) out tonight.

Rewrite the Sentences

Exercise 4: Keep the same meaning

Complete each rewrite. Use the beginning given and keep the meaning of the original sentence.

01. If you don't take a map, you'll get lost.
Begin: Unless you ...

02. I don't have enough money, so I can't buy the laptop.
Begin: If I had ...

03. Unless we hurry, we'll be late.
Begin: If we don't ...

04. She doesn't have a garden, so she can't grow vegetables.
Begin: If she had ...

05. If it doesn't get warmer, we'll stay inside.
Begin: Unless it ...

06. I don't live near the station, so I don't walk there.
Begin: If I lived ...

07. If you don't wear a coat, you'll feel cold.
Begin: Unless you ...

08. I'm not the manager, so I can't change the rules.
Begin: If I were ...

09. Unless he phones soon, I'll leave.
Begin: If he doesn't ...

10. I don't have a spare ticket, so I can't invite you.
Begin: If I had ...

Tip: Unless + positive verb often replaces if ... not.
Example: Unless you study, you will not pass. = If you do not study, you will not pass.

Choose & Correct

Exercise 5: Choose the correct option

Circle a, b or c. Use the meaning and time reference as clues.

01. If we leave now, we _____ before dark. a) arrived b) will arrive c) would arrive

02. If I were taller, I _____ the top shelf. a) would reach b) will reach c) reach

03. Unless you _____ now, you'll miss the start. a) left b) will leave c) leave

04. If I _____ their address, I would send a card. a) know b) knew c) will know

05. If Maya calls tonight, I _____ her the news. a) will tell b) told c) would tell

06. If I _____ a famous actor, I'd avoid social media. a) am b) will be c) were

07. We'll be late if the traffic _____ heavy. a) was b) is c) will be

08. If Dan _____ more patience, he'd enjoy teaching more. a) had b) has c) will have

09. If it rains tomorrow, we _____ the picnic indoors. a) moved b) would move c) will move

10. If I could speak French, I _____ for that job in Paris. a) apply b) would apply c) will apply

Exercise 6: Correct one mistake

Each sentence has one conditional mistake. Write the corrected sentence.

01. If I will see Grace tomorrow, I'll tell her.
02. If I were you, I will apologise.
03. Unless you don't hurry, we'll miss the bus.
04. If he had more time, he will join the club.
05. If we would live nearer, we'd visit more often.
06. If Sam doesn't revise, he would fail tomorrow's test.
07. I don't know the answer. If I know it, I'd tell you.
08. If they will finish early, they'll call us.
09. If I were a bird, I will fly across the ocean.
10. If your flight is delayed tomorrow, we would wait for you.

Answer Key

FIRST VS SECOND CONDITIONAL | 60 QUESTIONS

Exercise 1 - Conditional type

1 1 2 2 3 1 4 2 5 1
6 2 7 1 8 2 9 1 10 2

Exercise 2 - First conditional

1. rains; will stay
2. will call; finish
3. doesn't leave; will miss
4. will have; is
5. runs; will lend
6. will feel; get
7. doesn't study; won't pass
8. find; will send
9. arrive; will start
10. will ... do; is

Exercise 3 - Second conditional

1. had; would learn
2. would go; lived
3. were; would ask
4. knew; would tell
5. would buy; earned
6. had; would grow
7. would travel; didn't cost
8. spoke; would apply
9. would ... do; won
10. didn't have; would go

Exercise 5 - Multiple choice

1 b 2 a 3 c 4 b 5 a
6 c 7 b 8 a 9 c 10 b

Exercise 4 - Model rewrites

1. Unless you take a map, you'll get lost.
2. If I had enough money, I could buy the laptop.
3. If we don't hurry, we'll be late.
4. If she had a garden, she could grow vegetables.
5. Unless it gets warmer, we'll stay inside.
6. If I lived near the station, I'd walk there.
7. Unless you wear a coat, you'll feel cold.
8. If I were the manager, I could change the rules.
9. If he doesn't phone soon, I'll leave.
10. If I had a spare ticket, I could invite you.

Exercise 6 - Corrected sentences

1. If I see Grace tomorrow, I'll tell her.
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Equivalent contractions and other grammatically correct rewrites are acceptable.