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How to use Conditional sentences correctly

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Annotation

This article discusses the Conditional sentences in English and some ways to use in a sentence. The information about the topic is explained in a very clear and simple way.

Key words

Conditional sentences, condition, Zero conditional, First conditional, Second conditional, Third conditional, if clause, main clause.

In English, Conditionals describe the result of a certain condition.The **If** clause tells you the condition (If you study hard) and **the main** clause tells you the result (you will pass your exams).The order of the clauses does not change the meaning.

E.g. If you study hard, you will pass your exams.

You will pass your exams, If you study hard.

Conditional sentences are often divided into different types.

✓ **Zero conditional**

We use zero conditional to talk about things that are generally true, especially for laws and rules.

E.g. Ice melts if you heat it.

If you drink too much coffee, I can't sleep at night.

Structure: If + present simple, Subject + present simple.

It's important to use the correct structure for each of these different types, because they express varying meanings.

✓ **First conditional**

It shows actions that are almost real and can be implemented in the future. Present tense is used after conjunctions such as if, on condition, unless in conditional sentences.

⛔ It is not possible to use future tense in the future condition part.

Structure:

Future condition	**Future result**

If + present tense | Subject + present/future tenses

E.g. If you come tomorrow, you will see her.

If the weather is fine tomorrow, we will go to the museum.

He will not finish the work in time unless he works hard.

✓ **Second conditional**

It is used to express actions that are not currently performed, are unlikely to occur, or are particularly real.

Structure:

Present condition	**Present result**
If + past subjunctive	**Subject + would/could+ infinitive**

If she were not busy now, she would help us.

If we knew her address, we would visit.

If she didn't know, she wouldn't say so.

✓ **Third conditional**

Third conditional sentences are used to explain that present circumstances would be different if something different had happened in the past.

The third conditional expresses a situation that could have happened in the past only if a certain condition had been met. That's why we use the modal auxiliary verb + have + the participle.

Structure:

Past condition	**Past result**
If + past perfect	**Subject + would/could + haveV3**

If you hadn't told me a lie then I could have understood you.

She wouldn't have caught a cold if she had put on a coat.

You might have found him there if you had called at 7 o'clock.

In conclusion, the topic of the Conditional sentences in English is very comprehensive. In this article we briefly touched on the types of Conditionals, their formation, when and in what situations

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we can use it in a sentence. I believe that this information will serve as a great source of knowledge for everyone.

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