

Conditional Sentences

If and when

Perhaps I'll see Nick tonight. **If** I see him, I'll tell him to ring you up.

I see Nick quite often. **When** I see him, I'll tell him to ring you up.

Conditionals I

If you book your flight early, you'll get it cheaper.

If Fiona needs advice, she should talk to her teacher.

If Pat is English, you can ask her what 'plc' means.

if-clause	main clause

When we use the present simple in the *if*-clause, we express a real or open condition: we see it is **possible** or **probable** that the condition will be fulfilled.

Conditionals II

If I found £ 100, I would take it to the police.
If I got more pocket money, I could buy a new computer.
If my parents were ten years younger, they might travel round the world.

if-clause	main clause

When we use the past simple in the *if*-clause, we express an unreal condition: we think it is **improbable** or even **impossible** that the condition will be fulfilled.

Please Note!

In conditional sentences II we often use *were* instead of *was* in the *if*-clause:

If I were you, ...
If she were in London, ...

Conditional “Zero”

If it rains heavily, the river overflows.
If you eat too much, you get fat.

if-clause	main clause

If we want to express a statement which is **generally true** we use the present simple in both the *if*-clause and the main clause.

Conditional Sentences

If and when

wenn, falls

Perhaps I'll see Nick tonight. **If** I see him, I'll tell him to ring you up.

I see Nick quite often. **When** I see him, I'll tell him to ring you up.

wenn, sobald

Conditionals I

If you book your flight early, you'll get it cheaper.
If Fiona needs advice, she should talk to her teacher.
If Pat is English, you can ask her what 'plc' means.

if-clause	main clause
simple present	<i>will</i> -future can/might/should/... + infinitive imperative

When we use the present simple in the *if*-clause, we express a real or open condition: we see it is **possible** or **probable** that the condition will be fulfilled.

Conditionals II

If I found £ 100, I would take it to the police.
If I got more pocket money, I could buy a new computer.
If my parents were ten years younger, they might travel round the world.

if-clause	main clause
past simple	would could should might } + infinitive

When we use the past simple in the *if*-clause, we express an unreal condition: we think it is **improbable** or even **impossible** that the condition will be fulfilled.

Please Note!

In conditional sentences II we often use *were* instead of *was* in the if-clause:

If I were you, ...
If she were in London, ...

Conditional “Zero”

If it rains heavily, the river overflows.
If you eat too much, you get fat.

if-clause	main clause
present simple	present simple

If we want to express a statement which is **generally true** we use the present simple in both the if-clause and the main clause.