

Conditionals

If – Clause → Main Clause

Types

- **Type 0**

Form: If + Simple Present → Simple Present

Use: Type 0 is used to express a real situation, a general truth or a scientific fact.

If you **leave** ice in the sun, it **melts**.

- **Type 1**

Form: If + Simple Present → Simple Future, Imperative, can/must/may + infinitive

Use: Type 1 is used to express a possible / likely situation in the **present or future**.

If she **invites** me, I **will go** to the cinema with her.

TYPE 2

Form: If + Simple Past → would, could, might + infinitive

Use: Type 2 is used to express an unreal or imaginary situation, something unlikely to happen in the **present or future**.

If they had more free time, they would go to the art exhibition.

!!! NOTE

In Type 2 conditional **were** is often used instead of was.

If I were you, I would tell them the truth.

TYPE 3

Form: If + Past Perfect → would, could, might + perfect infinitive (have + past participle)

Use: Type 3 is used to express an imaginary situation in the **past**, something that can no longer happen in the present or future. Something that it is impossible to happen.

It is also used to express regret.

If I **had known** your phone number, I **would have called** you. (I didn't know it so I didn't call you)

If I **had studied** more, I **wouldn't have failed** the test.

!!! REMEMBER

When the **If-clause** is before the **main clause** we separate them with a comma. When it is after the main clause we don't put a comma.

If it rains, I will stay home.

I will stay home if it rains.

!!! NOTE

Unless = if not: expresses negative conditions

I won't go shopping **unless** you come with me.

I won't go shopping **if** you **don't** come with me.

!!! REMEMBER

The verb is usually affirmative after **unless**.