



Lesson 44

Review of the Conditional Tense

Zero Conditional:

The Zero Conditional is a structure used to talk about things which are always true; scientific facts, general truths and things which always happen under certain conditions.

When we explain the conditional tense, we separate the sentence into 2 parts: The 'if' clause and the main clause. In the Zero Conditional, both clauses must be in Present Tense.

If you **select** the reverse gear, the car **goes** backwards.
(If Clause) (Main Clause)

If the camera **is** on, a red light **appears**.
(If Clause) (Main Clause)

First Conditional:

The First Conditional is a structure used for talking about possibilities in the present or in the future.

With the First Conditional, The 'if' clause must be in Present tense and the main clause must be in Future tense.

If it **rains** this weekend, I **will stay** at home.
(Present tense) (Future tense)

If you **cook** the supper, **I'll wash** the dishes.
(Present tense) (Future tense)

Second Conditional:

The Second Conditional is used to talk about an untrue, impossible, imaginary, or improbable future event or action. The Second Conditional is used when we talk about something that is NOT likely to happen.

With the Second Conditional, The 'if' clause must be in Simple Past tense followed by would and the verb infinitive.

If + past tense, would + verb infinitive.

If I **won** the lottery, I **would buy** a Ferrari.
If Joe **worked** hard, he **would be** successful.





Third Conditional:

The Third Conditional Tense talks about a condition in the past which did not happen. It is used to talk about things that can never happen. It is like a dream with no possibility of coming true.

If I **had not been** sick yesterday, I **would have gone** to see the football match.
(In this situation, you did not go to see the football match, so the condition is not true, and there is no way that the condition can be true because it is already in the past and is finished.)

Here is how you use the Third Conditional Tense:

(Past Perfect) , (would have) + Past Participle.

If I **had not been** sick yesterday, I **would have gone** to see the football match.

IMPORTANT:

Could have, might have and **should have** can also be used instead of **would have**. Below are some examples.

If I **had gone** to Daniel's party last week, I **could have met** Brad Pitt.

Would **you have gone** to the beach if it **had rained** yesterday?

Peter **might have become** a doctor if he **had studied** medicine.

If men **had had** wings, they **might have flown**.

