

Conditional type 0 >> ZERO CONDITIONAL

IF + SIMPLE PRESENT + SIMPLE PRESENT

Used for scientific facts or general truths (usado para expresar verdades científicas, hechos que nunca cambian o situaciones que siempre ocurren). Algunos gramáticos incluyen este tipo de condicional dentro de FIRST CONDITIONAL o Conditional Type I.

If you heat butter, it melts. - Si calientas mantequilla, ésta se derrite.

If you put water in a cooler, it freezes. - Si colocas agua en el congelador, ésta se congela.

Conditional type I >> FIRST CONDITIONAL

Used to talk about things which are possible in the present or the future. It is generally used for things which may happen (utilizado para cosas que pueden ocurrir en presente o futuro).

a) IF + SIMPLE PRESENT + SIMPLE FUTURE

If you study hard, you will pass your exams. - Si estudias intensamente aprobarás tus exámenes.

If we do not protect the panda bears, they will soon become extinct. - Si no protegemos a los osos panda, pronto se extinguirán.

b) IMPERATIVE + OR / AND + SIMPLE FUTURE

Used for threats and promises (usado para expresar amenazas y promesas)

Don't say a word about this, or I will kill you. - No cuentes una palabra de esto o te mato.

Finish your job, and you will have a bonus. - Termina tu tarea y tendrás una gratificación.

c) IMPERATIVO + IF / IN CASE + SIMPLE PRESENT

Contact me if you need any help. - Ponte en contacto conmigo si necesitas ayuda.

Call them in case you need help. - Llámalos en caso de necesitar ayuda.

NOTE: In cases a and c above, you can replace IF (si) by UNLESS (a menos que)

Conditional type II >> SECOND CONDITIONAL

Used to talk about things which are unreal (not true or not possible) in the present or the future. It is generally used for things which don't or won't happen. It is generally used for things which may happen (utilizado en presente o futuro para expresar situaciones hipotéticas, que normalmente son irreales o imposibles).

IF + SIMPLE PAST + SIMPLE CONDITIONAL

If FIRST verb in the sentence is TO BE, WERE is used for all persons.

(Si el PRIMER verbo de la oración es TO BE, se usa WERE para todas las personas)

If I were rich, I would buy a castle. - Si fuera rico, compraría un castillo.

If I were him, I would go and see a doctor. - Si fuera él -en su lugar- consultaría con un médico.

If elephants had wings, they would be able to fly. - Si los elefantes tuvieran alas, podrían volar.

NOTE: You can replace IF (si) by UNLESS (a menos que) in the examples above.

Conditional type III >> THIRD CONDITIONAL

Used to talk about unreal situations in the past, that is, things which did not happen in the past. (utilizado para expresar situaciones irreales – que nunca sucedieron – en el pasado y, en general, dentro de un contexto de crítica, queja o remordimiento). En español tienes una construcción similar por lo cual este condicional no debería resultar complicado.

IF + PAST PERFECT + CONDITIONAL PERFECT

If **FIRST** verb in the sentence is **TO BE**, **WERE** is used for all persons.

(Si el **PRIMER** verbo de la oración es **TO BE**, se usa **WERE** para todas las personas)

If I had known that you were sick, I would have gone to see you. - Si hubiese sabido que estabas enfermo, te habría ido a ver.

The real situation was that I didn't know you were sick. So I say If I had known... When you are talking about the past, you use the Past Perfect (I had known) after IF.

If you had saved your money, you could have bought a laptop. - Si hubieses ahorrado tu dinero, podrías haberte comprado un portátil.

The real situation was that you didn't save your money. So they say If you had saved... When you are talking about the past, you use the Past Perfect (I had known) after IF.

If you hadn't been late for work so often, they wouldn't have fired you. - Si no hubieses llegado tarde al trabajo tan seguido, no te habrían despedido.

The real situation was that you wasn't early for work. So they say If you hadn't been late... When you are talking about the past, you use the Past Perfect (I had known) after IF.

NOTE: You can replace IF (si) by **UNLESS** (a menos que) in the examples above.