

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

FIRST CONDITIONAL SENT.

FORM: IF + PRES. SIM., WILL + base form of the verb

If I see him, I will tell him the news.

Expresses real conditions, something that's likely to happen. It's used to express possible conditions and it's probable result in the future. It refers to the PRESENT and FUTURE.

➤ DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS:

- a THREAT

If you do that, I'll kill you.

- a WARNING

If you touch it, it will burn you.

- an OFFER

I will help you if you ask me.

UNLESS = IF NOT

SECOND CONDITIONAL SENT.

FORM: IF + PAST SIMPLE, WOULD + base form of the verb

If I saw him, I'd tell him the news.

It expresses unreal conditions. The situation or condition is improbable, imaginary, contrary to the known facts, possible in theory but improbable in practise. They are also used to give an advice. They refer to PRESENT and FUTURE.

The difference between first and second cond. is in probability.

➤ First = probable

➤ Second = improbable

THIRD CONDITIONAL SENT.

FORM: IF+ PAST PERFECT, WOULD + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

If I seen him, I would have told him the news.

Third conditional sentences refereto the PAST. They talk about something in the past, that didn't happen or condition wasn't fulfilled.

THE ZERO CONDITIONAL

FORM: IF+ PRESENT SIMPLE, PRESENT SIMPLE

If you heat ice, it melts.

The zero condition expresses conditions which are always true.