Chris Dias

Basic Rules for Conditionals

Listed below are examples, uses and formation of Conditionals followed by a quiz.

Examples	Usage	
Conditional 0	Situations that are always true if something happens.	
If I am late, my father takes me to school.	NOTE	
She doesn't worry if Jack stays out after school.	This use is similiar to, and can usually be replaced by, a time clause using 'when' (example: When I am late, my father takes me to school.)	
Conditional 1	Often called the "real" conditional because it is used for real	
If it rains, we will stay home.	- or possible - situations. These situations take place if a certain condition is met.	
He will arrive late unless he	NOTE	
hurries up.	In the conditional 1 we often use <i>unless</i> which means 'if not'. In other words, 'unless he hurries up.' could also be	
Peter will buy a new car, if he gets his raise.	written, 'if he doesn't hurry up.'.	
Conditional 2		
If he studied more, he would pass the exam.	Often called the "unreal" conditional because it is used for unreal - impossible or improbable - situations. This conditional provides an imaginary result for a given situation.	
I would lower taxes if I were the President.	NOTE	
They would buy a new house if they had more money.	The verb 'to be', when used in the 2nd conditional, is always conjugated as 'were'.	
Conditional 3		
If he had known that, he would have decided differently.	Often referred to as the "past" conditional because it concerns only past situations with hypothetical results. Used to express a hypothetical result to a past given situation.	
Jane would have found a new job if she had stayed in Boston.		

Structure

Conditional 0 is formed by the use of the present simple in the *if* clause followed by a comma + the present simple in the *result* clause. You can also put the *result* clause first without using a comma between the clauses.

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]	f he comes to town,	we have dinner	
\	We have dinner	if he comes to town.	
Conditional 1 is formed by the use of the present simple in the <i>if</i> clause followed by a comma + will + verb (base form) in the <i>result</i> clause. You can also put the <i>result</i> clause first without using a comma between the clauses.			
I	f he finishes on time,	we will go to the movies.	
\ \	Ve will go to the movies	if he finishes on time.	
+ w	rould + verb (base form) in the <i>result</i> clausout using a comma between the clauses.	t simple in the <i>if</i> clause followed by a comma use. You can also put the <i>result</i> clause first they would buy a new house.	
	They would buy a new house	if they had more money.	
Conditional 3 is formed by the use of the past perfect in the <i>if</i> clause followed by a comma + would have + past participle in the <i>result</i> clause. You can also put the <i>result</i> clause first without using a comma between the clauses.			
	Alice had won the competition,	life would have changed.	
Life	e would have changed	if Alice had won the competition.	