

# CONDITIONALS

# ZERO CONDITIONAL

If you **don't water** flowers, they **die**.

If you **have** a headache, **stop** watching TV.



If clause:

**PRESENT SIMPLE**

Main clause:

**PRESENT SIMPLE**  
or **IMPERATIVE**

With zero conditional

we express **a general truth** or we give **advice**.

# FIRST CONDITIONAL

If the weather **is** nice, we **will go** for a walk.

If you **don't apologize**, she **will** never **trust** you again.



If clause:

**PRESENT SIMPLE**



Main clause:

**FUTURE SIMPLE**

The first conditional refers to the **present** and **future**.

It expresses a **possible condition** and  
its **probable result in the future**.

# SECOND CONDITIONAL

Jack wants to buy a house but he can't do this because he doesn't have any money.

If I had a lot of money,  
I would buy a big house.



# SECOND CONDITIONAL

Susan wants to phone Paul but she can't do this because she doesn't know his number.

If I knew his number,  
I would phone him.



# SECOND CONDITIONAL

If I **had** a lot of money, I **would buy** a big house.

If I **knew** his number, I **would phone** him.



if-clause:

**PAST TENSE SIMPLE**

main clause:

**PRESENT CONDITIONAL**

**would + infinitive**

The second conditional refers to **the present** and **future**.

It expresses **an unreal situation** and its probable result.

The situation or condition is **improbable, impossible, imaginary**, or contrary to known facts.

# FIRST v. SECOND CONDITIONAL

If John **runs** fast, he **will win** the race.

This is still possible to happen.

If John **ran** fast, he **would win** the race.

This is unlikely to happen because John doesn't run fast.

## **THE DIFFERENCE: FIRST and SECOND CONDITIONAL**

Both conditionals refer to **the present and future**.

The difference is about **probability, not time**.

First conditional: real and possible situations

Second conditional: unlikely to happen

# THIRD CONDITIONAL

Jack wanted to buy a house **last year** but he couldn't do that because he didn't have any money.

If I had had a lot of money,  
I would have bought  
a big house.



# THIRD CONDITIONAL

**Yesterday**, Susan wanted to phone Paul but she couldn't do that because she didn't know his number.

If I had known his number,  
I would have phoned him.



# THIRD CONDITIONAL

If I **had had** a lot of money, I **would have bought** a big house.

If I **had known** his number, I **would have phoned** him.



if-clause:

**PAST PERFECT SIMPLE**



main clause:

**PAST CONDITIONAL**  
**would + have + past participle**

The third conditional refers to **the past** and it is **not based on facts**. It expresses the a situation which is **contrary to reality in the past**.

# SECOND v. THIRD CONDITIONAL

If I **saw** a car accident, I **would call** an ambulance.

But I don't see an accident now. This is unlikely to happen.

If I **had seen** a car accident, I **would have called** an ambulance.

But I didn't see an accident yesterday.  
This is contrary to the fact in the past.

## THE DIFFERENCE: SECOND and THIRD CONDITIONAL

The difference is about **time**.

Second conditional: refers to the present and future

Third conditional: refers to the past situations

# ALL CONDITIONALS

0. If he **drives** carefully, he **avoids** the accident.

General time reference.

1. If he **drives** carefully, he **will avoid** the accident tomorrow.

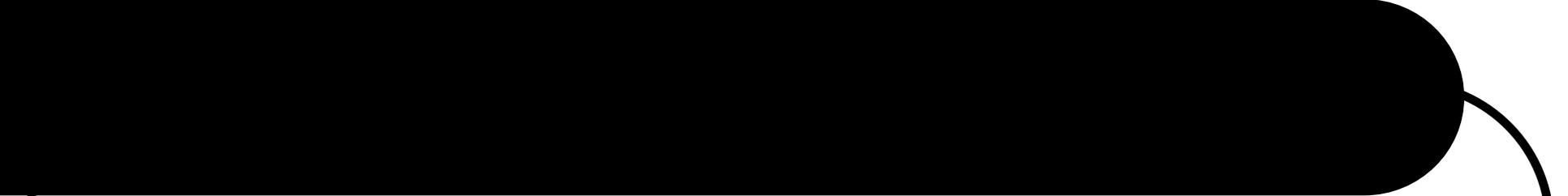
This is still possible to happen.

2. If he **drove** carefully, he **would avoid** the accident today.

But he doesn't drive carefully. This is unlikely to happen.

3. If he **had driven** carefully, he **would have avoided** the accident yesterday.

But he didn't drive carefully, so he didn't avoid the accident.



**THE END**