

## MËSIM PRAKTIK

# Conditionals

Kategoria e mësimet: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

Master the zero, first, second, third and mixed conditionals with form, meaning and timeline for each. Covers unless, comma rules, and why *will* normally does not follow *if*, plus realistic examples and typical errors.

## Conditionals

A conditional sentence has two parts: the **if-clause**, which states a condition, and the **main clause**, which states the result. English has five main patterns, and each one places the situation differently in time and in reality — from a scientific fact to something that never happened.

### Learning objectives

- Recognise and build the five conditional patterns.
- Match each pattern to its meaning and timeline.
- Use *unless* correctly.
- Punctuate conditional sentences properly.
- Explain why *will* normally does not follow *if*.

### The five patterns

| Type          | If-clause      | Main clause             | Meaning                           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Zero</b>   | present simple | present simple          | always true, general fact         |
| <b>First</b>  | present simple | will + base             | real, possible future             |
| <b>Second</b> | past simple    | would + base            | unreal or unlikely present/future |
| <b>Third</b>  | past perfect   | would have + participle | impossible past, regret           |
| <b>Mixed</b>  | past perfect   | would + base            | past condition, present result    |

### Zero conditional — facts

*If you heat water to 100 degrees, it **boils**.*

- Used for scientific facts, general truths and rules that always apply.
- *If* can be replaced by *when* with almost no change in meaning.
- *If you don't water plants, they die.*

### First conditional — real future possibility

**If it rains, we'll stay** at home.

- The condition is genuinely possible.
- Instead of *will*, you can use *may, might, can, should* or an imperative: *If you see her, **tell** her to call me.*
- *If I finish early, I'll join you.*

## Second conditional — unreal present or unlikely future

**If I had** more time, I **would learn** the piano.

- The situation is imaginary, contrary to fact, or very unlikely.
- Formal English uses **were** for all subjects: *If I **were** you, I'd apologise.* In speech *was* is common.
- *If we won the lottery, we would travel the world.*

## Third conditional — impossible past

**If I had known, I would have told** you.

- The past cannot be changed; this expresses regret or criticism.
- *If she had studied, she would have passed.* — she didn't study, and she didn't pass.
- *Could have* and *might have* are also possible: *We might have won if we'd played better.*

## Mixed conditional — past cause, present result

**If I had studied** medicine, I **would be** a doctor now.

- The condition is in the past; the result belongs to the present.
- *If he hadn't missed the train, he would be here.*
- The reverse also occurs: *If I **were** more organised, I **would have finished** yesterday.*

## Timelines

| Type   | Time of condition | Time of result   | Real?       |
|--------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Zero   | any time          | any time         | always true |
| First  | future            | future           | possible    |
| Second | present / future  | present / future | unreal      |
| Third  | past              | past             | impossible  |
| Mixed  | past              | present          | impossible  |

## Unless

**Unless** means roughly *if not*. It is followed by a **positive** verb:

- **Unless** you hurry, you'll miss the bus. = *If you don't hurry, you'll miss the bus.*
- I won't go **unless** you come with me.

Do not write *unless you don't* — that produces a double negative.

## Punctuation

| Order             | Comma? | Example                            |
|-------------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| If-clause first   | Yes    | <i>If it rains, we'll stay in.</i> |
| Main clause first | No     | <i>We'll stay in if it rains.</i>  |

## Why not "if ... will"?

The word *if* already signals that the situation is hypothetical or future, so English does not mark the future again inside the if-clause.

The same applies after *when*, *as soon as*, *until*, *before* and *after*.

| Wrong                                  | Right                              |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>If it will rain, we'll stay in.</i> | <b>If it rains, we'll stay in.</b> |
| <i>If you will come, I'll cook.</i>    | <b>If you come, I'll cook.</b>     |

There is one genuine exception: *will* after *if* is possible in polite requests — *If you **will** wait here, I'll fetch the manager.* Here *will* means "are willing to".

## Common mistakes

| Mistake                                       | Correct                                           | Why                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <i>If I will see him, I'll tell him.</i>      | <b>If I see him, I'll tell him.</b>               | no <i>will</i> after <i>if</i>            |
| <i>If I would have known ...</i>              | <b>If I had known ...</b>                         | third conditional uses the past perfect   |
| <i>If I was you, I'd go.</i> (formal writing) | <b>If I were you, I'd go.</b>                     | formal English prefers <i>were</i>        |
| <i>Unless you don't hurry ...</i>             | <b>Unless you hurry ...</b>                       | <i>unless</i> already means <i>if not</i> |
| <i>We'll stay in, if it rains.</i>            | <b>We'll stay in if it rains.</b>                 | no comma when the main clause is first    |
| <i>If she studied, she would have passed.</i> | <b>If she had studied, she would have passed.</b> | past condition needs the past perfect     |

## Learning tips

1. Ask two questions: is it real or unreal, and is it past, present or future? Those two answers select the pattern.
2. Learn the pairs as fixed shapes: *present + will*, *past + would*, *past perfect + would have*.
3. Write one true sentence of each type about your own life; personal examples stick.

## Summary checklist

- Have I chosen the right pattern for the time and the reality?
- Is there no *will* or *would* inside the if-clause?
- Does the third conditional use *had + participle* and *would have + participle*?

- Is *unless* followed by a positive verb?
- Is the comma correct for the clause order?

## Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

### Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Fjalja kushtore ka dy pjesë: **fjalinë me if**, që tregon kushtin, dhe **fjalinë kryesore**, që tregon pasojën. Anglishtja ka pesë modele, secili me një kohë të caktuar dhe një shkallë të caktuar realiteti.

Kushtorja **zero** shpreh fakte gjithmonë të vërteta: *if* + e tashme, e tashme. Kushtorja e **parë** shpreh një mundësi reale në të ardhmen: *if* + e tashme, *will* + folja. Kushtorja e **dytë** shpreh diçka joreale ose të pamundur në të tashmen: *if* + e shkuar, *would* + folja. Kushtorja e **tretë** shpreh diçka që nuk ndodhi në të shkuarën: *if* + më se e kryer, *would have* + pjesore. Kushtorja e **përzier** lidh një kusht të shkuar me një pasojë të tashme.

Dy rregulla formale duhen mbajtur mend. I pari: pas *if* **nuk vendoset kurrë** *will* ose *would*, sepse vetë *if* e shënon kushtin. I dyti: kur fjalja me *if* qëndron e para, ndahet me **presje**; kur qëndron e dyta, presja nuk vihet.

Lidhëza **unless** do të thotë «nëse jo» dhe ndiqet nga një folje **pohore**.

### Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Shqipja ka një sistem kushtor shumë të ngjashëm, prandaj ky është një nga rastet ku folësit e shqipes kanë përparësi të qartë.

| Lloji     | Anglisht                                                   | Shqip                                                             |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Zero      | <i>If you heat water, it boils.</i>                        | <b>Nëse</b> nxeh ujin, ai vlon.                                   |
| E parë    | <i>If it rains, we'll stay at home.</i>                    | <b>Nëse</b> bie shi, <b>do të</b> rrimë në shtëpi.                |
| E dytë    | <i>If I had more time, I would learn the piano.</i>        | <b>Po të kisha</b> më shumë kohë, <b>do të mësoja</b> piano.      |
| E tretë   | <i>If I had known, I would have told you.</i>              | <b>Po ta kisha ditur</b> , <b>do të të kisha thënë</b> .          |
| E përzier | <i>If I had studied medicine, I would be a doctor now.</i> | <b>Po të kisha studiuar</b> mjekësi, tani <b>do të isha</b> mjek. |

Përputhja është pothuajse e plotë: *if* ≈ **nëse** ose **po të**, *will* ≈ **do të**, *would* ≈ **do të** + e pakryer, *would have* ≈ **do të kisha** + pjesore.

### Ku ndryshojnë dy gjuhët

- **Pas «nëse»**. Këtu të dyja gjuhët pajtohen: as shqipja nuk thotë *nëse do të mësosh*, por *nëse mëson*. Prandaj rregulli anglez «pa *will* pas *if*» duhet të jetë i lehtë për folësit e shqipes — dhe prapëseprapë gabohet shpesh nga ndikimi i gjuhëve të tjera.
- **Kushti joreal**. Shqipja e dallon me *po të* dhe *sikur*; anglishtja me kohën e shkuar. Forma angleze *If I were you* përdor *were* për të gjitha vetat në ligjërimin e kujdesshëm.
- **Presja**. Rregulli është i njëjtë në të dyja gjuhët: presje kur fjalja kushtore vjen e para.
- **Unless**. Shqipja nuk ka një fjalë të vetme; e shpreh me *nëse nuk* ose *veç nëse*. Prandaj lind gabimi *unless you don't*, që është mohim i dyfishtë.

## Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

| Gabimi                                        | E saktë                             | Pse                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <i>If I will see him, I'll tell him.</i>      | <b>If I see him, I'll tell him.</b> | pa <i>will</i> pas <i>if</i>               |
| <i>If I would have known ...</i>              | <b>If I had known ...</b>           | kushtorja e tretë kërkon më se të kryerën  |
| <i>Unless you don't hurry ...</i>             | <b>Unless you hurry ...</b>         | <i>unless</i> do të thotë tashmë «nëse jo» |
| <i>We'll stay in, if it rains.</i>            | <b>We'll stay in if it rains.</b>   | pa presje kur fjalia kryesore vjen e para  |
| <i>If she studied, she would have passed.</i> | <b>If she had studied, ...</b>      | kushti i shkuar                            |

ENGLISH FOR LIFE