

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES TYPE 1: PROBABLE

A The verb in the if-clause is in the present tense; the verb in the main clause is in the future simple. It doesn't matter which comes first.

If he runs he'll get there in time.

The cat will scratch you if you pull her tail.

This type of sentence implies that the action in the if-clause is quite probable.

Note that the meaning here is present or future, but the verb in the if-clause is in a present, not a future tense.

VARIATIONS OF THE MAIN CLAUSE

Instead of **if** + present + future, we may have:

(a) **if** + present + **may/might** (possibility)

If the fog gets thicker the plane may/might be diverted. (Perhaps the plane will be diverted.)

(b) **if** + present + **may** (permission) or **can** (permission or ability)

If your documents are in order you may/can leave at once. (permission)

If it stops snowing we can go out. (permission or ability)

(c) **if** + present + **must, should** or any expression of command, request or advice

If you want to lose weight you must/should eat less bread.

If you want to lose weight you had better eat less bread.

If you want to lose weight eat less bread.

If you see Tom tomorrow could you ask him to ring me?

(d) **if** + present + another present tense

if + **two present tenses** is used to state general truths or habitual results:

If we boil water, it evaporates. If you heat ice it turns to water. (.will turn is also possible.)

If there is a shortage of any product prices of that product go up.

VARIATIONS OF THE IF-CLAUSE

Instead of **if** + present tense, we can have:

(a) **if** + present continuous, to indicate a present action or a future arrangement

If you are looking for Peter (present action) you'll find him upstairs.

If you are staying for another night (future arrangement) I'll ask the manager to give you a better room.

(b) **if** + present perfect

If you have finished dinner I'll ask the waiter for the bill.

If he has written the letter I'll post it.

EXERCISE : Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tenses.

If she (invite) me, I (go)

If it (rain), we (cancel) the match.

If I (get) a promotion, I (buy) a car.

If she (be late), we (go) without her.

If you (ask) more politely, I (buy) you a drink.

If you (not behave), I (throw) you out.

If he (win) the first prize, his mother (be) happy.

If he (get) proper medical care, he (survive)

If the drought (continue), plants and animals (perish).

If I (see) him I (give) him a lift.

If he (eat) all that he (be) ill.

If I (find) your passport I (telephone) you at once

The police (arrest) him if they (catch) him.

If he (read) in bad light he (ruin) his eyes.

Someone (steal) your car if you (leave) it unlocked.

What (happen) if my parachute (not open)?

If he (wash) my car I (give) him £10.

If she (need) a radio she (borrow) mine.

If you (not go) away I (send) for the police.

I (be) very angry if he (make) any more mistakes.

If he (be) late we (go) without him.

She (be) absolutely furious if she (hear) about this.

If you (put) on the kettle I (make) the tea.

If you (give) my dog a bone he (bury) it at once.

He (be) late for the train if he (not start) at once.

Unless he (sell) more he (not get) much commission.

If I (lend) you £10 when you (repay) me?

We (have) to move upstairs if the river (rise) any higher.

If he (work) hard today he (have) a holiday tomorrow?

Ice (turn) to water if you (heat) it.

If the house (burn) down we (claim) compensation.

If you (not like) this one I (bring) you another.

Unless you are more careful you (have) an accident.

(tell) him to ring me up if you (see) him.

If I (tell) you a secret, you (promise) not to tell it to anyone else?

If he (like) the house he (buy) it?

Unless I (have) a quiet room I (not be able) to do any work.

She (not open) the door unless she (know) who it is.

If I (do) this test, I (improve) my English.

If I (find) your ring, I (give) it back to you.

Peggy (go) shopping if she (have) time in the afternoon.

Simon (go) to London next week if he (get) a cheap flight.

If they (study / not) harder, they (pass / not) the exam.

If it (rain) tomorrow, I (have to / not) water the plants.

You (be able/ not) to sleep if you (watch) this scary film.

If I (study) , I (pass) the exams.

If the sun (shine), we (walk) to the town.

If he (have) a temperature, he (see) the doctor.

If my friends (come), I (be) very happy.

If she (earn) a lot of money, she (fly) to New York.

If we (travel) to London, we (visit) the museums.

If you (wear) sandals in the mountains, you (slip) on the rocks.

If Rita (forget) her homework, the teacher (give) her a low mark.

If they (go) to the disco, they will listen to loud music.

If you (wait) a minute, I (ask) my parents