

PRACTICAL LESSON

Conditionals

Lesson category: 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
Zero	present simple	present simple	always true, general fact
First	present simple	will + base	real, possible future
Second	past simple	would + base	unreal or unlikely present/future
Third	past perfect	would have + participle	impossible past, regret
Mixed	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>	If it rains, we'll stay in.
<i>If you will come, I'll cook.</i>	If you come, I'll cook.

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>	If I see him, I'll tell him.	no <i>will</i> after <i>if</i>
<i>If I would have known ...</i>	If I had known ...	third conditional uses the past perfect
<i>If I was you, I'd go.</i> (formal writing)	If I were you, I'd go.	formal English prefers <i>were</i>
<i>Unless you don't hurry ...</i>	Unless you hurry ...	<i>unless</i> already means <i>if not</i>
<i>We'll stay in, if it rains.</i>	We'll stay in if it rains.	no comma when the main clause is first
<i>If she studied, she would have passed.</i>	If she had studied, she would have passed.	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>	Nëse nxeh ujin, ai vlon.
E parë	<i>If it rains, we'll stay at home.</i>	Nëse bie shi, do të rrimë në shtëpi.
E dytë	<i>If I had more time, I would learn the piano.</i>	Po të kisha më shumë kohë, do të mësoja piano.
E tretë	<i>If I had known, I would have told you.</i>	Po ta kisha ditur , do të të kisha thënë .
E përzier	<i>If I had studied medicine, I would be a doctor now.</i>	Po të kisha studiuar mjekësi, tani do të isha 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 mësohesh*, 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>	If I see him, I'll tell him.	pa <i>will</i> pas <i>if</i>
<i>If I would have known ...</i>	If I had known ...	kushtorja e tretë kërkon më se të kryerën
<i>Unless you don't hurry ...</i>	Unless you hurry ...	<i>unless</i> do të thotë tashmë «nëse jo»
<i>We'll stay in, if it rains.</i>	We'll stay in if it rains.	pa presje kur fjalia kryesore vjen e para
<i>If she studied, she would have passed.</i>	If she had studied, ...	kushti i shkuar

ENGLISH FOR LIFE