

Conditional Sentences

This is a conditional sentence:

- If I take paracetamol, I have an allergic reaction.

So is this:

- I wouldn't have had an allergic reaction if I hadn't taken paracetamol.

Structure:

- If clause, result clause
- We can change the order of the clauses but we don't use a comma: result clause if clause

Zero & First

There are 5 main conditional sentences in English:

- zero
- first
- second
- third
- mixed

There are some key things to remember when studying conditionals:

- 1) **Tense** is extremely important
- 2) You can make a very different **impression** by using a different conditional
- 3) What is important is how **probable/likely** you think the action in the 'if clause' is

See the difference:

- a) I will pass the exam if I work hard. – working hard is a possibility -it's a normal thing for a student
- b) I would pass the exam if I worked hard. – there could be an obstacle to me working hard

Conditional	Function	Example
Zero if + present, present	facts - routines	If I take paracetamol, I have an allergic reaction. If you visit Paris in Spring, you have a nice time. You get wet if you stand in the rain. Antibiotics don't work if you drink alcohol while taking them. If I sit in the sun I get burned.
1st Conditional if + present, will + verb	likely action, followed by a likely result	If you visit Paris in Spring, you will have a nice time. If my son develops further symptoms, I will take him to the hospital. If I sit in the sun, I will get burned.

Exercise

Choose zero or 1st conditional for the below prompts:

- 1) remember / vitamin tablets / morning
- 2) pain / worse / dentist
- 3) get up early enough / jog
- 4) compliant / medication / blood sugar / controlled
- 5) visit GP / always / BP check

Answers

Choose zero or 1st conditional for the below prompts:

1) remember / vitamin tablets / morning

- If you **don't remember** to take your vitamin tablets in the morning, you **have** low energy during the day.
- If you **don't remember** to take vitamin tablets in the morning, your immune system **will weaken**
- If I remember, I **will take** vitamin tablets in the morning. - Talking about tomorrow
- If I remember, I take my vitamin tablets in the mornings. – every day

2) pain / worse / dentist

- If the pain **gets** worse, you **can go** to a dentist.
- If the pain **gets** worse, you **will need** to see the dentist.
- If my pain **worsens**, I **will visit** a dentist.
- If you **don't go** to the dentist, your pain **will get** worse.
- If I do not visit the dentist with my toothache, the pain will get worse.

3) get up early enough / jog

- If I get up early enough, I go for a jog. (what normally happens)
- If I get up early enough, I will go for a jog (Probably tomorrow or at a specific time in the future)

4) compliant / medication / blood sugar / controlled

- If I am compliant with my medication, my blood sugar is controlled.
- If I am compliant with my medication, my blood sugar will be controlled.

5) visit GP / always / BP check

- If I visit my GP, she always checks my BP.