## Conditionals

***Zero type: General truth: If + Present → Present***

e.g. If you eat a lot, you get fat.

If there are low rates of unemployment, then inflation rates are high, according to

the Phillips Curve.

If you (as a government or central bank) are concerned that things are getting too

expensive, too fast, then you need to reduce inflation.

if the price of a 10 oz. can of corn changes from $0.90 to $1.00 over the course of a

year, with no change in quality, then this price difference represents inflation.

***1st type: Possible in the future: If + Present → Future***

e.g. If prices tend to rise, the central bank will lower interest rates, according to Keynes.

If people lose their jobs, they will not have the money to buy food, so they will

******eventually starve, according to Sen.

If inflation gets totally out of control (in the upward direction), it can grossly

interfere with the normal workings of the economy, hurting its ability to supply.

(hyperinflation)

***2nd type: Improbable/ unreal in the present: If + Past Simple → would + infinitive***

e.g. If I were rich, I would travel around the world.

If bank commercials were not so appealing, people wouldn’t be so heavily

indebted.

If computer operating systems were bikes, what bikes would they be? The

question is, of course, absurd — but that doesn’t mean it isn’t fun to answer.

(<http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2009/03/if-computers-we/> )

***3rd type: Unreal in the past: If + Past Perfect → would have +past participle***

e.g. If I had studied more, I would have passed the exams.

What if the Kindle had been invented first?

If the receptionist had checked the technician's credentials with the IT Manager, the

security breach could have been avoided.

I was told that if I had taken a taxi to my friend’s house, they would have paid for it.



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**Conditional clauses:** In formal English, the if clause in conditional sentences can be rephrased through **inversion**

* **Should** the need arises, the funds will be available. =If the need arises…(1st type)
* **Were** you to win the election, what's the first thing you'd do? = If you won the election…(2nd type)
* **Had** we known what the weather would be like, we wouldn't have come = If we had known what…(3rd type)

Conditionals –exercises

1. If I (be) stronger, I'd help you carry the piano.
2. If we'd seen you, we (stop).
3. If we meet him tomorrow, we (say) hello.
4. He would have repaired the car himself if he (have) the tools.
5. If you (drop) the vase, it will break.
6. If I hadn't studied, I (pass) the exam.
7. I (not go) to school by bus if I had a bike.
8. I won't travel to London if I (not get) a cheap flight.
9. We'd be stupid if we (tell) him about our secret.
10. If you go out with your friends tonight, I (watch) the football match on TV.
11. I would buy these shoes if they (fit).
12. She (come) to our party if she had not been on holiday.
13. If it had been a home game, our team (win) the match.
14. I (earn) a lot of money if I get that job.
15. It (not surprise) me if he did not know the answer.
16. If we had listened to the radio, we (hear) the news.
17. If she (not hurry), we will miss the bus.
18. If our team (win) the match, they would have moved up in the league.
19. If he (try) harder, he would reach his goals.
20. If you had switched on the lights, you (not fall) over the chair.