

Conditionals

	Zero conditional (Certain)	If	it rains	,	the road becomes wet.
		If	it <i>does not</i> rain	,	people wear sunglasses.
		If	it rains	,	does the road become wet?
		<i>If</i>	<i>present tense</i>	,	<i>present tense</i>
	First Conditional (Highly likely)	If	it rains	,	drivers will slow down.
		If	it does not rain	,	drivers will go faster.
		If	it rains	,	will drivers slow down?
		<i>If</i>	<i>present tense</i>	,	<i>will / going to</i>
	Second Conditional (Unlikely)	If	it rained	,	my clothes would be ruined.
		If	it did not rain	,	my clothes would be dry.
		If	it rained	,	would my clothes be ok?
		<i>If</i>	<i>past simple / continuous</i>	,	<i>would</i>
Third Conditional (Wish / regret / hypothesis)	If	it had rained on Friday	,	it would have ruined the carnival.	
	If	it had not rained on Friday	,	we would have had a picnic.	
	If	it had rained on Friday	,	would we have gone out?	
	<i>If</i>	<i>past perfect</i>	,	<i>would have</i>	

The order of the clauses can be changed. You don't need a comma if the *if* comes in the second clause. e.g. The road becomes wet if it rains.

Spoken English

- Questions in the zero conditional are generally used for checking facts
- When using the first conditional in speech the going to (gonna) form is very common
/gɒnə/
e.g. If it rains, are cars going to slow down?
- In the second conditional you may want to use the past tense of to be. In written English or in testing situations, you should always use "were." However, in everyday conversation, "was" is often used.
- In spoken English the following pronunciations are used for it had (Same as past perfect)

/aɪd/	/ɪtəd/
I had (I'd)	it had (it'd)

Practice

The road becomes wet	if it rains.
People wear sunglasses	if it does not rain.
If it rains,	does the road become wet?
If it rains,	drivers will slow down.
If it does not rain,	drivers will go faster.
If it rains,	will cars slow down?
If it rained,	my clothes would be ruined.
If it did not rain,	my clothes would be dry.
Would my clothes be ok	if it rained?
If it had rained on Friday,	it would have ruined the carnival.
If it had not rained on Friday,	we would have had a picnic.
If it had rained on Friday,	would we have gone out?



Cut these out and give them to students as a matching exercise

Teacher's Notes

This can be a very confusing area of grammar for students and teachers and this handout only covers the basics without mixed conditionals.

Other Meta language

I've used the 0 to 4 approach to conditionals, but also note some other common meta language for them:

zero	Likely conditionals	Real conditionals
first		
second	Unlikely conditional	Unreal conditional Present
third		Unreal conditional Past

Alternatives

There are some alternatives in the English language to if clauses including:

- **When** (zero and 1st conditionals)
When it rains, I'll bring the clothes
- **Suppose** (Mostly for questions)
Supposing it rains, what will you do?
- **Assuming** (You expect to do it)
Assuming it doesn't rain, I'll wash the car.
- **Provided / providing** (Less positive than assuming)
Provided it doesn't rain, I'll wash the car.
- **wish clauses** (for 2nd and 3rd conditionals)
I wish I was rich
- **regret**
I regret leaving the clothes out.
- **Unless**
Unless you brought an umbrella, you'll get soaked in that rain.