

5 Conditionals

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[Home](#)
[Posts](#)
[About](#)

I love window-shopping. **If you live** in Hong Kong like me, you **know** there are so many places you can do this. However, I **do not buy** anything **unless** there **is** a sale on. I **do not want** to pay the full price **if** something **is** on sale for half price.

I'm busy with my revision at the moment but there are some sales this weekend. **If I finish** all my revision early, I **will go** shopping. **If I go** shopping, I **will** first **go** to Alison's because I need a new pair of shoes. But **if** Alison's **does not have** anything that I like, I **will go** to The Shoe Place. **When I buy** shoes, I usually **try** on over ten pairs. **If they are not** comfortable, I **do not buy** them. **If I am** lucky this weekend, I **will find** a great pair of shoes at a great price.



We use **conditionals** to talk about the results of different actions and situations. There are four types of conditionals: Type 0 conditionals, Type 1 conditionals, Type 2 conditionals and Type 3 conditionals. In this unit, we are going to look at **Type 0 conditionals** and **Type 1 conditionals**.

If you take ice out of the freezer, it melts.

(Type 0 conditional)

If I miss the bus, I will be late for school.

(Type 1 conditional)



All conditionals have two parts: the *if*-clause (the action or situation) and the main clause (the result). We can put the *if*-clause before or after the main clause. When the *if*-clause comes first, we put a comma after it.

If you eat too much, you put on weight.

action/situation

result

When the main clause comes first, the two clauses are not separated by a comma.

I will join you if I find my tennis racket.

result

action/situation

Usage

Type 0 conditionals

We use **Type 0 conditionals** to talk about facts or general situations. We use the simple present in both the *if*-clause and the main clause.

<i>If</i> -clause	Main clause
<i>If</i> + simple present	simple present
If a bee stings you,	it is very painful.

(= It is very painful every time a bee stings you.)

We can use *when* instead of *if* in Type 0 conditionals.

When you heat water to 100°C, it boils.

(= **If you heat water to 100°C, it boils.**)

Jessica **thinks** of her tenth birthday party **when** she **hears** that song.

(= Jessica **thinks** of her tenth birthday party **if** she **hears** that song.)

Type 1 conditionals

We use **Type 1 conditionals** to talk about something that is very likely to happen now or in the future. We use the simple present in the *if*-clause and the simple future (*will* + the base form of the verb) in the main clause.

<i>If</i> -clause	Main clause
<i>If</i> + simple present	simple future (<i>will</i> + base form of the verb)
If it is sunny tomorrow,	we will go to the beach.

(= It is likely for us to go to the beach on a sunny day.)

We can use *unless* instead of *if...not* to say that something is very unlikely to happen. The verb after *unless* is always in the positive.

Unless you wear a coat, you will be cold.

↓
(= **If you do not wear a coat, you will be cold.**)

We will start the meal without Sally and Jack unless they arrive soon.

↓
(= **We will start the meal without Sally and Jack if they do not arrive soon.**)

NOTE

Other than *will*, it is also possible to use other ways of talking about the future, or other modal verbs in the main clause, such as *be going to*, *can*, *may*, etc.

If Zoe comes tonight, I **am going to show** her my new tablet.

If you stand here, you **can see** the mountains in the distance. (to talk about ability)

If I finish my homework in time, I **may join** you. (the result is less certain)

Exam Report

In the Secondary 3 TSA writing tasks as well as in Paper 2 of the HKDSE exam, some students tried to use conditionals but did so incorrectly.

2016 S3 TSA Writing

If we want to change a song on the MUSE Footwear, we ~~will stop~~ ^{stop} walking.

✗ This is a Type 0 conditional. The main clause should use the simple present *stop*.

2015 HKDSE Paper 2 Part B Question 5

If the government ~~did not protect~~ ^{does} the harbour, the harbour will disappear.

✗ This is a Type 1 conditional. The *if*-clause should use the simple present *does*.

2015 HKDSE Paper 2 Part B Question 6

He ~~would write~~ ^{will} to the Consumer Council if he ~~hasn't received~~ ^{doesn't receive} our reply this week.

✗ This is a Type 1 conditional. The main clause should use the simple future *will* and the *if*-clause should use the simple present *doesn't receive*.

Do the Quiz below. Check your understanding of conditionals.

Quiz

Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. If I see Gary this evening, I _____ him the news.

- A. tell B. will tell

2. If Helen _____ tickets for the concert, I will go with her.

- A. gets B. will get

3. I _____ our bags if you make some tea.

- A. unpack B. will unpack

4. If you go camping, you _____ a sleeping bag.

- A. would need B. need

5. You will look much better if you _____ a haircut.

- A. got B. get

6. Fiona _____ to the party if Brian is there.

- A. will not come B. does not come

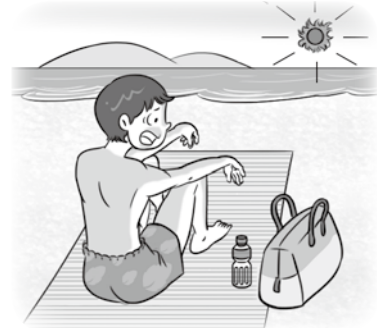
7. If you practise a lot, you _____ better.

- A. get B. got

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use Type 0 conditionals only.

1. If we do not / don't use (not / use) the air conditioner, we save (save) energy.
2. If you _____ (take) a fish out of water, it _____ (die).
3. When my grandfather _____ (visit), he always _____ (bring) us a nice present.
4. We _____ (have) an ice cream at Paul's when we _____ (go) to Johnson Shopping Centre.
5. The vegetables _____ (become) too soft if you _____ (cook) them too long.
6. If you _____ (not / use) sunscreen, you _____ (get) sunburnt.
7. Sally _____ (drink) a lemon and ginger drink when she _____ (have) a cold.
8. If it _____ (get) really cold, the river _____ (freeze).



Exercise 2

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use Type 1 conditionals only.

1. If you help (help) me wash the dishes, I will get (get) you an ice cream.
2. Unless you _____ (go) to bed soon, you _____ (not / wake) up on time in the morning.
3. We _____ (miss) the train if we _____ (not / hurry) up.
4. I _____ (buy) a house if I _____ (win) first prize.
5. Your dinner _____ (get) cold unless you _____ (come) and eat it now.
6. Unless you _____ (study) hard, you _____ (not / pass) the exam.
7. Your battery _____ (be) flat if you _____ (not / charge) it.
8. If we _____ (win) our next two games, we _____ (win) the league.



Exercise 3

Write sentences using the words given. Use 'if', 'when' or 'unless' and the correct form of the verbs.

1. We / catch the 10 am bus — we / get there by 10:45 am

If we catch the 10 am bus, we will get there by 10:45 am.

2. Tom / have time tomorrow — he / visit Monica

3. We / go to the cinema — we / always sit near the back

4. I / get some vegetables while I am out — I / not forget

5. In this season it / get cold pretty quickly — the sun / go down

6. I / not ride my bike — it / be cold outside

7. It / rain this Sunday — we / cancel our barbecue

8. Sam / join us this evening — he / have to work late

Exercise 4

Read the article. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs in the box. Use Type 0 conditionals only.

not sleep try drink need affect feel not want be

When you have the flu, you (1) feel weak. When you feel weak, you (2) _____ to do anything. That is OK and it is natural. When you have the flu, you (3) _____ plenty of rest. If you (4) _____ to carry on as usual, you always feel worse. When you are not well, it (5) _____ important that you drink plenty of water. Also make sure you get plenty of sleep. And how can you do this? If you sleep in a room that is too light, you (6) _____ very well. If you (7) _____ caffeine after five in the afternoon, you don't sleep as well. We all like to keep up to date by using our phones or laptops, but if you look at a screen for too long before you go to sleep, it (8) _____ your sleep.

Exercise 5

Read the conversation. Fill in the blanks by choosing one of the options in brackets. Use Type 1 conditionals only.

Jenny : Hi Albert. What are you doing on Sunday?

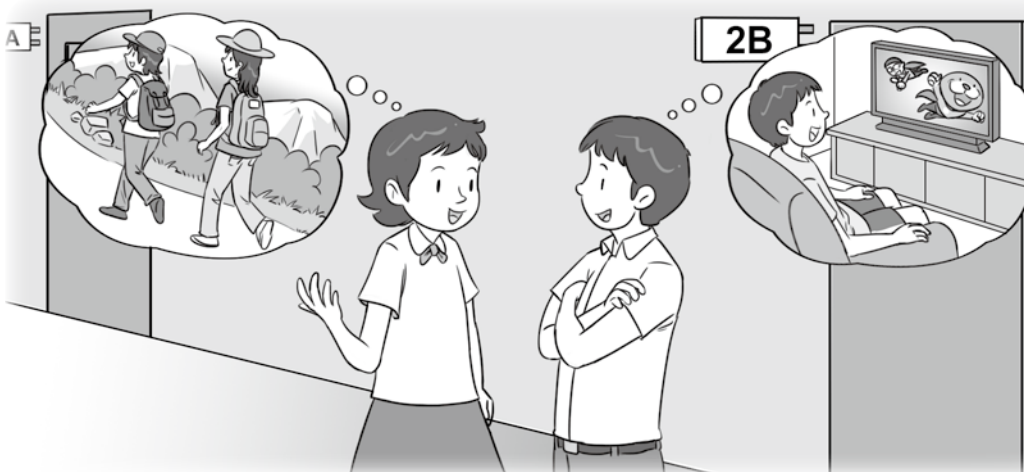
Albert : Hi Jenny. I don't know. It depends on the weather. If it rains, I (1) will stay
(stay / will stay) home.

Jenny : If you stay home, you (2) _____ (feel / will feel) bored.

Albert : Not really. I need to do some homework but if there (3) _____ (will be / are)
any interesting programmes on TV, I (4) _____ (probably watch / will
probably watch) something. Or rather, I will watch something unless my father
(5) _____ (wants / will want) to watch some sports programmes. He often
does that on a Sunday. What about you?

Jenny : (6) _____ (Unless / If) my cousin Emily visits, I (7) _____
(study / will study) most of the day. Of course if she (8) _____ (will come /
comes), we will do something together. She likes hiking so if it (9) _____
(won't rain / doesn't rain), we will probably go hiking somewhere. But if it
(10) _____ (rains / will rain), then hiking (11) _____
(won't be / isn't) a good idea and we (12) _____ (will probably go /
probably go) shopping.

Albert : That sounds good.



Exercise 6

Read the text messages. Choose the best option to complete each blank and circle the correct letter.

Hi Mandy. What _____ (1) _____ if a bee stings you? 😬

Hi Tom. If a bee stings you, you _____ (2) _____ the sting out and put ice on the sting. But if you _____ (3) _____ in a lot of pain, you _____ (4) _____ to go to hospital. Why do you ask? 😬

A bee just stung Mike. We don't have any ice. We are in a country park. 😬

If he's not in a lot of pain, he _____ (5) _____ fine. If he _____ (6) _____ down somewhere for a while, the pain will slowly go away and he _____ (7) _____ to hospital. 😊

What are you doing later?

I have no plans.

We are hoping to get the 4 pm bus. If we _____ (8) _____ that one, we _____ (9) _____ back before 5 pm. Do you want to meet up after I see Mike home?

OK. Unless my mum _____ (10) _____ me to stay home, I _____ (11) _____ able to make it. 😊

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. A. do you do | 2. A. took | 3. A. will be | 4. A. need |
| B. did you do | B. will take | B. are | B. will need |
| C. will you do | C. take | C. were | C. needed |
| 5. A. will be | 6. A. sat | 7. A. isn't going | 8. A. will catch |
| B. is | B. will sit | B. won't have to go | B. catch |
| C. isn't | C. sits | C. doesn't have to go | C. are catching |
| 9. A. are | 10. A. wants | 11. A. am | |
| B. will be | B. will want | B. won't be | |
| C. were | C. doesn't want | C. will be | |

Wrap-up

— A common text type in S3 TSA Writing and HKDSE Paper 2

Read the following email. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs in the box.

Two of the verbs can be used more than once.

get drop need spend want go let be come have not know

To : Justin Cheung
Subject: RE: Michael's trip

Hi Justin,

Thanks for your email. Glad to hear that Michael might go to Tokyo later this year.

If he (1) goes, he will have a great time and he (2) _____ able to meet my friends Ken and Cindy. I stay with them when I (3) _____

in Tokyo. Tokyo is a big city. It will be difficult to get to know this place unless you

(4) _____ someone who can show you around. And if you

(5) _____ someone to show you around, there is nobody better than Ken.

He is a great person, very friendly and helpful. If Michael wants me to, I

(6) _____ Ken know that he might be coming. You did not say when he

might go but if he goes in winter, he (7) _____ some warm clothes. It is

a lot colder than Hong Kong at that time of year. It is often sunny during the day but

when the sun goes down, the temperature (8) _____.

You asked me what I thought of Brian Lee. He is a good student, intelligent, and

he works hard. If he (9) _____ the answer to a question or problem,

he doesn't give up. If he finds a topic interesting, he (10) _____ hours

researching it. If he continues like this, he (11) _____ into a top university.

Now when are you and Grace coming over for dinner? If you (12) _____,

I will order a large pizza. I know you both like that. How about 22 June? And you can

stay overnight. Unless you (13) _____ something on the next day, we can

do something together.

Write back soon.

All the best,

Keith

You try

Write a short email to a friend about a trip you might make or a day out you might have. Write about 100 words.

Hint: Use conditionals to talk about things you will or will not do if you make the trip or have the day out.