TYPE 0

RULES, LAWS OF NATURE, GENERAL TRUTHS ETC.

CONDITIONALS

If + Present Simple → Present Simple

- If you **heat** water to 100 Celsius degrees, it **boils**.
- If you **don't do** your homework, you **don't get** any dessert.

TYPE 1

POSSIBLE, REAL CONDITION AND RESULT IN THE PRESENT OR FUTURE

If + Present Simple → Present Simple / Future

- If it **doesn't** rain, **we'll go** to the park.
- If he **manages to buy** the tickets, **we're going to see** the concert on Friday.
- If I **find** it, **I'll tell** you.

The speaker feels that there is a real chance that the event in the *if* clause will happen.

TYPE 2

POSSIBLE BUT UNREAL CONDITION AND RESULT IN THE PRESENT OR FUTURE

If + Past Simple → Would [do/go/…]

- If I **found** a wallet in the street, **I'd take** it to the police station.
- What **would** you do if you **won** a million dollars?
- If there **were (was)** an election tomorrow, who **would** you vote for?
- If I **were (was)** you, **I'd talk** to him.

The speaker doesn't really expect that the event in the *if* clause will happen, but it isn't impossible.

- If you **took** more exercise, you**'d feel** better.
- I'm not tired. If I **went** to bed now, I **wouldn't sleep**.
- If they **took** a cab, they **could** be there at 5 o'clock.
- If you **read** this book, you **might** be able to pass the exam.

We also use Type 2 to say that if something happens *NOW*, something else will happen. We use Past Simple but the meaning is *present.*

We don't normally use *would* in the *if* part of the sentence. **Exception**: we can use *would* if we politely ask somebody to do something.

- [*from a formal letter*] I **would** be grateful if you **would** let me know your decision as soon as possible.
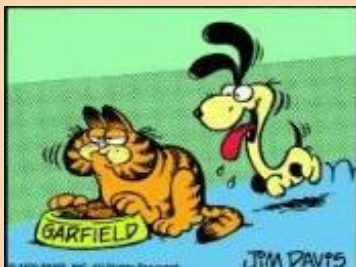
TYPE 3

IMPOSSIBLE, UNREAL CONDITION AND RESULT IN THE PAST

If + Past Perfect → Would have [done/gone/…]

- If I **had known** you were in hospital, I **would have gone** to see you.
- If **I'd seen** you, of course I **would have said** hello.
- If I **hadn't been** so tired, I **would have gone** to the party.
- If the weather **hadn't been** so bad, we **could have** gone out.

The events we're talking about are already in the past, so nothing can be done to change them.

TYPE 2 + TYPE 3
IF THIS HAPPENED OR WAS TRUE IN THE PRESENT, WE WOULD HAVE HAD THIS RESULT IN THE PAST

If + Past Simple → Would / Could / Might have [done/gone/…]

- If you **were** an actor, you **could have entered** the press conference last week.
- If I **were** you, I **would have talked** to him at once and explained the whole thing while it still wasn't too late.

TYPE 3 + TYPE 2
IF THIS HAD HAPPENED IN THE PAST, WE WOULD HAVE THIS RESULT IN THE PRESENT OR FUTURE.

If + Past Perfect → Would / Could / Might [do/go/…]

- If you **hadn't gotten** into that fight at the party, she would still be your girlfriend now.
- If I **hadn't acted** like such a fool, I **could** go to Spain with her tomorrow.

Rewrite the sentences using mixed conditionals:

1) They didn't pay me early enough, so I'm not going to Seville next week.

……

2) He's not a trumpet player, so he made a fool of himself.

……

3) He studied hard for a month, so he's ready for his exam.

……

4) She can't speak Chinese, so she couldn't go on the scholarship to Beijing.

……

Rewrite the sentences using the word in brackets:

5) He can't be at home. He would have let you in. (**were**)

If she…….let you in.

6) I'm not in a band because I was too lazy to practise as a kid. (**be**)

If I hadn't been……

ANSWER KEY

1) If they had paid me early enough, I would be going to Seville next week.

2) If he were (was) a trumpet player, he wouldn't have made a fool of himself.

3) If he had studied hard for a month, he would be ready for his exam.

4) If she could speak Chinese, she could have gone on the scholarship to Beijing.

5) If she were at home, she would have let you in.

6) If I hadn't been too lazy to practise as a kid, I would be in a band.