



Test Your Grammar Skills

Get to Know... the Conditional Family 1

Level: Intermediate (B1)

To remember conditionals, it can be helpful to think of them as members of a family. This enables us to understand the different mood of each conditional and when to use them:

	Family Member:	1 st clause:	2 nd clause:	Time:
1 st conditional	Ferne Conditional	present simple	future simple	real future
2 nd conditional	Becca Conditional	past simple	would + infinitive	unreal future
3 rd conditional	Herb Conditional	past perfect	would + have + 3 rd form	unreal past
zero conditional	Nero Conditional	present simple	present simple	general time

Complete each gap using one of these verbs in the correct form:

APPLY | WORK | MESS ABOUT | GET | BRING | HURRY UP | GIVE | GO | MEET
LOSE | REVISE | BOIL | LOVE | CRASH | HAVE | BE | LOOK | FALL | DRINK | FAIL

Ferne Conditional (42) Mother and office manager; focused on the short-term real future. She is:

- Practical: If you 1. _____ home from work early, we'll go to the supermarket.
- Caring: If I don't iron your shirt, you'll 2. _____ really scruffy.
- Nagging: If you don't 3. _____ for your exams, you won't get good marks.
- Organising: If the weather is nice tomorrow, we'll 4. _____ to the beach.
- Realistic: If you don't 5. _____, you'll miss your bus!

Becca Conditional (18) Daughter and student: focused on a hypothetical or distant future. She is:

- Introspective: If I 6. _____ two kilos by next month, I would look OK in that dress.
- Unrealistic: I would be a complete mess if I 7. _____ David Beckham!
- Planning ahead: If I 8. _____ to study in Glasgow, I could live with my best friend.
- Giving advice: If you paid for my driving lessons, I could 9. _____ you a lift to work.
- Cautiously optimistic: If I 10. _____ my German exam, I could probably retake it.

Herb Conditional (48) Father and IT boss; focused on a hypothetical past and unhappy present. He is:

- Depressed: If I'd 11. _____ harder at school, I might have had a better career.
- Regretful: If I hadn't married Ferne, my life might have 12. _____ more fun.
- Relieved: If I hadn't ordered the cake last week, we wouldn't have 13. _____ it in time for Ferne's birthday party.
- Nostalgic: If I hadn't 14. _____ my dad's car, I wouldn't have had to leave home at eighteen and find a job.
- Hopeless: If I'd 15. _____ more cash, I could've had a takeaway on the way home.

Nero Conditional (10) Son and schoolboy; focused on things that are always true, e.g. facts. He is:

- Enthusiastic: I 16. _____ it if we have pizza and chips for tea!
- Realistic: If I 17. _____ off my bike it really hurts!
- Positive: If I go skateboarding with my mates, we always 18. _____!
- Factual: If the kettle 19. _____, the water is very hot.
- Funny: If I 20. _____ lemonade too quickly, the bubbles come out of my nose!

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Answers:

1. get
2. look
3. revise
4. go
5. hurry up
6. lost
7. met
8. applied
9. give
10. failed
11. worked
12. been
13. had
14. crashed
15. brought
16. love
17. fall
18. mess about
19. boils
20. drink

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