

Test Your Grammar Skills

Get to Know... the Conditional Family 2

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:

COME | TAKE | LOSE | BECOME | BUILD | JOIN | DROP | BUY | SNOW
RIDE | LEAVE | ASK | GET | EARN | SIT | MOVE | BE | DO | FIX | EAT

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

- Practical: If you want to 1. _____ a sandwich for lunch, I'll give you a fiver.
- Caring: If the rash doesn't clear up, I'll 2. _____ you to the doctor's.
- Nagging: I will be very cross if you 3. _____ home later than eleven o'clock!
- Organising: If the bus is late, I'll 4. _____ you in town next to the post office.
- Realistic: You won't get a pay rise if you don't 5. _____ your boss.

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

- Introspective: If I 6. _____ more like my mate Debbie, boys would like me more.
- Unrealistic: If I won the Nobel Prize for Physics, I would 7. _____ rich and famous.
- Planning ahead: If I worked during the summer, I'd 8. _____ enough money for a car.
- Giving advice: If we advertised in the paper, more people would 9. _____ our team.
- Cautiously optimistic: If I got a new bike for my birthday, I'd 10. _____ to uni every day.

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

- Depressed: If I had 11. _____ the shower, the family wouldn't have been annoyed.
- Regretful: I would have 12. _____ a promotion if I hadn't been rude to my boss.
- Relieved: If I hadn't 13. _____ that boiled egg, I would have been hungry all day.
- Nostalgic: If Betty hadn't 14. _____ to Leek, we would've probably got married.
- Hopeless: If I'd been more careful, I wouldn't have 15. _____ Ferne's brother's Rolex.

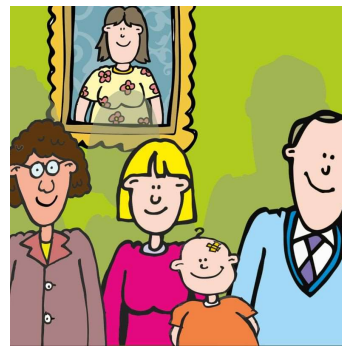
Nero Conditional (10) Son and schoolboy; focused on things that are always true, e.g. facts. He is:

- Enthusiastic: If uncle Gaz takes us to the cinema, we can 16. _____ right at the back.
- Realistic: If I don't 17. _____ my homework, my parents get cross.
- Positive: If I wake up early, I 18. _____ stuff with my LEGO.
- Factual: If you 19. _____ a dirty coin in some cola, it comes out really shiny.
- Funny: If it 20. _____, we make a big snowman and stick in a carrot for his nose.

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Answers:

1. buy
2. take
3. come
4. drop
5. ask
6. was / were
7. become
8. earn
9. join
10. ride
11. fixed
12. got
13. eaten
14. moved
15. lost
16. sit
17. do
18. build
19. leave
20. snows

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