

Test Your Grammar Skills

Get to Know... the Conditional Family 3

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 sentence by adding appropriate main verbs in the correct form:

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

- Practical: If we 1. _____ online, we'll 2. _____ time at the airport.
- Caring: If you 3. _____ to watch the match, I'll 4. _____ my film upstairs.
- Nagging: If you don't 5. _____ your dirty clothes in the washing bin, I won't be able to 6. _____ them.
- Organising: If my brother wants to 7. _____ to the gig, I'll 8. _____ another ticket for him.
- Realistic: We won't 9. _____ the car if we don't 10. _____ an advert in the paper.

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

- Introspective: I'd 11. _____ better marks if my teachers 12. _____ me more.
- Unrealistic: If I could 13. _____ anywhere in the world, I'd 14. _____ to Canada.
- Planning ahead: If dad 15. _____ me some money, I'd be able to 16. _____ on holiday.
- Giving advice: If I 17. _____ you, I wouldn't 18. _____ that violet jacket to the prom.
- Cautiously optimistic: If Jackie 19. _____ with Tim, I'd probably try to 20. _____ with him.

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

- Depressed: If I'd 21. _____ my heart, I could have 22. _____ a professional football player.
- Regretful: If I'd 23. _____ my health, I wouldn't have had to 24. _____ the rugby team.
- Relieved: If the babysitter hadn't 25. _____ on time, we would have 26. _____ the beginning of the meeting, because the traffic was awful.
- Nostalgic: If I hadn't 27. _____ glasses at school, I might have 28. _____ more girlfriends.
- Hopeless: If we hadn't 29. _____ a row at Mandy's birthday party, we wouldn't have 30. _____ so stupid.

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

- Enthusiastic: If I 31. _____ any new football stickers, I 32. _____ them to school to swap.
- Realistic: If I 33. _____ late, I usually 34. _____ tired for the rest of the day.
- Positive: If the circus 35. _____ in town, we usually 36. _____.
- Factual: If you 37. _____ there are any penguins at the North Pole, you 38. _____ absolutely wrong!
- Funny: Dad 39. _____ shouting if he can't 40. _____ his car keys.

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Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. check in
2. save
3. want
4. watch
5. put
6. wash
7. go
8. get
9. sell
10. put
11. get
12. liked
13. travel
14. go
15. gave
16. go
17. were
18. wear
19. broke up
20. go out
21. followed
22. been
23. looked after
24. quit
25. come
26. missed
27. worn
28. had
29. had
30. looked
31. get
32. take
33. wake up
34. feel
35. is
36. go
37. think
38. are
39. starts
40. find

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