

## Test Your Grammar Skills

Get to Know... the Conditional Family 4

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 <sup>st</sup> clause:	2 <sup>nd</sup> clause:	Time:
1 <sup>st</sup> conditional	Ferne Conditional	present simple	future simple	real future
2 <sup>nd</sup> conditional	Becca Conditional	past simple	would + infinitive	unreal future
3 <sup>rd</sup> conditional	Herb Conditional	past perfect	would + have + 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 you 1. \_\_\_\_\_ the grass this morning, I'll 2. \_\_\_\_\_ the garden table and chairs.
- Caring: If you 3. \_\_\_\_\_ any help, you should 4. \_\_\_\_\_ me on my work phone.
- Nagging: If you don't 5. \_\_\_\_\_, you'll 6. \_\_\_\_\_ late for school, Nero!
- Organising: I'll 7. \_\_\_\_\_ my brother if the plumber can't 8. \_\_\_\_\_ the sink.
- Realistic: If we don't 9. \_\_\_\_\_ this bill on time, they will 10. \_\_\_\_\_ the gas!

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

- Introspective: If I 11. \_\_\_\_\_ more confidence, I would 12. \_\_\_\_\_ the drama club.
- Unrealistic: If I 13. \_\_\_\_\_ a mouse, I'd 14. \_\_\_\_\_ in a hole in the wall.
- Planning ahead: If Jenny 15. \_\_\_\_\_ ice-skating with me, we could 16. \_\_\_\_\_ to David all night.
- Giving advice: Dad, if you just 17. \_\_\_\_\_ to look on the bright side, you wouldn't 18. \_\_\_\_\_ so grumpy all the time!
- Cautiously optimistic: If Terri 19. \_\_\_\_\_ her cousins to the party, they might 20. \_\_\_\_\_ us a lift home.

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

- Depressed: If I hadn't 21. \_\_\_\_\_ Becca's glasses, she wouldn't have 22. \_\_\_\_\_ angry.
- Regretful: I would've 23. \_\_\_\_\_ better if I'd 24. \_\_\_\_\_ that third piece of chocolate cake!
- Relieved: If Erikson hadn't 25. \_\_\_\_\_ in extra time, we wouldn't have 26. \_\_\_\_\_ the semi-finals!
- Nostalgic: If mummy had 27. \_\_\_\_\_ me more, I would have 28. \_\_\_\_\_ more confident at school.
- Hopeless: If I had 29. \_\_\_\_\_ to bring my wallet, I could've 30. \_\_\_\_\_ for our meal.

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

- Enthusiastic: If Becca's friend John 31. \_\_\_\_\_ round, we 32. \_\_\_\_\_ football.
- Realistic: If I forget to 33. \_\_\_\_\_ my teeth before school, my mouth doesn't 34. \_\_\_\_\_ that fresh.
- Positive: If there 35. \_\_\_\_\_ a good film on at the cinema, I always 36. \_\_\_\_\_ my dad to take me.
- Factual: If I haven't 37. \_\_\_\_\_ my room, my mum 38. \_\_\_\_\_ annoyed.

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• Funny: If I want to 39. \_\_\_\_\_ Becca laugh, I 40. \_\_\_\_\_ a song in a silly voice.  
*Answers will vary. Sample answers:*

1. cut
2. put out
3. need
4. call
5. get up
6. be
7. call
8. mend
9. pay
10. cut off
11. had
12. join
13. was / were
14. live
15. went
16. talk
17. tried
18. be
19. invited
20. give
21. broken
22. been
23. felt
24. had
25. scored
26. reached
27. loved
28. been
29. remembered
30. paid
31. comes
32. play
33. brush
34. feel
35. is
36. ask
37. tidied
38. gets
39. make
40. sing

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