

## English Grammar – The First Conditional (Personal Prediction for the Future)

We use the **first conditional** to make predictions for the future. It is used for a **specific** person or people. If you do something today, then something will happen in the future. We can use the word 'might' to say that it is only possible.

IF	condition	<i>then</i> (or “,”)	prediction	
	<b>present simple</b>		<b>future simple</b>	
If	you <b>study</b> hard	<i>then</i>	you <b>will pass</b> your test.	<b>(certain)</b>
If	you <b>don't study</b> hard	<i>then</i>	you <b>won't pass</b> your test.	<b>(certain)</b>
If	you <b>study</b> hard	<i>then</i>	you <b>might pass</b> your test.	<b>(possible)</b>
If	you <b>don't study</b> hard	<i>then</i>	you <b>might not pass</b> your test.	<b>(possible)</b>

More examples:

If you are good		I will buy some chocolate for you.
If you are not good	<i>(then)</i>	I won't buy any chocolate for you.
If I speak slowly	<i>(or “,”)</i>	he might understand me.
If I speak quickly		he might not understand me.

**Murphy's Law.** We use the first conditional when using "Murphy's Law" ("***If something can go wrong, it will go wrong!***"). For example:

- If I take all my credit cards with me, I'll be robbed in the street!
- If I don't take any credit cards with me, I'll see something that I want to buy!

We can also use “*when*” using the **first conditional** structure:

When	I <b>arrive</b> ,	I <b>will call</b> you.
When	you <b>come</b> next week,	we <b>will talk</b> about the new project.

The first conditional can also use the terms “*otherwise*” and “*if not*”:

If	it rains tomorrow,	I will stay at home,	<b>otherwise</b> I will go to the beach.
If	it rains tomorrow,	I will stay at home,	<b>if not</b> , I will go to the beach.

**Recommended video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnlIPN2eNbM> (2 mins)

**Exercise 1.** Complete the following sentences using the first conditional:

1. If I save (save) money every month, then I will have (have) enough to buy a car.
2. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (go out) tonight, then I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema.
3. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) late, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) angry.
4. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to my party, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) surprised.
5. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to my party, \_\_\_\_\_ (you / be) surprised?
6. If the weather \_\_\_\_\_ (not improve), we \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) a picnic.
7. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (not go) to bed early, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) tired tomorrow.
8. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) all this cake, we \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) sick.
9. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (not want) to go out tonight, I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) dinner.
10. If we \_\_\_\_\_ (not want) to go out tonight, \_\_\_\_\_ (you / make) dinner?

**Exercise 2.** The following sentences are inverted (the 'if' part is at the end of the phrase).

1. They will go (go) to the party if they are (be) invited.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in London if she \_\_\_\_\_ (get) the job.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ (not get) a better job if he \_\_\_\_\_ (not pass) the test.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new car if I \_\_\_\_\_ (save) enough money.
5. She \_\_\_\_\_ (not make) dinner if you \_\_\_\_\_ (not go) to the supermarket.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (you / make) dinner if I \_\_\_\_\_ (not go) to the supermarket?
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) early if you \_\_\_\_\_ (want).
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late if we \_\_\_\_\_ (not hurry).
9. She \_\_\_\_\_ (go) by taxi if it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain).
10. \_\_\_\_\_ (she / go) by taxi if it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain)?

**Exercise 3.** Complete the following using appropriate phrases:

1. If I study English every day, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. If \_\_\_\_\_, I will go to the beach.
3. If it rains tomorrow, \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If \_\_\_\_\_, I will be so happy.

**Exercise 4.** Complete the following using Murphy's Law:

- If I take an umbrella, \_\_\_\_\_.
- If I don't take an umbrella, \_\_\_\_\_.

**More exercises:** <https://www.englishpage.com/conditional/conditional7.htm>

**Funny video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjiHe1R2cXA> (2 mins)  
(first conditional: from 00:20 to 00:48, third conditional: from 00:53 to 01:23)