

3 PRESENT / FUTURE REAL CONDITIONALS

Real Conditionals

We use **real conditionals** to express:

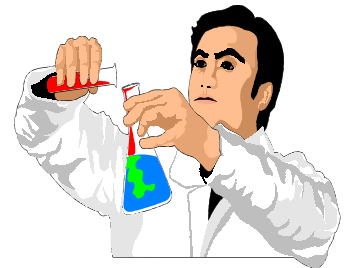
1. Scientific facts	3. Imperatives
2. General truths, habits, recurring events	4. Situations in the future

A **real conditional** sentence has two clauses: an **if-clause** and a **result clause**. The **if-clause** expresses a condition. The **result clause** expresses the result (if the condition occurs). We can begin the sentence with either clause. We use a comma between the two clauses when the **if-clause** comes first.

If-Clause	Result Clause
simple present	simple present simple future (will)

1. Scientific Facts and General Truths: Present Simple and Future Simple Tenses

1. If you put water in the freezer, it will /is going to freeze.
2. If you fill a balloon with helium, it floats up.
3. If astronauts want to walk in space, they will need oxygen.
4. If you heat snow, it melts.
5. If you lie in the sun for a long time, you will get a sunburn.
6. If you eat contaminated food, you will get / are going to get sick.
7. If you don't buy gas for your car, it won't continue to run.
8. If you drink three bottles of wine, you get / are going to get drunk.
9. If you swim in icy water for a few minutes, you become hypothermic.



Are the statements above true or false? How many of these have you experienced? Note that you can use the present or the future tenses, or use **be going + infinitive**.

Example: If I eat too much food, I'm going to be sick.

2. Imperatives (commands, instructions, and invitations): Simple Present Tense

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. If you are the last one to leave the house, turn out the lights. | 6. If your neighbor complains about your loud music, turn down the stereo. |
| 2. If you are home first, start dinner. | 7. If you cook, use the kitchen fan. |
| 3. If it rains, close the windows. | 8. If a light-bulb is burnt out, replace it. |
| 4. If you are home alone, lock the doors. | 9. If your fridge is empty, go buy some food. |
| 5. If you see a cockroach, call your landlord. | 10. If your toilet overflows, call a plumber. |

These are everyday activities that are considered common sense.

EXERCISE 1

Work with a partner or in a small group. Consider the scientific facts on the first page of this chapter. Can you think of any others? Use **real conditionals** in your discussion.

EXERCISE 2

With a partner, combine an **if-clause** from Column A with a **result clause** from Column B to form a piece of advice. Do you believe in any of these?

Column A	Column B
1. If you want to find a prince, _____	a) you need a visa.
2. If you have a problem, _____	b) elevate it and ice it.
3. If you lose a tooth, _____	c) sing a song.
4. If you throw coins into a fountain, _____	d) write to "Dear Abby."
5. If you go to Myanmar, _____	e) you should kiss a frog.
6. If you sprain your ankle, _____	f) put it under your pillow.
7. If you feel happy, _____	g) take a picture.
8. If you see the Loch Ness Monster, _____	h) you should make a wish.

EXERCISE 3A

Use the verbs in parentheses to complete the **result clauses**.

Examples: When you go to Mexico, (eat) ... When you go to Mexico, eat some tacos.

If I go to the movies, (buy) ... If I go to the movies, I always buy popcorn.

1. If you have to write an important exam, (study) _____
2. Whenever I leave my house, I (lock) _____
3. When I eat in an expensive restaurant, I (order) _____
4. If you plan on staying in the Empress Hotel, (reserve) _____
5. Whenever you want to avoid getting a sunburn, (use) _____
6. If you're invited to a birthday party, (give) _____
7. When I vacation in Florida, I (take) _____
8. When I play with my pet cat, it (purr) _____
9. If I go to a bar with my friends, I (not drive) _____
10. If a country and western song plays on the radio, I (dance) _____