

GRAMMAR SUPPLEMENT

THE FIRST CONDITIONAL

1.1 FORM

The first conditional is formed with **IF + PRESENT SIMPLE** in the condition clause and **WILL + BASE VERB** in the result clause, expressing a probable future result of a likely condition.

CONDITION CLAUSE (IF-CLAUSE)	RESULT / MAIN CLAUSE
If I study,	I will pass the test.
If it rains,	we will stay home.
If they don't arrive soon,	we'll leave.

The order of the two clauses is not grammatically important. If the condition clause is first, a comma is placed between the two clauses.

RESULT / MAIN CLAUSE	CONDITION CLAUSE (IF-CLAUSE)
I will pass the test	I will pass the test
if I study.	if I study.
We will stay home	We will stay home

You can also use other connectors apart from **IF**. In this case, you are giving a different meaning to the sentence, but the form is the same. As in the case of the if-clause, the order of the two clauses is not important.

RESULT / MAIN CLAUSE	TIME CLAUSE
I will pass the test	I will pass the test
if I study.	if I study.
We will stay home	We will stay home

1.2 USE

The first conditional is used to talk about situations that are likely (probable) to happen in the future and the likely consequences of those situations. We use the first conditional when we talk about future situations that we think are real or probable.

We often use other time connectors when they provide a more precise meaning for the situation.

a) Likely to happen if these conditions occur / IF

- If I don't finish this project on time, I will be in trouble.
- We will stay inside if it rains tomorrow.

b) Likely to happen due to a certainty / WHEN

- Larry will be very happy when he sees you at the party.

c) **Likely to happen previous to something / BEFORE**

- We'll have breakfast *before* we go to the airport.

d) **Likely to happen after something / AFTER**

- There will be a reception in the main hall *after* we arrive.

e) **Likely to happen immediately after something / AS SOON AS**

- As *soon* as everyone is here, they will start the meeting.

f) **Likely to happen up to a point in time / UNTIL**

- I'll use the spare room as an office *until* the baby is born.

1.3 Practice Exercise A

Complete the space with the correct form of the verb (present simple or future with WILL) in parentheses.

1. Ana If he (leave) now, he (catch) the train.
2. You (see) the test results when they (publish) them.
3. If no one (register), the course (be) cancelled.
4. If you (NOT take) care of yourself, you (NOT get) better.
5. I (tell) Susan the news, if I (meet) her next week.
6. When you (go) in the building, you (turn) left at the first door.
7. I (order) some pizza if I (work) late.
8. If Peter (miss) the bus, he (get) here late.
9. He (have) an accident, if he (drive) too fast.
10. If you (NOT be) careful, you (hurt) yourself.

1.4 Practice Exercise B

Match the IF-clause (or time clause) to the main clause.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. As soon as the doorbell rings, | a. you won't know how to do it. |
| 2. If the quality is substandard, | b. we'll call the concierge for help. |
| 3. If Jerry accepts this proposal, | c. I'll get paid. |
| 4. When the ministry approves, | d. I'll be nervous. |
| 5. If the door is locked, | e. she'll answer it. |
| 6. After I take the test, | f. we'll be very glad he did. |
| 7. Until I get an answer to my request, | g. I'll complain about it. |
| 8. Before you get trained, | h. I'll go out for a drink and relax. |

1.5 Practice Exercise C

Match the main clause to the IF-clause (or time clause).

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| 1. There will be fierce resistance | a. when the campus is improved. |
| 2. The paper will be rejected | b. if the issue is solved too late. |
| 3. It won't matter | c. if the economy stays strong. |
| 4. Students will be more satisfied | d. if they invade this country. |
| 5. These buildings will probably collapse | e. until they apply antibiotics. |
| 6. These plants won't grow well | f. if there are signs of plagiarism. |
| 7. The patient won't get better | g. if they don't receive fertilizer. |
| 8. The president will probably be re-elected | h. if there is an earthquake. |

1.6 Practice Exercise D

Complete the space with one a linking expression. You can use the expressions more than once.

IF	WHEN	BEFORE	AFTER	UNTIL	AS SOON AS
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- I'll wait for Sarah she gets home.
- We will be sitting at the table dinner is ready.
- it snows in Iquique, it will definitely be on the news everywhere.
- I know the answer, I'll send you a text. Just wait.
- You'll feel better you have a big breakfast.
- We'll stay inside it stops raining.
- you edit your writing, you'll probably get a better grade.
- You'll have to fill out a form you can join the club.
- I see Marcela, I'll tell her to call you.
- I finish work, I'll get in an uber and come home as fast as I can.

1.7 Answer Key

Practice exercise A

1. If he leaves now, he will catch the train.
2. You will see the test results when they publish them.
3. If no one registers, the course will be cancelled.
4. If you don't take care of yourself, you won't get better.
5. I will tell Susan the news, if I meet her next week.
6. When you go in the building, you will turn left at the first door.
7. I will order some pizza if I work late.
8. If Peter misses the bus, he will get here late.
9. He will have an accident, if he drives too fast.
10. If you aren't careful, you will hurt yourself.

Practice exercise B

1. E
2. G
3. F
4. C
5. B
6. H
7. D
8. A

Practice exercise C

1. D
2. F
3. B
4. A
5. H
6. G
7. E
8. C

Practice exercise D

1. I'll wait for Sarah until she gets home.
2. We will be sitting at the table as soon as / when / until* dinner is ready.
3. If it snows in Iquique, it will definitely be on the news everywhere.
4. As soon as / when I know the answer, I'll send you a text. Just wait.
5. You'll feel better after / when you have a big breakfast.
6. We'll stay inside until it stops raining.
7. If you edit your writing, you'll probably get a better grade.
8. You'll have to fill out a form before you can join the club.
9. When I see Marcela, I'll tell her to call you.
10. As soon as I finish work, I'll get in an uber and come home as fast as I can.