



## Conditionals

Here are some rules for conditionals.

The zero conditional is a structure used for talking about general truths, or scientific facts -- things which happen under certain conditions. In statements like this, **if** means the same as **when** or **every time**.

- *If your bank account is overdrawn, you get a letter from the bank asking you to pay money into the account. (This usually happens.)*
- *If it is a public holiday, the banks do not open.*
- *If my local bank is closed, the staff hang a sign on the front door.*

The first conditional is used to talk about a possible condition and a probable future result.

- *If I get this job, I'll open a bank account. (I think I will be successful.)*
- *If I save my money carefully, I'll have enough for a new CD player. (I think I can do this.)*
- *If I buy a CD player, I'll invite my friends to come and listen to my jazz collection.*



The second conditional is used to talk about an unreal or unlikely condition and its probable result in the present or future.

- *If I had a lot of money, I would buy an expensive car. (I don't have a lot of money.)*
- *If I owned an expensive car, I'd have to learn how to drive it. (I don't have an expensive car.)*
- *If I drove my new car, I'd probably crash it because the roads are so busy.*

The third conditional is used to talk about a situation in the past.

- *If I had known how much money I'd need to raise a family, I would have saved my money more carefully. (But I didn't know this, so I didn't save my money.)*
- *If I had saved my money more carefully, I would have been able to buy expensive gifts for my family.*
- *If I had studied harder at college, I would have got a better job.*

### - Put these words into the correct order to make sentences using conditionals:

1. year / I'll visit / if I go back to Europe next / Rome
2. a celebratory champagne lunch / If I get this / promotion, we'll have
3. and ask to try / If I saw a / me in a shop window, I'd go in / it on / dress that suited
4. trendier clothes / I'd be able / If I ate less, / to wear
5. If I had known / when I was in / Rome last year, / about the perfume bar / I would have visited it
6. those shoes, if I / I would have decided / would fall off so soon / not to buy / had known the heels
7. a magazine, / the fashion pages first / If I buy / I usually turn to
8. If I look at / of a supermodel, / I always feel / envious / a photo

#### Answers

1. I'll visit Rome if I go back to Europe next year.
2. If I get this promotion, we'll have a celebratory champagne lunch.
3. If I saw a dress that suited me in a shop window, I'd go in and ask to try it on.
4. If I ate less, I'd be able to wear trendier clothes.
5. If I had known about the perfume bar when I was in Rome last year, I would have visited it.
6. I would have decided not to buy those shoes, if I had known the heels would fall off so soon.
7. If I buy a magazine, I usually turn to the fashion pages first.
8. If I look at a photo of a supermodel, I always feel envious.

