

Factual Conditionals

If + Subj + present vb, then + subj + present vb

Factual Conditionals

Talk about what usually/normally happens when a certain condition (situation) exists.

General Truths & Scientific Facts

If you live in Montana, then you see a lot of bears.

If a lizard loses its tail, then it grows a new one.

Routines & Habits

If I go for a walk with my dog at 7pm, I usually get back by 8 pm.

If my cat is nervous, then she moves her tail a lot.

Present Unreal Conditionals

If + Subject + vb-ed, then would/could + vb

If + Subject + were + vb-ed, then would/could + vb

“If” in present unreal

Expresses a condition that is not true at the present time (right now, in this moment, in the present)

If we had a car...
If I were working today...
If she could sing...

“Then” in present unreal

Tells what would happen if this untrue condition were true.

The imagined result of an imagined condition.

“Would” or “Could”?

“Would” always describes the unreal or imagined result.

“Could” describes an imagined ability.

Past Unreal Conditionals

If + Subj + have + vb-en,
then would/could + have + vb-en

“If” in Past Unreal

Expresses a condition that was not true in the past.

If you had come earlier,
If she had said something,
If I had known,

“Then” in Past Unreal

Tells what would have happened if the untrue condition had been true.

The imagined result of an imagined condition
in the past.

If you had come earlier, then you could have met my new friend.

Remember!

Past unreal conditionals talk about something that is impossible.

Sorry, you cannot change the past 😞