



The 1st (First) Conditional

The 1st (first) conditional sentence structure is also called the future possible/real conditional.

If I eat too much, I will get fat.

It is used to talk about a **result** [I'll get fat] that is likely to happen or is almost certain to happen in the future **IF** the condition in the **if clause** [if I eat too much] occurs.

Generally, in the 1st conditional structure the **if clause** has a 50% or better chance of happening. If I eat too much, it's possible that I will get fat. I may not get fat, but it's more than likely that I will get fat if I eat too much.

The 1st conditional form:

If + simple present, will + verb

*Even though this sentence structure is used to talk about the future, the condition clause [If I eat too much] uses the **simple present** tense.

Uses of the sentence structure

1. Possibilities

You'll miss the train if you don't hurry!

If I miss the train today, I'll drive to work.

I will pass my math exam if I study hard.

If it rains, we won't have our picnic.

If you stay out in the rain too long, you'll get sick!

My mom will be angry if I'm late tonight!

2. Superstitions

If you see a penny on the ground and pick it up, it will bring you good luck!



If you break a mirror, you will have 7 years of bad luck!
If you rub a rabbit's foot, it will bring you good luck!
If you walk under a ladder, you will have bad luck!
You will have bad luck if you open an umbrella indoors.

3. Future plans

If you're going shopping today, I'll come with you!
If you can get me a ticket, I'll go to the concert with you!
If you see Ken later today, will you tell him to call me?



4. Warnings and threats

If you don't come to my birthday party, I'll never speak to you again.
If you eat too much ice cream, you'll make yourself sick!<
If you say that again, I will hurt you!

Variations of this sentence structure

1. The imperative can be used in the result clause.

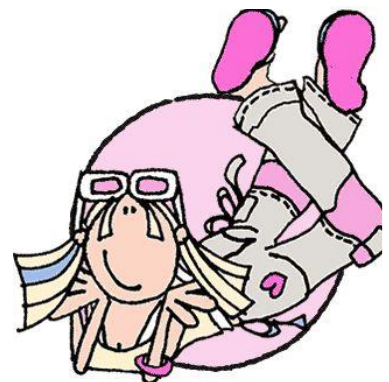
If you call your mother tonight, **tell** her I said "hello"!
Remember to buy some bananas if you go to the supermarket.
If anyone calls for me, **tell** them I'm not home!

2. Modals can be used in the result clause, particularly for offers and suggestions.

If you get a new job, you **should** really buy nicer clothes!
I **can** get you a ticket to the Madonna concert if you want to go!

Use may or might to say that the future event is possible, but not definite.

If you need someone to help you move, I **might** be able to help.
If it's a sunny day tomorrow, we **might** have a pool party.



be going to

I'm **going to** buy a new car next year if I have enough money.

If you don't give me back my sweater right now, I'm **going to** scream!

She's **going to** take a vacation next week if she gets time off work.

3. Conjunctions can be used to talk about the future.

The 1st conditional sentence structure can also be used to talk about the future. You can use conjunctions of time [**when, before, after, as soon as, until**] instead of **if** in the condition / dependent clause. They are always followed by the present simple tense.

When

I'll wash the dishes **when** my TV show is over.

I'll come inside **when** it gets dark.

He's going to be a policeman **when** he's older!

Before

I'll finish this report **before** I leave tonight.

Please take the garbage out **before** you go to work today.

He'll call you **before** he goes out tonight.

After

I'll eat dinner **after** I finish my homework

After she graduates from university she'll need to find a job!

He'll look for a place to live **after** he finds a job.

Until

I'll sit outside **until** it gets dark.

I will keep looking for my car keys **until** I find them!

We'll wait **until** the rain stops, then we'll go outside.

As soon as

I'll wash the dishes **as soon as** this TV show is over.

Call me **as soon as** you get in.

We'll start the meeting **as soon as** the CEO arrives.

The band will start playing **as soon as** everyone arrives.



4. The present perfect can be used with the 1st conditional

The present perfect can be used in the **result clause** with **when** and **after**.

There is no change in the meaning of the sentence when the present perfect is used with **after**:

Tell me what you think of the movie **after** you see it!

Tell me what you think of the movie **after** you've seen it.

After I find a job, I'll look for a place to live.

After I've found a job, I'll look for a place to live.

I'll finish my homework **after** I eat dinner.

I'll finish my homework **after** I've eaten dinner.

When means that the event/action must happen before a future event/action occurs:

When I have saved enough money, I'll buy a car!

When I have saved enough money, I'm going to buy a car!

When I find a job, I'll look for a place to live.

When I've found a job, I'll look for a place to live.

