

# Conditional Sentences

Conditional Sentences have two parts: - *the if-clause*  
- *the Main Clause*

**If it rains** / **I will stay at home.**  
*if-clause*                      *main-clause*

There are three kinds of Conditional Sentences. Each kind contains a different pair of tenses. With each kind certain variations are possible.

## TYPE 1: PROBABLE CONDITION.

If-clause..... **Present**  
Main-clause..... **Future**

e.g.: *If he runs, he will get there in time.*

It doesn't matter which comes first.  
This type of sentence implies that the action in the IF-CLAUSE is QUITE PROBABLE.

## TYPE 2: UNLIKELY CONDITION.

If-clause..... **Past**  
Main-clause..... **Conditional**

e.g.: *If I had a map, I would lend it to you.*

There is no difference in time between the first and the second type of conditional sentences. Type 2, like type 1, refers to the present or future, and the past tense in the IF-clause is not a true past but a Subjunctive.

## TYPE 3: IMPOSSIBLE CONDITION.

If-clause..... **Past Perfect**  
Main-clause..... **Perfect Conditional**

e.g.: *If I had known you were coming, I would have met you at the airport.*

The time is past and the Condition cannot be fulfilled because the action in the IF-clause didn't happen.