

Conditional Sentences

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

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

IMPORTANT:

- We can reverse the order: *If it rains, I will stay at home* / *I will stay at home if it rains.*
- We write a comma (,) after the if-clause, when we begin with the if-clause.

There are four types of Conditional Sentences. Each type contains a different pair of tenses. With each type certain variations are possible.

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.