

GRAMMAR · CONDITIONALS

CONDITIONALS · ZERO/FIRST/SECOND CONDITIONAL

Zero Conditional

We use the Zero Conditional (*If* + Present Simple, Present Simple) to talk about facts, rules and situations which are always true (one thing always follows the other).

*Snow **melts** if/when you **heat** it.* (this is what always happens)

*If/When you **eat** too many sweets, you **get** fat.*

*If/When you **press** this button, the computer **comes on**.*

First Conditional

We use the First Conditional (*If* + Present Simple, *will* + infinitive without *to*) to talk about possible future events which depend on other events happening in the future.

*If you **study** hard all year, you'll **pass** your exams.*
(passing exams in the future depends on studying)

*She'll help you if she **has** more time tomorrow.*

*If the weather **is** fine, we'll **go** to the beach.*

Second Conditional

We use the Second Conditional (*If* + Past Simple, *would* + infinitive without *to*) to talk about unreal, impossible or unlikely situations in the present or in the future.

*If I **had** your figure, I **would become** a model.*
(but I don't have your figure and I think it's unlikely)

*We **wouldn't be** late for school every day if she **got up** ten minutes earlier.* (but she doesn't get up 10 minutes earlier)

*If Tom **were** taller, he **would play** basketball much better.* (but Tom is not taller)

*If I **knew** her telephone number, I **would call** her.*
(but I don't know her telephone number)

In conditional sentences instead of *if* we can also use: *when* (if something is sure to happen), *provided that*, *as soon as*, *as long as*, *unless* (= if not).

*I'll switch on the light **when** it gets dark.*

*He'll lend you his car **provided that** you bring it back tomorrow.*

*They'll call us **as soon as** their plane lands.*

*I'll help you with maths **as long as** you help me to write my English essay.*

*She won't let me watch TV **unless** I tidy up my room first.* (She won't let me watch TV if I don't tidy up my room first.)

In the Second Conditional sentences after *I*, *he*, *she* and *it* we can use both **was** and **were**. *Were* is more common than *was* in a written and formal language.

*If he **was/were** more ambitious, he would apply for a more challenging position.*

PASSIVE VOICE

In English passive structures are used more often in formal and written language. We use passive structures when we don't know or care who the 'doer' of the action (agent) is/was or when we are more interested in the action itself than the person who does/did it. If we want to mention the agent, we use a phrase beginning with *by*.

'Sunflowers' **was painted** *by* Van Gogh.

The London Eye **is visited** *by* more than 10000 people daily.

We make passive forms by putting the verb *to be* into the correct tense and adding the Past Participle of the main verb.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Present Simple Passive	<i>I'm afraid food is not provided.</i>	<i>How many languages are spoken in India?</i>
Present Continuous Passive	<i>His progress is being watched with much interest.</i>	<i>More fuel efficient cars are being developed.</i>
Present Perfect Passive	<i>She has been offered a more challenging job.</i>	<i>Reports of a similar disease in Africa have not been confirmed yet.</i>
Past Simple Passive	<i>Was football invented by the English?</i>	<i>The remains of adult and young dinosaurs were found together.</i>
Past Continuous Passive	<i>I felt I wasn't being given credit for my hard work.</i>	<i>We were being followed by a white Ford.</i>
Past Perfect Passive	<i>They told me that my application had been refused.</i>	<i>She felt that her expectations had not been met.</i>
Future Simple Passive	<i>Towels will not be exchanged until tomorrow.</i>	<i>How and when will we be informed about the results?</i>

HAVE SOMETHING DONE

We use the structure **have + object + Past Participle** to say that we arranged for something to be done (by employing or asking somebody to do it).

*We **had our flat redecorated** last year.*
(we employed somebody to do it)

*I need to **have my car repaired**.* (I need to employ a mechanic to do it for me)

Compare pairs of sentences:

*I **had my room painted** yesterday.*
(somebody painted it for me)

*I **painted my room** yesterday.* (I did it myself)

*We **will install** new windows next year.*
(we will do it ourselves)

*We **will have new windows installed** next year.*
(we will hire somebody to do it for us)

MODAL VERBS 1 · OBLIGATION/ABILITY/PERMISSION/PROHIBITION

Modal verbs (*can, could, may, might, must, ought to, should*):

- have only a present form (with the exception of *could*) – in other tenses we use different structures,
- have only one form (no –s in the third person singular, no –ing and –ed forms),
- form questions by inversion (a subject and a modal verb change places), and negative sentences by adding *not (n't)* after or to a modal verb,
- do not come directly one after another,
- are followed by infinitives without *to*

To express **obligation**, we use:

- **must** if we talk about obligation imposed by the speaker,
*I **must** talk to her as soon as she comes back.*
(my own internal obligation)
*I **must** visit my grandma in hospital tomorrow.*
(I'd really like to do that)
- **have to** if we talk about external obligation imposed by rules or other people.

*We **have to** be at school ten minutes before the first class.* (these are the rules in our school)

*You **have to** take this medicine twice a day.*
(that's what the doctor told you to do)

To express lack of **obligation** (to say that something is unnecessary), we use:

- **don't have to**,
*You **don't have to** bring any food.* (it's not necessary)
*She **doesn't have to** help her mum with the housework.* (it's not necessary)
- **needn't**,
*You **needn't** tell your boyfriend about it.*
(it's not necessary)
*She **needn't** be afraid of me.* (it's not necessary)

To express **obligation** or **give advice**, we use:

- **should, shouldn't, ought to, oughtn't to** (they are not as strong as *must*),
*You **ought to** go to the dentist.*
*He **shouldn't** smoke so much.*

To talk about **abilities** in the present or in the past, we use:

- **can, can't, could, couldn't**

*I **can** dance quite well.* (ability in the present)

*She **can't** speak English.* (ability in the present)

*When I was six, I **could** swim, but I **couldn't** ride a bike.* (ability in the past)

To express or to ask for **permission**, we use:

- **can, could** (when asking for something *could* is more polite than *can*),

***Can** I go to the party tomorrow?*

*When I was a teenager I **could** watch TV for two hours a day.*

***Can/Could** you pass me the salt?*

- **may** when we give permission or ask for permission in a very polite way,

*You **may** go home now if you like.*

***May** I open the window?*

To express **prohibition**, we use:

- **mustn't, can't** when we talk about what is generally not allowed or prohibition in the present (*mustn't* expresses very strong prohibition)

*You **can't/mustn't** park here.* (It's forbidden)

*You **can't/mustn't** switch on your mobile before you leave the plane.* (It's not allowed)

- **couldn't** when we talk about prohibition in the past,

*When I was young, I **couldn't** stay at home on my own.* (When I was young, I was not allowed to stay at home on my own)

To ask for something, or to express an **offer** or **invitation**, we use:

- **would like**,

I'd like tea without milk, please.

***Would** you like a cup of coffee?*

To ask somebody for something in a more **formal** and direct way, we use:

- **will**,

***Will** you carry my suitcase, please?*

***Will** you wait here for a moment, please?*

To offer to do something, or to make or ask for a **suggestion**, we use:

- **shall**,

***Shall** I help you to carry your suitcase?*

*What **shall we** do now?*

MODAL VERBS 2 – SPECULATION

To speculate about the present and the future we use **must/might/may/can/could/can't** + infinitive without to.

- we use **must** when we are almost sure/certain that something is true,

*They **must be** really tired. (I'm sure that they are tired)*

*Being a lawyer, you **must earn** a lot of money. (I'm certain that you earn a lot of money)*

- we use **might, may, can** and **could** when we think that things/events are possible; **can** is used when we refer to things in general, whereas **could, might, may** are used when we refer to concrete situations,

*There **can be** a lot of tourists in the Tatra mountains during winter holidays.*

*She **could be** the girl we're looking for.*

*They **might need** our help tomorrow.*

*He **may like** riding a bicycle. (I'm not sure, it's possible that he likes riding a bike)*

- we use **might not** and **may not** when we think that perhaps things/events are not true or perhaps they will not happen,

*She **may not be** as intelligent as you think. (perhaps she's not as intelligent as you think)*

*They **might not finish** this work before Tuesday. (perhaps they will not finish this work before Tuesday)*

- we use **can't** when we are almost sure/certain that things/events are not true.

*He **can't be** so silly as to do that. (I'm sure that he isn't so silly)*

*You **can't have** more than eight classes a day. (It's impossible that you have more than eight classes a day)*

Different modal verbs express different degrees of certainty:

*They **must be** happy together. – I'm sure they are happy together.*

*They **could/might/may be** happy together. – Perhaps they are happy together.*

*They **may/might not be** happy together. – Perhaps they are not happy together.*

*They **can't be** happy together. – I'm sure they are not happy together.*

COUNTABLE/UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Nouns in English can be countable or uncountable.

Countable nouns:

- are things we can count,
a dog, five pencils
- can be singular or plural,
My best friend is a very intelligent girl. (singular)
My two other friends are good at sport. (plural)
- can be used with *a/an* (*a girl*), *the* (*the girl*), numerals (*two tables*), and *some/any, (too) many, how many, a lot of* or *a few* (see table below).

Yes/No questions	Affirmative	Negative
Are there any seats?	There are some seats.	There aren't any seats.
How many seats are there?	There are a few seats. There are a lot of seats. There are too many seats.	There aren't many seats. There are no seats.

Uncountable nouns:

- are things we cannot count,
water, light, friendship
- are only singular,
Chocolate makes you happy.
- can be used with *the* (*the tea*), and *some/any, (too) much, how much, a lot of* or *a little* (see table below).

Yes/No questions	Affirmative	Negative
Is there any milk?	There is some milk.	There isn't any milk.
How much milk is there?	There is a little milk. There is a lot of milk. There is too much milk.	There isn't much milk. There is no milk.

QUANTIFIERS

- We use **(too) many (of), not many (of), a few (of)** with countable nouns.
(too) many/not many/a few apples, girls
- We use **(too) much, not much, a little** with uncountable nouns.
(too) much/not much/a little tea/ham
- We use **a lot (of), lots of, all (of), most (of), some (of), not any** with uncountable nouns and countable plural nouns.
a lot of/lots of/all/most/some money/pencils
We haven't got any rice/books.
- We use **none (of)** with plural nouns when we talk about more than two people or things.
None of the dresses was good.
(more than two dresses)
None of the films is worth recommending.
(more than two films)
- We use **both (of)** (= one and the other) with plural nouns when we talk about two people or things.
Both sisters are very attractive. (two sisters)
Both of them were too long. (two things)

- **either (of)** (= any one of two), **neither (of)** (= not one and not the other) refer to two things or people. After *either* or *neither* we use a singular noun (followed by a verb in a singular form) or a plural noun (followed by a verb in a singular or plural form).

Either house is too expensive for us.

Neither of the songs sounds/sound romantic.

We use of:

- with **a lot** and **none** – except for short answers,
How many of your teachers did you like?
A lot. /None.
None of them came to visit me.
- with personal pronouns,
many/a few/all/most/some/either/neither/both of us/you/them
- with possessive adjectives (with *all* and *both* we can omit *of*),
many/a few/most/some/either/neither of their friends
all/both (of) my skirts
- before nouns with the definite article *the*.
many/a few/all/most/some/either/neither/both of the classrooms in our school