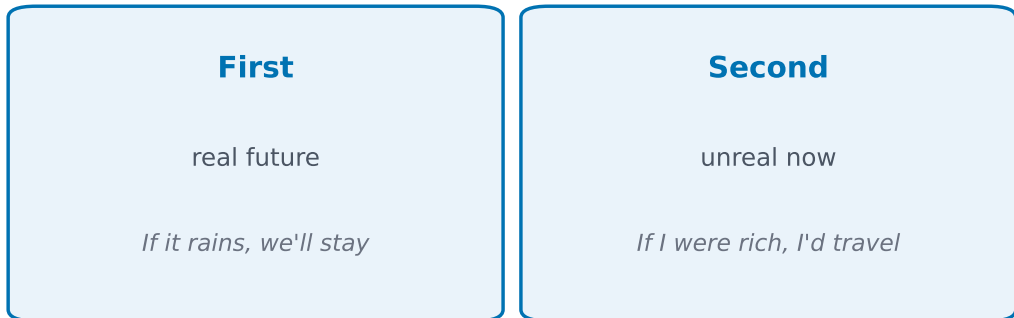


Conditionals

English Grammar · B1

Conditionals



Conditionals: reference card grid

- **Zero Conditional** (general truths): If + , .
- **First Conditional** (future possibilities): If + , will + .

If you heat water, it boils.

If you heat water, it boils. (General truth)

If it rains, we will stay in.

If it rains, we will stay at home. (Possible future)

Note Use the **simple present tense** in the if-clause, even when referring to the future: ~~If it will rain~~ × → If it rains ✓.

Second Conditional

The **Second Conditional** describes hypothetical situations regarding the **present or future that are unreal or unlikely**:

Structure: If + , would +

If I had a lot of money, I would travel.

If I had a lot of money, I would travel. (But I don't actually)

Note In the Second Conditional, the verb be is typically standardized as **were**: *If I were you, I would rest. (If I were you, I would rest.)*

unless

unless means “**except if / if ... not**”, equivalent to **if ... not**:

You will be late unless you hurry.

You'll be late unless you hurry. (= if you don't hurry)

Note unless already contains a negative meaning, so **do not add not** afterwards:
~~unless you don't hurry~~ ×.

Common Errors

- × ~~If I would be rich, I would travel.~~ → ✓ If I **were** rich, I would travel. — would appears only in the main clause; use the past tense in the if-clause.
- × ~~If it rains, we would stay home.~~ → ✓ If it rains, we **will** stay home. / If it **rained**, we **would** stay home. — Do not mix First and Second Conditionals; the entire sentence must follow one pattern.
- × ~~If I was you, I would rest.~~ → While heard in spoken English, use ✓ If I **were** you for exams and writing.
- Comma Rule: If the if-clause comes **before**, add a comma (If it rains**, ** we stay in.); if it comes **after**, no comma is needed (We stay in if it rains.).