

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

Conditional sentences are usually divided into two parts (called clauses):

- the if clause
- the main clause

We usually separate the two clauses with a comma.

If can be replaced by <u>WHETHER</u>, <u>UNLESS</u> (if ... not) or <u>IN CASE</u> (because of the possibility).

TYPE I

FORM: If + present simple / will future

First conditionals are based on facts in present time. They express a possible, likely condition and its result.

• If you pass your exam, I'll buy you lunch.

TYPE II

FORM: If + past simple / would + infinitive

Second conditionals express a situation, which is contrary to reality in the present and future, which is why the tense shifts from present to past. They express an unlikely or hypothetical condition and its result.

- If I were taller, I'd join the police force.
- What would you do if you won the lottery?

TYPE III

FORM: If + past perfect / would have + past participle

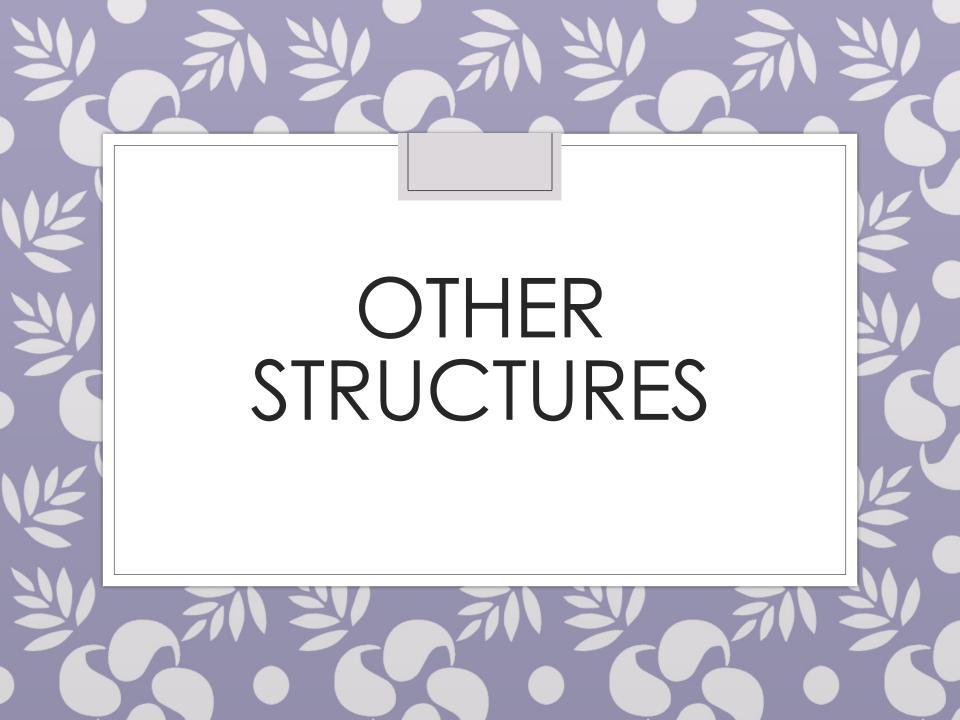
Third conditionals are not based on fact. They express a situation which is contrary to reality in the past. This unreality is shown by a tense shift from Past Simple to Past Perfect.

- If you'd come to the party, you'd have had a great time.
- I wouldn't have met my wife if I hadn't gone to France.

MIXED CONDITIONALS

Sometimes, each of the clauses can have a different time reference. The result is a mixed conditional.

- If we had eaten (we didn't), we wouldn't be hungry (we are).
- I wouldn't have married her (I did) if I didn't love her (I do).



I wish, If only, I'd rather

The use of tenses with phrases I wish, if only, and I'd rather is similar to the second and third conditionals. Unreality is expressed by a tense shift.

- I wish I were taller. (But I'm not.)
- If only you hadn't said that! (But you did.)
- I'd rather you didn't wear lots of make-up. (But you do.)

The phrase I wish ... would can express regret, dissatisfaction, impatience or irritation because someone continues doing something. If we are not talking about willingness, would is not used.

- I wish you'd stop smoking.
- I wish my birthday wasn't in December.