Grammar

● **Conditionals: zero, first, second, third, mixed, inverted / unless, in case, as/so long as, provided (that)**

Zero conditional

Form	if + present simple, present simple

Use	Example
General or scientific facts and definitions	If you **have** faith in something, you **believe** in something you cannot prove.

First conditional

Form	if + a present tense, will + bare infinitive

Use	Example
Real or likely conditions in the present or future and their results in the present and future	If you **have** a birthday party, you **'ll get** loads of cool presents!
	If you**'re working** till half past six, we**'ll have** dinner at about eight.
	If you **have revised** properly, you **won't have** any problems in the test next week.

Watch out!

● We can also use *may, might, can, could, shall, should, ought to, have to* instead of *will*, depending on the meaning.
   ✓ If you **have** a birthday party, you **might get** loads of cool presents!

● We can also use *should* + bare infinitive instead of present simple. This suggests the situation is possible, but unlikely to happen.
   ✓ If you **should bump** into Alex at the concert, you'll be able to get a lift home.

● We can also use a form of the first conditional to give instructions about real or likely situations in the present or future. This is: *if* + a present tense, imperative.
   ✓ If you **decide** to have a birthday party, **tell** me!

unless, in case, as/so long as, provided (that)

Word or Phrase	Meaning	Example
unless	'except if' or 'if…not'	I'll be there at six **unless** I get delayed. (= except if I get delayed / if I don't get delayed)
in case	'because he/she/it/etc might'	Let's take our wellies **in case** it's muddy. (= because it might be muddy)
as/so long as	'if' or 'only if'	**As long as** I'm happy, my parents don't care what job I do. **So long as** I'm happy, my parents don't care what job I do.
provided (that)	'if' or 'only if'	**Provided (that)** I'm happy, my parents don't care what job I do.

Second conditional

Form	if + past simple or past continuous, would + bare infinitive

Use	Example
Impossible, unlikely or hypothetical conditions in the present or future and their results in the present or future	If you **had** a beard, you **would look** just like Charles Dickens! If you **were flying** to Rio, **would** you **get** there much quicker?
Advice	If I **were** you, I would think very carefully about my future. (more formal) If I **was** you, I'd have a party at the weekend! (more informal)

Watch out!

● We can also use *might* or *could* instead of *would*, depending on the meaning. (Note: *could* here often means *would be able to*.)
   ✓ If we **were** older, we **could go** on holiday on our own.

● We can also use *could* in the *if* clause. Here, it means *was/were able to*.
   ✓ If I **could** drive, I'd buy a car.

Third conditional

Form	*if* + past perfect (simple or continuous), *would + have* + past participle

Use	Example
Hypothetical conditions in the past and their results in the past	If you **had worn** a fake beard, no one **would have known** who you were! (= You didn't wear a fake beard so people knew who you were.) If she**'d been wearing** her new glasses, I **would have noticed** them. (= She wasn't wearing her new glasses so I didn't notice them.)

Watch out!
- We can also use *might, could* or *should* instead of *would*, depending on the meaning.
  - ✓ *If I **had done** some revision, I **might / could / should** have passed the exam.*

Mixed conditionals

Form	*if* + past perfect (simple or continuous), *would* + bare infinitive

Use	Example
Hypothetical past condition and a present result	If I **had listened** to my parents, I **wouldn't be** in so much trouble now. (= I didn't listen to my parents so I'm in lots of trouble now.)

Form	*if* + past simple or past continuous, *would + have* + past participle

Use	Example
Hypothetical present condition and a past result	If I **had** a mobile, I **would have called** you last night. (= I don't have a mobile so I didn't call you last night.)

Inverted conditionals

Form	*Should I/you/he/etc ...* instead of *If I/you/he/etc should ...* *Were I/you/he/etc ...* instead of *If I/you/he/etc were ...* *Had I/you/he/etc ...* instead of *If I/you/he/etc had ...*

Use	Example
More formal form of the first conditional (with *should*)	**Should** the situation worsen, the United Nations is prepared to send in a peacekeeping force. (= If the situation should worsen…)
More formal form of the second conditional	**Were** the situation to worsen, the United Nations would be prepared to send in a peacekeeping force. (= If the situation were to worsen…)
More formal form of the third conditional	**Had** the situation worsened, the United Nations would have been prepared to send in a peacekeeping force. (= If the situation had worsened…)

Watch out!
- For all conditional sentences (first, second, third, mixed, inverted), when the condition comes before the result it is usually followed by a comma. When the result comes first, no comma is necessary.
  - ✓ *If I had a mobile, I would have called you last night.*
  - ✓ *I would have called you last night if I had a mobile.*
- In conditional sentences, modals (*will, would, could*, etc) are sometimes followed by a continuous infinitive.
  - ✓ *We'd still **be waiting** if you hadn't turned up.*

US vs UK Grammar
- With second and third conditionals in informal conversation, speakers of American English sometimes use *would* or *would have* in the *if* clause. This is very unusual in British English.
  - **US:** *How would you feel if this **happened / would happen** to you?*
  - **UK:** *How would you feel if this **happened** to you?*
  - **US:** *I would have felt awful if that **had happened / would have happened** to me.*
  - **UK:** *I would have felt awful if that **had happened** to me.*