

Adapted from: Elementary Language Practice by Michael Vince

Explanations

If sentences

Some **if** sentences describe what always or usually happens; or give instructions.

- Things that usually or always happen.

In this type of sentence we use the present simple in both clauses.

<u>clause 1</u>	<u>clause 2</u>
<i>If</i> + present simple,	present simple

If I have a cold, I (usually/always) stay at home.

- Instructions in situations.

In this type of sentence we use the present simple after **if**..., and an imperative in the other clause.

<u>clause 1</u>	<u>clause 2</u>
<i>If</i> + present simple,	imperative

If you feel tired, have a rest.

Conditional 1: real situations

Conditional sentences describe possible situations and their results. In 'real situations' we are certain that something will happen **if** someone does something. We call these 'real situations' in contrast to 'imaginary situations'.

We use the present simple after **if**..., and **will** in the other clause. When the **if** clause is true, the speaker is certain about the information in the other clause.

<u>clause 1</u>	<u>clause 2</u>
<i>If</i> + present simple,	will

Examples of conditional 1

If we miss the bus, we'll be late.

If we don't catch the bus, we'll be late.

If we catch the bus, we won't be late.

If we don't miss the bus, we won't be late.

Warnings

If you ride your bike like that, you'll fall off!

If you touch that, you'll burn yourself!

Reversing the clauses

The clauses in **if** sentences and conditional sentences can be reversed. Note the use of commas.

If you miss the bus, your teacher will be angry. (comma used)

Your teacher will be angry if you miss the bus. (no comma)