

3. SECOND CONDITIONAL

If clause (dependent condition)	Independent clause result
If + simple past, continuous,	(then) + would/might/could + infinitive
Example: If I knew the student well, I would advise him not to take the exam in February.	
Meaning: refers to imaginary, hypothetical situations; talking about a possible event in the future, but results are only remotely likely to happen; often used to give advice.	

4. THIRD CONDITIONAL

If clause (dependent condition)	Independent clause result
If + past perfect,	(then)+ would could have + past participle might
Example: If the students had studied harder, they could have passed the final exam.	
Meaning: refers to an imaginary past situation and speculates what might have been; if what happened was negative, then the opposite - the positive form would be used, and conversely, if what happened was positive, the negative form would be used; this conditional is used to express past mistakes, past wishes or to apologise.	

FIXED PHRASES

Conditionals are also used in set phrases, for example:

- to give advice – **if I were you...**
If I were you, I would build my vocabulary and practise my spelling.
- to express a regret – **if only...**
If only I had followed her advice, I could have passed the exam.
- to make a request – **if you don't mind...**
If you don't mind, I would prefer the exam to be scheduled for Friday.
- to make a suggestion – **what if...**
What if the students sat the exam on Friday?