



Conditionals Chart and Exercises

Zero, first, second, third and mixed conditionals: patterns,
examples, common mistakes and 16 practice questions
with answers



By **Matthew Zare**, CELPIP Teacher

Free CELPIP practice in the real test format

www.celtestpip.com

Start free practice →

Inside this lesson

Free to download and print. The online version is at celtestpip.com/learn/conditionals-in-english

How to choose a conditional	3
The conditionals chart	3
Each type in more examples	3
Unless, as long as, provided that, in case	4
Common mistakes	4
Conditionals on the CELPIP test	5
Exercises	6
Answers	7

How to choose a conditional

Ask two questions:

1. **Real or imagined?** Real possibilities use the zero or first conditional. Imagined situations use the second, third or mixed.
2. **Past, present or future?** Imagined now or later is the second conditional. Imagined past is the third. Two different times is mixed.

The conditionals chart

Type	Use it for	Pattern	Example
Zero	things that are always true	If + present, present	If you heat ice, it melts.
First	a real possibility in the future	If + present, will + verb	If the bus is late, I'll text you.
Second	an imagined or unlikely situation now or in the future	If + past, would + verb	If I had a car, I would drive to work.
Third	an imagined past that did not happen	If + had + past participle, would have + past participle	If I had left earlier, I would have caught the train.
Mixed	a past condition with a present result, or the reverse	If + had + past participle, would + verb (reverse: If + past, would have + past participle)	If I had studied nursing, I would be working in a hospital now.

Each type in more examples

Zero: If I work a late shift, I take a taxi home. If the temperature drops below zero, the lake freezes. (You can use when instead of if.)

First: If it snows tonight, the schools will close. If you call before noon, they'll deliver today. If you finish early, you can leave.

Second: If I had more time, I would take a cooking class. If my apartment were bigger, I would invite everyone over. If I were you, I would talk to your manager.

Third: If we had booked in advance, we would have paid less. If she hadn't called me, I would have missed the meeting. In speech: "If I'd known, I'd have called."

Mixed: If we hadn't moved to Halifax, we wouldn't know our neighbours. If I weren't so shy, I would have spoken at the meeting.

Unless, as long as, provided that, in case

Word	Meaning	Example
unless	if not	Unless you book early, the seats will be gone.
as long as	only if	You can borrow the car as long as you bring it back by 6.
provided that	only if (more formal)	The refund will be issued provided that you keep the receipt.
in case	to be ready if something happens	Take an umbrella in case it rains.

Comma rule: put a comma after the if clause when it comes first ("If it rains, we'll stay home"). No comma when the result comes first ("We'll stay home if it rains").

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct
If it will rain tomorrow, we'll cancel.	If it rains tomorrow, we'll cancel.
If I would have known, I would have called.	If I had known, I would have called.
If I would be rich, I would travel.	If I were rich, I would travel.
If I had more money, I will buy a house.	If I had more money, I would buy a house.
Unless you don't hurry, you'll miss the bus.	Unless you hurry, you'll miss the bus.
If I didn't miss the bus yesterday, I would have arrived on time.	If I hadn't missed the bus yesterday, I would have arrived on time.

Quick check: if you hear would in the if clause, it almost always belongs in the other half.

Conditionals on the CELPIP test

In our words: CELPIP rates grammar inside Readability (Writing) and Listenability (Speaking), and its descriptions of the higher levels talk about control of a range of complex structures. CELPIP does not require conditionals, and no single structure raises a score on its own. A correct conditional is simply a natural way to show range.

Task	Conditional	Example
Speaking Task 1, Giving Advice	second + first	If I were you, I would sign up for the evening course. If you start in January, you'll finish before the busy season.
Speaking Task 4, Making Predictions	first	If the rain keeps up, the family will probably move the picnic under the shelter.
Speaking Task 5, Comparing and Persuading	first and second	If you choose the cabin by the lake, you'll have more space for the kids. And if the weather turned bad, you would still have a fireplace inside.
Writing Task 1, an email	second (polite request)	I would be grateful if you could send me the new schedule by Friday.

Say them on the clock: [Speaking Task 1](#) and [Speaking Task 4 practice](#), first practice set free with an account, up to three AI-scored tries on your recording.

Exercises

A. Choose the right form.

1. If you mix red and white, you ___ pink. (get / would get)
2. If it ___ tomorrow, we'll eat inside. (rains / will rain)
3. If I ___ you, I would call the landlord today. (were / am)
4. If you hurry, you ___ the 8 o'clock bus. (will catch / would have caught)
5. If I had a bigger kitchen, I ___ more often. (would cook / will cook)
6. If we had left on time, we ___ the start of the movie. (wouldn't have missed / won't miss)
7. If she had taken the job in Toronto, she ___ there now. (would live / will live)
8. ___ you leave now, you'll miss the last bus. (Unless / As long as)
9. Take some snacks ___ the flight is delayed. (in case / unless)
10. You can use the pool ___ you shower first. (as long as / unless)

B. Find and fix the mistake.

11. If it will be sunny on Saturday, we'll go to the beach.
12. If I would have seen the sign, I would have stopped.
13. If I would know the answer, I would tell you.
14. If I were taller, I will play on the basketball team.
15. Unless you don't book now, the tickets will sell out.
16. If they didn't close the road last week, we would have arrived on time.

Answers

A. 1. get (zero: a fact) 2. rains (no will in the if clause) 3. were (advice) 4. will catch (first: real future) 5. would cook (second: imagined) 6. wouldn't have missed (third) 7. would live (mixed: past condition, present result) 8. Unless (if you don't leave now) 9. in case (to be ready) 10. as long as (only if)

B. 11. If it is sunny on Saturday, we'll go to the beach. 12. If I had seen the sign, I would have stopped. 13. If I knew the answer, I would tell you. 14. If I were taller, I would play on the basketball team. 15. Unless you book now, the tickets will sell out. 16. If they hadn't closed the road last week, we would have arrived on time.

CELTESTPIP, Conditionals in English: 5 Types, Examples and Free PDF (the online version of this chart). Rating areas and level descriptions: CELPIP Speaking and Writing Performance Standards and level descriptors, celpip.ca, described here in our own words. Written by Matthew Zare, CELPIP Teacher. CELTESTPIP is an independent preparation platform and is not affiliated with or endorsed by Paragon Testing Enterprises or Prometric.

Practise conditionals in the real test format

Every CELPIP part on CELTESTPIP has a free first practice set once you sign up. Record a Speaking Task 1 answer with one “If I were you” and one first conditional. In Writing and Speaking, that first set gives you up to three AI-scored tries.

Start free practice →

or go to www.celtestpip.com

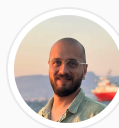
Keep going

celtestpip.com/speaking

Full guide at

celtestpip.com/learn/conditionals-in-english

About the author



Matthew Zare

CELPIP Teacher, CELTESTPIP

Matthew is a CELPIP teacher on the CELTESTPIP team and the voice of most of our YouTube lessons. He focuses on helping candidates reach the CLB level their immigration or PR file needs.

Your Fastest Path to a **10+** CELPIP Test

Practice questions in the real test format, full mock tests and instant feedback on every response.

Start **Free Practice** →

Practise every part of the test



Listening
6 parts



Reading
4 parts



Writing
2 tasks



Speaking
8 tasks



Mock tests
Real timing



Templates
All 10 tasks



Vocabulary
Words by task



Courses
Step by step

Get feedback and help



Instant scoring
Estimated level



Explanations
For every answer



Sample answers
Weak, Normal, Top



AI CELPIP Coach
Ask anything



CELPIP teachers
1-on-1 lessons



Video lessons
Every task



Free guides
Tips, score charts



Free tools
Score calculators