

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity

Focus

First conditional for advice

Aim

To practice giving advice using the first conditional with 'will' and other modal verbs.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this first conditional worksheet, students practice giving advice using the first conditional with 'will' and other modal verbs.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Read through the introduction with the students about how to form and use the first conditional.

The students then complete the first conditional sentences about giving advice with the words from the box.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. She'll be able to do more at work if she hires an assistant.
2. If you report the crime to the police, they will help you.
3. He might understand if she explains why she has to leave.
4. If you don't want to go with them, you should tell them.
5. If you don't tell your boss, he might blame someone else for the mistake.

Next, students put words in the correct order to make first conditional sentences about giving advice, adding punctuation and capitalization where needed.

Exercise B - Answer key

1. If you take extra water with you, you will be able to survive in the desert. OR You will be able to survive in the desert if you take extra water with you.
2. If you keep your clothes in the wardrobe, your room will look much tidier. OR Your room will look much tidier if you keep your clothes in the wardrobe.
3. If you decide to go to Australia, you should start saving money now. OR You should start saving money now if you decide to go to Australia.
4. If you take the train, you should get to London before 8 o'clock. OR You should get to London before 8 o'clock if you take the train.
5. If we want to arrive before the storm starts, we have to hurry. OR We have to hurry if we want to arrive before the storm starts.

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Procedure continued

Students then read an email to an advice columnist and underline the 'if' clauses and double underline the clauses with a future meaning.

Exercise C - Answer key

My friends told me that if I tell you my problem, you'll give me advice. Please help me. My problem is that two men want me to marry them, and I can't choose. Will I be happy if I choose the first man? Or if I choose the second man, will I be happier?

The first man is very good looking, and he tells me that I am beautiful. He said that he'll always want to be with me if I stay beautiful even when I'm older. If we have children together, I'm sure that our children will also be good looking. We have different religions, but if we never talk about religion, we shouldn't have any problems concerning it.

The second man is average looking, but he is very rich. He also tells me that I am beautiful. He will buy me anything if I tell him that I like it. If his business goes well, he might become even richer. I will be very rich too if I marry him. If I'm rich, I won't have any problems. We don't have a lot in common, but if we're rich, we'll be able to buy anything we want.

Finally, students take on the role of the advice columnist and write a response to the email, giving advice using the first conditional.

Students then read their reply to a partner who says whether they agree with the advice given or not.

Afterwards, have a class feedback session to hear the students' advice and discuss who gave the best response.

The first conditional is used to talk about something that will probably happen or is likely to happen in the future. It can also be used to give advice. The structure is made up of two clauses:

- A clause starting with 'if' in the present simple tense.
- A clause with a future meaning using 'will', 'be going to', a modal to talk about the future such as 'might' or 'should', or other words that indicate a future time.

Either clause can be first in the sentence. If the 'if' clause is first, a comma separates the clauses. Examples:

- If you work harder, you will have enough money to go to Tokyo.
- You will have enough money to go to Tokyo if you work harder.



A. Complete the first conditional sentences about giving advice with the words from the box. Use the correct form of the verb in the sentences. You can use each word only once.

report	do	explain	help	hire
might	(not) tell	(not) want	should	blame

1. She'll be able to more at work if she an assistant.
2. If you the crime to the police, they will you.
3. He understand if she why she has to leave.
4. If you to go with them, you tell them.
5. If you your boss, he might someone else for the mistake.

B. Put the words in the correct order to make first conditional sentences about giving advice. Add punctuation and capitalization where needed.

1. survive / take / be able to / extra water / you / will / with you / if / in the desert / you
.....
2. much tidier / keep / look / in the wardrobe / you / if / your clothes / your room / will
.....
3. you / saving / decide / to Australia / if / money now / you / should / to go / start
.....
4. should / 8 o'clock / if / the train / take / get / you / to London / you / before
.....
5. we / hurry / arrive before / have to / we / the storm / want to / if / starts
.....

C. Rose is an advice columnist. People write to her about their problems, and she gives them advice. Read the following email to Rose. Underline the 'if' clauses and double underline the clauses with a future meaning.

Dear Rose,

My friends told me that if I tell you my problem, you'll give me advice. Please help me. My problem is that two men want me to marry them, and I can't choose. Will I be happy if I choose the first man? Or if I choose the second man, will I be happier?

The first man is very good looking, and he tells me that I am beautiful. He said that he'll always want to be with me if I stay beautiful even when I'm older. If we have children together, I'm sure that our children will also be good-looking. We have different religions, but if we never talk about religion, we shouldn't have any problems concerning it.

The second man is average looking, but he is very rich. He also tells me that I am beautiful. He will buy me anything if I tell him that I like it. If his business goes well, he might become even richer. I will be very rich too if I marry him. If I'm rich, I won't have any problems. We don't have a lot in common, but if we're rich, we'll be able to buy anything we want.

What should I do?



Confused in Cardiff

D. Now, take on the role of the advice columnist. Write a response to 'Confused in Cardiff', giving advice using the first conditional.

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E. Now, read your reply to a partner. Do they agree with your advice?