

First vs Second Conditional

Use the **first conditional** when the situation is a real possibility: *If I win, I'll buy you dinner.* Use the **second conditional** when it's imagined or unlikely: *If I won the lottery, I'd buy a house.* The choice depends on how real it feels to you.

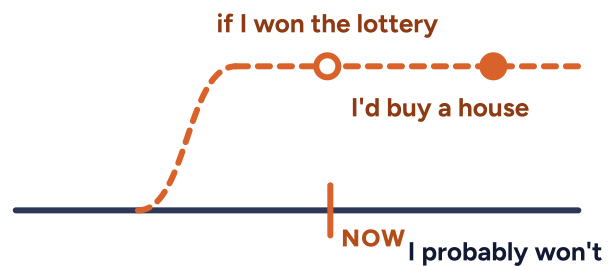
FIRST CONDITIONAL · A REAL POSSIBILITY

If I **win** the match, **I'll buy** you dinner.



SECOND CONDITIONAL · IMAGINED OR UNLIKELY

If I **won** the lottery, **I'd buy** a house.



1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- If it _____ sunny tomorrow, we'll go to the beach.
a) is b) were
- If I _____ a bird, I'd fly south for the winter.
a) am b) were
- If you finish early, we _____ for a walk.
a) 'll go b) 'd go
- If I had a car, I _____ you home.
a) 'd drive b) 'll drive
- If she _____ the train, she'll be here by 6.
a) catches b) caught

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. If I would win, I'd buy a house.

2. If I won the lottery, I will travel the world.

3. If I will see her, I'll tell her.

3. Your turn

Write two sentences about your own life: one with **First conditional** and one with **Second conditional**. Then explain the difference to a partner.

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/compare/first-vs-second-conditional

First vs Second Conditional

1. Choose the right answer

1. **a) is** A real possibility: first conditional.
2. **b) were** Impossible, so imagined: second conditional.
3. **a) 'll go** Finish (Present Simple) shows a real possibility, so the result takes will.
4. **a) 'd drive** I don't have a car: imagined, so would.
5. **a) catches** A real possibility: first conditional.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **If I won, I'd buy a house.** Would never goes in the if-part.
2. **If I won the lottery, I would travel the world.** An imagined condition takes would, not will.
3. **If I see her, I'll tell her.** The if-part takes the Present Simple, even for the future.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.