Conditional clauses express a condition – something which must happen first so that something else can happen. Can you use conditional clauses correctly? Test your knowledge with this grammar exercise.

Fill in the blanks.

1. If I .... you, I wouldn't do this.

was
were
am

Was is also possible here; however, were is preferred. In the second conditional we use a simple past tense in the if-clause and would + infinitive in the main clause.

2. If you .... red and green, you get yellow.

will mix
mix
mixed

The zero conditional is used to talk about situations that are always true. In the zero conditional, we use a simple present tense in both clauses.

3. If I had known the answer, I .... you.

will tell
would tell
would have told

In the third conditional, we use a past perfect tense in the if-clause and would have + past participle in the main clause.

4. Unless you start now, you .... late.

will be
would be

would have been

5. If I were you, I .... this.

would never do
would never have done
Either could be used here

6. Provided that you .... there half an hour earlier, you will be able to get straight in.

get

will get

would get

In the first conditional, we use a simple present tense in the subordinate clause and will + infinitive in the main clause.

7. Unless you .... smoking, you will develop serious health problems.

stop

will stop

stopped

In the first conditional, we use a simple present tense in the subordinate clause and will + infinitive in the main clause.

8. If I had been there, I .... this from happening.

will prevent

would prevent

would have prevented

In the third conditional, we use a past perfect tense in the if-clause and would have + past participle in the main clause.

9. If you .... hurry, you will miss the flight.

do not

did not

would not

We use the first conditional to talk about real and possible situations. In the first conditional, we use a simple present tense in the if-clause and will + infinitive in the main clause.

10. If weather permits, we .... again.

will meet

would meet

would have met

In the first conditional, we use a simple present tense in the if clause and will + infinitive in the main clause.

11. If I .... I will come tomorrow.

can

could

could have

12. .... you come tomorrow if you can?

Will

Would

Either could be used here