

## Conditional clauses and verbs

**Condition required for result to occur**  
 if subject +verb,  
 The verb **can't** be in a conditional tense

**Result**  
 subject verb  
 The verb can be in a conditional tense

| Conditionals | Result       |           |            | present simple    |               |           | present simple               |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 0            | inevitable   | <b>if</b> | <b>you</b> | <b>boil</b>       | <b>water,</b> | <b>it</b> | <b>evaporates</b>            |
| 1            | predictable  | <b>if</b> | <b>you</b> | <b>boil</b>       | <b>water,</b> | <b>it</b> | <b>will evaporate</b>        |
| 2            | hypothetical | <b>if</b> | <b>you</b> | <b>boiled</b>     | <b>water,</b> | <b>it</b> | <b>would evaporate</b>       |
| 3            | impossible   | <b>if</b> | <b>you</b> | <b>had boiled</b> | <b>water,</b> | <b>it</b> | <b>would have evaporated</b> |

'should, could, may, ought to, might, had better, must' can replace 'would' in other sentences

'when, before, after' can replace 'if' in other sentences

the 'if' clause can be absent.

Would you have come so late?

The clauses can be reversed and the comma is then dropped.

Water evaporates if you boil it.

If I would...' is almost always wrong. Try the past or present tense instead.

Sentences that do not contain true conditions:

Wishes:                    If only he would apply himself to maths!            If only I hadn't said that!

Polite requests:            If you would come this way, please.

Whether:                    I didn't know if he was coming

In view of the fact that:    If you have eaten so much, why are you still hungry?