

70 First conditional



1 Form

CONDITION (<i>if ...</i>) present tense	RESULT <i>will / won't</i> + infinitive without <i>to</i>
<i>If you give me some money,</i>	<i>I'll (I will) get some ice creams.</i>
<i>If you call me before six o'clock,</i>	<i>I won't (I will not) be at home.</i>
<i>If you don't work hard,</i>	<i>you'll (you will) fail your exams.</i>

The first conditional describes a future situation.



But we use the present tense after *if*, not *will* or *won't*.

✗ ~~*If you will call me before six o'clock,*~~ *I won't be at home.*
 ✓ *If you call me before six o'clock,*

2 Possible and certain future situations

We use the first conditional to talk about a POSSIBLE future action or situation:

If you give me some money, I'll get some ice creams. (You might give me some money.)

If the tickets are too expensive, we won't buy them. (The tickets might be too expensive.)

Sue's parents will give her a car if she passes the exam. (Sue might pass the exam.)

We can use *when* if a future action or situation is CERTAIN:

When I arrive at the airport, I'll phone you. (I will arrive at the airport.)

Jane will start work as a nurse when she finishes the course. (She will finish the course.)

Future situations with *when*, *until*, *as soon as*, etc. ➤ Unit 94.2

3 Offers and warnings

We can also use the first conditional

- to offer or suggest something:

If you get the shopping, I'll wash the car.

I'll pay for dinner if you pay for lunch.

- to warn someone not to do something:

If you arrive late, we'll go without you. (Don't arrive late.)

If you make any more noise, I'll call the police. (Don't make any more noise.)