

personal english



Grammar Tidbit #4



CONDITIONALS

REMEMBER

Conditionals have nothing to do with objective probability, but only with the way we presents facts – that is, they are a matter of **perspective**.

0- Certainty



If you **toss** cork into water, it **floats**

IF + SIMPLE PRESENT
/ SIMPLE PRESENT

This is for general truths that always hold

1- Reality



If you **behave** yourself, I **will get** you a teddy bear

IF + SIMPLE PRESENT /
FUTURE WITH WILL

This is for future events that will happen in the future, provided that the «if» condition is satisfied.

2- Possibility



If I **were** in your shoes, I **would** make different choices

IF + SIMPLE PAST/
PRESENT CONDITIONAL

This is to refer to an imaginary present. To underline its fictionality, we use the simple past + would (past form of will)

3- Irreality



If Napoleon **had won** at Waterloo, he **would have ruled** over England

IF + PAST PERFECT/
PAST CONDITIONAL

This is to change the past – which is, of course, impossible. To underline its irreality, we use the past perfect + past conditional