If… Then…: Conditional Sentences

Oraciones condicionales

Grammar hints: bold = subject; underline = verb; italics = object; bold with a gray highlight = negation. The labels below each example explain its roles.

Understand it · Entiéndelo

A scale of reality · Una escala de realidad

Match the two halves to how real the situation feels. A real possibility takes si plus the present, then the present, the future or a command. An imagined one takes si plus the past subjunctive, then the conditional. A past one that cannot change takes si plus hubiera and a participle, then habría and a participle.

English	Spanish
If I have time, I go/will go.	Si tengo tiempo, voy. Si: Connector
If I have time, I will go.	Si tengo tiempo, iré. Si: Connector
If I had time, I would go.	Si tuviera tiempo, iría. Si: Connector

Build it step by step · Constrúyelo paso a paso

English	Spanish
If you can, come.	Si puedes, ven. Si: Connector
If I had time, I would study more.	Si tuviera tiempo, estudiaría más. Si: Connector

Try it · Inténtalo

Express an open possibility with tener and ir, then a hypothetical situation with the same verbs.

Self-check · Comprueba tu respuesta

Si tengo tiempo, iré. Si tuviera tiempo, iría.

Common mistake · Error común

In the ordinary hypothetical pattern, do not put conditional in the si clause: Si tuviera, not Si tendría.

Page 1 of 4 · v0.62.0 · © 2026 Mark Tervan. All rights reserved.

If... Then...: Conditional Sentences

Oraciones condicionales

A real possibility · Una posibilidad real

Choose the result · Elige el resultado

The si clause takes the present indicative, and the result is flexible: the present (me quedo), the future (aprobaré) or a command (ven).

English	Spanish
If it rains, I stay home.	Si llueve, me quedo en casa. llueve: Verb — action or state; quedo: Verb — action or state
If you have time, come see me.	Si tienes tiempo, ven a verme. tienes: Verb — action or state; ven: Verb — action or state
If I study today, I will pass tomorrow.	Si estudio hoy, aprobaré mañana. estudio: Verb — action or state; aprobaré: Verb — action or state
If you arrive early, we wait.	Si llegas temprano, esperamos. llegas: Verb — action or state; esperamos: Verb — action or state

An imagined situation · Una situación imaginada

Imagine, don’t predict · Imaginar, no predecir

Here the past subjunctive (tuviera) does not point to the past. It signals distance from reality. For how to build it, see the Past Subjunctive lesson.

English	Spanish
If I had money, I would buy a house.	Si tuviera dinero, compraría una casa. tuviera: Verb — action or state; compraría: Verb — action or state
If I were you, I would not go.	Si yo fuera tú, no iría. fuera: Verb — action or state; iría: Verb — action or state
If we could, we would travel more.	Si pudiéramos, viajaríamos más. pudiéramos: Verb — action or state; viajaríamos: Verb — action or state
If you lived here, you would see the sea every day.	Si vivieras aquí, verías el mar cada día. vivieras: Verb — action or state; verías: Verb — action or state

© 2026 Mark Tervan. All rights reserved.

If... Then...: Conditional Sentences

Oraciones condicionales

Worked choice · Decisión explicada

Si yo ___ tú, no iría (ser). Answer: fuera. This is an imagined situation, and the result is iría, so the si clause takes the past subjunctive.

What did not happen · Lo que no pasó

Looking back · Mirar atrás

Both halves use a perfect form: hubiera + participle in the si clause, habría + participle in the result. The situation can no longer change.

English	Spanish
If I had studied, I would have passed.	Si hubiera estudiado, habría aprobado. hubiera estudiado: Verb — action or state; habría aprobado: Verb — action or state
If they had arrived earlier, they would have seen the parade.	Si hubieran llegado antes, habrían visto el desfile. hubieran llegado: Verb — action or state; habrían visto: Verb — action or state
If it had not rained, we would have gone to the beach.	Si no hubiera llovido, habríamos ido a la playa. hubiera llovido: Verb — action or state; habríamos ido: Verb — action or state

The order can swap · El orden se puede cambiar

Two halves that can swap · Dos mitades que se pueden intercambiar

Either half can come first. When the si clause comes second, drop the comma: iría contigo si pudiera. The verb forms stay the same.

English	Spanish
I would go with you if I could.	Iría contigo si pudiera. Iría: Verb — action or state; pudiera: Verb — action or state
I will call you if I need anything.	Te llamo si necesito algo. Te llamo: Verb — action or state; necesito: Verb — action or state
I would have gone if they had invited me.	Habría ido si me hubieran invitado. Habría ido: Verb — action or state; hubieran invitado: Verb — action or state

Common mistake · Error común

Si (if) has no accent, and sí (yes) has one. Si tuviera tiempo means if I had time, and Sí, tengo tiempo means yes, I have time.

 © 2026 Mark Tervan. All rights reserved.

If... Then...: Conditional Sentences

Oraciones condicionales

Try it yourself · Practica por tu cuenta

Complete each sentence and say how real the situation is: 1. Si (llover) ___, me quedo en casa. 2. Si (tener) ___ tiempo, iría contigo. 3. Si (estudiar) ___ más, habría aprobado. 4. Si yo (ser) ___ tú, hablaría con ella. 5. Si ustedes (llegar) ___ temprano, esperamos. 6. Si (poder, nosotros) ___, viajaríamos más. 7. Si tú (necesitar) ___ ayuda, llámame. 8. Si no (llover) ___, habríamos ido a la playa. 9. Yo (ir) ___ si pudiera. 10. Si (vivir, tú) ___ aquí, verías el mar.

Answers with reasons · Respuestas con razones

1. llueve: a real possibility. 2. tuviera: imagined, followed by iría. 3. hubiera estudiado: past, followed by habría aprobado. 4. fuera: imagined. 5. llegan: a real possibility. 6. pudiéramos: imagined. 7. necesitas: a real possibility, followed by a command. 8. hubiera llovido: past. 9. iría: imagined result of si pudiera. 10. vivieras: imagined.

Notes

 © 2026 Mark Tervan. All rights reserved.