Conditionals

Zero and first conditional

BRITISH COUNCIL

Conditional Sentences

MEANING

We use the term conditional to describe sentences with two clauses, often beginning with IF. The if clause is the condition and the other clause is the result.

Generally, the if clause comes first but the clauses can go in either order without changing the meaning.

The zero conditional

MEANING

We use the zero conditional to talk about things that are TRUE, that we think are true or that we want to present as true.

If you want a different job, there are lots to choose from.

The zero conditional

FORM

If + subject + verb + object complement ,

If you like what you do ,

subject + verb + object complement

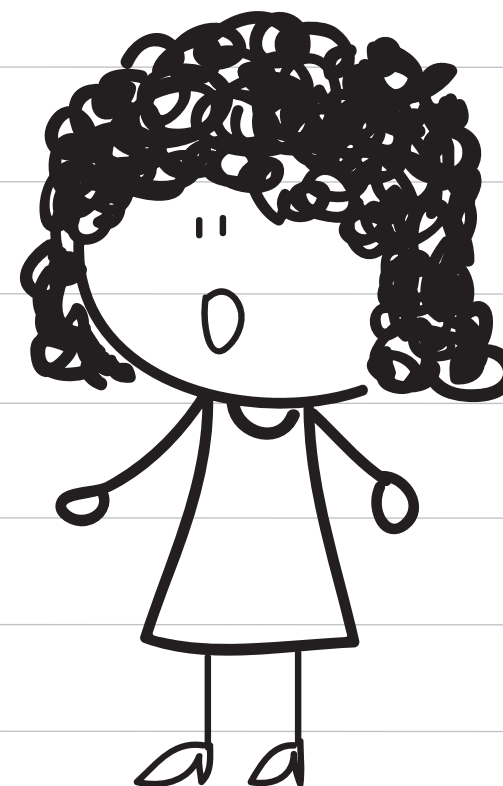it makes work more rewarding.

The first conditional

MEANING

We use the first conditional to talk about something that **MIGHT HAPPEN** or where the speaker wants to make it clear that one thing relies upon another.

If you come to my office,

I'll go through the project plan with you.

The first conditional

FORM

If + subject + verb + object complement ,

If   it   is   too expensive ,

subject + will + verb + object complement

we   will   have to   think again.

In this presentation, we looked at how we use the zero and first conditionals.

Review this presentation and make a note of differences between the two.

Also, make a note of the tense of the verbs in the two clauses.

In your notebook, write some sentences to practise using these two conditionals.

If I don't sleep for eight hours, I feel terrible the next day.

If it rains at the weekend, I'll stay at home and watch a DVD.

Yes!