

## Conditionals 1 & 2 — Practice pour des Francophones

**Part A: First Conditional** Real situations in the future. Choose the correct form in bold.

**La règle d'or en un coup d'œil :**

**IF + présent** → **WILL + base verbale** (conditionnel 1) **IF + prétérit (were)** → **WOULD + base verbale** (conditionnel 2) Le verbe après **SI** est toujours « neutre » — le futur et le conditionnel vivent dans l'autre clause !

1. If the baby **sleeps** / **will sleep** well tonight, we **will go** / **go** out for dinner.
2. If it **will rain** / **rains**, I **take** / **will take** the umbrella.
3. She **will call** / **calls** you if she **needs** / **will need** anything.
4. If we **leave** / **will leave** now, we **catch** / **will catch** the earlier train.
5. If he **doesn't hurry** / **won't hurry**, he **misses** / **will miss** the bus.
6. I **will help** / **help** you tomorrow if I **have** / **will have** time.
7. If the shop **is** / **will be** open, we **will buy** / **buy** some bread.
8. You **won't pass** / **don't pass** the exam if you **don't study** / **won't study**.
9. If they **arrive** / **will arrive** late, we **start** / **will start** without them.
10. I **will text** / **text** you as soon as I **get** / **will get** home.

**Part B: Second Conditional** Imaginary or unlikely situations. Put the verb in brackets into the correct form.

1. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) more free time, I \_\_\_\_\_ (learn) to play the piano.
2. If she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) taller, she \_\_\_\_\_ (play) basketball professionally.
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to the countryside if we \_\_\_\_\_ (can) afford it.
4. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the lottery, I \_\_\_\_\_ (not spend) it all at once.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) happier if he \_\_\_\_\_ (change) jobs.
6. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (can) live anywhere in the world, where \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (live)?
7. They \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) more often if flights \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) so expensive.
8. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) perfect English, I \_\_\_\_\_ (apply) for that job.
9. She \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) so tired if she \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to bed earlier.
10. What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) if your car \_\_\_\_\_ (break down) on the motorway?



## What French Speakers Get Right

| English                    | French                               | Status                   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>If + present → will</i> | <i>Si + présent → futur</i>          | ✓ <b>Aligned!</b>        |
| <i>If + past → would</i>   | <i>Si + imparfait → conditionnel</i> | ✓ <b>Mostly aligned!</b> |

The structural logic of conditionals transfers well from French to English.



## The Specific French Traps to Flag

### 1. "Will" in the Si-clause (False Friend)

This is the biggest one. In French, you say *Si tu viens* (present), never *Si tu viendras*. Some learners unconsciously carry over the logic:

✗ If you will come tomorrow... → ✓ If you come tomorrow...

"Attention! Like in French, NO 'will' after SI. The si-clause stays in present or past, never future!"

### 2. The "Were" Subjunctive (Consult the document about the Third Conditional!)

French doesn't have an *if I were* form. Your worksheet uses it correctly (if she were taller, if I were you), but French speakers may default to *was*, just like many native English speakers who don't pay attention.

- **Formelle:** If I **were**... (pas "was") — c'est le subjonctif en anglais! **Never** say "If I was you..."  
If I \_\_\_\_\_ you, I \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) for help. → If I **were** you, I **would ask**...

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### 3. Negatives in Conditionals

Part A items 5 & 8 cover this (doesn't hurry / don't study), which is excellent practice. French speakers sometimes hesitate on where to place negation in complex sentences.

| English                           | French                   | Watch Out!                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>If you come...</i>             | <i>Si tu viens...</i>    | ✓ Matched!                          |
| <i>If you <b>will</b> come...</i> | <i>Si tu viendras...</i> | ✗ <b>NEVER! No "will" after Si!</b> |
| <i>If I <b>were</b> you...</i>    | <i>Si j'étais toi...</i> | ✓ Matched!                          |
| <i>I <b>would</b> go</i>          | <i>Je <b>irais</b></i>   | ✓ Matched!                          |

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## ⚠ Attention ! Les pièges du « SI »

Bonne nouvelle : la logique des conditionnels est souvent la même en français et en anglais. Mais trois pièges guettent les francophones...

| Le piège                                               | ✗ Erreur fréquente                                                                                                                | ✓ Correct                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pas de futur après SI</b> (comme en français !)     | If you <b>will come</b> tomorrow, we will eat together.<br>Cf. français : <i>Si tu viens...</i> — jamais <i>Si tu viendras...</i> | If you <b>come</b> tomorrow, we will eat together.<br>La subordonnée reste au <b>présent</b> , le futur vit dans l'autre clause. |
| <b>« Were », pas « was » (forme du subjonctif)</b>     | If I <b>was</b> you...                                                                                                            | If I <b>were</b> you, I would accept.<br>Plus formel et classique — à privilégier à l'écrit.                                     |
| <b>« Would » : seulement dans la clause principale</b> | If I <b>would know</b> the answer, I would tell you.                                                                              | If I <b>knew</b> the answer, I would tell you.<br>Après SI : imparfait. Jamais de <i>would</i> dans la subordonnée !             |

**Bonus micro-drill**, if you'd like to append it to the worksheet:

**À vous !** — Corrigez ces phrases typiques d'un francophone :

1. *If you will help me, I will finish faster.* → \_\_\_\_\_
2. *If I was rich, I would travel the world.* → \_\_\_\_\_
3. *If he would study more, he would pass.* → \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers: 1. If you **help** me... · 2. If I **were** rich... · 3. If he **studied** more...)

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If you still have problems with the conditional, simply create your own examples and practice, practice, practice!