Conditional clauses

Sometimes known as “if” clauses.
Zero conditional

- Refers to present or future.
- If + Present + Present

If you heat water, it boils.

This is always true. It is a scientific fact.
First conditional

- Refers to future.
- If + Present + Will

If it rains, we’ll get wet!

This is quite possible or probable. There is a good chance of rain. (Maybe the speaker is in Britain!)
First conditional

- Refers to future.
- If + Present + Will

If we don’t work faster, we won’t finish in time!

This is quite possible or probable. The deadline is approaching!
Second conditional

- Refers to future.
- If + Past + Would

If it rained, we’d get wet!

This is unlikely or improbable. There is little chance of rain. (Maybe the speaker is in the Sahara!)
Second conditional

- Refers to future.
- If + Past + Would

If I won the lottery I’d buy a big villa on the Costa Brava

This is unlikely or improbable. There is little chance of winning. The speaker doesn’t believe that he will win the money.
Third conditional

- Refers to past.
- If + Past Perfect + Would have done

If it had rained, we’d have got wet!

This is impossible. It’s already in the past - it didn’t rain so we didn’t get wet.
Third conditional

- Refers to past.
- If + Past Perfect + Would have done

“If I’d got up earlier I wouldn’t have missed the lecture.”

This is impossible. It’s already in the past - I didn’t get up in time and I missed the lecture.
Variations

Unless = If + not

If you don’t make more effort you won’t reach your goal.

Unless ......

Clauses can be switched around

If you don’t try you won’t reach your goal.

You won’t reach your goal........

Conditionals can be mixed

If I had studied medicine I .....